

The Iconography of Goddess Tjenenet from the Middle Kingdom to the Late Period

Abstract:

The Egyptian Goddess Tjenenet was a local goddess whose evidence survived from the Middle Kingdom to the Ptolemaic and Roman period. She is known mainly as the divine consort of the god Montu and a dweller in his chief cult centers, especially at Tod, Armant, and Medamoud. Furthermore, she is often represented anthropomorphically crowned either with two cow's horns with an integrated sun disk, or with a Bicornuate uterus. Taking into account that her worship extended over nearly three thousand years, it seems inevitable that her iconography has seen some changes. This paper aims to shed light on the principal development moments of the iconography of goddess Tjenenet by responding to the following inquiries: how far is the possibility to recognize goddess Tjenenet despite the absence of her legends? Could the various aspects of her character influence her iconography? Does the form of this goddess vary according to the role she plays or the period in which she was depicted? Is it possible to consider the representations of Tjenenet as a measure of dating? Therefore, this paper tries to present and clarify the personality of Tjenenet by highlighting her iconography.