

Save Ancient Studies Alliance

Summer 2022 Texts-in-Translation Reading Group

Scandals, Affairs, Treason: Misdeeds in Ancient Egypt



Flogging Scene (James, *The Mastaba of Khentika* [1953], pl. IX).

Sources favour the powerful; they have their deeds immortalized and, perhaps, their wrongdoings omitted. But what about the less lucky ones—who lost battles for power, who were persecuted for their misdemeanours and, consequently, could no longer influence how they were remembered or if their memory was condemned?

This reading group aims to explore the traces of scandals, affairs and crimes committed by both common people and the political elite of Ancient Egypt. Instead of focusing on the ideals Egyptian society worked towards, we will investigate proscribed behaviour and its consequences. What actions were considered off limits may reveal much about a social or political system and in this way, we will explore sources on adultery, political intrigue and regicide.



Ramesses III. (with his son before Hathor) fell victim to a complot orchestrated by members of his family, harem and court. What happened to the conspirators?

Your SASA Educational Ambassador:

Charlotte Dietrich

Predoc researcher (project “Challenging Time(s)”, Austrian Archaeological Institute, Department of Classical Studies); PhD-candidate at the University of Vienna

charlotte.dietrich@oeaw.ac.at

Dates (3 weeks):

Mondays at 12 pm EST

-Session 1: June 27th

-Session 2: July 4th

-Session 3: July 11th

Location:(Provided by SASA)

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83964774080?pwd=b0JKVTdnbk02TEEx6Y1RMZzg4SDVNdz09>

Zoom Meeting ID

839 6477 4080

Zoom Meeting Password

176295

Reading Group Google Folder: (PDF Readings and Recordings of Sessions)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HVJWYHdALINX-KLfNFuLYN2BRhSTFLNd?usp=sharing>

Week 1: Adultery and Legal Action

Possible Points of Discussion:

How does the Ancient Egyptian concept of marriage differ from the modern one?

What exactly makes adultery a crime?

How were adulterers treated by Ancient Egyptian society/what were the consequences of their actions?

Week 2: Court Plottings and Illegitimates

Week 3: Conspiracies and Regicide