

Sex and the City in Ancient Egypt:

Sexual relations,
sensual signs
and social significance

A symposium organized by the Egypt Exploration Organization SC
and the UCLA Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

Sunday May 23, 2004 (12:00 – 5:00 pm), Lenart Auditorium Fowler Building

Sex in Ancient Egypt (Lise Manniche, University of Copenhagen, Denmark)

Much information on sexual habits of the ancient Egyptians is disguised as symbols and metaphors; obvious erotic representations come on their own with no context to enable us to understand their message; and the texts are incompletely preserved. Nevertheless, it is possible to obtain glimpses of the intimate lives of pharaohs and ordinary mortals.

Flowing robes and skimpy dresses: on clothing and climate in Ancient Egypt

(Willeke Wendrich, UCLA)

Egyptian tomb paintings depict tomb owners, men and women, in translucent fine pleated linen dresses and skirts that show every curve of the body. What does archaeology tell us about 'real-life' clothing in Ancient Egypt, what would have been considered sexy, what functional, and how do the skimpy outfits relate to the daily activities and the climate in Egypt.

Damned if you do, Damned if you don't – women's alleged vices in Egyptian law

(Jacco Dieleman, UCLA)

Those accused of a crime without witnesses had to swear before the god in the temple. In the majority of cases, the accused denies having stolen grain, a garment, or a donkey or reassures that he or she has undertaken a specific task. Apparently, to swear before the god was seen as the ultimate test. A fair number of temple oaths deal with women denying having committed adultery or having stolen from their housekeeping allowance. Why is it that similar oaths can not be found for men?

Perfume and cosmetics in Ancient Egypt (Lise Manniche)

Eye paint was included even in prehistoric tomb equipment, and along with food it was thus considered essential for survival in the Hereafter. 3000 years of Pharaonic civilization reveal a wealth of information on the significance of scent and cosmetics in daily life, in temple ritual, and in funerary beliefs. Through pictures, texts and remains of the actual substances we are able to assess the sophisticated ways in which the Egyptians attempted to satisfy very basic, human needs.

Lecture fees are \$ 40 (for students \$ 30) and may be paid by sending a check made out to
HDSI Management. The check and the registration information below can be sent to:

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