

ArchaeaTechnica

Art Conservation Services



Carlos Museum Mummy Diary

Day 7 – We were so excited this morning when we tried the mask on the mummy and discovered that it fit! The humidification had worked and it was now able to go back in place safely. It might be possible to continue to reshape the mask – it is still a little crooked when viewed from the top of the head- but we decided that it could cause more damage if we kept going.



After fitting the mask in place and new bands in probable positions



slight skew

We placed the new linen bands across the mummy to see if we had the correct original positions and consulted with Curator Melinda Hartwig about their placement. It is possible that there were more bands, based on abrasions that we see on the panels, but it is uncertain and more bands could cause excess compression, so Melinda decided that we would go with fewer bands, as you see above.

While all of this was going on, we were also still working on Padibastet. Staff conservator Kaitlyn Wright, continued the work of cleaning and stabilizing the split linens on his sides. She completed the proper left side and started on the proper right side. He is looking much more stable!



Stabilizing the side linens

I have continued working to pull the linens back over his feet; that work should be completed by tomorrow.

In the meantime, Anna Connolly was joined by staff conservator Brittany Dineen to examine and develop treatment protocols on some other cartonnage pieces from the Senusret Collection. Most of the pieces were treated by restorers in the past, who used adhesives and coatings that were not safe or appropriate for cartonnage. We are hoping that we can develop a method of removing the old restorations and safely treat them with more stable materials. Brittany created a mini-chamber with a black fabric to block out light, allowing her to use UV to examine the cartonnage- she looks like an old-fashioned photographer! They have found one solvent that seems to successfully remove the coating but they are still looking for something to remove the thick adhesive on the back.



Examining and cleaning cartonnage



UV examination under black fabric



The thick adhesive on the back