

Padua mummy

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Institution: University Museums of Padua

Date of Acquisition: 1835

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Image Modality: CT

Country: Egypt

Dig Site: unknown

Time Period: Ptolemaic

Dynasty: unknown

Sex: Male

Age: 30-35 years old



Figure 1. Mummy displayed during the *Faces. The many visages of human faces*. (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016)

Background:

The mummy is first mentioned in a piece of work mentioning it belonging to the first Toth's priest named Nas, from the city of Heliopolis, Egypt (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016). This mummy arrived at Padua University as a donation from Giuseppe Acerbi, former Consul General of Austria in Egypt, when he received a new government position in Venice (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016). In June 2012, the mummy was CT scanned at the Department of Medicine, Padua University to learn more of the osteobiography and mummification techniques (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016).

The mummy was displayed from April 19-June 30 in an exhibition, *Egypt in Veneto*, that was deployed in four locations at Padua (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016). Its aim was to demonstrate and display the large amount of Egyptian and Egyptian-style artifacts that have been amassed to show what life was like in ancient Egypt, including the topics of life and death (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016). At this time there was great debate on whether the mummified remains should be displayed or not. It was decided to show display the remains, but there was no mention of the results of the CT scan, especially the violent death this individual suffered (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016).

In 2015, from February 14-December 13, the mummy was exposed once again at a new exhibit, *Faces. The many visages of human history* (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016). Stemming from the use of facial reconstruction in forensic sciences, this exhibit also examined the meaning of human faces and how they can be symbolic territories (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016). Facial reconstructions are not only working in the forensic sciences anymore, but also having significant impact in historical and museological applications (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016). This 2015 exhibit included the findings of the CT scan and the priest's "living" facial reconstruction (Carrara & Scaggion, 2015). Explanatory panels were set up surrounding the mummy explaining mummification techniques, various stages of the facial reconstruction, and a reconstruction of the murder (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016).

Pathological Features:

Determined by the CT scan, a transnasal craniotomy removed the brain as there is no traces left in the cranium and there is damage to the facial bones (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016). Eyes and optic nerve are both intact and the maxillary sinuses contained resin residue (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016). Heart is intact within the pericardial sac and the lungs are intact, but collapsed (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016). Partial evisceration is believed to be carried out from the right groin due to a 3cm wound (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016). Penis well preserved indicating male sex, but testes not evident. Fingers are extended with final phalanx missing from fourth left finger. Harris Lines are evident on the tibia bones.

From the CT scan, two perimortem traumas were evident that are believed to have caused the death of the individual (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016). The first is a multi-fragmented fracture of the clavicle (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016). It includes a wound in the right parasternal, with an angle about 20° from the bottom upwards (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016). Additionally, there is a spiroid fracture on the left humerus (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016). The clavicle injury is typical of a sharp weapon (daggers, spears, arrows) and the spiroid lesion is from a torsion fracture (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016). It is believed he was killed from a single act of aggression when someone twisted his left arm behind his back and reached around him, stabbing him from the front (Carrara & Scaggion, 2016).

References

Carrara, N. & Scaggion, C. 2016. Studying and exposing human remains: two cases from the Padua University Museum of Anthropology, *Museologia Scientifica*. 10: 122-128.