

Hesire's Flashlight

Version 2.2

February 2025

by Bill McNulty



Fig.1 Hesire wearing his flashlight

Egyptian Pyramid interiors and tomb chambers are dark places. During construction of Egyptian Pyramids and tombs a source of light was needed so workers could see into the darkness. When Egyptian tombs and pyramids were opened in the late 1800s and early 1900s it was observed that their ceilings did not contain soot residue you'd expect if torches were used for illumination during their construction. So what was the source of light the Ancient Egyptians used during construction of tombs and pyramids?

Current theory states crude mirrors or oil lamps were used to illuminate Ancient Egyptian tombs and pyramids during their construction. Egyptologists have theorized that sunlight was bounced off copper mirrors to see into Egyptian tombs and chambers that can extend hundreds of feet into limestone and sandstone. These mythical Egyptian mirrors have never been found. Also, the light from these mythical mirrors would have been blocked by workers moving thru the corridors.

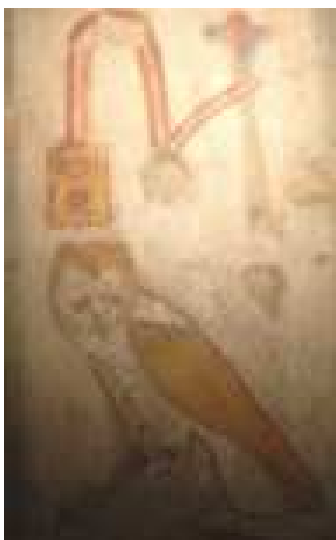


Fig.2 Sesh and Owl hieroglyphics found in the Tomb of Rekhmire

Another theory of Egyptian tomb illumination states oil lamps with natron(sodium carbonate) added to the oil prevented soot release from the burning oil. It has been suggested that the length of the lamp wick determined the workers work period. This may explain why no soot buildup has been found on the roofs of tomb and pyramid chambers. But, a more likely explanation of Ancient Egyptian illumination is a light source which has been lost to history.

After studying numerous hieroglyphics, sculptures, paintings and wood carvings I've decided the Ancient Egyptians were the first to use an artificial source of light. I refer to this Ancient Egyptian light source as a Hesire Flashlight.



Fig.3 Stele of Wepemnefret

courtesy of Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology

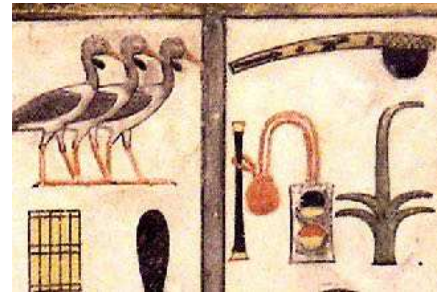


Fig.4 Detail of Sesh hieroglyphic from Stele of Wepemnefret



Fig. 5 Peshuper wearing a sesh
© British Museum Trustees



Fig.6 Amenhotep son of Hapu wearing a sesh

Hesire was a scribe and physician who served Pharaoh Djoser in the Third Dynasty about 4600 years ago. Hesire has been depicted on several wooden doors with the tools he used at work. Hesire's tools consisted of a long wooden staff, a copper pry rod and his flashlight. Hesire's flashlight consisted of a wooden box worn over his shoulder connected to a bag that contains the energy source and a rod that are hung over his back.

The hieroglyphic for the Ancient Egyptian flashlight is the sesh. The sesh is currently identified as a writing tool or a scribes palette. The sesh hieroglyphic consists of a rod, a rounded container(the power source) and a rectangular box all connected by two wires. The rectangular box of the sesh hieroglyphic usually contains two circular symbols that are sometimes divided into two semicircles that may be painted black, yellow and red.

Hieroglyphics written on papyrus in Ancient Egypt were normally written using red and black ink. Numerous writing palettes(known as a menhed) have been found with two ink wells still containing red or black ink. Yellow ink was not used in hieroglyphics and only appears in paintings or murals.

A different type of palette with multiple color wells(including yellow) was used by painters. The yellow color depicted in some sesh hieroglyphics may represent an ingredient which

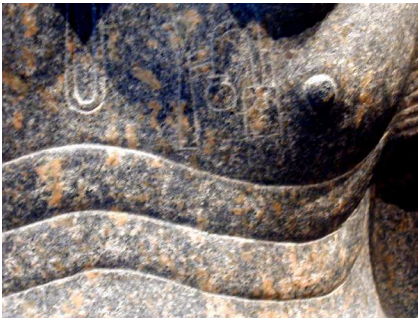


Fig. 7 Sesh Hieroglyphic
on Horemhab's chest



Fig.8 Sesh Hieroglyphic
on Horemhab's back

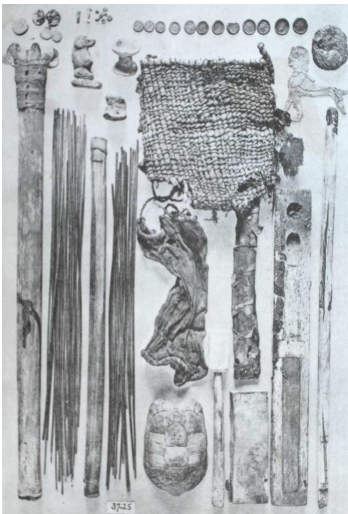


Fig. 9 Scribes tools found
by Howard Carter

powered the light source of the Ancient Egyptian Flashlight or torch.

Some depictions of Ancient Egyptian scribes include a sesh hieroglyphic in murals or sculpture. A partial list of Ancient Egyptian scribes or workers who are depicted with a sesh in their hand or slung over their shoulders includes Amenhotep (son of Hapu), Hesire, Horemhab, Sobekhotep, Peshuper, scribe Djehuti, scribe Apepi, a scribe depicted on the Relief of Iry, Mentuhotep, scribes on the Relief of Nofer and scribe #409 in the Cairo Museum. A Hesire Flashlight or sesh is also depicted in the Papyrus of Hunefer (*Fig. 10*) being used by the God Thoth and the Papyrus of Anhai. An ivory sesh with a copper boss at one end was also found by Guy Brunton at Matmar(JE 55898).

Howard Carter found a cache of tools used by an Egyptian scribe that contained components of a Hesire Flashlight. This discovery was uncovered near Thebes. The cache contained numerous objects that include a menhed (writing palette), a rectangular wooden box with two circular indentations, buttons of unidentified material, a tortoise shell and a piece of copper shaped like a sphinx. The copper sphinx may have been used as a conductor in the circular depressions of a Hesire Flashlight. The rectangular component of a Hesire Flashlight is pictured in the lower right hand corner of *Fig. 9*, but the two circular depressions are on the opposite side of the box.

A Hesire Flashlight has three components which consist of a wooden box with two circular indentations, a round container or pouch which probably housed the ingredients that powered the flashlight and a metal or wooden rod. A Hesire Flashlight was powered by a combination of chemicals and materials available to the Ancient Egyptians. Some of the chemicals and ingredients that may have been used to power the flashlight include sulphur, copper, zinc, hematite, galena, pyrite, amethyst, carnelian, jasper and sphalerite.

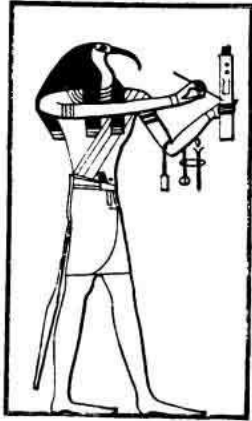


Fig. 10 Thoth with sesh and menhed
courtesy of sacred-texts.com



Fig. 11 Scribe wearing a sesh
photo courtesy of royalathena.com



Fig. 12 Scribe wearing a sesh
photo courtesy of royalathena.com

The rectangular box of a Hesire Flashlight may have been found in the Apophis/Khufu Pyramid by Rudolf Gantenbrink in 1993. In the lower northern shaft in the “Queens” chamber in the Khufu pyramid the robot named Upuaut located an object that looks like the rectangular box of a Hesire Flashlight. This wooden box has been suggested as a mate to the metal hook found by Waynman Dixon in 1872. But, the two circular holes of the box in the “Queens” northern shaft are too large to be used with the Dixon hook.

Buttons or tabs of a mixture of unknown components were placed in the indentations of the rectangular box and a copper conductor, possibly shaped as a sphinx, was placed between the positive and negative electrodes coming from the battery/power source. The copper conductor shaped like a sphinx would create a short between the electrodes which then heated the mystery buttons and started an exothermic reaction that produced the light of a Hesire Flashlight or heated the copper sphinx to a temperature that made it glow.

The light/mystery buttons used in the Hesire Flashlight would provide illumination and then slowly be consumed. As the buttons were consumed in both indentations of the wooden box they would be replaced and would provide a continuous source of light for scribes and pyramid builders who worked in the dark of Ancient Egyptian pyramids, tombs and their homes.

The rod used in the Ancient Egyptian Flashlight may have been a receiver of low-frequency radio waves generated by lightning strikes. The rod of the Hesire Flashlight and an insulated copper wire surrounding it may have acted as a tuner which picked up signals from lightning strikes. When lightning strikes the ground it emits radio signals in the range of 3-7 Mhz. The radio signals generated by lightning strikes may have worked to provide a contact break in the Hesire Flashlight power generator. The first radios constructed in



Fig. 13 Two wooden rods possibly used in Hesire Flashlights



Fig. 14 Silver and gold cylinders possibly used in Hesire Flashlights



Fig. 15 Sobekhotep with sesh
photo by Szilas

the 19th Century used a similar system known as a Cat's Whisker radio which used charges that passed thru a galena crystal to create a high frequency alternating current.

Currently, lightning strikes occur over 100 times a second around the World. When a copper wrapped rod of a Hesire Flashlight received a signal from a lightning strike it would induce a change in the magnetic field of the receiving rod. This changing magnetic field would create an electrical charge according to Faraday's Law.

Faraday's Law states a changing magnetic field will induce an electrical charge. Using Faraday's Law it's possible an insulated copper wire wrapped around the rod of the Hesire Flashlight produced an electrical charge that provided some of the power/current used to create the light of the World's first torch/flashlight.

I hope to discover the formula used to power this flashlight. Check back for an update on the Worlds first flashlight.