

Fleming Mummy

Impact ID: IMP00021

Institution: Robert Hull Fleming Museum

Designation:

Date of Acquisition: 1910

Contact:

Image Modality: CT

Country: Egypt

Dig Site: unknown

Time Period: Late Period

Date: 600-501 BC

Sex: Female

Age: 14 years old



Figure 1. Fleming mummy about to be scanned in by Dr. Jason Johnson (Ring, 2011)

Background:

The Fleming Museum acquired the mummy in 1910 after it was bought at a market in Cairo by George Perkins, the university's first curator of collections (Ring, 2011). Museum officials believe the mummy is originally from the Nile Valley, about 350 miles south of Cairo, where she was sold (Ring, 2011). Since being brought to Burlington, the mummy has been on display at the Fleming Museum and is one of the most popular attractions (Ring, 2011). The mummy was x-ray scanned once in 1937, but the technology was not able to give much detailed information during this time (Ring, 2011).

In the fall of 2009 Dr. Jason Johnson, a radiology resident, first saw the Fleming mummy on display and looked into her background, curious as to why she could have passed so young (Ring, 2011). After realizing she was only scanned once 70 years ago, he got some colleagues together who agreed to help him examine her body using the CT machine (Ring, 2011). In November 2010, the mummy was brought from the museum to be CT scanned using the latest technology at Fletcher Allen Health Care, the teaching hospital at the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vermont (Ring, 2011). At the time, Dr. Jason Johnson just wanted to scan her to learn more about her life and what could have led to her death (Ring, 2011). However, as a result of

the scans he helped develop a protocol for using CT scans to investigate children and infants dying at a young age with abuse as the possible cause (Ring, 2011).

Pathological Features:

From the scans, they were able to find a skull fracture above her right ear, but they were unable to determine if it was the cause of her death or if it occurred post-mortem (Ring, 2011). There is also evidence of a cyst above one of her teeth (Ring, 2011). Strangely, her brain was removed from the base of her skull, rather than her nasal route like most mummies (Ring, 2011).

References

University of Vermont. 2014. The Collection: Ancient. Fleming Museum.
<http://www.uvm.edu/~fleming/index.php?category=collection&page=ancient>

Ring, W. 2011. Hospital's CT scans of Egyptian mummy helps Vermont's Medical Examiner solve crimes. Art Daily. Published April 26, 2011.

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