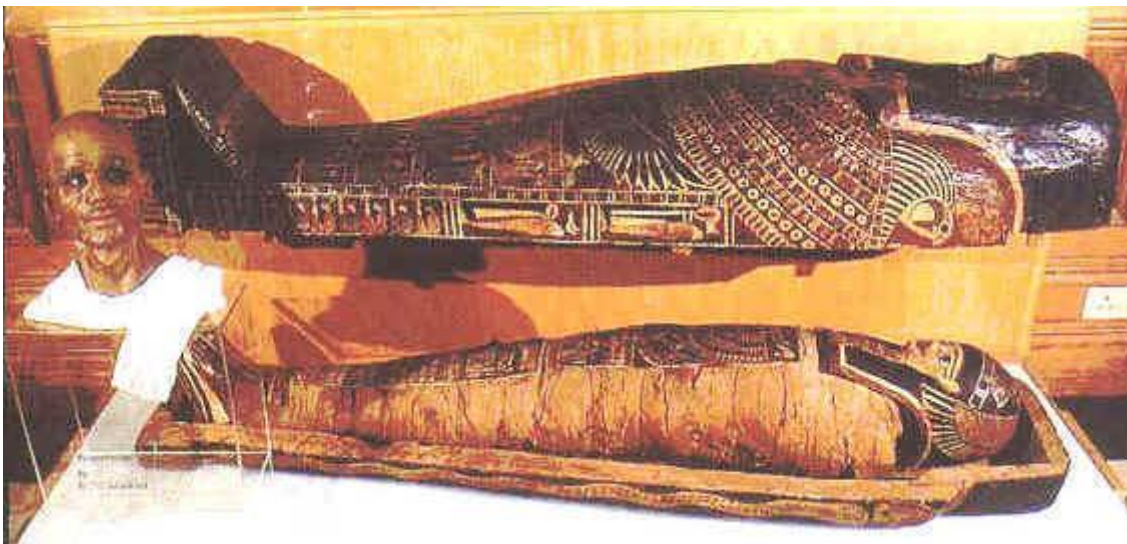


DURBAN NATURAL SCIENCE MUSEUM

<http://users.iafrica.com/g/gr/grenvill/mummies.htm>

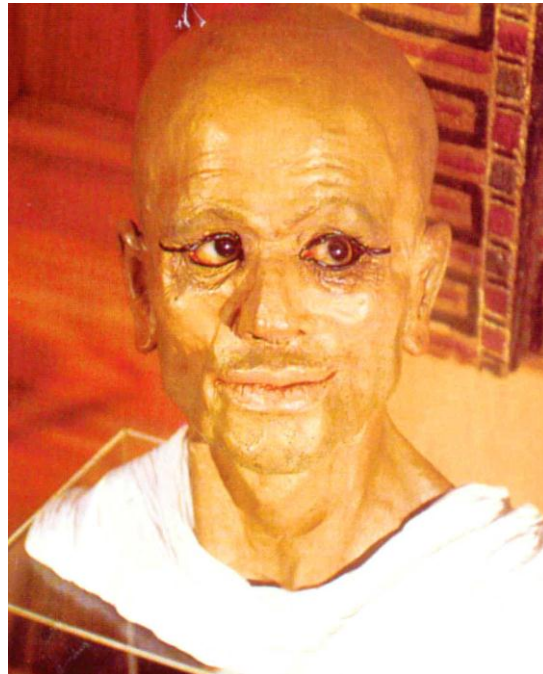
In this popular and well-attended museum is a wooden anthropoid coffin with a lid, containing a mummy with cartonnage elements, reputedly from Akhmim, Upper Egypt, of early Ptolemaic date (c. 300 BCE). The coffin and cartonnage elements indicate that they were mass-produced items of the type held in coffin-maker's workshops. The mummy is that of a minor priest named Peten-Amun (*Ptn-'Imn*), thought to have died aged about 60 years. The mummy was acquired by the Durban Museum between 1889 and 1910.

It is thought a British army officer, Major William Joseph Myers, brought the mummy from Egypt when he came to South Africa at the end of the 19th century, having served in Egypt for 5 years. Myers was killed on October 30, 1899, aged 41, by an enemy sniper during the siege of Ladysmith in the Anglo-Boer War. Myers amassed the finest 19th century private collection of ancient Egyptian antiquities which he bequeathed to his old school, Britain's famous Eton College. The collection, comprising 2,000 objects dating from 5,500 BCE to around 350 CE, is going on public exhibition for the first time in Britain and was exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York from September 2000 to January 2001.



In November, 1984, the mummy was X-rayed, revealing that the top half of the mummy was almost complete though there were a few molar and pre-molar teeth missing. A minor fracture of one rib was evident though this had healed during the man's lifetime. The density of the bone in the lower vertebral column suggested

some arthritis. A mystery surrounds several missing bones: femur and tibia (left leg), patellae (left and right legs), and feet (left and right). All these bones were replaced by false structures, possibly made of wood and linen stuffing, within the wrappings. The X-rays show that the shoulders have been compressed by the linen wrapping. Rapid decomposition prior to embalming can explain the disordered state of some Ptolemaic mummies, which seem to have disintegrated partly before mummification. As a result, parts of bodies were lost. (Spencer, A.J. (1982) *Death in ancient Egypt*, Penguin, p 125)



A reconstruction of the head of Peten-Amun, was completed in 1990 by Dr. Bill Aulsebrook who holds a Ph.D. in Forensic Facial Reconstruction. A Computerized Axial Tomography (CAT) scan was taken at the King Edward VIII Hospital in Durban and plastic templates were made from the individual sectional images. The templates were then assembled to form a three-dimensional construction of the skull. Using this reconstructed skull, Dr. Aulsebrook was able to build up the facial musculature features. The bust is displayed alongside the coffin and mummy.

The mummified body is approximately 150 centimetres in length and the coffin itself about 175 centimetres long and 4 centimetres thick.

Source:

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