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Sarcophagus

Edna Russmann: A sarcophagus is a coffin, usually elaborate and very often stone. This sarcophagus was made for a royal prince or for his wife. It was found in the couple's tomb. Since the mummy of the deceased person would be living here, as the Egyptians believed, for all eternity, the lower part of the sarcophagus was decorated as if it were a royal palace—with a series of niches, some of which are tall and almost tower-like, and others which are shorter, probably suggesting the doors and entrances to the palace.

If you walk to either end, you will see the two upright panels—each has a pair of holes. Those holes were necessary in order to carry the lid because, of course, they had to take the box into the burial chamber, put the mummy in the box, and then put the lid on top.

And the holes were probably for very, very thick ropes that they were able to maneuver and fit it down onto the box. This kind of sarcophagus with the architectural detail imitating a palace, and the curved lid with upright ends, is typical of the early Old Kingdom, when this prince and his wife lived.