



Canopic Jars

A method of artificial preservation called mummification was developed by the ancient Egyptians.

During the process of mummification, the liver, intestines, lungs, and stomach were removed and preserved separately in four canopic jars.

The jars were placed in the tomb next to the coffin.

Often, images of the four sons of the sky god Horus (each of whom protected a different internal organ) were used to decorate the four lids:

Imsety had a human head and protected the liver;

Hapy had the head of an ape and protected the lungs;

Duamutef had the head of a jackal and guarded the stomach;

Qebehsenuef had the head of a falcon and guarded the intestines.

This canopic jar shows the head of Hapy.



Shabti Figures

Evidence suggests that the ancient Egyptians believed that existence in the afterlife included completing work such as farming and watering crops.

To be spared their share of the work, the Egyptians included shabtis (also called shawabtis or ushabtis) in their burial goods.

They believed a shabti could act as a substitute for the deceased person and work on that person's behalf in the afterlife.

The appearance of a shabti is stylised, it is not a portrait of an individual, the identity of the deceased is written on the front of the shabti figure instead.



APIS BULL
*Emblem and incarnation
of PTAH -SEKER-OSIRIS.*

Amulets

Jewellery in ancient Egypt was usually symbolic and was often worn to bestow magical protection or good fortune on the wearer.

Protective amulets were often made in shapes derived from mythology and hieroglyphs.

For these amulets to give full protection, they were worn close to the body, usually as part of a necklace or bracelet.

Amulets gave protection at all stages of existence, they were placed round the necks of children and inside the mummy wrappings of the deceased.

The Apis bull was sacred to the creator god Ptah of Memphis and was also associated with the god Osiris.

Egyptians wore amulets of the Apis bull to improve their chances of rebirth after death.



Scarab Beetle Amulets

Scarabs were powerful amulets made in the image of the god Khepri.

The legend of this god was based on observations of the beetle *Scarabaeus Sacer*, whose young emerge from a dung ball pushed along the ground by the female.

An analogy evolved between the rolling dung ball and the sun travelling across the sky, and so the beetle god and the scarab became associated with the dead passing from the darkness of death into the light of the next world.





Stelae

Stelae were an essential feature of ancient Egyptian burials, only the coffin and its contents were more important.

It was an ancient form of gravestone, and recorded the name and titles of the deceased, but its function was more complicated.

The ancient Egyptians believed that the soul needed the same things to survive in the afterlife that a living person needed during life.

As you couldn't fill a tomb with enough food and drink to last for all eternity, they developed magical means to provide for the soul instead.

It was believed that if someone were to speak the text on the stela aloud, the souls of the people mentioned – its owner and family members – would be magically provided with food, drink and provisions to sustain them in the afterlife.