APPENDIX 3

FIGURED OSTRACA DEPICTING CHILDREN

This Appendix collates all figured ostraca from Deir el-Medina which depict figures believed to be children, organised by their motif. Where possible, photographs of the actual ostraca are provided, alongside primary references; otherwise, images are taken from the primary publication. Most motifs listed here have examples depicting both children and adults in the same activities; only those examples including children are included. It is not entirely clear whether the figures on motifs 4 and 10 are actually children; despite this uncertainty, they have been included for completeness.

1. HUMANS LEADING MONKEYS

O. ASHMOLEAN AN1942.55
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O. ASHMOLEAN AN1938.914
(De Garis Davies 1917: Fig. 3)
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O.BRUSSELS E.6377 (WERBROUCK 1932: Fig. 4)
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O.BRUSSELS E.6437 (WERBROUCK 1953:
Fig. 20)
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O.BRUSSELS E.6775 (WERBROUCK 1953: Fig. 21)
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O.IFAO 2004 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE
1936: PL. 2)
O.Munich 1548 (Brunner-Traut 1956: 110 No. 118, Pl. 39)

O.Munich A4 (Brunner-Traut 1956: 109 No. 117, Pl. 39)
2. HUMANS AND LIVESTOCK

O.BERLIN 20441 (BRUNNER-TRAUT 1956
105 No. 151)

O.BM 58413 (DEMARÉE 2002: PL.
106, PL. 37)
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O.BRUSSELS E.6314 (WERBROUCK 1953: FIG. 14)
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O.IFAO 2062 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE 1936: PL. 9)
O.IFAO 2069 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE 1936: Pl. 11)

O.IFAO 2072 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE 1936: Pl. 12)

O.IFAO 2080 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE 1936: Pl. 10)

O.IFAO 2452 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE 1937: Pl. 63)
O.IFAO 2752 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE 1959: PL. 99)
3. MOTHER AND CHILD ISOLATION

O. BERLIN 21447 (BRUNNER-TRAUT 1956: 70 No. 67, Pl. 13)

O. BERLIN 21451 (BRUNNER-TRAUT 1956: 69 No. 65, Pl. 25)

O. BM 8506 (BIRCH 1868: Pl. 6)  
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O. IFAO 2337 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE 1937:  
Pl. 50)
O.IFAO 2338 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE 1937: Pl. 50)

O.IFAO 2339 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE 1937: Pl. 52)

O.IFAO 2340 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE 1937: Pl. 50)

O.IFAO 2344 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE 1937: Pl. 53)
O.IFAO 2347 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE 1937: Pl. 52)

O.IFAO 2348 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE 1937: Pl. 52)

O.IFAO 2858 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE 1959: Pl. 120)

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O.IFAO 2863 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE 1959: Pl. 121)

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O. MM 14005 (Peterson 1974: 103 No. 132, Pl. 69)
© Stockholm Meledhavsmuseet

O. MM 14061 (Peterson 1974: 104 No. 135, Pl. 71)
© Stockholm Meledhavsmuseet

O. MM 14070 (Peterson 1974: 103 No. 133, Pl. 70)
© Stockholm Meledhavsmuseet

O. MM 14137 (Peterson 1974: 103 No. 134, Pl. 70)
© Stockholm Meledhavsmuseet
4. The ‘child with whip’

In both depictions, a figure raises a flagellum; O.Cairo 25768, which is more intact, shows another figure before this, possibly the object of the action, though it is not clear whether the figure with whip is following or pursuing. On O.IFAO 2706, the figure’s hairstyle is preserved as a single tuft; that on O.Cairo 25768 is seemingly bald, and may not be a child.

The caption accompanying both of these scenes is similar; the top reads \([n] \, [n] \, sp\, sn\, sp\, sn\, wy\) and the bottom \([n] \, [n] \, sp\, sn\, sp\, sn\, sp\, sn\). Before the right-hand figure on O.Cairo 25768, a broken caption reads \(=f\, pr\). What this scene depicts is unclear; possibly the reduplicated word, and its repetition, points to some sort of dance.

O.CAIRO 25768 (ČERNÝ 1935A: 83, PL. 99)

O.IFAO 2706 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE 1937: PL. 92)

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5. **The ‘Cat, Mouse and Child’**

A caption on the back of O.Chicago 13591 reads ‘t3 mi.t pr.w p3 3’ (the cat, mouse and child). It is likely therefore that this scene is stereotyped, possibly from an allegorical tale (Brunner-Traut 1979: 17).

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A third example of this motif occurs on O.Cairo T.R. 29/12/21/2, but this could not be located for inclusion in this thesis.
6. Children involved in pottery production

O. Berlin 21444 (Brunner-Traut 1956: 58-9 No. 51, Pl. 20)

O. MM 14056 (Peterson 1974: 89 No. 64, Pl. 38)

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7. **CHILDREN INVOLVED IN RITUAL ACTIONS**

![Diagram of children involved in ritual actions]

O.CAIRO 25116 (DARESSY 1901: PL. 21; BRUYÈRE 1929B: FIG. 87)

![Image of O.MM 14059}

O.MM 14059 (PETERTSON 1974: 82 NO. 47, PL. 28)

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Peterson (1974: 82) suggested that the motif on the preceding two ostraca shows the goddess Tefnut in the form of a cat and additionally, on the left, the god Onuris as a bird. He argued that the scene did not reflect a specific myth but possibly a general ‘offering to soothe the predator’.

It is possible that the figures in O.MM 14059, 14062 and 14040A are religious figures depicted as children, rather than being children themselves (Peterson 1974: 90).
8. CHILDREN (?) INVOLVED IN WRESTLING

O.MM 14064, 14065-6, 14067 (PETERTSON 1974: 89-90 Nos. 65-7, Pl. 39)

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9. STUDIES OF CHILDREN SEATED WITH HAND-TO-MOUTH

On these ostraca, the subject is usually a royal child. There are other examples, however, where the subject sitting in a crouched position is a naked adult, such as O.IFAO 2893 and 2894 (Vandier d’Abbadie 1959: Pl. 128).

O.BRUSSELS E.6375 (WERBROUCK 1953: FIG. 8) O.IFAO 2470 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE 1947: PL. 65)
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10. The Child (?) as *sh3kk* -Demon

This depiction of a child with a circlet of hair, and arm raised over the eyes, seems associated with incantations against the *sh3kk*-demon (Azzam 2009), as on O.Leipzig 5251 where the illustration accompanies such a text. The text of this spell is paralleled in the Book of the Dead of Ƥn-hr-hps=f, P.BM 10731 (Edwards 1968) and O.Gardiner 300 (Černý and Gardiner 1957: Pl. 91); KRI IV (181-4) provides a side-by-side comparison of all three texts.

It is unknown whether the child depicted in this context is the demon itself, or demonstrating the correct apotropaic actions for use alongside the incantation, but the presence of a tail on O.Leipzig 5251 suggests the former.

O.LEIPZIG 5251 (Brunner-Traut 1956: 57 No. 48, Pl. 19;
Černý and Gardiner 1957: Pl. 3)

O.IFAO 2950 (Vandier d’Abbadie 1959: Pl. 137)

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11. UNIQUE COMPOSITIONS INVOLVING CHILDREN

**Child on a Woman’s Shoulders**
O.BRUSSELS E.6370 (WERBROUCK 1953: Fig. 11)
© Musées royaux d’Art et d’Histoire

**Girl Playing with Cat**
O.BRUSSELS E.6381 (WERBROUCK 1953: Fig. 12)
© Musées royaux d’Art et d’Histoire

**Divine Child (R-management) in the Womb**
O.CAIRO 25074 (DARESSY 1901: 15, PL. 15)

**Mother and Children**
O.IFAO 2447 (VANDIER D’ABBADIE 1947: PL. 61)
CHILD CRYING AND FENDING OFF PIG
O.LOUVRE E.17117
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GIRL CATCHING A BIRD
O.BRUSSELS E.6769
© MUSEES ROYAUX D’ART ET D’HISTOIRE