

Unnamed Infant

Impact ID: IMP00004

Institution: Royal Ontario Museum

Designation: unnumbered

Date of Acquisition: before 1910

Contact:

Image Modality: CT

KVP: 100

X-Ray Tube Current: 770

Acquisition Date: N/A

Manufacturer: GE Medical Systems

Manufacturer Model Name:

LightSpeed VCT

Country: Egypt

Dig Site: unknown

Sex: Male

Age: 7-11 Months



Figure 1. lateral x-ray showing upper displacement of cranial bones from piece of wood in the neck (Nelson, 2008)

Background:

Very little information is known about the origin and story of this mummy and how it reached the museum, other than it being acquired by the ROM founder, Director C.T. Currelly before 1910 (Nelson, 2008; ROM Media, 2007).

On August 15, 2007, the Royal Ontario Museum loaned three mummies to the University of Western Ontario to be studied by Dr. Andrew Nelson of the Anthropology Department (Nelson, 2008; ROM Media, 2007). The CT scans were conducted at the London Health Sciences Centre in London, Ontario (Nelson, 2008). 910.13 was scanned twice, the first time on October 29, 2007 to assess condition of the mummies and image quality and again on January 29, 2008 to try new imaging protocols to maximize image contrast and minimize signal to noise ratios (Nelson, 2008).

Pathological Features:

Sex determination with skeletal remains this young is generally impossible, but examination of a midsagittal CT image shows the presence of a small, preserved penis (Nelson, 2008; ROM Media, 2007). The age is determined by the dentition to be about 9 month old (+/- 2 months) (Nelson, 2008; Nelson et al., 2009). Two maxillary molar crowns are clearly visible, but they have not developed roots or erupted from the alveolus (Nelson, 2008). Additionally, the maxillary incisors appear to have been in the process of erupting from the alveolus (Nelson, 2008). There is not obvious trauma or disease visible that could have been the cause of death (Nelson, 2008).

The post cranial skeleton appears to all be in anatomical position with the exception of a few ribs (Nelson, 2008). The left arm is extended with hand beside the left hip while the right arm is extended with the right hand above the right hip (Nelson, 2008). The left ankle has been broken post-mortem across the skin and bone (Nelson, 2008). There was a rectangular piece of wood with three holes in it introduced post-mortem running from the 4th thoracic vertebrae into the cranial vault (Nelson, 2008; Nelson et al., 2009; ROM Media, 2007). Some of the cranial vault bones are displaced to hold the head in proper supine position, possibly indicating the baby was in an advanced state of decay when mummified (Nelson, 2008).

The internal organs were removed from the infant, along with the brain likely being removed when the piece of wood was introduced (Nelson, 2008; Nelson et al., 2009). There is evidence of some loose abdominal and thoracic packing present (Nelson, 2008). The outer layer of the wrapping on this infant appears quite superficial (Nelson, 2008).

References

- Nelson, A.J. 2008. Preliminary Report on the Radiographic Analysis of Three Egyptian Mummies. Report submitted to the Royal Ontario Museum on June 5, 2008.
- Nelson, A.J., Chhem, R., Cunningham, I.A., Friedman, S.N., Garvin, G., Gibson, G., Granton, P.V., Holdsworth, D.W., Holowka, S., Longstaffe, F., Lywood, F., Nguyen, N., Shaw, R., Trumpour, M., Wade, A.D., & White, C.D. 2009. The ROM/UWO Mummy Project: a microcosm of progress in mummy research. Poster presented to the 1st Bolzano Congress on Mummy Studies, Bolzano Italy, March 18-21, 2009.
- ROM Media. 2007. ROM Mummies Undergo CT Scans. Royal Ontario Museum Press Release. Published October 20, 2007. <https://www.rom.on.ca/en/about-us/newsroom/press-releases/rom-mummies-undergo-ct-scans>