



The mystery of the mummy Pa-Ib

Renowned experts from “The Mummy Road Show” to explore the Museum’s oldest artifact

(Bridgeport, CT) — On Thursday, September 14, mummy experts Ronald Beckett and Jerry Conlogue, Executive Directors of Quinnipiac University’s Bioanthropology Research Institute and hosts of the long running National Geographic “Mummy Road Show,” will begin a complicated exploration process of the Barnum Museum’s oldest artifact, the mummy Pa-Ib. The mummy was donated to the museum by Barnum’s second wife Nancy in 1892 and has been documented as an Egyptian priest and reported to be over 2,500 years old.

The research conducted by these two famed paleoimaging experts will confirm, challenge or perhaps even cast a shadow of doubt on the mummy’s authenticity.

Professors Beckett and Conlogue will begin the process of uncovering the mummy’s past by conducting some initial research using an endoscopy and xray of Pa-Ib at the museum. They will be able to generate instant images from the endoscopy and light reflection studies.

The second stage of the exploration will be done in October when the mummy will be moved to an off site location for a full CT scan, among other tests. Final results are expected to be unveiled on Wednesday, October 25 during the Annual Gala celebration to benefit The Barnum Museum.

During the three years of *The Mummy Road Show*, Beckett and Conlogue investigated more than 500 mummies and even today, they continue to search for new specimens.

“We’ve always known that Pa-Ib held many secrets,” said Kathy Maher, Executive Director and Curator of The Barnum Museum. “Now, after 114 years, we’ll finally be able to verify the proper authenticity of what we have believed to be a mysterious Egyptian priest.”

Phineas Taylor Barnum, one-term mayor of Bridgeport and four-term member of the Connecticut General Assembly, was born July 5, 1810 in Bethel and died April 7, 1891 in Bridgeport. The original museum building, owned by the City of Bridgeport, is listed in the national Register of Historic Places and is totally handicapped accessible.

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What: Exploration of the Mummy Pa-Ib begins

Where: The Barnum Museum, 820 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604
The Public is welcome and encouraged to observe this process on the third floor.

When: Thursday, September 14, 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Cost: Free to Barnum Museum Members. General admission applies for others.

Adults \$5, Seniors and College Students \$4, Children 4 to 17 \$3 and children under 4 are free.

For more information call 203-331-1104 or visit www.barnum-museum.org

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