

# **FAIENCE USHABTI: THE PURPOSE AND RELIGION OF THE EGYPTIAN USHABTI**

**BY JONATHAN RICHIE**

***1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE  
DUNHAM BIBLE MUSEUM***

Between the magnificent architecture of the pyramids, the god-like authority of the pharaohs, and the perplexity of their prehistoric religions the world of ancient Egypt has become a place filled with intriguing mysteries. Expedition after expedition led by courageous men and women brought many of these secrets to light, and in the course of doing this, have also brought many artifacts to museums as well. One such artifact finds its current resting place in the Dunham Bible Museum at Houston Baptist University. Piece 06.21 from the Gerald and Nancy Bodey Collection is an ancient Egyptian ushabti from the 26<sup>th</sup> Dynasty. A ushabti is a type of ancient Egyptian grave good which was buried in the tomb for use in the afterlife. The informational plaque found in the display case simply says, "Faience ushabti (a funeral piece), 663-525 B.C." The dates listed coincide with the 26<sup>th</sup> dynasty almost exactly (Dodson/Hilton, 242). This small plaque opens the door to the large ancient mysteries of Egypt and begins the conversation between this modern world and that culture which passed on many centuries ago.



### Works Cited

Budge, E. A. Wallis. *Egyptian Ideas of the Afterlife*. New York: Dover Publications, 1995. Print.

Budge, E. A. Wallis. *Osiris & the Egyptian Resurrection*.