Children in Ancient Egypt

Saturday 10th February, 2018
Kanaris Lecture Theatre, the Manchester Museum, Oxford Road

Presented by the Manchester Museum
in association with the KNH Centre

Programme

9.15  Registration: tea/coffee
9.45  Welcome and Introduction
10.00  Sons of the King – Carving a Name for yourself - Campbell Price
10.30  Teething, Coughs and the Neshu Illness: Healing Remedies for Children in ancient Egypt – Roger Forshaw
11.15  - Tea/coffee break –
11.45  A Rampart in my Heart: Royal Father-Son Relationships in the Early Ramesside Period – Nicky Nielsen
12.45  - Lunch - (please make own arrangements)
1.45  Egyptology in Manchester – Campbell Price
2.00  Lives short lived: What we can learn about life and death of children in Ancient Egypt by studying their physical remains – Iwona Kozieradzka-Ogunmakin
3.00  - Tea/coffee break –
3.30  Pictures of a life? Children’s Portraits, Playthings and Personhood in Graeco-Roman Egypt – April Pudsey
4.30  Conclusion

For further details and to book a place please visit: www.bit.ly/ChildreninAE
The Egyptians were generally reticent to say too much about the activities of the sons of a Pharaoh. One particular role that allowed several children of the sovereign to make a name for themselves was that of Overseer of Royal Works. This lecture examines some of the individuals who were mindful of making a mark on posterity knowing that they might never become Pharaoh.

Further Reading:


Teething, Coughs and the Neshu Illness: Healing Remedies for Children in Ancient Egypt: Roger Forshaw

Remedies directed at the disorders of women during pregnancy, and for the treatment of childhood ailments are to be found in several of the medical texts handed down to us from ancient Egypt. Therapies involved the use of medicaments derived from mineral, animal and plant products, but in addition considerable reliance was placed upon supernatural help. Mothers often followed the model of Isis who with her powers protected the young Horus, and so the ancient Egyptian mother would recite various magical incantations over their sick children to protect them.

Many complaints which are listed in the papyri such as teething, the common cough, problems with urination and bedwetting are familiar to us today. However, a number of the cases in the papyri are uncertain, due to problems with translation, but the symptoms of these disease are listed and this enables a better understanding of these disorders.

Further Reading:


The 19th Dynasty represented a period of dynastic continuity after the chaotic post-Amarna interim of the late 18th Dynasty. This talk aims to investigate the personal and political relationships between the first three rulers of this period – Ramesses I, Seti I and Ramesses II. It will explore the historicity of the Ramesside family; where it came from and how it rose to power and prominence. Using royal monumental inscriptions, the talk will also investigate the manner in which the royal father-son relationship (one of tutor and student) was used a crucial device of legitimisation. It will also examine the evidence for co-regencies during this period.

Further Reading:


Much is known about what it was like to grow up in Ancient Egypt based on the archaeological evidence, iconographic representations, and written sources. Studies of human remains offer additional information to aid our understanding of the life and death of the youngest and most vulnerable members of the ancient Egyptian society. From their birth to puberty, children had been exposed to and their lives shaped and affected by various factors, including living environment, diet, disease exposure, access to and provision of care, and their social standing.

This presentation will use findings from several cemetery sites, including Amarna, Dakhleh Oasis and Saqqara, to discuss evidence of poor health and its causative factors, mistreatment and causes of death among children in ancient Egypt.

Further reading:

How did children experience the world around them in ancient Egypt? A remarkable array of objects, images and texts from the Graeco-Roman period allow us a glimpse into many aspects of their lives: their home-life, play, work, learning, religion, travel and even their emotional concerns and relationships. We have surviving toys, religious objects, clothing, and portraits which were designed specifically for children; in some examples, it is clear that they themselves were involved in producing these objects. So can we use this evidence to point towards child-focused cultures?

In this talk I will explore some of this material in the collection in the Manchester Museum, and in others. On the one hand, we will see the expectations placed on girls and boys by their families and communities, and the values they were to carry forward into future generations. On the other, we will ask how young people in Egypt may have experienced the world around them, and how much of a role they were able to take in shaping those experiences for themselves as they grew up.

Further Reading:

