

Tattooed Human Mummies, List Version 4.0

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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. At the present time, unpublished and/or unprovenienced specimens from museums and private collections are not generally included in the data set.

Changes from Version 3.0 to 4.0 (2021):

- Citations added
- New entries for Andean and Hawai’ian examples
- Reorganized Andean entries to account for unprovenienced examples
- Collapsed single site entries except where dates differ
- Hyperlinks improved for source material

Changes from Version 2.0 to 3.0 (2019):

- Citations added
- New entries for additional Andean and Egyptian examples
- Added hyperlinks for source material

Changes from Version 1.0 to 2.0 (2017):

- Deleted “Loulan Beauty” from Gumugou, Qäwrighul, 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 Andean examples

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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
2600–2400 BCE	Catacomb Culture	Russia	Temrta III	Tomb 2, Grave 1 ¹	M	Shishlina et al. 2013
2600–2400 BCE	Catacomb Culture	Russia	Primorsky I	Tomb 1, Grave 10 ²	M	Shishlina et al. 2013
2563–1972 BCE	Chinchorro	Chile	El Morro	Mo–1 T28 C22	M	Arriaza 1988; Deter-Wolf et al. 2016
2055–2004 B.C	Dynasty XI (Nebhepetre Mentuhotep 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 Gobeil 2016; Friedman 2017
1250 BCE–100 CE	Subeixi	China	Yanghai	Multiple individuals?	–	Li 2010 (as cited in Pankova 2013)
1250 BCE–100 CE	Subeixi	China	Shengjindian	Multiple individuals?	–	Jiang et al. 2015
c.1000 BCE	Late Period?	Egypt	Unknown	Private Collection, Perth Australia		Poon 2008
1000–600 BCE	Zaghunluq	China	Zaghunluq	“Mature woman,” Tomb 89QZM2 ³	F	Mallory and Mair 2000
900–200 BCE	Chavin?	Peru	Kankán / El Rosal	Señor de Kan Kan	M	Elena 2015
800–550 BCE	Qizilchoqa	China	Qizilchoqa	Multiple individuals?	F	Mallory and Mair 2000
500 BCE–100 CE	Paracas	Peru	Wari Kayan Necropolis	M12, M28, M29, M30, M32, M66, M70, M73, M81, M85, M86, M87, M110, M199, M234, M319, M355, M420, M437, M451 (adult and adolescent)	F/M	Maita Agurto and Minaya Cabello 2014
400–200 BCE	Pazyryk	Russia	Pazyryk burial ground	Burial 2 (two individuals), Burial 5 (two individuals)	F/M	Barkova and Pankova 2005, 2006
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

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400–200 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
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	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 2413	Burial 34	M	Armélagos 1968; Armélagos 1969
c.450 CE	Moche	Peru	El Brujo/Huaca Cao	La Señora de Cao	F	Franco 2008; Mujica Barreda 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	Centinela		M	Vivar Anya 2008
600–1000 C.E	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	F	Vandenbeusch and Antoine 2015
700–800 CE	Moche	Peru	Pacatnamu	H28 Burial 5	F	Verano 1997
750–1375 CE	Lambayeque	Peru	El Brujo		–	Franco Jordan et al. 2007
875–1025 CE	Tiwanaku	Chile	Azapa 71	AZ–71 NMT.3	F	Arriaza 1988
900–1500 CE	Chancay	Peru	Huacho Cemetery 2	El hombre tatuado de Huacho	M	Ruiz Estrada 1990
900–1500 CE	Chancay	Peru	Cerro Colorado and nearby cemeteries, Huacho	At least 71 individuals, adult and adolescent	F/M	Ruiz Estrada 1995, 2012; van Dalen Luna et al. 2018
950 CE	Casma	Peru	Casma Valley	Multiple individuals; adult and adolescent	F/M	Allison 1996
1000–1500 CE	Chancay	Peru	Zapallan	Grave Y	F	Lothrop and Mahler 1957
1000 CE	Chiribaya	Peru	Chiribaya Alta	Museo Chiribaya?	F	Pabst et al. 2010 ²
1000–1475 CE	Ychsma	Peru	Pachacamac Cemetery 1, Ramp 13, other?	Multiple individuals	–	Fuentes et al. 2020; Herrmann and Meyer 1993; Owens and Eeckhout 2015

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ca.1100 CE	Chimu	Peru	Huaura Valley	Multiple individuals	–	Krutak 2007
ca.1100 CE	Chancay	Peru	Los Pinos, Huaura		F	RPP News 2016
ca. 1250 CE	Chimu?	Peru	El Brujo	Milwaukee Public Museum A56903/23045	–	Auten 2018
ca.1000–1360 CE	Chiribaya	Peru	Algarrobal Valley	Chiribaya Museum; multiple individuals?	M	Reid 2000
ca. 800–1000 CE	Maitas Chiribaya	Chile	Azapa 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	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	Huaca 37 (Huaca San Miguel), Maranga	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
1470–1533 CE	Ychsma	Peru	Armatambo	CF 168–2000, additional individuals	F	Diaz Arriola 2015
1600 CE	Ica Colonial	Peru	Department of Ica	AIM 8, AIM 12, Cateo 2A, Cateo 10, HM5	F	Allison et al. 1981
unknown	Andes (culture unknown)	unknown	unknown	Multiple individuals: Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris (#76 and #6019?); Provinzialmuseum, Hannover	–	Danielli 1894; Montell 1929
unknown	Andes (culture unknown)	Peru	unknown	Multiple individuals: Ethnologisches Museum, Berlin; Musée d'Ethnographie du Trocadéro, Paris; Museum of the American Indian Heye Foundation; “The Cornell Mummy”	–	Danielli 1894; Finucane and Utermohlen 2004; Joest 1887; Levy et al. 1979

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unknown	Andes (culture unknown)	Peru	Ancón	Multiple individuals: Ethnologisches Museum, Berlin (#s 82 through 94, 2616, additional?); Field Museum, Chicago (#s 971371 [Grave 7/Mummy 20], 183930, 183595, 183583, 40252, 40249, 40246, 40169, 40121); Harvard Peabody Museum (87–61–30/54485.0); Museo di Antropologia, Florence (# 1798–1798?); Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico, Rome (# 49237); Riksmuseum, Stockholm	–	Auten 2018; Boggiani 1895 ⁴ ; Danielli 1894; Dorsey 1893, 1894; Hambly 1925; Levy et al. 1979; Reiss and Stübel 1880–1887; Mantegazza 1888; Montell 1929
unknown	Andes (culture unknown)	Peru	Caudivilla	Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico, Rome (# 49231, 49221)		Boggiani 1895 ⁵
unknown	Andes (culture unknown)	Peru	Cerro Azul	Burial 4, Individual 3	F	Marcus 2015
unknown	Andes (culture unknown)	Peru	Maranga, Huaca Cruz Blanca	HCB02	F	Cuardos 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), Hawai'i	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 which 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. 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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