**Lee Miller’s granddaughter, Ami Bouhassane explores the significance of Miller’s daring sunbathing outfit**

**Ami** - Immediately we recognised it from the pictures. But also, when we went back and looked at Lee's letters from that period, she writes to Roland about wearing it on the boat.

As she's, she's met…because that….she was wearing that bikini like in the, in the first few weeks that they've got together as lovers. So it's quite nice in their relationship. But she writes to him about going back to Egypt on the boat and getting her out on the deck in her bikini and how lots of people were looking at her somewhat disapprovingly because it's quite, in those days, it was rude to show your navel, your tummy button.

**Charlotte** - They came up quite high is that were they…?

**Ami** - It's like a waist, the pants are like waist level. And then you've got the bikini but there's like this bar that goes from the bottom of the bikini that attaches to the pants that you, that carefully covers your tummy button.

This is like the time where you're getting knitting patterns for woollen swimming costumes and things like that, and you go into the sea and it kind of falls, the weight of the wool gets really heavy and it comes off. There was no such thing as like lycra. They're all like, kind of cotton shorts and the bikini tops, not stretchy or anything. So, to make it fit, had to be quite well made. And so we've got loads of little bikini tops and shorts, outfits that she that she wore in the 30’s and 40’s.

[image credit

Detail of sunbathing outfit with pareo, Jacques Heim, 1937, Paris. Photograph by Tessa Hallmann]