In ancient Egypt, sexuality was strikingly overt and never spoiled by guilt. Its numerous accounts, religious and secular alike, simply testify to what happened without making any moral or ethical judgment. Due to the stunningly explicit and graphic depiction of sexuality in ancient Egypt, most of the material related to sex was unknown for many years. Sex was an essential part of life and even the afterlife. Intense sensuality was enhanced by music, dance, alcohol, oils, perfumes and sheer fabrics as well as the swishing sound of beads.

RAFFMA’s collection has quite a few objects related to fertility and sexuality, due to the interest of Dr. Benson Harer, whose collection the museum now hosts. Some information used in the lecture comes from Dr. Harer’s published and unpublished materials.