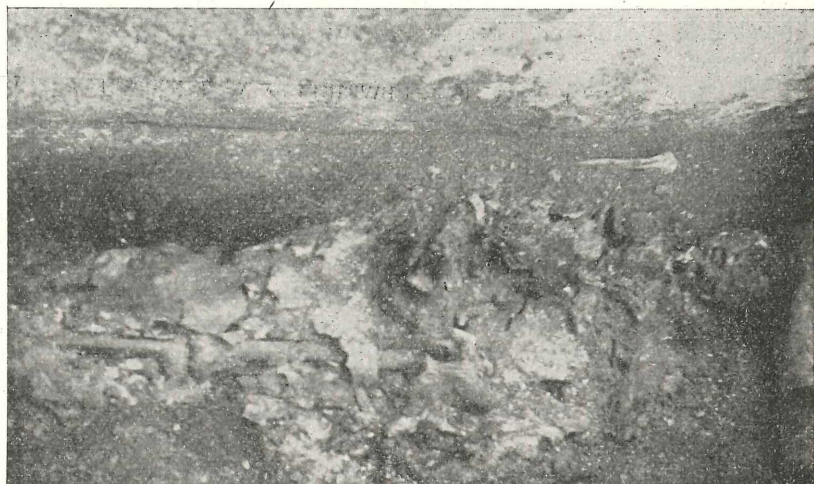


An European Mummy¹

By **Dr. Francis Hollendonner** (Budapest)

With a photograph.

Aquincum, a locality situated near Budapest, was in the I—IV century p. Chr. an important Roman fortification. In the there established Museum which contains the objects found at the occasion of unearthing the antiquities some rarities are to be seen, f. i. a complete potters workshop, cereals, wooden casks, parties of wells, Roman byssin webs, a bronze organ and so on.



Photograph showing the situation of the Aquincum Mummy in her grave.

In the most recent time at occasion of unearthing the Roman cemetery, Dr. Louis Nagy detected in a flat stone paved grave the only hitherto known femal mummy from the Roman age. The mummy was not placed in a sarcophag but layed inwrapped in the grave, among some wooden boxes and a cork sandal.

As I examined the contents of the boxes I found by mikroskopical way, that they contained the face powder of the women prepared of a mixture of rice-flower and the reddish brown spores of the mushroom *Tolyposporium junceum* added evidently

¹ Abstract from a more detailed article published in Hungarian language in the periodical „Botan. Közlemények“ vol. XXX. 1933.

with the purpose to diminish the white colour of the rice flour. As powder puff served a piece of sponge. The boxes were turned out of *Fagus*-, *Fraxinus*-, *Populus*- and *Pinus*-wood.

It seems that the manufacturers of the mummy were aware of the destructive action of the underwater and the air of this place, therefore the wrapping of the body was executed with much more care as it was the use at the Egyptian mummies buried in dry sand.

The material of the band is also not linen and wool as it is the case with the Egyptian, but cotton and linen and the band was already before the upwinding impregnated with resinous substances and after the inwrapping imbued again with this material, the band becomes consequently bark-like, fired it spreads an agreeable resinaceous-incense smell.

Among the wefts violet-blue coloured were to be found some, whom the consistence varied between the fineness of a cobweb-like byssus and a coarse lockram, inside the finer, outside the coarser.

It was stated, that the upwrapping was carried out in superposed layers, at longer intervals for securing the drying or at least the desiccating of the resinous material of the singular layers.

During these spaces spores of different moulds fell upon and not only germed but also fructified. In this way the presence of the sporangia and the sporae of *Mucoraceae* between the layers was established and as for securing the mummification also oils were employed, also the presence of the very rare *zygosporae* with suspensoria of the *Phycomycetes* was stated. The women was either an Egyptian or the method of mummification was known also by the Romans in *Aquincum*.

We cannot wonder at this fact as it can be stated from the epitaphs that the members of the legionaries of *Aquincum* visited Egypt, even the Persian Mithraism was so extended that the unearthed Mithras—Temple is one of the sights of *Aquincum*.

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