

Liverpool 13

IMPACT ID: IMP00070

Institution: World Museum Liverpool

Designation: 1967.60.1

Date of Acquisition: Unknown

Contact: Dr. Ashley Cooke
(ashley.cooke
@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk)

Image Modality: x-ray

Country: Egypt

Site: Unknown

Time Period: Ptolemaic

Dynasty: Unknown

Date: 332 – 30 BCE

Sex: Male

Age: 30-99 years

Background:

The mummy is that of a 30 to 99 year-old male (Wade & Nelson, 2013). Not much background about the individual is known, and he was given a second accession number at the Liverpool World Museum after the original was lost (Gray & Slow, 1968).

Pathological Features:

The mummy is in very poor condition (Gray & Slow, 1968). The head is separated from the rest of the body at the second cervical vertebra and unwrapped (Gray & Slow, 1968). It has a layer of blackened resin over it and resin fills the cranial cavity (Gray & Slow, 1968). The individual's mandible is missing, and the maxillary teeth show pulp stones (Pancoast, Pendergrass & Schaeffer, 1940, cited in Gray & Slow, 1968). Additionally, the right maxillary premolars and molars have been internally absorbed (Pancoast, Pendergrass & Schaeffer, 1940, cited in Gray & Slow, 1968). Blackened resin also covers the body's wrappings, making the mummy appear shapeless. Furthermore, resin fills the thoracic, abdominal, and pelvic cavities (Gray & Slow, 1968). Gray & Slow (1968) cite potential arthritic changes of Liverpool 13's spine, but do not clarify what these changes are, other than the fact that opacity of the

intervertebral discs is not present. In terms of the mummy's limbs, no fractures, dislocations, or Harris lines are visible. However, what is described as "fractures" of the soft tissue of the legs is seen and the individual's feet are absent (Gray & Slow, 1968). Liverpool 13's pelvis and thighs were sent to Dr. A. T. Sandison to examine the soft tissue phenomenon and he informed Gray & Slow (1968) that these were likely the result of fragmenting of the muscle due to dehydration and the reduced volume of the muscles. As for arm positioning, Liverpool 13's arms are folded upon his chest, with the left arm over the right. The hands of the mummy have also been positioned – placed over the shoulders, with the fingers of the left hand contracted and the fingers of the right hand extended (Gray & Slow, 1968).

In terms of mummification artifacts, the mummy was wrapped with multiple amulets, the majority of which were made from different kinds of hard stone and are of varying quality (Gray & Slow, 1968). Thirty were discovered in the region of the thorax and the two others were found in the area of the abdomen, one of which was a scarab. Twenty six of the thirty thoracic amulets had been laid over the sternum (Gray & Slow, 1968). A more detailed description of the amulets and their descriptions can be found in Gray & Slow (1968). It was decided to extract the amulets as the mummy was in very poor condition and unable to be displayed (Gray & Slow, 1968). As Gray & Slow (1968) describe, the muscles disintegrated when touched, the ligaments were frail, and the bones were very susceptible to breakage. Following the removal of the amulets, other parts of the mummy were then used for other research purposes (Gray & Slow, 1968). Due to the large amounts of resin covering the mummy and the fact that the mummy had at some point been exposed to a great amount of heat which caused the resin to fuse, the extraction of the amulets proved to be rather difficult (Gray & Slow, 1968). The removal of these amulets occurred by identifying their position by x-ray, chiselling away the resin with a hammer and osteotome, and in one case dissolving the resin which encased a scarab in order to avoid damage from chiselling (Gray & Slow, 1968). In addition to the amulets, it has been noted that the individual's heart had been replaced by a wad of straw which resembled a bird's nest (Gray & Slow, 1968).

Resources

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

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

Contributions by: Precious Adekoya, Teegan Muggridge, Lauren Poeta, and David Seston