

The overseer shabtis of the High Priest of Amun

Pinedjem II

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1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction to this study

This study provides an overview of the overseer shabtis of Pinedjem II. In addition to the published examples I added the shabtis I have come across in the world. I will start of with a short introduction of the ancient owner Pinedjem II 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 Pinedjem II?

The High Priest of Amun Pinedjem II, born around 1030/1025 BC, ruled from the south of Egypt from 990 BC till 969 BC, following his brother Smendes II. He was married to both Nesy-Khonsu and Iset-em-Khebi. Nesi-Khonsu was the daughter of his brother Smendes II and his wife Ta-hen-Djehuty. Iset-em-Khebi was his full sister, both children of the High Priest of Amun Mencheppera. He died around



Mummy, inner and outer coffin of Pinedjem II

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 the left shoulder. The right arm is stretched next to the body with a clinching fist.

The overseer types vary in size around between 16 and 18 cm.

The overseer types of are all inscribed with just the name and the titles, either: “The Osiris, the High Priest of Amun, Pa-nedjem, True of Voice” or “the Illuminated, The Osiris, the High Priest of Amun, Pa-nedjem, True of Voice”. It is unclear how many overseer shabtis were originally buried in DB 320 for Pinedjem II, but 36 seems a safe consideration. As there are relatively few in Cairo and in museums it is likely that the majority of the currently unknown pieces is also located in private collections.

For a full overview of the shabtis of Pinedjem II, including the workers and more details about Pinedjem II in general there is an impressive work written by Peter Raedschelders, unfortunately not published for the general public yet.

Credits must go to shabti scholar Glenn Janes for allowing me to use some of his excellent photos and parallels for this publication.

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.







Published: Newberry, 1930-57, pp. 364, 412, plate XXXIV

Inventory number: 26233

Provenance: From the Maspero excavation

Height: Various

Comments: Seven overseers were on display in Cairo Museum, six in the main Pinedjem II cabinet and one separately.

Figeac, Musee Champollion



Published: No

Inventory number: E159

Provenance: Gift of J. Gay-Lussac, acquired from Cairo Museum?

Height: 17.5 CM

Comments: Photo taken from Peter Raedschelders, © Musee Champollion

Huntington, Huntington Museum of Fine Arts



Published: No

Inventory number: 1957.22

Provenance: Gift of Stanford University

Height: 17.1 CM

Comments: Photo taken from Peter Raedschelders, © Huntington Museum of Fine Arts

London, British Museum



Published: No

Inventory number: EA64573 (registration number: 1946.1204.97)

Provenance: Dr Joseph John Acworth, gift of Mrs Marion Whiteford Acworth JP, 1946, ex Hon Richard Bethell collection

Height: 17.1 CM

Comments: On display, but not found in the online database.

Moscow, Pushkin State Museum



Published: *The Way to Immortality*, Moscow, 2002, page 119, catalogue nr 332 and 333

Inventory number: 1570 and PM1714

Provenance: Unknown

Height: 16.2 CM

Comments: For 332 only a black & white picture was published. The very nice striated wig example of 333 was published at the back of the catalogue in colour.

Oxford, Ashmoleum Museum



Published:

Inventory number: 1570 and PM1714

Provenance: Unknown

Height: 17.7 CM

Comments: On display. Major break in the middle. A whip indicated in both hands.

Paris, Louvre Museum



Published: Tanis L'or des pharaons, 1987, Paris, page 124 and 125

Inventory number: E7663

Provenance: Unknown

Height: 17,6 CM

Comments: Restoration to the feet section?



Published: Fleming, Stuart, 1980, *The Egyptian Mummy, Secrets and Science*, page 56
Inventory number: E595
Provenance: Purchased from Emil Brugsch Bey; subscription of Mrs. John Harrison, 1891
Height: 18 CM
Comments: Chip to left eye. Otherwise excellent.

Sevres, Musee national de Ceramique



Published: Online at www.sevresciteceramique.fr

Inventory number: MNC 8737

Provenance: ex collection Feuardent

Height: 17.1 CM

Comments: Clear break at breast level

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. Amasis



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Published: The Amasis Collection, number 15, page 62-65.

Collection nr: S-1875

Provenance: Ex Brigadier General Otto Deveraux Hickman, acquired prior to 1888, sold Bonhams 2018, lot 220 sold to current collector

Height: 17.4 CM

Comments: This shabti was sold with an accompanying handwritten note signed by E.A. Wallis Budge dated 1888 that this was an authentic shabti. Talk about good provenance! This example appears to be intact. The excellent publication in the Amasis Collection provides some scholarly further information on the worker and overseer shabtis of Pinedjem II.

Coll. Aubert



Published: Aubert, Statuettes égyptiennes, Paris, 1974, Fig. 65
Collection nr: Unknown
Provenance: Ex Hoffman nr. 244
Height: 17 CM
Comments: Great example, apparently fully intact.

Coll. PR



Published: No
Collection nr: Unknown
Provenance: Ex Old Belgium collection, sold to a French collector.
Height: 17.4 CM
Comments: Crisp glyphs. Some cracks around the midsection restored.

Coll. Unknown A



Published: SCHLÖGL & A. BRODBECK, *Äg. Totenfiguren*, 1990, page 152-153,
Altägyptische Totenfiguren aus öffentlichen und privaten Sammlungen der
Schweiz, Freiburg

Collection nr: Unknown, FP 25 in Schlogl

Provenance: Lempertz auction 622, Cologne, 1987, lot 1646

Height: 17.2 CM

Comments: Feet missing. Lower part of apron slightly chipped

Coll. Unknown B



Published: Art of the Ancient World XII, 2001, nr. 355

Collection nr: Unknown, in California.

Provenance: Ex Marian Maspero, Paris, then sold at Christies NY, 13 June 2000, lot 224 to Royal Athena Gallery, to Dutch collector in 2001, back to Royal Athena Gallery

Height: 16.5 CM

Comments: Looks intact, with only a firing crack in the breast area and the feet section.

Coll. Unknown C



Published: Art of the Ancient World XVI, 2005, nr. 163

Collection nr: Unknown, also in California but different collection than B.

Provenance: Ex French collection (Nice) sold at auction then Royal Athena Gallery, to current collector (2005/2006)

Height: 17.7 CM

Comments: Great example

Coll. Unknown D



Published: Online at Sotheby's and Kokusai Bijutsu, 3th exhibition catalogue, nr. 4
Collection nr: Unknown
Provenance: Ex UK auction, 1975, sold to Japanese collection, then sold at Sotheby's,
5 June 2008, lot 62.
Height: 17.5 CM
Comments: Considerable amount of firing cracks

Coll. Unknown E



Published: Online at www.beaussant-lefevre.com/html/fiche.jsp?id=3366855

Collection nr: Unknown

Provenance: Ex Christine de Collongue, grand daughter of d'Alfred Duringe and old student of Pierre du Bourguet, sold at Beaussant-Lefevre, 15 November 2013, lot 18 to Gallery Chenel in Paris, also sold at Sotheby's London 13 July 1987, lot 146

Height: 17.5 CM

Comments: Chips to feet. Right eye is faded away

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Below is the complete overview of all the currently known location of the overseer shabtis of Pinedjem II.

Between brackets is the inventory number.

Museum pieces

Cairo, Cairo Museum (26233)	7
Figeac, Musee Champollion (E159)	1
Huntington, Huntington Museum of Fine Arts (1957.22)	1
London, British Museum (EA64573)	1
Moscow, Pushkin Statemuseum (1570 and PM1714)	2
Oxford, Ashmoleum Museum (1884.34)	1
Paris, Louvre Museum (E7663)	1
Philadelphia, Unv. of Pennsylvania Museum of Archeology and Anthropology (E595)	1
Sevres, National Ceramique Museum (MNC 8737)	1
Museum totals	<u>16</u>

Private collections

Coll. Amasis	1
Coll. Aubert	1
Coll. PR	1
Coll. Unknown A	1
Coll. Unknown B	1
Coll. Unknown C	1
Coll. Unknown D	1
Coll. Unknown E	1
Private collections totals	<u>8</u>

Overall total (museums and private collections)	<u>24</u>
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The author at the entrance of DB320