



Photo: Gunnar Menander

Peder Winstrup – Meet the man who laid the foundations for Lund University

For over 300 years, Bishop Peder Winstrup has lain buried in Lund Cathedral. However, despite the long period in a coffin, his remains are still in good condition. Peder Winstrup could be our best-preserved 17th century mummy! In a unique research project, the mummy's remains are being examined in detail using all interdisciplinary methods imaginable.

PEDER WINSTRUP ANNIVERSARY RESEARCH PROJECT

Join us on a personal and interdisciplinary meeting with the man who saw to it that Lund was given a university. Bishop of Lund Peder Winstrup (1605–1679) was an entrepreneur with high worldly and spiritual aspirations, wedged in the struggle between two political powers: Sweden and Denmark. With an impressive background as chaplain to the King of Denmark, pioneer of the book-printing industry and professor of physics, Winstrup was both an opportunist and entrepreneur; quick-tempered and learned, church dignitary and a first-rate politician. In 1658, King Charles X Gustav visited Lund, where, over the course of a dinner, Winstrup persuaded the king of the benefits of starting a university in the city. It was an uncommonly good idea. Winstrup was knighted. Lund's last Danish bishop became the first Swedish one! Eight years later, Lund University was opened.

Peder Winstrup's mummy presents a unique opportunity for an interdisciplinary research project that unites all disciplines of the university. The project will provide a clearer picture of what life was like for a Lund resident in the 17th century. On 11 September 2014 the remains of Peder Winstrup were carried out of the Cathedral in ceremonial fashion and taken to a storage facility at Gastelyckan. The Lund University Historical Museum has managed to obtain permission to conduct a medical and archaeological examination of the remains. Winstrup's body represents an unparalleled archive in the history of medicine, but the well-preserved textiles and plant material are also unique.

PROGRESS

On 7 October the examinations began, with an inspection of the coffin, which confirmed that the move from the Cathedral to the museum's conservation department had gone well. The inner coffin was then lifted carefully out of the outer coffin. On 15 December a CT scan was performed on Winstrup's remains at the University Hospital in Lund with sensational results. Preliminary studies show that Peder Winstrup's internal organs remain intact.

With your support, we can tell the story of one of the most interesting and central characters of the 17th century and at the same time, by using the latest technology, gain a unique medical insight into a person from the time. The exciting results are intended to be presented in an exhibition, popular science book and lecture series. Mass media interest will be strong throughout the duration of the project.

FUNDING NEEDS

Peder Winstrup, SEK 5 million

All donations are welcome, whether large or small.

Together we can work for a better world.

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