



Mummification for the Masses: the burial practices at the Graeco-Roman cemetery of Fag el-Gamous

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Most publications about mummification in the Graeco-Roman period focus on the full mummification process as practiced by those who could afford it. While it is important to understand the practice in its fuller actualizations, it is also worthwhile to examine what the common person was able to do for their burials. With data on hundreds of burials of the common person, the excavations at Fag el-Gamous are able to cast an important ray of light on how most people buried their dead. While we must be careful in making generalizations for all of Graeco-Roman Egypt from one site, this paper will examine how the burials at this cemetery compare to the full mummification process, including practices regarding coffins, texts, desiccation, wrappings, use of precious materials, etc. It will include a limited amount of comparison to other cemeteries from the same time period and, by adding specific details from one geographic location, will add to our patchwork picture of burial during this era. Thus we grow ever closer to a more complete picture.