







Statue of Osiris (detail)

Sphinx: Late Period, 26th Dynasty, reign of Amasis;
Witz, Saqqara Cemetery, Tomb of Psamtek

Psamtek worked as "Chief Steward", "Overseer of the Seal", and "Overseer of the Scribes of the Royal Meals". In his tomb was found a statue of Osiris depicting the god seated and wearing the atef crown with a uraeus on his forehead. This statue, together with another one representing the tomb-owner with Hathor, and a statue of Isis, were found by the French Egyptologist Auguste Mariette in 1863.

Inlaid pectoral

Gold, silver, carnelian, and glass; New Kingdom, 18th Dynasty, reign of Tutankhamun; Luxor, Valley of the Kings, Tomb of Tutankhamun (KV 62), Carter 261 o

The pectoral shown here was found inside the shrine of Anubis (Carter 261), and depicts Osiris in the middle, flanked by the vulture goddess Nekhbet of Upper Egypt wearing the white crown with two feathers (left), and the cobra goddess Wadjet of Lower Egypt wearing the red crown (right). These two were considered the protective female deities of Egyptian kings as well as the protectors of Upper and Lower Egypt.



Thoth (detail)

Paint on plaster; New Kingdom, 19th Dynasty, reign of Ramesses II; Luxor, Deir el-Medina, Tomb of Naktamun (TT 335)

Almost every god and goddess in ancient Egypt was depicted at one time or another with a sun disk on top of their head; however, certain gods were connected more to the moon. This scene from the judgment of Naktamun represents Thoth in the form of a baboon with the full and crescent moon on his head, and appears on the north wall of chamber C in the tomb of Naktamun. The inscription names the god as the "scribe of the west", and indeed Thoth is shown holding in his right hand the scribe's palette he is going to use in order to write down the result of the weighing of Naktamun's heart; with his left hand Thoth is ensuring that the balance is kept steady. The two baboons underneath the image of the god are shown in the pose of worshipping the rising sun.

Pectoral of Horus

Gold, lapis lazuli, carmelian, and green stone; New Kingdom, 18th Dynasty, reign of Tutankhamun; Luxor, Valley of the Kings, Tomb of Tutankhamun (KV 62), Carter 256 uuu

Ancient Egyptian texts gave much attention to Horus, as, for example, in the inscription in the Great Hymn to Osiris on the stela of Amenmose, in the museum of the Louvre in Paris, where the god is described as follows: "The Ennead was jubilant: 'Welcome, son of Osiris, Horus, firm-hearted and justified, son of Isis, heir of Osiris.' The council of Maat assembled for him the Ennead, the All-Lord himself, the Lords of Maat, united in her, who eschew wrongdoing, they were seated in the hall of Geb, to give the office to its lord, the kingship to its rightful owner, Horus was found justified, his father's rank was given to him." With this text, and others, the strong relationship between Horus and kingship in ancient Egypt is dramatically enforced. The pectoral shown here, found on the mummy of Tutankhamun, depicts Horus with outspread wings and the sun disk on top of the bird's head together with two shen signs gripped in the talons.