



Unknown (Egyptian)
Sacred eye amulet
date unknown
faience
9/16 x 11/16 in., 1/8 in. (1.5 x 1.8 cm, 0.3 cm)
Gift of Horace Mayer
60.39.2.E

was the moon, but it later became associated with Horus, Osiris' son. Myth states that Horus offered his eye to his dead father; the charm was so powerful that it brought Osiris back to life. This amulet is made of faience, a sandy mixture of crushed quartz, natron, and pigment that was heated to fuse it together.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Sacred eye amulet

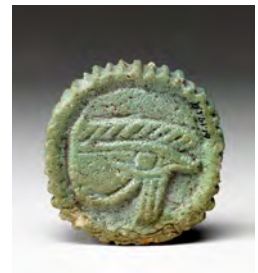
Amulets were personal adornments worn by the living and placed on mummy wrappings to provide protection and aid on the journey from death to the afterlife. The color, shape, and other qualities of the materials were believed to endow the amulet and its wearer with special powers and protections. This amulet, known as the wedjet eye or eye of Horus, was believed to provide strength, protection, and good health. The ornamental details of the wedjet eye could vary, but typically included a brow above the eye and markings below the eye mimicking the markings on a falcon.

This amulet represents Horus' eye after it was plucked out by Seth. Originally, the eye referred to Horus the creator god, whose right eye was the sun and the left

RELATED IMAGES



Amulet of Sebek
date unknown
faience; 1 7/8 x 3/8 x 1/2 in. (4.8 x 1 x 1.2 cm). Gift of Horace Mayer
(59.21.13.A)



Amulet
date unknown
faience; 1 3/8 x 1/4 in. (3.5 x 0.6 cm). Gift of Horace Mayer
(61.19.1.G)

Source

Andrews, Carol. *Amulets of Ancient Egypt*. 1994 (British Museum Press). University of Texas Press, 1998.



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DISCUSS

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Egyptian paintings share some key characteristics with comics. Compare the series of images below from the Egyptian Book of the Dead to a comic strip or comic book. What do they have in common? How are they different?



Click on the CREATE tab to see what similarities we came up with. You'll also find resources for creating your own Egyptian-style cartoon or graphic novel inspired by the sacred eye.



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CREATE

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Egyptian paintings share some key characteristics with comics and graphic novels.

- they tell stories
- they include people and/or animals
- the drawings emphasize outline and flat areas of color
- a sequence of events is shown through a series of boxes or rows called "registers"
- text and images work together to tell the story

Try creating your own cartoon or graphic novel. Invent your own story or tell the Egyptian story of:

Osiris and Isis

<http://www.tc.columbia.edu/museweb/osiris.html>

and Horus

<http://towerweb.net/alt-lib/myth/eyeofhorus.shtml>.

Make sure to:

1. Include a drawing of the sacred eye somewhere in your cartoon.
2. Follow the conventions of Egyptian art. For example, the relative size of a figure shows his or her relative importance. Larger size indicates greater importance. Egyptian artists also used standardized poses and guidelines for depicting bodily proportions.

To learn more:

<http://www.metmuseum.org/explore/publications/pdfs/egypt/divided/e-form.pdf>