Meg Cohen Ragas Karen Kozlowski

used lip colorant made with a base of white lead and crushed red rocks.3 The Sumerian people apparently adopted the practice with gusto, as Sir Leonard Woolley’s excavation of Ur’s Royal Cemetery revealed. that those who could afford to do so had themselves buried with their lip paints stored in cockleshells.4 See also, Meg Cohen Ragas & Karen Kozlowski, Read My Lips: A Cultural History of Lipstick 13 (1998) (stating that this original lip color contained crushed red rocks). Such information about ancient lipsticks’ components has recently become available through gas chromatography, which allows for identification of minute residues extracted from old containers.