



PROCEEDINGS OF THE XI INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF EGYPTOLOGISTS

Florence, Italy 23-30 August 2015

MUSEO EGIZIO FIRENZE
Florence Egyptian Museum

edited by
Gloria Rosati and Maria Cristina Guidotti



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MUSEO EGIZIO FIRENZE
FLORENCE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM



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dei beni e delle
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Proceedings of the XI International Congress of Egyptologists

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The Ancient Egyptian shabtis discovered in the regions of Roman *Illyricum* (*Dalmatia*, *Pannonia*) and *Istria*: provenance, collections, typological study and dating

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Abstract

During the extensive diffusion of the Ancient Egyptian cults in the Mediterranean world shabtis were traded as one of the most common cultic symbols of the Egyptian religion. They were discovered in the Eastern Mediterranean, North Africa, and Europe. They were usually imported from Egyptian workshops, but it seems that a great number of shabtis were also crafted outside Egypt in various cultic centres of Isis, Osiris and Serapis. Egyptologists commonly classified these type of shabtis as 'fakes', but they had to be considered as 'ancient copies' of the original Egyptian artefacts (*Aegyptiaca*). In this paper author will present the group of shabtis (39) which were discovered in various archaeological sites in *Istria*, *Dalmatia* and *Pannonia*, their collections, and typology. These shabtis can be dated from the early Third Intermediate Period (10th century BC) to the Roman period. The biggest group was discovered around ancient *Salona* (today Solin, Croatia) and the central Dalmatian islands, where the ancient Greek settlements were established from the late 6th century BC. The other shabtis were discovered in the northern Adriatic region, and the various sites of the Roman provinces of *Dalmatia* and *Pannonia*.

Keywords

Shabtis; diffusion of Ancient Egyptian artefacts; Greco-Roman period; typology; *Illyricum*; *Dalmatia*; *Pannonia*; *Istria*

The museum and private collections of the shabtis archaeologically discovered in *Istria* and *Illyricum*: provenance and collections

In the territories of the ex-Roman provinces *Dalmatia* and *Pannonia* (the Roman *Illyricum*) and *Istria* (Italian region X: *Venetia et Histria*), 33 shabtis and six pseudo-shabtis were discovered. Five of these are kept today in museums in Hungary (one each in Budapest and Szekszárd), and Serbia (one in Sombor and two in Beograd). The 34 shabtis and pseudo-shabtis are kept in museums and private collections in Croatia (Figures 1–2).

The biggest collection of shabtis discovered in the region of Roman *Dalmatia* is housed in the Archaeological museum in Split. Ten shabtis were discovered in Solin (ancient *Salona*), Muć and the islands of Hvar (ancient *Pharos*), Brač (ancient *Brattia*) and Vis (ancient *Issa*). These shabtis have so far been studied by two professors of ancient history at the University of Zagreb, P. Selem (Selem 1969; Selem 1972: 18–21; Selem 1997: 109–10 no. 4.6, 82–9 nos. 2.38–2.45) and M. Tomorad (Tomorad 2000; Tomorad 2004; Tomorad 2006: 287 no. 4, 290–5 nos. 11–8). Three shabtis made in the shape of 18th Dynasty shabtis are typical *Aegyptiaca* made during the Roman Empire (inv. nos. B212, B213, B216). The rest were produced during the Late and Greco-Roman period (inv. nos. B214, B215, G1623–1626). They were made from faience, enamelled terracotta, granite and calcareous stone (Tomorad 2006: 287 no. 4, 290–5 nos. 11–8).

The Archaeological museum in Zagreb houses the biggest Egyptian collection in Croatia (c. 3100 artefacts) and among them they kept nine shabtis discovered in the region of Roman *Dalmatia*. They were discovered in Nin (ancient *Aenona*; Tomorad 2006: 300–1 nos. 27–8), Solin (Tomorad 2006: 297–9, nos. 22–6) and Ostrožac, near Bihać on the border between Croatia and Bosnia (Tomorad 2006: 296–7 no. 21). They were produced from the 22nd Dynasty to the Greco-Roman period from glazed faience and terracotta (Tomorad 2006: 296–301, nos. 21–8).

In the area of Čitluk (ancient *Claudia Aequum*), in *Dalmatia*, two shabtis were discovered. They are kept today in the archaeological collection of the Franciscan monastery in Sinj (inv. nos. R-299 and R-300). They were crafted during the Late and Greco-Roman periods from enamelled terracotta (Selem 1979: 80 nos. 2–3 t. I–II; Selem 1997: 93–4 nos. 2.58–2.59 t. XXXIIIa–b; Tomorad 2000: 1–14; Tomorad 2004: 91, 97, 108; Tomorad 2006: 285–6 nos. 1–2).

In the region of the northern Adriatic one shabti and one pseudoshabti were discovered on the island of Krk, in the remains of the ancient Late Hellenistic settlement *Curriculum* (today's city of Krk). The graves where they were discovered were dated to the middle of the 1st century BC. Among these two shabtis three scarabs, and five amulets of cats were also discovered. The most interesting find is a shabti of Queen Mehytwekhet (Third Intermediate Period) made from terracotta (Tomorad 2015a: 184, 186–7 no. 11; Tomorad 2015b: 142–4). The terracotta pseudoshabti is the typical *Aegyptiaca*, similar to the findings from Sicily (Tomorad 2015a: 187–8 no. 12; Tomorad 2015b: 144–5). They are both kept today in the Archaeological collection of the Franciscan monastery on the small island of Košljun.

Other shabtis discovered in the region of Solin and the island of Hvar are housed in the private Marović and Domančić collections. They were made from glazed terracotta and faience during the Late and Greco-Roman period. The Marović collection from Split has six shabtis from the former private Carrara-Bratanić collection, which were discovered in the region of Solin in the 19th century (Selem 1971: 113–4 nos. 1–6; Selem 1997: 89–90 nos. 2.46–2.51; Tomorad 2006: 287–90 nos. 5–10). The family Domančić from Hvar have one shabti from the former private Marchi collection, discovered in the 19th century in the remains of the ancient Greek settlement of *Pharos* (Selem 1972: 22; Selem 1979: 83–4 t.1; Selem 1994: 456 no. 3; Selem 1997: 109 no. 4.5 T. L.b; Tomorad 2000: 1–14; Tomorad 2003: 78; Tomorad 2004: 90, 97–8, 108–9; Tomorad 2006: 286 no. 3).

Collection	Provenance/ donor or collector	Period of arrival to Istria and Illyricum	Inv. no.	Qty
Archaeological Museum, Zagreb	Ostrožac/ V. Magdić	Late Period- Roman period	GIK 348	1
Archaeological Museum, Zagreb	Salona (Solin)/ Lanza	Late Period- Roman period	E-561-E565	5
Archaeological Museum, Zagreb	Aenona (Nin)/ Karlić	Third Intermediate Period-Roman period	E-675-676	2
Archaeological Museum, Zagreb	Dalmatia/ Radovan	Late Period- Roman period	GIK 358	1
Archaeological Museum, Split	Central Dalmatia	Late period- Roman period	G1623, G1624, G1626, B212-216	8
Archaeological Museum, Split	Muč	Greco-Roman period	FB-757	1
Archaeological Museum, Split	Hvar	Late period- Roman period	G1625	1
A. Domančić, Hvar	Hvar	Late period- Roman period	without inventory numbers	1
Museum of Slavonia, Osijek	Mursa (Osijek)	Third Intermediate period-Roman period	AA-6243	1
Museum of Slavonia, Osijek	Pannonia	Roman Empire	AA-1340, AA-19469	2
Franciscan monastery, Sinj	Claudia Aequum (Čitluk)	Late period- Ptolemaic Dynasty	R299, R300	2
Tereza Marović, Split/ ex Carrara- Bratanić	Salona (Solin)/	Late period- Ptolemaic Dynasty	without inventory numbers	6
Lik, Filipani	Kazale, Istria	Greco-Roman period	without inventory number	1
Franciscan Monastery, Košljun	Curicum (Krk)	Third Intermediate Period; Graeco-Roman period	641-642	2
Hungarian National Museum, Budapest	Cuccium (Ilok)	Not analysed/ Lost	43	1
Municipal Museum, Szekszárd	Aquae Balissae (Daruvár)	Late period- Ptolemaic Dynasty	59.48.1	1
City Museum, Sombor	Pannonia	Roman Empire	4100	1
Jewish Historical Museum, Beograd	Pannonia	Roman Empire	365	1
National Museum, Beograd	Pannonia	Roman Empire	7/VI	1
Total				39

FIGURE 1: THE COLLECTIONS AND THE PERIOD OF ARRIVAL OF SHABTIS AND PSEUDO-SHABTIS TO ISTRIA AND ILLYRICUM

The only shabti from the region of Istria was discovered in the village of Kazale in 1996 and today is kept by the Lik family in Filipani. It has not yet been published, but according to the picture I saw it was probably crafted during the Late or Greco-Roman period from terracotta (Buršić-Matijašić 1998: 10–1 t.2; Tomorad 2003: 139 fn. 30; Tomorad 2004: 90, 109; Tomorad 2006: 301 no. 29).

In the region of southern Pannonia, at least eight shabtis and pseudo-shabtis have been discovered, primarily from: Daruvár (ancient *Aqua Balissae*, now kept in the museum of Szekszárd castle, Hungary; Lakatos 1961: 10–1, no. 6 fig. 6); Osijek (ancient *Mursa*, now kept in the Museum of Slavonia in Osijek; Degmedžić 1954: 147–8; Perc 1968: 200–1 no. 48; Selem 1972: 40; Selem 1980: 22 no. 35; Selem 1997: 143 no. 9.3; Göricke-Lukić 2000: 43, 91–2, 139; Tomorad 2000; Tomorad 2003: 75, 137–8; Tomorad 2004: 91, 97–8, 102, 109; Tomorad 2005: 21; Tomorad 2006: 295 no. 19; Kovač 2013: 22–3; Kovač 2015: 100 no. 9); Ilok (ancient *Cuccium*, now kept in the Hungarian National museum in Budapest, Hungary; Perc 1968: 207 no. 54; Selem 1980: 23 no. 39; Selem 1997: 146 no. 9.7; Tomorad 2003: 77; Tomorad 2006: 296 no. 20); and from some unknown sites in the Pannonia region that are now kept in the City Museum in Sombor, Serbia (inv. no. 4100; Anđelković 2015: 112 no. 3.1), the Jewish Museum in Beograd, Serbia (inv. no. 365; Stefanović and Anđelković 2002), and the National Museum in Beograd, Serbia (inv. no. 7/VI; Anđelković 2015: 109 no. 5). These finds were all crafted from terracotta during the Late or Greco-Roman period. It is possible that two pseudo-shabtis with unknown provenance and kept in the Museum of Slavonia in Osijek (inv. nos. AA-1340 and AA-19469; Kovač 2015: 96–7 no. 3, 100–101 no. 10.) could have come from the Pannonia region.

Diffusion and the usage of shabtis during the Late and Greco-Roman period

Since the early Late period of Egyptian history, shabtis were exported outside Egypt by Greek and Phoenician traders. The increase of the export of Ancient Egyptian artefacts started during the reign of pharaoh Psammetichus I (c. 664–610 BC.) and by the end of the Saite period various religious artefacts of the Ancient Egyptians (e.g. shabtis, amulets, scarabs, statuettes of divinities, etc.) were traded in diverse regions of the Mediterranean world (Boardman 1999: 142; Diod. I.66.8, I.67.9; Hdt, II.154, II.178–82; Hölbl 1979; Lloyd 1983: 329; Tomorad 2014: 142; Tomorad 2015a: 169). During the Ptolemaic period Ancient Egyptian cults and artefacts were common in Northern Africa, the Ancient Near East, and in Mediterranean regions of Europe (specially Hispania, Italy, Greece and Illyricum). During the Roman Empire Egyptian cults spread to the northern *limes* (Germania and Britannia) and even beyond Roman borders to the western Ukraine. Along with the other Egyptian artefacts related to the Egyptian cults of Isis, Osiris and Serapis, shabtis were commonly traded in Phoenician and Greek colonies from the 7th century BC (Tomorad 2006: 279; Tomorad 2015a: 169), and during the Greco-Roman period they are common in almost every region of the Roman world. So far around 200 shabtis have been discovered in Northern Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean and Europe (Tomorad 2014: 142–3). During the Greco-Roman period, shabtis most likely lost

their original role in funerary rites and rituals, and, especially during the period of the Roman Empire, they were used as symbols of Isiac cults (Isis, Osiris, or even Serapis), and perhaps even Egyptian entity more generally (Tomorad 2006: 282). It is possible that they were used as protection from bewitchment, spells, disease, or in some malicious spells, or just as interior decoration – perhaps an element of ancient Egyptomania even (Tomorad 2006: 282, 284).

Typology of shabtis discovered in Istria, Dalmatia and Pannonia

The shabtis discovered in this region can be easily compared to the other shabtis discovered in the region of the Roman Empire. They can be divided in several groups according to the form in which they were made (mummiform, or everyday dress), the appearance of the back-pillar, the position and

Period	Dynasty	Provenance	Collection: inv. no.	Typology
Third Intermediate period	21st-22nd Dynasty	Krk (<i>Curicum</i>), Croatia	Franciscan Monastery, Košljun: 642	Schneider class VIIIC1; Tomorad class A
		Osijek (<i>Mursa</i>), Croatia	Museum of Slavonia, Osijek: AA-6243	Schneider class VIIIA2; Tomorad class B1
	22nd Dynasty	Solin (<i>Salona</i>), Croatia	Archaeological Museum, Zagreb: E-561	Schneider class VIIIB2; Tomorad class B2
Late Period	26th Dynasty	Solin (<i>Salona</i>), Croatia	Collection Marović, ex-collection Carrara-Bratanić, Split	Schneider class XIA1; Tomorad class C1
			Collection Marović, ex-collection Carrara-Bratanić, Split	
		Hvar (<i>Pharos</i>), Croatia	Archaeological Museum, Split: G1625	
Late-Hellenistic Period	26th-33rd Dynasty		Archaeological Museum, Zagreb: E-562	lost
		Solin (<i>Salona</i>), Croatia	Archaeological Museum, Zagreb: E-564	Schneider class VIIIC1 or XIA6; Tomorad class I2
Late Period	27th Dynasty	Solin (<i>Salona</i>), Croatia	Archaeological Museum, Zagreb: E-563	Schneider class XIA1; Tomorad class C1
		Middle Dalmatia, Croatia	Archaeological Museum, Split: B215	Schneider class XIA1, Tomorad class C2
	27th-30th Dynasty	Kazale near Filipani, Croatia	Collection Lik, Filipani	variation of the Schneider New Kingdom class VB1 and Late period class XIB; Tomorad class E
	27th-31st Dynasty	Čitluk (<i>Claudia Aequum</i>), Croatia	Franciscan Monastery, Sinj: R299	Schneider class XIA5; Tomorad class G
		Solin (<i>Salona</i>), Croatia	Collection Marović, ex-collection Carrara-Bratanić, Split	Schneider class XIA3; Tomorad class D1
			Collection Marović, ex-collection Carrara-Bratanić, Split	
	30th Dynasty	Solin (<i>Salona</i>), Croatia	Collection Marović, ex-collection Carrara-Bratanić, Split	Schneider class XIA5; Tomorad class G
		Middle Dalmatia, Croatia	Archaeological Museum, Split: B214	Schneider class XIC, Tomorad class F
	uncertain	Solin (<i>Salona</i>), Croatia	Collection Marović, ex-collection Carrara-Bratanić, Split	Schneider class XI
Late-Hellenistic	30th-33rd Dynasty	Čitluk (<i>Claudia Aequum</i>), Croatia	Franciscan Monastery, Sinj: R300	Schneider, class XIC; Tomorad class M
		Middle Dalmatia, Croatia	Archaeological Museum, Split: G1623	Schneider class XIC; Tomorad class J
			Archaeological Museum, Split: G1624	Schneider class XIC; Tomorad class K
			Archaeological Museum, Split: G1626	Schneider class XI6; Tomorad class H1
		Hvar (<i>Pharos</i>), Croatia	Collection Domančić, Split; ex-collection Marchi (Split)	Schneider class XIC, Tomorad class L
		Daruvar (<i>Aqua Balissae</i>), Croatia	Balogh Ádám Museum, Szekszárd: 59.48.1	Schneider, class XIC; Tomorad class M
Late-Greco-Roman period		Unknown; between Lika and river Sava, Croatia	Archaeological Museum, Zagreb: Main inventory book 358	lost
Hellenistic Period	Aegyptiaca, 33rd Ptolemaic Dynasty	Krk (<i>Curicum</i>), Croatia	Franciscan Monastery, Košljun: 641	Pseudoshabti, Tomorad class A2
Greco-Roman Period	Aegyptiaca, 33rd Ptolemaic Dynasty-Roman Empire	Muč, Croatia	Archaeological Museum, Split: FB-757	Pseudoshabti, Tomorad class B

Period	Dynasty	Provenance	Collection: inv. no.	Typology
Roman Empire	1st-3rd c. A.D.	Solin (<i>Salona</i>), Croatia	Archaeological Museum, Zagreb: E-565	Tomorad class N
		Ostrožac, Bosnia & Herzegovina	Archaeological Museum, Zagreb: Main inventory book 348	Schneider, class V, Tomorad class O
		Nin (<i>Aenona</i>), Croatia	Archaeological Museum, Zagreb: E-675	Schneider class VB4; Tomorad class O
			Archaeological Museum, Zagreb: E-676	pseudoshabti, Tomorad class B
	<i>Aegyptiaca</i> , 1st-3rd c. A.D.	Middle Dalmatia, Croatia	Archaeological Museum, Split: B212	Schneider class V; Tomorad class O1
			Archaeological Museum, Split: B213	Schneider class V; Tomorad class O1
			Archaeological Museum, Split: B216	Pseudoshabti Tomorad class A1
		<i>Pannonia</i>	Museum of Slavonia, Osijek: AA-1340	Pseudoshabti, Tomorad class C
			Museum of Slavonia, Osijek: AA-19469	Pseudoshabti Tomorad class B
			City Museum, Sombor: 4100	Schneider class V; Tomorad class O2
			Jewish Historical Museum, Beograd: 365	Schneider class V; Tomorad class O1
			National Museum, Beograd: 7/VI	Schneider class V; Tomorad class O1
Uncertain	uncertain	Ilok (<i>Cuccium</i>), Croatia	Hungarian National Museum, Budapest: 43	lost

FIGURE 2: DATING, PROVENANCE AND TYPOLOGY OF THE SHABTIS AND PSEUDO-SHABTIS DISCOVERED IN ISTRIA, DALMATIA AND PANNONIA

type of hieroglyphic or pseudo-hieroglyphic text, type of wig, presence of artificial beard, position of arms and hands, type of implements, and the various materials from which they were crafted.

I began to study Greco-Roman findings of shabtis in 1996. So far I have divided shabtis from this period into 15 groups (A–O), and several subgroups (B1–B2, C1–D4, D1–D2, H1–H2, I1–I2) (Figures 3–5), and five main groups of pseudo-shabti (A–E, with subgroups A1–A2) (Figure 6), which are common for the all regions of the Greco-Roman world (and later for the Roman Empire). Most of the original shabtis discovered in the region of the Roman Empire were crafted during the Late and Greco-Roman periods, but there are also a few types that were produced outside Egypt as moulded copies of original artefacts made during the 18th dynasty (Tomorad type R, previously L), or as pseudo-shabtis that usually have some unrecognized pseudo-hieroglyphic text inscriptions.

Shabtis discovered in Croatia, and probably in Southern Pannonia (now in Serbia), can be classified into two typologies: the shabtis that can be classified according to the Schneider 1977 typology (groups V, VIB3, VIIIA1–A2, VIIID1, XA3, XIA1–A6, and XIC); and the whole group of shabtis discovered in various regions of Europe and North Africa that can be classified according to the Tomorad 2015 typology (in press), which divides shabtis into classes A–O, and pseudo-shabtis into classes A–E (Figures 3–6).

Regrettably, this rather short paper does not allow me to describe and analyse each artefact with the comparative material from the other collections in Europe. For this reason I have prepared four drawings which include the classes present in museums and private collections in this region (Figures 3–6). The full and very detail analysis of the whole material discovered in the Adriatic (Italy, Istria, Dalmatia), Pannonia, and the Danube regions will be part of my forthcoming book *Egyptian shabtis discovered in Europe*. It will also include all available details of around 200 shabtis discovered in almost every region of Europe (from Portugal

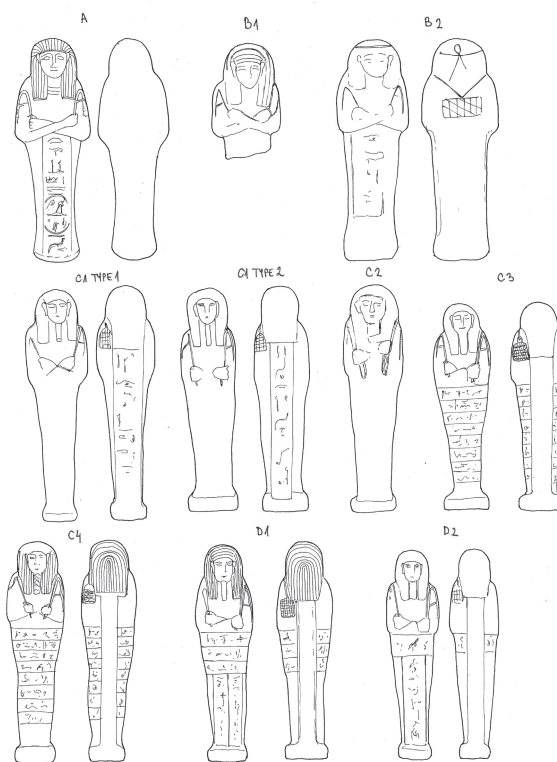


FIGURE 3: GRECO-ROMAN PERIOD SHABTIS

and Spain in the south-west, to Britain and Germany in the north, Romania and the Ukraine to the north-east, and to Greece and Italy in the south), with comparative material from other museum collections in the world.¹

¹ Many of the shabtis discovered in Europe are now lost. In the forthcoming publication such artefacts will be presented with available information from previous publications. Shabtis which can be still found in museum collections around Europe will be presented with new photographs, descriptions and typological studies, as well

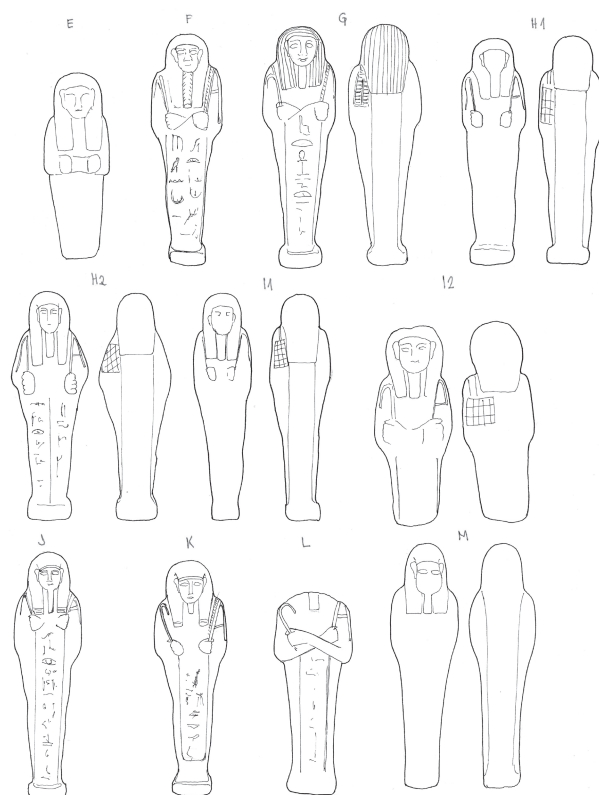


FIGURE 4: GRECO-ROMAN PERIOD SHABTIS

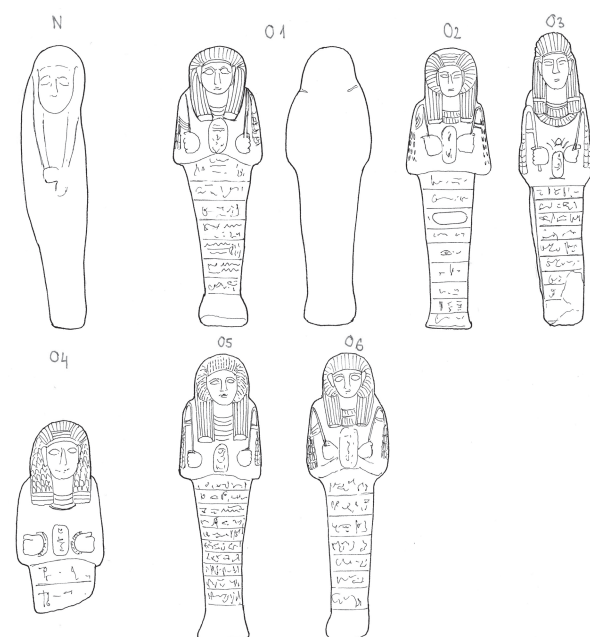


FIGURE 5: GRECO-ROMAN PERIOD SHABTIS

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as with comparative material from other museums and private collections around the world.

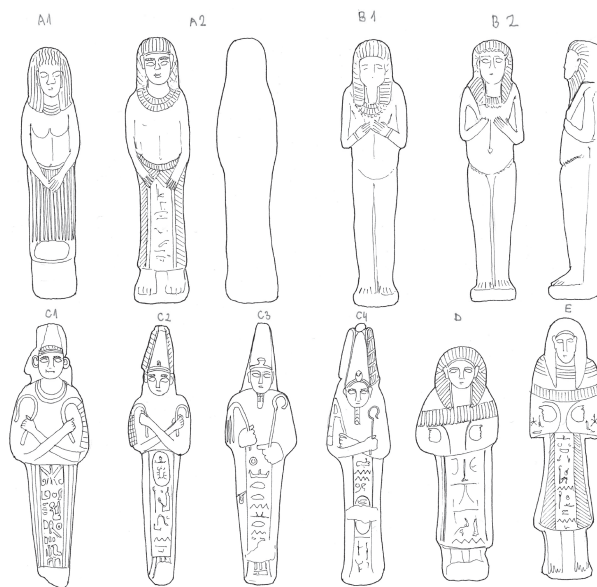


FIGURE 6: PSEUDO-SHABTIS

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