

One of a Carthaginian priestess with her portrait statue in marble sculptured in the lid of her coffin. A remarkably handsome dignified woman arrayed in the costume of the Egyptian goddess Isis. The marble drapery was tinted in colors as was the custom with many Greek works of art. Another sarcophagus contained the portrait statue of a priest sculptured on the lid, an imposing figure in a toga like robe which had been colored with the purple dye of the Phoenicians. In one ear there was a gold ring, and on his right hand he held the vase of offering.

A third coffin had on the lid the sculptured portrait of a Carthaginian matron—a lady of fine Phoenician type, young and most attractive looking, draped in a plaited tunic and a veil which covered her head and fell in graceful folds to her feet. She wore no jewelry, rings or bracelets and this charming portrait statue of her was doubtless the work of some Greek artist.

Although in their coffins there was little besides their skeleton remains, yet from their portrait statues on the lids of the sarcophagi one could form a good idea of what the higher class of Carthaginians looked like who lived two thousand years ago.

The theology of the Carthaginians was of the pagan kind, but lacked the poetic imagery of the Greeks. The principal deities of their pantheon were a goddess in the dual characters of Astorte and Tanith, the former with the crescent moon as a symbol and the latter the full moon.

The crescent shaped roll familiar to the French breakfast table was the *form* in which the cakes were baked as an offering to Astorte, Queen of Heaven. She of the crescent moon shaped symbol, a survival of a pagan rite handed down to us. (M. Moore "Carthage of the Phoenicians.")

Besides these two, there was the terrible god Baal Moloch, who demanded ghastly sacrifices of his worshippers. He had a temple, the site of which has only recently been discovered and there are hopes of finding in its ruins his brazen idol. In times of danger, his good will was solicited by horrible sacrifices, when hundreds of little children perished, being thrown into the idol's arms by their mothers who saw them dropped in a red hot brazier and consumed!

Such was the Carthaginian civilization, a combination of refinement and cruelty, a civilization which had a tragic end. Among the objects in the museum are a number of bronze mir-