

## Plymouth: City Museum and Art Gallery

The first Egyptian coffin material known to have entered a museum collection in the Plymouth area<sup>1</sup> came with John Garstang's donation of fragments from his Beni Hasan work to Devonport Library, which also contained a museum. This institution had come into existence in 1882, when Devonport Free Library opened in the former Mechanics' Institute, at the corner of Duke Street, incorporating the Institute's former museum and library.<sup>2</sup> In 1896 its museum collections were moved into a new gallery, and again in 1899 to a larger space in the building.<sup>3</sup>

Also founded in the 1880s was Plymouth Museum, established in 1887 and re-opened in a new building on Drake's Circus in 1910. In 1902 it received a large group of Predynastic and Early Dynastic pottery from the excavations of Flinders Petrie. Devonport and Plymouth (together with East Stonehouse) were amalgamated into a single county borough in 1914, which became the City of Plymouth in 1928. The museum element of Devonport Library closed in the 1950s and the collections moved to what was now Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery.

The years immediately following the First World War saw the arrival of what were to be the most significant groups of Egyptian material in the Plymouth collection. First, the collection of Thomas Pease (1816–1884) was deposited on loan by his son in 1919 (see further under PLY.4 and 5). Then, in 1920, William Leonard Stevenson Loat (1871–1932), who had worked with Petrie and the Egypt Exploration Fund and now lived in Mevagissy in Cornwall,<sup>4</sup> donated his personal collection, with that Alfred Lionel Lewis (1842–1920), sometime Vice President of the Royal Anthropological Institute being donated by his widow, Louisa (b. 1869) in 1921, The British School of Archaeology in Egypt donated material excavated at Qau and Badari in 1923/4.

### PLY.1 Upper plank of end-board of coffin of Iyenmutef

*Owner:* : Iyenmutef,

*Number:* D266.

*Dimensions:*

Width. 42.2 cm

Depth 25 cm

*Material:* Wood; pigment.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Although BRS. **XXX** had passed through the Plymouth Custom House.

<sup>2</sup> The Institute library included nearly 5,000 from the Civil and Military Library, which had closed in 1865. This had been accommodated in an Egyptianising building in Ker Street, built by John Foulston (1772–1841) in 1823 and is still extant as a social club (see [http://www.devonportonline.co.uk/historic\\_devonport/oddfellows.aspx](http://www.devonportonline.co.uk/historic_devonport/oddfellows.aspx)).

<sup>3</sup> Hunt 1902; further information has been provided by Helen Fothergill, Collections Manager of Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery.

<sup>4</sup> Dawson, Uphill and Bierbrier 1995: 258.

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*Author, courtesy of Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery*

Fig. 1.1

*Description:* Plank from the upper edge of the end of a rectangular coffin, bearing a line of text

*Mode of acquisition:* Transferred from Devonport Library.

*Provenance:* Beni Hasan tomb 517. Garstang 1907: 227 mentions '[p]ortions of inscribed coffin' coming from this tomb, but says nothing about the owner's name, nor their fate.

*Associated material:* According to Garstang 1907: 227:

'Four fragments of stone (? from stela.)'

'Small vase and cover.'

'Four long green glazed beads.'

'Several wooden figures from groups or boats.'

'Leg of chair.'

'Pottery, Type 46' (one now Bolton 17.04.1).

Apart from the latter, and a Type 101 that is not mentioned by Garstang, but is now Liverpool SACE E4689,<sup>5</sup> none of this material has been traced.

*Dating:* Twelfth Dynasty.

*Bibliography:* Cf. Garstang 1907: 227.

<sup>5</sup> My thanks go to Dr Sara Orel for information on the current location of these two items.



*Author, courtesy of Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery*

Fig. 2.1

**PLY.2 Upper plank of end-board of coffin of Remushen**

*Owner:* : Remushen (woman).

*Number:* D267(b).

*Dimensions:*

Width. 22 cm

Depth 12 cm

*Material:* Wood, pigment.

*Description:* Plank from the upper edge of a rectangular, bearing a line of text.

*Mode of acquisition:* Transferred from Devonport Library.

*Provenance:* Beni Hasan; no surviving indication of tomb, although two tombs had a Remushen (of unstated gender) amongst their owners: 507, 573 (with an unallocated fragment of coffin listed)

*Associated material:* None identifiable.

*Dating:* Twelfth Dynasty.

*Bibliography:* Cf. Garstang 1907: 226, 230

**PLY.3 Hand from lid of anthropoid coffin**

*Owner:* Not known.

*Number:* NNEGY72.

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*Dimensions:*

Length      20 cm  
Width.      8.2 cm

*Material:* Wood, pigment.

*Description:* Left hand from lid of coffin or mummy-board.

*Mode of acquisition:* Not known: found unmarked with accession number in museum in 2008.

*Provenance:* Probably Thebes-West.


*Modern history:* None.


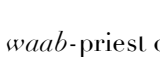


*Dating:* Twenty-first/early Twenty-second Dynasty.

*Bibliography:* None.

### PLY.4 Inner Coffin of Iyhat

*Owner:* : Iyhat,

*Titles:* : *waab*-priest of Amun,

*Father:* , var. : *waab*-priest of Amun, Pawerma,  
son of : Hor and : ...t].


*Mother:* : Henttawy,

*Number:* Pease Loan C1 (lid) and C2 (trough); Bristol's City Museum & Art Gallery Ha5588 (lid footboard).

*Dimensions:*

Height              183 cm  
Width                48 cm  
Depth                48 cm  
Height of face      16.5 cm

*Description:* Anthropoid bivalve coffin, decorated in polychrome.

*Lid.* The face is painted red, although much of the pigment is now missing, and surrounded by a tripartite headdress, striped in yellow and blue. Above a floral fillet, on top of the head, of the lid is a black scarab beetle, pushing a red sun-disc that lies directly above the brow. A further red sun-disc is on the trough portion of the top of the head, equipped with a pair of uraei and flanked by the group . Below the collar is a kneeling winged figure of Nut,



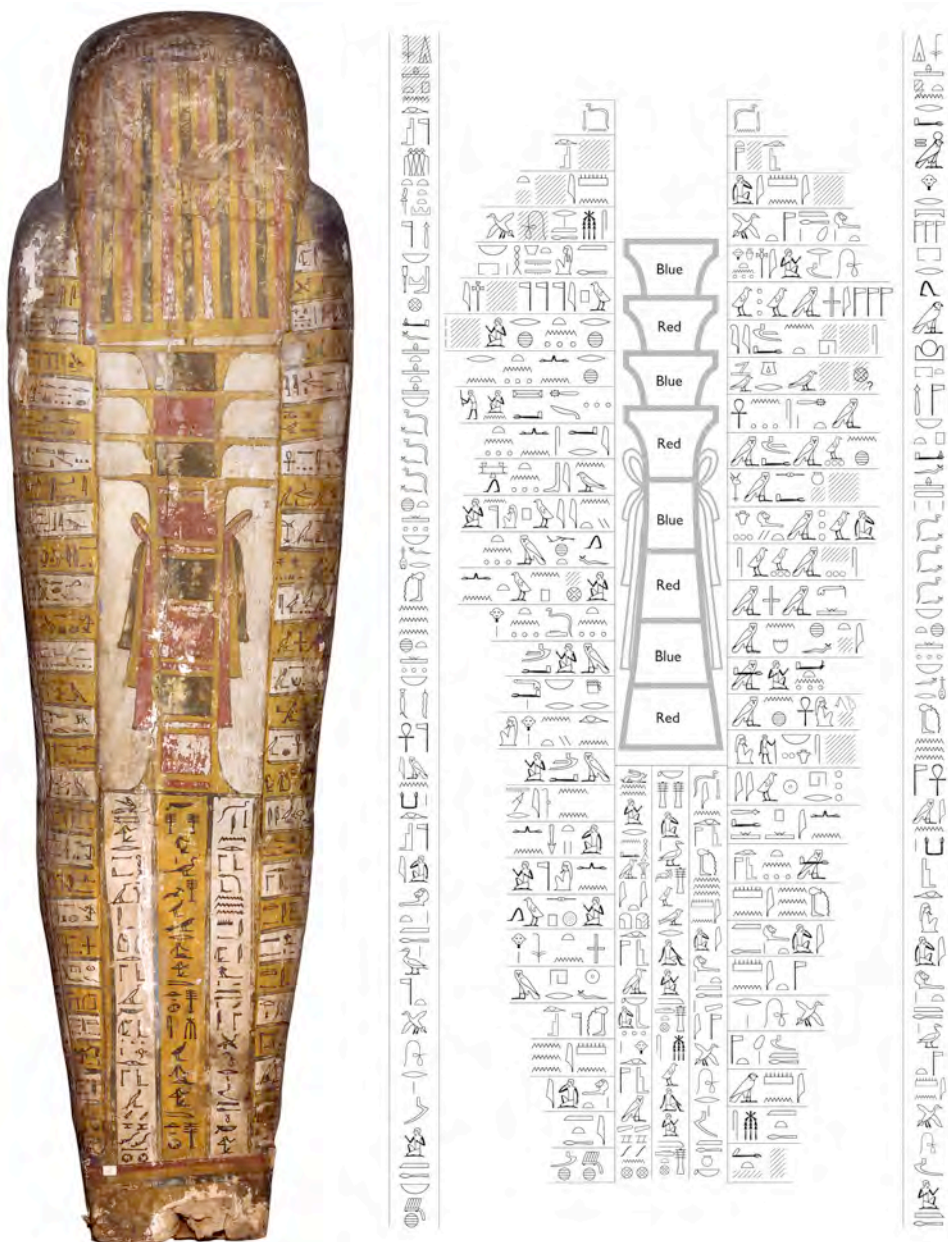
Left: copyright Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery; centre: author, courtesy Bristol's Museums Galleries & Archives; right: author

Fig. 4.1

flanked with areas of red, with a blue overlying pattern after the manner of a bead net; the two areas of red are joined by vertical columns of text and patterned bands. The main body of the lid is varnished and divided into a series of registers by a series of bands of horizontal texts, and contain both vignettes and columns of text. The tableau in the upper register, of the deceased before Osiris, Isis and Nephthys, has short columns marked out for brief label texts, although these have never been inserted. They have, however been filled-in on the lower vignette of the mummy on its bier.

The horizontal text-bands are coloured cream, as is the principal vertical text up the front of the legs. The shorter vertical columns alternate between orange-yellow and cream. The backgrounds to the vignettes are cream, with the exception of the *wadjet*-eyes in the lowest register, which are orange-yellow. The podium under the feet bears a conventional panelled motif,

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Left: copyright Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery; right: author  
Fig. 4.2

predominantly in yellow, red and white. Its underside was decorated with the motif of the mummy on the back of the Apis bull. The interior of the lid bears horizontal lines of text.

*Trough.* This has a white background and is un-varnished, with a large yellow, blue and red *djed*-pillar in the centre of the back-pillar, with three columns of text below it. The back-pillar is flanked by rows of text, on alternating white and yellow bands, with the edge of the trough adorned with a vertical band of text on a white background. The interior of the trough is decorated in exactly the same manner as the inside of the lid.

*Mode of acquisition:* Placed on long-term loan by Thomas Henry Ormston Pease (1853-1937), of Oakhampton, Devon, 19 February 1919.



*Copyright Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery.*

Fig. 4.3

## PLYMOUTH

*Provenance:* Probably Thebes-West.

*Modern history:* Originally given by Thomas Garrard to Bristol Institution in 1834 (see BRS.XX); in the house of Thomas Pease (1816-1884), 'Cote Bank', Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, on the latter's death, and passed to his widow and on her death in 1917 to his son Ormston Pease.

*Associated material:* BRS.XX; BRS.XX; PLY.5.

*Dating:* Late eighth/early seventh centuries BC (see *Remarks*).


*Remarks:* The lid conforms to design B3, attested throughout the Twenty-fifth/sixth Dynasties. The number of registers on the upper body might suggest a later date in the range, but its other features suggest a mid-seventh century date to Taylor.<sup>6</sup> On the other hand, the coffin has many similarities to Glasgow EGNN.790,<sup>7</sup> in particular the treatment of the register centring on the winged figure of Nut. That coffin's owner's name, Neferkare-emakhet, would suggest a date between the reign of Shabaka (Neferkare) and the end of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty.

*Bibliography:* Taylor 2003: 114-115, n. 185; Dodson 2008.

### PLY.5 Inner Coffin of the Lady of the House, Tairy

*Owner:* : Tairy,

*Title:*, : Lady of the House

*Father:* : Butcher of Pharaoh, Ashery.

*Mother:* : Lady of the House, Denitenbastet.

*Number:* Pease Loan C3.

#### *Dimensions:*

Height	180 cm
Width	47 cm
Depth	48 cm
Height of face	16.5 cm

*Description:* Anthropoid bivalve coffin, decorated in polychrome.

*Lid.* The face is painted a pinkish hue, with blue and yellow striped tripartite wig. A polychrome floral fillet is painted around the temples, topped by a wide red band. A black scarab, flanked by linear red motifs whose form is

<sup>6</sup> Taylor 2003: 114-115, n. 185.

<sup>7</sup> See Dodson 2008: 132, fig. 15.





Left & centre: copyright Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery; right: author.

Fig. 5.1

difficult to distinguish, occupies the top of the head of the lid, while the top of the head of the tough has a red sun-disk, with twin yellow uraei.

Below the polychrome collar are a series of columns of text on a white ground, broken up by a pair of 'sleeves', painted red with a blue overlying pattern after the manner of a bead net, terminating in hands modelled in relief. The flesh is painted pink, with bracelets in blue, red and yellow on the wrists. There is also a triangular area of flesh-tone between the bracelets and the cuffs of the 'sleeves'. The arms lie parallel to one another,<sup>8</sup> with the right

<sup>8</sup> As seen on the mummy of Tutankhamun.

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*Left: Copyright Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery; right: author.*  
Fig. 5.2

hand relaxed, and laterally separated from the clenched left hand above, which once held some form of emblem.

Below the arms, the lid is divided into a series of registers, containing a mixture of vignettes and columns of text. The front of the legs is adorned by an Abydos-fetish, the dominant effect being polychrome on a yellow ground, with the exception of the texts, which are in black on a white ground. Five columns of text on the upper surface of the feet of the coffin are almost entirely effaced. The foot-podium is simply adorned with bands of red and blue. The footboard of the lid has three column of text on a white ground,

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giving Tairy's pedigree, while that of the trough has the mummy on the back of the Apis bull.

Varnish has been applied selectively to the lid of the coffin only, the columns of text (on a white ground) and the area of the arms being left unvarnished. The interiors of both lid and trough are quite plain

*Trough.* The exterior has a white background, with the edge adorned with a vertical band of text on a white background. A large yellow, blue and red *djed*-pillar occupies the back-pillar, extending from the bottom of the wig to the foot. It is flanked on both sides by a small number of very large hieroglyphs, above a *wh*-fetish.

*Dating:* Late eighth/early seventh centuries BC (see *Remarks*).

*Remarks:* The lid belongs to design B4, but is unusual in replacing the pectoral winged figure with exposed hands,<sup>9</sup> although one finds the implication of arms on some other coffins of design B3 – for example TRU.4 and Glasgow EGNN.790 (see above), where the 'sleeves' are represented by the net-covered red areas, and the 'wrists' are hinted at by columns of text and decorative bands between the kneeling figure of Nut and the top horizontal band of text.

The closest parallel to Tairy's particular arm arrangement is to be found in the inner coffin of Ankhfenkhonsu i (Cairo CG41042),<sup>10</sup> although here both hands are fistled, and there is no sign of 'sleeves'. Parallel arms are also found on the inner coffin of Takhennu (Copenhagen-National AAA1),<sup>11</sup> although here the fists are placed one above the other, albeit with clearly indicated 'sleeves'. There are also examples of arms crossed in the traditional manner, in particular the inner coffins of Nes(er)amun ii and Besenmut ii ((Cairo CG41044 and CG41047 – both sons of Ankhfenkhonsu i),<sup>12</sup> which are clearly archaising.<sup>13</sup>

The close similarities between Tairy's 'sleeves' and the corresponding areas of TRU.4 and Glasgow EGNN.790 would suggest that, like them, Tairy's coffin should be dated to the second half of the dynasty.

*Bibliography:* Taylor 2003: 115 nn. 187, 190; Dodson 2008.

### **PLY.6            Face from coffin of unknown person**

*Owner:*            No data

*Number:*           AR.1983.302

#### *Dimensions:*

Height    17.0 cm

Width     13.0 cm

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<sup>9</sup> Taylor 2003: 115 nn. 187, 190.

<sup>10</sup> Porter and Moss 1964: 643.

<sup>11</sup> Schmidt 1919: 183.1015.

<sup>12</sup> Porter and Moss 1964: 643–644.

<sup>13</sup> Cf. Taylor 2003: 115 n. 190.

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*Material:* Wood, pigment.

*Description:* Face from anthropoid coffin, with traces of paint

*Mode of acquisition:* Unknown: 'found unaccessioned' in 1983.

*Dating* New Kingdom to Third Intermediate Period.

### **PLY.7 Face from coffin of unknown person**

*Owner:* No data

*Number:* NNEGY60

*Dimensions:*

Height 29.5 cm

Width 17.0 cm

*Material:* Wood, pigment, mud-plaster.

*Description:* Face from anthropoid coffin, with traces of paint and plaster.

*Mode of acquisition:* Unknown: found without indication of number in 2009/10.

*Dating:* Third Intermediate Period or later.

### **PLY.8 Face from coffin of unknown person**

*Owner:* No data

*Number:* D268(a)

*Dimensions:*

Height 13.0 cm

Width 10.2 cm

*Material:* Wood.

*Description:* Face from anthropoid coffin.

*Mode of acquisition:* Transferred from Devonport Library.

*Provenance:* Unknown - perhaps Beni Hasan, given the provenance of PLY.1 and 2.

*Dating:* Third Intermediate Period or later.