

**The overseer shabtis of**

**Tayu-heret**

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## **First edition**

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 *Introduction to this study*

This study provides an overview of the shabtis for lady Tayu-heret. In addition to the published examples I added the shabtis I have come across in the world, with the help of my friend Glen Janes. I will start of with a short introduction of the ancient owner Tayu-heret and describe her shabtis in general. In the following chapters you will find the museum parallels (chapter 2) and the privately owned parallels (chapter 3).

### 1.2 *Who was Tayu-heret?*

Tayu-heret is considered to be wife and possible the sister of High Priest of Amen Masaharta. Her titles include Chief of the Harem of Amen-Ra, King of the Gods. They were both buried in DB320 also known as the Royal Cache.

### 1.3 *Description of the shabtis*

In this document I will only describe the overseers.

The overseers are carrying a whip in the left hand to either straight up or towards the left shoulders. In some case the whip is not indicated. The right arm is stretched next to the body with a clinching fist. The tripartite wig has detailed front lappets (in the faience).

The overseer types vary in size around 10 cm.

The overseer types are sometimes uninscribed. The ones that are inscribed at either the front (4 examples known) on the skirt or at the back that read: “The Illuminated One, the Osiris, Tayu-heret, True of Voice”. It is unclear how many overseer shabtis were originally buried in DB 320 for Tayu-heret, but 36 seems a safe consideration.

## 2. Museum pieces

On the following pages an overview is provided of the museum pieces which are currently part of their respective collections.

The following information is provided for each piece:

Location:	The city in which the museum is located is mentioned as well as the name of the museum.
Published:	If the museum piece is published in a book or on the internet the name of the publication, author and the relevant page number is mentioned.
Inventory nb	The inventory number is mentioned if known.
Provenance:	For as far as available the provenance of the piece is described, detailing the previous owners prior to the entering into the collection of the museum.
Height:	The specific height of the shabti is described in centimetres.
Comments:	Provides the comments of the author to the specific pieces, for example relating to the condition or quality of the object compared to the other parallels.

**Cairo, Cairo Museum**



Cairo 1-3

Published: Partly in Newberry

Inventory number:

Provenance: Maspero

Height: Various

Comments: There are 18 overseers of Tayu-heret in the Cairo Museum. Only 3 of them have the inscription on the front lappet.



Cairo 4-6





Cairo 7-9





Cairo 10-12



Cairo 13-15



Cairo 16-18



Cambridge, Cambridge Museum



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Published: No  
Inventory number: 1948.2688  
Provenance: Unknown  
Height: Unknown  
Comments: Not on display.

London, British Museum



Published: No

Inventory number: 35368

Provenance: Unknown

Height: Unknown

Comments: Not on display and apparently not in the database.

Paris, Louvre



Published: Tanis, l'or des Pharaons, Bovot, page 122

Inventory number: E 7676

Provenance: Unknown

Height: Unknown



Comments: The whip in a curle, three strikes for indicating the striation of the dress at the upper arm level. Encrustations slightly affecting the apron and the area between the feet.

Paris, Louvre



Published: No

Inventory number: Unknown

Provenance: Unknown

Height: Unknown

Comments: No whip? Five strikes of paint for indicating the striation of the dress at the upper arm level. Some encrustation of the entire body and firing crack lines at the feet section. Is a small beard intended?

Paris, Louvre



Published: No

Inventory number: Unknown

Provenance: Unknown

Height: Unknown

Comments: Straight whip going from the hands directly under the chin. No less than six strikes of paint for indicating the striation of the dress at the upper arm level. Some encrustation of the entire body and firing crack lines at the feet section.



### **3. Private collections pieces and unknown current location**

On the following pages an overview is provided of the examples which are currently in private collections around the world.

The following information is provided for each piece:

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Owner:      | The name of the current collector/collection. In case this is known the identity of the collector is often protected by using initials only.                |
| Published:  | If the private collection piece is published in a book or on the internet the name of the publication, author and the relevant page number is mentioned.    |
| Provenance: | For as far as available the provenance of the piece is described, detailing the previous owners prior to the entering into the collection of the collector. |
| Height:     | The specific height of the shabti is described in centimetres.  |
| Comments:   | Provides the comments of the author to the specific pieces, for example relating to the condition or quality of the object compared to the other parallels. |

**Coll. Medusa**



Published: Online at Medusa <http://medusa-art.com/antiquities-gallery/egyptian/egyptian-overseer-shabti-for-tayuheret.html>

Provenance: By descent from Belgian archaeologist Eleonore Bille-de-Mot (1903-1987), assistant to the Belgian Egyptologist, Jean Capart, worked together in Egypt. Their excavations included Tell Heou (1927) and El Kab (1935, 1938, 1945-46). Formerly in an American Private Collection.

Height: 10 CM

Comments: Note the text on the back.



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Published: G. Janes, *Shabtis – a private view*, page 126-127

Provenance: Ex Emile Brugsch

Height: 8.5 CM (fragment)

Comments: Legs and feet missing, otherwise excellent with lots of shine.





Published: Thierry de Maigret, auction catalogue, 24 October 2012, lot 73

Provenance: By descent from Belgian archaeologist Eleonore Bille-de-Mot (1903-1987), assistant to the Belgian Egyptologist, Jean Capart, worked together in Egypt. Their excavations included Tell Heou (1927) and El Kab (1935, 1938, 1945-46). Formerly in an American Private Collection.

Height: 10 CM

Comments: Note the text on the back, indicating that indeed all the shabtis in this document are for Tayuheret. Deaccessioned from the Metropolitan museum in 1956.

Coll NH



Published: No

Provenance: ex JL, USA, ex Medusa February 2015, ex Arte Primitivo 26 October 2009, lot 220, ex NY coll. 1960's from Dikran Kelekian

Height: 10.2 CM

Comments: Unbroken, text on the apron slightly faded, feet clearly indicated.



Coll SC



Published: Online at [shabticollections.com](http://shabticollections.com) (SC/138)

Provenance: Unknown, ex Canadian collection, now in a Belgium collection.

Height: Unknown

Comments: Broken at knee level, now restored. Otherwise in good condition. The published back of the shabti published online SC is not from this Tayuheret overseer.



## Unknown Collection A



Published: Yes, Drouot auction catalogue, 29 June 1992, lot 41

Provenance: Unknown, other than the above auction information.

Height: 10 CM

Comments: Pretty example. Some encrustations around knee area. No whip indicated.

## Unknown Collection B



Published: Yes, Sotheby's catalogue, 10 July 1979, lot 75

Provenance: Unknown, see above catalogue information. There were a couple of people who contributed to the sale in 1979, including a Prince

Height: 10.1 CM

Comments: Damage to the mouth area. Note the thick line in the middle of the apron, different from the other ones.

## **Index**

Below is the complete overview of all the currently known location of the overseer shabtis of Tayu-heret.

### **Museum pieces**

Cairo, Cairo Museum	18
Cambridge, Cambridge Museum	1
London, British Museum	1
Paris, Louvre	3
Museum totals	<u>23</u>

### **Private collections**

Coll. Aubert?	1
Coll. GJ	1
Coll Costas	1
Coll Medusa	1
Coll NH	1
Coll SC/HC	1
Unknown coll A	1
Unknown coll B	1
Private collection totals	<u>8</u>
Overall total (museums and private collections)	<u>31</u>



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