Coffin of Pedi-Osiris
Unknown Egyptian

Egyptian, Ptolemaic period, 332-30 BC
Carved and painted wood; gold leaf: 86 1/8 x 26 x 18 in. (218.8 x 66.0 x 45.7 cm)

Museum purchase funded by Alice Pratt Brown Museum Fund

Ancient Egyptian religion believed in life after death. This is the coffin of Pedi-Osiris, a priest of Osiris, Lord of the Underworld. Standing over seven feet, the coffin once held the mummified body that had been elaborately prepared and wrapped in multiple layers of linen cloth.

Pedi-Osiris appears with a gold face, exotic black-lined eyes, a fake beard (a symbol of high rank), wig painted the rich blue of lapis lazuli, numerous painted necklaces, and red clothing covered with a net of painted beads. Many gods and goddesses of ancient Egypt appear on the coffin. They protected the deceased and helped him to achieve life in the next world.

Online Resources:
Hirsch Library Online Catalog
The Metropolitan Museum of Art Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History

Articles: (full-text access available on-site; off-site access available through your school library or Houston Public Library)

Print Resources:
Egyptian Hieroglyphs for Complete Beginners
The Funerary Art of Ancient Egypt
Mummies: A Voyage Through Eternity
Royal Mummies: Immortality in Ancient Egypt
Osiris and the Egyptian Resurrection
Bibliography

General Surveys of Egyptian Art


Egyptian Art


Egyptian Civilization


Egyptian Funerary Traditions


This reference guide is just the tip of the iceberg on helpful resources in the library’s holdings. Many of the suggested resources above have their own bibliographies. Each of these may lead you to another resource that would also be helpful in your research here in the museum or in another library. To find additional resources, use keywords such as “sarcophagi” and “Osiris” in the online catalog and in periodical indexes. Once you find a few relevant titles, pay attention to the subject headings to identify similar materials. Examples of useful subject headings are:

- Art, Egyptian
- Art objects, Egyptian
- Egypt – Antiquities
- Egypt – Civilization
- Egypt – History

For guidelines about writing it may be helpful to look at Sylvan Barnet’s *A Short Guide to Writing about Art,* which includes tips for looking, reading, and writing about art. Ask for it at the reference desk. At every stage of your work, please allow the library staff to help you. Contact us at 713-639-7325 or hirsch@mfah.org