CANONICAL RECOGNITION AND ON-SITE PALEOPATHOLOGIC STUDY OF THE BLESSED VINCENZO DELL’AQUILA (1430-1504)

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VINCENZO DELL’AQUILA (1430-1504)

Born to a humble family in the oldest part of L’Aquila (central Italy), Vincenzo worked as a shoemaker in his young age.

In 1448, he entered the Regular Observance, a reform movement of the Franciscan Order, in the convent of S. Giuliano.
Miraculous healings were recognized to him.

F. Benedetto Mazzara, 1689

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Tomo terzo
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He received the gift of prophecy and was kept in great honour by the Aragonese Kings of Naples.
After death he was greatly honoured by local people and authorities. His body was buried into the common grave of the friars and found intact when exhumed fourteen years later.

F. Benedetto Mazzara, 1689
CANONICAL RECOGNITIONS OF THE BODY

I  1785-1787  (Beatification Process)

II  1904  (IV Centenary of his death)

III  1987  (II Centenary of his Beatification)
No special procedure aimed at paleopathologic investigation at that time

Extremely well-preserved natural mummy
Elderly male
Severe dental wear
Hernia sac in the left groin
Radici Identitarie
e benessere psicologico

Il Restauro
della Tavola
del Beato
Vincenzo dell’Aquila

02 dicembre 2017
Convento di San Giuliano
Via Madonna Fere n. 29, L’Aquila

Ore 9.00 Presentazione Evento
Dott. Tarcisio Di Iulo,
Presidente Ordine Psicologi Regione Abruzzo

Preside Marco Federici,
Guardiano del Convento S. Giuliano L’Aquila

Ore 9.15 Saluto Autorità
Chairman: Prof.ssa Simone Andreassi,
Giornalista Ordine Psicologi Abruzzo

Ore 9.45 Il Restauro
Dott.ssa Bianca Maria Colosimo,
Storico dell’Arte
La tavola del Beato Vincenzo di Saturnino Gatti: danneggiamenti e restauro

Dott.ssa Lorenza D’Alessandro, Dott. Giorgio Capriotti,
Restauratori
Diario di un restauro: problematiche conservative e nuove acquisizioni

Ore 10.30 Caffè Break

Ore 10.45 Visita guidata
Convento quattrocentesco
Tavola raffigurante il Beato Vincenzo
Sacello

Ore 11.15 Le radici identitarie
Prof. Raffaele Calapietra, Storico
Il Beato Vincenzo nella società aquilana dell’epoca

Arch. Nicola Di Battista, Direttore rivista Dominus
La ricostruzione è un fatto squisitamente culturale

Ore 12.45 Il benessere nel contesto di vita
Dott. Enrico Perilli, Psicologo Psicoterapeuta,
Dott.ssa Università degli Studi dell’Aquila
Psicologia e Architettura nei processi di ricostruzione

Ore 13.30 Conclusioni

ORDINE PSICOLOGI REGIONE ABRUZZO
Via G. Carducci 11 - L’Aquila

Con la partecipazione del Dott. Fulvio Giardina Presidente Consiglio Nazionale dell’Ordine Psicologi

Saturnino Gatti, oil on wood, 1509
IV  February 13th – March 13th 2018
The mummy underwent external examination and on-site digital radiography.
The extremely well-preserved, complete mummy belonged to an old male in good nutritional status
Marked dental wear and parodontal disease

Absence of caries

Artificial remodelling of the face...
... and feet

Vincenzo’s original wooden clogs, as shown in the Museum of San Giuliano
A huge swelling in the left groin, as well as parallel clean cuts of mummified skin were observed on shoulders and groins.
Absence of internal fillings, cutaneous sutures or fresh cuts
Circular calcium deposits in the left costophrenic angle
CALCIFICATIONS: PLEURAL vs. SPLENIC

Haemorthorax
Pyothorax/Pleural empyema
TB pleurisy
Exposure to asbestos
Previous surgery
Extraskeletal osteosarcoma

Pseudocyst
Echinococcal cyst
Abscess
Mesothelial cyst
Epidermoid cyst
Primary or metastatic tumors
CONCLUSIONS

The absence of evisceration signs rules out artificial embalming, indicating a natural mummy.

Clean cuts on shoulders and groin may be related to limb mobilization tests performed in ancient times.

Calcification might be referred to pleural infection/effusion or splenic pathology.
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Mons. Giuseppe Petrocchi
Metropolitan Archbishop of L’Aquila, Italy
GREETINGS FROM L’AQUILA