

THE WALTERS ART GALLERY
BALTIMORE 1, MARYLAND

June 11, 1951

Dear Uncle George:

I found this in the file, and am shooting it to you. Hope the inscription has grown more legible!

Paris, not Rome, this time, unless I grow bored with northern climates. You shall have postals.

The drawing went off by regular mail, and not as soon as I had hoped. Some people here are just too overworked to get anything done! But you should receive it soon now.

The good news is that the Edelsteins are coming back. Details I know not.

Thousands of love,

Dovey

61.271 CHEST¹

Wood. H. 11" (.28); W. 11 1/2" (.29); L. 13 1/4" (.335).

"Fayoum".

Rectangular chest in shape of a shrine with torus and cornice; the missing cover was in the shape of a slightly inclined roof of a shrine and was fastened to the chest by means of tenons.

On front, relief, topped by the sign of sky, representing the sacred crocodile worshipped by the king. The crocodile, wearing the sun disc on his head, lies (facing to right) on a shrine-shaped pedestal, which is adorned with a symbolic monogram "All life and welfare".

Above it, the inscription "Sobk-Shedety (Suchos of Crocodilopolis) Horus-rē (?)". Before crocodile, the king (facing left), wearing the royal head cloth (nemes) and a short, triangular apron, offering a round cake and a flower. In front of him a rectangular field bearing an illegible inscription. Over the relief, an incised demotic inscription (three lines).

Ptolemaic-Roman Period.

1. Probably used to keep food (cakes etc.) for the sacred crocodile. Cf. Strabo's report on feeding the sacred crocodile in Arsinoë (Crocodilopolis, Fayum), sections 17, 38.