

Continuity of the Themes Depicted on the Third Intermediate Period coffins lids to the coffins of Graeco-Roman Egypt

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Scenes depicted on the lids of the Third Intermediate Period coffins Included some of the themes that were repeated in whole or in part from one coffin to another. Some examples of such themes were: judgment of the dead, the deceased in the presence of Osiris, embalming the body of the deceased, winged forms of some protective gods and goddesses such as Neith, Isis, Maat, Serket and Khepri.

Some of these themes were reappeared on some coffins lids dating back to the Greco-Roman period in Egypt, such as the Ptolemaic coffin at the Museum of the library of Alexandria (No. 0608) which includes a depiction of a winged goddess in the same way and in the same position depicted on the third intermediate period coffins, very similar to this is the Ptolemaic coffin of the Liverpool Museum (No. m13996a), The Roman coffin (No. EA 21810) in the British Museum contains a mummification scenes, while the coffin No. CG 33216 in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo shows a winged goddess as well as an embalming scene. These examples and other Ptolemaic and Roman Egyptian coffins reflect a very clear and great influence by the themes of scenes of the Third Intermediate Period coffins.

The aim of this paper is to follow the scenes depicted on coffins lids through the Greco-Roman period in order to identify which of the third intermediate period coffins scenes were readopted during that period and which were not reselected, it also aims to know to what extent the funeral beliefs during that time were influenced by the ancient and traditional Egyptian concepts although Egypt was completely a dependent to a foreign rule and culture, and although the idea of mummification was uncommon at that period.