

## A Romano-Egyptian mummy footcase from Hawara in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (E.103b.1911)

### Analysis of Materials

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A Romano-Egyptian period mummy footcase (E.103b.1911) is associated with a fine, gilded, cartonnage mask in the Roman style (E.103a.1911, previously analysed), both housed in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. Visual examination suggests that the two artefacts do not “match “ and they appear to have been made by different hands and using different materials. There is evidence that the iconography of footcases was relatively standardised, showing, as the Fitzwilliam example does, bound warriors on the base (under the feet of the deceased), one painted in pink and another in red, sides decorated with alternate panels depicting flowers and/or the eye of Horus, and an upper surface with gilded (or painted) feet on a polychrome, chequerboard surround.

The materials used in the construction of the Fitzwilliam footcase, pigments, cartonnage and gold leaf, have been analysed and are presented here. They have also been compared with the analysis of the materials used in the accompanying mask. The pigments indigo, orpiment, red lead, madder, gypsum, ochre and organo-copper compounds have been identified on the footcase. The cartonnage is constructed from a paste of ground calcite, gypsum and quartz bound with an organic glue. The gold leaf used was of a very high purity.

These materials distinguish this artefact from the palette, gold and cartonnage pastes used in the accompanying mask.



*Fig. 132: Romano-Egyptian footcase (Fitzwilliam Museum E.103b.1911)  
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