

The Barnum Museum's 4,000 year old Mummy takes a day trip to Quinnipiac University's North Haven campus for X-rays

Kathy Maher executive director and curator of the Barnum Museum announced today that on Thursday, January 14 one of the most unusual and valuable pieces of the museum's collection will be on the road again. The Mummy Pa-Ib (pronounced pie eeb) was last X-rayed in October of 2006 at a clinical radiology facility using an 8-slice scanner and that investigation yielded a wealth of valuable information. To learn even more about Pa-Ib, the mummy will be X-rayed once again but this time using a Toshiba 64-slice scanner located at [Quinnipiac University's](#) North Haven campus.

The raw data from the first investigation has been erased to provide file space for living patient data.

The initial research was done by Ronald Beckett, professor emeritus and Gerald Conlogue (Jerry), professor of diagnostic imaging in the School of Health Sciences at Quinnipiac through the auspices of the [Bioanthropology Research Institute](#). This week they are conducting the re-scanning as part of the continuing research on the Barnum mummy.

[Parente-Lauro Funeral Home](#) in Bridgeport and the Bridgeport Police Department are kindly providing the coffin and vehicle for safe and sensitive carriage from Bridgeport to the North Haven campus of Quinnipiac University for these examinations.

The initial 2006 study suggested the 4,000 year old female mummy was between 30-40 years old at the time of her death.

The pelvis also indicated evidence of a possible birth. At the time, the presence of a bird mummy inside Pa-Ib was also suggested by **Dr. Ruben Kier** of Advanced Radiology Consultants in Fairfield. Scholars, including Dr. Lorelei Corcoran, a faculty member and director of the [Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology at the University of Memphis](#), are particularly interested in the possibility that the mummy Pa-Ib holds a mummified bird. Any new information uncovered will be used by Dr. Corcoran and Marie Svoboda, senior conservator of antiques at the [J. Paul Getty Museum](#) in Malibu CA for inclusion in a monograph, *Herakleides: A Red Shroud Portrait Mummy from Roman Egypt*, that will be published by the J. Paul Getty Press.

With the increased resolution of the Toshiba X-ray scanner at Quinnipiac, the following specific questions will be addressed:

1. Does one of the bundles associated with the internal abdomino-pelvic cavity of the mummy Pa-Ib contain a bird mummy?
2. If the bundle does not contain a bird mummy, what is held within the bundle?

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3. What additional information can be learned about the life and mummification of Pa-Ib from the higher resolution scans?
4. Have there been any changes in the mummy since the last study?

Present at the 11 a.m. press conference on Thursday, January 14 in NH1-210 will be: **Edward R. O'Connor**, Ph.D., professor and dean of the school of health sciences at Quinnipiac University, **Kathy Maher**, executive director and curator of the Barnum Museum, who will explain the relationship between the **Barnum Museum** and the **Bioanthropology Research Institute at Quinnipiac**, **Ronald Beckett**, professor emeritus, and **Gerald Conlogue**, professor of diagnostic imaging in the School of Health Sciences. Ron and Jerry will discuss what they plan to do to Pa-Ib and introduce **Nicholas F. Bellatoni**, state archaeologist, **Scott Wilson**, Toshiba's zone business manager for Connecticut, who will be available to answer technical questions about the Toshiba equipment, and **Larry LaDuke**, the territory manager for Konica Minolta Medical Imaging USA.

In addition to the assembled experts, nine high school students from Trumbull's Regional AgriScience and Biotechnology Center have been invited to observe the research process.

What: **The 4,000 year old Egyptian Mummy Pa-Ib to take a day trip from The Barnum Museum in Bridgeport to the North Haven campus of Quinnipiac University**

When: **Thursday, January 14, 10:30 a.m* to 1 p.m. – Press Conference at 11 a.m.**

*Preparation for transportation from the Barnum Museum will begin by 8 a.m.

Where: **Quinnipiac University, School of Health Sciences, 370 Bassett Road, North Haven, CT**

For press access call Barnum Publicist Kay Page Greaser at 860-543-9096 or John Morgan in Communications at Quinnipiac at 203-582-5359 or cell 203-206-4449.

Who: Invited Students, researchers and Media are welcome, but working credentials will be issued. General Public will not be allowed to observe or participate in this delicate process.

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Celebrating the 200th birthday of Phineas Taylor Barnum, born July 5, 1810 in Bethel CT, during 2010 The Barnum Museum will chronicle the life and times of this extraordinary showman and the history of Bridgeport where Barnum served as Mayor. For a complete listing of anniversary year events celebrating this amazing – and sometimes outrageous – showman, civic leader and politician, visit www.barnum-museum.org. The original museum building, owned by the City of Bridgeport is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Quinnipiac University's 104-acre North Haven Campus, which opened in August of 2009, is home to all of the School of Health Sciences programs, including physician assistant, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, diagnostic imaging and radiologist assistant programs. In addition, MBA students from the School of Business and master of arts in teaching students from the School of Education also take classes in the four-story facility. The 180,000-square-foot building, which is wireless, features 12 classrooms, 16 seminar and team study rooms, and 24 teaching laboratories, including an orthopedics lab, a rehabilitative sciences lab, a clinical skills lab, an intensive care unit, a health assessment lab, a physical exam suite, a physical diagnostics lab, a digital imaging center, a motion analysis lab and other special amenities that set it apart from other universities offering health sciences programs. To learn more about Quinnipiac University www.quinnipiac.edu