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MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Egyptian Art

February 7, 1949.

Dear Uncle George:

Many thanks for your charming letter. Meanwhile I have received the photographs of the Late mummy cartonnage from the Walters Art Gallery; schein is se ja nich, but I think I can find some parallels in a few days. One mummy cartonnage in the British Museum Handbook is comparable: no. 6686 on plate IV (p. 10), but just that one is not properly dated and finds itself under the heading "Dynasties XXII-XXX" which may not even be correct as this facial expression could also occur in the early Ptolemaic period. At any rate, I shall keep on looking, and perhaps I will find something. Thus far I have not found anything among my photographs because, to say it frankly, I have never been very much interested in Late coffins and cartonnages. But this is a good occasion to gain some knowledge.

It is perfectly all right that you write into the ms. and correct those pages; please do not write your remarks on separate slips. It will have to be re-typed anyway before Bill and Mr. Dunham are through with it. As to the South Tomb at Saqqara: Lauer, in his Réponse à Herbert Ricke (1948) writes on p. 26 "En ce qui concerne l'usage qui fut fait de ce tombeau du Sud, Ricke nous ap-prouve de n'avoir admis comme possibles, parmi les différentes suggestions faites, que celles de l'enterrement en ce point des vases canopes du roi ou peut-être de son placenta." Meanwhile I have talked with Bill who tells me that there is no proof of canopic vases up to and including Hetep-heres, but that it may have been a canopic chest just like Hetep-heres's. Therefore I shall change the sentence to "...and it may have served for the burial of the canopic chest of the king."

I note that you have crossed out the second "e" in my spelling of the name of Sneferu. We have now an iron-clad rule here in Boston: to stay out of arguments we spell all names the way they have been spelled in Bill's "Ancient Egypt as represented..!etc., 2d edition (1946) with the one and sole exception: we leave off the final "w" in names like Nekhebu and the like. Ten years from now, when perhaps a new edition comes out, we shall correct those spellings which need it, change all the labels to conform with the new spelling and adjust our own spelling accordingly. But for the time being we stick to what has been printed in order not ~~MMMM~~ confuse the public too much. This does not mean that we have to follow in our book everything Bill printed in the handbook: it can be corrected in the final version of the ms., but for the moment please let me spell the names