

ABEGG-STIFTUNG

Media release, September 2018

**EXHIBITION FROM
12 SEPTEMBER TO 11 NOVEMBER 2018
OPEN DAILY FROM 2 P.M. TO 5.30 P.M.**



ARTFULLY WRAPPED FOUR ANCIENT EGYPTIAN BIRD MUMMIES

The Abegg-Stiftung is staging a mini-exhibition of four artfully wrapped bird mummies dating from the 4th–1st century B.C. The animal mummies belong to the Bibel + Orient Museum in Fribourg and were entrusted to the Abegg-Stiftung for analysis and conservation.

On show will be two falcon mummies, one ibis mummy, and one “pseudo-mummy.” While the latter bundle was shaped to look like a mummified bird, x-rays show that it does not contain any animal tissue. Like the other – genuine – mummies, it was carefully wrapped in several layers of textile, wound round with thread, and then elaborately decorated with strips of linen. Numerous animal mummies and pseudo-mummies from Ancient Egypt have been preserved. Their function and meaning are not yet fully understood. By analysing, documenting and cautiously conserving the textiles used to bandage these fascinating objects, without opening the bundles, the Abegg-Stiftung has helped advance the research being done in this field.

After the exhibition, the over 2000-year-old grave goods will return to the Bibel + Orient Museum in Fribourg.

Both media release and photo are available as e-mail attachments.

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Caption:

Pseudo-mummy; Egypt, Ptolemaic Period, 3rd–1st century B.C.; plant material, linen textiles and thread; Fribourg, Bibel + Orient Museum, inv. no. ÄFig 2000.6

The exhibition «A Taste for the Exotic – European Silks of the Eighteenth Century» is open until 11 November 2018.