



Learn the Secrets of the Barnum Museum's 4,000 year old Mummy who had a heart... Pa-Ib *She was buried with her organs, but not a bird!*

A Night at the Museum: Learn the Secrets of the 4,000 year old Egyptian Mummy Pa-Ib will take place on March 25 at 6:00 p.m. at the Barnum Museum. The Mummy Pa-Ib (pronounced paw eeb) was X-rayed using a Toshiba 64-slice scanner on January 14 at [Quinnipiac University's](#) North Haven campus. More than 3,000 images were taken on three different machines in the CT Lab under the careful guidance of Ronald Beckett, professor emeritus and Gerald Conlogue, professor of diagnostic imaging in the School of Health Sciences at Quinnipiac through the auspices of the [Bioanthropology Research Institute](#). Complete scientific analysis and results will be revealed at this special presentation.

The re-scanning was part of the continuing research on the Barnum mummy. The results will be stored securely and used for educational purposes and continued preservation of this valuable piece in the Barnum Museum's collection. The images and findings will be shared with the Egyptologists at Yale University and elsewhere.

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 were particularly interested in the possibility that the Barnum mummy held a mummified bird.

The new scans clearly indicated that there were probably four packets inside Pa-Ib, the largest of which was shown to have contained her organs – a common practice to help mummies carry their bodies and souls to the after life. One pack may have held her lungs and from the calcification identified in that pack, the researchers believe there was the possibility of lung disease.

While many the discoveries will require verification by further study, additional information learned about the life and mummification of Pa-Ib from the higher resolutions included some interesting facts described below that will be revealed in more detail during the presentation.

There was no indication of a bird mummy since bird bones are hollow and would have shown up on the scans. A bird inside would have been an indication of an offering to the Gods of the ancient world. There was a large bundle uncovered which held Pa-Ib's organs, and the contents of the other bundles will be discussed. One pack held her lungs and from the calcification identified in that pack, the researchers believe there was the possibility of lung disease.

Some interesting weave patterns were examined in the cloth wrappings and these may make it possible to identify more closely what region in Egypt Pa-Ib came from. An endoscopy was inserted into the right nostril of Pa-Ib's skull which uncovered the openings where the brains were removed. This will help researchers place Pa-Ib with other mummies who have similar openings into the cranial cavity.

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A small swatch of the mummy's wrapping was located inside the thoracic cavity during the endoscopy and [Nicholas F. Bellatoni](#), state archaeologist, will be able to use this piece to carefully determine the time period in which she lived using radio-carbon-dating. This sample will be taken at the museum on Wednesday, March 24 at 10 a.m. The results of this examination will not be available immediately.

The examinations also revealed that Pa-Ib's teeth were worn indicating the diet of a commoner – there was lots of sand in her food. Surprisingly, no arthritis was found in the joints of her extremities, a good indicating that she did not do much repetitive labor.

The embalming process appears to have been rushed, suggested by the opening into her cranial cavity to extract the brain, further indication she was not royalty. However, her heart had been removed. A more accurate age at the time of death will be discussed as will the possibility that she had given birth.

In addition to the assembled experts, nine high school students from Trumbull's Regional AgriScience and Biotechnology Center were invited to observe and participate in the research process. They will also be attending the presentation on March 25.

What: A Night at the Museum – Learn the Secrets of the 4,000 year old Egyptian Mummy Pa-Ib

When: Thursday, March 25, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Where: The Barnum Museum, 820 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT
Visit www.barnum-museum.org to view a short video from Pa-Ib's day at Quinnipiac
Call 203-331-1104 ext. 102 for more information
For press access call Barnum Publicist Kay Page Greaser at 860-543-9096

Who: Anyone interested in Egyptian mummies and biotechnology

Cost: The program is free with general museum admission. General Admission: Adults \$8, seniors and college students \$6, Children 4-17 \$5 and under 4 free.

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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.