

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 Pericles 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--and something specific--is certain, however. In the ancient Mediterranean world hairstyles—to put it simply--meant a lot,

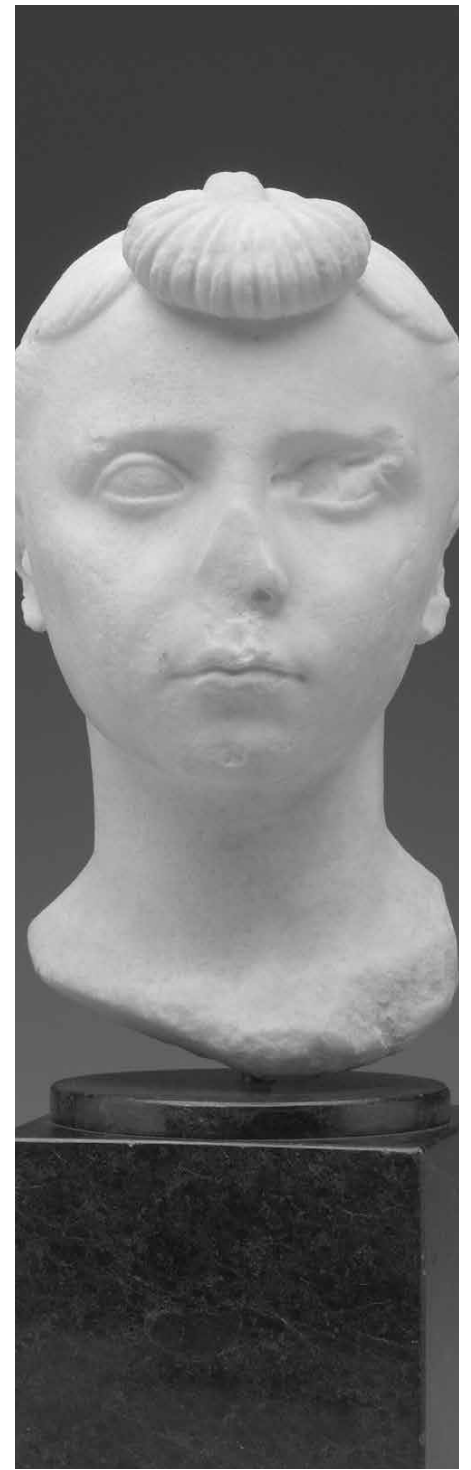
signified wealth, social rank, and divinity. Hairstyles defined individuals. And the gods.

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 significance of hairstyles in ancient Greece, Cyprus, and Rome.

“Hair in the Classical World” is co-curated by Dr. Katherine Schwab and Dr. Maris Rose, who are specialists on this topic, and the unique exhibition they have put together is the first of its kind in the United States.

Schwab and Rose are art history professors in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Fairfield University.

You might ask just how much could have been done with a head of hair before electric hair dryers and styling tools. Well, the ancients



Around our Town ... and Beyond

**** Monday December 7, 2015 at 6PM. At the Holy Trinity Cathedral Ballroom. A presentation by Mrs. Marianna Vardinoyiannis titled “The Greek Crisis and the Impact through the Eyes of the Children”. This event is hosted by the Hellenic- American Chamber of Commerce together with the Hellenic-American Cultural Foundation.

**** Tuesday, December 8 6:00 – 7:15 pm At the Cyprus Consulate (13 East 40th Street, NY, NY). The Cyprus US Chamber of Commerce will be holding their general membership meeting and elections of the Board of Directors on. The Annual Christmas party will follow from 7:30 – 9:00 pm.

**** Friday, December 11, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

AGAPW’s Holiday Benefit Celebration at the Greene Street Soho studio loft of artists Michael and Niki Kapsalis, featured in the New Visual Art Performance Biennial, Performa 15. Greek wine, Greek mezedes and seasonal sweets, great company and great art! Advanced RSVP is required. We kindly request a \$75 donation; net proceeds will benefit AGAPW’s Excellence Tuition Scholarship fund.

**** Tuesday December 15, 7 pm - 10pm

Christmas party of the Hellenic American Bar Association of NJ and the Greek American Chamber of Commerce NJ/PA. At The Venetian - 546 River Drive, Garfield, NJ 0702. Price: \$40 per person online registrants (no Amex) through Dec 10th. After that and at the door \$75. Unlimited Appetizers and Open Bar. Includes Venetia’s Cocktail Hour Variety Of Foods. Live Entertainment

Register at: www.GreekAmericanChamber.com. More info Damon Kamvosoulis - Tel. 201-997-2200 email: dkamvosoulis@kamvolaw.com Paul Adams, Tel. 201-390-5870 Email: padams@natfin.net

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 ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΟ. 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 BCE Cyprus 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 falls 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



those that crown the Caryatids (although such complexity must be rare), chopped hair, (hair-cutting rituals were conducted by warriors departing for battle and by women in mourning), very short with curls (emperors and gods), just to name a few of the hairstyles in the exhibition, which is divided into four parts, Arrangement

and Adornment; Rituals and Rites of Passage; Divine and Royal Iconography; and Hair and Cultural Exchange.

There seems to be a great distance between the face-shape focus of contemporary articles like “8 cute ways to wear your hair today”, and the idea of hairstyle having the expressive power and authority given it by the ancients, but perhaps it is that a multiplicity of new identifiers is always developing.

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 Korai, 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”.

GreekNews

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DAN DONOVAN:



We must help Greece to deal with the influx of refugees

New York.
By Apostolos Zoupaniotis

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 Kammis, 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

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Secretary John Kerry promised to promote Greece with U.S. investors



GREEK PARLIAMENT APPROVED 2016 BUDGET

EPA/YANNIS KOLESIDIS
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)



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

Athens

US 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,

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Happy Holidays!
Kalés Tiories!

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