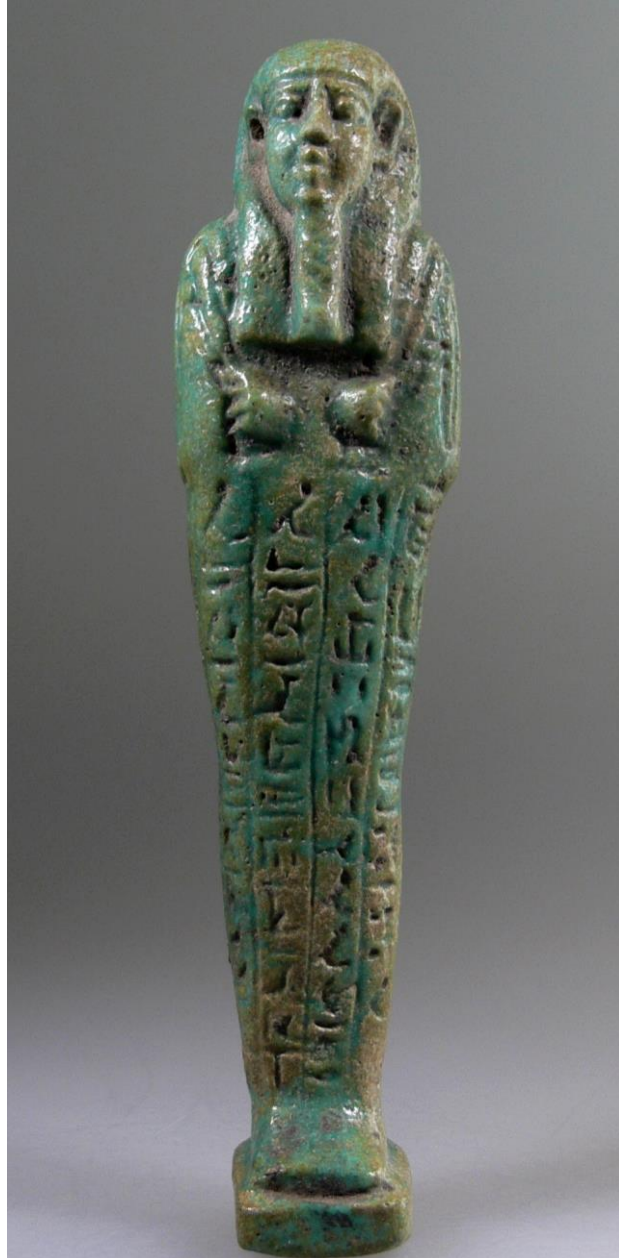


The shabtis of

HORUDJA

Son of Khau-Si-en-Hap

By Niek de Haan



First edition 2011

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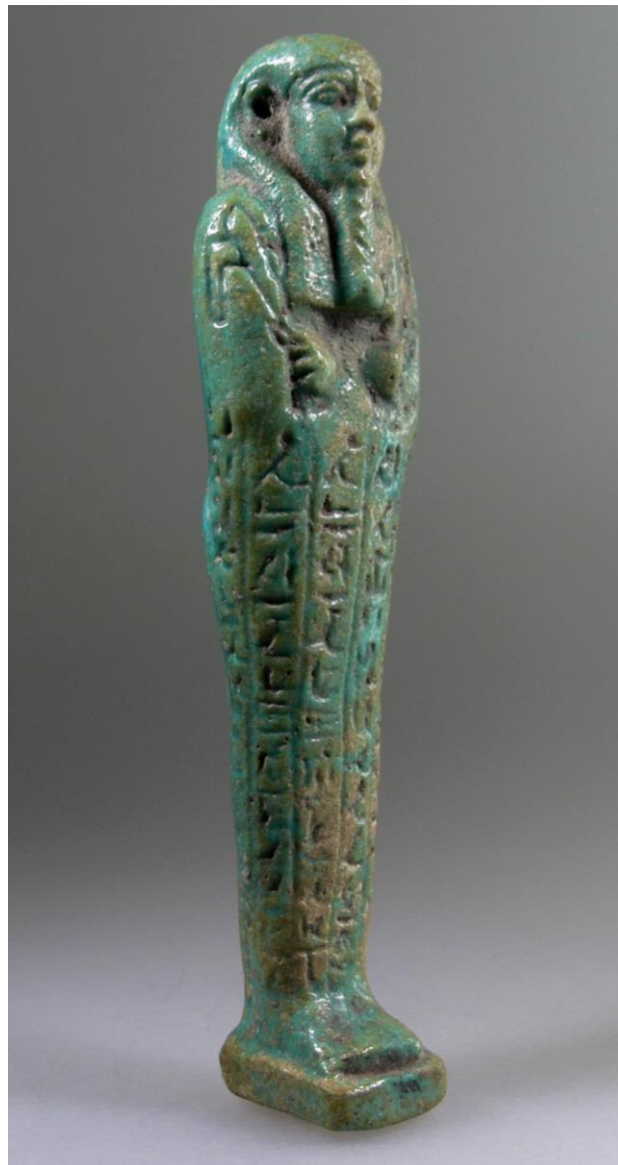
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1. Introduction

1.1 *Introduction to this study*

This study provides an overview of all published shabtis for the Horudja, son of Khaw-si-en-Hap. In addition to the published examples I added the shabtis I have come across in the world and used some parallel information from the book of Statuetten, Gefässe und Geräte¹ from Schlick-Nolte. I will start of with a short introduction of the ancient owner Horudja and describe his 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 Horudja?*

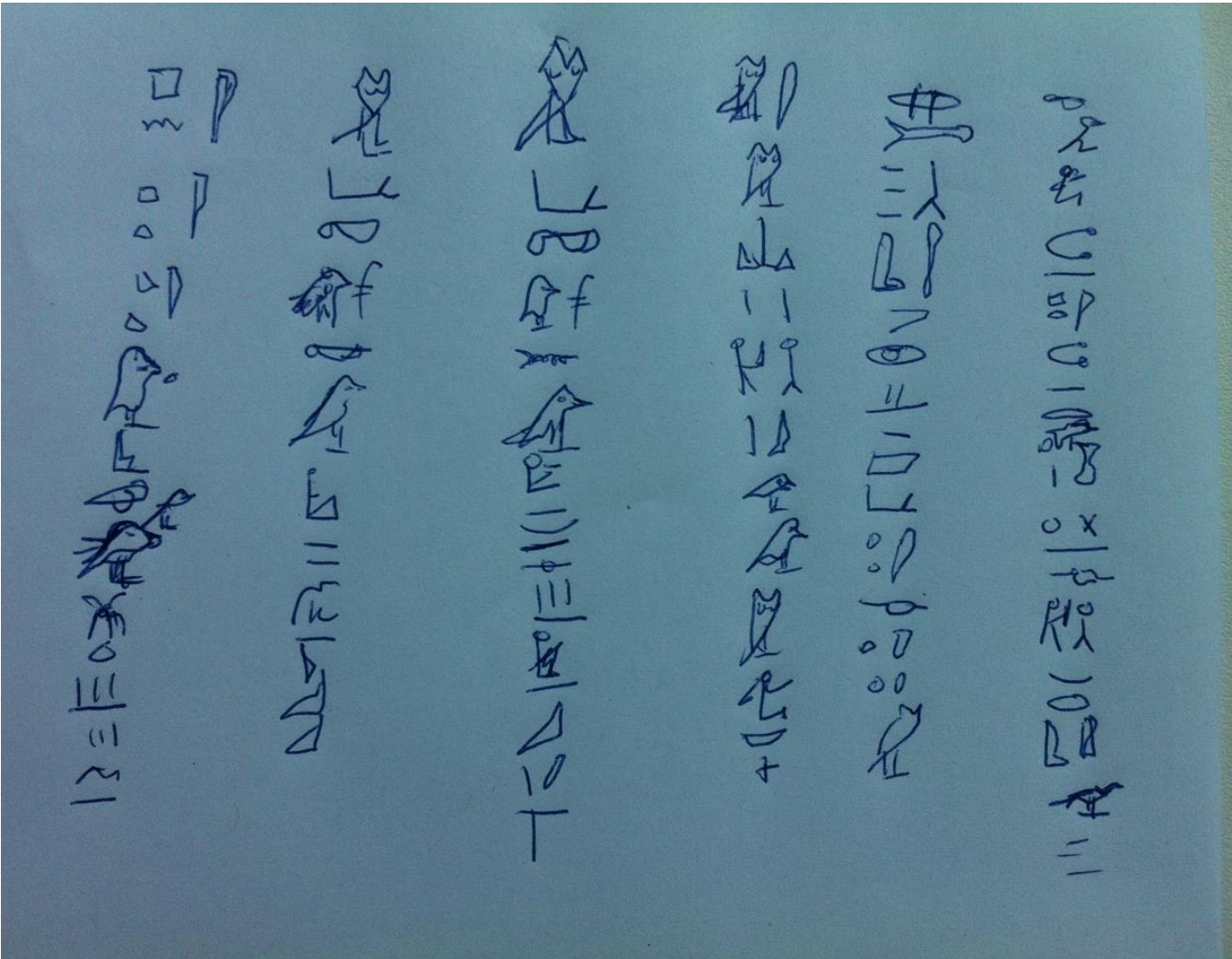
Unfortunately, little is known about Horudja. His shabtis can be dated to the 26th dynasty so he lived around 600 BC based on only the hint of smile on the lips and the less accentuated implements. His mothers name Khaw-si-en-Hap which according to Yoyotte can best be translated as: “she has laid herself down in front of Apis”, of which the meaning remains unclear (see also Schlick-Nolte page 174-175). His tomb was probably discovered at the end of the 19th century as the oldest provenances dates to 1896 (or earlier) Jaipur, 1898 (Frankfurt) and Braunschweig (1899) donations or acquisitions.

1.3 *Description of the shabtis*

The workmanship on the shabtis for Horudja is excellent and very distinctive. It appears that several moulds were used. The shabtis for this owner have been fully inscribed with chapter six. Oddly so, the text seems to be written differently on each shabti, whereby the, rarely, vertically inscribed columns, are ranged in different order, often not making any sense. Also the name of the owner and his mother appear at various places within the text. Schlick-Nolte conclude that the artists could not read hieroglyphs and just copied the text randomly from a papyrus scroll. This seems very unlikely as the inscription on each shabti is different and the name of the owner on the papyrus should at least be at the right place within the text. Schlogl concludes that by doing it in this way, it would be very difficult to usurp the shabti by future

¹ Liebliedhaus, Frankfurt am Main, 1991, ISBN 3-87280-078-7, page 169-174

tomb robbers as the name at being different places and with a fixed length should make it very difficult to replace it. I am however not convinced that this is correct, as far as I know there are no known examples of faience shabtis that have been usurped. Reusing the faience seems practically impossible. A third option is that the artists deliberately did this as a form of an artistic expression. Although this cannot be proven of course there is some substantiation to this claim as several examples are known, including the Horudja of private collection of NH described above that start some of the vertical columns with the M-hieroglyph owl. This can also be found on other shabtis in this period which I can only explain as deliberately done by the artist, I presume for artistic reasons. An example of the hieroglyphs of Horudja (collection NH) is attached below:



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.
- Inventory nr.** This is the inventory number 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.
- 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.

Braunschweig, Städtischen Museum



Inventory number: SM 1708-1292-00, Gö V 871, Aeg F 47

Published: *Altägypten in Braunschweig, Die sammlungen des Herzog Anton Ulrich-Museums und des Städtischen Museums*, nr. 114, page 78

Provenance: Acquired from a Götting collection for 1,5 USD in 1899.

Height: 16.8 centimeter

Comments: Not on display (untranslated and unidentified in the publication). Also not in the temporarily exhibition of some 100 pieces of the Städtischen Museums in 2012.

Cairo, The Cairo Museum



Inventory number: 7303 or 7304

Published: No

Provenance: Unknown

Height: Unknown

Comments: On display in Cairo museum together with the second museum example.

Cairo, The Cairo Museum



Inventory number: 7303 or 7304

Published: No

Provenance: Unknown

Height: Unknown

Comments: On display in Cairo museum together with the second museum example.

Frankfurt am Main, Liebliedhaus



Published: Statuetten, Gefasse und Gerate, Liebliedhaus, Frankfurt am Main, 1991, ISBN 3-87280-078-7, page 169-174

Inventory number: 1746

Provenance: Ex Louis Metz, Ex Friederich Metz, gifted in 1898 to the Historischen Museum with inventory number x 18795A

Height: 16.8 cm

Comments: Inscription in 7 lines. Relatively short beard.

Jaipur, Central government museum



Published: Egypt in India – Egyptian antiquities in Indian museums

Inventory number: 10390

Provenance: E. Brugsch collection 1883-1894

Height: 15.4 cm

Comments: Untranslated and unidentified in this publication and its first publication in 1896 in Hendley, page 603.

Krakow, Muzeum Narodowego



Published: Corpus der Agyptischen Totenfiguren der Offentlichen Sammlungen Krakaus

Inventory number: MNK XI 1276

Provenance:

Height: 15.8 cm

Comments: Fully described by Schlogl.

London, British Museum



Published: No
Inventory number: 66532
Provenance: Bequated by W.P.P. Stebbing in 1961
Height: 17.1 cm
Comments:

Picardie, Musée du Picardie



Published: "La collection Egyptienne du Musée de Picardie", page 84

Inventory number: M.P. 88.3.190

Provenance: Unknown

Height: 16.2cm

Comments: Smaller type.

3. Private collections and unknown current location

On the following pages an overview is provided of the pieces which are currently part of various private collections. Only pieces of which a photograph is available have been included, to avoid double counting.

The following information is provided for each piece:

- Location:** The name of the current private collection. Examples of which the name of the collection is not known are mentioned as “Unknown collection A, B and so on”.
- 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 current private collection.
- 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. NH



Published: No

Provenance: Ex Garden of Glass auction

Height: 16.8 centimeters

Comments: Of the larger type with still a lot of blue glass remaining.

Coll.VB (ex)



Published: No

Provenance: Ex coll. VB (Netherlands) ex Drees Gallery Belgium

Height: 17 centimeters

Comments: One of the larger examples with a well defined facial expression

Private collection A



Published: Ede Catalogue, small sculpture from ancient Egypt XV, 1988, number 48

Provenance: Ex coll. E.M. Brook

Height: 16.2 centimeters

Comments: Current collection is unknown

Private collection B



© Artemission

Published: No

Provenance: Ex Davies Galleries, London 1989, offered by Artemission early 2000's.

Height: 16.8 centimeters

Comments: This example has by far the longest beard and lappets of the wig. Note also the writing of the glyphs on the base at the right side by lack of space.

Private collection C



Published: No

Provenance: ex Belgium collection, than sold by a former Canadian dealer.

Height: 15.8 centimeters

Comments: As with the shabti in the collection NH, the right side has been best preserved.

Private collection D



Published: No

Provenance: Offered for sale at EHRL online, heading Journey to antiquity

Height: 16.9 centimeters

Comments: Remarkably similar and hence probably from the same mould as private collection NH.

Private collection E



Published: No

Provenance: Mr. F of Surrey, acquired 1960s. Offered for sale by Mieke Zilverberg Antiquities at the PAN in Amsterdam 2011.

Height: 17.2 centimeters

Comments: Remarkably similar and hence probably from the same mould as the Frankfurt museum example. Especially on the back side much of the original blue faience is preserved.

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Below is the complete overview of all the currently known location of the shabtis of Horudja. First the current location of the object based on the city in alphabetical order. Between brackets is the inventory number. The specimens specifically not dealt with in this publication are cursive.

Museum pieces

	T
Braunschweig, Städtischen Museum (SM 1708-1292-00)	1
<i>Budapest, Musée des Beaux arts (51.2227)</i>	<i>1</i>
Cairo, Cairo Museum (CG 7303 and 7304)	2
Frankfurt, Liebliedhaus (1276)	1
Jaipur, Central Government Museum (10390)	1
Krakow, Muzeum Narodowego (MNK XI 1276)	1
London, British Museum (66532)	1
<i>Paris, Louvre (E 20122)</i>	<i>1</i>
Picardie, Musée du Picardie	<u>1</u>
Museum totals	10

Private collections

Coll. NHAubert	1
Coll. DB (ex)AM, Arnold Meijer	1
Collection A	1
Collection B	1
Collection C	1
Collection D	1
Collection E	1
Private collection totals	7
Overall total (museums and private collections)	17

Possible further examples

Possible other examples (unverified) are Versailles (auction 1970, Objects de fouilles, Verst.-Kat, Hotel des Cheveau-Legers, 12 April 1970, catalogue number 51), a fragmentary example at a UK museum (upperhalf) and complete example on internet that appears to have the glyphs in a vertical frame which is not comparable to the others, see below. Due to the uncertainty I have not included any of them.



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About the author

Niek de Haan (1975, Rotterdam) has a special interest in the ancient Egyptian funerary item called shabti/ushabti. After a secondment for his work to London in 2003 and subsequent visits to the British Museum his interest in these small objects grew. With the help of Egyptologist Huub Pragt he learned to read the hieroglyphs on the objects and to identify the ancient owner. Niek's website shabticollections.com now intends to research and publish shabtis held in private collections in the world.

About this article

This article deals with the ancient Egyptian tomb gift called (u)shabti for Horudja, who lived around 600 BC. It is part of a series of publications about all the shabti specimens of one individual held in museums and private collections in the world.

To complete the story for this individual some additional background information is provided that answers questions as:

- When did he live?
- What did he do for a living?
- Who were his parents?
- And so on

Furthermore, many pieces are described in detail mentioning the current location of the object, its previous publication, its height and the provenance (all for as far as known to the author). Furthermore for each specimen a specific comment is given.