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Hirsch Library Research Guide



### 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](#)

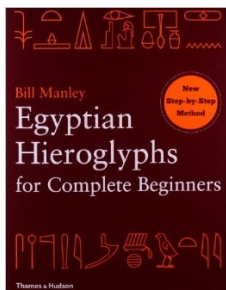
[The Metropolitan Museum of Art Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History](#)

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

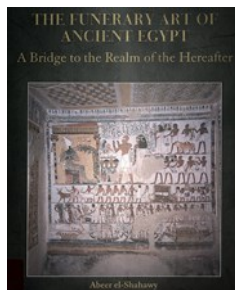
[Riggs, Christina. "Facing the Dead: Recent Research on the Funerary Art of Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt." \*American Journal of Archaeology\* 106, no. 1 \(2002\): 85-101.](#)

[Yahuda, A. S. "The Osiris Cult and the Designation of Osiris Idols in the Bible." \*Journal of Near Eastern Studies\* 3, no. 3 \(1944\): 194-197.](#)

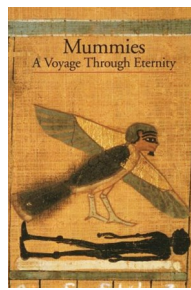
#### Print Resources:



[Egyptian Hieroglyphs for Complete Beginners](#)



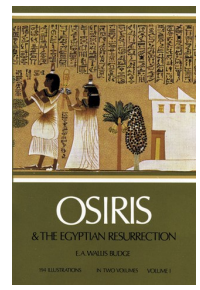
[The Funerary Art of Ancient Egypt](#)



[Mummies: A Voyage Through Eternity](#)



[Royal Mummies: Immortality in Ancient Egypt](#)



[Osiris and the Egyptian Resurrection](#)

## Bibliography

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[Janson, H. W., and Penelope Davies. \*Janson's History of Art: The Western Tradition\*. 7th ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007. N 5300 .J3 2007 Ref.](#)

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### Egyptian Art

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[Michalowski, Kazimierz, and Norbert Guterman. \*Art of Ancient Egypt\*. New York: H. N. Abrams, 1969. N 5350 .M61423](#)

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[Wilkinson, Richard. \*Symbol & Magic in Egyptian Art\*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1994. N 5350 .W492 1994 Reserve](#)

### Egyptian Civilization

[Aldred, Cyril. \*The Egyptians\*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1995. DT 83 .A65 1995 Reserve](#)

[Baines, John, and Jaromír Málek. \*Cultural Atlas of Ancient Egypt\*. New York: Checkmark Books, 2000. DT 60 .B34 2000 Ref.](#)

[Clayton, Peter. \*Chronicle of the Pharaohs: The Reign-by-Reign Record of the Rulers and Dynasties of Ancient Egypt\*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1995. DT 83 .C53 1995 Reserve](#)

[Kemp, Barry J. \*Ancient Egypt: Anatomy of a Civilization\*. London: Routledge, 1989. DT 61 .K44 1989 Reserve](#)

[Roehrig, Catherine H. \*Life Along the Nile: Three Egyptians of Ancient Thebes\*. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2002. DT 62 .T6 R63 2002](#)

### Egyptian Funerary Traditions

[D'Auria, Sue, Peter Lacovara, and Catharine H. Roehrig. \*Mummies & Magic: The Funerary Arts of Ancient Egypt\*. Boston: Museum of Fine Arts, 1988. DT 59 .B6 M86 1988 Reserve](#)

[Reeves, C. N., and Richard H. Wilkinson. \*The Complete Valley of the Kings: Tombs and Treasures of Egypt's Greatest Pharaohs\*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1996. DT 73 .B44 R38 1996](#)

[Spencer, A. Jeffrey. \*Death in Ancient Egypt\*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1982. DT 62 .T6 S64 1982 Reserve](#)

[Taylor, John H. \*Death and the Afterlife in Ancient Egypt\*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001. BL 2450 .D43 T39 2001 Reserve](#)

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](mailto:hirsch@mfah.org)