

THE ANIMAL MUMMIES FROM PLYMOUTH MUSEUM: A PRELIMINARY STUDY

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As animal mummies are amongst the most common souvenir brought back from Egypt in the Nineteenth and early Twentieth centuries, it is no surprise that they figure in many museum collections, both large and small, in Europe, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Aside from major museum collections, smaller museums tend to only have a few exemplars of this genre of artefact. However, there are a few provincial museums, particularly in Britain, that have a more substantial collection. The Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery is one museum that is so blessed:¹ It contains a total of 18 animal mummies that entered the collection in at least three lots. Below is a basic catalogue of the collection.² Most of the mummies have been radiographed, thanks to Neil Pierce; the images are photographed with permission of Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery. This catalogue provides a basic introduction to the collection.

All of these (with the possible exception of 12.8 of the teaching collection) seem to be votive mummies, that is mummies that were given as offerings to a god so that the offerer's prayers might be granted and that s/he would perpetually be present, via the animal, before the god. Such *ex votos* become common from the start of the Late Period (7th century BC) and persist into the Roman era, at least into the 3rd century AD. The Plymouth mummies probably date to the 1st to 2nd centuries BC to the 2nd Century AD; it is difficult to date and provenance these mummies accurately.

Given the fineness of the container of 12.8, it is conceivable that it was made to house a Sacred Animal, an animal that during its lifetime was revered as a deity as it was believed that part of the spirit of the god animated it, and upon its death the divine soul moved to another animal, recognisable to the priests by its markings. This idea of the migrating divine spark is similar to what is believed of the Dalai and other lamas.³

The animals are probably mummified via desiccation through natron, a mixture of sodium bicarbonate, sodium carbonate, sodium sulphate, and sodium chloride that occurs naturally in the Wadi Natrun in Egypt. Evisceration of the mammals (save for the shrews) was practiced. Additional resins and oils were used after desiccation. It is probable that

¹ I am grateful to the Plymouth Museum curators Rachel Smith and Fiona Pitt for their hospitality, assistance, and generosity.

² A gilded wooden head of a cat, probably from a coffin for an animal mummy, and which is on display in the Museum is not included in this list.

³ For information on the different types of animal mummies and how they were mummified, see Ikram, S. ed. 2005/2015. *Divine Creatures: Animal Mummies from Ancient Egypt*. (Cairo: American University in Cairo) which has an extensive bibliography; Lortet, L. C. and C. Gaillard. 1903-09. *La faune momifiée de l'ancienne Egypte*. (Lyon: Archives du Muséum Histoire Naturelle de Lyon VIII); Ikram, S. and N. Iskander. 2002. *Catalogue Général of the Egyptian Museum: Non-Human Remains*. (Cairo: Supreme Council of Antiquities).

the raptors and maybe even the ibises were dipped in a molten resin and oil mixture before being wrapped in linen bandages.⁴

⁴ See Chapter 2 in see Ikram, S. ed. 2005/2015. *Divine Creatures: Animal Mummies from Ancient Egypt*. (Cairo: American University in Cairo) for details of mummification.



Number 90.20 ie 1920.90

Provenance Unknown, but possibly Abydos

Date Late Period; c. 650 BC-AD 320

Animal Appearance Baby crocodile.

Animal X-ray Not

Dimensions L 27 W 2.5 (head)

Bandage Type None

Photo Yes

X-ray No

Collection history On card, listed as Crocodile Small No wrappings. Mummies Ex Coll. W. L. S. Loat, Feb. 1920

Notes Adorable baby crocodile whose tail has broken off. Some teeth are showing. Eyes totally sunk into sockets. The crocodile has been coated with either resin or pitch, as well, as, probably, some oils. It was presumably desiccated using natron; however, it might have just been put into a sand pit to dry. Tests (SEM) can determine the natron, and Gas Spectrometry can help identify oils and resins or pitch. A few tiny teeth are showing; the crocodile was not more than a few months old at death. It is mummified in the typical position for a crocodile, with its fore and hind limbs extended to lie along the body. The ventral side is fairly thickly covered with the resinous substance so it is impossible to determine if it was eviscerated.



Number 1920.88

Provenance Possibly Abydos

Animal Appearance Ibis bundle; beautiful wrappings

Animal X-ray Ibis.

Dimensions L 35.5 W 10-3 H 7

Bandage Type Very beautiful ibis bundle with elaborately coffered wrapping on the front. The bandage coffer pattern takes the shape of 3 coffers on the front, with 7/8 levels of coffering. The coffers are made up of beige and dark brown bandages that divide the coffers diagonally. The top and bottom sections beyond the coffered portions, give the impression of being tightly pleated and are of two colours, dark brown and lighter brown. This presumably forms a part of the coffering. The coffered pattern was 'woven' onto a cloth that was then affixed onto the mummy bundle. The mummy bundle itself is crudely wrapped in coarsely woven, but soft, linen rags, including one piece with a fringe, that was held in place by some linen thread. The back is plain.

Photo yes

X-ray PM10, 13

Collection history On card, listed as Mummies Ex Coll. W. L. S. Loat, Feb. 1920. 88.20 Ibis In wrappings.

Notes The wrappings are like CG 29703 (coming from Saqqara) and even more like CG 29867, coming from Abydos (excavated by Peet, contemporary with Loat). The mummy smells pleasant. The package does not contain a complete bird; it only has portions of an ibis: the wings (humerus onward, one humerus broken), The radiographs show portions of an ibis: its wings (humerus on) and part of a leg and foot. The remainder consists of feathers and a radio opaque material, possibly resin.



Number 1923.75 (but an older number mentioned on card No. 98: on the mummy is a circular blue label that gives the number and in copperplate is written: Mummy of the Ibis. Ibis Numenius Cuvier.). In 2012 the circular label with N. 98 Mummy of the Ibis. Ibis Numenius Cuvier, was no longer blue. Superimposed in black ink: 75.23. Another small circular paper tag is attached by pink string to the mummy. It bears the number 191 and the text: Mummy of the Ibis followed by 15/. And sf/. Or some other sign, maybe price??? Or sy/. Or 5f/.

Provenance Egypt

Animal Appearance Bandaged, but looks like ibis bundle

Animal X-ray This is an ancient false mummy. It contains a few fragments of bird (?) bone and some feathers, perhaps. The majority of the interior (top) area is filled with mud and perhaps sand or natron.

Dimensions L 37.5 W 4-12 H 7

Bandage Type Typical less attractive ibis mummy wrapping that is spiral. Looks like it might have been 'tidied' in the recent past. The two brown bandages are sewn on. I think this was done by antiquities sellers in Egypt or by their middlemen. Some of the old cloth shows sewing. What is odd is that different qualities of linen were sewn together using whip-stitching. Alternatively, they might be the work of people who created this mummy, although unlikely as no parallels spring to mind. The coarse linen bandages with unturned edges, for the most part, are knotted in the back. Linen thread has been used to

keep the bandages and the whole ensemble together. Some modern string as well. A couple of brown bandages are also used on the front. Presumably this ibis was much better in its original state. There seems to be modern cloth (I could be wrong) sewn on to the bottom part of the bundle.

Photo yes

X-ray PM4 ibis

Collection history Presented by Mr(s) Charles Wood 17.IV.23. It might have been acquired in 1920, but was accessioned in 1923. Aidan Dodson has some information that might indicate that it came into the collection in 1920, but the card with the mummy said otherwise.

Notes The mummy is quite light and flexible. The radiograph shows that the package does not contain a bird mummy, but rather a few bones (probably parts of the feet and a bit of the leg), possibly feathers, and some radio opaque material. The whole bundle is quite light and flexible.



Number AR.1983.717 (label with 1 in red on it. The label is cut from an announcement or invitation card relating to a consulting radiologist of some sort who does house visits, similar to AR 1983.724, AR 1983.721, AR 1983.728, and 1983.719). Now a new label that is duller.

Provenance Unknown

Animal Appearance Large raptor, perhaps an eagle?

Animal X-ray none

Dimensions L 49.5 W 13 H 9 D 12.8-38 cm

Bandage Type Resin or oil darkened bandages that are wound horizontally and spirally around the body and head. There are at least three layers of bandages. Some of the bandages almost go diagonally across the bird. There might have been one large piece of linen that was wrapped around the bird (or at least the body) before it was wrapped in bandages. There is a big cross bandage on its dorsal side, with the tail end wrapped in a series of tight spiral to almost horizontal bandages. There is a final 'X' of the visible bandages, but I think that it would have been hidden by the bandages on top

Photo yes

X-ray none

Collection history all 1983 indicates that the animal mummies were accessioned retroactively.

Notes The mummy can lie on its belly, but it does not look as Sokar-like as the smaller ones. The tail feathers are visible from the end. Quite light. It looks as if the right talon has been pushed back over the back feathers, but if it were x-rayed one could tell for sure, as well as being able to identify its species. It is some form of raptor.



Number AR.1983.719 (label with 10 in red on it. The label is cut from an announcement or invitation card of some sort, similar to AR 1983.724 and AR 1983.721, AR 1983.728)

Provenance Unknown

Animal Appearance Wrapped raptor, dark bandages

Animal X-ray Hawk or raptor. Only ventral view so cannot be too sure.

Dimensions L 26.5 W 6 H 5.8

Bandage Type Coarse and fine bandages wrapped spirally, maybe dipped in resin and oils and possibly natron. Probably more bandages were wrapped around the bird to form a final product, but these have worn away.

Photo yes

X-ray PM5

Collection history all 1983 stuff in the animal mummies was accessioned retroactively.

Notes The bird is wrapped, but from what can be seen through the wrappings, it is clear that it was covered with black “goo” that can only be identified through chemical analyses. Although it can lie on its back, it also balances on its belly, and is reminiscent of representation of Sokar. The femur are bent and exaggerated so that it balances appropriately. The right claw and tail feathers visible through the bandages, although they are obscured by the black substance. Megan Spitzer of the Smithsonian Institution has identified it for a Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco tinnuculus*).



Number AR 1983.721 (label with 9 in red on it. The label is cut from an announcement or invitation card of some sort, similar to AR 1983.724 and 1983.719, 1983.728)

Provenance Unknown

Animal Appearance lumpy and small, probably a raptor.

Animal X-ray Raptor, as is confirmed by radiographs.

Dimensions L 15.8 W 6 H 5 D 17

Bandage Type mainly coarse bandages cover the mummy, although some fine quality bandages that are quite blackened are also visible. On the bird's ventral side, on the left, the bandages have been crudely sewn together. It is unclear if this is an ancient or modern repair. The remainder seem to be sticking to the bird and to each other due to the blackening substance. At least 4 to 5 layers of bandages cover the mummy.

Photo yes

X-ray PM6

Collection history all 1983 animal mummies were accessioned retroactively.

Notes The bird is quite small and is not gracefully wrapped. The head is slightly twisted, which might indicate that it was strangled. It does not have a successful Sokar pose.

Some of the other feathers, especially in the tail, poke through the meagre wrappings, as does part of its right talon. The radiograph shows that the legs are not extended down, as is normal in the case with the majority of raptor mummies. The wings are folded awkwardly so that one of them tucks up at the head. It is probably a Merlin (*Falco* cf. *columbarius*), although a Eurasian Kestrel is also a possible identification, according to both the author and Megar Spitzer of the Smithsonian Institution.



Number AR.1983.722 (7 in white ink on it)

Provenance unknown

Animal Appearance Probably raptor mummy, stretched out.

Animal X-ray None

Dimensions L 24 W 5.1 H 5.3

Bandage Type Spirally wrapped bandages that are mainly of fine quality linen, although one or two appear to be of looser weave and coarser thread. Much finer linen close to the body, and coarser and more loosely woven linen further away. Most bandages are dark due to mummification materials, such as oils.

Photo yes

X-ray None

Collection history all 1983 stuff in the animal mummies was accessioned retroactively. This might be part of a lot with similar numbers in white, acquired by auction.

Notes Looks like a genuine mummy of a raptor. A thin mummy with the head slightly to the left and the beak raised up high. Can see one or two claws peeking out of the wrappings at the bottom, and also a tiny bit of the beak that is otherwise covered. It would have been mummified in the more usual way for these creatures and positioned lengthways with the wings kept close to the body. It is quite black-brown and must have been oiled/resined on the body. Smells very mummyish.



Number AR.1983.723 (5 in white ink on it on right breast).

Provenance unknown

Animal Appearance Seated hawk, like the

Animal X-ray PM8 Hawk or raptor of some sort.

Dimensions L 20 W 6 H 7 D 20.7

Bandage Type Not very thick layers of relatively coarse and loosely woven linen bandage is crisscrossed over the bird. *Some coarser weave bandage is visible at what I think of as the foot end—the bit where one would grasp the drumstick.*

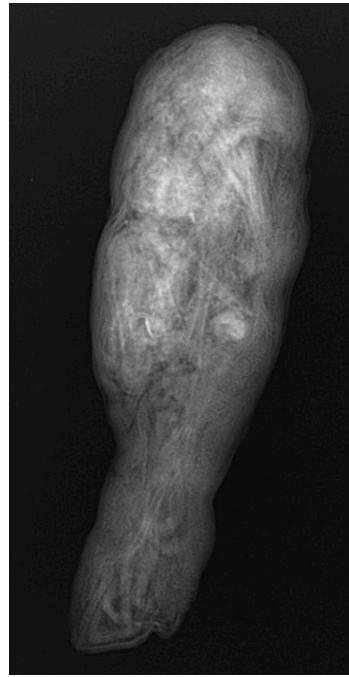
Photo yes

X-ray PM8

Collection history all 1983 stuff in the animal mummies was accessioned retroactively.

The white number painted on it connects it to the other mummies that have white numbers painted on them; perhaps they are part of a lot sold at auction.

Notes The hawk is mummified as if it were seated, but the legs have been pushed back so that they rest under the tail: the femurs are pushed forward and the humerus is forced so that the radius and ulna make a dramatic bend. It resembles a Sokar figure or an Early Dynastic Horus totem. The top of the bird's head is visible through a break in the bandages, as is its left wing. This is glossy, with and a bit of dark oil or resin or mixture thereof on it. The legs are pushed down and the talons are tangled with the tail feathers. There is little linen in the wrappings—possibly a more complex shroud has broken off. Femurs look as if they are pushed forward. Megan Spitzer of the Smithsonian Institution, who kindly examined the radiograph, has identified it as a Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco tinnuculus*).



Number AR.1983.724 (also a label with 6 in red on it. Label is cut from an announcement of some sort and reused like 83.719)

Provenance Unknown

Animal Appearance Bird bundle (drumstick)

Animal X-ray Imaged, incomplete mummy

Dimensions L 17 W 5-3 H 6 D 17

Bandage Type Spirally wrapped bandages of different quality, some finer than the others.

Photo yes

X-ray PM12

Collection history all animal mummies were accessioned retroactively in 1983

Notes The package is small and unusual in shape, resembling a drumstick. It is an incomplete raptor mummy, consisting of portions of the bird, together with feathers and some mud or sand. The portions visible in the radiograph are the beak, at least one pair of feet from a mature bird, tarsometatarsi possibly of immature birds, unidentifiable broken long bones from mature birds, possibly some feathers as well as maybe a gizzard.

Feathers might also make up this small package. The beak is broken, so one cannot see if there is a tomial tooth or not, and thus it cannot be identified even to family, although the size suggests a kestrel.



Number AR.1983.726

Provenance unknown

Animal Appearance Raptor, small, head to the right.

Animal X-ray hawk/raptor.

Dimensions L 19.5 W 5.5-1.5 H 5.5 D 18

Bandage Type Very few layers, maybe just 2 or maybe 3 (*3 probable*), dark gooey bandages of coarse weave and thick thread. They are in spirals.

Photo yes

X-ray PM11, 14

Collection history all 1983 numbers indicate that the animal mummies were accessioned retroactively.

Notes Head turned to the right side and the beak (tip broken off) is visible through the wrappings, as are parts of the tail feathers where the bandages have broken or flaked off. Interestingly, when placed on its ventral side, it looks a bit like a Sokar raptor, but not as much as other examples in the collection. The legs are disarticulated and portions of these might be missing. This might be due to an attempt on the part of the embalmers to make the 'shoulders' hunched in the Sokar pose. Megan Spitzer of the Smithsonian Institution has identified it for a Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco tinnuculus*).



Number AR.83.727

Provenance Unknown

Animal Appearance Wrapped raptor with its talons down at the tail end, portions visible as bandaging missing.

Animal X-ray Yes. Excellent image, although only ventral.

Dimensions L 19.5 W 6 H 5.4

Bandage Type Spirally bound loosely woven linen bandages that are dark due to black goo. They are kept in place, no doubt, due to the goo.

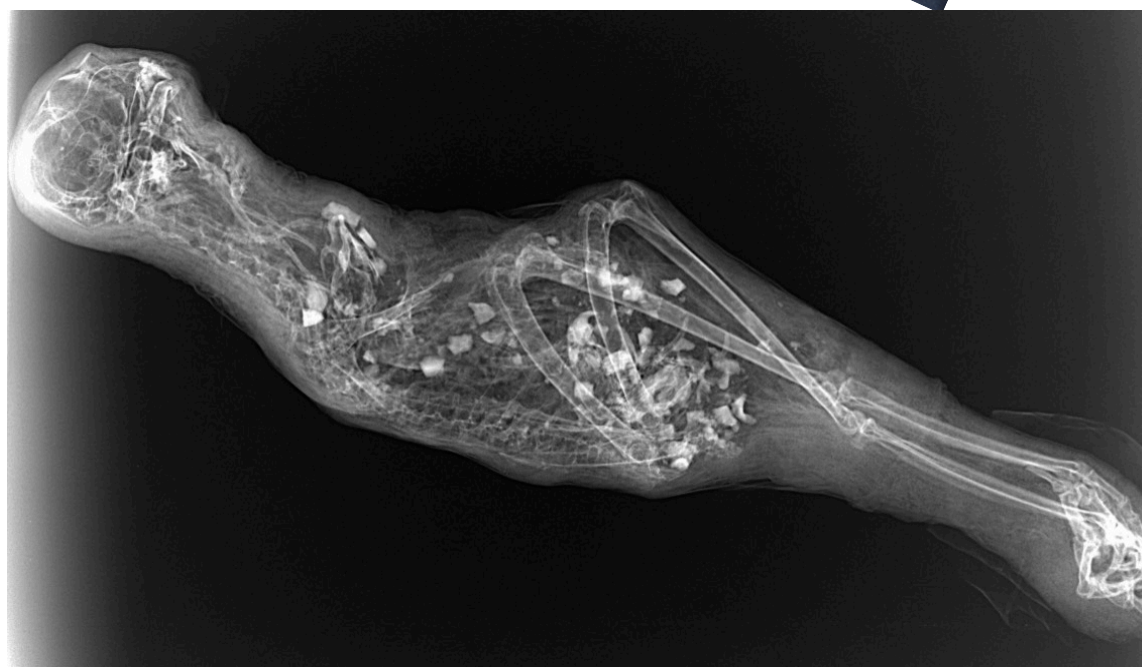
Photo yes

X-ray PM15

Collection history all 1983 stuff in the animal mummies was accessioned retroactively.

Notes The bird's beak is visible through the wrappings. Its feathers, some of which are also visible, are coated with black gooey substance. As the lower half of the bird is unwrapped, quite a lot of its body is visible. Only about 4-6 layers of bandaging survive. The feathers slightly darkened by resinous material. The bird is nicely articulated with its wings neatly folded at its side and its legs extended. It was eviscerated, and the neck is broken. This could be post mortem, although it is quite feasible that it is ante mortem,

and the cause of death. Megan Spitzer of the Smithsonian Institution has identified it for a Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco tinnuculus*).



Number AR.1983.728 (label with 2 in red on it. The label is cut from an announcement or invitation card relating to a consulting radiologist of some sort who does house visits, similar to AR 1983.724, AR 1983.721 and 1983.719)

Provenance Unknown.

Animal Appearance Large wrapped bird that looks ungainly and slightly twisted.

Animal X-ray Raptor, twisted.

Dimensions L 40 W 11.5 H 9.5 D 28.6

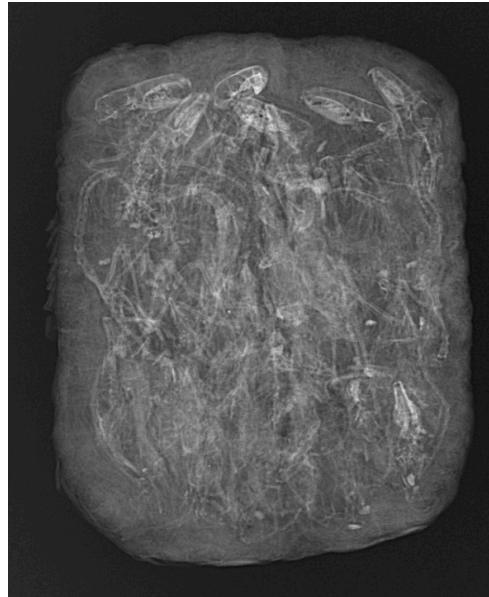
Bandage Type Spirally bound, of tightly woven linen. At least three layers, though probably more. Underneath the tight linen that is fairly uniform on the top one area show some looser and thicker weave. On one side the bandages seem to form an X, and originally there were more bandages covering the bird.

Photo yes

X-ray PM7

Collection history all 1983 stuff in the animal mummies was accessioned retroactively.

Notes The bird is big and better wrapped than some of the 'Sokar' types. It is twisted and does not rest easy. The wings are missing, as they seem to be broken off. The leg bones are all present and bent dramatically, which is what gives the mummy its twisted shape. The feet and talons are in place. There is some radio opaque substance scattered in the 'torso' area of the mummy. Megan Spitzer of the Smithsonian institution has identified it as a harrier (*Circus* sp.); it could be any one of the harriers that occur in Egypt (they're all about the size of the mummy). A small mammal skull is visible in the chest, the mandible in the belly area, and a limb outstretched in the throat and the paw in the mouth. The mammal is probably a shrew (*Crocodura* sp.). The shrew was a nocturnal manifestation of the sun god, complementing the diurnal raptor (Ikram 2005b). Other combinations of shrews and raptors have been found at Saqqara (P. Nicholson, pers. comm.).



Number 1920.89

Provenance Unknown, but possibly Abydos or, less likely, Saqqara

Date c. 300 BC-AD 250

Animal Appearance A rectangular wrapped package.

Animal X-ray Packet of Shrews. At least 8 skulls in this. Many of the shrews are disarticulated, but most body parts are in the bundle.

Dimensions L 15.5 W 11.5 H 6

Bandage Type The outermost bandages are flaking off. The top would have been decorated with a final outer shroud consisting of a large coffer, or possibly smaller coffers made up of criss-crossed linen strips that were folded over and strengthened by dipping them possibly in a natron solution, as well as with oils and resins. Beneath the outer covering, the rest of the package is made of strips of relatively coarse linen, and linen thread that has been wrapped around the bandages to ensure that they are kept in place.

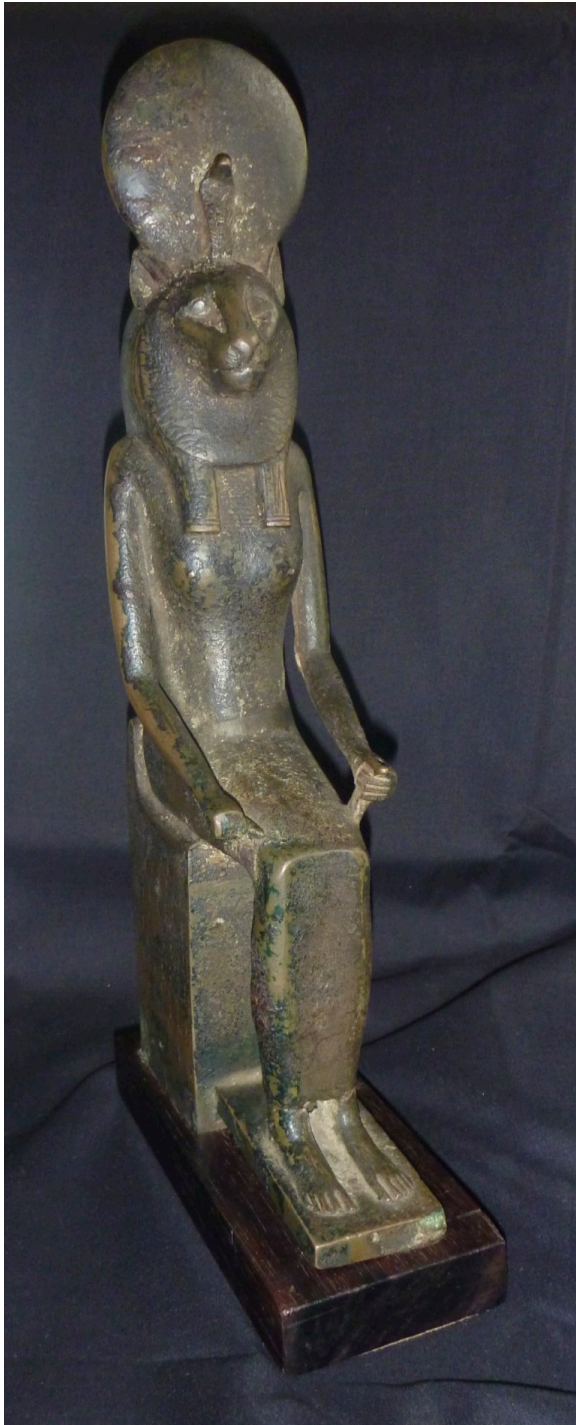
Photo Yes

X-ray Yes PM2.

Collection history On card listed as "Mummies Ex Coll. W. L. S. Loat, Feb. 1920. 89.20 Packet of Shrew mice. In wrappings."

Notes This looks like a typical shrew bundle of the rectangular type. It contains at least 8 *Crocidura olivieri*, based on skull and skeleton size and morphology: four of the eight shrew skulls measured about 27.1, 28.2, 29.4, 28.9 mm.⁵ It is very similar to the more complete CG 29889 that was excavated by the Egypt Exploration Fund at Abydos, a site where Loat worked.

⁵ I am indebted to Neal Woodman of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History for his help in identifying the species.



Number: None visible. 12.8 of the teaching collection.

Provenance: Currently in the teaching section.

Date: Late Period?

Appearance: Seated bronze statuette of leonine headed goddess, containing a mummy bundle that might be roughly rectangular within the seat portion.

Animal X-ray Not, but should be

Dimensions H 35.8 W 11.4 H of throne, only seat 10.7. Total throne H 12.2. Lap from back of buttocks to knees: 10.5

Bandage Type Strong smell. Resins. Linen of different qualities.

Photo Yes

X-ray No, but should be done

Collection History None known

Description A bronze seated goddess with a leonine face, wearing a tripartite wig whose lappets fall above her breasts and between which are horizontal bands indicating a broad collar. She is crowned by a sun disk fronted by a rearing cobra. The disk fits neatly between her erect ears. Her proper left hand is clenched and rests on its side; it is attached to her dress by a strut. There is a hole through the fist which no doubt held some object such as a lotus or a sceptre, possibly in another material. The thumb is well articulated. The right proper hand is also clenched and is palm down, with the crudely constructed thumb being attached to her lap. The feet rest flat on a base. The goddess wears a tunic, clearly defined from the waist down; the upper portions of this are unclear, and her nipples are in relief. The details of the uraeus, the lioness' facial features, ruff, wig, and broad collar are incised. The figure has a back pillar that segues into the seat and evokes a *djed* pillar. No inscription is visible. The seat back is adorned with an incised image of a falcon, evoking Re (or Horus) with outspread wings, crowned by a sun disk, clutching crudely formed *shen* signs in his talons, and flanked by a pair of in-facing *shu* or *maat* feathers. The bird hovers above a *neb* sign. Below, the seat is slightly recessed and adorned with an incised image of a plant, most likely papyrus, which emerges from a small mound. The plant has a bulbous central stalk topped by a papyrus umbel, with five offshoots emanating from the right, and four from the left side. The whole is framed by a fine border that consists of groups of four incised horizontal lines (4 mm) alternating with blank spaces (7-9 mm). The sides of the throne are decorated with incised feather (*rishi*) or scale patterns, and the front is blank. There are faint vestiges of white plaster-like material on the face and body of the goddess and the area of the eye sockets shows indication of gilding. It is possible that the whole, or at least the head and sun disk were originally gilded. There are also traces of a black, oily resinous substance being poured over the whole statue; some of this has been cleaned off. Linen was wrapped around the goddess after she had been anointed, fragments of which are still visible. The left proper side of the seat has been smashed open at the top and through the opening one can see the remains of a mummy bundle. The force required to access this space also damaged the buttocks of the goddess, and indeed, the left side shows marks of violence. The package itself smells mummy-like and the upper right section is more stained than the part that is immediately visible through the break. The base was open, but sealed with paper. A portion of an unfused mammal bone is sticking out, suggesting that the statue contained a kitten or mongoose.



Number Pease Loan A212 (in white ink/paint 12a or 120). On card it says (on display; Sept. '83).

Provenance Unknown. Maybe associated with other white numbered mummies.

Animal Appearance tiny wrapped cat

Animal X-ray kitten

Dimensions L 16.5 W 4.5 H 7

Bandage Type This tiny object is wrapped to look like a cat. Some thread is also used to help keep the bits together and give the mummy shape. There is sewing on the ventral side of the body.

Photo yes

X-ray PM16

Collection history Mr. Thomas Pease collected Egyptian material and his son Ormston Pease gave it to the Museum. Pease is responsible for the 25th Dynasty coffin that is part of the collection and that has been studied by Aidan Dodson. Maybe associated with other white numbered mummies.

Notes A small kitten, wrapped as though it were standing. The head is very nicely modelled, with linen bandages so the ears and snout and nose that are well defined, there is some string on the face and ears that served to keep the 'sculptured' bandages in place. The legs and tail are separately wrapped so it looks a bit like the cats found at the Bubasteion in Saqqara. The bandages go around the body spirally, then thread is wrapped around the limbs, then more spiral bandages, and then at the rear end it is sewn up. It might have had additional details painted on it on the most external layer of bandages. It barely smells of resin. The kitten was only a few weeks old when it died—it is possible that it was strangled as the vertebrae are in disarray, although it is also possible that their misalignment occurred post-mortem.



Number AR.83.718 (a small white octagonal label is stuck onto the mummy. On it, in very faded ink, is written 184) or AR1983.718 and also in blue ink, along the spine 12. The blue binder says that the paper says '194' but Aidan Dodson and I both agree that it is 184.

Provenance Unknown

Animal Appearance Canid/felid mummy, totally wrapped.

Animal X-ray A juvenile animal, probably a puppy.

Dimensions L 43 (excluding ears) W 10.5 H 12 (tip of nose to back of head)
D 26.8 cm

Bandage Type mummified to look like a dog with erect ears. The ears have somewhat lost their shape and erectness, but the snout is very pronounced. Lots of resinous dark material on the head and snout area. The uppermost bandages of the head have been lost. The lower bandages, linen thread and goo are all in place. The body of the animal is, on the outermos layer, spirally wrapped and knotted into place on the back. These bandages are beige and reddish. Below these tightly woven bandages is a thicker coarser weave of bandage that was kept in place, perhaps with some resin; lots of linen thread is visible. Under the coarse weave lies what looks to be a wrapping made of young papyrus plants or reeds of some sort. It is possible that the body was wrapped in linen, then papyrus,

then linen and was rewrapped, either prior to being sold as an antiquity, or as part of some sort of conservation process. Bits of sand are falling out from the package.

Photo yes

X-ray PM3

Collection history all 1983 stuff in the animal mummies was accessioned retroactively.

Notes The package leaks sand from the bottom, and the radiograph shows that a quantity of that material was used to give the package some bulk as it is of a juvenile dog (the skull and mandible are more dog than cat-like). From the radiograph it is clear that the body of the animal is disarticulated, and no bones are fused. There is an opaque substance in the body of the creature, and lots of sand and grit in the bottom. At least 8 layers of wrapping can be seen on the radiograph. The teeth are just beginning to emerge, so it is very young—less than 4 weeks of age.



Number AR.83.725 (8 in white paint on the mummy's back. It is very faint)

Provenance Unknown (Possibly Stabl Antar, based on parallels?). It is with the white numbered group.

Animal Appearance Typical wrapped cat (body in column with head on top)

Animal X-ray PM17 Probably a cat, but it is not totally easy to judge as the skull is moved about.

Dimensions L 24 W 6 H N/A D 16

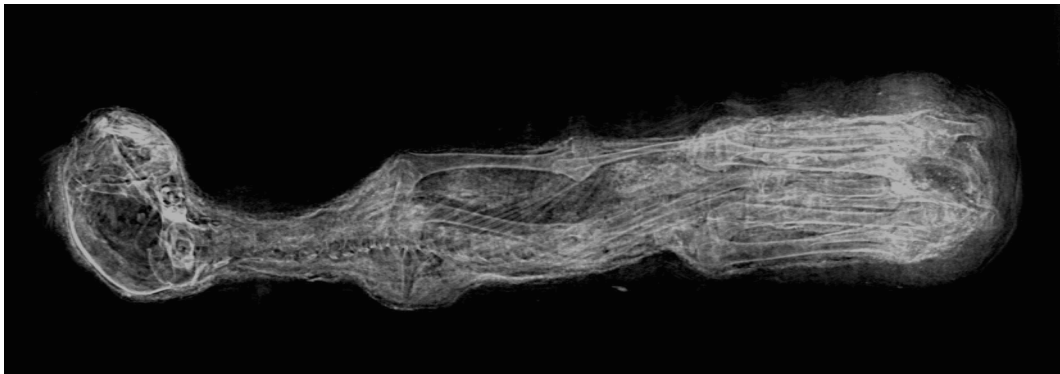
Bandage Type Light and dark brown wrappings are wound spirally around the body. The head is covered with a separate cloth that is painted in black and red with the features of the cat. It would have had erect ears that are now gone. The area around the ear-base is brown. The ears would have been made with stiffened linen. Beneath the face the cat is wrapped in several layers of darker (probably darkened by oils and unguents) material which are kept, at least on the head, in place by linen thread and reinforced with dark material. Resin spots visible on the mummy where it has leaked through the bandages or was used to keep the wrappings in place. This is particularly true on the left proper side of its face where it probably rested. This obscures some of the painted details. It is possible that some of the spiral bandaging around the body has been restored. The bottom of the mummy is not wrapped in the same sorts of bandages that make up the exterior wrappings. This area shows the under-bandaging and consists of linen loosely woven of threads differing thicknesses.

Photo yes

X-ray PM17

Collection history all 1983 the animal mummies were accessioned retroactively. It belongs with the other white numbered mummies that might have been acquired at auction.

Notes It is reminiscent of the big mummy that is in Cairo, CG 29660 that comes from Stabel Antar and might be of the Roman period. The x-rays seem to indicate that the neck might have been broken, but the occipital area of the skull is also a bit damaged. It is hard to tell if these disturbances to the skeleton are ante- or post-mortem. One paw is higher than the other. The cat is in the usual pose with the 'begging' position and the tail pulled up on the ventral side.



Number 1923.74 (A rectangular paper label is sewn onto the mummy. It reads: Mummied [sic] Cat. In Egypt the cat was sacred to Pasht—the cat-headed goddess. Mummies are found in great number in Egypt, especially at Thebes. The legs are bound up with the body and the head alone left the real shape).

Provenance Probably Thebes or Stabl Antar

Date Roman Period (or more likely, earlier)?? 1st cen. BC-3rd cen AD

Animal Appearance Mummified Cat

Animal X-ray PM18, 19 Cat **Dimensions** L 32 W 8.5 H N/A

Bandage Type The cat once had a fronting of nicely patterned bandages that have neatly been cut away or un-sewn. The head is carefully wrapped and the face is modelled with appliqués eyes and separately added ears. A few strands of thin papyrus strips are visible going around the face (around in a vertical way). The body was ‘fleshed out’ using bandages and thread. The cloth is of different qualities, but mainly solidly woven. Ears are nicely modelled in linen. Eyes might have been enhanced in darkness with resin, but not clear. Nose and muzzle all modelled. The neck is reinforced by extra bandaging. The bottom and back of the cat’s bandages are of a thick closely woven linen that is plain and used to hold the decorated linen in place. This is, in part, stitched into place as well as stuck down with resin (black and brown “goo”). The bandaging below is of linen of

diverse qualities, some dense, some very loose, and some fine. These bandages seem to be kept in place with linen thread.

Photo yes

X-ray PM18, 19

Collection history Presented by Mr(s) Charles Wood. 17.IV.23. On card it says Mrs. It might have been acquired in 1920, but was accessioned in 1923. Aidan Dodson has some information that indicates that it came into the collection in 1920, but the card with the mummy said otherwise.

Notes A bit like CG 29645 that comes from Stabel Antar, except that that cat does not have any appliquéés or a covering of finely woven stuff. This one was deliberately 'bibbed' with elaborate bandages. The radiograph shows a young cat with its long bones fused, but with the fusion lines visible. It is positioned in the typical pose with the forelimbs hanging down and the hind limbs flexed in a 'begging' or squatting position. The tail appears to have been brought around the ventral side. There is some disturbance in the neck region that might be indicative of strangulation, or might well be a result of post-mortem damage.