

A New-Kingdom glazed steatite scarab. Maat.

Circa: 1525-1200 BCE

Glazed steatite.

1.6 x 1.1 x 0.6 cm (0 $^{5}/_{8}$ x 0 $^{3}/_{8}$ x 0 $^{1}/_{4}$ inches)

Egypt, New-Kingdom, Dynasty 18th-19th, 1525-1200 BCE

This steatite scarab with stylized details on the back, and a flat base on the reverse with a vertical design— the 'Maat' and the signs *ꜥnḫ* and *tj*. Underneath, the sign *kꜣ* framed by *nfr* signs.

The piece is carefully made. Pierced lenghtwise.

This scarab was a supportive amulet and should secure life and justice. The piece could serve in this world and in the Afterlife; with the presence of Maat, it should assure the support of the goddess. It would have originally been mounted or threaded. Scarabs bearing wishes and blessings related to divinities whose protection individuals wished to summon are particular popular during the (late) New-Kingdom and the Third Intermediate Period (ca. 1295-664 B.C.).The scarab should secure the individual existence (wish formula: "who may live").