

A DECADE OF EXCAVATIONS
IN QUBBET EL-HAWA.
THE RESULTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF JAÉN.
CATALOGUE OF THE EXHIBITION

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EGIPTOLOGÍA
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GROUP OF CARTONNAGE MASKS

CHRONOLOGY: Second Intermediate Period (17th Dyn.) /New Kingdom (18th Dyn.)

MATERIAL: Terracotta

Tomb QH33

In the interior of QH33 numerous clay masks belonging to cartonnage were discovered. These objects were present from the Old Kingdom to the Roman Period as part of grave goods. As well as their magical and aesthetic functions, they also played a very important role in protecting the head, without which the deceased could not continue his existence in the Hereafter. Thus, the mask protects the integrity of the deceased.

Skin tone in ancient Egypt was represented by different shades for men or women. Women had a lighter skin tone possibly due to their role in the domestic environment, that is, indoors. On the other hand, the man was given a more tanned or orange skin color, possibly related to working outside in the sun.

Regarding the masks from QH33, both male and female representations were found. There is a diversity of sizes. A smaller size indicates the mask belonged to the end of the Second Intermediate Period; by contrast, those of a larger size are datable to the New Kingdom. Although in most cases only the mask has survived, without any headdress, we can assume that some of them would have had the typical feathered pattern known as *rishi*. The interpretation that has been given to this decoration is that it represented the deceased transformed into a *ba* which allowed him to leave the funeral chamber. This, together with the small size, would date the masks to the Second Intermediate Period.

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