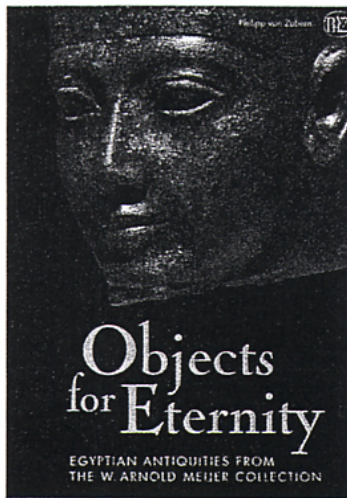


Objects for Eternity: Egyptian Antiquities from the W. Arnold Meijer Collection

Editors, Carol Andrews and Jacobus van Dijk.
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I am always surprised by the number and quality of ancient Egyptian antiquities that appear on the antiquities market. Collected legally, probably mostly during the nineteenth century, the objects appear briefly in sales catalogues and then, for the most part, disappear into private collections.

Anyone who has the time, inclination, and, of course, the money, can form a collection of genuine antiquities. W. Arnold Meijer has done just that, and with a discerning eye



has put together an impressive collection. As he points out in his preface to this book, the collector can never properly own the objects, but is simply their guardian for a while. He (or she) has a duty to care for them responsibly.

In this instance, the collector went a stage further, and, commendably, loaned his collection for a temporary exhibition at the Allard Pierson Museum in Amsterdam.

This gave the opportunity for the objects to be seen by a wide audience, but also allowed them to be studied in some detail by experts. In turn, this has resulted in a superb catalogue of the collection.

The catalogue is fully illustrated with a detailed description of each object in chronological order. An impressive team of Egyptologists has contributed to its compilation.

The objects themselves are of the highest quality: hard stone vessels from the Early Dynastic Period, faience objects, statues and Late Period bronzes. Most of the objects are relatively small in size, but they do include some key pieces.

A head of a princess, identified as Nebetah, daughter of Amenhotep III and Queen Tiye, is actually from the huge seated statue of Amenhotep and Tiye in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, and a splendid head of Amun from the reign of Sety I is also an important piece.

Museum catalogues are always worth buying, as they include, as this one does, some humble and simple pieces that nevertheless warrant study and publishing.

The production of this book is important, as it means that, whilst the objects themselves may not be on public view all the time, the catalogue can be used as a reference book for study by Egyptologists.

W. Arnold Meijer, and everyone involved in producing this volume, have done Egyptology a great service. Would that other private collectors who hold important pieces would follow Meijer's enlightened example.