

The Egyptian Mummy that lived in Cobourg

One of the most fascinating artifacts in the Royal Ontario Museum's (ROM) Egyptian collection is



the mummy of a woman named Djedmaatesankh. Her beautifully decorated coffin, dating back to Egypt's 22nd Dynasty, is filled with imagery from the *Book of the Dead*, including a ram-headed sun god and scenes of her being welcomed into the afterlife by Osiris. When her remains were scanned in 1994, researchers discovered a serious dental infection in her upper jaw—likely the cause of her death.

Djedmaatesankh's arrival in Canada is tied to the adventures of Charles Trick Currelly, a Port Hope native who made big discoveries in Egypt in the early 1900s. With support from the University of Toronto, Currelly brought back an impressive collection of artifacts, which helped launch the ROM in 1914. He later became its first director and spent decades expanding the museum's collection.

Source: [Coffin and mummy of the lady Djedmaatesankh – Works – eMuseum](#)

Another mummy at the ROM, known as “Justine,” was also part of Currelly’s finds. At the time, it wasn’t clear which coffin belonged to her, and some unusual features—like her missing tongue—raised questions, since early Egyptians believed they’d need it to speak in the afterlife. Over time, research and technology have helped piece together more of her story.

Canadians had been exploring Egypt even before Currelly's time. In the 1850s, Cobourg-born minister Lachlan Taylor visited Egypt and brought home the mummy of Antjau. That mummy eventually became part of Victoria College's collection and later joined the ROM's holdings, becoming one of the museum's earliest and most beloved Egyptian artifacts.



Source: [ROM mummy Justine's real name was Nefret-Mut, researchers reveal | CBC News](https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/rom-mummy-justine-s-real-name-was-nefret-mut-researchers-reveal-1.2815889)
(<https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/rom-mummy-justine-s-real-name-was-nefret-mut-researchers-reveal-1.2815889>)

To learn more, check out these links:

[The ROM Mummies | Royal Ontario Museum](#) (image 2/5)

Article in the Victoria College folder – 08-17 – “Lions, a mummy and a mystery: tales from our Cobourg years” by Birgitte Nielsen Worral (page 6) - [0538431T.pdf](#)

News article on “Justine” - [ROM mummy Justine's real name was Nefret-Mut, researchers reveal | CBC News](#)

[Coffin and mummy of the lady Djedmaatesankh – Works – eMuseum](#)