

CAT. 2. Mummy of a Women

IMPACT ID: IMP00097

Institution: Leiden Museum

Designation: 4

Date of Acquisition: 1828

Contact: Dr. Maarten Raven (r.rave@rmo.ml)

Image Modality: CT scan

Country: Egypt

Site: Thebes

Time Period: Third Intermediate Period

Dynasty: Early 22nd dynasty

Date: 1070-712 BC

Sex: Female

Age: 40-52 years

Background:

CAT. 4. Mummy of a women was purchased by Leiden Museum in 1828 from G. d'Anastasi, associated with the mummy were three painted wooden coffins, four canopic jars, a canopic chest, and a cartonnage (Raven et al., 2005). The canopic jars feature inscriptions written for “the god’s father and beloved of the god, prophet of Amun-the-Great-One-of-Magic..” (Raven et al., 2005; 95). It has been noted by Raven et al., that the current mummy was not the original owner of the coffin. This is due to the fact that the inscriptions of the bandages do not match those that are on the coffin itself. In other words, the coffin was made for a male individual, Raven et al. (2005) suggest that the current mummy was placed within the coffin sometime in the 19th century by art dealers. In terms of decoration, there is manufactured medium-fine linen (Raven et al., 2005) that are arranged in bands that “end in long knotted fringes” with “a hieroglyphic docket in black ink written across the end with a weaver’s mark of

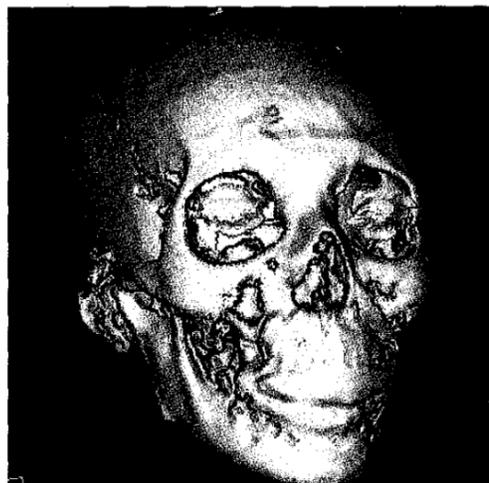


Figure 1.0 Mummy of a Woman skull
(Raven et al., 2005; 96)

five parallel lines forming a triangular pattern above” (Raven et al., 2005; 96). This mummy was of very high quality due to, “the presence of amulets, leather braces, and extra fine linen” (Raven et al. 2005; 99); all of this could mean that the individual was of a higher class.

Pathological Features:

The mummy entitled, Mummy of a Women, is wrapped in what is described as “a shroud of pale grey (probably bleached) linen” (Raven et al., 2005; 96). The state of preservation is considered to be very low given that there is significant damage along the deceased’s sides, back, and to the internal wrappings (Raven et al., 2005). Furthermore, it has been stated that a modern restoration had occurred, which took the appearance of a “rectangular piece of linen stuck on behind the shoulders” (Raven et al., 2005; 96). This restoration work was removed in 2002, the removal of these bandages revealed damage that continued down to the spine (Raven et al., 2005). Within the neck there is a linen plug, which extends into the upper thorax apertura (Raven et al., 2005). Resin has been found within the bandages of the outer layer around the skull, as well as, in the linen layer that is in direct contact with the skin.

The bones within the neck, as well as the thorax have been described as being “disturbed” with the head being completely separated from the rest of the body (Raven et al., 2005). The skulls separation from the body occurred in 1965. The bones of the skull are intact. They are also described as being thick, the spongy cancellous bone found in between the inner and outer layers of cortical bone (the diploë) is well observed (Raven et al., 2005). Furthermore, the sutures are also visible with a special mention of the lambdoidea suture being especially visible (Raven et al., 2005). The right ethmoid is completely damaged, this is due to the brain removal (Raven et al., 2005). A linen plug has been placed within the right ethmoid nostril (Raven et al., 2005). They eye orbits have been filled with artificial eyes, the mouth has been stuffed with dense linen (Raven et al., 2005). Finally, there is mention of the teeth demonstrating a serve level of attrition (Raven et al., 2005).

The spine and its overall alignment have been heavily disrupted, especially the cervical region, the most likely cause being post-mortem trauma (Raven et al., 2005). Through the examination of the thoracic vertebrae, the mummy exhibits signs of having osteopenia (Raven et al., 2005). Within the pelvis, “the iliac wings, the sacro-iliac joints appear to be luxated, and the sacral vertebrae are not well identified” (Raven et al., 2005; 99). These fractures within pelvis, as Raven et al. describe, are likely due to the osteopenia (Raven et al., 2005).

Within the thoracic cage, multiple fractures were observed in the ribs (Raven et al., 2005). The filling of the thoracic as well as the abdominal cavities consists of a variety of materials. The contents vary in their associated densities, implying the presence of mud possibly sand, and/or resin soaked linen (Raven et al., 2005).

The upper arms do not appear to have any structural damage, with tendons remaining in situ (Raven et al., 2005). However, calcification is observed within the arteries of the wrist (Raven et al., 2005). In contrast, the lower limbs feature much more fractures which had occurred during the individual’s life, “there is no evidence that the incidents leading to these fractures occurred at the same time (Raven et al., 2005; 99). These fractures are described as, “a non-consolidated right medial column fracture and a well-consolidated supracondylar fracture on

the same side” (Raven et al., 2005; 99). In addition, the distal ends of the tibia and fibula exhibit Harris lines. Much like the arteries of the wrist, there appears to be calcification of the vessels of the feet as well as “all along the femoral and tibial arterial runs” (Raven et al, 2005; 99). The extensive amount of vascular calcification could mean that this female had diabetes during her life. Finally, osteoarthritis was observed in the hip and knee joints (Raven et al, 2005; 99).

Resources

Raven, M. J., Taconis, W. K., & Maat, G. J. 2005. Egyptian mummies: Radiological Atlas of the Collections in the National Museum of Antiquities at Leiden. Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols.