

George

IMPACT ID: IMP00079

Institution: Southern Australian Museum

Designation: A40332

Date of Acquisition: 1916

Contact:

Image Modality: Reformatted CT scans and X-ray

Country: Egypt

Site: Awarm

Time Period: Ptolemaic Period

Dynasty: Unknown

Date: 95BC to 212AD

Sex: Male

Age: 25-30 years



Figure 1. George (Nubian Mummy) at the Southern Australian Museum in Adelaide.

Background:

Dr. Archibald Watson who brought the Mummy to Australia indicated that the mummy was that of a priest. The mummification process, including evisceration, dehydration, and embalmment had been carried out.

Bone samples were also taken during this time and sent for radiocarbon dating (George et al., 1999). When testing was completed, the sample came back as being from between 95 BC and 212 AD (Chambers, 2000).

On Sunday, June 20, 1999, George underwent x-ray, CT, and tissue sample examinations to learn more about the structure and composition of the mummy and more about the life of the mummified person (Morphett, 2000). George and Renpit-Nerfert, another mummy from the South Australia Museum, arrived at St. Andrew's Hospital in Adelaide on Friday, June 18 and returned to the museum the morning of the June 21st. During this investigation there was television, print, and radio media companies present (George et al., 1999). Channels 2, 7, 9, and 10 were there for the Nubian mummy George, print media representatives were there from The Advertiser and The Age, and Barry Craig spoke with Lachlan Parker from 5AN radio with various people speaking to other radio stations (George et al., 1999).

Pathological Features:

The mummy lies in the supine position with the arms laid at the side. The hands have been placed on the anterior and lateral aspects of the thighs, with the palms inward and the fingers extended. The legs are also extended and are parallel with the ankles together and the first toes overlapping. Both feet are plantar flexed and are not in the standing position. There is no radio-opaque jewelry, amulets, or metallic structures within the wrappings. The mummy is skeletally mature, and the bony pelvis indicates a male skeleton. Examination of the ribs indicate 2 fractured ribs in childhood that are well healed.

There is some mandibular asymmetry that is unrelated to positioning. There is extensive dental wear and there is one apical tooth fragment that lacks a crown. There is also minor scoliosis. There is also slight retrolisthesis at the start of the lumbar region of the spine which indicates a lifestyle of active of physical exertion. There are no growth arrest lines, thus no indication of major illness during periods of active growth.

The body appears to have been coated in resin prior to being wrapped. The wrappings have also been coated with resin and are relatively dense.

There is a solitary anomalous non-metallic object present within the wrappings. It is possible that the object was used in the packing to assist in obtaining the desired contour.

References

Chambers, D. 2000. Radiocarbon Calibration Report. Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences LTD. Report presented by Dawn Chambers to Barry Craig on February 11, 2000.

George, R., Morphett, T., Hall, J., Hamp, J., Dittman, T., Henneberg, M., Richards, M., Philips, K., O'Donoghue, M., Pardoe, C., & Craig, B. 1999. Results of technical investigations of Egyptian mummies in the collections of the South Australia Museum.

Morphett, T. 2000. Mummy of Renpit-Nefert. Report prepared in January 2000.

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