



Shabti

Date

mid 19th-mid 20th century

Primary Maker

Unknown artist

Medium

Dark brown glazed terracotta

Description

Many nineteenth century tourists, including Winslow and Burgess, accidentally and purposefully collected reproductions of antiquities. Dealers in antiquities often produced shabtis, amulets, and jewelry with iconographic features not found on their ancient counterparts to entice collectors with objects that appeared unique, attractive, and “authentic.” This shabti was made in Egypt during the late nineteenth century. Its inscription is nonsensical, and neither the cartouche of Thutmose III on its chest nor the royal flails in its hands were ever crafted on ancient shabtis. Shabtis of this kind were produced on the Theban West Bank, made from mud blackened over fire, and sold to tourists from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries. (Written by Kayley Boddy '22)

Dimensions

Overall: 6 1/2 x 2 in. (16.5 x 5.1 cm)