



USHEBTI FOR IRETHORIROU

Egypt

End of the Late Dynastic Period, early Ptolemaic Period, 380-300 BC

Blue-green Faience with eight rows of hieroglyphic inscription

Height 12,5 cm

The mummiform figure is standing on an integral trapezoidal base against an uninscribed back pillar. On the lower half of his body, eight rows of crisply incised hieroglyphs recite Chapter VI of the Book of the Dead, mention the name of Irethorirou (the eye of Horus is directed against them), his titles Wab-priest of Thot, and give his filiation, born to Kheredoutankh.

The face has smooth round contours and refined details, with eyebrows, upper eyelids and extended eyelines all in raised relief. He wears a striated tripartite wig and a long braided false beard curving out at its tip. At his chest his hands protrude from the wrappings and hold a crook, flail and the twisted rope of a seed bag suspended behind the left shoulder. These agricultural implements reference the ushebti's function to perform labour on behalf of the deceased in the afterlife.

PROVENANCE

Former private collection Paris, France

LITERATURE

J. & F. Aubert: *Statuettes Égyptiennes, Chaouabtis et Oushebti*, Paris 1974

P. E. Newberry: *Funerary Statuettes and Model Sarcophagi, Catalogue Général des Antiquités Égyptiennes du Musée du Caire, No. 46530-48575*, Westminster 1957

H. Ranke: *Die Ägyptischen Personennamen*, Glückstadt 1935, *Band I* 42-11