Facial Reconstruction Report

Human Skull for Facial Reconstruction with Photo History



With gratitude to the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology



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Human Skull for Facial Reconstruction, With Photo History

Product Number:

BCM-804

Known Information:

Size: 9 "L, 5 1/2"W, 7 1/2"H

Maxwell Museum Documented Individual #244

This individual was male, aged 83 years at death. He was born in 1921 in Holland, of Dutch, French, and Belgian parentage. He is supposedly of royal descent.

In the prime of his life, he was 6' 6" tall and 220 lbs, but only 6' 1" and 170 lbs at death. Early in life, he served in the Dutch Marines, as well as in the Dutch underground resistance during World War II. Later, he worked as an art dealer and in the airline and insurance industries. Through much of his life he rode horses as often as possible.

He always had trouble with his teeth. Our records show that sometime during the 1950's he "broke his back" and spent "a long time" in a body cast. He also suffered kidney stones and several hernias. Nearing the end of his life he developed osteoporosis.

The Maxwell Museum of Anthropology greatly appreciates the donation of these remains by this individual and his heirs. The cast of his skull and the photographs made available by his heirs are a testament to the generosity he was known for during his life.

Facial approximation, the drawing or sculpting of an unknown face based on a skull (also known as facial reconstruction or recreation) is a controversial field of endeavor. There is a great deal of public interest in the field, and many practitioners feel their work accurately portrays what a person looked like in life. However, several recent scholarly papers have shown that facial approximations do not statistically contribute to the resolution of missing persons cases (See Stephan CN, Henneberg M. 2006. Recognition by forensic facial approximation: Case specific examples and empirical tests. *Forensic Science International* 156(2-3): 182-191. Also see references therein).

Maxwell Museum of Anthropology:

The Maxwell Museum of Anthropology's Laboratory of Human Osteology, at the University of New Mexico, specializes in numerous facets of physical anthropology. The laboratory serves as a repository of human remains and includes prehistoric, historic, documented, and forensic remains.

Established in 1984 by Dr. J. Stanley Rhine, the Maxwell Museum's Documented Skeletal Collection has grown to include 237 individuals (as of July 2005) encompassing both sexes, all ages, and many population groups. The skeletal remains are obtained by donation, either by the individual before death, or by the family of a deceased loved one. Information on the sex, age, population affinity, and cause of death is available for the majority of these individuals, allowing students and visiting researchers to develop and test new techniques and theories.

Since 1995, prospective donors or their families have been asked to provide health and occupational data as well. With this information, researchers are able to examine the skeletal manifestations of particular diseases including degenerative joint and disc diseases, lymphoma, and osteoporosis, as well as the reaction of bone to repetitive motions and trauma. Recent research has included efforts towards the identification of handedness in individuals, determination of body mass from the skeleton, and variation in cranial damage from various projectiles. The importance of the Documented Collection cannot be overstated. No other institution in the American West has as large a collection of human skeletal remains with such extensive demographic data.

Bone Clones is grateful to the Maxwell Museum for allowing us to select specimens for reproduction from their valuable collection and granting us exclusive casting rights to these pieces.