

## Cat. 14. Mummy of Kek

IMPACT ID: IMP00107

Institution: Leiden University

Designation: 14

Date of Acquisition: 1828

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

Image Modality: CT

Country: Egypt

Site: Thebes

Time Period: Late Period

Dynasty: Late 25<sup>th</sup> Dynasty/early 26<sup>th</sup> dynasty

Date: 700-650 BC

Sex: Female

Age: 21-24

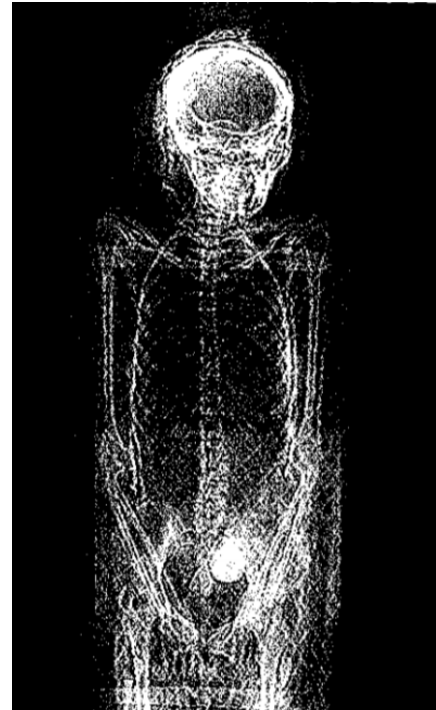


Figure 1.0 Mummy of Kek depicting the bead net and skeletal structure (Raven et al., 2005).

### Background:

Mummy of Kek was purchased by Leiden university in 1828 from G. d'Anastasi (Raven et al., 2005). Associated with the mummy were two coffins, that are both wooden and painted. Inscribed on the coffin was the following, “for the noble mistress of the house of Kek, daughter of the chief butcher of the domain of Amun Namenkhamon and the noble mistress of the house of Istemkheb” (Raven et al, 2005; 134). From this inscription, the researchers were also able to determine that the mummy most likely originated from Thebes based on the connection to the temple of Amun (Raven et al., 2005). The two coffins were dated to the late 25<sup>th</sup> to early 26<sup>th</sup> dynasty, with the associated dates of 700-650 BC (Raven et al., 2005).

### Pathological features:

The mummy Kek has been classified as a female, with an associated age classification of 21-24, and an overall stature of 155.5 +/- 3.66 cm (Raven et al., 2005). The linen covering the mummy has been described as both coarse and reddish in appearance, with observable water stains (specifically on the head and feet) (Raven et al., 2005). On top of the reddish linen is a bead net, which has, "cylinder beads of bright blue and dark blue faience, forming rhombic cells with blue barrel beads at the crossing" (Raven et al., 2005; 134). The authors also described artifacts that are located on top of the bead net, they include a blue frit scarab and four images of the Sons of Horus. The scarab features wings made from black, dark blue and yellow beads, all arranged in a feather pattern. Whereas all four Sons of Horus showcase identical heads, with their bodies made from blues discs, and faces of yellow and pale green beads (Raven et al., 2005). With that being said, no artifacts were found within the wrappings themselves (Raven et al., 2005).

Raven et al. describe how a large amount of resin was used in the mummification process of Kek, this was noted especially around the skull, where observable irregular lumps are described (Raven et al., 2005). In addition, linen plugs have been observed, below the occipital bone, and between the upper and lower legs (Raven et al., 2005). Furthermore, a rectangular roll of linen was placed on the lower abdomen/pelvic region to serve as support for the upper extremities (Raven et al., 2005).

The authors describe the skull as being both intact and demonstrating a normal overall thickness (Raven et al., 2005). Consistent with the author's age classification of 21-24, the coronal, lambdoidal and the metopic suture are all still visible, with some even having partly sharp edges (Raven et al., 2005). The following areas are described as being undisturbed, they include both the ethmoid and nasal region, as well as the foramen magnum. Consistent with this observation, the interior of the skull features dural remains and possibly remains of the cerebrum (Raven et al., 2005). The orbits themselves, and the oropharynx, have both been filled with rolls of linen which have been coated with a layer of resin, the oral cavity has been noted by the authors to be tightly packed (Raven et al., 2005). Finally, the teeth of Kek do not feature severe attrition or periapical lucencies and are confirmed to be that of an adult (Raven et al., 2005).

The vertebral column as a whole appears to have been in relatively good health, with a normal alignment, appropriate bone densities, and proper ratios between the spongy and cortical bones (Raven et al., 2005). That being said, small osteophytes are observed within the thoracic region of the spine. In addition, two fractures are observed in C2 and of the vertebral corpus of the upper lumbar vertebrae (Raven et al., 2005). The lumbar vertebrae appear to be rather dense, but the authors note that this is most likely a result of the mummification process (Raven et al., 2005). In regard to the pelvis, dislocations are noted in the sacroiliac joints as well as within the pubic symphysis (Raven et al., 2005).

Moving onto a discussion of the thoracic and abdominal region, the bones of the thoracic cage all appear to be intact (Raven et al., 2005). Furthermore, excluding the upper region of the thoracic cage which appears to be empty, the remaining cavities are filled with a "homogeneous, moderately dense material" most likely sand or mud (Raven et al., 2005; 137). Resin was applied moderately to the material used to fill the thoracic and abdominal cavities (Raven et al., 2005). The authors note the possible remains of both the heart and great vessels, which have been described as tubular and linear structures (Raven et al., 2005). No other organs were observed within the pelvic cavity (Raven et al., 2005). The incision used for embalmment is not clearly

visible, the authors note that this is probably due to the “skin/resin interface” (Raven et al., 2005).

Finally, no pathological features were observed within either the upper or lower extremities (Raven et al., 2005).

### 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.