





Coffin of Ankh-khonsu, painted wood; detail of painted section featuring Ra
Dynasty 22, 945–712 BC, Egypt (Thebes)
Gift of Theodore M. Davis, HMANE 1902.50.9

On display at the Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East

[*From the Nile to the Euphrates: Creating the Harvard Semitic Museum*](#)

Ankh-khonsu was a doorkeeper in the Temple of Amun-Re at Karnak. He inherited his position from his father Ankh-en-amun. His brightly painted coffin lid is covered with images of protective deities. For the Solstice, we have highlighted the top right panel, which portrays an image of Ra. In Ancient Egypt the sun god Ra was the maker and creator of everything in the visible world, the gods in heaven, as well as heaven itself. He was most commonly depicted as a man with the head of a falcon and a solar disc encircled by a serpent on top. In Egyptian mythology, Ra was born in the east, moved across the sky in a solar boat, died in the west, and was reborn the following morning. As long as the sun continued to dawn every morning, the Egyptians believed that life would continue after death.

Harvard Museums of Science & Culture (HMSC) is a partnership of four Harvard museums that present captivating programming for all ages and a dynamic array of permanent and changing exhibits. HMSC invites you to connect with Harvard University's distinctive collections and vital research on human civilizations, biodiversity, and the history of Earth and science.

Share your creations with us on social media **#ColorOurCollections** and **#HMSCconnects**

Continue exploring our museums:

[HMSC connects!](#)

[Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments](#)

[Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East](#)

[Harvard Museum of Natural History](#)

[Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology](#)

HMSC HARVARD MUSEUMS OF SCIENCE & CULTURE

Copyright © 2020 The President and Fellows of Harvard College