



“Brötzi” Emerges

When photos of a mysterious tattoo on Brad Pitt’s left forearm surfaced on the Internet, savvy bloggers immediately recognized the outline of “Ötzi,” a 5,300-year-old mummy found frozen in the Alps in 1991. The image even generated buzz among “Iceman” scholars. Horst Seidler, an anthropologist at the University of Vienna and president of the Iceman-Commission, was enthused: “I have to confess, it’s a nice place on his arm, visible . . . I’m sure the Iceman feels honored to decorate an American celebrity, [like the] famous Mr. Pitt!”

The Iceman himself sports some of the world’s oldest tattoos—mostly

blue-black hash marks that can be seen in Pitt’s tattoo (above)—which may have inspired the actor. But when *ARCHAEOLOGY* contacted Pitt’s publicist Cindy Guagenti for comment, she had “no idea” why he had chosen the grisly tat.

Katharina Hersel, a spokesperson for Italy’s South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology, where Ötzi’s remains are housed, told *ARCHAEOLOGY* that the museum would like to invite Pitt and his family for a visit. “If his tattoo is [real], he might be very interested to meet the original Iceman,” she remarked. “Mr. Pitt is definitely a trendsetter. As archaeologists, we take note of that.” —ETI BONN-MULLER