

Accession No. M1981-1010
Bruce Collection
Box 7, Folder 208

[High School report by May Bruce Green; unknown date]

Cleopatra

Cleopatra was born in Alexandria in 69., her father was King Ptohney [Ptolemy], and she was the eldest of his three daughters.

Her father died and left her joint heir of the throne with her brother, who ~~was~~, according to customs of the royal Egyptian families, was to become her husband. The Egyptians had hoped to enjoy a kind of uncontrolled power on account of the youth and inexperience of the fair. Cleopatra was only seventeen when she succeeded to the throne and for her age she had remarkable wit and ambition and she soon showered her subjects that while she reigned they could not have their ~~longed for~~ desired freedom.

The selfishness of Cleopatra's nature was first shown, when, through her intrigue, she gained her brother's half of the kingdom, and thus, in all things concerning both public and personal affairs, through some cunning trickery, she gained her end.

Her mental accomplishments were certainly

[page 2]

unequaled by women of those days and she was irresistibly alluring to both sexes. One poet gives us such a clear idea of the fickleness, the tenderness and the childish susceptibility ~~to flattery~~ of her character as does Shakespear [Shakespeare] in his play of "Antony and Cleopatra". Her character is very vividly brought out in this drama and it is also shows us how entirely she brings Antony under her power.

Antony was a good, open hearted Roman soldier and he was capable of better things had he not been utterly ruined by the wicked influence of Cleopatra., Antony calls her his "serpent of Old Nile," Enchanting Queen, "Rare Egyptian" and speaks of her as "cunning, past mans thought."

Although Cleopatra was beautiful beyond description, it was not so much that

power with which she held men as her extremely fascinating manner her ready wit, and grace. Not only did this fickle queen bring Antony under her power, but also Caesar and by him (whom she married) was made queen of Rome, however, as the Romans had

[page 3]

such a strong hatred for the Egyptians, at Caesar's death she was dethroned.

Antony beleiving [believing] Cleopatra dead, stabbed him-self [himself] and in a dying state ordered his body to be laid inside hers., the queen hearing of his death and deeply moved had his body brought to her and sartered [?] his kinkles [?] in her tears.

Cleopatra wanted to kill her self [herself] although all instruments by which death could be inflicted were taken from her apartments but she was found lying dead upon her couch, the exact manner of her death was never ascertained, but many ascribe it to the bite of an ash which had been carried to her in a basket of fruit.

And thus ended the short life of this most wonderful and extraordinary of all Egypts queens, - Cleopatra the beautiful graceful, artful and fickle queen of the East.

May Bruce Green