

Egyptian Faience Amulet

By Nathan Moore (2004922)



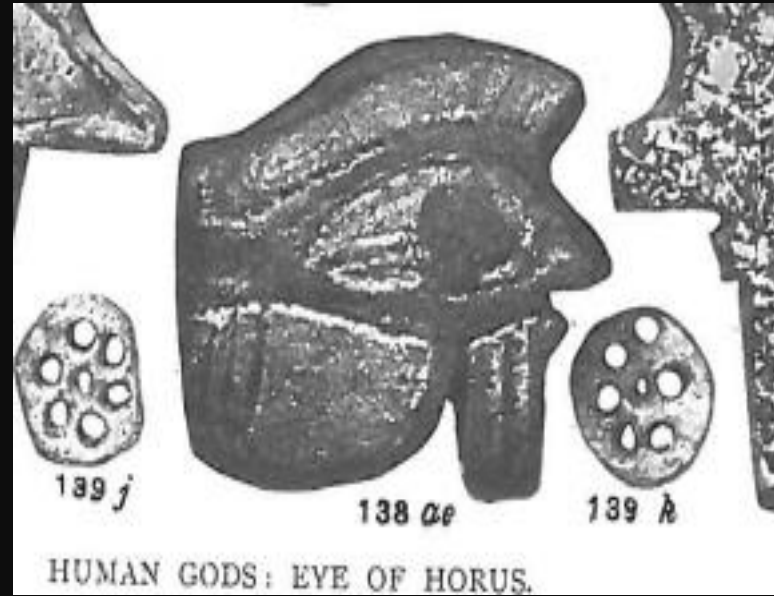
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What is the Artefact?

- Currently unsure on what it is meant to be
- It is made of Faience, a precious man-made stone
- Petrie grouped it under “unusual Uzat Eye” – the eye of Horus
- It has 5 outer holes and 1 central hole for a total of 6
- The pattern on the stone is similar to the Lotus flower found on the Nile River
- It is a rough oval shape at 3.3 by 3.6 cm and 0.5cm in height
- Its colouring is mostly shades of blue with specks of white being prevalent on one side
- The underneath is more greatly glazed and possess a slight dip in the middle with the sides being raised
- There is a lot of small damage aspects and grains of sand all over



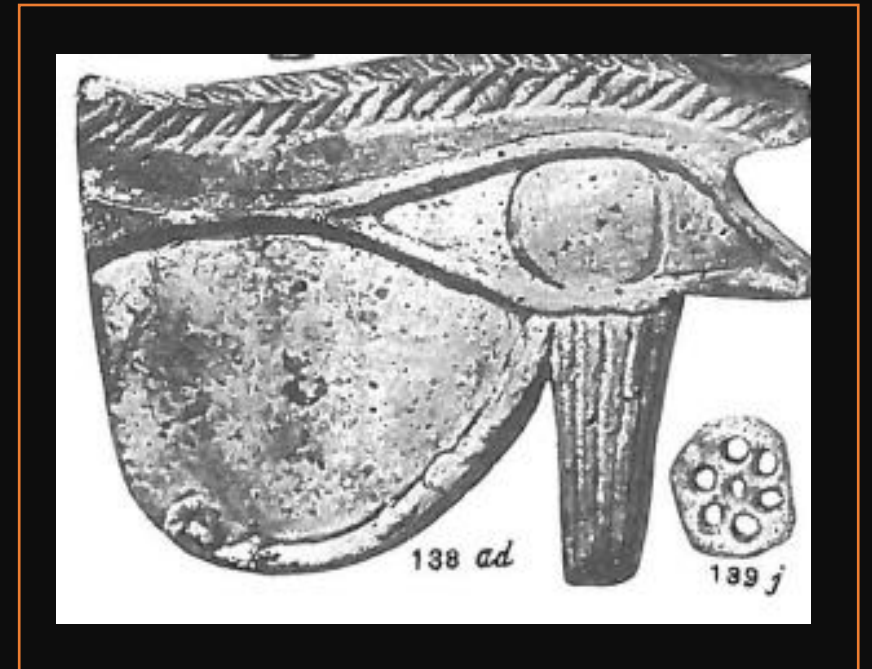
Theories so far

- Currently theories and speculation is what we have
- Given the holes it may be used as an incense stick holder
- Sellers on Etsy have it as a pendant to be worn
- The Stela of Ashurnasirpal II has a similar design bracelet from Assyria
- Given the spiritual nature of Egypt, it may be a version of the Evil or Envious Eye
- It is possible to rule out certain theories and ideas
- Not a button or sewn jewelry as the damage is not the same type you see on items in those positions
- Seal or stamp of office is unlikely as no residue or easy way to place and remove it
- Further analysis may prove differently



Funerary Function

- If it was used in a funerary function for the Ancient Egyptians then it may be:
 - The Eye of Horus
 - A symbol of rebirth after Seth cut it from Horus and the Eye came back to life
 - Shows a connection to the Gods, useful for gaining their favour
 - Overlay it onto the Wedjat and the hole points roughly line up
 - The Evil Eye
 - A ward against evil, often looking more like a peacock feather
 - Worn by priests on the wrist to protect from evil or malicious spirit?
 - This is unlikely though as it is not much seen in ancient Egypt
 - A symbol of the Duat
 - The Duat is an aspect of the Egyptian afterlife
 - The hieroglyph for the Duat is a circle representing the sun with a 5-point star in the middle representing stars
 - Being associated with Ra, this symbol is associated with rebirth



Faience

- Faience is made by combining silica with salts from natron or plant ash with the colour coming from metal additives, often copper
- The paste is made into a shape via a mould and then left to dry for a few days before being fired
- It often has a bright and shiny blue complexion caused by the glaze that forms and the copper included
- The blue colouring may be significant as it represents the water and heavens, fertility and Osiris – Rebirth and the underworld
- The holes would have been caused by placing a needle like object into the paste when in the mould to help remove it



Wider Information

- Has modern value – buy your own on Etsy
- If made of Egyptian Faience, it could be dated back to the Middle kingdom making it around 4,000 years old
- Principles of Egyptian Art by Schaefer depicts it as a flat loaf of bread – potentially a sun loaf
- An auction site placed similar amulets to the Ptolemaic Dynasty – 305 to 30 BC
- Given the lack of consistency of the blue colour on the amulet, the Middle Kingdom appears the more likely time frame with the practice being imperfect but the design more detailed



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