

The mummies deposit of the Egyptian Museum of Turin

Luigi Vigna

Egyptian Museum, Via Accademia delle Scienze 6, 10123 Turin- I Italy

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Abstract

This communication deals with a new conservation project for the human and animal mummies of the Egyptian Museum in Turin.

The goal is the conservation of one hundred mummies that are housed in this a historical palace. The following aspects are considered:

- a. Objects difficult to preserve because of its physical body or the organic elements in the embalming materials.***
- b. Sections with considerable numbers of objects.***
- c. Possible presence of dangerous insects and mould.***
- d. Research about new non-organic materials to protect the mummies from the external environment.***
- e. Security: laws requiring fire extinguishers and side effects of technology.***
- f. Practical storage and functional solutions for research and studies in location.***

A preliminary report about this project shall be presented regarding the prevention of dangerous insects and mould, new non-organic materials to protect mummies from the external environment, and easy functional ways to move a mummy for studies or other reasons.
Introduction

Introduction

The Egyptian Museum in Turin and its deposits are in a historical building of the Seventeen and Eighteen Century and every conservation projects need to consider this particular condition and the difficulties to operate in situation with old heritages and new works which every museum must do for standard and security aspects. In this particular context this present file give some informations

about the conservation projects in progress for the museum's mummies in the storerooms.

Materials

The collection of mummies of the museum is very interesting and his history correspond with the important phases of the museum's history. A first section has been acquired with the important Drovetti's collection in 1824 and a second section with Schiaparelli excavations at the beginning of the Twentieth Century; with this section start also the collaboration with the Anthropological Museum of the Turin University, because in the Schiaparelli's excavations there is the anthropologist Giovanni Marro (Delorenzi e Grilletto 1989; Grilletto 1991). The collection include anthological and animal mummies with a few specimens in the museum's rooms for the public exhibition and the others in a storerooms inside set of shelves not easy to move, to study and to be in interaction between the fire fighting rule. The actual deposit is measuring about 50 mq with a door measuring less than 80 cm.

Results

Objectives to arrive:

1. Optimum management of the little disposable space with a door measuring less than 80 cm
2. Replacement of the old shelves with more modern and functional solution
3. Prevention and preservation from microbiological and insects assaults
4. Interaction between conservation and fire fighting rule by extinguishing system Nitrogen
5. Microclimatic control and protection from the atmospheric pollution without the help of sealed up show-case and with an air changing
6. The faculty of moving the objects by one single person without danger
7. The faculty by one single person to study and to work on the mummies in any position
8. The possibility to study the mummy moving it the least one can do.

Activities organized and objectives arrived:

- 1-2. New set shelves suitable and easy to move for routine maintenance (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1 - Precedent (left) and actual (right) set shelves easy to move.

3. Prevention and preservation from microbiological and insects assaults with the subtraction of Oxygen from the atmosphere with the introduction of Nitrogen with periodical checks of about 35 days and reduction of the Oxygen until 0,02 %.

Preliminary works to organize:

- preparation of the Bubble CAT bases with Film multistrato (PVC per la termosaldatura and ALUMINIUM per l'impermeabilità all'ossigeno);
- The wrapping of the shelves;
- The closure of the Bubble CAT;



Fig. 2 - The mummies in the wrapped set shelves.

- Trend of the reduction values of the oxygen in the three big Bubble CAT (Fig. 2).
4. Interaction between the fire fighting rule (Extinguishing Nitrogen system) with protection panel in Polycarbonate thickness 6 mm at high impact strength and high/low temperature resistance.



Fig. 3 - The possibility of moving the mummies in the set shelves.



Fig. 4 - The underside of the head visible while the mummy is on one's set shelves.

5. The UR of the room is good but it will be integrated with an air conditioned system and routine controls (fig. 3).
- 6-8. Completed one specimen of set shelves and to complete on every set shelves with the possibility to study the mummies from every point of view also if the mummies are on their set shelves (fig.4).

Literature Cited

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