

A CYPRIOTE'S TOMB IN ANCIENT EGYPT: TWO MUMMIES TOGETHER IN ONE COFFIN, WITH BRONZE AGE POTTERY FROM CYPRUS.

COPYRIGHT PHOTOGRAPHS BY COURTESY OF MR. ALAN ROWE, FIELD DIRECTOR OF THE PENNSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY MUSEUM EXPEDITION TO EGYPT. (SEE HIS ARTICLE ON PAGE 564 AND FURTHER ILLUSTRATIONS ON PAGES 566 AND 567.)



FIG. 1. INDICATING THAT GEMESH WAS A CYPRIOTE: SLENDER "SPINDLE" POTS OF THE LATE BRONZE AGE OF CYPRUS FOUND IN HIS COFFIN (FIG. 4 BELOW).

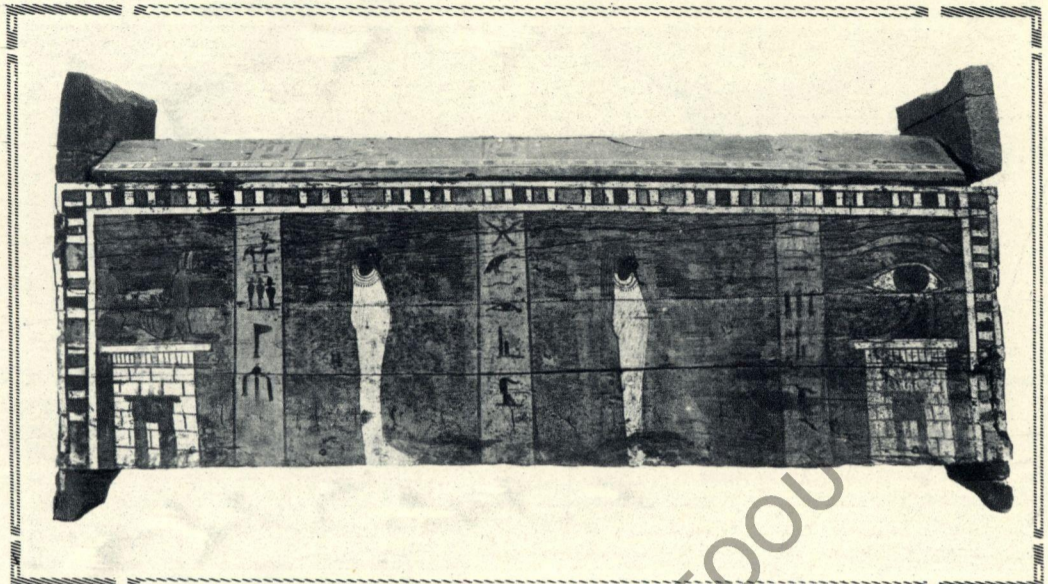


FIG. 3. THE COFFIN OF GEMESH, WITH BEAUTIFUL VIGNETTES IN COLOUR: THE RIGHT SIDE, SHOWING THE SACRED EYE, TWO "GODS OF THE EMBALMENT," AND THE JACKAL-GOD ANUBIS (ON PYLON, EXTREME LEFT).



FIG. 4. CONTAINING "TWO MUMMIES LAID BACK TO BACK," THE TWO "SPINDLE" POTS SHOWN IN FIG. 1 ABOVE, THE BASKET ILLUSTRATED ON PAGE 566, AND OTHER OBJECTS: THE COFFIN OF GEMESH—THE INTERIOR FROM ABOVE.

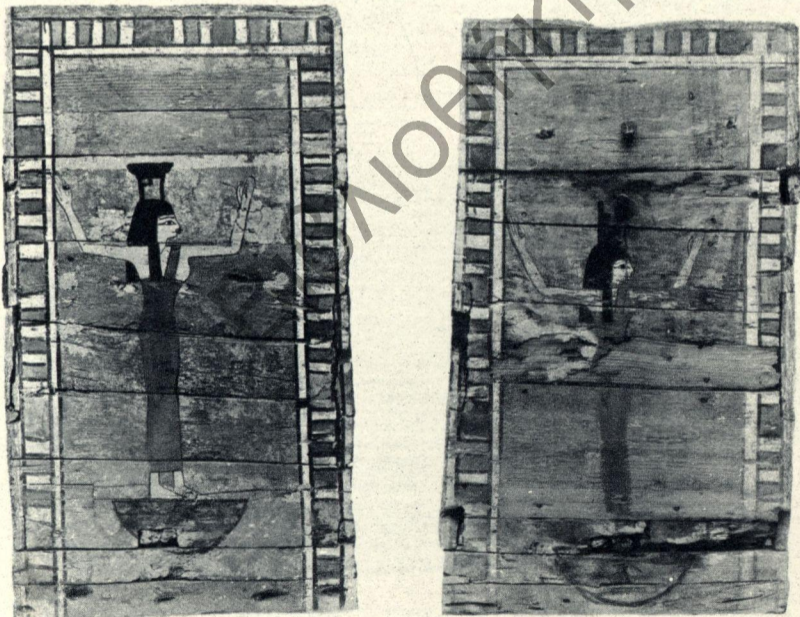


FIG. 2. GUARDIAN GODDESSES ALSO REPRESENTED IN TUTANKHAMEN'S TOMB: NEPHTHYS (LEFT) AND ISIS PORTRAYED ON THE ENDS OF THE COFFIN OF GEMESH.



FIG. 5. DECORATED WITH STRIPS OF IVORY PICKED OUT IN BLACK: ONE OF THE TWO WOODEN TOILET-BOXES WITH SLIDING LIDS FOUND INSIDE THE COFFIN OF GEMESH IN THE MEYDUM MASTABAH.

These photographs illustrate the most important and interesting of the discoveries (described by Mr. Alan Rowe in his article on page 564) made among the "intrusive" burials, dating from the 18th Dynasty, in the great mastabah beside the Pyramid at Meydum. This discovery consisted of a bricked-up tomb in the wall, containing a rectangular coffin vividly painted in bright colours. An inscription on the vaulted lid showed that the coffin was made for a foreigner named Gemesh (or perhaps Ka-gemesh), and the fact that the contents of the coffin included pottery of the late Bronze Age in Cyprus indicated that he must have been a native of that island. The vignettes on the sides and ends of the

coffin are beautifully done. The right side (seen in Fig. 3, above) shows the sacred eye, resting on a pylon at the right-hand end, the figures of Gesti and Duamutef, described as "gods of the embalmment," in the middle, and at the left-hand end the jackal-god Anubis, also on a pylon. On one end of the coffin is a figure of Nephthys and on the other end that of Isis. These are two of the guardian goddesses represented in the Tomb of Tutankhamen. "Inside the coffin of Gemesh," writes Mr. Rowe, "were two mummies laid back to back, the one over the other, placed diagonally in the coffin." Beside them were the two spindle-shaped Cypriote bottles shown in Fig. 1, and various other objects.

CYPRUS