

Archaea Technica

Art Conservation Services



Carlos Museum Mummy Diary

Day 8 – Today I concentrated on the foot covering from Taosiris - it is really beginning to take shape. Curator Melinda Hartwig worked with us to decide how to proceed with the treatment. We concluded that we would only add new material where it was needed for strength and stability and where we know precisely what is missing. That means reinforcing and replacing the missing cartonnage on the proper right (PR) side where it is most fragile, and creating a fill to make it match the remaining section on the proper left side. Since none of the upper section of the foot covering has survived, we don't know how the toes and the top of the sandals were originally depicted, so we won't try to guess.

I put the before treatment image below on the left to show the original condition of the foot covering. Today, I filled some of the surface losses that can be seen on the left image with mending tissue colored with acrylic paint. Those losses seem to be mostly the result of the glue that had been applied to the surface in a previous treatment attempt – the glue caused the paint to curve up in changing humidity and then fall off. The paper fills I am using can be removed at any time in the future, if desired, without damage to the object.



Foot covering before treatment



some paper fills and edge stabilization



Missing PR side



starting the fill



original section on PL side

Leah and Brittany were in working on their cartonnage pieces, as well today. Those projects will require more study to determine the best way to deal with the old treatments. It is often harder to try to undo old treatments than to treat something for the first time.



Leah cleaning the Roman foot case



Brittany removing modern coating

Renee continued the treatment of the cut linens on Padibastet, so the proper right side is nearly complete. I have also nearly finished the treatment of his feet.



Renee stabilizing the linens on Padibastet



the linens over the feet