

Introduction

For many centuries nails have been important for their cosmetic purposes. Although examples of nail cosmetics can be found in ancient civilisations it is only in modern times when these cosmetic products reached popularity.

Key dates in nail cosmetic history

3000 BC.

Nail polish originates in India with the use of henna during the Bronze-Age. This colourful decoration quickly spread to Babylon; interestingly it was the men who spread this trend.

At the same time nail colour was adopted in China; it was made from egg whites, flowers and wax. Gold and silver nail polish represented royalty and wealth and was not allowed to be used by the general population.

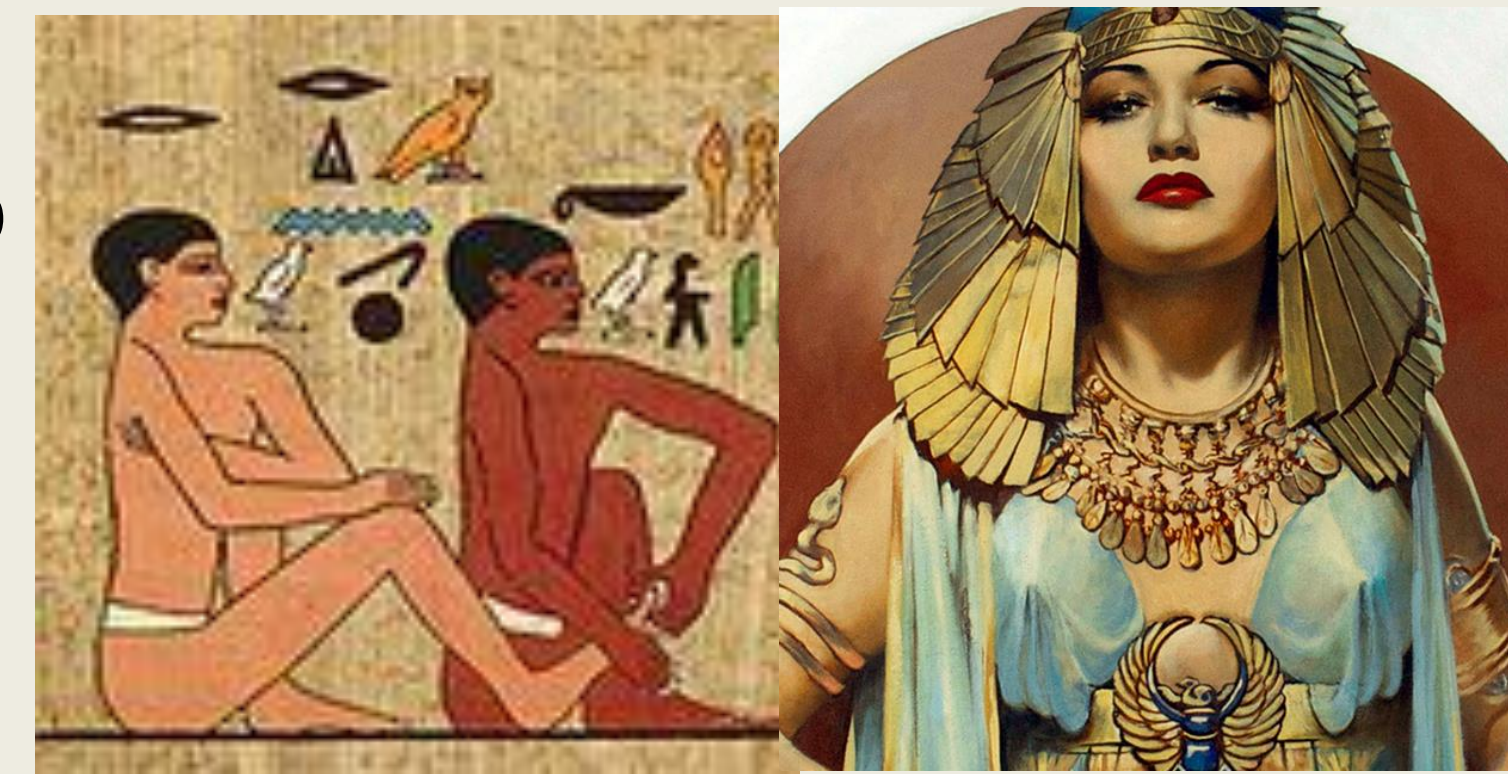


600 BC.

Artificial nails date back to the Chou dynasty in China; nails were made from gold and precious stone.



From China nail cosmetics spread to Egypt. Red ochre clay and henna were used to dye the nails red-brown. Lower classes were permitted pastel colours only and red was for royalty.



1800s

1830s: King Louis's manicurist derived the first nail file from the dental tool.



1878: Mary Cobb opened America's first manicure parlour in Manhattan.



1900s

1920s: Modern-day nail polish was formulated; prior to this nails were manicured with powder or cream polish. During World War I sources of nitrocellulose were developed as military explosives. Later it was discovered that this can produce a glossy film known as lacquer. This product was used to paint cars and the technology was subsequently adapted to the cosmetics industry.



The Particular Person
I use "KRASKA" Nail Polish for her finger nails. Because it induces a dainty pink hue and a high polish unaffected by washing.
"Kraska"
LIQUID NAIL POLISH

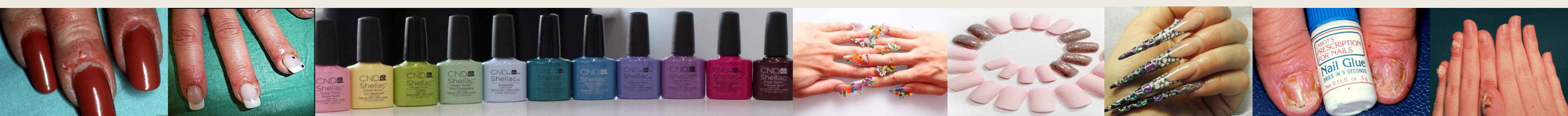
1955: A dentist Frederick Slack broke his nail at work. Using dental acrylic, he invented the first acrylic nail extensions.



Now

1932: Modern-day nail polish became commercially available Charles Revson added pigments to the clear lacquer; this company is today known as Revlon. Subsequently by 1937 the first case of nail polish dermatitis was reported by Sulzberger.

The explosion of nail-art culture on social media has fuelled the nail adornment industry over recent years with the list of services available expanding.



Discussion

As dermatologists it is important to be aware of the changing cosmetic nail practices which can result in cosmetically induced disorders of the nail such as procedure related infections, contact dermatitis to materials and the risks of UVA exposure with acrylic and gel manicures. Dermatologists may need to embrace the use of changing nail cosmetology for patients with nail disorders.