Ancient Hairstyles Make a Statement

New York-
By Vicki James Yiannias

International news flash last month: “Katherine, Duchess of Kent, gets bangs!” Would the Agora in Athens have buzzed with news of the propriety (or not) of Aspasia’s new bangs? Or might Pindar have encouraged her to restrict her desire for a new look and just go for a tame new twist in her crown of braids?

Not known. That she did something with her hair—something specific—is certain, however. In the ancient Mediterranean world hairstyles—to put it simply—meant a lot, signified wealth, social rank, and divinity. Hairstyles defined individuals. And the gods.

In the exhibition, “Hair in the Classical World,” at Fairfield University Bellarmine Museum of Art through December 18, thirty-three sculptures, coins, hair styling tools and decorative accessories dating from the Bronze Age to late Antiquity (1500 BCE - 600 CE), show the multiplicity of new identifiers is authentic. Professor Rose’s research and her attire and authority given it by the ancients, but perhaps it is that a new. Trends move swiftly, but techniques seem timeless. If there’s anything more to be explored regarding hairstyles in ancient times, surely Dr. Schwab and Dr. Rose will be looking for it.

Dr. Schwab’s research and her 2009 Caryatid Hairstyling Project and its internationally screened short film demonstrated that the complex hairstyles worn by the six ancient marble Caryats, or Caryatids, of the Erechtheion could be replicated on contemporary young women, and are therefore historically authentic. Professor Rose’s research on adornment-related imagery, including hairstyling, in the late Roman Empire, has been published and presented at national and international conferences.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Yale University Art Gallery, and the American Numismatic Society have lent the sculptures, coins, and hair styling tools on view in “Hair in the Classical World”.

had their ways of maximizing hair’s three-dimensional possibilities; and styling tools, too. Hair could create or confirm identities by being cut, shaved, or grown (marking phases within childhood, adolescence, and adulthood), curled, straightened, braided, gathered or rolled up, swept back or let down, and adorned with pins, combs, bows, garlands, and other decorations.

On one side of a shiny, irregularly shaped Greek Drachm (Decadrachm) from Syracuse four dolphins leap around the head of the Nereid Arethusa above which is written ΕΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΟ. Her short, curly, adorned hair is covered by a net and encircled with a band from which ringlets escape to frame her face and neck. On the obverse a flying Nike crowns a charioteer.

The tiny curled tips of the elaborately waved hair of a limestone head of a man from mid-5th century B.C. Cyrus frame his smiling face and the crown of oak leaves that imitates the arc of the hair creates an exciting play of shapes and textures.

A marble bust, Roman, a portrait of Julia Domna (with a slight smile, a cool gaze, and an aura of beauty) has abundant, exaggeratedly crimped hair whose textured pattern and helmet-like shape contrasts with the braided loop of hair that falls from the temples over each ear.

“Hair in the Classical World” makes it clear that contemporary hairstyles aren’t something new. Trends move swiftly, but techniques seem to live forever. There are fishtail braids like...
Secretary John Kerry promised to promote Greece with U.S. investors

The US envoy held talks with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias during his short visit to Athens

Greek Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos (below C) addresses lawmakers during a parliamentary session prior to a budget vote in Athens, Greece, 05 December 2015. The coalition government, which enjoys a narrow majority, managed to push the budget through with 153 votes for and 145 against after a late-night session. (Page 39)

Members of the Greek American Community held a fundraising event in Astoria for Congressman Dan Donovan (R, NY 11), on Tuesday November 10. Charles Capetanakis, Matthew Mirones, Tasos Zambas, Phil Christopher, Anthony Kammas, Nikos Mouyiaris, Taso Pardalis, George Kallergios, George Tsunis Endy Zemenides and Nikos Katsibras have worked for the success of the event.

Dan Donovan who has served for 12 years as Staten Island’s District Attorney, has been elected in US Congress in May 2015, replacing Congressman Michael Grimm who had resigned after pleading guilty in tax violations. Donovan is very close to the Greek American Community, and as Matthew Mirones said, it was him who encouraged him to run for the New York State Assembly.

During the dinner, the Congressman had the opportunity to be briefed on various issues concerning his constituents, both on domestic and on foreign policy issues. He also briefed them on his priorities on Capitol Hill.

Dan Donovan was also interviewed by the Greek News and he stressed the need for the

EPA/TANNIS KOLESIDIS

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry took a positive view of Greece’s energy policy and its efforts to tackle the refugee crisis during a one-day visit to the country Friday, while he urged Athens to continue on the path of economic reforms.

Sources said that Kerry also emphasized his keenness for the current reunification talks on Cyprus to lead to a historic deal that could be held up as an example in the wider region,