

# Nes-shutefnut

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Institution: World Museum Liverpool

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Image Modality: x-ray

Country: Egypt

Site: Hissayeh

Time Period: Ptolemaic

Dynasty: Unknown

Date: ~332 BC

Sex: Male

Age: 15-17 years

Background:

The mummy is that of a 15 to 17 year-old male of elite status (Wade & Nelson, 2013), who is referred to as Nes-shutefnut (Gray & Slow, 1968). This name, along with his titles of prophet of Khons and prophet of Horus, are inscribed in three lines on the lid of the individual's coffin (Gray & Slow, 1968). The mummy and coffin come from excavations which were performed at the site of Hissayeh in 1905 by John Garstang (Gray & Slow, 1968). Photographs taken at the time of excavation show that the mummy was interred in rock-cut tomb which also contained a painted wooden stela, a canopic chest, and a Ptah-Soker figurine. The Ptah Stoker figurine has both Nes-shutefnut's name and the names of his parents, Iyhor and Teni, inscribed upon it (Gray & Slow, 1968). These photographs also showed that Nes-shutefut's mummy was in great condition at the time of excavation (Gray & Slow, 1968). Today, there is some damage to the mummy and cartonnage, which occurred during the fire at Liverpool World Museum in May of 1941 (World Museum, n.d.). Despite the damage to the cartonnage and its brittleness, the paintings on its surface are still visible, including the gilded face mask, the elaborate pectoral design, and the apron (World Musuem, n.d.). Certain items have also been lost from the mummy, such as the garland which sat above the mummy's horizontal bandages, the retaining bandages



Figure 1: Nes-shutefnut at the Liverpool World Museum (Semíramis, 2015).

which held the mummy's shroud in place, and the painted cartonnage which encased the mummy's feet. While the garlands have since been found, the other items still remain missing (World Museum, n.d.). It should also be noted that the mummy has also been referred to as Liverpool 12 in certain sources, such as Gray and Slow (1968).

#### Pathological Features:

X-rays were taken of the mummy by PHK Gray in 1966 (World Museum, n.d.). The mummy has been eviscerated by indeterminate means, and it is undetermined whether or not the individual has been excerebrated (Wade & Nelson, 2013). It is suggested that excerebration was attempted, due to what appears to be a bone fragment in the right orbital socket. However, if excerebration was attempted, there is evidence that it would have been incomplete, as calcification of the falx cerebri is visible (Gray & Slow, 1968). As for the mummy's mouth, it is open (Gray & Slow, 1968). There are many areas where resin has been used on this mummy. Black resin covers Nes-shutefnut's outer bandages (World Museum, n.d.). Additionally, there are masses of resin in Nes-shutefnut's thorax and abdomen and resin has also been placed within the individual's pelvis (Gray & Slow, 1968). Displacement of the individual's spine occurs at two places, once in the region of the C7 vertebra and again at the lower thoracic vertebra (Gray & Slow, 1968). A rod-shaped object is visible beside the spinal column in the thoraco-lumbar region (Gray & Slow, 1968). Gray & Slow (1968) were not entirely sure of the purpose of this object but have suggested it may have been placed to reinforce the decomposing individual. The ribs are also displaced within the individual's body, disarticulated from their place of articulation with the vertebrae, and some rest completely free within the body cavity (Gray & Slow, 1968). Additionally, Gray & Slow (1968) note that the individual's pelvis has been compressed, the femoral necks fractured, and the femora displaced distally post-mortem. In addition to the fractures of the femoral necks, the soft tissues in the legs showed signs of transverse "fracturing" which was later described to likely be the result of the dehydration and reduced volume of the muscles, which then fragmented. This phenomenon was also seen in Liverpool 12 and 13 (Gray & Slow, 1968). No Harris lines were noted on Nes-shutefnut's leg (Gray & Slow, 1968). His feet were disarticulated at the ankle joint, and the feet have been placed one over the other. The heels of the feet are angled towards the right, while the toes point to the left. Rotation of the right leg has also occurred, being turned 90 degrees. In addition to the damage to the legs, trauma of the arms is also evident. Both humeri were fractured at the epiphyseal line by the humeral head, and the right humerus is fractured mid-shaft (Gray & Slow, 1968). In terms of arm position, the arms have been laid in a crossed position over the chest, with the right lying over top of the left (Gray & Slow, 1968). As for artefacts included with the mummy, Nes-shutefnut has a rectangular bezel ring on his left hand's middle or ring finger (Gray & Slow, 1968).

Figure 2. Full-body anteroposterior x-rays of 53.72a (World Museum, n.d.).

a) Anteroposterior x-ray of Nes-shutefut's skull.



b) Anteroposterior x-rays of Nes-shutefut's thorax and abdomen.



c) Anteroposterior x-ray of Nes-shutefnut's pelvis and the proximal aspect of his legs.



d) Anteroposterior x-ray of the medial aspect of Nes-shutefnut's legs.



e) Anteroposterior x-ray of the distal aspect Nes-shutefnut's legs and his feet.



### 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 Nesshutefnut. World Museum [Internet]. Available from: <https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/wml/collections/antiquities/ancient-egypt/item-302923.aspx>

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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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