

Liverpool 1

IMPACT ID: IMP00058

Institution: World Museum
Liverpool

Designation: M14048
(previously designated as
M14047 due to a
misdesignation in the 1968
publication by PHK Gray)

Date of Acquisition: 1867

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Image Modality: X-ray

Country: Egypt

Site: Unknown

Time Period: Roman

Dynasty: Unknown

Date: 200-300 CE

Sex: Female

Age: Young Adult

Background:

The mummy was obtained by the Liverpool World Museum from Joseph Mayer. Mayer had purchased several items from Joseph Sams, a collector who visited Egypt from 1832-1833 (Gray & Slow, 1968). Liverpool 1 was transported to England in a 25th Dynasty coffin belonging to an individual named Tamutheres (Gray & Slow, 1968), however, the individual herself has been dated to the Roman Period (World Museum). She is well-prepared for a mummy of the Roman Period and appears to have been done in imitation of earlier Old Kingdom methods (Gray & Slow, 1968).



Figure 1. Liverpool 1 at Liverpool World Museum (World Museum).

Liverpool 1 has been both x-rayed and CT scanned. The x-rays were performed by PHK Gray in 1966 and published in 1968, while the CT scans were performed by Robert Loynes in 2012, and published in his book 'Prepared for Eternity: A study of human embalming techniques in ancient Egypt using computerized tomography scans of mummies' (2015) (World Museum). It should be noted that the 1968 publication used an incorrect accession for Liverpool 1, using M14047 instead of M14048 (World Museum).

Pathological Features:

Liverpool 1's head is oriented towards the right. It shows no evidence of fractures and there does not appear to be any form of matter present within the cranial cavity (Gray & Slow, 1968). The individual's mouth is shut, and no teeth are absent, despite the apparent dental attrition and the loose lower left premolar (Gray & Slow, 1968). The undisturbed nature of Liverpool 1's cervical spine suggests that she was not transforamenally excerebrated, and damage to Liverpool 1's nose appears to be related to the significant suppression from the bandages on Liverpool 1's left side (Gray & Slow, 1968). While most of the left ribs and the lower ribs on the right are displaced from where they articulate with the vertebrae, they do not show evidence of fractures (Gray & Slow, 1968). Some of the vertebral end plates, however, show degenerative changes, namely sclerosis, and the tenth thoracic vertebra has been displaced causing some misalignment of the spine in this region (Gray & Slow, 1968). The individual has been eviscerated and the thoracic cavity has been packed with irregular masses which have been assumed to be resin-soaked linen (Gray & Slow, 1968). Liverpool 1's pelvis has been packed with what is thought to be mud, sand, and resin, and a cylindrical mass has been noted with the region of the iliac bones (Gray & Slow, 1968). Comminuted fractures have been noted on Liverpool 1's radii and ulnae but are thought to have occurred post-mortem (Gray & Slow, 1968). Liverpool 1 has been given an estimate age-at-death of 21-31 years by Wade & Nelson (2013).

In terms of mummification practices, there is evidence of boring insect activity on Liverpool 1's head and some other areas of her body, suggesting that she may have begun decomposing before the mummification was performed/completed (Gray & Slow, 1968). Before being wrapped, resin was applied to the head and body to reduce the body's shrunken appearance. Then, all of Liverpool 1's limbs and each digit were wrapped individually before being wrapped with the rest of the body in the final layers of bandage (Gray & Slow, 1968). Her arms lie extended with her palms resting on her outer thighs, and the wrappings around her feet were designed to appear as sandals (Gray & Slow, 1968). While difficult to see today, there are still traces of the eyes and eyebrows which were painted on top of the mummy's bandages, an unusual mummification procedure (Cooke, 2011). The crown of Liverpool 1's head is visible above where a linen fillet circles it, and some of her hair is visible at the nape of the neck, appearing reddish in colour (Gray & Slow, 1968). As for mummification artifacts, there is one which rests on the linen on the right side of Liverpool 1's chest – a figure of one of the Sons of Horus, Hapti (Gray & Slow, 1968).

There is also some damage to the mummy today, which did not occur in antiquity. Destructive research techniques were performed on Liverpool 1, where a 7 cm square plug was removed from her chest in order to investigate the technique used to create the shape of breasts on her torso. The results of this investigation show that mostly linen and possibly a gum solution

were used (Gray & Slow, 1968). Additionally, the bandages are rather discoloured and were damaged in the fire that occurred at the Liverpool Museum during the war (Gray & Slow, 1968).

Resources

Cooke, Ashley. 2011, October 7. Tell me about your mummies. World Museum Blog.
<https://blog.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/2011/10/tell-me-about-your-mummies/>

Gray, P. H. K., Slow, D. 1968. Egyptian Mummies in the City of Liverpool Museums. Liverpool Bulletin. 15: 1-74.

Human Remains; Mummified Woman. World Museum [Internet]. Available from:
<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/wml/collections/antiquities/ancient-egypt/item-440753.aspx>

Loynes, R. 2015. Prepared for Eternity: A study of human embalming techniques in ancient Egypt using computerized tomography scans of mummies. Archaeopress Archaeology.

Wade, A. D., Nelson, A. J. 2013. Evisceration and Excerebration in the Egyptian Mummification Tradition. Journal of Archaeological Science. 40: 4198-4206.

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