Finch & Co



EGYPTIAN SERPENTINE TORSO OF A USHABTI

AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN SERPENTINE TORSO OF A USHABTI INSCRIBED WITH THE NAME 'DI-ASET-HEBSED' THE SINGER OF THE HARIM OF AMUN

25TH - 26TH DYNASTIES, CIRCA 680 – 650BC

SIZE: 9.5CM HIGH, 6CM WIDE, 3CM DEEP – 3¾ INS HIGH, 2¼ INS WIDE, 1¼ INS DEEP

13CM HIGH – 5 INS HIGH (INCLUDING STAND)

LITERATURE

DI-ASET-HEBSED WAS THE SISTER OF THE FAMOUS 4TH PROPHET OF AMUN AND MAYOR OF THEBES, MONTUEMHAT AT THE END OF THE 25TH AND BEGINNING OF THE 26TH DYNASTIES. THIS FIGURINE CARRYING TWO POINTED HOES AND WEARING A TRIPARTITE WIG AND COLLAR, WOULD HAVE BELONGED TO THE PRIESTESS DI-ASET-HEBSED.
APART FROM NAMING ITS OWNER AND PROVIDING HER OFFICE, THE FOUR SURVIVING ROWS OF TEXT CONTAIN THE BEGINNING OF THE LATE PERIOD VERSION OF CHAPTER 6 OF THE BOOK OF THE DEAD, WHICH IS THE SO CALLED USHABTI FORMULA. OTHER USHABTI OF DI-ASET-HEBSED WERE EXCAVATED FROM TOMB 4 AT MEDINET HABU, AND IN MATERIAL AND ICONOGRAPHY THIS FIGURINE IS TYPICAL OF THOSE PRODUCED AT THEBES FOR THE HIGHEST RANKING PRIESTESSES DURING THE KUSHITE PERIOD.