

**Psamtek – son of Mery-Neith**

## **The shabtis of Psamtek son of Mery-Neith**



**By Niek de Haan**

**Update (2022)**

## **Psamtek – son of Mery-Neith**

### **Short Introduction to this update**

In 2013, written together with Ingeborg Waanders, I published the book “Psamtek son of Mery-Neith”, describing our research on the process of the shabti production in Ancient Egypt based on the various shabtis of this important individual from the 27<sup>th</sup> dynasty of Ancient Egypt. In the first edition 54 shabtis were published and in the second edition 8 pieces were added. In the 10 years since the publication no less than 11 additional examples surfaced making it worthwhile to update the publication, especially as it has been out of print within a year of the books original release.

Priority has been given to (re)publish with front pictures the examples in private collections as these tend to circulate a lot more than the museum examples and they contain the bulk of the newly surfaced examples.

This online published update is not a reproduction of the entire book. For the details of the research I refer to the book that is available in the larger museum libraries of France, Germany, the Netherlands, the UK and the USA.

### **Some comments on the new examples and the insights they bring**

Looking at the location of the recent additions, most originate from French collections, sold by French auction houses. Although not a real surprise considering that the French director of Antiquities in Egypt, August Mariette, discovered the tomb in 1863, one starts to wonder whether he had taken the majority of the shabtis of the find to France, or just gave them away in Egypt to (French) fund raisers or friends visiting. All speculation of course, but the provenance all referring to France is at least remarkable.

Although it was already noted in the book that the original color of the Psamtek shabtis was blue, some striking blue examples have surfaced. As I have written before all shabtis from the Late Period were originally blue, not green as often incorrectly stated. See also the additional pictures on the next page.

Finally it is worthwhile to mention that the majority of the new finds represent already known moulds and writers, like “the defect writers pallet” of number 10 and number 30. On the other hand, a complete new mould of poor quality also surfaced (number 9 of this update).

I have no doubt that more will surface in the coming years.

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Niek de Haan

December 2022

**Psamtek – son of Mery-Neith**



Number 32 displaying the original blue color.

**Psamtek – son of Mery-Neith**



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**Psamtek – son of Mery-Neith**



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**Psamtek – son of Mery-Neith**



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## **Psamtek – son of Mery-Neith**

### **1- 10 NH collection, the Netherlands**

**1.** Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 19.

Provenance: Mitsukoshi department store Japan 1986, ex Christie's 2001, lot 235 to dealer Howard Nowes Art, ex Anubis Ancient Art in 2005 to current collector.

**2.** Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 54.

Provenance: Christie's, Antiquities, New York, 7 December 2000, page 47, lot 379, with the provenance "from a gentle man". It was acquired by Explorer Ancient Art and sold to US collector on 1 November 2004, who sold it to the current owner.

**3.** Published: No.

Provenance: Private collection, Doullens, France; acquired early 20th Century, sold by Helios Gallery in 2019.

**4.** Published: Hermann A. Schlögl / Andreas Brodbeck, Ägyptische Totenfiguren aus öffentlichen und privaten Sammlungen der Schweiz (Freiburg 1990) 265f, further in GM 206 and De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 15.

Provenance: Although displayed at Zurich's university (inv. nr. ZA L 47) it was on temporarily loan from a Zurich resident family B. at least before 1975. Sold at the TEFAF 2019 by Cahn to current collector.

**5.** Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 60.

Provenance: Old French private collection, Art Curial, Arts d'Orient et de l'Islam 11 April 2013, Lot 49.

**6.** Published: No.

Provenance: Old French collection, Drouot, Ader, 26 June 2019, ART DE L'ISLAM ET DE L'INDE, Lot 16.

**7.** Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 61.

Provenance: Deceased estate, Kent, United Kingdom, acquired between 1970 and 1980, sold Bonhams Antiquities, London, 1 May 2013, lot 327.

**8.** Published: Hermann A. Schlögl / Andreas Brodbeck, Ägyptische Totenfiguren aus öffentlichen und privaten Sammlungen der Schweiz (Freiburg 1990) 264f, further in GM 206 and De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 6.

Provenance: Freiburg collection since the 1960's, sold by gallery Putze to Joe Lewis, to USA collector to current collector.

**9.** Published: No.

Provenance: ex French collection, sold 11 December 2021, Hugues Taquet, lot 9 to current owner.

**10.** Published: No

Provenance: ex French collection, acquired Beaussant Lefevre, 22 September 2022, lot 100,

### **11. Kemehu collection, United Kingdom**

Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 53.

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Provenance: Ex Jules Janssen collection, sold Drouot, 30 June 2010, lot 16.

### **12. W collection, the Netherlands**

Published: Ede, Small sculpture from Ancient Egypt, XIV, Charles Ede Ltd., 1997, number 49, De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 39.

Provenance: Sold by Charles Ede, through Polak on the Pan-fair in Amsterdam in 1998/1999 to current collector.

### **13. X collection, the Netherlands**

Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 62.

Provenance: Old French collection, sold by BB Antiken to current collector.

### **14. Unknown collection**

Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 38.

Provenance: Drouot, 30 November 2007, lot 438.

### **15. Unknown collection**

Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 40.

Provenance: Old German aristocratic family, sold Nagel Auktionen, 27 May 2008, lot 3426, sold by Phoenix Ancient Art at Brafa 2009.

### **16. Unknown collection**

Published: Stefan Decker in "Uschebti - ägyptische Dienerfiguren einer deutschen Privatsammlung" page 98-100, De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 21.

Provenance: Old German family collection, sold via Ebay, German collection of Stefan Decker, sold to and exhibited by Safani Art Gallery at TEFAF 2019.

### **17. Unknown collection**

Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 44.

Provenance: Drouot, 5 June 2009, lot 28, sold by Rupert Wace, published in Ancient Art 2010, number 4.

### **18. Unknown collection**

Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 46.

Provenance: Christie's London, Fine Antiquities, 6 June 1989, lot 419.

### **19. Unknown collection**

Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 47.

Provenance: Sotheby's Antiquities, London, 10th July 1992, lot 563, Christie's London, Fine Antiquities, 6 July 1994, lot 86.

### **20. Unknown collection**

Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 48.

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Provenance: William Tilden Blodgett (1823-1875) collection, by descent through the family and first sold at auction in Charlotte, Vermont, November 18th, 1995, Sotheby's, Antiquities, New York, 10 December 2009, lot 10.

### **21. Unknown collection**

Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 49.

Provenance: Drouot/Piasa, Archéologie art d'orient, 13 June 2007, lot 133.

### **22. Unknown collection**

Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 51.

Provenance: Ex Jules Janssen collection, sold Drouot, 30 June 2010, lot 14.

### **23. Unknown collection**

Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 52.

Provenance: Ex Jules Janssen collection, sold Drouot, 30 June 2010, lot 15.

### **24. Unknown collection**

Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 32.

Provenance: Ex John F. Keane Esq. first sold at Sotheby's 13 June 1966, lot 93 and then Christie's, 17 November 1977, lot 499.

### **25. Unknown collection**

Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 58.

Provenance: Ex Charles Bouché, sold at Drouot, Thierry de MAIGRET, 24 October 2012, lot 130.

### **26. Unknown collection**

Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 59.

Provenance: Ex Charles Bouché, sold at Drouot, Thierry de MAIGRET, 24 October 2012, lot 118.

### **27. Unknown collection**

Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 17.

Provenance: Sold Drouot, June 2003, lot number 124.

### **28. Unknown collection**

Published: Charles Ede Ltd., Egyptian Antiquities 2008, nr. 20 and De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 20.

Provenance: Sold Drouot, June 2003, lot number 123.

### **29. Unknown collection**

Published: No.

Provenance: Almost certainly acquired by either William James (1854-1912) or his brother Frank James (1851-1890), who both travelled extensively in Egypt and the rest of Africa, and by descent to

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Edward James (1907-1984) in London and later at Monkton House (recorded there in 1977); subsequently moved to West Dean House circa 1986 (recorded there in 1987). Sold at Christie's 15 December 2016, lot 94.

### **30. Unknown collection**

Published: No.

Provenance: Ex Elsa Bloch-Diener collection, Bern, sold at Christie's, 5 July 2017, lot 28.

### **31. Unknown collection, the Netherlands**

Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 55.

Provenance: Sold Drouot 2012, lot 26, subsequently offered by Eberwein Gallery and Anubis Ancient Art, sold in 2019 to a Dutch private collector residing in the Netherlands.

### **32. Unknown collection**

Published: No.

Provenance: Ex collection of Bouvier, exhibited at Antikenmuseum Basel und Sammlung Ludwig in 1999, sold at Art Curial 15 May 2019, lot 181.

### **33. Unknown collection**

Published: No.

Provenance: Sold at Hannam's auctioneers, 8 January 2020, lot 495.

### **34. Collection DK, Denmark**

**Published: No**

Provenance: Ex collection of Erik Fischer, now deceased, former head of the department of ancient drawings and etchings at the museum of art in Copenhagen, currently in another Danish collection DUF.

### **35. Unknown collection, Gottingen**

Published: De Haan/Waanders, Psamtek son of Mery Neith, sec. ed. number 9.

Provenance: Unknown.

## **Psamtek – son of Mery-Neith**

Below is the complete overview of all the currently known locations of the shabtis of Psamtek, son of Mery-Neith. Between brackets is the inventory number.

### **Museum pieces**

Antwerp, Museum Vleeshuis (791.258)	1
Assisi, Biblioteca Comunale (16)	1
Baltimore, Walters Art Museum (48.392)	1
Basel, Ägyptologisches Seminar Universität (BA 3)	1
Berlin, Ägyptisches Museum Berlin (ÄM 7437)	1
Birmingham, Birmingham Museum (1962S1667.1138, 1962S1667.1140)	2
Cairo, Egyptian Museum (CG 47590)	1
Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum (EGA 6493.1943)	1
Cambridgeshire, Peckover House, Wisbech (1936.11.3)	1
Florence, Stibbert Museum (11175)	1
Florence, Museo Egizio di Firenze (4588, 4589, 4590, 4595, 4602, 5426)	6
Geneva, Musée d'Art et d'Histoire (D385, 9159)	2
Göttingen, Völkerkundliche Sammlung (Af 2886)	1
Hannover, Kestner Museum (1920.35)	1
Kopenhagen, National Museum (?)	1
Leiden, Rijksmuseum van Oudheden (F1931/5.37)	1
Leipzig, Ägyptisches Museum (938)	1
Moscow, Pushkin State M of FA (1,1a 1587/414, 1608/415, 1619/416, 1710/417, 2227/418)	5
München, Staatliches Museum Ägypt. Kunst (5323)	1
Oxford, Ashmolean Museum (1872.79)	1
Rennes, Musée des beaux-arts (D 08.5.5)	1
Rio de Janeiro, Museu Nacional (inv. 6, 206, 280)	3
Stockholm, Medelhavsmuseet (MME 1969:75)	1
Strasbourg, Musée archéologique (11.987.0.49)	1
Vercelli, Museo Camillo Leone (2421/914)	1
Unknown museum (1936.11.3)	1

### **Museum totals**

**39**

## **Psamtek – son of Mery-Neith**

### **Private collections**

Coll. Denmark	1
Coll. Gottingen	1
Coll. Kemehu	1
Coll. NH	10
Coll. Rotterdam	1
Coll. W	1
Coll. Others	20
Private collection totals	<u>35</u>
<b>Overall total (museums and private collections)</b>	<b><u>74</u></b>

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