



## Ceremonial-Doll

### Date

3100-50 BC

### Medium

Wood, paint

### Description

This flat wooden paddle shaped object with the remains of red and black paint is a doll. One side has the faint remains of a painted figure of the hippopotamus fertility goddess Taweret, who protected women during childbirth. The doll would originally have had a 'wig' of clay beads strung on cord attached to the head. Paddle dolls were a stylised depiction of a woman with an emphasis on the hips and pubic area. They were used as toys but had a ritualistic and protective function, particularly as a fertility symbol. The item came from the collector and diplomat Henry Salt (1785-1827), British consul general in Egypt in 1815.

### Dimensions

Object/Work: 55 x 180 x 5 mm