

Offerings for Nebamun, Fragment of a Scene from the Tomb-Chapel of Nebamun
The British Museum

Thebes, Egypt
Late 18th Dynasty, around 1350 BC



This is part of the most important scene in the tomb-chapel of Nebamun, and it is painted in a formal style with a white rather than a cream background to make it stand out.

The whole scene showed a huge pile of lavish food in front of the dead Nebamun and his wife, with wine and ornate perfume jars. Their son Netjermes offers them a tall bouquet of flowers at the festival of the god Amun, when relatives came to visit the dead. The hieroglyphic captions contain funerary prayers and a list of offerings.

Large jars of wine are garlanded with grapes and vines. In many places the green and blue has been lost, since these colours were applied as roughly ground pigments which have fallen away.

The food offerings include sycamore-figs, grapes, different shaped loaves of bread, and also a roast duck and joints of meat, which only the wealthy could afford.

Traces of red grid-lines are visible in places under the background colour. These lines helped the artists to lay out the figures, but they only used them in this scene because it was the largest and most formal in the tomb-chapel.

M. Hooper, *The Tomb of Nebamun* (London, British Museum Press, 2007)
R. Parkinson, *The painted Tomb-chapel of Nebamun.*(London, British Museum Press, 2008)
A. Middleton and K. Uprichard, (eds.), *The Nebamun Wall Paintings: Conservation, Scientific Analysis and Display at the British Museum* (London, Archetype, 2008)

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