

Stone Statues and their Funerary Purposes

This object is the head of a granite statue, broken at the neck which would have come from a full statue, whether that was sitting or standing statue, we don't know. Either way the statue would not have been very large as the head is roughly 18x18cm at its widest points. It is likely a tomb statue, which would have been of high importance to the tomb owner.

Tomb or Funerary goods were incredibly important for the afterlife of the tomb owner. The deceased had to take with them everything that they might have needed in their afterlife, including food, furniture and tools for work. While depictions of themselves were not important for 'use' they were important nonetheless.

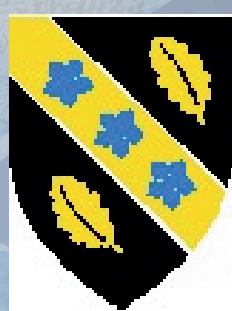


Depictions of the self, such as this one, played a role in creating the body of the deceased in the afterlife, which would have been inhabited by the Ka, just one aspect of what we might call the soul, in Ancient Egypt. The statues were not only important to the dead however, but to the living left behind.

For the living, a statue of the dead provided communication with the deceased, providing a way to leave offerings for the deceased's 'soul' so that they might live on well. These offerings were vital as it 'fed' the dead via the Ka, though it did not physically eat the offerings, the nourishment it provided sustained the dead in the afterlife. These statues also allowed for 'communication' between the dead and the living so that they might be further remembered.

Bibliography:

- Taylor, J.H. (2001). Death and the Afterlife in Ancient Egypt. The British Museum.
- Harrington, N. (2013). Living with the dead : ancestor worship and mortuary ritual in ancient Egypt. Oxford ; Oakville: Oxbow Books.
- Image CCM: 276.004 - Statue Head: Davison, E (2025) Front Profile of the statue head, Lampeter Archives.



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