



Papyrus amulet

Date

before 300 B.C.E.

Medium

Glazed composition

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. During the New Kingdom and Third Intermediate Period, Egyptians wore wadj (or papyrus-column) amulets because they symbolized new life, growth, and rejuvenation, much like the rapidly-growing papyrus plant itself. Amulets representing wadj were usually made from feldspar or faience, which reflected the light-green color of the papyrus plant. Wadj amulets were also placed over a mummified individual's throat to ensure their safe passage into the afterlife. (Written by Kayley Boddy '22)

Dimensions

Overall: 1 1/8 × 5/16 × 5/16 in. (2.9 × 0.8 × 0.8 cm)