

Oxford Centre for Maritime Archaeology Monographs

Constructing, Remaking, and Dismantling Sacred Landscapes in Lower Egypt

Late Dynastic — Early Medieval Period

Edited by
Damian Robinson and Franck Goddio

Oxford Centre for Maritime Archaeology: Monograph 11
School of Archaeology, University of Oxford
2021

Contents

List of figures	vi
List of tables	viii
List of contributors	ix
Acknowledgements	xi
Introduction: Constructing, remaking, and dismantling <i>Damian Robinson and Franck Goddio</i>	1
Part I: Constructing, remaking, and dismantling	
1 Ship 11 and the ritual landscape of the Grand Canal of Thonis-Heracleion, Egypt <i>Damian Robinson and Franck Goddio</i>	15
2 The <i>Caesarium</i> <i>Franck Goddio with Catherine Grataloup</i>	33
3 The fasciculated column from the <i>Portus Magnus</i> of Alexandria: Pharaonica in context <i>Véronique Laurent</i> based upon an unpublished manuscript by Jean Yoyotte†	81
4 Haroeris of Letopolis and the colossal Canopus Nile <i>Sylvie Cauville</i>	91
Part II: Ritual and organisation in the sacred landscapes of the kingdom	
5 Magic and ritual in the Late Dynastic period at Kom Wasit <i>Urška Furlan and Mohamed Kenawi</i>	99
6 Temple treasury weights and the connection between the ritual landscape and trade in Egypt <i>Elsbeth van der Wilt</i>	111
7 Amun-Gereb and Osiris in Thonis-Heracleion: the great naos of the temple <i>Anne-Sophie von Bomhard</i>	123
8 A new version of 'Philensis I' from Taposiris Magna <i>Daniel von Recklinghausen and Kathleen Martinez</i>	153
9 The cultural appropriation of Egypt in Hellenistic Alexandria: the Ptolemies and the heritage of the pharaohs <i>Stefan Pfeiffer</i>	175
10 The order of the nomes of Lower Egypt in geographical lists <i>François Ghiringhelli</i>	187
Index	203

List of figures

- I.1 Protesters on High Street, Oxford in front of the entrance to Oriel College funded by Cecil Rhodes.
- I.2 The standing obelisk from the site of the *Caesarium* in the 1870s.
- 1.1 Map of Thonis-Heracleion with the location of ship 11 and other significant places mentioned in the text.
- 1.2 The location of ship 11 at the western end of the Grand Canal and the find spots of major artefacts discovered around it.
- 1.3 Ship 11. **a:** plan; **b:** photomosaic.
- 1.4 Stone offering plate from the area around ship 11 (SCA 362).
- 1.5 Simpula deposited in the waters of the Grand Canal and Central Port.
- 1.6 The distribution of simpula in the waters of the Grand Canal and Central Port.
- 1.7 The distribution of Osirian ritual implements in the waters of the Grand Canal and Central Port based upon the object depicted in Chassinat 1996.
- 1.8 Epitaph in Greek for Lykos, son of Lykiskos, who found death on the battlefield and was buried in Thonis-Heracleion.
- 1.9 Model of a funerary *neshmet*-barque.
- 1.10 Lead model of a papyrus barque with a throne from Thonis-Heracleion.
- 1.11 Drawing of travelling barque in the Osirian chapels from Dendara with added emblems found in the Grand Canal of Thonis-Heracleion.
- 2.1 View of the obelisks and the 'Roman Tower' by François-Charles Cécile (1798).
- 2.2 Map drawn by the Egyptian Expedition in 1798. The red arrow indicates the location of the obelisks, close to the shore of the Port 'Neuf', presently the East Port.
- 2.3 Detail of the area of the 'Cleopatra Needles' on the 1798 map. The standing obelisk is represented by a small square, with the fallen obelisk represented in position to the south-west.
- 2.4 **a.** Watercolour by Nicolas-Jacques Conté (1798) showing the 'Cleopatra Needles' and the 'Roman Tower' close to the shore; **b.** the standing obelisk seen from the same side in October 1879; **c.** a stonemason's yard settled around the standing Cleopatra needle at the end of the nineteenth century.
- 2.5 Drawing describing the work done in 1802 by the British on the fallen obelisk. The granite base and the four limestone steps are clearly shown in position at the base of the obelisk.
- 2.6 **a.** Removal of the erected obelisk; **b.** lifting the standing obelisk in December 1879; **c.** the transfer of the obelisk's granite base to New York Central Park.
- 2.7 **a.** Satellite view of the East Port, the red arrow showing the area where the 'Cleopatra Needles' once stood; **b:** enlargement of the satellite view on the area where the obelisks once stood; **c:** satellite view with the precise bathymetric data revealing the relief of the ancient coast of the *Portus Magnus*.
- 2.8 **a.** Detail of the 1798 map of the Egyptian Expedition showing the area where the two obelisks are located, and the nearby coastline; **b.** comparison between the 1798 coastline and the current coastline created by the 'Corniche' (based on the 1798 map of the Egyptian Expedition); **c.** the 1798 map showing the area covered by the 19th and 20th century embankments (brown) as well as the bathymetry of the present East Port showing the contours of the ancient *Portus Magnus*.
- 2.9 Photograph taken around 1860 showing the coastline before the removal of the obelisks.
- 2.10 Comparison between the 1882 coastline and that of the present Corniche.
- 2.11 Drawings of the East Port docks created between 1900 and 1904.
- 2.12 Diagram of the coastal changes overtime.
- 2.13 The three options for the location of the *Caesarium*.
- 2.14 The precise multibeam bathymetry, revealing in many places the contours of the submerged *Portus Magnus*, shown on the modern city map.
- 2.15 Areas of archaeological investigation close to the Corniche north of the obelisks, indicated by the red square.
- 2.16 Structures 1 and 2 discovered near the Corniche.
- 2.17 Area of archaeological investigation north of the obelisks, indicated by the red square.
- 2.18 Fragments of marble, red granite and green porphyry, illustrating the wealth of lapidary materials.
- 2.19 Concentration of pink granite columns (pink symbols) located north of the obelisks site on the now submerged ancient coast of the *Portus Magnus*.

- 2.20 Cut fragments of fasciculated columns.
- 2.21 The papyriiform fasciculated columns in the Kunsthistorische Museum in Vienna.
- 2.22 Sections of fasciculated columns from the area of Fort Qait Bey.
- 2.23 Watercolour by Nicolas-Jacques Conté illustrating the causeway linking Alexandria to Fort Qait Bey.
- 2.24 Colossal head in grey granite (SCA 88).
- 2.25 Colossal head of hawk-headed sphinx (SCA 541).
- 2.26 Fragment of a colossal statue base inscribed with the name of Merenptah.
- 2.27 Parts of statues on the now submerged quays of the *Portus Magnus*. SCA 88: Caesarion or Augustus; SCA 541: hawk-headed sphinx; SCA 542: base of a statue.
- 2.28 **a.** Pink granite pyramidion C1-568; **b.** detail showing the inscription on the front.
- 2.29 **a-c.** Pink granite naos wall elements.
- 2.30 **a-b.** Fragments of a lid and a box section from sarcophagi.
- 2.31 Location of archaeological excavation C1.
- 2.32 Underwater photograph of the stratigraphy of C1.
- 2.33 ESA platter.
- 2.34 ESA platter.
- 2.35 ESA hemispherical bowl.
- 2.36 Glass bowl.
- 2.37 ESA platter.
- 2.38 ESA hemispherical bowl.
- 2.39 **a-b.** Inscribed kantharos from Pergamon.
- 2.40 Thin-walled, unslipped beaker.
- 2.41 **a-b.** Oinochoe.
- 2.42 **a-b.** Thin-walled, unslipped beaker.
- 2.43 Marble head (AX-3493).
- 2.44 **a-b.** Fragments of red porphyry columns with slab-shaped sections.
- 2.45 **a-c.** Ephesian type oil lamp.
- 2.46 Coins of Cleopatra VII (AX-3556-A-B-C).
- 2.47 Excavation areas C2, C3, C4.
- 2.48 Large pink granite altar (C2-7065).
- 2.49 Coins of Cleopatra VII (7125-1, 7125-2).
- 2.50 Lead seals C2-7121.
- 2.51 **a-b.** Ionian moulded bi-coloured bowl.
- 2.52 Ionian moulded bi-coloured bowl.
- 2.53 Cypriot sigillata cup.
- 2.54 *Echinus*-type bowl.
- 2.55 Cnidian carinated bowl.
- 2.56 **a-b.** West slope ware kantharos.
- 2.57 Rhodian skyphos with a twisted handle.
- 2.58 **a-b.** Cypriot wheelmade lamp.
- 2.59 **a-b.** Campanian A bowl.
- 2.60 Apulian(?) Black glass ware kantharos.
- 2.61 Local grey ware black slipped plate.
- 2.62 **a-b.** ESA hemispherical bowl.
- 2.63 **a-b.** ESA plate (or platter).
- 2.64 Italian sigillata plate.
- 2.65 **a-b.** Thin-walled, unslipped Italic goblet.
- 2.66 **a-b.** Mould-made handleless oil oil lamp.
- 2.67 **a-b.** ESA bell cup.
- 2.68 **a-b.** Italian sigillata bowl.
- 2.69 ESA lagynos.
- 2.70 **a.** The area of the *Portus Magnus* at the end of the Ptolemaic period; **b.** The *Portus Magnus* after the construction of the breakwater protruding from Antirrhodos Island around the second century AD.
- 2.71 The *Caesarium* in the *Portus Magnus* at the end of the Ptolemaic period.
- 2.72 The *Caesarium* in the *Portus Magnus* in the second century AD.
- 3.1 Papyriiform column fragment with hieroglyphic inscription discovered in the *Portus Magnus*, Alexandria.
- 3.2 Detail of the silicone cast of the hieroglyphic inscription from the papyriiform column fragment discovered underwater by IEASM.
- 3.3 Fasciculated column from Alexandria now in the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna.
- 3.4 Hieroglyphic signs recorded on the fasciculated columns in the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna.
- 3.5 Inscription and silicone cast of a building called *Kha-set* 𓆎𓅓 dedicated to Amon who presides over the thrones of the Two Lands.
- 3.6 Fasciculated columns recovered from underwater northeast of Qait Bey Fort.
- 3.7 Fragment of a fasciculated column from Memphis with its hieroglyphs transcribed.
- 3.8 The locations of the different cartouches on the IEASM fasciculated column drum.
- 3.9 Cartouche containing the signs for *Aristos Sebastos*, a title given to Trajan in AD 114 on the IEASM column.
- 4.1 Red granite statue of Hapy.
- 4.2 Detail of offerings to Haroeris of Letopolis in the temple of Kom Ombo.
- 4.3 'Astringent water' from the Residence (of Letopolis) for the purification of the Eye of Ra and the Eye of Horus.
- 4.4 'Test tube', or graduated vessel inscribed with place names and fractions.
- 4.5 Borders defined in the Satrap stela.
- 4.6 Khnum re-attaching the head of Osiris to its body in the presence of the gods, from the Osirian chapel of Philae.
- 4.7 Inscription from Dendara describing the effect of the north wind on the Nile flood.
- 4.8 Symbolic representation from Philae of the Nile in a cave represented by a snake.
- 5.1 The location of Kom al-Ahmer and Kom Wasit.
- 5.2 Map of Kom Wasit and its excavation units.

- 5.3 Double-sided incised *wedjat* eye, faience, SCA 263.
5.4 **a-b.** Two scarabs, limestone, SCA 338 and SCA 339.
5.5 Amulet of god Bes standing on a *wedjat* eye, faience, SCA 343.
5.6 Amulet of syncretistic god Mahes-Nefertem, limestone, SCA 256.
5.7 Amulet of god Horus in form of a hawk, limestone, SCA 207.
5.8 Amuletic plaque with two rows consisting of three hieroglyphic signs, limestone, SCA 191.
5.9 **a-b.** Bezel of a ring, carrying an inscription, bronze, SCA 275.
5.10 Two fragments of legs of female figurines, terracotta, SCA 306 and SCA 422.
5.11 **a-b.** Upper part of a figurine representing a female, terracotta, SCA 371.
5.12 **a-b.** Body of a female figurine on bed, painted limestone, SCA 255.
5.13 Ithyphallic figurine of a youth, painted limestone, SCA 254.
5.14 **a-b.** Fragment of horse's head, terracotta, SCA 299.
5.15 Fragment of horse's head, terracotta, SCA 304.
5.16 Persian rider on a horse, terracotta, SCA 298.
5.17 **a-b.** Horse figurine, terracotta, SCA 534.
- 6.1 Coin weight SCA 1101 impressed with (**a**) an Athenian tetradrachm and (**b**) a ram's head.
6.2 Athena helmet from Thonis-Heracleion, SCA 224, suggesting the involvement of the cults of Thonis-Heracleion in trade.
6.3 Weight (Petrie Museum UC80470).
6.4 Weight (Petrie Museum UC80472).
- 7.1 Naos SCA 457.
7.2 SCA 457, **a.** top and **b.** front view.
7.3 SCA 457, **a.** back; **b.** cross-section; **c.** left face; **d.** right face.
7.4 **a-c.** Comparison between SCA 457 (left) and CG 16/8/34/1 (right).
7.5 **a-d.** Views of the roof, cornice and lintel.
7.6 Right jamb: **a.** the stone; **b-g.** impression seen in transparency.
7.7 Right jamb, photographs of the impression.
7.8 Left jamb: **a.** the stone; **b-g.** impression seen in transparency.
- 7.9 **a-g.** Left jamb, photographs of the impression.
7.10 **a-d.** Left jamb, details of the impressions.
7.11 Amun-Re, the master of the *gereb*, temple of Arensnuphis at Philae.
- 8.1 Taposiris Magna, enclosure wall with pylon, view from the East.
8.2 Find-spot of the stela bearing 'Philensis I'.
8.3 Foundation plaque found within the central sanctuary.
8.4 'Philensis I' of Taposiris Magna: **a.** general view; **b.** line drawing.
8.5 'Philensis I', hieroglyphic text, detail, line 1-7.
8.6 'Philensis I', hieroglyphic text, detail, line 8-14.
8.7 'Philensis I', hieroglyphic text, detail, line 15-21.
8.8 'Philensis I', Demotic text, detail, line 1-8.
- 10.1 The nomes of Lower Egypt.
10.2 The first sequence of the nomes.
10.3 The second sequence of the nomes.
10.4 The third sequence of the nomes.
10.5 The fourth sequence of the nomes.
10.6 The order of the nomes from Sesostri I to Amenhotep III.
10.7 The order of the nomes from Amenhotep III to Seti I.
10.8 The order of the nomes in the Ramesside period.
10.9 The order of the nomes from Tefnakht to Ptolemy IV.
10.10 The order of the nomes from Ptolemy IV to the Roman period.
10.11 The order of the nomes from Ptolemy VIII to the Roman period.
10.12 Schematic arrangement of the nomes up to Amenhotep III.
10.13 Schematic arrangement of the nomes from Amenhotep III.
10.14 Schematic arrangement of the nomes from Tefnakht.
10.15 Schematic arrangement of the nomes in the Roman period.
10.16 The order of the nomes in a hymn to Sokar-Osiris of Dendara.
10.17 Proposed order of the nomes after the Roman period.

List of tables

- 3.1. Roman inscriptions added to IEASM column.
6.1 The weights associated with an Egyptian temple treasury.
10.1 Names of the nomes and concordance.