

Sheila Ager, *Dynastic Images in the Early Hellenistic Age: Queen's Power or King's Will?*

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Evidence from the Hellenistic kingdoms, particularly Ptolemaic Egypt, suggests that in the early years of the Hellenistic age, queens (specifically, the wife of the king) were associated with a set of common characteristics, such as beauty, love, and fertility. This queenly representation - evident in art, literature, and royal cult - has been interpreted as a sign of the importance, even the power, of the royal female; this is especially the case with Arsinoë II, whose public image during her brief marriage to her brother and after her death was so tremendously dominant. Argues that the emphasis on the queen as an avatar of love and beauty may have been rooted in the king's psychology rather than the queen's influence.

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