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The UQAM Mummy – The Use of Non-Destructive Imaging to Reconstruct an Ancient Osteobiography and to Document Modern Malfeasance

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The limbs were wrapped individually. Packing was inserted around the arms and positioning of packing material in the abdominal cavity suggests that the transnasal craniotomies carried out by a school in Thebes. This hypothesis is opposed by a school of embalming in Memphis (see the coffin section), as opposed to excerebration technique and only a handful of likely examples have been reported. Transforaminal craniotomy, is not a well-documented or well-understood technique using wooden pegs can be seen. The peg is a denser wood than the surface of the coffin appears to have been treated with a thin layer of conservators at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Damage to the Mummy Scans revealed that the neck and thorax of the mummy were extensively damaged in the protester’s attack. The entire spine was affected, and only a few bones to be out of position in Egyptian mummies (Gardiner et al. 2004), but this degree of damage is exceptional. It would appear that when the mummy was pushed to the ground the head and shoulders hit first. The shock separated the head from the neck and dislodged the contents of the thoracic cavity. The thoracic contents were contained within the shell of the skin and wrappings and settled inferiorly and posteriorly when the mummy was raised back up shoulders first and placed in a supine position. The arms, hands pelvis and legs were held in position, as they were individually wrapped. Unfortunately, we do not know when in her afterlife, Hetep lost her feet.

Ongoing Research
This work is part of an ongoing research program looking into the use of non-destructive imaging techniques in mummy studies. This interdisciplinary effort brings together a large team of scholars from many different institutions, focusing their individual expertise to the common goal of maximizing the recovery of information from these invaluable time capsules. Specific research projects include:

1) the establishment of an internet based collaborative database of radiological studies of mummies;
2) the empirical study of patterns of mummification practices through time;
3) the development of post-processing techniques (dual energy) to aid in image segmentation;
4) the use of post-processing techniques (dual energy and texture analysis) to identify specific materials placed within mummies.

Please see handout for acknowledgements and literature cited.