The faces of the Priests of Amun
Exploring Egyptian ‘yellow coffins’ with 3D-modelling

In collaboration with the Vatican Coffin Project a project was started based on a new methodological approach for studying ‘yellow coffins’. The project is mainly based on the analysis of ‘facial features’ carved on the lid. These are important elements regarding the typology and the classification of the statues, but they have never been considered in the analysis of coffins, also because it is difficult to discern them clearly under the superimposed pictorial decoration. Today, new technology can help us to reveal fine surface details, which are not always discernible in visible light. In any case the face on a coffin is always made from a single piece of wood, carved and fixed to the coffin by dowels, and so also easy to remove and re-attach on another coffin. In this presentation the results of the first analysis of Lot 17 (Vatican) and Lot 11 (The Netherlands) from Bab el-Gasus, the starting point for this project, where comparison with statuary will offer unequivocally interesting suggestions.

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