

Ushabti for Imenmes

19th Dynasty, 1290-1279 B.C., New Kingdom

Egypt

Faience,

H: 13.8 cm

A mummiform ushabti in blue faience. Four registers of hieroglyphic characters are painted around the lower half of the ushabti, with a vertical column of hieroglyphs in the centre of the back. The inscription dedicates the ushabti to the royal scribe Imenmes, son of Pendjerty. The details of the hands and facial features are also added with black paint. The ushabti stands in typical fashion, with hands crossed over the chest, each holding a hoe, and with a seed bag over the proper left shoulder.

The name Imenmes, or Amenmose, means ‘Amen is born’. The dedicatee of this ushabti was a royal scribe from the time of Ramesses II (r. 1279-1213 B.C.). Imenmes was the son of the judge Pendjerty and Mutemonet (or Iny), the sistrum bearer of Amun, Mut, and Khonsu. He is known from several monuments, including statues now in the British Museum (EA137), the Vienna Kunsthistorisches Museum (INV 5749), and the Manchester University Museum. His Theban tomb (TT373) was discovered in 1948 under some houses in Khokha. The tomb describes Imenmes as ‘The royal scribe, whom the king appointed(?) as head of the temples, Amenmose, (born of) Iny’. This may mean that Imenmes was an inspector of temples and could explain why his monuments have been found in so many different regions of Egypt.1 Several of the objects dedicated to Imenmes, including his tomb, feature the goddess Neith in a prominent position. This could be a reference to Esna, Neith’s major cult

centre and the birthplace of Imenmes' father.