

Tattooed Human Mummies Database, Version 6.0

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The following presents a global data set identifying naturally- and deliberately preserved tattooed human remains from the archaeological record. The initial version of this list (Version 1.0) was compiled in 2016 for inclusion as Table 1 in the journal article [“The World’s Oldest Tattoos” \(Deter-Wolf et al. 2016\)](#). Benoît Robitaille, Lars Krutak, and Sébastien Galliot all contributed to that initial effort. Changes between versions are detailed below.

Entries in the data table are organized broadly by date, and rely on direct dating wherever possible. Where radiocarbon data is available, dates represent calibrated ranges. Each entry also includes documentation as to the associated archaeological culture, site, and significant source material. Citations are not comprehensive. At the present time, historical European examples, unpublished and/or unprovenienced specimens from museums and private collections, and deliberately-preserved historical skin samples are not generally included in the data set.

Changes for Version 6.0 (2023)

- Added new citations for Egypt, the Andes, and western China; improved citations for these regions
- Removed entries for Temrta III and Primorsky I (Shishlina et al. 2013) per research by Lorkiewicz-Muszyńska et al. (2018)
- Improved hyperlinks for source material
- A visual presentation of this data is now available as an ArcGIS StoryMap: <https://arcg.is/0LS89e0>

Changes for Version 5.0 (2022):

- Grouped previously separate entries for Huacho cemeteries, Los Pinos, and Cerro Colorado
- Improved hyperlinks for source material
- Updated title from “Tattooed Human Mummies, List Version XX” to “Tattooed Human Mummies Database, Version XX”
- Added maps

Changes for Version 4.0 (2021):

- Citations added
- New entries for Andes and Hawaii
- Reorganized Andean entries to account for unprovenienced examples
- Collapsed single site entries except where dates differ
- Improved hyperlinks for source material

Changes for Version 3.0 (2019):

- Citations improved
- New entries for additional Andes and Egypt
- Added hyperlinks for source material

Changes for Version 2.0 (2017):

- Deleted “Loulan Beauty” from Gumugou, Qāwrighul, China, who is not tattooed.
- Updated Egyptian data per Friedman (2017:Table 1)
- Improved citations and corrected date ranges as necessary
- New entries for Timbaco Rockshelter and Andes

Tattooed human mummies, with associated cultures, sites, and dates.

Date	Culture	Country	Site	Identifiers/Collections/Comments	Sex	Sources
3370–3100 BCE	Tamins–Carasso–Isera 5	Italy	Tisenjoch	Ötzi	M	Capasso 1993; Dorfer et al. 1998, 1999; Pabst et al. 2009; Samadelli et al. 2015; Sjøvold 2003
3349–3093 BCE; 3340–3018 BCE	Predynastic	Egypt	Gebelein	BM EA32752; BM EA32751	F/M	Friedman 2017; Friedman et al. 2018
2563–1972 BCE	Chinchorro	Chile	El Morro	Mo–1 T28 C22	M	Arriaza 1988; Deter-Wolf et al. 2016
2055–2004 BC	Dynasty XI (Nebhepetre Mentuhotp II)	Egypt	Deir el-Bahari, Thebes	Amunet, Pit 23, Pit 26	F	Fouquet 1898; Keimer 1948; Winlock 1923
1985–1955 BCE	Dynasty XII (Amenemhet I?)	Egypt	Asasif, Thebes	Asasif 1008	F	Morris 2011
1985–1855 BCE	C–Group (first half of Dynasty XII)	Egypt	Hierakonpolis Cemetery HK27C	Tomb 9, Tomb 10, Tomb 36	F	Friedman 2004, 2017; Pieri and Antoine 2014
1750–1500 BCE	C–Group, Phase III	Egypt	Kubban Cemetery 110	Grave 271	F	Firth 1927
c.1750 BCE	Pan Grave	Egypt	Hierakonpolis Cemetery HK47	Burial 12	M	Friedman 2001, 2017
1295–1069 BCE	New Kingdom, Egypt (Ramesside)	Egypt	Deir el-Medina, Thebes	Multiple individuals	F	Austin and Arnette 2022; Austin and Gobeil 2016; Friedman 2017
1700–1200 BCE	Zahongluke	China	Zahongluke	Multiple individuals; “Mature woman,” Tomb 89QZM2 ³	F	Mallory and Mair 2000; Vigo 2004
1800–600 BCE	Yanbulake	China	Wupushuiku	Multiple individuals	-	Vigo 2004
c.1000 BCE	Late Period?	Egypt	Unknown	Private Collection, Perth Australia		Poon 2008
900–200 BCE	Subeixi	China	Yanghai	Multiple individuals	F	Li 2010 (as cited in Pankova 2013); Vigo 2004
1200 BCE	Qizilchoqa	China	Qizilchoqa	Multiple individuals?	F	Mallory and Mair 2000
900–200 BCE	Subeixi	China	Shengjindian	Multiple individuals	F	Jiang et al. 2015
900–200 BCE	Subeixi	China	Subeixi			Vigo 2004
900–200 BCE	Chavin?	Peru	Kankán	Señor de Kan Kan	M	González Garrido et al. 2015
500 BCE–100 CE	Paracas	Peru	Paracas, Wari Kayan Necropolis	M12, M28, M29, M30, M32, M66, M70, M73, M81, M85, M86, M87, M110, M199, M234, M319, M355, M420, M437, M451, Specimen no. 234 (adult and adolescent)	F/M	Aponte 2013; Maita Agurto and Minaya Cabello 2014; Stewart 1943
400–200 BCE	Pazyryk	Russia	Pazyryk burial ground	Burial 2 (two individuals), Burial 5 (two individuals)	F/M	Barkova and Pankova 2005, 2006

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400–200 BCE	Pazyryk	Russia	Ak–Alakha 3	Princess of Ukok, Tomb 1	F	Polosmak 1994a, 1994b, 2000, 2001
400–200 BCE	Pazyryk	Russia	Verkh–Kaldzhin 2	Tomb 3	M	Polosmak 2000
393 BCE	Pazyryk	Mongolia	Olon–Kurin–Gol 10	Tomb 1	M	Molodin et al. 2008
332 BCE–395 CE	Graeco–Roman Period	Egypt	Akhmim	Multiple individuals?	F	Strouhal 1992
300 BCE–300 CE	Khotanese–Saka	China	Shanpula	Multiple individuals?	–	Wang 2001 (as cited in Pankova 2013)
100 BCE–150 CE	Meroitic Period, Nubia	Sudan	Semna South	N–247; possibly 2 individuals	F?	Alvrus 2001
100 BCE–150 CE	Meroitic Period, Nubia	Sudan	Aksha	AM 4, 12, 32, 36, 43, 45, 62, 65, 77, 81	F/M	Vila 1967
100 BCE–800 CE	Nazca	Peru	Unknown	Maria Reiche Museum	–	Lonely Planet 2019
300 BCE–400 CE	Meroitic Period, Nubia	Sudan	Various cemeteries, locations not reported	Multiple individuals	–	Shinnie 1967
200 BCE–600CE	Virú	Peru	Huaca Santa Clara	HSC7; HSC9; Sector 6. Burial 9	F	Dillon 2015; Masur 2012
260–535 CE	Virú	Peru	Huaca Gallinazo	HG1	F	Millaire and La Torre Calvera 2008
250 CE	Mixtec?	Mexico	Cave near Camotlán, Oaxaca	Momia Tolteca	F	Leboreiro et al. 2013
250–450 CE	X-Group	Nubia	unknown		M	Post et al. 1973
282–405 CE	Old Bering Sea	United States	Cape Kialegak, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska	University of Alaska?	F	Smith and Zimmerman 1975
372–402 CE	Tashtyk	Russia	Oglakhtynsky	Tomb 4	M	Kyzlasov and Pankova 2004; Pankova 2013
350–500 CE	X Group/Ballana	Sudan	Serra West, cemetery 24I3	Burial 34	M	Armellagos 1968; Armellagos 1969
c.450 CE	Moche	Peru	El Brujo/Huaca Cao	La Señora de Cao	F	Franco 2008; Mujica Barrera 2007; Vásquez Sánchez et al. 2013
500–1000 CE	Huari	Peru	Department of Ica	Multiple individuals	–	Allison 1996
600–1000 CE	Andes (culture unknown)	Peru	Cerro Centinela		M	Vivar Anya 2008
600–1000 CE	Andes (culture unknown)	Peru	Huaca Malena	Bundle 38	F	Frame and Falcon 2014
700 CE	Christian Period, Nubia	Sudan	et–Tereif site 3–J–23	Grave 50; British Museum EA83133	F	Vandenbeusch and Antoine 2015
700–800 CE	Moche	Peru	Pacatnamu	H28 Burial 5; Burial E1B	F	Ubbelohde-Doering 1967; Verano 1997
750–1375 CE	Lambayeque	Peru	El Brujo		–	Franco et al. 2007
875–1025 CE	Tiwanaku	Chile	AZ-71	AZ–71 NMT.3	F	Arriaza 1988
900–1500 CE	Chancay	Peru	Huaura Valley / Huacho Cemetery 2 / Cerro Colorado / Los Pinos / unprovinenced	Over 75 individuals including El hombre tatuado de Huacho and collections of the Museo de Historia Natural y Cultural; adult and adolescent	F/M	Altamirano Enciso and van Dalen Luna 2018, 2022; Majchrzak and van Dalen Luna 2019; RPP News 2016; Ruiz Estrada 1990, 1998, 2012; Sánchez Chuyo et al. 2022; van Dalen Luna et al. 2018
950 CE	Casma	Peru	Casma Valley	Multiple individuals; adult and adolescent	F/M	Allison 1996

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1000–1500 CE	Chancay	Peru	Zapallan	Grave Y	F	Lothrop and Mahler 1957
1000 CE	Chiribaya	Peru	Chiribaya Alta	Museo Chiribaya / El Algarrobal Museum	F	Pabst et al. 2010 ⁴
ca.1000–1360 CE	Chiribaya	Peru	Algarrobal Valley	Chiribaya Museum; multiple individuals?	M	Reid 2001 ⁵
1000–1475 CE	Ychsma	Peru	Pachacamac Cemetery 1, Ramp 13, other?	Multiple individuals	–	Fuentes et al. 2020; Herrmann and Meyer 1993; Owens 2017; Owens and Eeckhout 2015
ca.1100 CE	Chimu	Peru	Huaura Valley	Multiple individuals	–	Krutak 2007
ca. 1250 CE	Chimu?	Peru	El Brujo	Milwaukee Public Museum A56903/23045	–	Auten 2018
ca. 800–1000 CE	Maitas Chiribaya	Chile	AZ-140	AZ-140 T.41	F	Arriaza 1988
1100–1300 CE	Ibaloy	Philippines	Nabalicong, Benguet	Appo Anno, additional individuals?	M	Garong et al. 2010; Merino 1989
1100–1300 CE	Ibaloy	Philippines	Timbac Rockshelter, Benguet	14 individuals	F/M	Garong et al. 2012; Salvador-Amores 2017
1200 CE	San Miguel	Chile	Arica (vicinity)	Multiple individuals		Allison 1996; Arriaza 1988
1200–1450 CE	Chancay	Peru	Cerro Rontoy	Kiko Rontoy	M	Roach 2008
1250 CE	Ica	Peru	Department of Ica	17, 25, Cateo 2A, Cateo 12 (total 4 adults)	F/M	Allison et al. 1981
1263–1287 CE	Andes	Peru(?)	Ancón(?); provenience based on comparative examples	La Mexicana (MDHN-1002)	F	Alterauge et al. 2013
1319–1361 CE	Chiu–Chiu (Solar Phase)	Chile	Chiu–Chiu	Lippisches Landesmuseum	F	Gill-Ferking et al. 2013
1350 CE	Chimu–Casma	Peru	Ancash, Casma Valley	SP 292, SP 293, SP 294, SP 295, SP 296, SP 297, SP 298, SP 299, SP 300A, SP 300B, SP 301, SP 302, SP 303	F/M	Allison et al. 1981
1450 CE	Inca	Peru	Department of Ica	53	F	Allison et al. 1981
ca.1450–1542 CE	Inca	Peru	Maranga, Huaca 37 (Huaca San Miguel)	Two individuals; possibly additional	F/M	Arqueologia del Peru 2007; Agence France-Presse 2016
1475 CE	Inuit	Greenland	Qilakitsoq	I/3, I/4, I/5, II/6, II/8	F	Hansen et al. 1991; Lynnerup 2015
1470–1533 CE	Ychsma	Peru	Armatambo	CF 168–2000, additional individuals	F	Diaz 2015
1580 CE	Ica Colonial	Peru	Department of Ica	AIM 8, AIM 12, Cateo 2A, Cateo 10, HM5	F	Allison et al. 1981
unknown	Chimu	Peru		Uppsala University Museum	-	Doustar 2014
unknown	Andes (culture unknown)	unknown	unknown	Multiple individuals: Ethnologisches Museum, Berlin; Musée d'Ethnographie du Trocadéro, Paris; Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico, Rome (#49231, 49221); Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris (#76 and #6019?); Museum of the American Indian Heye Foundation; Provinzialmuseum,	–	Boggiani 1895 ⁶ ; Danielli 1894; Finucane and Utermohlen 2004; Göldner and Deter-Wolf 2023; Joest 1887; Levy et al. 1979; Montell 1929

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				Hannover; “The Cornell Mummy;” Harvard Peabody (#80-61-30/24005)		
unknown	Andes (culture unknown)	Peru	Ancón	Multiple individuals: Ethnologisches Museum, Berlin (#82 through 94, 2616, additional?); Field Museum, Chicago (#971371 [Grave 7/Mummy 20], 183930, 183595, 183583, 40252, 40249, 40246, 40169, 40121); Harvard Peabody Museum (87–61–30/54485) ⁵ ; Museo di Antropologia, Florence (#1798–1798?); Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico, Rome (#49237); Riksmuseum, Stockholm	–	Auten 2018; Boggiani 1895 ⁷ ; Danielli 1894; Dorsey 1893, 1894; Hambly 1925; Levy et al. 1979; Mantegazza 1888; Montell 1929; Reiß and Stübel 1880–1887
unknown	Andes (culture unknown)	Peru	Cerro Azul	Burial 4, Individual 3	F	Marcus 2015
unknown	Andes (culture unknown)	Peru	Maranga	HCB02	F	Cuadros 2010
unknown	Andes (culture unknown)	Peru	Rimac Valley	Arizona State Museum A22–117–6; American Museum of Natural History no. 5202	–	Auten 2018; Morgan 1996; Stumer 1954
unknown	Native Hawaiian	United States	Hanauma Bay (vicinity), Hawaii	Bishop Museum?	F	Levy et al. 1979

NOTES

1. and 2. These identifications consist of pigment patterns preserved on defleshed skeletal remains. It has not been definitively demonstrated that those are tattoos that transferred onto bone rather than the remains of some other postmortem ritual activity.
3. Facial markings on “Chärchän Man” and “Chärchän Woman,” (Tomb 2) are popularly reported as tattooing but are likely paint.
4. The distinctive knuckle tattoos on this Chiribayan mummy are frequently misidentified in online sources as belonging to mummies from Egypt, the Tiwanaku culture, and even the Tyrolean Iceman.
5. The mummies examined by Pabst et al. and by Reid may be the same individual.
6. This tattooed hand is misidentified as ancient Egyptian, ca. 4000 BC in Cohen (2001).
7. Boggiani describes tattooing on mummies from the collection of the Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico, but concludes erroneously that the marks are body paint rather than tattoos.

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