

# Identifying the Amulet Mould and its Connection to the Funerary Sphere

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Amulet Mould (Zinn, 2021)

## Description

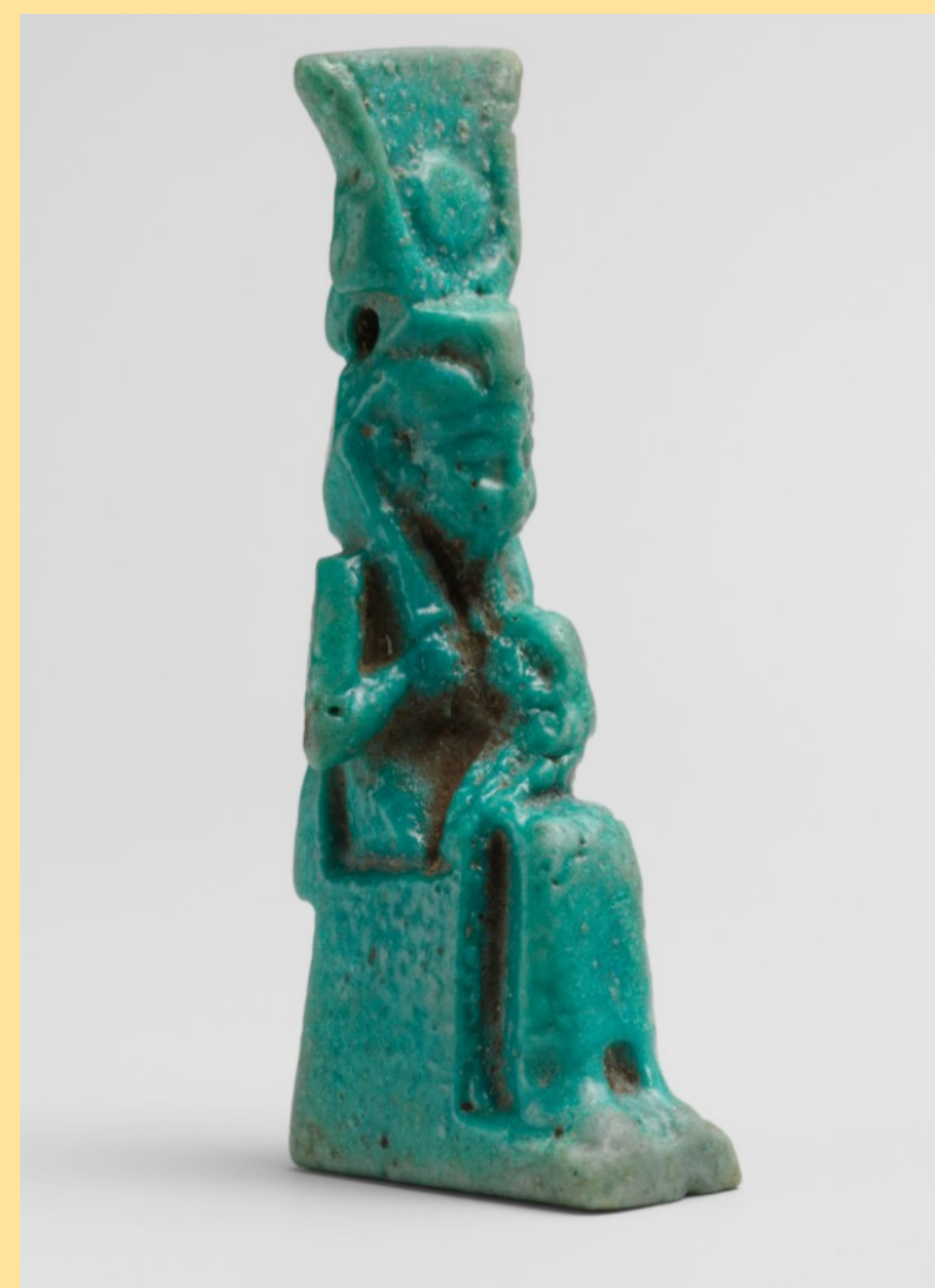
The mould itself is made from a fired red terracotta clay. The imprint on the mould shows a figure sitting down with its arm directed towards its lap, the hand of the figure is cradling something. The cradled object is not clear. The figure's face is clear and there is a headdress that has a round disc with two horns, one on either side. This gives an indication that the figure is representing the goddess Isis or Hathor. The mould itself is not complete as the base plinth is missing.

## Dating the Amulet Mould

During the First Intermediate Period and Middle Kingdom, the cult of Osiris increased due to Osiris power. During these periods the belief developed that, through proper religious observances, immortality was available to everyone, no matter their position or wealth. This increased the production of funerary and tomb goods. This amulet mould most likely dates between c.2181-1786BC.



Mould for Amulet of Isis and Horus  
(Unknown, 2020)



Faience amulet of Isis and Horus  
(Unknown, 2020)

## Identifying the Goddess

Isis was both sister and wife to Osiris. Horus was their son. This is explained in the story of Heliopolis, which describes the creation of the world. The parents of Osiris and Isis are said to be the earth and sky; earth being the god Geb and sky being the goddess Nut. They also had another son, Seth, and a daughter Nephthys. These siblings go on to have multiple stories. The most important one describes that Osiris was made the king of Egypt and Seth was jealous, so he murdered him and left him in the Nile. Isis found her husband and brother but not before Seth could take the body again. Seth then cut Osiris' body into fourteen parts, both Isis and Nephthys search across Egypt to find his body. Anubis mummified Osiris then Isis resurrected him. This caused Osiris to become ruler of the dead, while his son Horus challenges Seth and kills him becoming King of Egypt.

## Connection to the Funerary Sphere

Miniature amulets were used to represent certain gods and goddesses. The most common amulets were of Osiris, Isis, Nephthys and Horus. In this case this amulet mould would make an amulet of Isis and Horus this is because they are important parts of the Osiris myths. When these amulets are used in the funerary context, they are placed on the body during the embalming process to either give the wearer the protection of the certain god or goddess, or to endow the wearer with the god's powers or attributes. Isis and Horus give power and protection to the dead; Isis for her role in resurrecting Osiris and Horus with his symbolism of the fertility of the Egyptian kings.

## Bibliography

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