

# Nesmin

IMPACT ID:

IMP00071

Institution: World  
Museum Liverpool

Designation: 56.22.79a

Date of Acquisition:  
1956

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Image Modality: x-ray



Figure 1. Mummy of Nesmin at the Liverpool World Museum (World Museum).

Note: See end of document for full-body anteroposterior x-rays of Nesmin.

Country: Egypt

Site: Akhmim

Time Period: Ptolemaic

Dynasty: 30<sup>th</sup>

Date: 380 BCE – 343 BCE

Sex: Male

Age: Adult

Background:

The mummy is referred to as Nesmin, the son of Ankh-hap (World Museum), or in some documents as Liverpool 14 (such as Gray & Slow, 1968). The first recorded acquisition of Nesmin was by Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Haggard from in Ahkmin in 1886, originally thinking that the mummy was female and an important biblical figure (World Museum). The Lieutenant-Colonel then passed the mummy on to his brother in London, Sir Rider Haggard, who stored the mummy in his home and then later in a storage warehouse before gifting Nesmin to the Norwich Castle Museum on behalf of Lieutenant-Colonel Haggard in 1886 (World Museum). The mummy was then purchased by the Liverpool World Museum along with the majority of Norwich Castle's Egyptian collection in 1956 (World Museum). It is recorded that at one point there was a fourth cartonnage piece, which lay over the feet. However, this piece has since been damaged and is currently stored independently from the mummy (World Museum). In

1966, x-rays of the mummy of Nesmin were taken by PHK Gray (World Museum) which were used to complete an analysis of the mummy's condition and pathologies.

#### Pathological Features:

The mummy is that of an adult male (World Museum; Gray & Slow, 1968; Wade & Nelson, 2013), with Wade & Nelson (2013) giving an age-at-death estimate of 30 to 99 years. The mummy is in generally good condition, although the foot area has received some damage and there are white patches which are awaiting conservation (Gray & Slow, 1968). As can be seen in the photo above, the outer layer of the mummy has been blackened by resin and the mummy itself is rather heavy (Gray & Slow, 1968). Beneath the bandages, the mummy's arms are folded over his chest, with the right lying over the left, hands on the shoulders, and the fingers of the right hand extended while those of the left are contracted (Gray & Slow, 1968). In terms of adornment, the mummy wears a gilded cartonnage mask, a pectoral, and an apron (Gray & Slow, 1969).

Examinations of the skull have been unable to determine whether or not the individual was excerebrated (Wade & Nelson, 2013). The skull does not display any apparent fractures and the cervical spine appears undisturbed (Gray & Slow, 1968). Nesmin's mouth rests in a closed position and there is an absence of teeth in the maxilla, with most of them missing, and the mandible completely edentulous (Gray & Slow, 1968). Wade & Nelson (2013) note that the mummy was eviscerated by way of transabdominal evisceration. The thoracic and abdominal cavities remain empty except for a cylindrical mass in the left hypochondrium of the abdomen and an opacity that is thought to be resin-soaked linen swab over the embalming wound in the left side (Gray & Slow, 1968). In terms of skeletal pathology, Gray & Slow (1968) observed a fracture of the left tenth rib, arthritis of the lower lumbar spine, sacralisation of the fifth lumbar vertebra's left transverse process, opacity of both medial menisci, and bilateral epiphyseal scarring or Harris lines at the distal end of the tibiae.

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

a) Anteroposterior x-ray of Nesmin's skull.



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



c) Anteroposterior x-ray of Nesmin's pelvis and the proximal aspects of his thighs.



d) Anteroposterior x-ray of the distal aspect of Nesmin's thighs, his patellae, and the proximal aspect of his legs.



e) Anteroposterior x-ray of the medial and distal aspects of Nesmin's legs and his feet.



f) Anteroposterior x-ray of Nesmin's 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 Nesmin. World Museum [Internet]. Available from:  
<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/wml/collections/antiquities/ancient-egypt/item-299423.aspx>

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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