

Sheryet Mehyet

IMPACT ID: IMP00025

Institution: The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary

Designation: Sheryet Mehyet

Date of Acquisition: 1906

Contact: Adam Winters
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Image Modality: CT, x-ray

Country: Egypt

Site: Cairo

Time Period: Unknown

Dynasty: Unknown

Date: latest 700BCE

Sex: Female

Age: late 50s

Background:

The mummy of Sheryet Mehyet was purchased in Cairo, Egypt in 1896 by Dr. T. T. Eaton, and donated to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary by Mrs. J. Lawrence Smith in 1906 (Mummylist, n.d.). Before arriving at the seminary, the mummy was featured in an article of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's newspaper, *Western Recorded*, detailing the features of her sarcophagus. The mummy was reported as coming from a tomb excavation outside of Thebes, and the genuineness of the sarcophagus was verified by Heinrich Karl Brugsch, an Egyptologist (Stevens, 2016). After arriving at the seminary, Sheryet Mehyet's mummy remained stored in a storage closet for approximately the next 120 years (Stevens, 2016). Hieroglyphs from her sarcophagus identify her as Sheryet-Mehyet, or the "child of the goddess Mehmet", and she is thought to have been a priestess who lived around 700 BC (Stevens, 2016). Sheryet Mehmet's sarcophagus possesses mostly minor damage resulting from its relocations. However, in 1961, the seminary faculty had removed the top section of her sarcophagus and unwrapped the mummy's face before placing her on display (Stevens, 2016). Before she was moved to her current location in the seminary library in 2008, Sheryet Mehyet's face was rewrapped and the portion of her sarcophagus which had been removed was replaced (Stevens, 2016).



Figure 1. Sheryet Mehyet at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary after the top portion of her sarcophagus was removed and her face was unwrapped (Stevens, 2016).

Pathological Features:

Sheryet Mehyet has been recorded as 5 foot, two inches in height (Carter, 1975). There are three different ages given for the mummy's estimated age-at-death. Wade & Nelson (2013) identify the individuals' age-at-death to have been between 35-50 years of age, while Nancy Carter (Carter, 1975) records her age as 40-50, and X-rays and enhanced CT scans taken by Dr. Bill Jackson of Mid-South BMH Radiology indicate an age of 50 plus years (Mummylist, n.d.). Dr. Jackson's x-rays and CT scans also indicated that natural causes were responsible for Sheryet Mehyet's death (Mummylist, n.d.). CT scans of the mummy, examined by Wade & Nelson (2013) reveal that Sheryet Mehyet had been eviscerated through transabdominal evisceration, leaving her heart intact, and excerebrated by transnasal craniotomy.

References

Carter, Nancy. 1975. Sheri's Last Date Was Probably 3 ,000 Years Ago. Feature released by the Baptist Press.

Mummylist. n.d. Mummies in Kentucky. Mummylist [Internet].

Stevens, Ashlie. 2016. Sheryet-Mehyet: Southern Seminary's Skeleton In The Closet. WFLP [Internet]. Available from: <https://wfpl.org/sheryet-mehyet-southern-seminarys-skeleton-closet/>.

Wade, A. D., Nelson, A. J. 2013. Evisceration and Excerebration in the Egyptian Mummification Tradition. *Journal of Archaeological Science*. 40: 4198-4206.

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