

# Ta-ini

IMPACT ID: IMP00062

Institution: World Museum  
Liverpool

Designation: 55.4

Date of Acquisition: 1955

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Image Modality: x-ray

Country: Egypt

Site: Unknown

Time Period: Late

Dynasty: Unknown

Date: ~664 BC – 332 BC

Sex: Female

Age: Elderly Adult



Figure 1. Ta-ini at the Liverpool World Museum (World Museum).

## Background:

The mummy and her coffin belong to the Late Dynastic Period in Egypt (Gray & Slow, 1968). An inscription on one of the coffin's vertical panels reads Ta-ini, although this inscription is now difficult to read (Gray & Slow, 1968). Ta-ini, along with her coffin, initially belonged to a group of artifacts which were gifted to the Prince Wales when he visited Egypt from 1858 to 1859 (Birch, 1870, cited in Gray & Slow, 1968). Later, the mummy came into the possession of the Huntingdon Literary and Philosophical Society, where it was placed in the Huntingdon Museum (Gray & Slow, 1968). Ta-ini was then transferred on permanent loan from the Huntingdon Museum to the Leicester Museum in 1928 (Gray & Slow, 1968). In 1955, the mummy was then transferred to where it currently resides in the Liverpool World Museum (Gray & Slow, 1968). While at the Liverpool World Museum, Ta-ini's coffin received some damage during the war – her coffin was split and the coffin's paint was damaged (Gray & Slow, 1968). It should also be noted that in some documents, the mummy is also referred to as Liverpool 5 (for example, Gray & Slow, 1968).

### Pathological Features:

The mummy of Ta-ini has been decently preserved and her outer wrappings remain intact (Gray & Slow, 1968). However, the skull has become loose at the fifth cervical vertebrae and her wrappings are discoloured (Gray & Slow, 1968). X-rays of the mummy were taken by Gray & Slow (1968) and are the basis for the radiographic analysis of Ta-ini's pathologies, although the ankles and feet were unable to be x-rayed due to technical difficulties.

In terms of her skull, Ta-ini retains all of her teeth, although they do show signs of wear (Gray & Slow, 1968). Additionally, there is evidence that excerebration may have been performed, as there are some small bone fragments within the cranial vault, adjacent to the clinoid processes (Gray & Slow, 1968). As for evisceration, while there is the evidence that this process has been performed, the method by which it was done is as of yet unidentified (Wade & Nelson, 2013). In the thoracic cavity, there is some granular material packed into the right hemisphere and three overlapping cylindrical objects lying within the left hemisphere (Gray & Slow, 1968). The costal cartilage attaching the ribs and sternum is calcified and there is evidence of vertebral end-plate sclerosis (Gray & Slow, 1968). Additionally, it appears that the individual suffered from spinal arthritis. As for the pelvic cavity, there is no evidence of any form of material (Gray & Slow, 1968). In terms of the limbs, there is no observed fractures or dislocations, although it does appear that there is bone erosion on the outer right lateral tibial plateau and bilateral gonarthrosis of the knee joints (Gray & Slow, 1968). The arms have been positioned along the sides, with the fingers extended and palms down, resting on the thighs (Gray & Slow, 1968).

### Conflicting Sex and Age-at-Death Estimations

It should be noted that while both Liverpool World Museum (n.d.) and Gray and Slow (1968) estimate the individual to be female, Wade and Nelson (2013) give a sex estimate of male. Additionally, Gray and Slow (1968) suggest that the individual is an elderly individual, while Wade & Nelson's (2013) age-at-death estimate of 30 to 40 years.

## Resources

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

Human Remains; Mummy of Ta-ini. World Museum [Internet]. Available from:  
<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/artifact/human-remains-mummy-of-ta-ini>

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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