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Egyptian Faience Shabti: Vizier Paser

An ancient Egyptian blue-green faience shabti of the Vizier Paser. The mummiform figure wears a tripartite wig, broad collar, and the triangular kilt of an overseer (reis usahbti). He holds a crook and flail. The painted Hieroglyphic inscription reads, "The Osiris, God's father, Paser, O shabti, if [Paser] is assigned, obstacles having been removed, or if the God's father Pa[ser] is assigned."



New Kingdom, Ramesside Period,
19th Dynasty, Ca. 1292 -1189 BC.
Height: 6 1/4 in. (16 cm).

Paser was vizier in the reigns of Seti I and Ramesses II. He was the High Priest of Amun. When Ramesses II took the throne he reappointed Paser as chief chamberlain of the Lord of Both Lands, high priest of Great of Magic and vizier. Among his major works was the construction of the tomb of Seti I in the Valley of the Kings.Shabtis were first introduced in the Middle Kingdom as substitutes for the the mummy in case it was destroyed. During the Second Intermediate Period inscribed wooden figures called shawabtis (after the Egyptian word for wood, shawab) began to be placed in tombs. During the New Kingdom, shabtis assumed a new role as servant figures for the deceased. They were now depicted with agricultural equipment. By the Third Intermediate Period, the number of shabtis placed in the tomb was set at 401 (365 workers and 36 overseers). During the Late Period the tomb figures became known as ushabtis ('answerers'), these figures represented servants who would magically answer when called upon to perform agricultural duties for the Pharaoh (in the form of Osiris) in the afterlife. Their main function was to ensure the individual's comfort and freedom from daily labor in the next life.

Formerly in an American private collection.

inventory number: 8569

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