



ROYAL REST—Mummy of Egyptian priestess Iset-Ha is studied at Rutgers University Geology Museum by

Dr. Richard Olsson, director, left, and Drs. Raymond Murray and John Beardslee III of faculty.

## For Open House

# Mummy at Rutgers Museum

Newark News Staff Writer

NEW BRUNSWICK—A mummy, the earthly remains of Egyptian priestess Iset-Ha, has taken up temporary abode at the museum in Rutgers University's Geology Hall.

Dating back from the Ptolemaic period, 320 B.C. to 30 B.C., the mummy can be seen, along with other historical objects on weekdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the museum on the College Avenue campus.

Museum officials expect the ancient relic to be the principal attraction of the museum's second open house in early February.

Dr. Richard K. Olsson, director of the museum, said the structure has been redecorated and physically improved since some 2,000 persons attended the first open house there early this year.

The mummy is on loan from

the New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Dr. John W. Beardslce III, professor of church history at the seminary, said that the mummy was presented to the seminary by the late John G. Lansing sometime in the 1890's. Dr. Lansing, a professor of Old Testament and student of Egyptology, had acquired the mummy on a trip to Egypt.

Explanatory material accompanying the mummy explained that in ancient Egypt:

"People were embalmed to save their souls for resurrection. At death the souls left them and departed for Hades where for a time they fought various enemies of the netherworld.

"There the soul had to undergo a trial; a trial before the great Osiris himself. If he approved of the soul of the individual, it was sent back to earth to hunt for its mummy. The soul was termed "Ba" (animating

soul) which had its seat in the heart or abdomen.

"It lived in its body and was subject to the desire for food, drink, etc.; hence, its return was not wholly satisfactory un-

less the body was somehow preserved. Often to facilitate easy passage to the mummy, an air duct existed between the tomb and the surface of the ground."