

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE OF KNOXVILLE
McCLUNG MUSEUM of Natural History and Culture



1327 Circle Park Drive
Knoxville, TN 37996
865-974-2144

Admission: FREE

Museum Hours: Monday–Saturday: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday: 1–5 p.m. Closed: Jan. 1, Easter, Memorial Day, July 4,
Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Dec. 24 & 25

Accessibility: The museum is accessible to persons using wheelchairs. Accommodations for persons with other special needs may be requested in advance.

Parking: FREE. During the week, required parking passes for Circle Park are available at the visitor parking information booth (see map). On weekends, free parking is available at Circle Park and adjacent lots.

Museum Shop: Located in the lobby of the museum, the shop offers a selection of gifts and educational items related to the exhibitions.

Wedjat, or “eye,”

right
An amulet symbolizing soundness, good health, protection and well-being.



Hawk coffin,

front cover
This painted wooden coffin displays one likeness of the important solar deity Horus. The coffin was made to hold the mummy of a hawk, his sacred symbol.

ANCIENT EGYPT

THE ETERNAL VOICE



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“I impart to you a thought for eternity...”

In the exhibition **Ancient Egypt: The Eternal Voice**, the ancient Egyptians still speak to us through their writings and through the many objects they left behind. A fine collection of both original objects and some replicas are arranged in this gallery by topic.

While their kings and queens continue to captivate us, the ordinary, hardworking Egyptians of the time are no less interesting. On one side of the gallery, a sampling of their tools and crafts are displayed, lavishly illustrated with scenes from tomb paintings. Many of the objects in these cases were manufactured more than 3,000 years ago.

On the opposite side of the gallery, royalty and divinity are mainly represented in sculptures. From the diminutive representations of deities such as a bronze cat symbolizing the goddess Bastet, to the large image of Taweret, patroness of expectant mothers, the importance of religion in the everyday life of the ancient Egyptians can begin to be appreciated.



Visitors enter the gallery through an almost full scale replica of the doorway to the mortuary temple of Queen Nefretiry, wife of the pharaoh Ramesses II, at Abu Simbel. This doorway was produced by the museum staff. The statue just inside the doorway is a cast of a statue of Ramesses II on loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Mummy Mask, right

Polychrome and gilt paint cover the surface of a mummy mask, fashioned from cartonnage, multiple layers of linen or papyrus and gesso (whiting with glue). Masks covering the head and shoulders of a mummy were especially popular during the Ptolemaic Period. 332–30 BC, the time when this mask was made.



Cat statuette, below right

A bronze statuette of a cat honors Bastet, patron goddess of pleasure, joy, and motherhood. Some cats were worshipped as the earthly incarnation of Bastet, mummified when they died, and used as offerings to the goddess.



PREDYNASTIC PERIOD

EARLY DYNASTIC PERIOD

OLD KINGDOM

FIRST INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

MIDDLE KINGDOM

SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

NEW KINGDOM

LATE DYNASTIC PERIOD

PTOLEMAIC PERIOD

4000

3200

2780

2280

2134

1778

1567

1085

332

30



The 100-year-old model of the Hypostyle Hall of the temple of the god Amun-Re- at Karnak causes wonder as we imagine what the huge, brightly painted building looked like during the reign of the great Ramesses II. Its grandeur makes us admire the many artisans who decorated it, as well as the architects and stoneworkers who constructed the great hall.

The parts of ancient Egyptian life that continue to fascinate us the most are their belief in an afterlife and the practices and rituals they followed to prepare for it. The room at the rear of the gallery presents this story, including the process we call mummification. Funerary jewelry, scarabs, animal mummies, and other authentic objects illustrate important beliefs.

Papyrus, above

"I give adoration to Osiris ..." begins the Papyrus of Kha, a scroll of papyrus containing sections of the *Book of the Dead*, the formulae needed by the Egyptians in the afterworld. Kha and his wife Merit raise their hands in adoration before the great god Osiris, ruler of the afterworld, on this handmade painted papyrus (copy of a portion of the original in the Egyptian Museum, Turin, Italy).



Shwabty, left
"Wheresoever thou callest me, verily I shall then be present."
 Thus a shwabty, literally "answerer," responds to the formula recited by its deceased owner. The ever practical Egyptians placed these small statues in tombs to do work for the deceased in the afterworld. The eight-inch tall statuette, holding tools, was excavated in the 1890s from the tomb of Horwedja, a priest of Neith, goddess of war, hunting, and weaving.

Coffin, right

"There is none that may tarry in the Land of Egypt, there is not one that does not pass yonder." Complex images painted in green, white, red, and black adorn the coffin made for the mummy of a priestess who lived and died more than 3,000 years ago. Elaborate coffins and mummification illustrate the orderly and complete preparation the ancient Egyptians made for the next life.

On loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.



Ibis mummy, above

Intricate folds of linen cloth form nested squares in the outer wrappings of an ibis mummy. Dating to the Ptolemaic Period, 332–30 BC, the ibis mummy was an offering to the god Thoth, god of the divine words and patron of scribes, ancient Egypt's professional writers. A photograph of the mummy's x-ray, also in the exhibit, reveals the bird's long legs, tightly folded.

Container, right center

An artisan's attention to detail is evident in a tiny blue glazed dish, which measures less than three inches long. It depicts a bound oryx, a horned antelope.

Sandals, right

The arid climate of Egypt accounts for the preservation of many objects of perishable materials, such as these nearly 2,000-year-old sandals made of woven plant fibers.

Hypostyle Hall, below

Massive carved and painted columns dwarf the figure of an offering bearer in this scale model of the Great Hall at Karnak, one of Egypt's most impressive monuments.

On loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Offering tray, right

An offering tray of red coarse earthenware, more than 4,000 years old, features models of food, including an ox. Placed in a tomb, it magically provided necessary food for the deceased.

