

Finch & C^o



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, MONTUEM/HAT 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.