



Type: Mummy of Artemidorus
Chronology: 2nd century AD
Findspot: Hawara (Fayum, Egypt)
Actual location: British Museum (inventory nr. EA21810)
Website: <http://lupa.at/851>

Portrait and mummy of a youth named Artemidorus. The body case is decorated with Egyptian embalmers and funerary scenes and a portrait of the deceased. At chest level an inscription in Greek features the name of the deceased.

The mummy of Artemidorus offer an excellent example of the degree of cultural interaction within the Roman Empire during the 2nd century AD, as both the funerary practice and most of the imagery on the case refer to the long-standing Egyptian tradition of embalming the deceased (uncommon outside Egypt), the script and language adopted are Greek (one of the main groups living in Egypt since its conquest by Alexander the Great) but the practice of portraying the life-like features of the deceased are Roman (Egypt became a Roman province in 31 BC).

MY RESEARCH

How far can visual culture offer an understanding of cultural identity in the Roman empire?