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An anthropological investigation into the facial preservation of ceremonial tsantsa and commercial shrunken heads

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Appendix 20

Suspension cords (shrunken head collection)

Records for each head are maintained on, identified suspension cords (Table A20-1, *appendix* pp.1-4) and perforation patterns for their application (Table A21-2, *appendix* pp.4-8).

Table A20-1: Records on suspension cords identified for each shrunken head.

Head ID	Processor origin	Material	Weave	Purpose
A95789	Ceremonial	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.
A121104	Ceremonial	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.
A642550	Ceremonial	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.
A642560	Ceremonial	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.
E165119B0	Ceremonial	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.
E403395-0	Ceremonial	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.
A38099	Commercial			
A61492	Commercial			
A63428	Commercial	Not present.		
A63429	Commercial			
A68229	Commercial			
A68231	Commercial			

Head ID	Processor origin	Material	Weave	Purpose
A97275	Commercial			
A102935	Commercial			
A109084	Commercial			
A119820	Commercial	*MTS – vegetable fibre string.	10-strand plait.	Short loop - tight fit about neck/suspension for display.
A130409	Commercial			
A190320	Commercial	Not present.		
A221683	Commercial			
A230414	Commercial			
A642477	Commercial			
A642549	Commercial			
A642556	Commercial			
A642557	Commercial			
A642564	Commercial			
A642565	Commercial			
378202	Commercial	*MTS - thin black thread.	Twisted string.	Short single strand - suspension for display only.
CONTROL 400206	Commercial			
E326930-0	Commercial	Long *MTS - vegetable fibre string, decorated with halved fruit shells and seeds.	Twisted string.	Decorative.
E358641-0	Commercial			
E358642-0	Commercial			
E378203-0	Commercial			
E378892	Commercial			
E382592-0	Commercial			
E387845-0	Commercial	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	Twisted string.	Short loop - suspension for display only.
E397131-0	Commercial			
E411333-0	Commercial			
N387872-0	Commercial			

Head ID	Processor origin	Material	Weave	Purpose
P387657-0	Commercial			
P387659-0	Commercial			
P387660-0	Commercial			
P387661-0	Commercial			
A36675	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.
A41122	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	Twisted string.	4 knots in string - if untied, possible tight fit about neck. Possible suspension for display only.
A44058	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.
A95788	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	Twisted string.	Wear about neck - decorative.
A121091	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	Twisted string.	Looped - wear about neck.
A155039	Ambiguous	Not present.		
A161722	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	Twisted string.	Single length, small loop knotted into end - suspension for display only.
A191643	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.
A233681	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.
A642548	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	Twisted string.	Short loop - tight fit about neck/suspension for display.
A642551	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.
A642552	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.
A642553	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.
A642554	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.
A642555	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.
A642558	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.
A642559	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	Basic 3-strand plait.	Short loop - tight fit about neck/ decorative display.
A642561	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string (only remnant).	5-loop plait.	N/A – severed cord.
A642562	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.
A642563	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.

Head ID	Processor origin	Material	Weave	Purpose
E039500	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck. Cord ends extend from the neck where 2 toucan feathers are attached to each end to form tassels.
E315111-0	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.
Elgin1	Ambiguous	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	5-loop plait.	Looped - wear about neck.

Table A20-2: Evidence of suspension cord perforations presented for each shrunken head.

Head ID	Processor origin	Perforation(s) for cord						
		No.	Location 1	Approx. diam. (mm)	Condition	Location 2	Approx. diam. (mm)	Condition
A95789	Ceremonial	1	Vertex.	8mm	Smart circular perforation with suspension cord passed through and held in place by wooden chonta shirt pin.			
A121104	Ceremonial	1	Vertex.	6mm	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with wooden chonta shirt pin.			
A642550	Ceremonial	1	Vertex.	7-8mm	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with wooden chonta shirt pin. Perforation beginning to weaken and crack.			
A642560	Ceremonial	2	Anterior vertex.	6.5mm	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with a wooden chonta shirt pin.	Posterior vertex.	6-6.5mm	Filled with pitch.
E165119B0	Ceremonial	2	Anterior vertex.	5mm	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with wooden chonta shirt pin.	Posterior vertex.	5mm	Empty hollow.
E403395-0	Ceremonial	1	Vertex.	5-6mm	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with wooden chonta shirt pin.			
A38099	Commercial							
A61492	Commercial							
A63428	Commercial	1	Vertex.	1mm	Empty - discrete pinhole, presumably once supported a suspension cord.			
A63429	Commercial							

Head ID	Processor origin	Perforation(s) for cord						
		No.	Location 1	Approx. diam. (mm)	Condition	Location 2	Approx. diam. (mm)	Condition
A68229	Commercial							
A68231	Commercial							
A97275	Commercial							
A102935	Commercial							
A109084	Commercial							
A119820	Commercial	1	Vertex	5-6mm	Suspension cord fits tightly through incision, supported internally by knotted string.			
A130409	Commercial							
A190320	Commercial	1	Vertex.	3.5-4mm	Empty.			
A221683	Commercial							
A230414	Commercial							
A642477	Commercial							
A642549	Commercial							
A642556	Commercial							
A642557	Commercial							
A642564	Commercial							
A642565	Commercial							
378202	Commercial	1	Vertex.	1mm	String sewn through and secured internally with knot.			
CONTROL 400206	Commercial							
E326930-0	Commercial	1	Vertex.	3-4mm	Suspension cord passes through and secured (unknown how).			
E358641-0	Commercial							
E358642-0	Commercial							
E378203-0	Commercial							
E378892	Commercial							
E382592-0	Commercial							

Head ID	Processor origin	Perforation(s) for cord						
		No.	Location 1	Approx. diam. (mm)	Condition	Location 2	Approx. diam. (mm)	Condition
E387845-0	Commercial	2	Vertex left.	5-6mm	Transverse perforations at vertex. String passed through each hole and knotted outside head.	Vertex right.	5-6mm	See Location 1 - Condition.
E397131-0	Commercial							
E411333-0	Commercial							
N387872-0	Commercial							
P387657-0	Commercial							
P387659-0	Commercial							
P387660-0	Commercial							
P387661-0	Commercial							
A36675	Ambiguous	1	Vertex.	5mm	Suspension cord passes through and secured internally (unknown how).			
A41122	Ambiguous	1	Vertex.	4-5mm	Suspension cord passes through and secured internally (unknown how).			
A44058	Ceremonial	2	Anterior vertex.	6-7mm	Rough perforation, suspension cord passes through and secured by wooden chonta shirt pin.	Posterior vertex.	5mm	Empty hollow.
A95788	Ambiguous	1	Vertex.	6mm	Suspension cord passes through and secured (unknown how).			
A121091	Ambiguous	1	Vertex.	3-3.5mm	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with wooden chonta shirt pin.			
A155039	Ambiguous	1	Vertex.	4-4.5mm	Empty.			
A161722	Ambiguous	1	Vertex.	2-2.5mm	Suspension string tightly passes through, secured internally by a knot.			
A191643	Ambiguous	2	Anterior vertex.	5mm	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with wooden chonta shirt pin.	Posterior vertex.	5mm	Pitch roughly covers perforation; hair has been trapped in pitch application.
A233681	Ambiguous	1	Vertex.	6mm	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with wooden chonta shirt pin.			

Head ID	Processor origin	Perforation(s) for cord						
		No.	Location 1	Approx. diam. (mm)	Condition	Location 2	Approx. diam. (mm)	Condition
A642548	Ambiguous	1	Vertex	2mm	Suspension strings passes through, wrapped and knotted to a nail internally.			
A642551	Ambiguous	2	Anterior vertex.	6mm	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with wooden chonta shirt pin.	Posterior vertex.	5mm	Empty hollow.
A642552	Ambiguous	2	Posterior vertex.	6mm	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with wooden shirt pin.	Anterior Vertex	6mm	Filled with an untreated chambira/cotton plug.
A642553	Ambiguous	2	Anterior vertex.	6mm	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with wooden chonta shirt pin.	Posterior vertex.	6mm	Filled with an untreated chambira/cotton plug.
A642554	Ambiguous	1	Vertex.	10mm (l) x 5mm (w)	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with wooden chonta shirt pin.			
A642555	Ambiguous	1	Vertex.	6mm	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with a wooden chonta shirt pin.			
A642558	Ambiguous	1	Vertex.	7mm (l) x 5mm (w)	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with a wooden chonta shirt pin.			
A642559	Ambiguous	2	Anterior vertex.	5-6mm	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with a knot - no shirt pin visible.	Posterior vertex.	5-6mm	Filled with pitch.
A642561	Ambiguous	1	Vertex.	5-5.5mm	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with a wooden chonta shirt pin.			
A642562	Ambiguous	1	Vertex.	3-3.5mm	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with a wooden chonta shirt pin.			
A642563	Ambiguous	1	Vertex.	5mm	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with a wooden chonta shirt pin.			
E039500	Ambiguous	2	Anterior vertex.	6-7mm	Suspension cord passes and secured internally with a wooden chonta shirt pin. Two ends of cord extend beneath neck, two toucan feathers applied (tacked at stem with pitch and string bound to cord).	Posterior vertex.	2-3mm	Empty hollow.

Head ID	Processor origin	Perforation(s) for cord						
		No.	Location 1	Approx. diam. (mm)	Condition	Location 2	Approx. diam. (mm)	Condition
E315111-0	Ambiguous	2	Posterior vertex.	6-7mm	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with wooden chonta shirt pin.	Anterior vertex.	6-7mm	Empty hollow.
Elgin1	Ambiguous	2	Posterior vertex.	6-7mm	Suspension cord passes through, secured internally with wooden chonta shirt pin.	Anterior vertex.	2-3mm	Filled with an untreated chambira/cotton plug.