

# On the Cover

## The Dwarf Seneb and his Family

This small (13" high) statue of the dwarf Seneb is a painted Limestone. It belongs to the old Kingdom, 4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty.

This period extends for five centuries of continues progress, lay the foundation to one of the most influential cultures of the ancient world. It was obvious during this crucial period that Hieroglyphic writing reached a reasonable level of sophistication and the techniques of crafts came to a high level of professionalism. King DJOSER, owner of the step pyramid at Saqqara, is the first and most celebrated king of the third dynasty.

## Why we chose this statue for the cover page?

The ancient Egyptians knew two types of dwarfs. They were entertainers for their masters, trained to be goldsmiths or were entrusted with the royal wardrobe and care of animals. The other type was the African pygmies who were usually employed in temples as "dancers before the gods".

This statue is different for many reasons;

1. Seneb, was a high official and the head of the royal textile works. He was married to Princess Sentyotes. He was buried in a place of honor, a mastaba tomb near Khufu's pyramid in Giza.
2. The sense of the family is seen with his wife proudly embracing with her right arm from behind and her left from in front.
3. His children are his legs, occupying the place in the composition where his real legs would normally be shown.
4. Men and male children are painted a "suntan" brownish-red, while women and female children, who spend most of their time indoors, are pale. Other persistent artistic conventions include the side forelock of male children (reflecting actual custom), and the finger-in-mouth gesture common to children of both sexes.



The statue also represents the top of civilization, where physical handicap was not an insurmountable barrier to success in ancient Egyptian society, and family affection was a valued ideal.

## Suggested Sites:

1. scholars Resource  
<http://www.scholarsresource.com/browse/work/2144582095>
2. <http://www.egyptianmuseum.gov.eg/details.asp?which2=685>
3. <http://www.art-and-archaeology.com/egypt/egy61.html>
4. AllPosters.com  
[http://www.allposters.com/-sp/Statuette-of-the-Dwarf-Seneb-and-His-Family-circa-2475-BC-Painted-Limestone-Posters\\_i1343682\\_.htm](http://www.allposters.com/-sp/Statuette-of-the-Dwarf-Seneb-and-His-Family-circa-2475-BC-Painted-Limestone-Posters_i1343682_.htm)