

DATABASES FOR USHABTIS OF THE LATE PERIOD (c. 664-332 BC)

Pa-di-Ptah

P3-di-Pth



God's Father, the Privy Counsellor of the Necropolis, the God's Servant of Bastet, Lady of Ankh-tawy

Late Period, early 26th Dynasty

From Saqqara



Pa-di-Ptah

Faience, bichrome glaze, green and black
Late Period, early 26th Dynasty, reign of Psamtek I
From Saqqara

- A H. 6.8 cm. W. 1.8 cm. D. 1.2 cm.
B H. 7.7 cm. W. 1.9 cm. D. 1.4 cm.
ex Steve Rubinger, Antiqua Ltd.; ex VB Collection, Holland



A



B

A pair of shroud-wrapped mummiform male *ushabtis* for the same owner. Both figures wear a plain tripartite and a long divine beard that are glazed black while the body of the figures have a green glaze with **A** being a darker colour than **B**. The beard is longer than the front lappets of the wig. Large ears protrude in front of the lappets although these are less distinct on **A**. The arms are crossed above the waist and clenched hands emerge from the shroud to hold a pair of hoes, which is very unusual for *ushabtis* of the Late Period. The hoe in the right hand is broad-bladed and the one in left hand is narrow-bladed. This is an example of archaism in ancient Egypt showing a revival of a style that was typical on *shabtis* of the New Kingdom. The right hand also holds the cord for a small trapezoidal-shaped seed basket that is simply outlined behind the left shoulder. The face on both examples is small and the details are indistinct on **A** whereas on **B** the details are fairly well-defined with a broad unsmiling mouth, a small nose and eyes that give the impression of being heavy lidded. Eyebrows are not modelled. The torso of the *ushabtis* has an incised hieroglyphic inscription that is arranged in a 'T'-shape although that on **B** also slightly extends down the left side of the body. The owner is named Pa-di-Ptah¹ (The one given by Ptah). **A** gives the titles of God's Father, the Privy Counsellor of the Necropolis,² and the God's Servant of Bastet, Lady of Ankh-tawy.³ Ankh-tawy is an epithet for the goddess Bastet – Ankh-tawy being a name for ancient Memphis. **B** gives the same titles but includes Privy Counsellor of the Necropolis.

With his illustrious titles, Pa-di-Ptah was undoubtedly a high-ranking member of the Memphite priesthood. Little seems to be known about him other than his name and titles are also recorded on a stele that was excavated in 1852 at the Serapeum at Saqqara. This is now to be found in the Louvre (IM 3098 – see Fig. 1).⁴ The inscription gives the name of Pa-di-Ptah's

mother as Nefer-heres. It also says that Pa-di-Ptah was father of a certain Pa-di-pepet. *Ushabtis* are well-known for this Pa-di-pepet (see Fig. 2) with numerous examples being found in museum collections and private collections (see forthcoming database). His tomb was discovered in 1893 west of the pyramid of Teti at Saqqara.⁵

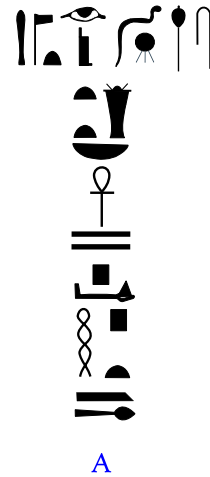


Fig. 1.

Stele for Pa-di-pepet (Louvre IM 3098).
(© 2008 Musée du Louvre, Dist. GrandPalaisRmn / Christian Décamps).



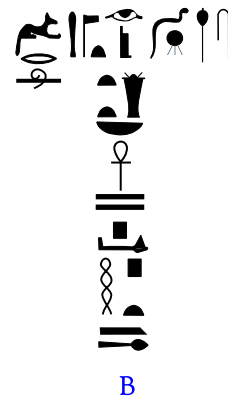
Inscriptions



shd Wsir it-ntr hm-ntr B3stt nb ʕnh-t3wy
P3-di-Pth m3ʕ-hrw

The illuminated one, the Osiris, the God's Father, the God's Servant of Bastet, Lady of Ankh-tawy, Pa-di-Ptah, justified.

There are at least four other owners of *ushabtis* of the same distinctive type as those for Pa-di-Ptah in that they are bi-chromed glazed, have a 'T'-shaped inscription without framing lines and carry a broad-bladed and a narrow-bladed hoe. These *ushabtis* are for Bak-en-renef⁶ (see Fig. 3) who had various titles including Vizier (to Psamtek I), *sem*-priest, Mayor, Chancellor and God's Servant of Ptah, Seneb-ef⁷ (see Fig. 4) who was God's Father and God's Servant, Pa-di-Iset⁸ (see Fig. 5), born to Ankh-es and also for the Governor, Djed-nefer who is seemingly only known from a single example of 7 cm. in height that is to be found in the Aubert Collection.⁹ Although the latter example has no recorded provenance, it can be assumed that all five sets of *ushabtis*, including those for Pa-di-Ptah, were made in the same workshop in the Memphite area.



shd Wsir it-ntr hry sst3 (n) R-st3w hm-ntr
B3stt nb nht3wy P3-di-Pth m3c-hrw

The illuminated one, the Osiris, the God's Father, the Privy Counsellor of the Necropolis, the God's Servant of Bastet, Lady of Ankh-tawy, Pa-di-Ptah, justified.



Database of parallel *ushabtis* for Pa-di-Ptah

From a study of parallel examples to be found in museum collections, private collections and those offered for sale at auctions and by dealers (images are not to scale).

Shroud-wrapped mummiform male; bi-chrome glazed faience in varying shades of olive green with black; wears a plain black glazed tripartite wig and a long plain beard that is also black glazed; the face is small and round in shape usually with well-defined details; large ears protrude in the front of the lappets of the wig although these are not always clearly defined; the arms are crossed right over left above the waist; clenched hands emerge from the shroud to hold a narrow-bladed hoe in the right and a broad-bladed hoe in the left; the right hand also holds the cord for a small and simply outlined basket that is carried behind the left shoulder (most); the figure is supported by a dorsal pillar that is usually separated from the rear lappet of the wig by a horizontal groove and stands slightly proud of the wig; the legs are well-shaped, both from the front and in profile; the figure stands upon a rectangular or trapezoidal base; the torso has a neatly incised hieroglyphic inscription that is arranged in a 'T'-shape without framing lines; the owner is named as Pa-di-Ptah with varying titles including God's Father, *sem*-priest, Privy Counsellor of the Necropolis, God's Servant of Anubis and God's Servant of Bastet, Lady of Ankh-tawy.

c. 6.7–8.2 cm in height.

Berlin (ÄM number forthcoming).¹⁰

Cairo (CG 47816–47820).¹¹ ① ②

Cambridge (FWM 60.1940).¹² ③

Copenhagen (NMD A.Aa117).¹³

Cracow (MNC XI A–458).¹⁴ ④

London (BM EA 33969 & 33970 – acquired in 1866, and EA 33971–33973 – acquired in 1857).¹⁵ ⑤–⑨

Lucknow (SM 52.38 – purchased from Luzac & Co., London, 1952).¹⁶ ⑩

Marseille (MB 389–1 ⑪ & 389–2).¹⁷

Milan (MCA E 0.9.40182 & E 0.9.40183).¹⁸ ⑫ ⑬

Moscow (PM I.1.a 1546).¹⁹ ⑭

St. Petersburg (HERM AB–1029 & AB–1502).²⁰ ⑮ ⑯

Strasbourg (MA 11.987.0.62 – ex Hoffmann Collection [no. 262]).²¹ ⑰

Aubert Collection – ex Sabatier Collection [no. 188].²²

Kemehu Collection. ⑱ ⑲

Private collection, Lausanne – 2 *ushabtis* – ex Edouard Naville Collection.²³

Beaussant Lefèvre 2015, lot 52. ⑳

Bonhams 1998, lot 272.

Christie's 2003, lot 84 – ex M. Koenig Collection, 1984.^㉑

Christie's 2010, part of lot 322 – ex Private English collection, 19th Century. ㉒

De Maigret 2012, lot 136 – ex Charles Bouché Collection. ㉓

Drouot 1995, lot 202 – ex Jean-Marie Talleux Collection. ㉔

Helios Gallery 2023. ㉕





5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



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Abbreviations

ÄM	Ägyptisches Museum, Berlin.
BSEG	Bulletin de la Société d'égyptologie (Geneva).
CG	Catalogue général du musée du Caire.
EAO	Egypt – Afrique & Orient (Montségur).
FWM	Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.
HERM	The State Hermitage Museum (St. Petersburg, Russia).
MA	Musée Archéologique (Strasbourg).
MB	Musée Borély (Marseille).
MCA	Museo civico Archeologico (Milan).
NMC	National Museum, Cracow.
NMD	National Museum of Denmark (Copenhagen).
PM	The Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts (Moscow).
<i>RecTrav</i>	Recueil de travaux relatifs à la philologie et l'archéologie égyptiennes et assyriennes (Paris).
SM	Lucknow State Museum, Uttas Pradesh (India).

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