

Wooden Sarcophagus of Khamhor

C. 664 - 525 B.C., 26th Dynasty

Wood Polychrome

H: 192cm

A polychromed wooden sarcophagus for Khamhor, who wears a tripartite wig, shown drawn behind the ears of the figure, in a manner peculiar to coffins of this period, a false beard, which signifies his affiliation with Osiris, and two broad, elaborate usekh collars, one superimposed on the other.

The body wrapped in a pleated white linen shroud, which suggests this is the final of the coffins within the sarcophagus, and would have contained the body of Khamhor.

Inscribed around the feet with the standard offering formula, ‘An offering given by the king to Osiris, the lord of Bubastis, Khentyamentet the great god, the Lord of Abydos, that he may give an invocation offering bread, beer, oxen, birds, alabaster, clothing, and every good and pure thing upon which a god lives, for the ka of the revered Khamhor, True of Voice.’

The choice of white as the external covering is found on several other contemporary examples, all of which hail from the necropolis at Heracleopolis Magna, strongly pointing to it as the source of this coffin as well. For another similar example see a coffin now in the collection of the Gemer-Malohont Museum in Rimavska Sobota, Slovakia (cf. inv. no. 623/63).

Exhibitions

Arts Antiques de Haute et Basse Egypte, Galerie Philippe Dodier, 1 Rue de Brémesnil, 50 Avranches, France, 1st July – 31st August 1968.

Literature:

Arts Antiques de Haute et Basse Egypte, Galerie Philippe Dodier, France, 1968.

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