Yde Girl Mummy





On the 12th of May, 1897, a man working in the Stijfveen peat bog - near a <u>village called Yde</u>, in the Dutch <u>province of Drenthe</u> - was startled to find something highly unusual. What he saw was a well-preserved mummy of a teenaged girl, referred to as *Het Meisje van Yde* (Dutch for "The Girl from Yde").

Unlike Tollund Man, who had been turned-over to experts as soon as it was discovered, "Yde Girl" was not given to authorities for investigation until two weeks had passed. By that time, the mummy had undergone significant damage and deterioration.

Carbon-14 dating indicates that Yde Girl likely died sometime between 54 BC and 128 AD when she was approximately 16 years old. Her hair, which was remarkably well-preserved, was long and reddish-blond. One side of her head had apparently been shaved before her death.

Body scans reveal that the teenager had scoliosis of the spine. She was found wearing a woolen cape. Around her neck was a woolen band which had been braided, causing experts to believe that perhaps she had been executed (or sacrificed).

The tannic acid in the marsh water, <u>where Yde Girl was found</u>, helped to preserve her. Although Richard Neave (a facial-reconstruction specialist) has <u>rendered a likeness</u> of how she may have appeared, while she was alive, the real mummy is now cared-for at the <u>Drents Museum</u>.

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