

Clothing in the ANE: An Annotated Bibliography

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History of Israel: Period of Origins BCS 650
December 1, 2008

Bibliography

Clothing and Culture

“Ancient Israelite Clothing and Jewelry.” In *Archaeological Study Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

This rather short article is associated with Isaiah 3 (Judgment on Jerusalem and Judah). This article does not give any definitive argument on “Israeli” clothing, but does give a quick “run-through” of ANE clothing and jewelry styles including MBA earring and bracelet finds at Tell el-Ajjul.

Houston, Mary Galway. *Ancient Egyptian, Mesopotamian & Persian Costume*. Mineola: Dover Pub., 2002.

Rather interesting book that covers clothing (costume) styles in the ANE. Although much more time and space is given to Egypt (spanning from Old to New Kingdom), the author does spend time in both Mesopotamia (Sumerian and Babylonian cultures) and Persia.

Matthews, Donald. “Artisans and Artists in Ancient Western Asia,” in *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, volume 1, edited by Jack M. Sasson. 455-468. New York: Scribners, 1995.

Although the article does not concern clothing, there is a small section concerning “Craft Areas” which mentions the possibility of woman creating textiles. The discovery of loom weights with grain or grinding stones could show evidence for this assumption. Understanding who made the clothing is of important to the psychology behind the clothes.

Wade, John M., and Gerald L. Mattingly. “Ancient Weavers at Iron Age Mудaybi.” *Near Eastern Archaeology* v. 66, no. 1/2 (March/June 2004): p. 73-75.

The authors discuss a “recent discovery of a cache of clay loom weights at Khirbat al-Mudaybi,” an IA II fort that was once located on the edge of Moab. This article does not attribute to the “clothing” in ANE, only the existence of Moabite wool industry.

Wallenfels, Ronald, and Jack M. Sasson. “Clothing.” In *The Ancient Near East: An Encyclopedia for Students*, Vol. 2.:6-9. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2000.
http://research.cincinatlilibrary.org:2094/ps/start.do?p=GVRL&u=plch_main.

This simple to understand article features the major points concerning clothing in the ANE. The article covers Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Anatolian, Syrian (and the Levant), and Iranian clothing practices.

Egypt

Edward I. Bleiberg, Ed. "Clothing and Jewelry: The Tombs of Kha and Hatnofre." *World Eras*, Vol. 5: Ancient Egypt, 163-165. Detroit: Gale Group, 2002.
http://research.cincinnati.library.org:2094/ps/start.do?p=GVRL&u=plch_main.

This is a short article discussing the findings (as pertains to clothing) within the tombs of Kha (chief architect of Amenhotep III -circa 1390-1353 B.C.E.) and Hatnofre (the mother of Hatshepsut's vizier).

Janssen, Rosalind M. H. "Costume in New Kingdom Egypt," in *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, volume 1, edited by Jack M. Saasson (New York: Scribners, 1995), pp. 383–394.

Clothing styles in New Kingdom Egypt included a variety of materials (wool being a part of these – contrary to Herodotus). This article speaks not only on the material, but also what was worn and who wore what in different periods of Egypt.

Lucas, A., and J. Harris. *Ancient Egyptian Materials and Industries*. Mineola: Dover, 1999.

Much information on Egyptian culture, but three chapters specifically are interesting for this study (Chapter 6: Cosmetics, Perfumes and Incense; Chapter 7: Inlaid Eyes; and Chapter 8: Fibres: Woven Fabrics: Dyeing). It is interesting that the author makes note of Herodotus' claim that wool was an unclean material (see above).

Romano, James. "Jewelry and Personal Arts in Ancient Egypt," in *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, volume 3, edited by Jack M. Saasson. 1605-1620. New York: Scribners, 1995.

We have vast information from ancient Egypt, due to the pains the Egyptians went through to preserve artifacts. This article takes you through the history of Egypt (discussing the issues at hand), while also giving illustrations to allow the reader to visualize the jewelry and art.

Smith, Stuart Tyson. "Ethnicity and Culture," pp. 218- 241 in *The Egyptian World*, Toby Wilkinson, 10th ed. London: Routledge, 2007.

As a part of the broader book, *The Egyptian World*, Smith explains the culture behind ancient Egypt. Smith pays special attention to the “Nubian problem,” giving us illustrations to picture what he discusses.

Mesopotamia

Bier, Carol. “Textile Arts in Ancient Western Asia,” in *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, volume 3, edited by Jack M. Saasson. 1567-1588. New York: Scribners, 1995.

The use of textiles plays a very important role in our study, since clothing is made from cloth. While the majority of information from this article involves carpets, the textile material, color, etc. may also pertain to clothing material, color, etc.

Collon, Dominique. “Clothing and Grooming in Ancient Western Asia,” in *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, volume 1, edited by Jack M. Saasson (New York: Scribners, 1995) pp. 503-515.

Collon gives an excellent article on both clothing and grooming, beginning with prehistory and ending with the fall of Babylon (539 BCE). Illustrations are given on several key points.

Moorey, Peter Roger Stuart. *Ancient Mesopotamian Materials and Industries*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1999.

Not much information on clothing in Mesopotamia, but Moorey does give quite a bit of information concerning the craftsman who made these textiles. This information can be useful for deeper study.

Nemet-Nejat, Karen Rhea. “Fashion.” *Daily Life in Ancient Mesopotamia*. 153-157. Westport: Greenwood Press, 1998.

This section of the book gives fashion information, including the changing of styles over time. Attention is paid to areas of clothing, hairstyles and headgear, and cosmetics and perfumes.

Wallenfels, Ronald. “Clothing.” In *World Eras*, Vol. 8: *Ancient Mesopotamia*. 233-238. Detroit: Gale, 2005.
http://research.cincinnati.library.org:2094/ps/start.do?p=GVRL&u=plch_m ain.

The encyclopedia article discusses the clothing practices of ancient Mesopotamia (3-1 Millennium). Special attention is paid to the materials, footwear, and nudity in sculpture.

Zainab, Bahrani. “Jewelry and Personal Arts in Ancient Western Asia,” in *Civilizations*

of the Ancient Near East, volume 3, edited by Jack M. Saasson. 1635-1645. New York: Scribners, 1995.

The jewelry of Mesopotamia is also of high value to our study. While we cannot see what the ancient Israelites exactly wore until late, seeing the peoples around them does help us to ascertain something of the clothing practices of the time. This article discusses archaeological, textual, and artistic evidence.

Israel

Gruber, Mayer. "Private Life in Ancient Israel," in *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, volume 1, edited by Jack M. Saasson. 633-648. New York: Scribners, 1995.

Gruber here, in a subheading entitled "Apparel," mixes Canaanite and Israeli cultures in order to find the standard clothing fashions of ancient Israel. With the little evidence that we have, he gives an educated guess. He includes in his discussion clothing, footwear, and grooming.

Eroticism/Clothing Deviation in ANE

Daniel Reisman, "Two Neo-Sumerian Royal Hymns" (Ph.D. diss., University of Pennsylvania, 1969), 151-52; 168-169.

A rather interesting Neo-Sumerian hymn "Hymn to Inanna" (fourth *kirugu*, verse 60) describes a male prostitute who is "adorn[ed] with women's clothing." Rather than show a specific style of masculine or feminine clothing, this hymn acknowledges that the ancient Neo-Sumerians at least had a division between male and female dress.

Driver, Samuel R. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on Deuteronomy*. 250-251. ICC; New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1895.

Driver gives a very interesting, but short, article of the prohibition against transvestitism in Israel. What is noteworthy is that he mentions the normal cross-dressing practices of the heathen nations.

Flugel, J. C. *The psychology of clothes*. London: Hogarth Press, 1930.

Although this particular book has nothing to do with the Ancient Near East, the psychology behind clothing is of interest in an ethno-archaeological fashion. Of particular interest is the chapter on "The Evolution of Garments."

Henshaw, Richard A. "The *assinnu*, *kurgarru* and Similar Functionaries." *Female and Male: The Cultic Personnel: The Bible and the Rest of the Ancient Near*

East. 284–311. Princeton Theological Monograph Series 31; Allison Park, PA: Pickwick, 1994.

Henshaw, not only in the appendix listed but throughout the book, gives original source material concerning both male and female cultic practices. In the appendix listed above, Henshaw gives quite a dissertation on the specific sexual roles of certain individuals.

Hallo, William W. *The Book of the People*. 98. Atlanta: Scholars Pr., 1991.

As others, Hallo brings the issue of transvestitism in Deuteronomy and compares it to early Canaanite practices and worship of Ashtarte. He also mentions Ashtarte's Mesopotamian counterparts, Ishtar and Inanna. The connection with cultic prostitution is also discussed.

Leick, Gwendolyn. *Sex and Eroticism in Mesopotamian Literature*. 159. London: Routledge, 1994.

Sexuality and clothing are intertwined in ancient society. Leick, in her chapter on Liminal Sexuality, mentions the "Hymn of Inanna" (see Daniel Reisman) and the instance of the male prostitute "cross-dressing" in honor of Inanna. Since Revelation calls 1st century Jerusalem the "Whore of Babylon," reading about Babylon's whoredom is of interest to our discussion.

Pinock, Frances. "Erotic Art in the Ancient Near East," in *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, volume 4, edited by Jack M. Saasson. 2521-2531. New York: Scribners, 1995.

In order to understand what clothing constitutes "appropriate" clothing, it is of interest to us to see what constitutes "private" clothing. This article gives us information on eroticism as displayed in art and linguistics, from Egypt (no definable eroticism), Anatolia, and Mesopotamia and Syria. It is interesting to note that Mesopotamia and Syria are the only two regions that "show a definite interest in erotic representation."

Stol, Marten. "Private Life in Mesopotamia," in *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, volume 1, edited by Jack M. Saasson. 485–501, esp. 490–91. New York: Scribners, 1995.

Of particular interest is the section labeled "Man and Woman," where gender distinct clothing is addressed.

Thompson, C. J. S.. "Impersonation in Antiquity." *The Mysteries of Sex: Women Who Posed as Men and Men Who Impersonated Women*. 12-18. New York: Causeway Books, 1974.

One of the best forms of research is to first see what the antithesis to your presuppositions is saying. While this book contains little help to the ANE, the author does give quite an

extensive list of transvestites in the broader realm of history.

Vedeler, Harold Torger. "Reconstructing Meaning in Deuteronomy 22:5: Gender, Society, and Transvestitism in Israel and the Ancient Near East.." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 127, no. 3 (Fall2008 2008): 459-476.

Vedeler truly misses the point in this article. He uses faulty logic and faulty linguistics, yet he brings a wealth of original source material to the table. Good reference paper.

Wilfred G. Lambert, *Babylonian Wisdom Literature*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1960.

In ancient Babylonian literature, "The Assyrian Collection," we find an instance of transvestitism not associated with the cult. It appears that a man and his wife switch roles in order to woo each other – foreplay.