Seems How Cleopatra Had Brains, Not Beauty
New York Times (1857-Current file); Jan 31, 1954; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002) pg. 23

Seems How Cleopatra Had Brains, Not Beauty

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 (UP) —After about 2,000 years it comes out now that Cleopatra was no great beauty.

No one doubts, the National Geographic Society said today, that Egypt's ancient Queen had a powerful personality and could talk like anything in several languages.

But if a piece of sculpture found in North Africa turns out to be, as a French scientist says it is, a marble portrait of Cleopatra, she "was no outstanding beauty."

So it must have been her winning ways that captivated men — she was "persuasive, adept at flattery, at times eloquent."

The marble head is in a museum at Cherchell, Algeria, which was the Caesarea of old Mauretania where the Queen's son-in-law, Juba II, had his home. Jean Charbonneaux, Paris archaeologist, believes the head is Cleopatra's likeness.

If so, "for such an articulate woman," she had a "remarkably small mouth." She also had a long nose, biggish eyes, and pierced ears.

Although Marc Antony fell hard for her, "she was probably less comely," The National Geographic said, than his wife Octavia.

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