

The object I chose to research and analyze is the *Canopic Jar with a Lid in the Shape of a Royal Woman's Head* that was created in Egypt during the late reign of Akhenaten of the 18th Dynasty (1340 – 1336 B.C.). The jar was found in Tomb KV55 in the Valley of Kings of western Thebes, the same tomb that has been identified as the tomb of Akhenaten (father of Tutankhamun). This jar is currently being housed at The Metropolitan Museum in Gallery 121, Theodore M. Davis Collection (discoverer of Akhenaten's tomb). The artist of this piece is unknown, but by the amount of detail in the lid points to an artist who is a master of portraits for the viewing of the public. The lid is made out of Egyptian alabaster (either gypsum or calcite) with blue glass and unidentified stone inlays and obsidian (rock formed from cooled magma), the jar is made out of travertine (a form of limestone).

In this course, we have studied immensely about funerary art pieces. I believe funerary art pieces are very important in unraveling the history of different cultures. Funerary pieces are typically very personal and reflect true cultural feelings about how people are viewed and represented. Egyptians presented these views very well in their funerary art pieces, especially since they are one of the cultures that are most famous for their devoutness to the deceased. The Egyptians were known for the immense detail of their portraits, which is one of the reasons why I am drawn to this piece. Another interesting feature that drew me to this piece was the material that was used. A lot of the Egyptian portraits were typically made out of limestone, but their canopic jars were typically made out of this alabaster material. I am quite curious as to why they used this specific material for the canopic jars over any other material and why alabaster was not typically used for any other purposes other than sacred objects.

Very interesting choice of subjects that complements the content of the course. I look forward to reading more! 10/10

Comment [PJ1]: Great!

Comment [PJ2]: Interesting issue to look into. Make sure to frame the paper with the Egyptian fascination and interest in the funerary arts. Why did they use certain materials to commemorate vs send into the after-life.

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"Canopic Jar with a lid in the Shape of a Royal Woman's Head". Metropolitan Museum of Art: Theodore M. Davis Collection. Unknown Artist.

