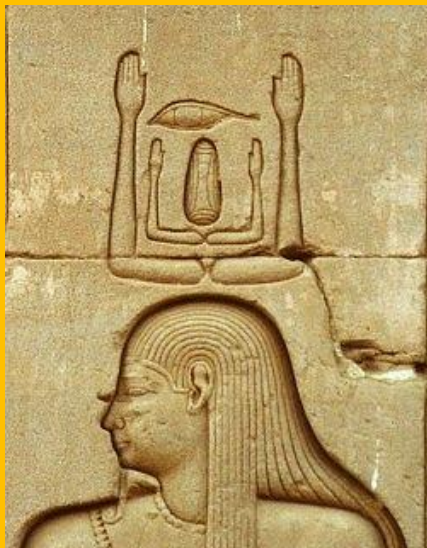




Clay Sarcophagus mask (CCM 199.996), as part of a clay sarcophagus, third intermediate period 1070B.C -664B.C

Oliver Cook 2001030



Link to funerary beliefs in ancient Egypt

In the times of the ancient Egyptians, it was believed that if the body was destroyed in this world, then it would not exist during the afterlife. Also, the *Ka* (soul) would need a place to reside during the afterlife. As a result of this, the Egyptians would go about preserving the body and organs of the deceased in a meticulous and precise manner- that way there was less chance of damage to the body. The Egyptians placed significant importance on how they would live on in the afterlife, and that begun with the preservation of the body as a vessel for the *Ka* to exist in

This item (below) is a front section of an Egyptian clay burial pot, which would possibly be from the third intermediate period (1070 B.C-664 B.C). When in situ on the pot, the mask section would have been placed on once the body had been placed inside the pot. The mask is roughly 20.5cm high, 26cm wide and is around 4.5cm deep. The colouration of the material suggests that it could be made from Nile silt and clay, which were traditional materials at the time.

The mask section itself portrays a young face, with exaggerated lips, a slim nose and a large section for the hair piece. In addition, the eyes, which are significantly pronounced, appear to have a raised section, possibly indicating eyeliner, suggesting a more feminine shape to the face



other sarcophagi used in Egypt

While clay sarcophagi similar to the one the artefact has come off were common, there were also other examples prevalent. A popular example would be the wooden coffins, although made of a different material, had a similar, if anything less detailed face section to the artefact. Over the years, the style of the face on the coffin changed. In later years, the faces became more detailed and changed to reflect a more improved version of the deceased (removal of any imperfections).



Image reference list

- Oliver Cook, 2001030, Clay mask from a burial pot, 2023 UWTSD Lampeter Campus
- "Ka engraving" The Global Egyptian museum (accessed February 5th 2023), available from [The Global Egyptian Museum | Ka](https://www.theglobalegyptianmuseum.org.uk/ka-engraving)
- "Anthropoid coffins", The Levantine Scarab (accessed February 6th 2023), available from [Anthropoid Coffins – The Levantine Scarab \(wordpress.com\)](https://www.levantine-scarab.com/anthropoid-coffins)