

COTTON IN EGYPTIAN LINENS

At the end of June this year a "Science in Egyptology" conference was held in Manchester at which Mrs. Eve Cockburn from the Palaeopathology Association, Detroit revealed the significant information that a scrap of cotton fibres was attached to the linen funerary wrappings of an Egyptian mummy, Pentu, reliably dateable to c.170 BC. John Tyrer remarks:

"It is well known that the Shroud contains cotton fibres, and it has sometimes been suggested that as there was no clear evidence for the use of cotton in Egypt until the 2nd. century AD, the Shroud could not have originated in first century Palestine. However as a result of these recent disclosures, we have confirmation that cotton was available in the Middle East at the time of Christ."