
Shendyt and Wrap Skirt of Egyptian Pharoes

The Shendyt of the Pharoes, also known as the Tripartite Royal Shendyt Skirt, is a kind of wrap skirt worn by kings or gods in the ancient Egypt. It is frequently shown at the seated god statues and kings would wear it during hunting or battling since it is comfortable and easy to move.

The Shendyt is consist with one or more pieces of rectangular fabrics, often linen, wrapping around waist and holding in place by belts or knots. It is often wrapped with left side over the right side, but Ptolemaic skirts wrap the opposite way. The hem is usually above knees. People later had shaped the overlapping edges of the Shendyt to smooth curves instead of sharp right angles so that it fits the legs better. Although nowadays it often considered strange for male to wear skirts, at the ancient Egypt, the Shendyt belongs to a man's wardrobe. Its origin is believed to be hunting skirts, and it is originally made with leather instead of linen. However because of the climate condition of Egypt, people soon started to make Shendyt with linen since it is lighter than leather thus it would be more suitable for people living in the subtropical weather condition. The shendyt is usually made with plain linen, yet the wrap skirts with full pleats were also found in the later New Kingdom.

The central piece of the Tripartite Royal Shendyt Skirt is mostly decorative. It is placed on the front of seamless straight or triangular skirt, decorated in various ways including beading and woven patterns and holding by one or two strips transversely.

In ancient Philae, short skirts like the Shendyt could be worn with corsets except when there are several skirts being worn. For upper class males, Shendyt is sometimes matched with other

garments like longer skirts. Kings would wear long skirt over it and with undergarments beneath the Shendyt.

CITATION:

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