

SAQQARA

31. Figure of Nipepy

Saqqara. Mastaba of Nipepy

Niche in north side of burial shaft 32

Late Sixth Dynasty, second half of reign of Pepy II

H. 30 cm, ebony (*Diospyros ebenum*)

Saqqara, storeroom, Inv. No. S/04/16a

In 2004, the Polish-Egyptian mission in Saqqara finished exploring the brick mastaba in which a late Sixth Dynasty noble, Nipepy, Majordomo of the Royal Palace, Inspector of the Great House and Master of Secrets of the Robing-Room had been buried. Objects that had not been pillaged, including pottery, copper vessels and tools, miniature stone vessels used in the Opening of the Mouth ceremony (presented in this catalogue) and beads, testified to the affluence of his grave. Some wooden figures were also found in a niche cut in the northern wall of the burial shaft. Three of the at least five figures depicted a naked men. The biggest figure is shown in the traditional left-foot-forward pose, the left arm bent at the elbow, the right hanging by the side. The humidity in the tomb has deformed the wood, but it is obvious that in keeping with the artistic conventions of the period Nipepy must have been holding insignia, most likely a scepter in the right hand and a walking stick in the left. The elongated proportions of the arms and especially the feet draw attention, as does the long head with large and precisely modeled eyes. Black paint can still be discerned on the wig. The underside of the feet bear remains of pins that served to mount the statue on a base.

T.I.R.

K. Myśliwiec, West Saqqara 2004, *PAM XVI* (2005), pp.147-160

K. Myśliwiec, A contribution to the "Second Style" in Old Kingdom statuary, in: *Festschrift Prof. R. Fazzini*, New York (in press)

