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Gallery

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF EGYPTIAN ART

May 12, 1941

Morgan Marshall, Esq.,
Walters Art Gallery,
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Marshall:

The Director has asked me to inform you that the Executive Committee has officially authorized the exchange of the mummy and cartonnage for a set of Bushell's "Oriental Art as illustrated in the collection of W.T.Walters," which you and I have been corresponding about.

Mr. Davidson, our registrar, has, I assume, acknowledged Miss Kennedy's notification that the mummy has been received by you, and I note from her letter that you will be sending the publication as soon as it is assembled.

I must apologize for not answering sooner your letter of April 21st, but I have been out with a bad cold and Dr. Hayes has just got back from a naval reserve training cruise. Here are the answers to your questions:

(1) The footboard seems to have been removed before the mummy was packed in Egypt. Hayes has no recollection of that, but he did not find it here when he repacked the mummy.

(2) As to the sex of the creature, we are in doubt and I am afraid that David Rosen will have to take an X-ray in order to make this determination.

(3) We would ordinarily get the sex from the name, but that is missing, having been, if it existed at all, at the end of the inscription that runs down the shins and up the feet of the cartonnage. As a matter of fact, the inscriptions are not in the very best Egyptian. The first hieroglyphs transcribed in the notes are an epithet of Horus, above whose eye they appear. The second (on p. 3) reads: "Osiris, Lord of ?" (the sign is unrecognizable). Why the Sokaris hawk should be labelled "Osiris" is unexplainable. The next inscription, over the mummy on its bier, reads: "Osiris, first of the Westerners," and probably refers to the deceased, identified as usual with Osiris. The last inscription gives the usual nesu dy hotep formula for "The Osiris _____," the name missing as remarked above.

I am sorry that the inscriptions are not more lucid, but they rarely are in mummies of this period.

David Rosen was in about ten days ago and we gave him the photographs of the mummy taken in the field.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Ambrose Lansing

Ambrose Lansing,
Curator.