

Save Ancient Studies Alliance

January 2021 Texts-in-Translation Master Class

## Taking Care of Egypt, Taking Care of the Home: The Power of Elite and Royal Women



What did it mean to be female in ancient Egypt?  
 What roles did women hold in society?  
 How did women negotiate power within those roles?

Women held positions of great importance in ancient Egypt, ranging from priestesses and chantresses to kings' wives and reigning monarchs. Most people will have heard of Cleopatra and some may have heard of Hatshepsut or Nefertiti, but not many will be familiar with Hetepheres or Naunakht—equally fascinating figures rarely discussed outside of academic circles. At a time when the roles and importance of women in society are under debate and scrutiny, it is valuable to explore how power was wielded by women in other times and places. In this master class, we will evaluate the different types of evidence and the approaches that have been used to study the elite and royal women of ancient Egypt, highlighting the distinct roles they played and how they were able to negotiate power within the bounds of their social identities.

**Your SASA Educational Ambassadors:**





**Luiza Silva** is a third-year PhD student in Egyptian Archaeology at the University of Chicago. She is mainly interested in ancient Egyptian kingship, royal ideology, and royal legitimization practices.

**Theresa Tiliakos** is a fourth-year PhD student in Egyptology at the University of Chicago. Her research focuses on the construction of identity in the New Kingdom and Third Intermediate Period, women in the New Kingdom, and Late Egyptian literature and language.

**Date: Please note date change!**

January 27th, 2021 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. EST

**Location:**

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86562092038?pwd=bzhRd0M1WUIRcGRuZDhxVWIMUnFKZz09>

Zoom Meeting ID

865 6209 2038

Zoom Meeting Password

557381

**Structure:**

We'll start with a short introduction to the topic, focusing on the types of evidence available and how to apply them to elite and royal women. We'll then dive into the texts listed below -- 1 and 2 listed under both elite and royal are primary sources, while number 3 under each is a secondary synthetic source. We've also added a couple of other sources that might be of interest under "useful books/links," but please do not feel like you need to read them -- these are just here so that you can read further about the topic if you'd like.

**Links to Main Readings:**

**Elite:**

1. [Translation of Selected Wisdom Texts](#)
2. **Letter to be added**
3. [Lorenz, M. "Women and Their Employment," in \*The Life of Meresamun\* \(2009\): pp. 98-109.](#)

**Royal:**

1. [Hatshepsut Coronation Text](#)
2. [Amarna Letter to Queen Tiye \(EA 26\)](#) - this is the entire book so read letter 26!
3. [Troy, L. "She For Whom All that is Said is Done - The Ancient Egyptian Queen," in \*Ancient Queens: Archaeological Explorations\*, pp. 93-116.](#)

**Useful Books/Links:**

**Elite:**

1. [Roehrig, C. "Woman's Work: Some Occupations of Nonroyal Women as Depicted in Ancient Egyptian Art," in \*Mistress of the House, Mistress of Heaven\* \(1997\): pp. 13-24.](#)
2. [Johnson, J. "The Social, Economic, and Legal Status of Women in Ancient Egypt," in \*The Life of Meresamun\* \(2009\): pp. 82-97.](#)

**Royal:**

1. [Roehrig, C. \*Hatshepsut: From Queen to Pharaoh\*](#)

**Full Zoom Meeting Invitation:**

Time: Jan 20, 2021 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)



Join Zoom Meeting

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