

Amulet Mould

MU3352

How were amulets made?

Amulets were typically made using a clay mould similar to MU3352. The mould was created using a proto-type amulet which would have been pressed into the moist clay forming a negative impression of the desired amulet. The mould would then be fired so that it would maintain its shape throughout the production process. The material chosen for production (commonly faience) would then be pressed into the clay mould to replicate the shape of the proto-type. Whilst still damp and malleable, the amulet would then be removed from the mould and fired separately.

In order to produce such small yet detailed amulets, amulet moulds needed to be made from fine clay fabrics with relatively few inclusions, such as the fine Nile silt clay which has been used to make MU 3352. This fine clay allowed for small details such as the ear, eye, snout, tail, legs and teats of the pig to be accurately represented as can be observed in the modern reproduction that has been created using MU 3352.

This method of manufacture allowed for the mass production of amulets. Amulet moulds similar to MU 3352 are frequently attested within the archaeological record, often being associated with faience workshops within New Kingdom settlements such as those excavated in the Main City South at Amarna.