



**Egypt, XXVI dynasty**

**Oushbeti of Tious, born from the Ta-idérek lady**

Turquoise blue glazed earthenware  
H 15.5 x W (elbows) 3.9 cm ; W (hands) 2.65 cm

Perfect condition : object was reattached perfectly after having been broken mid-leg

This magnificent object found its integrity after being reattached mid-leg, having broken at an undeterminable period. The point of the nose, the hands and the back of the wig show faint signs of use. Brown spots appear disseminated on the front of the object due to an oxidation of the blue paint during the firing. Yet these observations do not spoil this small funerary statue. That being said, the fake braided beard managed to keep the tip's curl, the pickax, held on the left hand and that reclines on the right shoulder, and the hoe, held on the right hand and that reclines on the left shoulder, are both surprising well conserved, as is the case with the cord perfectly braided visible over the left shoulder, attached to a grain sac on the back of the figurine. The text on the front of the object is very well preserved and is easily decodable.

**Texte on the Oushbeti of Tious**

1) The Luminous, Osiris Tious (recognized) right-of-voice, born from Ta-idérek (recognized) right-of-voice, says he,

Oh,

2) these oushebtys, if we count them Osiris Tious

3) (recognized) right-of-voice, to accomplish all the work that must be done in the necropolis, so the embarrassment

4) (he that will be given) there as a man doing his work. Me here, will tell

5) you. (And now) we will count you in an instant to work, to

6) grow the fields, to

7) irrigate the banks, to transport the sand

8) from the Occident to the Orient and vice-versa.

9) I will thus tell you.

Notes on the text

We are here before a text coming from the VI chapter of the Book of the Dead<sup>1</sup>, in its third version utilized during the Late Period and, most particularly, during the XXVI dynasty that is now a days known generally by the private funerary statues<sup>2</sup>.

1) Note that the initial invocation of the oushebtys is regularly placed under the symbol of the sun (the Luminous) and the darkness (Osiris). This practice is adopted during the Late Period<sup>3</sup>.

2) The masculine anthroponym Tious is attested for during the Late Period by the oushebtys on the character here studied and by a small statue conserved at the museum of Cairo, CG n°39322, not allowing us to assimilate the two objects.

#### Literature:

1 This chapter of the Book of the Dead, formulas 472 and 850 from the Textes of the Sarcophages of the Middle Kingdom, seems to have been created under the reign of the queen-pharaoh Hat-shepsout, during the XVIII dynasty. P. Barguet, *Le Livre des Morts des anciens Égyptiens*, Paris, 1967, p. 42 and note 1.

2 J.-F. & L. Aubert, *Statuettes égyptiennes*, Paris, 1974, p. 32. J.-L. Bovot, *Chouabtis. Des travailleurs pharaoniques pour l'éternité*, Cat. Expo. Musée du Louvre, du 7 mars au 30 juin 2003, Paris, 2003, p. 21. Les, Paris, 2003, p. 21.