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IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM IN WARSAW¹

ABSTRACT

The National Museum in Warsaw, founded in 1916, took over the function of the older Museum of Fine Arts in Warsaw, founded in 1862. Between 1918 and 1922, the National Museum was systematically enriched through donations by private persons and institutions. One of the most important collections, placed there in 1919, was that originating from an old private museum owned by the Tyszkiewicz family in Łohojsk, donated through the agency of the Society of Fine Arts 'Zachęta' in Warsaw. The museum in Łohojsk (today in Belarus, not far from Minsk) was founded by Konstanty Tyszkiewicz (1806–1868). The rich collection of family portraits, paintings, engravings, and other works of art was enriched in 1862 by Count Michał Tyszkiewicz

(1828–1897), who bequeathed a substantial part of the Egyptian antiquities brought from his travel to Egypt in 1861–1862. The Łohojsk collection was partly sold by Konstanty's son, Oskar Tyszkiewicz (1837–1897), but some of these objects were purchased in 1901 by a cousin of Michał Tyszkiewicz, who then donated them to the Society of Fine Arts 'Zachęta'. At this stage, the whole collection amounted to 626 items, of which 163 were connected to Egypt. During World War II, the National Museum in Warsaw suffered serious losses. At present, the exhibits originating from Łohojsk include 113 original ancient Egyptian pieces, four forgeries, and 29 paper squeezes reproducing the reliefs from the tomb of Khaemhat of the 18th Dynasty (Theban tomb no. 57).

Keywords: museum in Łohojsk, National Museum in Warsaw, Michał Tyszkiewicz, Egyptian collection

The 19th century was a period abundant in initiatives, both by private persons and scholarly or artistic circles, involving the creation of museums. An intensive development of public museums coming into being alongside collections of aristocratic or landowner families falls to the second half of the 19th century. The creation of the Museum of Fine Arts in 1862 was one of the most important events in the cultural life of Warsaw. In 1916, at the dawn of Poland's regained independence, this museum was renamed as the National Museum. Between 1918 and 1922, its modest old collection was gradually enriched by gifts offered by private donors and institutions. Among these objects were also some relics of ancient cultures of the Mediterranean.² Ancient Egyptian objects were

donated to the new museum especially by the Museum of Antiquities of the University of Warsaw³ and by the museum in Łohojsk. The latter collection came to the National Museum in 1919 through the agency of the Society of Fine Arts 'Zachęta' in Warsaw.⁴

The Egyptian collection from Łohojsk – the residence of the Tyszkiewicz family situated near Minsk (today's Belarus) – consisted of objects donated by Count Michał Tyszkiewicz. The history of the house of Tyszkiewicz, stretching back to the second half of the 15th century, has been written by the biographies of many outstanding personalities. Michał Tyszkiewicz (1828–1897) – a lover of antiquities and a famous collector of works of ancient art – certainly belonged among them. He was very well

¹The original version of this paper was presented in Polish on 12 December 2011 during a conference accompanying an exhibition in the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw titled *Papyri, Mummies and Gold. Michał Tyszkiewicz and the 150th Anniversary of the First Polish and Lithuanian Excavations in Egypt*. Like other papers of this conference, it was then sent to

the editorial board of the periodical *Z otchłani wieków*; however, it has never been published. On the same subject, cf. Majewska 1997, 171–190.

²Lorentz 1938, 32, 36, 61.

³Mikocki, Szafranski 1993, 147–196.

⁴Lorentz 1938, 32.

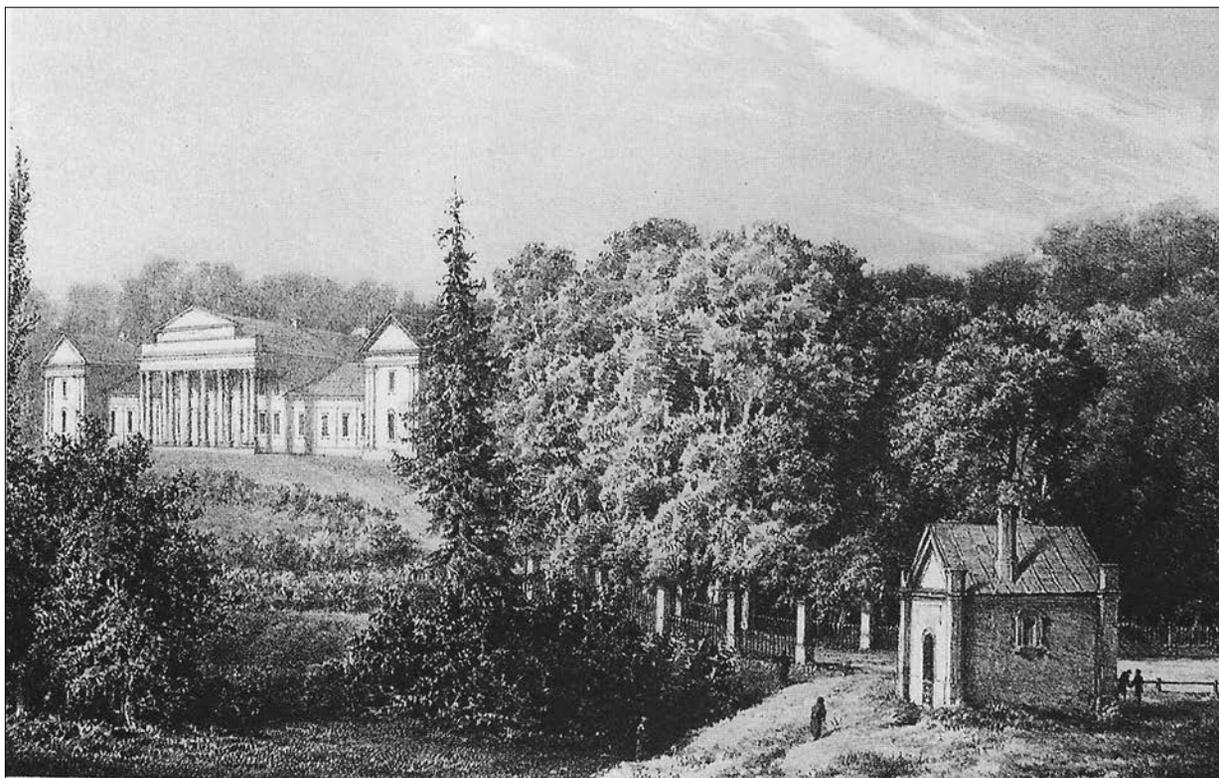


Fig. 1. Palace of Tyszkiewicz in Łohojsk in one of the engravings in N. Orda's *Album widoków historycznych* (National Museum in Warsaw, inv. no. Gr. Pol. 16089/21).

known in the circles of the most eminent European archaeologists, collectors, and antique dealers, who held his competence, just as his sophisticated taste, in high esteem, while endowing his collections with supreme compliments.⁵ Being in possession of a huge fortune – as the owner of the Birże estate – he was able to pursue his ambitious collecting projects. He had begun these in the palace in Gródek, where he was successful in enriching the family collections, *e.g.* with some sculptures, paintings, and old coins, later supplemented by ancient artefacts originating from his own excavations in Italy.⁶ This collection was in the following years partly transferred to Birże.⁷

A turning point in Michał Tyszkiewicz's interest in collecting, as well as in his whole life plans, was his travel to Egypt and Nubia, initially undertaken as a hunting expedition, at the turn of 1861 and 1862.⁸ According to his own words, the first diggings in Egypt have incited his "love for archaeology"⁹ so much that he decided to

settle permanently abroad, where he was hoping to pursue his passion and collect works of ancient art. While living in Naples, Paris, and Rome, he was acquiring more and more splendid objects, which he later donated, exchanged, or sold. Upon his coming back from Egypt, the most valuable part of his collection gathered there was presented to the Louvre.¹⁰ Much more modest gift was offered to the family collections in Lithuania, due to the risk of confiscation; the memory of similar events, which had afflicted a number of private properties under the Russian partition after the November Uprising in 1830, was still alive in the country. When enriching the collections accessible to the most eminent scholars of those days,¹¹ Michał Tyszkiewicz was stressing that his intention was to serve the world's science. After his death in 1897, his collection was sold at an auction in Paris,¹² and some items were transferred to the most famous museums, such as the Louvre, the British Museum,

⁵ For more about M. Tyszkiewicz and his collections, *cf.* Froehner 1891–1897; 1898; Tyszkiewicz 1903, 86–92; 1994; Gąsiorowski 1948, 25; Bernhard 1962, 180–182; Rybicki 1966, 223–230; Lipińska 1970, 461–467.

⁶ *Cf.* Snitkuvienė 1997; 2008.

⁷ Tyszkiewicz 1869, 11, 151, 165; 1903, 74; Aftanazy 1991, 64–65; Snitkuvienė 2008, 44ff.

⁸ Niwiński 1997; 2011.

⁹ Tyszkiewicz 1895–1897 (1895), 274; 1892, 516; 1898.

¹⁰ Rouit 1995.

¹¹ Brensztejn 1933.

¹² Froehner 1898.

the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek in Copenhagen, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, or the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Nothing then came to Poland: neither the relics brought from his Egyptian travel nor the Greek, Roman, or Etruscan works of art.

In the second half of the 19th century, the Tyszkiewicz family played a prominent role in the scholarly and cultural life of the Great Duchy of Lithuania, particularly in the Vilnius community of lovers of antiquity.¹³ The most deserving in this field were cousins of Michał Tyszkiewicz, brothers Eustachy and Konstanty – pioneering researchers of the history of Lithuania and promoters of archaeology and ethnography in the country. Each of them gathered an important collection, and both these collections were, to some extent, connected to the collecting activity of Count Michał Tyszkiewicz.

In 1856, the Museum of Antiquities was founded in Vilnius through the efforts of Eustachy Tyszkiewicz (1814–1873).¹⁴ This museum, together with the Archaeological Commission, became an important institution where the scholarly life of the town was revived (after the Vilnius University had been closed by the tsar's regime following the fall of the November Uprising). The founder was the first person who donated his valuable collection to the museum. The list of honorary members of the museum features the name of Michał Tyszkiewicz as well because of the gift offered in 1862, which was described by Eustachy in the following words: “The public knows from the French newspapers about a scientific travel of our member, Count Michał Tyszkiewicz, to Egypt. While being generous in his donations to the museums abroad, he has not forgotten his family city. The Egyptian antiquities amounting to 222 pieces shall prove Count's enlightened zeal for the country, and for us it constitutes an important enrichment of the department”.¹⁵

Łohojsk – the family estate of Tyszkiewicz (Fig. 1) – was another place to which the Egyptian relics presented by Michał Tyszkiewicz arrived in 1862. The museum, enjoying fame across Lithuania at the time,¹⁶ was founded in 1842 by Konstanty Tyszkiewicz (1806–1868) (Fig. 2). Like his brother, Eustachy, he was a keen archaeologist and ethnographer, but his passion for collecting was much broader. While he gathered pieces of modern art, his interest was particularly directed towards drawings and graphics. He created and published a unique collection of Lithuanian engravings. In Łohojsk, there were also some valuable family portraits and a precious



Fig. 2. Portrait of Konstanty Tyszkiewicz, founder of the Museum in Łohojsk, made in the Photographisches Atelier von H. Bruckner, Dresden (National Museum in Warsaw, inv. no. DI 3508).

archive. Unfortunately, no register books of the museum have been preserved, and the few descriptions of the collection published in guides, journals, or memoirs are very succinct, albeit full of very favourable opinions. Only a short note was devoted to the Egyptian exhibits, which were considered mere curiosities, meant only to increase the attractiveness of the whole collection. Józef Tyszkiewicz, Michał's son, noted while describing the Łohojsk palace: “The first elongated room contained a cupboard with the Egyptian excavations partly presented to the Łohojsk Museum by my father, Count Michał Tyszkiewicz”.¹⁷

In a comprehensive description of the museum in Łohojsk by Władysław Wankie, the Egyptian collection was characterised with the following words: “There is a lot of material here for recognizing the general history and culture, there is a great vitrine of the Egyptian excavations, one mummy – unfortunately already unfolded – and a great attraction: a huge roll of papyri excellently-preserved, not yet deciphered; only God knows what secrets it may preserve. Perhaps this

¹³ Zasztowt 1990.

¹⁴ Krzyżanowski 1873; Tyszkiewicz 1903, 28.

¹⁵ Kirkor 1880, 58.

¹⁶ Among others, cf. *Słownik geograficzny...* 1884, 683–684; Korotyński 1868, 289; Tyszkiewicz 1900, 8–12; 1903, 79; Urbański 1928, 115–117; Aftanazy 1991, 93–99.

¹⁷ Tyszkiewicz 1903, 79.

collection shall throw a new light on the mysteries of the magicians of the Pharaonic world".¹⁸

Władysław Wankie devoted a special article to the Łohojsk Museum because according to a plan of Józef Tyszkiewicz, a grandson of Konstancy, the museum was to be opened to the public and changed into a department of the Society of the Museum of Learning and Art in Vilnius, active since 1907. This highly-acclaimed decision was considered to be a proof of the civic attitude of Józef Tyszkiewicz; however, it was never realised, because of his unexpected death. The museum ceased to exist shortly afterwards. Even before, when the Łohojsk palace was inherited by Oskar Tyszkiewicz (1837–1897), the son of Konstancy, a part of the collection was sold. A number of the items were, however, bought back in 1901 by Michał Tyszkiewicz from Andruszówka, his cousin from the Ukrainian line of the Tyszkiewicz family, and were later donated to the Society of Fine Arts 'Zachęta' in Warsaw.¹⁹ As mentioned before, in 1919, through the agency of this Society, a part of the old collection from Łohojsk was transferred to the National Museum in Warsaw. Even before this, some other items from Łohojsk, inherited by Józef Tyszkiewicz's widow, Maria Krystyna Brandt-Tyszkiewicz, were donated by her to this newly-created institution. These items included "the huge roll of papyri" mentioned by W. Wankie.²⁰

Altogether 626 objects originating from the Łohojsk Museum came to the National Museum in Warsaw before World War II. Besides the Egyptian collection, they included some works of ancient art, relics of prehistoric cultures, as well as modern art. The last of the above-mentioned parts of the collection included a gallery of portraits of the Tyszkiewicz family, as well as some pieces of Polish engravings, coins, and archives. The pre-war register books contained 163 entries concerning Egyptian exhibits. Unfortunately, serious war losses suffered by the National Museum in Warsaw have not omitted the collection from Łohojsk. It is estimated that about 250 ancient and prehistoric relics are currently lost. Among the lost Egyptian items, the photographic documentation of which has luckily been partially preserved, there are, for example, two wooden painted statues: one representing a priest of the 27th Dynasty (6th–5th century BC) and another one representing kneeling Isis, of the Third Intermediate Period (11th–7th century BC) (Fig. 3).

The up-to-date register of the Egyptian collection of Łohojsk includes altogether 113 original items, four modern pieces (forgeries?), and 29 paper squeezes reproducing fragments of the relief decoration of the Theban tomb of Khaemhat (no. 57) of the 18th Dynasty. A small



Fig. 3. Wooden statue of Isis (inv. no. 21886 MNW) lost during World War II (after Majewska 1997, pl. XXIV. 1).

group of nine examples of the Greco-Roman art includes two valuable glass vessels produced by a workshop in the eastern part of the Roman Empire; these objects were bought at an auction of the Tyszkiewicz collection in 1898 in Paris by Izabela Działyńska (née Czartoryska) and came to the National Museum in Warsaw together with her collection from Gołuchów. The Egyptian pieces from Łohojsk still constitute an important part of the Egyptian collection of the National Museum in Warsaw. They include religious objects that served the cult of the dead, differentiated chronologically and iconographically. Their origin cannot be unambiguously determined. The only source of information about the excavations conducted by Michał Tyszkiewicz in Egypt remains his *Journal of the Travel to Egypt and Nubia* and especially its second part found in 1992 in the Raczyński Library in Poznań.²¹ Some descriptions certainly enable the identification of a few items now held in Warsaw, but such situations have been exceptional. Michał Tyszkiewicz intended to publish additionally an "atlas" of plates with

¹⁸ Wankie 1907.

¹⁹ Tyszkiewicz 1903, 81; Lipińska 1970, 467.

²⁰ Lorentz 1938, 32.

²¹ Tyszkiewicz 1863, 359–360; Niwiński 1994, 23.

drawings and detailed descriptions of the items excavated by him in Saqqara, Thebes West, Karnak, Esna, and Wadi es-Sebua; unfortunately, the location of this most valuable document has not yet been determined.²²

In 1994, a small exhibition was organised by the Department of Ancient Art of the National Museum in Warsaw and the Seminar of Egyptian Archaeology of the Archaeological Institute of the University of Warsaw, showing some exhibits from the Łohojsk Museum.²³ The exhibition in the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw in 2011²⁴ enabled a much larger presentation of the Tyszkiewicz Egyptian collection from Łohojsk.

No doubt, the most impressive item is the papyrus covered with cursive hieroglyphic texts and coloured illustrations, 9.67 m long, dated to the middle of the 18th Dynasty (14th century BC) and representing a funerary composition, called *Book of the Dead* by egyptologists, belonging to a woman named Bakai (Fig. 4).²⁵ The papyrus was discovered by Michał Tyszkiewicz on 18 December 1861 in West Thebes in a tomb containing four coffins. In front of these, a wooden stool was standing; this piece of furniture, perfectly preserved, was donated by the discoverer to the Louvre. Within the framework of the Polish-French cooperation, it was deposited in 1960 in the National Museum in Warsaw.²⁶

The discovery of the above-mentioned tomb was preceded by the finding of two coffins buried loosely in the debris. One of them contained a cartonnage brought to Lithuania and given to the Łohojsk Museum, from where it was finally moved to the National Museum in

Warsaw. The item had previously been entered in the register of the war losses; however, during conservation works in the 1990s a cartonnage heavily-devastated by German soldiers was recognised as the allegedly lost piece of art from Łohojsk. The original appearance of the cartonnage could unfortunately not be successfully reconstructed; nevertheless, a number of scenes and texts previously barely recognisable reappeared – among others, the name of the deceased, a lady named Nehemes-Bastet, could be read. The style and decoration of the object enable dating it to the 22nd Dynasty (10th–8th century BC).²⁷

The most numerous group of objects is represented by 93 amulets made of faience or stone. These include: a figurine of Nefertum of the Late Dynastic or Ptolemaic Period (7th–1st century BC) (Fig. 5)²⁸ and a faience amulet representing the dwarf-shaped deity Ptah-Patajkos of the Late Dynastic Period (7th–4th century BC) (Fig. 6).²⁹ The origin of these objects is difficult to determine; Michał Tyszkiewicz may have found them on one of the mummies opened by him in Egypt, or he could have excavated them in Karnak or Saqqara.

Some objects brought from Egypt and donated to the Łohojsk Museum may have been purchased from antique dealers in Cairo or Luxor. One of them is another papyrus containing a land lease agreement signed in 119/118 BC, written in the demotic script (Fig. 7).³⁰ Of unknown provenance are three *ushabti* figurines (among them a limestone *ushabti* once owned by Lady Naia of the 18th Dynasty, 14th century BC) (Fig. 8);³¹ a 6th century BC votive stela belonging to a man named Djed-Bastet-iuf-ankh, decorated

²² The illustrations to Tyszkiewicz's *Journal*, mentioned several times in his text but never found, were deposited in the City Museum in Poznań. The manuscripts of Tyszkiewicz survived the war because together with some other documents they were preserved in Count Raczyński's private domain. The items deposited in the City Museum were concealed in the basement of a parish church in Poznań; however, during or after the war they have, unfortunately, been discovered and taken away by the Germans or Soviets; today, these works of art are listed among the Polish war losses.

²³ The exposition titled *The Travel of Count Michel Tyszkiewicz to Egypt and His Activity of a Collector* offered a selection of 31 items from the Egyptian collection and eight items belonging to the Greek or Roman culture. The manuscript found in the Raczyński Library (no. RKP 1135/I-II) was presented too, as well as some documents, photos, drawings, and similar items related to the collection of M. Tyszkiewicz and his cousins, Eustachy and Konstanty. These were, among others, (from the Department of Iconographic Documentation) a portrait of Michał Tyszkiewicz drawn in Munich in 1900 (no. inv. DI 1147/43/84 MNW), a portrait of Konstanty Tyszkiewicz drawn in Dresden (inv. no. DI 3508 MNW), a portrait of Eustachy Tyszkiewicz – actually a lithograph according to the drawing by W. Walkiewicz made in 1870 (inv. no. DI83666 MNW),

a diploma with words of gratitude for Konstanty Tyszkiewicz issued in 1860 by the Museum of Antiquities in Vilnius (inv. no. Rkp 1795 MNW); (from the Gallery of Numismatics) a silver honorary medal awarded to Michał Tyszkiewicz in 1895 (inv. no. 77076 NPOMNW); (from the Gallery of Modern Drawings) drawings of the Łohojsk palace made by Franciszek Szwoch in 1915 (inv. no. Rys. W. 7241-42); (from the Gallery of Polish Art, Chamber of Engravings) some copies of engravings from the *Album de Vilna* by J.K. Wilczyński and from the *Album widoków historycznych* by N. Orda of 1875 (inv. no. Gr. Pol. 28608/211, Gr. Pol. 22347, Gr. Pol. 5985/56, Gr. Pol. 16089/21).

²⁴ Niwiński (ed.), *Papyri, Mummies and Gold...*, 2011.

²⁵ Inv. no. MN 237128. The papyrus is dated to the middle of the 18th Dynasty (the reigns of Thutmose III or Amenhotep II; cf. Andrzejewski 1951).

²⁶ The stool, presented by the count to the Louvre, inv. no. E.3858 (cf. Rouit 1995, 146-147, cat. no. 157), was deposited in 1960 in the National Museum in Warsaw, inv. no. MN 143344.

²⁷ Dolińska 2006, inv. no. 238435 MNW.

²⁸ Inv. no. 236857 MNW.

²⁹ Inv. no. 236889 MNW.

³⁰ Inv. no. 148288 MNW.

³¹ Inv. no. 236853 MNW.

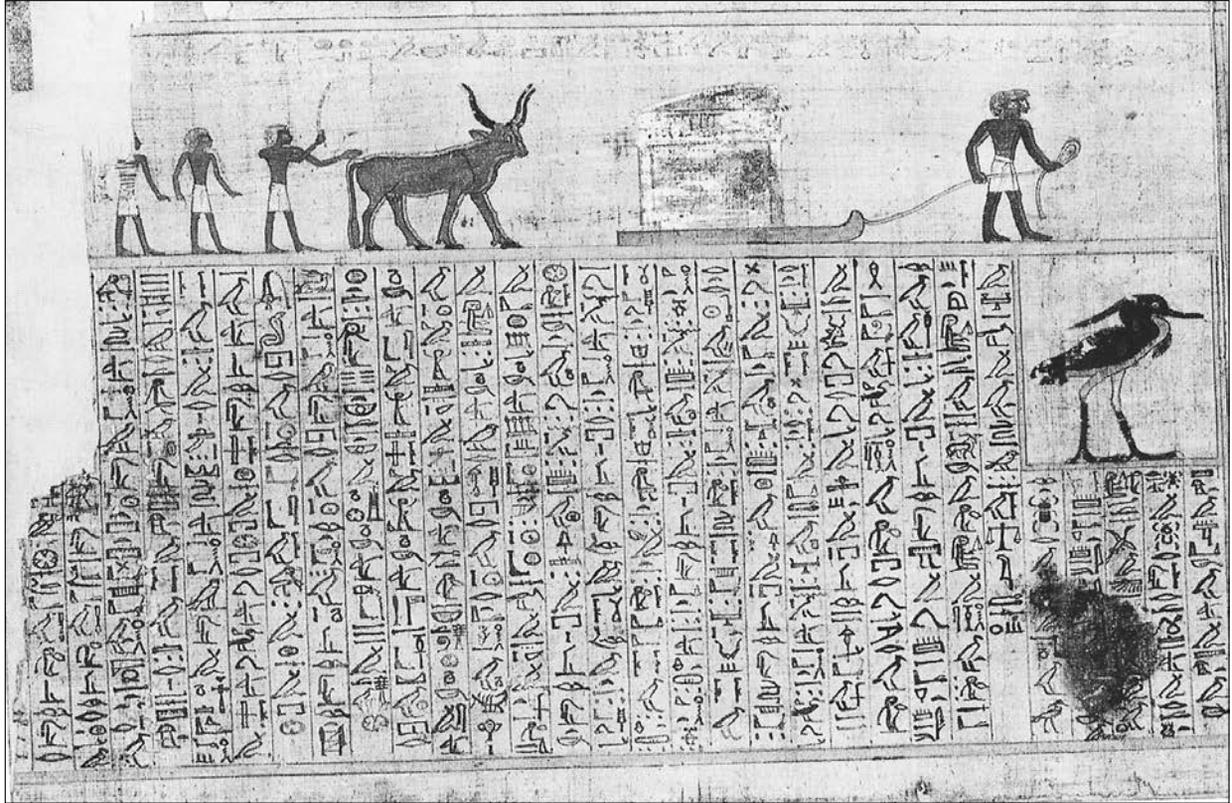


Fig. 4. Fragment of the funerary papyrus of Bakai, the 18th Dynasty (inv. no. 237128 MNW) (after Niwiński 1997, pl. XXXIV. 2).



Fig. 5. Figurine of Nefertum, the Late Dynastic or Ptolemaic Period (inv. no. 236857 MNW) (after Majewska 1997, pl. XXX. 4).

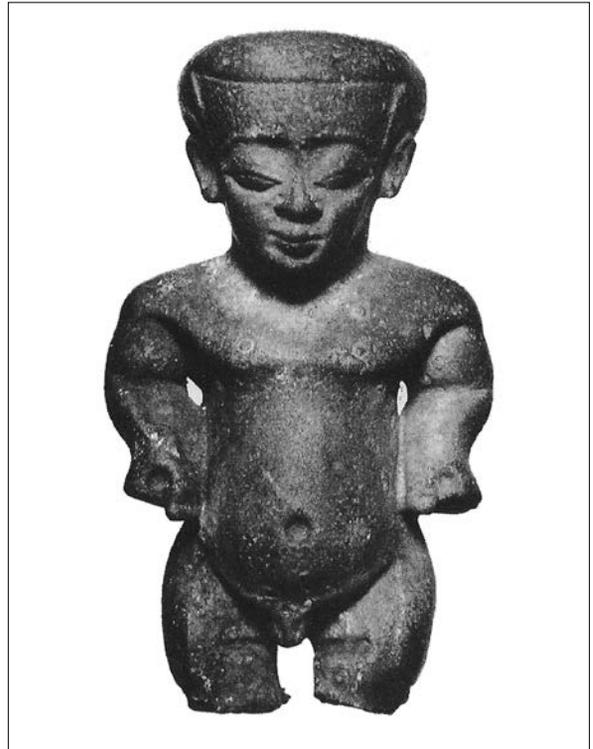


Fig. 6. Amulet representing the Ptah-Patajkos figurine, the Late Dynastic Period (inv. no. 236889 MNW) (after Majewska 1997, pl. XXXI. 1).

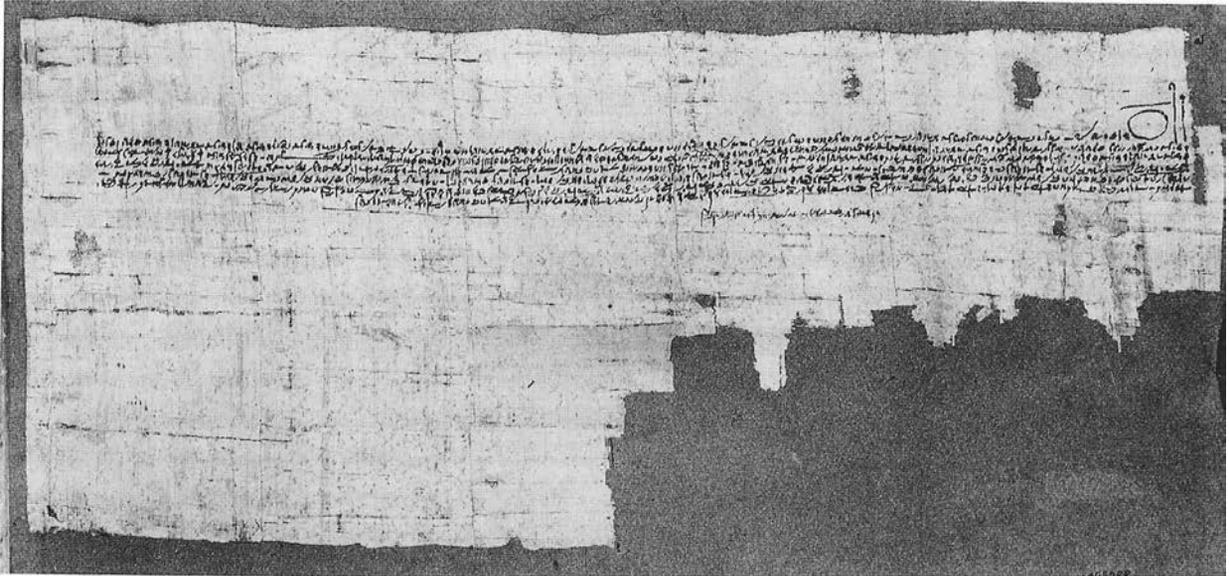


Fig. 7. Administrative papyrus, the Ptolemaic Period (inv. no. 148288 MNW) (after Niwiński 1997, pl. XXXV. 2).



Fig. 8. *Ushebti* figurine of Naia, the 18th Dynasty (inv. no. 236853 MNW) (after Majewska 1997, pl. XXVI. 1).



Fig. 9. Votive stela of Djed-Bastet-iuf-ankh, the 26th Dynasty (inv. no. 236843 MNW) (after Majewska 1997, pl. XXV. 1).



Fig. 10. Faience *sistrum* with the head of Hathor, the Ptolemaic Period (inv. no. 236909 MNW) (after Majewska 1997, pl. XXVII. 2).

with the scene of adoration of Ptah and Bastet (Fig. 9);³² as well as a faience *sistrum* from the Ptolemaic Period (4th–1st century BC) (Fig. 10).³³ A very well-shaped faience head of a baboon representing Thot is a fragment of a votive figurine probably originating from a temple (Late Dynastic Period, 7th–4th century BC) (Fig. 11).³⁴

Although far from being complete, the part of the Egyptian collection of Michał Tyszkiewicz originating

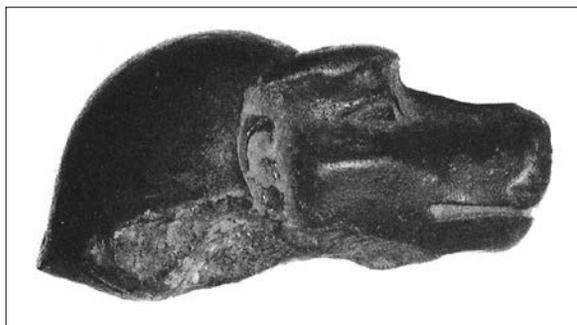


Fig. 11. Fragment of the figurine of Thot, the Saitic Period (inv. no. 236922 MNW) (after Majewska 1997, pl. XXVIII. 1).

from the Łohojsk Museum and preserved in the National Museum in Warsaw should be considered an important contribution to the general picture of the Polish collecting practices in the 19th century. Remnants of the valuable collection from Łohojsk representing non Egyptian relics are still enriching the resources of the Gallery of Ancient Art, the Gallery of the Polish Modern Art, the Gallery of Graphic and Polish Drawings, the Gallery of Coins and Medals, as well as the Gallery of Iconographic and Photographic Works. The preserved part of the archive from Łohojsk was transferred by the National Museum to the Central Archive of Historical Records in Warsaw. Other objects representing the prehistoric cultures from the territory of the Great Duchy of Lithuania, amounting to 87 specimens, were deposited in 1987 in the State Archaeological Museum in Warsaw.

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³² Inv. no. 236843 MNW.

³³ Inv. no. 236909 MNW.

³⁴ Inv. no. 236922 MNW.

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