

did queens have male concubines

did queens have male concubines is a question that delves into the fascinating intersection of royal history, gender dynamics, and cultural traditions. While the concept of female concubines in royal courts is widely documented, the existence and acceptance of male concubines for queens is a much more complex subject, often shaped by societal norms and political considerations. This article provides a comprehensive exploration of the historical evidence, cultural differences, and myths surrounding male concubines in royal courts. Readers will learn about the roles and status of concubines, the reasons why male concubines were rare, notable examples across different civilizations, and how these practices reflected broader attitudes towards gender and power. By examining scholarly research and historical records, this article aims to clarify misconceptions and present a nuanced view of royal intimacy and politics. Continue reading to discover a well-researched perspective on whether queens had male concubines, supported by keyword-rich insights and engaging content.

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Historical Context of Concubinage in Royal Courts

Throughout history, the institution of concubinage has played a significant role in royal courts, especially among kings, emperors, and sultans. Concubines, typically women, were selected to serve as companions, bear children, and strengthen dynastic alliances. In some societies, concubinage was an accepted and even respected practice, with concubines enjoying privileges and influence within the royal household. However, the presence of male concubines for queens was not as commonly documented, raising questions about gender roles, social norms, and historical records.

The concept of concubinage varied greatly across civilizations. In East Asia, for example, Chinese emperors maintained extensive harems, while Ottoman sultans had their own system of concubines in the Imperial Harem. In Europe, mistresses often fulfilled similar roles, though the term "concubine" was less commonly applied. The practice was often intertwined with issues of legitimacy, inheritance, and political alliances, reflecting the importance of sexuality and reproduction in royal power structures.

Male concubines, in contrast, are rarely mentioned in official records. This absence prompts historians to question whether queens ever had male companions in the same capacity as their male counterparts. By understanding the historical context of concubinage, we can better appreciate why the concept of male concubines for queens remains an intriguing and debated subject.

Gender Roles and Concubinage: Why Male Concubines Were Rare

The rarity of male concubines for queens can be attributed to prevailing gender roles and societal expectations in most historical periods. Male rulers were often granted sexual autonomy, with concubines considered a mark of status and virility. Queens, on the other hand, were expected to embody chastity, loyalty, and serve as symbols of dynastic purity. Concubinage for women was frequently viewed as a threat to lineage legitimacy, especially in societies where inheritance was strictly patrilineal.

Societal attitudes towards female sexuality were often restrictive. Queens who engaged in extramarital relationships risked scandal, loss of reputation, and even political upheaval. The double standard in royal courts meant that while kings could have many consorts, queens were rarely afforded the same freedoms. This disparity was reinforced by religious and cultural beliefs that placed women in subordinate roles, emphasizing their duty to uphold family honor and produce legitimate heirs.

- Patriarchal inheritance systems prioritized male lineage
- Religious doctrines often emphasized female chastity
- Political stability depended on the perceived purity of royal bloodlines
- Public scrutiny and gossip around queens' private lives discouraged extramarital relationships

These factors combined to make the existence of male concubines for queens an anomaly rather than a norm, with very few documented cases in world history.

Notable Examples of Male Concubines in History

Despite their rarity, there are a handful of historical accounts suggesting the presence of male companions or intimate relationships involving queens. However, these examples are often shrouded in ambiguity, rumor, and speculation, making it difficult to distinguish fact from fiction. In some cases, powerful queens exercised agency in their personal lives, challenging prevailing norms and sometimes maintaining close relationships with male courtiers, secret lovers, or trusted confidants.

In Ancient Egypt, some scholars have debated whether Queen Hatshepsut or Cleopatra engaged in relationships with men outside marriage, though there is little concrete evidence to suggest formal male concubinage. In European history, rumors surrounded queens such as Catherine the Great and Anne Boleyn, but these stories were often used as political weapons rather than reflections of reality.

It is important to note that even when queens had intimate male companions, these men were rarely referred to as "concubines" in the official sense. Instead, they might be described as lovers, favorites, or gentlemen of the bedchamber, reflecting the stigmatization and secrecy surrounding such relationships.

1. Catherine the Great of Russia was rumored to have several lovers, though never officially recognized male concubines.
2. Queen Christina of Sweden had close relationships with male courtiers, but no formal concubinage.
3. Cleopatra VII of Egypt's relationships with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony were political alliances rather than concubinage.

These examples highlight the challenges of documenting male concubines for queens, as historical records are often incomplete or influenced by political bias.

Cultural Views on Queens and Intimate Relationships

Culture played a central role in shaping the boundaries of royal intimacy for queens. In most societies, queens were expected to represent virtue, fidelity, and the continuity of the royal line. Any suggestion of extramarital affairs or male concubines was met with suspicion and often weaponized by political rivals. The concept of queens having male concubines was seen as subversive, challenging the very foundations of royal legitimacy and social order.

In contrast to male rulers, whose sexual exploits were often celebrated, queens faced rigid expectations. In some Asian courts, powerful empresses or queen regnants wielded significant authority, but their personal

lives remained strictly regulated. In medieval and Renaissance Europe, the reputations of queens were safeguarded by elaborate codes of conduct and courtly etiquette.

Even when queens did form close bonds with male companions, these relationships were typically disguised as friendships, mentorships, or political alliances. The lack of formal recognition for male concubines highlights the enduring influence of cultural taboos and gender norms.

Myths and Misconceptions About Male Concubines

The idea that queens had male concubines is often fueled by myths, rumors, and sensationalized stories. Throughout history, political opponents have spread gossip about the alleged affairs of queens, using accusations of infidelity to undermine their authority and reputation. These stories were frequently exaggerated or fabricated, reflecting the anxieties of a patriarchal society rather than historical reality.

Popular culture has also contributed to misconceptions, with novels, films, and television series portraying queens as having secret lovers and forbidden romances. While these narratives capture the imagination, they rarely align with documented historical evidence. The distinction between concubinage and other forms of intimate relationships is often blurred, leading to misunderstandings about the true nature of royal companionship.

It is crucial for researchers and readers to approach such claims critically, examining the sources, context, and motivations behind stories of male concubines. Separating myth from fact allows for a more accurate understanding of royal history and the lives of queens.

Influence of Power and Politics on Royal Relationships

Political considerations played a decisive role in shaping the personal lives of queens. Royal marriages were typically arranged for strategic purposes, aimed at securing alliances, consolidating power, and producing heirs. The presence of male concubines could threaten these objectives, introducing uncertainty into the succession and the legitimacy of the royal line.

Queens who exercised personal agency in their relationships often did so at great risk. Political rivals, courtiers, and religious authorities closely monitored the private lives of queens, seeking opportunities to exploit any perceived transgressions. In this context, the possibility of male concubines was not only controversial but potentially destabilizing.

Despite these constraints, some queens managed to navigate the complexities of court life, forging close relationships with trusted male advisors or confidants. While rarely acknowledged as concubines, these

men sometimes wielded significant influence behind the scenes, shaping the course of history in subtle ways.

Conclusion

The question "did queens have male concubines" reveals much about the interplay between gender, power, and tradition in royal history. While female concubinage was a well-established institution, male concubines for queens were exceptionally rare, largely due to societal norms, political pressures, and cultural taboos. Historical records offer only a handful of ambiguous examples, with most stories rooted in rumor or myth rather than documented fact. By examining the context, motivations, and consequences of royal relationships, we gain deeper insight into the lives of queens and the enduring impact of gender roles on the exercise of power.

Q: Did any queens in history officially have male concubines?

A: No, historical records do not document any queens who officially maintained male concubines in the same way male rulers did with female concubines. Most accounts of male companions or lovers were informal and not recognized as concubinage.

Q: Why were male concubines for queens so rare?

A: Male concubines were rare due to strict societal norms, patriarchal inheritance systems, and cultural taboos that emphasized female chastity and the legitimacy of royal bloodlines.

Q: Were there any cultures more accepting of queens having male companions?

A: Most cultures discouraged or stigmatized queens having male companions. While some powerful queens had close relationships with male courtiers, these were rarely formalized or publicly accepted as concubinage.

Q: What roles did female concubines play in royal courts?

A: Female concubines served as companions, political allies, and bearers of children for kings and emperors, often enjoying privileges and influence within the royal household.

Q: Are there any famous rumors about queens and male lovers?

A: Yes, queens such as Catherine the Great and Anne Boleyn were the subjects of rumors regarding male lovers, but these stories were often politically motivated and lack substantial evidence.

Q: How did royal marriages affect the possibility of male concubines for queens?

A: Royal marriages were arranged for political alliances and succession, making extramarital relationships for queens, including male concubines, a potential threat to dynastic legitimacy.

Q: Did queens ever have secret lovers or favorites?

A: Some queens are believed to have had secret lovers or favorites, but these relationships were informal, discreet, and not recognized as official concubinage.

Q: How did myths about male concubines arise?

A: Myths about male concubines often arose from political gossip, sensationalized rumors, and later portrayals in popular culture, rather than factual historical evidence.

Q: Did any queens face consequences for rumored affairs with men?

A: Yes, queens accused of extramarital relationships sometimes faced scandal, political backlash, or even removal from power, highlighting the risks of such rumors.

Q: What is the difference between a concubine and a lover or favorite?

A: A concubine typically refers to a recognized companion with an official role in the royal household, while lovers or favorites are informal, often secret relationships without official status.

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Did Queens Have Male Concubines? Unraveling the Myths and Realities of Royal Relationships

The question of whether queens historically maintained male concubines is a fascinating, albeit complex, one. Popular culture often presents romanticized or sensationalized versions of royal lives, blurring the lines between fact and fiction. This post delves into the historical realities of queens' lives, exploring the power dynamics, social norms, and legal frameworks that shaped their relationships, and directly addresses the question: did queens have male concubines? We'll examine specific examples across different cultures and time periods, separating historical evidence from popular misconception.

H2: The Power and Limitations of Queens: A Contextual Understanding

Before addressing the central question, it's crucial to understand the multifaceted role of queens throughout history. Their power and influence varied drastically depending on the specific culture, the strength of their marriage, and their own personality. In some societies, queens held significant political power, even ruling in their own right. In others, their role was primarily ceremonial, largely defined by their relationship to the king. Their social standing, however, typically elevated them above the possibility of openly maintaining male concubines.

H3: Societal Norms and the Stigma of Male Concubinage

Throughout history, most societies, even those with relatively permissive sexual mores, have viewed male concubines within a queen's household as socially unacceptable. Such a relationship would directly challenge the established patriarchal structures and the very concept of a queen's role as the king's sole wife (or, in polygamous societies, one of his wives). The potential for political intrigue and challenges to legitimacy were immense, making such a union highly improbable.

H3: Legal Frameworks and the Sanctity of Marriage

In many historical contexts, the king's marriage to the queen was a sacred, legally binding contract, often with significant religious implications. The existence of male concubines would constitute a blatant breach of this contract, potentially leading to political instability and even legal repercussions. The queen's position often carried religious significance, further reinforcing the sanctity of the marital union.

H2: Examining Specific Historical Examples: Case Studies

While the existence of male concubines for queens is exceptionally rare, and largely unsupported by credible historical evidence, let's examine some situations where the question might arise. For example, in some cultures with practices of polygamy, the term "concubine" may be misinterpreted. A king might have multiple wives, but these would not be considered "concubines" in the same sense as a queen having a male counterpart. These situations require careful examination of the specific cultural and legal context.

H3: The Misinterpretation of Court Roles

Sometimes, the close relationship between a queen and a male member of her court is mistaken for a romantic or sexual liaison. Close advisors, trusted confidantes, or even eunuchs held positions of considerable influence. These relationships were usually purely platonic, based on loyalty and political strategy rather than romantic attachment. Historical accounts often lack the detail to accurately interpret the nature of these bonds, leading to misinterpretations.

H2: The Role of Popular Culture and Misconceptions

Many films, novels, and television shows depict queens with male lovers or concubines. These portrayals, while often entertaining, frequently distort historical reality. They serve to create dramatic narratives, prioritizing entertainment value over historical accuracy. It's essential to distinguish between fictional representations and verifiable historical evidence.

H2: Conclusion: Separating Fact from Fiction

The overwhelming historical evidence suggests that queens did not commonly, if ever, have male concubines. The power dynamics, societal norms, legal frameworks, and religious considerations surrounding queens' positions strongly discourage the notion. While instances of close relationships with male members of the court may exist, these relationships should not be conflated with the concept of a male concubine. The rarity, if not impossibility, of such a situation stems from the very nature of queenship and its implications. Further, the persistence of this misconception highlights the need for critical engagement with historical narratives, separating fact-based accounts from fictional embellishments.

FAQs:

1. Could a queen have a male lover without it being considered a concubine? While a queen might have had clandestine relationships, the social implications and potential political ramifications would make it highly unlikely. Such a relationship would almost certainly not be publicly acknowledged or formalized.
2. Were there any societies where queens had more relaxed moral standards? Even in societies with more permissive sexual attitudes, the queen's status often carried unique restrictions, making male concubines highly improbable.
3. How did the king's reaction influence the possibility of a male concubine for the queen? The king's power and attitude towards infidelity would play a decisive role. The potential for political instability caused by such a relationship would be significant.
4. What primary sources could shed light on queens' relationships? Letters, diaries, court records, and other official documents might offer insights, but careful interpretation is essential, as these sources can be biased or incomplete.
5. How did religious beliefs impact the concept of a queen's relationships? Religious beliefs often strongly influenced the sanctity of marriage and the queen's role, making a male concubine highly problematic, especially in societies with strong religious authority.

did queens have male concubines: Queens, Eunuchs and Concubines in Islamic History, 661-1257 El-Azhari Taef El-Azhari, 2019-06-24 Based on original and previously unexamined sources, this book provides a critical and systematic analysis of the role of women, mothers, wives, eunuchs, concubines, qahramans and atabegs in the dynamics and manipulation of medieval Islamic politics. Spanning over 600 years, Taef El-Azhari explores gender and sexual politics and power: from the time of the Prophet Muhammad through the Umayyad and Abbasid periods to the Mamluks in the 15th century, and from Iran and Central Asia to North Africa and Spain.

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political story of these women is the story of courtships, weddings, dowries; the anxieties of confinements, sterility and infant mortality; the tense relationships with in-laws; and the peaceful, if often involuntary, religious retirement of widowhood. A fascinating study of a period in world history that requires more illumination. Maps and charts are excellent. Highly recommended.' *Genealogical Library Journal*

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pleasure was shot through with ambition, treason and violence. 'At last we have the truth about Henry VIII's wives. This book is as reliable and scholarly as it is readable' Evening Standard

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It is the 19th century, and China is in chaos. One woman will rise from poverty to change its history for ever. To rescue her family from poverty and avoid marrying her slope-shouldered cousin, seventeen-year-old Orchid competes to be one of the Emperor's wives. When she is chosen as a lower-ranking concubine she enters the erotically charged and ritualised Forbidden City. But beneath its immaculate façade lie whispers of murders and ghosts, and the thousands of concubines will stoop to any lengths to bear the Emperor's son. Orchid trains herself in the art of pleasuring a man, bribes her way into the royal bed, and seduces the monarch, drawing the attention of dangerous foes. Little does she know that China will collapse around her, and that she will be its last Empress...

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equal—and very often the superior—of their male counterparts, even in the field historically most jealously reserved for men: warfare.” —Andrew Roberts, New York Times–bestselling author “This book should be required reading for anyone who loves history.” —James M. Scott, Pulitzer Prize finalist

did queens have male concubines: David's Sexual Sin Exposed Gery Malanda, Often when we have surrendered our lives to Jesus Christ and are looking to live a biblical Christian life, the lustful desires of the flesh can present as a stumbling block. Most often these thoughts and sexual desires can prompt feelings of guilt and condemnation especially when the body of Christ is not addressing sexual immorality and appears to tolerate it. Whilst they were still in the world, women will have undergone abortions and others would have engaged in sexual immorality. Once committed in living a Christian life, the guilt and shame of the past life can leave thoughts of being the worst sinners compared to their brethren. Brother Gery Malanda (Apostle and Leader of House Of Prayer For All Nations-Europe and Teacher on TBN Voice of Healing UK) takes a refreshingly honest and scriptural look on dealing with lustful/ sexual thoughts, abortion, masturbation and the husband/wife of the night phenomenon. Brother Gery reflects on his own personal experiences and draws from the testimonies of others to address the issues that often the body of Christ is shy to discuss. Brother Gery provides a biblical guideline on seeking a godly husband and wife. What does the bible give as the criteria? and the steps according to the word of God one should consider. He also points out God's view on fake marriages and issues a warning to those contemplating it. Lastly Brother Gery has demonstrated through the Word of God that it's possible to walk in the highway of holiness, how to be transformed and transfigured and how to be a disciple of Jesus Christ not just a mere convert. In a society where sexual immorality is ripe, how can a Christian ensure that they are not conformed to the world but have renewed their mind? This book is a wonderful guide as a look in the mirror to discern if you are still walking in the highway of holiness!

did queens have male concubines: *Nazi Wives* James Wyllie, 2019-11-01 Goering, Goebbels, Himmler, Heydrich, Bormann, Hess – names synonymous with power and influence in the Third Reich. Perhaps less familiar are Carin, Emmy, Magda, Margaret, Lina, Gerda and Ilse ... These are the women behind the infamous men – complex individuals with distinctive personalities who were captivated by Hitler and whose everyday lives were governed by Nazi ideology. Throughout the rise and fall of Nazism these women loved and lost, raised families and quarrelled with their husbands and each other, all the while jostling for position with the mighty Führer himself. And yet they have been treated as minor characters, their significance ignored, as if they were unaware of their husband's murderous acts, despite the evidence that was all around them: the stolen art on their walls, the slave labour in their homes, and the produce grown in concentration camps on their tables. *Nazi Wives* explores these women in detail for the first time, skilfully interweaving their stories through years of struggle, power, decline and destruction into the post-war twilight of denial and delusion.

did queens have male concubines: Against Jovinianus St. Jerome, 2019-12-07 Jovinianus, about whom little more is known than what is to be found in Jerome's treatise, published a Latin treatise outlining several opinions: That a virgin is no better, as such, than a wife in the sight of God. Abstinence from food is no better than a thankful partaking of food. A person baptized with the Spirit as well as with water cannot sin. All sins are equal. There is but one grade of punishment and one of reward in the future state. In addition to this, he held the birth of Jesus Christ to have been by a true parturition, and was thus refuting the orthodoxy of the time, according to which, the infant Jesus passed through the walls of the womb as his Resurrection body afterwards did, out of the tomb or through closed doors.

did queens have male concubines: *Xerxes* Richard Stoneman, 2015-08-15 Xerxes, Great King of the Persian Empire from 486–465 B.C., has gone down in history as an angry tyrant full of insane ambition. The stand of Leonidas and the 300 against his army at Thermopylae is a byword for courage, while the failure of Xerxes' expedition has overshadowed all the other achievements of his twenty-two-year reign. In this lively and comprehensive new biography, Richard Stoneman shows

how Xerxes, despite sympathetic treatment by the contemporary Greek writers Aeschylus and Herodotus, had his reputation destroyed by later Greek writers and by the propaganda of Alexander the Great. Stoneman draws on the latest research in Achaemenid studies and archaeology to present the ruler from the Persian perspective. This illuminating volume does not whitewash Xerxes' failings but sets against them such triumphs as the architectural splendor of Persepolis and a consideration of Xerxes' religious commitments. What emerges is a nuanced portrait of a man who ruled a vast and multicultural empire which the Greek communities of the West saw as the antithesis of their own values.

did queens have male concubines: The Creation of the Zulu Kingdom, 1815-1828 Elizabeth A. Eldredge, 2014-10-30 This scholarly account traces the emergence of the Zulu Kingdom in South Africa in the early nineteenth century, under the rule of the ambitious and iconic King Shaka. In contrast to recent literary analyses of myths of Shaka, this book uses the richness of Zulu oral traditions and a comprehensive body of written sources to provide a compelling narrative and analysis of the events and people of the era of Shaka's rule. The oral traditions portray Shaka as rewarding courage and loyalty and punishing failure; as ordering the targeted killing of his own subjects, both warriors and civilians, to ensure compliance to his rule; and as arrogant and shrewd, but kind to the poor and mentally disabled. The rich and diverse oral traditions, transmitted from generation to generation, reveal the important roles and fates of men and women, royal and subject, from the perspectives of those who experienced Shaka's rule and the dramatic emergence of the Zulu Kingdom.

did queens have male concubines: *From emperor to citizen : the autobiography of Aisin-Gioro Pu Yi. 1* , 1964

did queens have male concubines: Making Men Stephen Wilson, 2015-11-02 Making Men identifies and elaborates on a theme in the Hebrew Bible that has largely gone unnoticed by scholars-the transition of a male adolescent from boyhood to manhood. Wilson locates five examples of the male coming-of-age theme in the Hebrew Bible. The protagonists of these stories include the well-known biblical heroes Moses, Samuel, David, and Solomon. He also reveals the existence of a narrative theme of failing to mature to manhood, exemplified in the tales of Samson and Gideon's son Jether. Beyond identifying the coming-of-age theme, Wilson describes how the theme is employed by biblical narrators and redactors to highlight broader messages and transitions in the historical narratives of the Hebrew Bible. He additionally considers how these stories provide unique insight into the varying representations of biblical masculinity and how the ideals associated with manhood can change dramatically over time.

did queens have male concubines: *The Last Queen of Sheba* Jill Francis Hudson, 2014-03-21 'An enthralling journey into an ancient world.' - Edoardo Albert, author of *Edwin: High King of Britain* A vividly-realized and beautifully crafted novel focused around the fabled meeting between Sheba and Solomon Against all odds Makeda, daughter of an obscure African chieftain, is chosen as Queen of all Sheba. Recognizing her own inexperience, yet desperately wanting to address Sheba's appalling social injustice, she is persuaded by her cousin Tamrin, wealthy merchant and narrator of the novel, to visit Solomon, King of Israel, to find out about how he governs his kingdom. She is hugely impressed by Israel's prosperity, by the wisdom and integrity with which Solomon rules, by the Hebrew religion, which she decides to adopt as her own, and by the justice for all that she determines to copy. However Solomon, who is trapped in a childless and loveless dynastic marriage with Pharaoh's daughter, allows himself to fall in love with the beautiful and intelligent African. He eventually tricks her into sleeping with him, and on the return journey to Sheba she discovers that she is pregnant. The son to whom she gives birth grows up in the court of Sheba, and eventually travels to Israel with Tamrin, to meet his father. But Solomon is a broken man, having put his doomed love for Makeda and need for an heir before his relationship with God. He has taken hundreds of wives and concubines in a fruitless attempt to recapture the love which he and Makeda shared. And Israel is no longer the nation of his youth . . . When the leader of the nation of God is apostate, where will the blessing fall?

did queens have male concubines: *Hidden Power* Mary M. Anderson, 1990 A little-known yet significant role in Chinese history was played by the palace eunuchs--castrated men who developed a concealed subcaste that manipulated monarchs and caused the downfall of immense dynasties. This book vividly chronicles the history of the imperial eunuchs: from the murky origins of the practice to the Ming dynasty when 100,000 eunuchs were employed as agents of the Dragon Throne, to the 1912 uprising that swept away the monarchy and the age-old eunuch system forever.

did queens have male concubines: *The Last Medieval Queens* J. L. Laynesmith, 2004-02-12 The last medieval queens of England were Margaret of Anjou, Elizabeth Woodville, Anne Neville, and Elizabeth of York - four very different women whose lives and queenship were dominated by the Wars of the Roses. This book is not a traditional biography but a thematic study of the ideology and practice of queenship. It examines the motivations behind the choice of the first English-born queens, the multi-faceted rituals of coronation, childbirth, and funeral, the divided loyalties between family and king, and the significance of a position at the heart of the English power structure that could only be filled by a woman. It sheds new light on the queens' struggles to defend their children's rights to the throne, and argues that ideologically and politically a queen was integral to the proper exercise of mature kingship in this period.

did queens have male concubines: *Scholars and Poets Talk About Queens* Carole Levin, Christine Stewart-Nuñez, 2015-08-18 *Scholars and Poets Talk About Queens* is a lively and erudite collection, unusual in an especially appealing way. This collection of essays shows how queens were represented in the Middle Ages and Renaissance through primary accounts, chronicles, and literary representations. The book also contains modern poetry and short plays about these same queens, allowing readers to understand and appreciate them both intellectually and emotionally. Contributors study a wide range of queens including such famous and fascinating women as Queen Elizabeth I, Cleopatra, Hecuba, the Empress Matilda, Mary Stuart, Margaret of Anjou, Catherine of Aragon, and the pirate queen Grace O'Malley. By pairing scholarly essays with contemporary poems about them, the collection demonstrates the continued relevance and immediacy of these powerful and fascinating women.

did queens have male concubines: *Seti* Max Overton, 2014-08 After only nine years on the throne, Merenptah is dead and his son Seti is king in his place. He rules from the northern city of Men-nefer, while his elder brother Messuwy, convinced the throne is his by right, plots rebellion in the south. The kingdoms are tipped into bloody civil war, with brother fighting against brother for the throne of a united Egypt. On one side is Messuwy, now crowned as King Amenmesse and his ruthless General Sethi; on the other, young King Seti and his wife Tausret. But other men are weighing up the chances of wresting the throne from both brothers and becoming king in their place. Under the onslaught of conflict, the House of Ramesses begins to crumble...

did queens have male concubines: *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Women in World History* Bonnie G. Smith, 2008 *The Encyclopedia of Women in World History* captures the experiences of women throughout world history in a comprehensive, 4-volume work. Although there has been extensive research on women in history by region, no text or reference work has comprehensively covered the role women have played throughout world history. The past thirty years have seen an explosion of research and effort to present the experiences and contributions of women not only in the Western world but across the globe. Historians have investigated women's daily lives in virtually every region and have researched the leadership roles women have filled across time and region. They have found and demonstrated that there is virtually no historical, social, or demographic change in which women have not been involved and by which their lives have not been affected. The *Oxford Encyclopedia of Women in World History* benefits greatly from these efforts and experiences, and illuminates how women worldwide have influenced and been influenced by these historical, social, and demographic changes. The Encyclopedia contains over 1,250 signed articles arranged in an A-Z format for ease of use. The entries cover six main areas: biographies; geography and history; comparative culture and society, including adoption, abortion, performing arts; organizations and movements, such as the Egyptian Uprising, and the Paris Commune; women's and gender studies;

and topics in world history that include slave trade, globalization, and disease. With its rich and insightful entries by leading scholars and experts, this reference work is sure to be a valued, go-to resource for scholars, college and high school students, and general readers alike.

did queens have male concubines: Dynasty: A Very Short Introduction Jeroen Duindam, 2019-10-24 For thousands of years bloodlines have been held as virtually unassailable credentials for leadership, with supreme political power perceived as a family affair across the globe and throughout history. At the heart of royal dynasties, kings were inflated to superhuman proportions, yet their status came at a price: whilst they may have reigned, they were very often ruled by others who sheltered behind the ruler's proclaimed omnipotence. Descent through the female line also occurred, subverting our common view of dynasty as built on father-son succession. Everywhere, women were important as mothers of boy-kings, and could even rule in their own right in some places. In this Very Short Introduction Jeroen Duindam connects the earliest history of kings and queens to contemporary examples of family-based leadership. His sweeping overview of five millennia of dynastic rule brings to light recurring predicaments of families on the throne. Examining persistent family conflict and the dilemmas of leadership, he shows how the challenge of governing the family was balanced by the necessity of family scions, close or distant, for the survival of dynasties. Tensions between ageing fathers and eager sons can be found among ancient kings as well as in modern business empires. Guidebooks for rulers throughout history provided counsel that will appear strikingly familiar to contemporary leaders. The thoughts and confessions of rulers added a more personal touch to these rules of thumb. Throughout, Duindam sheds light not only on similarities, but also on divergence and change in dynastic practice. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

did queens have male concubines: Queens, Queen Mothers, Priestesses, and Power Flora S. Kaplan, 1997 A collection of 18 case studies of women in power in Africa. It focuses on the political and ritual roles of royal and elite women who are gathered together by tradition, choice and circumstance, and who, as a result, achieve and exercise power, and acquire and exert influence in the public and private arenas of their societies. A dozen sub-Saharan ethnic groups are represented, mostly from West and South Africa. The volume is interdisciplinary, with contributions drawn from the fields of anthropology, art history, history, political science, comparative literature, African and African-American studies, women's studies and religion.

did queens have male concubines: The Role of Women in Work and Society in the Ancient Near East Brigitte Lion, Cécile Michel, 2016-09-12 Economic history is well documented in Assyriology, thanks to the preservation of dozens of thousands of clay tablets recording administrative operations, contracts and acts dealing with family law. Despite these voluminous sources, the topic of work and the contribution of women have rarely been addressed. This book examines occupations involving women over the course of three millennia of Near Eastern history. It presents the various aspects of women as economic agents inside and outside of the family structure. Inside the family, women were the main actors in the production of goods necessary for everyday life. In some instances, their activities exceeded the simple needs of the household and were integrated within the production of large organizations or commercial channels. The contributions presented in this volume are representative enough to address issues in various domains: social, economic, religious, etc., from varied points of view: archaeological, historical, sociological, anthropological, and with a gender perspective. This book will be a useful tool for historians, anthropologists, archaeologists and graduate students interested in the economy of the ancient Near East and in women and gender studies.

did queens have male concubines: Memoirs of a Janissary Konstanty Michałowicz, 2011 English translation reprinted from bilingual ed., originally published by: Ann Arbor: Dept. of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan, 1975.

did queens have male concubines: Queens and Queenship in Medieval Europe Anne Duggan, 2002 The image, status and function of queens and empresses, regnant and consort, in kingdoms stretching from England to Jerusalem in the European middle ages. Did queens exercise real or counterfeit power? Did the promotion of the cult of the Virgin enhance or restrict their sphere of action? Is it time to revise the early feminist view of women as victims? Important papers on Emma of England, Margaret of Scotland, coronation and burial ritual, Byzantine empresses and Scandinavian queens, among others, clearly indicate that a reassessment of the role of women in the world of medieval dynastic politics is under way. Contributors: JANOS BAK, GEORGE CONKLIN, PAUL CROSSLEY, VOLKER HONEMANN, STEINAR IMSEN, LIZ JAMES, KURT-ULRICH JASCHKE, SARAH LAMBERT, JANET L. NELSON, JOHN C. PARSONS, KAREN PRATT, DION SMYTHE, PAULINE STAFFORD, MARY STROLL, VALERIE WALL, ELIZABETH WARD, DIANA WEBB.

did queens have male concubines: Hatchepsut Joyce Tyldesley, 1998-01-29 Queen - or, as she would prefer to be remembered King - Hatchepsut was an astonishing woman. Brilliantly defying tradition she became the female embodiment of a male role, dressing in men's clothes and even wearing a false beard. Forgotten until Egyptologists deciphered hieroglyphics in the 1820's, she has since been subject to intense speculation about her actions and motivations. Combining archaeological and historical evidence from a wide range of sources, Joyce Tyldesley's dazzling piece of detection strips away the myths and misconceptions and finally restores the female pharaoh to her rightful place.

did queens have male concubines: Encyclopedia of Goddesses and Heroines Patricia Monaghan, PhD, 2014-04-01 More Than 1,000 Goddesses & Heroines from around the World Groundbreaking scholar Patricia Monaghan spent her life researching, writing about, and documenting goddesses and heroines from all religions and all corners of the globe. Her work demonstrated that from the beginning of recorded history, goddesses reigned alongside their male counterparts as figures of inspiration and awe. Drawing on anthropology, folklore, literature, and psychology, Monaghan's vibrant and accessible encyclopedia covers female deities from Africa, the eastern Mediterranean, Asia and Oceania, Europe, and the Americas, as well as every major religious tradition.

did queens have male concubines: Profiles of Anabaptist Women C. Arnold Snyder, Linda A. Huebert Hecht, 2010-10-30 During the upheavals of the Reformation, one of the most significant of the radical Protestant movements emerged — that of the Anabaptist movement. Profiles of Anabaptist Women provides lively, well-researched profiles of the courageous women who chose to risk prosecution and martyrdom to pursue this unsanctioned religion — a religion that, unlike the established religions of the day, initially offered them opportunity and encouragement to proselytize. Derived from sixteenth-century government records and court testimonies, hymns, songs and poems, these profiles provide a panorama of life and faith experiences of women from Switzerland, Germany, Holland and Austria. These personal stories of courage, faith, commitment and resourcefulness interweave women's lives into the greater milieu, relating them to the dominant male context and the socio-political background of the Reformation. Taken together, these sketches will give readers an appreciation for the central role played by Anabaptist women in the emergence and persistence of this radical branch of Protestantism.

did queens have male concubines: Women in Ugarit and Israel Hennie J. Marsman, 2021-10-01 In this volume the presupposition is investigated whether women in a polytheistic society had a better position than women in a monotheistic society. To this end the social and religious position of women in Ugarit according to its literary texts is compared to that of women in Israel according to the Hebrew Bible, while the wider context of the ancient Near East is also taken into consideration. After an overview of feminist biblical exegesis, the book discusses the roles of women in the family and in society. It also provides an analysis of the roles of women as religious specialists and as worshippers. Finally, the data on the position of women in the literary texts is compared to that in non-literary texts.

did queens have male concubines: The Voice of the Indian Mona Lisa Heidi Rika Maria

Pauwels, 2023-08-31 The 'Indian Mona Lisa' is an eighteenth-century portrait of the goddess Radha from the Kishangarh school of Rajput Painting. It was purportedly modelled after a young enslaved woman and court-performer, Banī-ṭhanī, who became a concubine of the patron of the painting, crown-prince Savant Singh. Tracing her career, Heidi Pauwels recovers her role as a composer of devotional songs in multiple registers of Classical Hindi and shows how she was a conduit for trend-setting styles from Delhi, including the new vogue of Urdu. Through a combination of literary, historical, and art-historical analysis, she brings to life the vibrant cultural production center of Kishangarh in the eighteenth century by reconstructing how Banī-ṭhanī came to be acclaimed as the devotional poetess Rasikbihārī and as 'India's Mona Lisa'. This major new study conveys important new insights in the history of Hindi literature and devotion, the family, palace women and the social mobility of the enslaved.

did queens have male concubines: Encyclopedia of Goddesses and Heroines [2 volumes]

Patricia Monaghan, 2009-12-18 This two-volume set provides a comprehensive guide to the vast array of feminine divine figures found throughout the world. Drawn from a variety of sources ranging from classical literature to early ethnographies to contemporary interpretations, the Encyclopedia of Goddesses and Heroines provides a comprehensive introduction to the ways goddess figures have been viewed through the ages. This unique encyclopedia of over thousands of figures of feminine divinity describes the myths and attributes of goddesses and female spiritual powers from around the world. The two-volume set is organized by culture and religion, exploring the role of women in each culture's religious life and introducing readers to the background of each pantheon, as well as the individual figures who peopled it. Alternative names for important divinities are offered, as are lists of minor goddesses and their attributes. Interest in women's spirituality has grown significantly over the last 30 years, both among those who remain in traditional religions and those who explore spirituality outside those confines. This work speaks to them all.

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