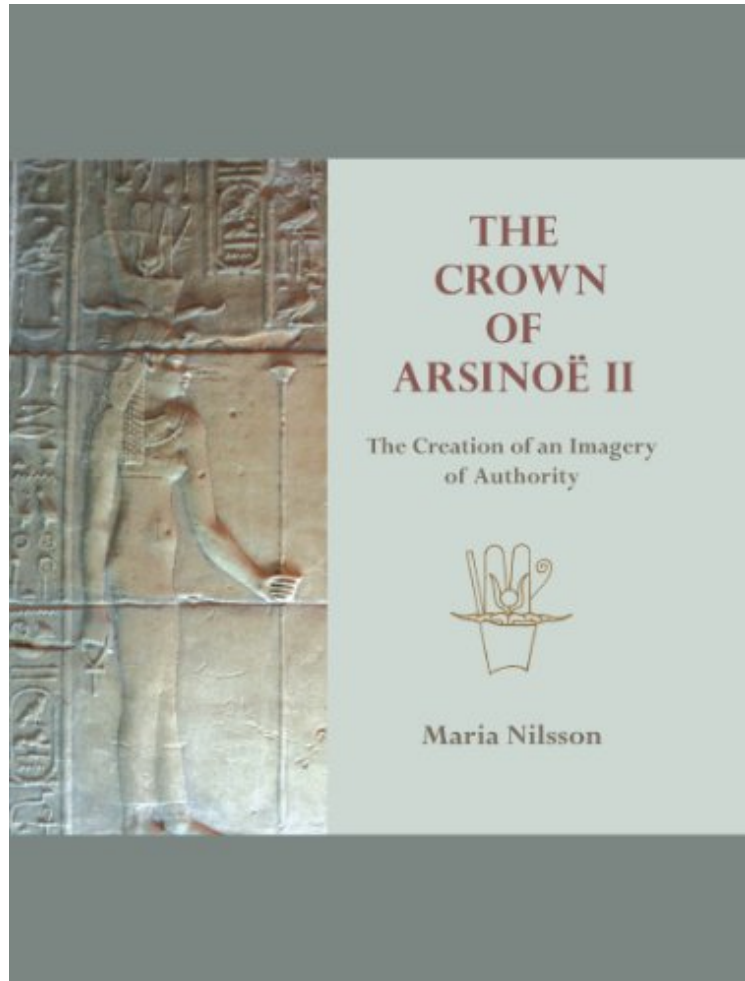


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## Crown of Arsinoeuml; II: The Creation of an Image of Authority

*Maria Nilsson*

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**Maria Nilsson : Crown of Arsinoeuml; II: The Creation of an Image of Authority** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Crown of Arsinoeuml; II: The Creation of an Image of Authority:

The Crown of Arsinoeuml; II is a detailed study of a unique crown that was created for the Ptolemaic Egyptian Queen Arsinoeuml; II which has important conclusions for ancient Egyptian history. Images of Arsinoeuml; are represented in a broad spectrum of iconographic media, depicting this historical figure in a Greek as well as Egyptian cultural setting, and as queen and goddess alike, though her tomb has never been found. Based on detailed examination of reliefs, the aim is to identify and understand the symbolism that is embedded in each pictorial detail that together form the crown, as well as all contextual aspects of the relief scenes, and how this reflects the wearer's socio-political and religious positions. The results of this study suggest that the crown of Arsinoeuml; was created for the living queen

and reflected three main cultural positions: her royal position as King of Lower Egypt, her cultic role as high priestess, and her religious aspect as thea Philadelphos . It indicates that she was proclaimed female pharaoh during her lifetime and should be included in the official pharaonic king list as Ptolemy II's co-regent: her royal authority should be considered equivalent to Hatshepsut, Tawosret and Amenirdis II, as one of the most important royal women in Egyptian history. Arsinoeuml;'s complex persona were embedded in a very unique attribute her crown and that this remained a symbol of authority throughout the last centuries of the ancient Egyptian period.

"...the author argues that Arsinoeuml; II should be included in the official pharaonic king list as Ptolemy II's co-regent, and that her royal authority, as powerful as that of Hatshepsut, Tausret and Amenirdis II, makes her one of the most important women in Egyptian history." (Sarah Griffiths Ancient Egypt Magazine, Vol. 14 No. 2, Issue 80 - October/November 2013)