Ancient Egypt in the Queen’s College Collection:  
A Display in the Peet Library

Most of the Queen’s College’s collection of Egyptian antiquities was bequeathed to the College in 1841 by the Rev. Dr. Robert Mason (1782–1841), who bought from collections formed by Giovanni Battista Belzoni (1778–1823), Henry Salt (1780–1827), and James Burton (1788–1862). In 1935, the College acquired Predynastic objects from the excavations of the Egypt Exploration Society (no. 6–10). This display includes some artefacts acquired in Egypt by Eric Peet, which have been given by his descendants, the Little Family (no. 1) and Nicholas Postgate (no. 12).

1 Objects from Eric Peet
   Two blacktopped vessels  
   Predynastic (ca. 4000–3000 BC)

   String of faience beads  
   1st millennium BC; originally part of a bead-net covering a mummy

   Piece of mummy cloth  
   Possibly 1st millennium BC

2 Limestone stela of Khentykhetyemhat  
Late Middle Kingdom (ca. 1794–1648 BC); from Abydos (?)  
The stela shows the official Khentykhetyemhat reciting a hymn to the god of the dead Osiris. The stela will have been placed in a small cenotaph in the sacred cemetery of Abydos where Osiris was believed to be buried.

3 Travertine canopic jar of Princess Tasheretenaset, daughter of Tadiasir  
26th Dynasty, reign of Amasis (570–526 BC)  
Princess Tasheretenaset is thought to have been a daughter of King Amasis. Canopic jars contained the internal organs of the deceased, and the lids were decorated with the heads of one of four protective deities, the sons of Horus.

4 Travertine canopic jars of Dineithiau  
Late Period (664–332 BC)

5 Limestone canopic jar of Shepenaset  
Late Period (664–332 BC)
6–9 Four vessels of blacktopped, red, and decorated ware
Predynastic (ca. 4000–3000 BC); from Armant

10 Wavy-handled vessel
Predynastic (ca. 4000–3000 BC); from Armant

11 Hard stone jar
Predynastic (ca. 4000–3000 BC)
The jar is carved from porphyry, and its lid was originally covered with silver foil.

12 Strings of faience beads from Eric Peet
1st millennium BC; originally part of a bead-net covering a mummy

13 Travertine ointment jar with lid
New Kingdom (?) (ca. 1550–1070 BC); from Qift (Koptos)

14 Tall travertine ointment jar with lid
Middle Kingdom (ca. 2119–1794 BC)

15 Shabti of the Nurse of the king’s daughter, Renena
New Kingdom, mid-18th Dynasty to early 19th Dynasty (ca. 1428–1213 BC); from Thebes (?)
Renena is perhaps the daughter of the Chancellor Senneferi, owner of Theban Tomb 99. The mumiform *shabti* figure is inscribed with Spell 6 of the funerary ‘Book of the Dead’ which will make the figure to do any work that is required of its owner in the underworld.

16 Shabti of a Servant of the necropolis
New Kingdom, early 19th Dynasty to 20th Dynasty (ca. 1279–1150 BC); from Thebes (?)
This *shabti* shows a man wearing a knee-length garment. The painted text gives his title as a member of the community of craftsmen who built the royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings, but his name was left blank.

For more information see https://www.queens.ox.ac.uk/special-collections