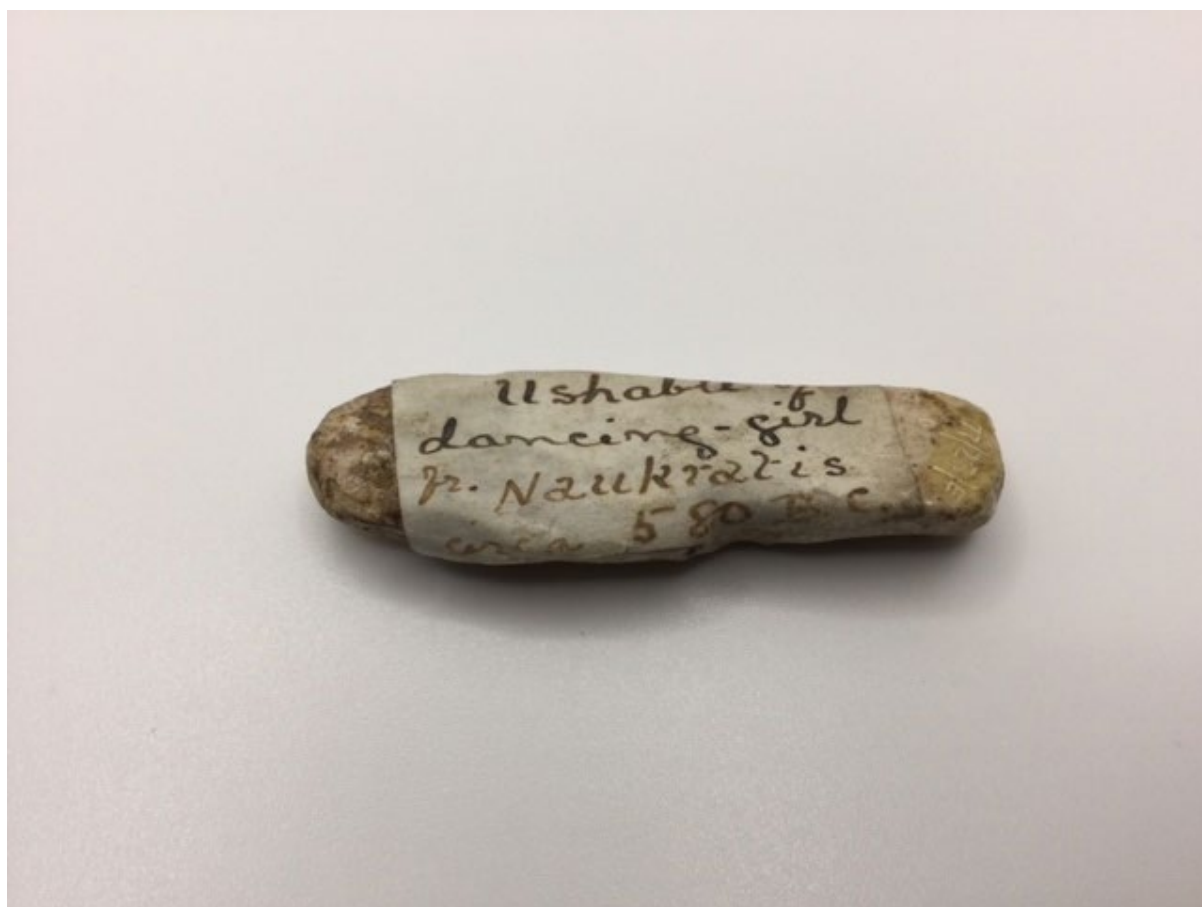


Organisation: Museum of Cornish Life

Title of the object: Dancing Girl of Naukratis



Description of the object and story: This ushabti of a Dancing Girl intrigued our volunteer researcher Julia when she first handled her as she was horrified that there was a sticker on her back! That's not the way we now look after ancient objects, or any objects. But in the end, we became grateful because it provided a gossamer of thread to the past. Through this on a scanned document, buried in a research website, our volunteer researcher Julia spotted Dancing Girl written in the same handwriting. It has enabled her to trace the dots that link 'our' Dancing Girl ushabti, to an excavation made in one of the two Egyptian Exploration Fund (EEF) financed excavations, in either 1884-85 or 1885-6.

The Dancing Girl came to the museum from Margaret Taylor's bequest to Camborne Museum, but it came to her from Miss Emily Paterson through the EEF. Distributions from the EEF were almost entirely to institutions in Britain and around the world. Distributions to individuals were made under exceptional circumstances. As a museum we have discovered a connection of a specific object to a specific excavation. In our own way, we can begin a process of restitution. This feels both small and

significant in the quest to understand our collection better, understand where things have come from, and where they rightfully belong.

