

The Cleopatra Project

Following discussions with Historian Diana Preston and after some thought and research I agreed to try to produce a facial approximation of Cleopatra, the image to be included in Diana's excellent, now published book titled Cleopatra and Anthony.

Other than coins, and the Dendra carvings, there are very few surviving images of Cleopatra 7, so I looked to her family the Ptolemys, of which some representations exist. The facial profile of Cleopatra from coins and carvings does bear a marked resemblance to Ptolemaic representations and because of the inbreeding of this line I cross referenced the common Ptolemaic facial morphological traits to produce the reconstruction.

Cleopatra was from Macedonian stock so I used a female Macedonian skull copy which I modified in the mandible and nasal areas to help reproduce Cleopatra's facial features. I should point out of course that this is an approximation of Cleopatra, extrapolated from an amalgam of various images. The actual skeletal remains of Cleopatra possibly lay somewhere under the sea off the coast of Alexandria and may never be found.



Coin images of Cleopatra's father Auletes



Coin images of Cleopatra 7



Skull copy with tissue depth markers appropriate to Cleopatra's age and ethnicity.



Side view of finished reconstruction.



The finished reconstruction, it now sits in my office and stares at me all day!