

Egyptian Art at Eton College:  
Selections from the Myers Museum



8. Pectoral ornament

*Middle Kingdom, 12th Dynasty, probably reign of Senwosret II or Senwosret III, 1897-1841 B.C.*

*Probably from Dahshur*

*Electrum, with remains of lapis lazuli, carnelian, and feldspar (?) inlays: Height, 1½ in. (3.8 cm). ECM 1585*

Precisely when the larger portion of this rare pectoral ornament of electrum was acquired by Myers is unknown, but it was certainly before the first Burlington Fine Arts Club (BFAC) exhibition of Egyptian Art in 1895. William MacGregor, the well-known British collector, evidently acquired the smaller section of the pectoral a short time later. The two fragments were first publicly reunited at the second BFAC exhibition in 1921, and the following year, the smaller fragment was withdrawn from the sale of the MacGregor Collection at Sotheby's, London, for presentation to Eton by Spink & Son.

Despite its damaged state—the semiprecious inlays of lapis, carnelian, and feldspar (?) are mostly lost, having fallen out—the quality of the Eton pectoral is extremely high.

The design of the piece shows the gods Horus (represented as a falcon-headed sphinx) and Seth flanking the emblem of the goddess Bat (absorbed by Hathor), with two opposed *wedjat*-eyes and a solar disk with uraei above, bent papyrus stems to either side, and a reed mat below. The central element perhaps conceals an allusion to Sithathor, a daughter of Senwosret II, whose anciently robbed burial with its hidden treasures was excavated at Dahshur by Jacques de Morgan during his first season in 1894. If so, the pectoral might be a stray from that plundered tomb (see also cat. no. 9).

