

TOWER OF LONDON - HUMAN BONE REPORT

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One skeleton dating to 1st Century AD was discovered during excavations in the Innermost Bailey. It was examined in situ as it is planned to raise it on a block of soil for display purposes.

The bones were the remains of an immature individual aged 13-16 and almost certainly a male. A probable maximum stature was calculated from the long bone measurements. This can only be a rough estimate as almost all the epiphyses were unfused and the measurements themselves were not as accurate as those made on disarticulated bones in a laboratory. Maximum stature was about 162 cm (c. 5' 4") calculated from the formulae of Trotter and Gleser.

No congenital abnormalities or pathological changes were noted. The skull was slightly cracked and warped, especially around the orbits and on the squamous part of the temporal bones. This, combined with the fact that only the front portion of the vault was exposed, meant that no skull measurements were recordable.

References

Brothwell, D.R. (1972) Digging up bones

Trotter, M. and Gleser, G.C. (1958) Amer. J. phys. Anthropol. 16, 79-123

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Addendum to Human bone report 51/76

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The skeleton was eventually lifted as individual bones and these were submitted for examination. No significant details other than those already reported were noted with the exception of the teeth which were clearly seen for the first time.

All the third molars were present but, as one would expect in an individual of this age, unerrupted. The upper left canine was also unerrupted, probably because of the retention of the corresponding milk canine which was unfortunately missing, although its socket was clearly visible. Caries were noted in two of the molars and also slight calculus deposits.

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