

Daily prayer token from Ancient Egypt



Ht (N27) sun over mountain- ideogram for ht, “horizon”; (see Akhenaten’s town site, Akhenaten) (Gardiner, 1957, Jones, P.C).

H (V28 a) twisted wick (Manley, 2013 p.152)- Unilateral h; eternity, or a long time period, (also variations of time periods (Gardiner, 1957, Jones, P.C).



R (NS) sun – Ra/Re – (every pharaoh’ s praenomen has “Re” in it, the name of the sun god, sometimes written “Ra”) (Gardiner, 1957 “day of the god Ra” (Manley, 2013, p.149, Jones, P.C).

H (V28 a) twisted wick (Manley, 2013 p.152)- Unilateral h; eternity, or a long time period, (also variations of time periods (Gardiner, 1957, Jones, P.C).



Nb (V30A) basket (hieroglyph) (Manley, 2013, p.152). Egyptian for “everything”, every; major use: “lord”, (or feminine, Lady) ideogram for basket: master, lord (Gardiner, 1957, Jones P.C).

Ancient Egypt, a country shrouded in myth and legend where the gods played a big part not just in death but in everyday life. Here we have a very special item that allows us to look at the everyday life of the common people of Ancient Egypt. This artifact which is only 2.9mm is likely to be a massed produced generic prayer token probably made by a priest or scribe to be put as an offering in the tomb. It is almost possible to imagine the priest or scribe rolling out a piece of clay into a cylindrical shape then removing his or her ring and pressing it into the soft clay before cutting them into individual prayer tokens then firing them in a small oven before being placed inside the tomb.

For a translation of the hieroglyphs and a proper description of the item please come and visit the exhibition where you can see this artifact and more, book now at: - <https://cyfarthfa-museum.arttickets.org.uk/> we look forward to seeing you.

Bibliography

Manley, B. (2012) *Egyptian Hieroglyphs for the complete beginners: new step by step method*. National Geographic Books.

Gardiner, A.H. (1957) The 1071 hieroglyphs from Unicode 5.2. [online] Available from: - <https://mjn.host.cs.st-andrews.ac.uk/egyptian/unicode/tablemain.html#Gardiner1957> (Accessed on 01/02/2023).

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