



FUNERARY CONES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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Introduction

Funerary cones¹ represent a common element in many collections of Egyptian antiquities around the world. These pottery objects, mostly solid and hand-modelled, range from Dynasty XI to Dynasty XXVI and are attested mainly in the Theban necropolis. They were used as an architectural feature in tombs of private persons and were inserted, with their faces exposed, into plaster as a frieze above the entrance into the tombs.² They were produced both for men and women, and one individual might have owned any number of them.

While the earliest cones bear no inscriptions, the ones produced from the New Kingdom onwards have their bases stamped with texts in relief. The inscriptions on the funerary cones consist of the name and title(s) of the owner, sometimes accompanied also by those of his relatives or by supplementary texts, such as a dedication. The inscriptions constitute a valuable source of information about high-ranking individuals buried in the necropolis, although a great number of their tombs have not been discovered. The aim of this article is to give an overview of the funerary cones in museums in the Czech Republic.

Funerary Cones in the Czech Republic

Altogether ten funerary cones can be found in two museums in Prague. Nine funerary cones belong to the collection of Egyptian antiquities of the Department of Pre-

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¹ Manniche, L. 2001: "Funerary Cones", in: Redford, D. B. (ed.) *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt* I. Oxford, pp. 565–67; Eggebrecht, A. 1977: "Grabkegel", in: *Lexikon der Ägyptologie* II, Wiesbaden, pp. 857–59.

² Davies, N. 1938: "Some representations of tombs from the Theban necropolis", in: *JEA* 26, pp. 25–40; Reeves, C. N. – Ryan, D. P. 1987: "Inscribed Egyptian funerary cones in situ: an early observation by Henry Salt", in: *Varia Aegyptiaca* 3, 1, pp. 47–49; Borchartdt, L. – Königsberger, O. – Ricke, H. 1934: "Friesiegel in Grabbauten", in: *ZÄS* 70, pp. 25–35.

history and Antiquity of the Near East and Africa in the Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures (hereafter the "Náprstek Museum" or "NpM"). Prior to the establishment of the Department in 1969, the funerary cones were located in the collection of the Department of Prehistory of the National Museum in Prague.

The National Museum obtained the funerary cones through several acquisitions. Prof. Grigorij Ivanovič Lukjanov,³ a Russian Egyptologist from Cairo, donated two funerary cones to the National Museum in 1924 in commemoration of Dr. Cyril Dušek, the first Czechoslovak ambassador to Egypt (NpM Inv. Nos. P 2002 and P 2003). In gratitude of Dr. Jaroslav Černý's⁴ involvement in the excavations and survey of Deir el-Medina, the *Institut français d'archéologie orientale du Caire* donated 227 objects from the site, including five funerary cones, to the National Museum in the summer of 1937 (NpM Inv. Nos. P 1556–1560).⁵ The National Museum received the remaining two funerary cones from two regional museums in the Czech Republic, i.e. from the Municipal Museum in Mnichovo Hradiště in 1948 (NpM Inv. No. P 269)⁶ and from the Municipal Museum in Moravská Ostrava in 1953 (NpM Inv. No. P 270).⁷

One funerary cone is located in the collection of the Hrdlička Museum of Man at the Faculty of Natural Science, Charles University in Prague (hereafter the "Hrdlička Museum" or "HMČ").⁸ This funerary cone, together with some 15 shabtis and other Egyptian antiquities, enriches the collection of anthropological material from Deir el-Medina donated to the Hrdlička Museum by Dr. Jaroslav Černý and Prof. Jindřich Matiegka, a prominent Czech anthropologist, in between 1919 and 1933. The funerary cone is believed to have come from the same site and to have been a gift of the IFAO as well.⁹ However, owing to the absence of any material documenting the acquisition, the date of the acquisition and the origin of the funerary cone could not be confirmed.

³ Cf. Navrátilová, H. 2003: *Egyptian Revival in Bohemia 1850–1920*. Praha, p. 75; Oerter, W. B. „Die koptischen Texte aus der Sammlung Papyri Wessely Pragenses (Stand Juli 2001). Recherchen zum koptischen Schrifttum in Prager Museen und Sammlungen II“, in: Harrauer, H. und Palme, B. (ed.) *Akten des 23. Internationalen Kongresses für Papyrologie, Wien, 22.–28. 7. 2001*. Wien (in print). I would like to thank Dr. Oerter for drawing my attention to the above-mentioned monograph and for sharing with me some of the information he himself had gathered about Lukjanov when enquiring about the Coptic texts.

⁴ Dawson, W. D. – Uphill, E. P. 1995: *Who Was Who in Egyptology*. Revised edition by M. L. Bierbrier. London, pp. 89–90.

⁵ Cf. the files of the Department of Prehistory and Antiquity of the Near East and Africa relating to the ancient collection of the Department of Prehistory of the National Museum in Prague.

⁶ This cone was part of the collection of antiquities gathered by Count Arnošt František de Paula Waldstein during his travels throughout Asia in between 1869 and 1872. Information kindly provided by Ing. Soňa Švábová from the Management of the Mnichovo Hradiště Chateau (e-mail communication on December 2, 2003).

⁷ Cf. the letter of November 24, 1951 (No. 231, 1) with the attached list of objects in the Moravská Ostrava file kept at the Ethnography Department of the Náprstek Museum.

⁸ I am indebted to Doc. RNDr. Božena Škvařilová, CSc. from the Hrdlička Museum of Man for granting me the permission to publish the funerary cone from their collection.

⁹ Cf. the files of the Department of Prehistory and Antiquity in the Náprstek Museum relating to the ancient collection of the Department of Prehistory of the National Museum and to the Deir el-Medina collection.

Catalogue

Generally, a great variation exists in the layout of the inscriptions on and in the shape, size, colour finish of the funerary cones. This has led to several interpretations of these objects as well as various approaches in sorting the funerary cones for publication. All ten funerary cones from the Czech museums have a circular base and, with the exception of one cone dating to Dynasty XXVI, they all date back to Dynasty XVIII or the beginning of Dynasty XIX. The inscriptions in raised relief are arranged either in two or three columns with dividers, four columns without dividers, or four or five horizontal lines with dividers. As there are some duplicates, the funerary cones can be assigned only eight numbers from the Davies and Macadam *Corpus*.¹⁰ From a lexicographical point of view, three funerary cones (i.e. two specimens) are introduced with the opening formula “*im3hj hr Wsir*”, four funerary cones (i.e. three specimens) with the epithet “*Wsir*”, and on three funerary cones the inscription opens with the title and the name of the deceased, in two cases also followed by the phrase “*m3c hrw*” or “*m3c hrw hr ntr 3*”. On six funerary cones (i.e. five specimens) the name and title(s) of the deceased are accompanied by the names and, in some cases, the title(s) of the relatives.

As shown above, the small number of the funerary cones in the Czech collections limits the possibilities for the arrangement of the funerary cones for publication. Therefore, I have decided to catalogue the funerary cones from the Czech museums by the names of the owners in alphabetical order and generally to follow the system devised by Stewart in his publication of the inscribed funerary cones in the Petrie Collection.¹¹

Amenwahsu (Figs. 1 and 2)

Scribe of the royal army of the Lord of the Two Lands.

2 cones.

Attributed to tomb 1138 at Deir el-Medina.

Dynasty XIX, temp. Seti I.

4 lines with dividers: “Osiris, *Imn-w3h-sw*, his sister, mistress of the house,¹² *Mrt-Rc*.”¹³

NpM Inv. No. P 1558.

Complete, remains of red coat. Length: 15.2 cm, diameter: 6 cm.¹⁴

NpM Inv. No. P 1559.

Almost complete, point missing, remains of red

coat. Length: 15 cm, diameter: 6.1 cm.

Both cones donated to the National Museum by the IFAO in 1937.

Cf. Davies – Macadam, *Corpus*, no. 453; Bruyère, *Rapport (1928)*, pp. 16–18, and 139.

Menkheperresonb (Fig. 3)

Overseer of the granaries of Upper and Lower Egypt.

1 cone.

Attributed to tomb 79 at Sheikh Abd el-Qurna.¹⁵ Dynasty XVIII, temp. Thutmose III – Amenhotep II.

¹⁰ Davies, N. de G. – Macadam, M. F. L. 1957: *A corpus of inscribed Egyptian funerary cones*. Griffith Institute, Oxford.

¹¹ Stewart, H. 1986: *Mummy cases and inscribed funerary cones in the Petrie collection*. Aris and Phillips, Warminster, 24 ff.

¹² W. M. F. Petrie renders this epithet as “widow”, cf. Petrie, *Season*, p. 23.

¹³ *Imn-w3h-sw* was a son from the first marriage of *Nfr.t-irj*, wife of *N3hj* (see Figs. 6 and 7 below); he later married one of his half-sisters *Mrt-Rc*. Cf. Bruyère, *Rapport (1928)*, pp. 17–18.

¹⁴ The first measurement provides the remaining length of the cones; the second measurement gives the diameter of the base of the cones.

¹⁵ Porter – Moss, *Top. Bibl.* 1¹, pp. 156–57.

4 lines with dividers: "King's scribe, overseer of the granaries of Upper and Lower Egypt, *Mn-hpr-R'-snb*, justified with the great god."
NpM Inv. No. P 270.

Almost complete, point missing, remains of white paint. Length: 13.9 cm, diameter: 7.2 cm. Transferred to the National Museum from the Municipal Museum in Moravská Ostrava (Inv. No. 211/41) in 1953. Originally in the collection of JUDr. Karel Richter (1850–1926).

Cf. Davies – Macadam, *Corpus*, no. 493; Daresy, *Recueil*, no. 185; Stewart, *Mummy cases*, no. 77; Mond, *Report*, 93 ff.; Hayes, *Scepter II*, p. 129.

Merymose (Figs. 4 and 5)

Viceroy of Kush.

2 cones.

Attributed to tomb 383 at Qurnet Murai.¹⁶

Dynasty XVIII, temp. Amenhotep III.

3 columns with dividers: "Revered by Osiris, king's son of Kush, *Mrj-ms*."¹⁷

NpM Inv. No. P 1560.

Almost complete, point missing, remains of white paint on coat of red. Length: 12.5 cm, diameter: 6 cm.

Donated to the National Museum by the IFAO in 1937.

NpM Inv. No. P 2003.

Complete, remains of white paint on coat of red. Length: 14.4 cm, diameter: 6 cm.

Donated to the National Museum by Prof. G. Lukjanov in 1924.

Cf. Davies – Macadam, *Corpus*, no. 170; Daresy, *Recueil*, no. 113; Petrie, *Season*, no. 29; Stewart, *Mummy Cases*, no. 88; Vachala, *Der Vizekönig Merimose*, pp. 337–38; Onderka, *Merimose*, pp. 63–69; Pavlasová, *The Land of Pyramids and Pharaohs*, p. 72; Rice, *Who's Who*, pp. 114–15; Hayes, *Scepter II*, p. 276; Bruyère, *Rapport (1931–32)*, 71 ff.; Bruyère, *Rapport (années 1948–1951)*, 70 ff.

Nakhy (Figs. 6 and 7)

Servant in the Place of Truth, craftsman.

2 cones (each cone of different type).

Attributed to tomb 1138 at Deir el-Medina.

Dynasties XVIII–XIX.

NpM Inv. No. P 1557.

4 lines with dividers: "Osiris, *N3hj*, his sister, mistress of the house, *Nfr.t-irj*."

Complete, traces of white paint on coat of red. Length: 14.3 cm, diameter: 6.3 cm.

NpM Inv. No. P 1556.

2 columns with dividers: "Osiris, *N3hj*."

Complete, remains of red coat. Length: 20.6 cm, diameter: 7.3 cm.

Both cones donated to the National Museum by the IFAO in 1937.

Cf. Davies – Macadam, *Corpus*, nos. 454 and 284; Bruyère, *Rapport (1928)*, pp. 16–18; Bruyère, *Rapport (1931–32)*, p. 89; Porter – Moss, *Top. Bibl.* 12, pp. 687, 726, and 748.

Neferhotep (Fig. 8)

Fourth prophet of Amun.

1 cone.

Western Thebes. Tomb unidentified.¹⁸

Dynasty XVIII.

Text in columns without dividers: "Fourth prophet of Amun, *Nfr-htp*, justified, his wife *Imn-htp*."¹⁹

NpM Inv. No. P 2002.

Stamp only, dark red coat. Length: 6.5 cm, diameter: 8.7 cm.

Donated to the National Museum by Prof. G. Lukjanov in 1924.

Cf. Davies – Macadam, *Corpus*, no. 359; Daresy, *Recueil*, no. 128; Mond, *Report*, p. 94 (128); Hayes, *Scepter II*, p. 310.

¹⁶ Porter – Moss, *Top. Bibl.* 12, 436f.

¹⁷ Cf. Davies – Macadam, *Corpus*, no. 169; and Gauthier, *BIFAO* 16, pp. 167–68.

¹⁸ Cf. Stewart, *Mummy Cases*, p. 60.

¹⁹ Cf. Davies – Macadam, *Corpus*, nos. 301 and 302.

Shepenmut (Fig. 9)

Prophetess of Hathor.

1 cone.

Tomb unidentified.

Dynasty XXVI, temp. Psametik and Necho II.

5 lines with dividers: „Wife of third prophet of Amun *P3-di-Imn-nb-nswt-t3wj*, justified, *Šp-n-Mwt*, two sons, prophet of Amun, lector-priest, scribe of the divine book *Bn-iw-thi-Hr*, prophet of Amun *Hr-(m-)3h-bitj*.“²⁰

NpM Inv. No. P 269.

Almost complete, point missing, white paint on coat of red. Length: 7.6 cm, diameter: 9.3 cm.

Transferred to the National Museum from the Municipal Museum in Mnichovo Hradiště in 1948. Originally in the collection of Count Arnošt František de Paula Waldstein.

Cf. Davies – Macadam, *Corpus*, no. 401; Daresy, *Recueil*, no. 155; Málek, *Top. Bibl.* VIII², pp. 760–61; Porter – Moss, *Top. Bibl.* I², p. 787.

Userhat (Fig. 10)

Scribe of the treasury of Amun.

1 cone.

Western Thebes. Tomb unidentified.

Dynasty XVIII.

4 lines with dividers: “Revered by Osiris, *w^cb*-priest, scribe of the treasury of Amun, *Wsr-h3t*, son of the scribe of the treasury, *Nb-w^cw*.“

HMC Inv. No. 03/518.

Stamp only, dark red coat. Length: 5.7 cm, diameter: 7.8 cm.

Donated most probably by the IFAO, date of donation unconfirmed.

Cf. Davies – Macadam, *Corpus*, no. 415; Daresy, *Recueil*, no. 211; Petrie, *Season*, no. 86; Stewart, *Mummy cases*, no. 157; Onderka, *Egypt za vlády faraonů*, p. 152; Porter – Moss, *Top. Bibl.* I², p. 792; Hayes, *Scepter* II, pp. 158 and 230, fig. 87; Gauthier, *BIFAO* 16, pp. 166–67.

Supplement

The photographs have been supplied by Jiří Vaněk (Figs. 1–9) and Pavel Onderka (Fig. 10) from the Náprstek Museum.



Fig. 1 – NpM Inv. No. P 1558



Fig. 2 – NpM Inv. No. P 1559

²⁰ Cf. Ranke, *Die ägyptischen Personennamen*, p. 247 (15 and 16).



Fig. 3 – NpM Inv. No. P 270



Fig. 4 – NpM Inv. No. P 1560



Fig. 5 – NpM Inv. No. P 2003



Fig. 6 – NpM Inv. No. P 1557



Fig. 7 – NpM Inv. No. P 1556



Fig. 8 – NpM Inv. No. P 2002



Fig. 9 – NpM Inv. No. P 269

Fig. 10 – HMČ Inv. No. 03/518

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