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MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Egyptian Art

February 17, 1949.

Dear Uncle George:

By now I have literally looked through more than a hundred books trying to find a mummy cartonnage, but have been unable to find anything closer than the piece in the British Museum which I mentioned in my last letter. It seems that the two bands crossed over the chest occur since Dynasty XXI, but even Valdemar Schmidt's Sarkofager, Mumiekister does not offer anything comparable although that excellent compendium contains everything existing in museums or published before 1919. The British Museum mummy wrapping is illustrated also in their Guide to the First, Second and Third Egyptian Rooms (1924) pl. XXVIII where it is called Ptolemaic, but Bill agrees with me that the painting of that cartonnage is certainly not Ptolemaic, but earlier. Miss Mogensen's La Collection egyptienne, La Glyptothek Ny Carlsberg has on pl. LXXV a cartonnage; the style of its paintings might, perhaps, be comparable (A 584); Miss Mogensen calls it Epoque saïte. On the other hand, Winlock in Excavations at Deir el Bahari (1942) pl. 90 illustrates the coffin of Shep-en-wepet-ankh which shows the same semicircular ornament over the forehead as the Baltimore cartonnage. He dates the coffin to Dyn. XXIII (on p.98); and he said the same in BullMMA, The Egyptian Exp. 1923-1924, p.31. But the mummy was lost, and so we shall never know how its cartonnage looked. I personally feel that your cartonnage is either just before or just after the Saïte period, but that is not a precise statement - just a hunch.

Thank you ever so much for your nice letter of February 11. I shall answer it properly over the weekend. Right now we are in a terrible rush preparing an exhibition of the Swiss painter Gleyre who accompanied Mr. Ralph Lowell to the Sudan in 1834 and made drawings of many of the places where Reisner dug later and which Mr. Dunham visited again in the winter of 1946/47. Gleyre went to Naga, to Masaurat, and he saw a good many things which were already destroyed by the time Lepsius got there. Besides, Mr. Lowell collected antiquities, and we have some of his larger pieces here, among them the fragments of the obelisk of Hatshepsut.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Barnard.