

Langara Open Student Scholar Prize 2020

Honourable Mention

Hairstyle Replication – Bust of a Flavian Woman

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Class Submitted For: AHIS 1114 – Alena Buis

Open Education Statement:

In regard to this project, open-access education was an immensely valuable part of my learning process. In recreating this piece, I used both traditional academic journals that I could access online, as well as a less traditional resource: a youtube video. The video "Flavian-Trajanic Hairstyle: Orbis Comarum" by hair archaeologist Janet Stephens provided me with a more intimate and hands-on approach to tackling this recreation and was an immensely valuable learning tool. The fact that this video was so easily accessible made completing this assignment feel more like a fun activity rather than work, while still being highly educational. This non-traditional approach enhanced my enthusiasm, which in turn aided me immensely in the retention of facts, which is something with which I generally struggle. The video created by Stephens is a perfect example of open-access education, as Stephens is an Archaeologist by training but creates these educational videos shares them on a free platform for all to access. Stephens is also active in the comments section of her videos, further engaging with her audience and answering their questions. The video created by Stephens was the most valuable resource that I used in the creation of this project.

Hairstyle Replication: Bust of a Flavian Woman

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AHIS 1114-001

Dr. Alena Buis

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Figure 1



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Figure 2

Artist's Statement

This is a naturalistic depiction of the hairstyle on the *Bust of a Flavian Woman*, a bust of a Roman woman with richly stylized curls. In Roman times, these lavish structured updos were very fashionable. Roman women would either heat up metal rods to form their curls, or would twist the hair up into cloth strips in the evening while the hair was wet, releasing the curls in the morning. The hair near the crown of the head was often cut shorter than in the back as to easily maintain this style on a daily basis. The back of the hairstyle is created by twisting up braided hair into a bun. Often extensions made of horse hair were used to thicken the hair to help create these elaborate updos. This hairstyle was recreated using contemporary techniques and products, and the photos are rendered in black and white to make the subject appear more statuesque. The process provided me with valuable insight into a part of the daily routine for a woman living in Ancient Rome.

Bibliography

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