A183 Afr-Egy-Amulet-Anubis-Late period, 525-334 BCE-Faience.

**Case No.: 2**

**Accession Number: A183**

**Formal Label: Anubis Amulet Faience 192.16 mm**

**Display Description:** This aquamarine faience (glazed ceramic) amulet represents the jackal god Anpu (or Inpu) (Greek: Anubis). Anubis is an extremely ancient deity whose name appears in the oldest mastabas of the Old Kingdom and the Pyramid Texts as a guardian and protector of the dead. He was originally a god of the underworld, but became associated specifically with the embalming process and funeral rites. His name is from the same root as the word for a royal child, "inpu". However, it is also closely related to the word "inp" which means "to decay", and one versions of his name (Inp or Anp) more closely resembles that word. ,  , .As a result it is possible that his name changed slightly once he was adopted as the son of the King, [Osiris](http://www.ancientegyptonline.co.uk/osiris.html). He was known as "Imy-ut" ("He Who is In the Place of Embalming"), "nub-tA-djser" ("lord of the scared land"). associated with mummification and the afterlife in his anthropomorphic form, wearing a kilt. This amulet is possibly from the Anubieion on the ne edge of the Saqqara cemeteries.

Amulets are believed to confer some advantage to the wearer. In this case, one of Anubis’ rôles was ''The Guardian of the Scales'' who weighed one’s heart on a sacred scale to see if it was too heavy. According to the *Book of the Dead* if it were lighter than a feather Anubis would allow the person to live eternally (Petrie 1914).

**LC Classification:** DT62.U84

**Date or Time Horizon:** Late period, 525-334 BCE.

**Geographical Area: Saqqara, Egypt**

**Map, GPS Coordinates:** 29.85000 31.21667; [29°52′16″N 31°12′59″E](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Saqqara&params=29_52_16_N_31_12_59_E_type:landmark)

**Cultural Affiliation:** Late Period, Egypt, 525-334 BCE.

**Geographical Area: Saqqara, Egypt**

**Medium:** Faience

**Dimensions: H 192.16 mm, 7.57 in  
Weight:**

**Provenance: old European collection**

**Condition:** origina**l**

**Discussion:**

“The earliest jackal-form amulet, made of bone, was found in a Pre-dynastic Naqada 2 burial and shows the animal couchant, in profile and with the scored markings characteristic of contemporary amulets. By the Sixth Dynasty glazed-composition walking jackals and, rather more significantly, jackal-headed walking human figures occur, the earliest amuletic representation of an animal-headed deity. . . Thereafter these two forms and the jackal-headed deity, both walking and seated, continued to be made until the end of the dynastic history, generally in glazed composition or metal. … Amulets representing major gods remained comparatively rare until the end of the New Kingdom, when they suddenly flourished, and became as a group the most prevalent type until the end of the Late Period Anubieion” (Andrews 1994: 46-47). A cemetery of mummified jackals was discovered along the ne edge of the Saqqara cemeteries (Giddy 1992) next to two huge adjacent brick shrines, the Anubieion in the n and the Bubasteion in the s (Jeffreys and Smith 1990). These structures date to the reign of King Ahmose (570-526 BC - 26th Dynasty), who was responsible for building the town of Naukratis, the Greek colony in Egypt and the main trading point between Egyptians and Greeks. Greek influence may have encouraged the flourishing of amulets such as this one in the delta during the Late Period.

**References:**

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