

How many afterlives can a cat have?

Recent scientific analysis of a mummified cat

by

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The subject: A mummified cat held by the Australian Institute of Archaeology (IA1.2402) was analysed by established and novel techniques including, X-ray computed tomography (CT) at Macquarie University and neutron CT at Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO). Neutron CT has not previously been applied to archaeometric studies of mummified remains and provided valuable insight into the wrapping techniques. Pigment analysis was performed for coloured markings on the wrappings, using a scanning electron microscope and Raman spectroscopy, to determine their composition and authenticity. Radiocarbon dates were also acquired. The analyses revealed that the mummy contains a partial skeleton of a small, juvenile cat, who appears to have had more than one afterlife as a votive offering.

The Speaker: Carla completed a Bachelor of Arts in Ancient History – Egypt and Near East studies, and a Bachelor of Science in Geophysics at Macquarie University, in 2015. She undertook the cat mummy project as part of a Masters of Research program in 2017, and hopes to pursue a PhD in a similar research area, utilising neutron CT in archaeometric and cultural heritage investigations.



5.15 pm Thursday 22 November, 2018

**Venue: Australian Institute of Archaeology,
Terrace Way, Macleod**

**(La Trobe University, Building TER 11, Melways 873-4
University parking restrictions do not apply after 5pm)**

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