

Child Mummy – IMP00056

This mummy is in perfect state of preservation. The body has probably been wrapped in a single piece of cloth on which a layer of resin has been applied. Through it, the texture of the linen is still visible, especially on the skull, arms and legs. In addition, the natural color of the fabric is still visible around the skull, which makes it possible to state that the resin has been applied after the packaging of the mummy. The child wears a metal ring in his left ear. The mouth is slightly open and the small white teeth stand out very distinctly from the dark skin of the body. The arms are enve-lopped separately and crossed on the chest, the right arm above. The chest is a little swollen, probably due to embalming stuffing. On the left flank, we see the vertical decision they made in order to pro-ceede to! ' extraction of the viscera. The bean-te61 wound is blocked with a tissue tampon. If the stuffing filled the abdomen well, this is not the case of the small pelvis. Indeed, just above the pubis, the abdominal wall collapsed. Just like the arms, the legs are swaddled separately. The feet are detached from the legs, but they are still in their anatomical connection.

X-rays were taken through the bottom of the wooden coffin enclosing the mummy. The head and the trunk have been completely separated from each other. A modern metal rod, folded in two, is in the posterior plane and in the middle of the thoracic cavity. Through the foramen magnum, it pierces the skull and holds it in place. The back of the Turkish saddle, the nasal septum and the ethmoid are intact. Yet a level of solidified resin is visible horizontally at the bottom of the crâ-menne box.

The incisors are all definitive. The canines and deciduous molars are intact and the occlusion is good. The molars and the definitive canines are nested in the maillary as well as in the mandible. According to the dentition, the age of the child can be estimated at 9-9.5 years.

On the two lateral sides of the lower jaw, at the angle of the mandible, we perceive dense and rounded spots. These are textile pads with which the cheeks have been padded to maintain the shape of the face. We find a pack of stuffing of the same type at the height of the neck presumably in the throat. In the center of the chest cavity, behind the sternum, a large textile pad descends very low in the abdomen, below the navel. The upper limbs, the scapular belt and the ribcage are well preserved. Nevertheless some ribs are detached. One of them even went down to the right of the small pond.

The arms are folded over the chest and the crossed paws at the front of the sternum. The scapulohumeral joints are acute. We notice the epiphy-sary lines with the humeral heads as well as acro-mions. Some small spherical densities are visible in the upper part of the right hemithorax and in the left cervical region.

The spine shows a non-moving fracture at the dorso-lumbar transition. A long wire folded vertically on the median line is visible over the entire length of the abdomen. It is difficult to decide on the shape of the small basin, given the presence of dense filler materials that completely fill the left iliac fossa and protrude beyond the media line. At this level, we find the textile that comes out of the wound and appears outside the body as an additional shadow. We also see dense materials of padding all along the lower limbs. . The horizontal lines in the legs are not

bone fractures, but tears in the mummified tissue. The feet are detached completely at the level of the tibia-tarsal articulation, but quite normal.

Much care has been taken in the mummification of this child from 9 to 9.5 years old. Evidenced, among other things, the padding of the cheeks to maintain the volume of the face. There is certainly a level of resin solidified in the skull, but in our opinion the liquid resin can not have been introduced by the nose and by the ethmoid. Should we think of a decapitation and a resin injection by the foramen magnum? And is it for this reason that we were recently led to fix the detached skull using a metal bar? A dense padding package precludes the interpretation of the exact shape of the little sock and we can not therefore determine the sex of the child. Neither the small ring in the ear nor the presence of Osiris' false beard on the coffin are obviously relevant criteria in this regard.



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