

Tash pen Khonsu

IMPACT ID: IMP00093

Institution: Canterbury Museum

Designation: EA1989.13

Date of Acquisition: June 1888

Contact:

Image Modality: X-ray

(Resource says CT scans were available as well, however, I am unsure if we have the CT scans in IMPACT)

Country: Egypt (Upper Egypt)

Site: Akhmim (Ekhmeen)

Time Period: Ptolemaic Period

Dynasty: Unknown

Date: 150 BCE

Sex: Female

Age: ~25 years



Figure 1. Tash pen Khonsu Mummy at the Canterbury Museum in New Zealand (NZ Museums, 2016)

Background: Mummy of Tash pen Khonsu dates back to about 150 BC. The body is a woman aged about 25 and is placed in a coffin made from a hollowed-out piece of wood (Tash Pen Khonsu Mummy, n.d.). The hieroglyphics on the coffin give the information that Tash pen Khonsu was a noble by birth and married (Tash Pen Khonsu Mummy, n.d.). Her coffin inscriptions indicate that she was a person of some standing, a “lady of the house”. (Dennison, 1999). Tash pen Khonsu, EA1989.13 was originally part of the Hilton Price collection and purchased in London in 1886 (Tash Pen Khonsu Mummy, n.d.). The mummy arrived at the Canterbury Museum in June 1888 (Dennison, 1999).

Pathological Features: Her age at death was determined to be 20-25 by John Dennison (1999), however, Dennison specifies her estimated age to be ~25. All of the teeth of Tash pen Khonsu are present and have little wear, thus, a conclusion was made that her diet was liquid or a semi-liquid mummy (Dennison, 1999). Examination of the knee region indicate early onset hypertrophic osteoarthritis (Dennison, 1999). Furthermore, during her late teens, she may have suffered from periods of illness or malnutrition, leading to lines of arrested growth (Harris Lines)

in the distal end of the tibia (Dennison, 1999). Excerebration was not carried out and the extent of mummification is unknown (Dennison, 1999).

Resources

Dennison, J. (1999) Tash Pen Khonsu: The mummy in the Canterbury Museum. Records of the Canterbury Museum 13: 31-46.

Tash Pen Khonsu Mummy; 363–172 BC; Egypt; EA1989.13 on NZ Museums. (n.d.). NZ Museums. Retrieved May 17, 2021, from

<https://www.nzmuseums.co.nz/collections/3003/objects/62/tash-pen-khonsu-mummy>

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