



Wedjat eye amulet

Date

before 300 B.C.E.

Medium

Faience

Description

Amulets portraying deities, animals, objects, and symbols served protective purposes for both the living and the dead. Many were worn on necklaces and rings to transfer positive properties directly to their wearers. One of the most common and well-known ancient Egyptian amulets, the wedjat eye amulet, was worn for healing and protection from the Old Kingdom (ca. 2686 – 2181 BCE) onwards. This amulet represents the eye of the falcon-headed god Horus. In Egyptian mythology, Horus' eye was injured by his rival

Set, the god of storms and chaos, and then restored by the god Thoth. The wedjat eye symbolized this restoration, and wedjat eye amulets were thought to be able to transfer their protective powers to their wearers. These amulets were also frequently placed between the bandages of mummified individuals to ensure their safe passage into the afterlife. (Written by Kayley Boddy '22) Blue green glazed eye of Horus facing right with indented decoration. Pierced top to bottom.

Dimensions

Overall: 3/4 x 5/8 in. (1.9 x 1.6 cm)