

Mummy of Child – IMP00055

The mummy of this fairly large-sized child is in perfect condition. We have swaddled it in a fine linen shroud. The arms were wrapped with the trunk. Strips about 2 cm wide hold the shroud in place. Most of them are arranged transversely, others are oblique and there are two intercrossings, in the chest and eyes. In many places on the surface of the fabric there are tears and discolourations caused by the impregnation of the mummification products. Several fragments of linen browned by these substances are found under the feet. At this point, the shroud was damaged and reveals the car-tonnage. The mummy is currently in a coffin made of sycamore wood stuccoed and painted black, without decoration or text. We do not know if this is his original coffin.

X-rays were taken through the bottom of the wooden coffin enclosing the mummy. r: anatomy of the mummy is perfectly preserved. The bones of the base of the skull, the septum and the nasal turbinates are intact. We can therefore conclude that no brain extraction has been carried out through the ethmoid. The radiograph profile shows nevertheless a level of solidified resin in the posterior cranial fossa. The frontal and maxillary sinuses are well developed. The cervical part of the vertebral column fractured at the height of the atlas, probably post mortem.

The final molars and canines are nested in the lower jaw as well as in the maxilla. The premolars II of the mandible begin to penetrate the alveolar margins. The eight incisors are already defined. They are all intact. The occlusion is perfect. According to the dentition, we estimate the age of the child from 9Y to 10 years. The arms are bent on the chest, wrists crossed at the height of the sternum. The clavicles and the upper limb are intact. We can clearly see an epiphy-sary line at the height of the surgical collar of the hu-merus, but that of the acromion is already ossi-fied.

The rib cage is complete. The intervertebral spaces seem slightly dimmed in height. In the right half of the tho-rax we find an important padding package. In the left half there is a smaller package. All the left part of the abdominal cavity and the small pelvis are filled with this same material. The entrance to the small pond is in the shape of a heart. The child is therefore probably male. The wing of the left ilium shows a fracture above the articular cavity. There are records of growth at the height of the head and major tro-chanter of the femur. We can no longer distinguish the growth disks on the iliac wings (Risser lines), but they are clearly recognizable on the knees and che-cities.

Between the thighs and between the legs, which are wrapped separately, and between the chin and the chest, we see padding textile pads. On the right side of the feet is a pad of very dense material. These pads were most likely dipped in balm.

The mummy of this little boy, probably 9Y, at 10 years, is very well preserved. The mummification was done with care. The level in the skull is the result of the coagulation of the liquid resin that was introduced into the cranial cavity, when the head was in maximum extension and the body rested on the back. Since there is no damage to the septum of the nose or to the base of the skull, the resin can not, in our opinion, have been injected by this route. Therefore, the question arises as to how it was introduced. One may wonder if the fracture of the

cervical vertebra at the height of the atlas did not serve to clear the foramen magnum. There is no criterion to date the mummy in a specific period.



Google Translate – Francot et al. 1999. Les Momies Egyptiennes