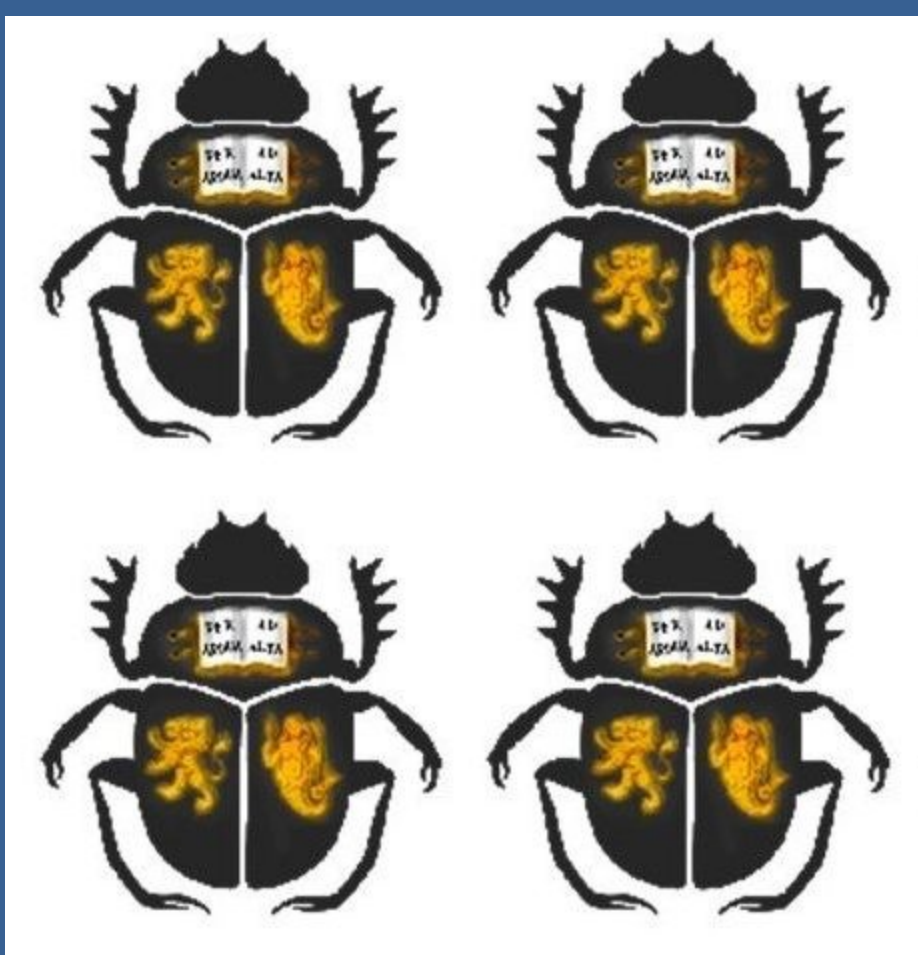


Burial Assemblages and Regional Variability: Reassessing New Kingdom Funerary Practices at Tell el-Yahudiyeh

Laura Michelini, PhD candidate, University of Cologne

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Introduction

- ▶ **Research Aim:** to reassess funerary assemblages at Tell el-Yahudiyeh through a contextual and database-oriented approach
- ▶ **Methodology:** systematic collection of published burial data (tomb architecture, coffin types, body treatment, grave goods)
- ▶ **Funerary Assemblages Matter:** they provide insight into social organisation, identity, and cultural practices
- ▶ **Research focus:** variability in burial practices within a New Kingdom Delta context

Site Background

Tell e-Yahudiyeh

- ▶ Located in the Eastern Nile Delta
- ▶ Administrative and settlement centre during New Kingdom
- ▶ Characterised by mobility and cultural interaction
- ▶ Archaeological records: fragmentary excavation data, multiple burial phases attested
- ▶ Key site for investigating regional funerary variability



Archaeological Findings

- ▶ **Burial Types:** burials and simple graves; limited architectural standardisation
- ▶ **Coffins:** anthropoid coffins attested; other burial forms
- ▶ **Body treatment:** inconsistent; no mummification
- ▶ **Grave goods:** scarabs, ceramics, small objects; variable presence
- ▶ **Chronology:** from the 18th to the 20th Dynasty phases
- ▶ **Distribution:** variable; no single funerary model

Case-Study: Tomb of Men

- **Location:** Eastern Delta of the site
- **Chronology:** likely 18th Dynasty
- **Burial Type:** anthropoid clay coffin burial
- **Preservation:** lid fragmented, no data on body position
- **Coffin design:** non standard
- **Funerary tradition:** local

Coffin Features & Associated Find

- ▶ Mixed decorative scheme
- ▶ Epigraphic and orthographic irregularities
- ▶ Unusual iconography
- ▶ Uncommon inlaid box inside the coffin



Anthropoid coffin of Men, Tell el-Yahudiyeh. Petrie, 1906.



Anthropoid coffin of Men (fragmentary lid), Tell el-Yahudiyeh. Petrie, 1906.

Key Patterns

- Variability in burial assemblages across the site
- Non-standardised coffin usage
- Coexistence of different coffin styles (naturalistic, grotesque, decorated)
- Inconsistent funerary treatment (including absence of mummification)
- Selective adoption of Egyptian elements within local contexts
- Locally mediated funerary choices

Interpretation

- ▶ Burial evidence does not reflect a uniform memphite model
- ▶ Funerary practices show local adaptation and variability
- ▶ Material suggests interaction between Egyptian and non-Egyptian traditions (probably Levantine)
- ▶ Regional context plays a key role in shaping burial behaviour



Conclusions

- Tel el-Yahudiyeh shows significant **variability in funerary practices**
- Burial assemblages reflect **locally configured traditions**
- **Anthropoid coffins** are part of a broader, non-standardised system
- **Database-driven approaches** highlight patterns not visible in isolated finds
- **Ongoing research** will expand and refine the dataset
- Comparison with **Tell el-Maskhuta, Tell el-Retaba and Saqqara**



Contact Information

Laura Michelini
University of Cologne
dott.laura.michelini@gmail.com
+393495465967

