

S 1897.2/S1897.3

IMPACT ID: IMP00089

Institution: Tasmanian Museum & Art
Gallery

Designation: S 1897.2/S1897.3

Date of Acquisition: Unknown

Contact: Bill Bleathman
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Image Modality:

Country: Egypt

Site: Unknown

Time Period: Unknown

Dynasty: Unknown

Date: 500 BCE – 300 BCE

Sex: Male

Age: Adolescent



Figure 1. Anteroposterior x-ray of S 1897.2's skull by Bloomfield (1985).

Note: See end of document for post-cranial anteroposterior x-rays for S 1897.2.

Background:

The mummy was donated to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery in 1897 by J. Harrold, an English natural history collector (Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, 2013). For many years after its arrival at the museum, the mummy was displayed under the Henry Hunter stairwell (Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, 2013) as a female who had lived around 1500 BCE (Young, 2011). The mummy's cartonnage dates to the Late or Ptolemaic period, approximately 500 to 300 BCE, and has the female name 'Ankhes' inscribed on it as well as a funerary prayer to Osiris (Bloomfield, 1985). While the individual was originally thought to be female based on the cartonnage inscriptions, x-rays and CT scans have shown the mummy to be that of an adolescent male, making it likely that the cartonnage did not originally belong to the mummy (Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, 2013).

Pathological Features:

X-rays of the mummy were taken in 1983 (Bloomfield, 1985) and CT scans were performed in 2011 (Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, 2013). Examination of the x-rays of

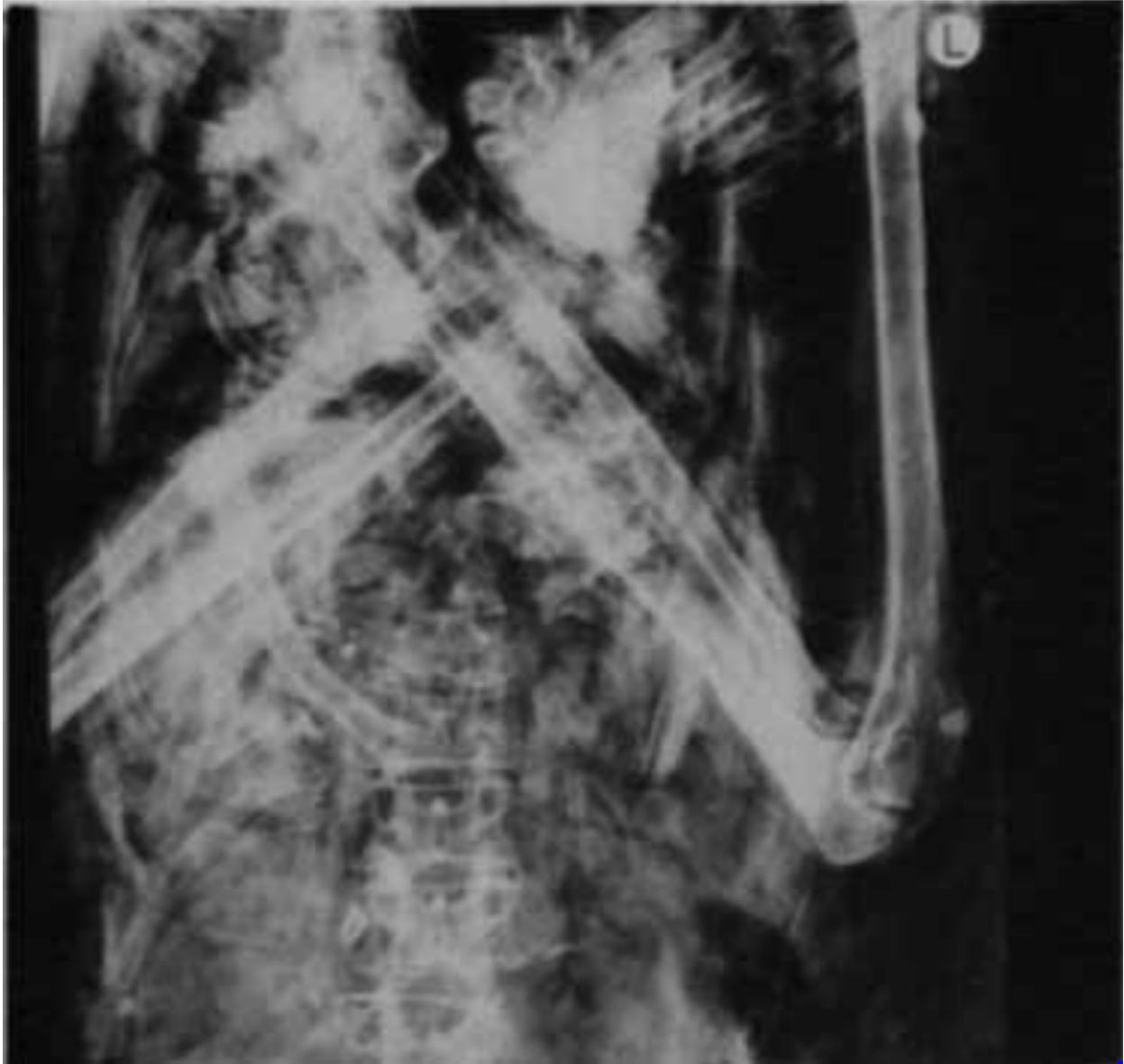
individual's skeleton reveals significant damage, mainly in the thoracic area (Bloomfield, 1985). There is displacement of the mummy's right clavicle as well as malalignment of the vertebrae between the third cervical vertebra and the tenth thoracic vertebra. The displaced clavicle now rests over the upper abdomen on the individual's right side (Bloomfield, 1985). Slight displacement of the fourth and fifth lumbar vertebrae has also been noted, along with the sacrum being anteriorly misaligned with the ilium of the pelvis (Bloomfield, 1985). While no diseased bone has been noted, fracturing of all the ribs has also been observed (Bloomfield, 1985). The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery speculate that the damaged and displaced elements of S 1897.2's skeleton suggests a mummification date for the individual at a later point in Egyptian history, when mummification practices were dwindling (Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, 2013). Bloomfield (1985) argues that the disturbance of the thoracic vertebrae suggests that posterior access to the body cavities was attained in the mummification process and the damage to the ribs and pelvis is likely to be related to tight bandaging. Despite all the visible skeletal damage, the cause of death for the individual is as of yet unknown (Bloomfield, 1985).

Examinations of the individual also show that they retain most of their teeth, which display significant wear and dental disease. However, there are two displaced teeth visible on the x-rays – one is visible within the cranial cavity and the other is visible in the middle of the abdominal cavity (Bloomfield, 1985). Also noted is that the individual's hair has been preserved, that the mummy's arms are in a crossed position over his chest, and that his femoral arteries show significant calcification (Bloomfield, 1985). In terms of artifacts, the mummy is thought to have amulets around his neck and an amulet or a bead within his right eye orbit (Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, 2013). Packing has been added around the individual, with denser packing occurring around the head, neck, inner thighs, ankles, and feet (Bloomfield, 1985). Twenty-two 35 mm metal pins which have been placed in the outer wrappings have also been noted (Bloomfield, 1985). These pins are thought to belong to the 19th century and Bloomfield (1985) suggests that the mummy was rewrapped sometime during this time period. It is possible that some of the observed damage to the mummy occurred at this time (Bloomfield, 1985).

Important to note is that Bloomfield (1985) proposes sex and age estimations which differ from those reported by the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. As for sex estimation, Bloomfield (1985) claimed that he was unable to determine sex for the individual due to the mummy's pelvic misalignment. As for age, he suggested that the individual may have been older than 30 years based on the completely fused coronal suture, but open lambdoid suture (Bloomfield, 1985). Bloomfield (1985) also proposed a height estimate of 175 cm for the individual, although this estimate would have been affected by some technique magnification and slight shortening as a result of damage to the skeleton (Bloomfield, 1985).

Figure 2. Anteroposterior x-rays of S 1897.2's post-cranial skeleton (Bloomfield, 1985).

a) Anteroposterior x-ray of S 1897.2's thorax and upper abdomen.



b) Lateral x-ray of S1897.2's thorax and upper abdomen.



c) Anteroposterior x-ray of S 1897.2's lower abdomen and pelvis.



d) Lateral x-ray of S 1897.2's lower abdomen and pelvis.



e) Anteroposterior x-ray of S1897.2's thighs.



Resources

Bloomfield, J. A. 1985. Radiology of Egyptian Mummy. *Australas Radiology* 29: 64-66.

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. 2013. Egyptian mummy and sarcophagus: c. 500-300 B.C.

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Young, Kane. 2011. CT scan on mummy. *The Mercury*. [Internet].

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