

ew 20/may

THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM

EASTERN PARKWAY, BROOKLYN 17, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE, NEVINS 8-5000

CABLE ADDRESS, BROOKMUSE

May 17, 1946

Dear Uncle George:

I did not answer, the other day, your question about the magic wand. While we do not have in our collection any ivory wands (the only things we have are, I believe, usually called castanets--a carved piece ending in a hand and without any other ornament), we have what, so far as I can discover, is a unique fragment of a faience wand, glazed in lapis-lazuli blue. The end has on both sides a lion's head in relief. What is left of the wand proper has incised decoration, showing on one side human legs supporting a vase and Bes with serpents in his hands; on the other, lion's legs supporting a jackal-head, and the Sebek crocodile on a stand with only the tail and part of the body preserved. The piece is from the Wilbour Collection, and Wilbour's notebooks give no indication of provenance.

May I add another small note to my comments on your catalogue? On Galley DD11, you will find the sentence: "Despite their weight and size, many figurines with rings on their backs were worn as amulets around the neck." My common sense tells me that large bronze figures with rings (of which there are many) were never so worn. They would be like a convict's ball and chain. Is it not reasonable to suppose that such figures as our Nefertum, height 36 cm., solid-cast and very heavy, were provided with rings by which to hang them in a temple or in a house?

Your proofs with Jack's comments are going off to you today by air mail. He will write you, and so will I, very soon.

Much love to all of you,

Always yours,

Elizabeth

(X)