

The Ninth Delta Survey Conference

Hybrid event, 10-12th April 2025

British Council, Agouza, Cairo



Photo by Elena Tiribilli

DSC9 Preliminary Schedule

ALL TIMES ARE **CAIRO** TIME

Thursday 10 th April 2025: Day One		
Time	Speaker	Title
8.00	Conference opens and registration	
9.00-9.30 Welcome	Dr Essam Nagy Mr Mark Howard Dr Mohamed Ismail Mr Mohamed Abd el Badie Mr Qutb Fawzy Penny Wilson	Egypt Exploration Society Director of the British Council Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities Head of Egyptian and Greco-Roman Antiquities Sector Undersecretary for Lower Egypt Director of the EES Delta Survey Project
Chair: Professor Ayman Wahby		
9.45-10.05	Hannah Pethen	Delta Survey Online: Creating an online web-map of the Egypt Exploration Society's Delta Survey data
10.05-10.25	Henning Franzmeier	Two Palaces at Qantir-Piramesses: links to Memphis and Malqata?
10.25-10.45	Victoria Yarmolovich	The New Kingdom pottery from Qantir-Pi-Ramesses: issues of dating and interpretation
10.45-11.05	Aiman Ashmawy	The recent discoveries at Tell el-Yahudiya, seasons 2023-2024: Excavations at the second rock cut cemetery
11.05-11.35	Break	
11.35-11.55	Hesham Hussein	Tell Abu Seifi: New Discoveries and Reassessing Its Role on Egypt's Eastern Frontier
11.55-12.15	Mustafa Nureldin	Nabatean Inscriptions and Petroglyphs from El-Horabit, Southwestern Sinai
12.15-12.30	Clara Jeuthe	Buto in the Old Kingdom
12.30-12.45	Discussion	
12.45-14.00	Lunch	
Chair: Dr Eva Lange-Athinodorou		
14.00-14.20	Joanna Debowska-Ludwin	The cemeteries of Tell el-Farkha - recent updates
14.20-14.50	Mariusz Jucha, Grzegorz Bąk-Pryc, Natalia Małecka-Drozd, Magdalena Kazimierczak , Natalia Puschhaus, Katarzyna Lajs-Klose, Karolina Lapeta & Konrad Grzyb	Tell el-Murra - the latest research results from the cemetery and settlement of the 4th/3rd millennium BC in the eastern part of the Nile Delta
14.50-15.10	Elsayed Eltalhawy	Distribution of the Pottery Coffins and its belongings of the Ceramic Vessels within the Pre-Dynastic and Early Dynastic Graves from Kom el Khilgan Cemetery

15.10-15.30	Break	
15.30-15.50	Fredéric Payraudeau	Tanis 2024. Current work on the Tell San el-Hagar
15.50-16.10	Amr Abdel Raouf, Elhamy Tarabees, Osman Badran, Penelope Wilson, Ramy Ghoneim, Mohamed A. Hakim	Combining Multiple Geophysical Approaches to Image Archaeological Ruins at Tell Barnugi, Behiera Governorate., Egypt.
16.10-16.30	Abdelrahman Medhat	A Testimony of Hydraulic Constructions in Tell Timai
16.30-16.50 Online	H Eltablawy and Hossam Hegazy	Kom Al-Ahmar (Menouf): An Archaeological Window into the Nile Delta's Past
16.50-17.10	Discussion, Short break	
17.10-17.30 Online	Manfred Bietak	The Transition of the Cult of the Near Eastern Storm God from the Hyksos Rule to the 18th Dynasty: New Results in the Study of the Development of the Sacred Precinct at Tell el-Dab'a/Avaris
17.30-17.50 Online	Aurélia Berghoff-Masson	The Western Nile Delta: ARCE fieldwork in the region of Kom Firin and Naukratis (1977–1983) revisited
17.50-18.00	Closing remarks	

Friday 11 th April 2025: Day Two		
Time	Speaker	Title
8.00	Conference opens	
Chair: Dr Joanne Rowland		
8.30-8.50	Patricia Rifa Abou el Nil	A primary deposit of Terracotta roof tiles in Alexandria
8.50-9.10	Sylvian Dhennin, Aurore Bertrand, Mélie Le Roy, Paul Picavet, Aude Simony	Architecture and burial practices in the necropolis of Terenuthis/Kom Abu Bello
9.10-9.30	Mostafa Rezk Ibrahim	Kom Abu Billo Excavations 2023-2024
9.30-9.40	Aude Simony	Kom Bahig: Latest Results and New Perspectives on a site from the Southern part of the Mareotic Region
9.40-9.50	Discussion	
9.50-10.20	Break	
10.20-10.30	So Hasegawa	Excavations at Kom al-Diba' at the Lake Idku waterfront, Buhaira
10.30-10.50	Mahmoud Arab, Hossam Ghoneim	Discovery of the largest astronomical observatory from the sixth century BC in the temple of the city of Buto

10.50-11.10	Ahmed El-Kharadly & Zainab Mohamed Ali Yahya	Archaeological Finds from Southernwest Corner of the Fortress of Tell-Abqa'in 2023-2024 AD
11.10-11.30	Magda Mohamed Ibrahim	Ptolemaic perfume vases from newly discovered cemeteries in Alexandria, Egypt
11.40-12.00	Discussion	
12.00-13.30	Lunch, Prayer	
Chair: Dr Penny Wilson		
13.30-13.50	Cristina Mondin	The Reuse of Late Roman Containers at Kom al-Ahmer (Western Delta)
13.50-14.10	Jay Silverstein	Times of Turmoil: Archaeological evidence of Temple destruction in North Timai from the 29th Dynasty to Ptolemy V and their correlates with historical sources
14.10-14.30	Patrice Georges-Zimmerman, Loic Mazou, Pascale Ballet (read by Aude Simony)	Understanding the ancient city of Buto by its boundaries (Graeco-Roman period): results and new issues.
14.30-14.50	Mohga abd del Kawy	Port Said Site: A Case Study of Water Management in Ancient Alexandria
14.50-15.00	Discussion	
15.00-15.30	Break	
15.30-15.50	Warda Elnagar	Pot Bellows and Metal Production in Tell Dafana
15.50-16.10	Moustafa Hassan Nour	A new archaeological discovery at Rod Iskandar site, Ismailia: the tomb of a military commander from New Kingdom
16.10-16.30	El Sayed Fathi Al-Talhawi, Hanan Abdel Hakim Ismail	Bes Vessels from the Late Period: An Archaeological Study of Recent Discoveries at Tell Tebilla
16.30-16.50	Mohamed Abd el-Maksoud & Sayed Abd el-Alim	Tell Heboua (Tharw) during the Middle Kingdom and late Second Intermediate Period in light of recent excavations
16.50-17.15	Discussion and closing remarks	

Saturday 12th April 2025: Day Three

Walking Tour of the North Cemetery, City of the Dead

10.00 Please meet at MacDonalds, (374H+HXC، السرايات، الوايلي،، السرايات، قسم ثان مدينة نصر، محافظة القاهرة، El Weili, 4391031, Egypt) from where we will make our way through the North Cemetery. Sites on the way include the Complex of Amir Qurqumas, Mosque and Khanqah of Al-Nasir Faraj Ibn Barquq, Mausoleum & Mosque of Sultan Barsbay, and Mosque and Mausoleum of Sultan Al-Ashraf Qaitbay. Roughly 3.5km.

We expect to end the tour near Moez Street where lunch or coffee can be purchased.

Abstracts

Welcome to the 9th Delta Survey Conference, sponsored by the Egypt Exploration Society in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, funded by the British Academy and hosted by the British Council. We are most grateful to the Ministry and His Excellency Dr Mohamed Ismail Khaled for their support and participation as well as to the British Council and Director Mark Howard for the lecture theatre and facilities.

This is the 9th in our biannual series of conferences that have been held since 2009. We are delighted to return to the British Council where the very first conference was held.

The Delta Survey conference is an opportunity for those working in the north of Egypt to share their research, discuss their projects and meet old and new friends.

We are happy to announce the publication of *Delta Reports New Series, Volume I*, comprising some papers delivered at the last conference in Ain Shams University as well as new work. We expect this to be the first in a series of rolling reports and that papers from this DSC9 will form the basis of *Delta Reports Volume 2*. The publication follows in the footsteps of *Delta Reports I Archaeological Research in the Nile Delta* initiated by Professor Donald Redford, our esteemed colleague, whose passing in 2023 we mark here.

We wish to thank Carl Graves, Director of the EES, Mark Howard, Director of the British Council, Dr Hany Altayeb of the Missions Office, MoTA, Giza for their help with the work and organisation of the conference, our esteemed colleagues Professor Ayman Wahby and Dr Eva Lange-Athinodorou for chairing sessions and continued support, Ms Nourhan Ibrahim and her team for the simultaneous translation facilities, Beanos for the catering.

We hope you will enjoy the next days of the conferences!

Essam Nagy, Joanne Rowland, Penny Wilson

The Organising Committee

For more information about the Delta Survey, please visit the Egypt Exploration Society's website: <https://www.ees.ac.uk/our-cause/research/delta-survey.html>, and book your place for this conference by visiting the webpages for [Day One](#) and [Day Two](#).

Port Said Site: A Case Study of Water Management in Ancient Alexandria

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One of Alexander the Great's foremost challenges when founding Alexandria was securing a sustainable freshwater supply. The city was established on seemingly arid terrain, bordered by the Mediterranean Sea and the brackish waters of Lake Mariout, with no direct access to running water. The nearest Nile branch, the Canopic branch, was located over 30 kilometers to the east, presenting a significant logistical challenge for water transport. To overcome this, Alexander consulted architects, including Hyponomes, who devised an innovative solution. He proposed an underground network of aqueducts carved into the city's bedrock before construction began, allowing Alexandria to tap into shallow, semi-confined water tables. These aqueducts, later named hyponomes in honor of their designer, functioned as underground drainage galleries. Built as slightly inclined tunnels, they were systematically connected to the surface by wells positioned at regular intervals, serving as access points, ventilation shafts, and maintenance structures. This system efficiently harnessed groundwater through gravity, ensuring a continuous fresh water supply.

This paper investigates the infrastructure that sustained Alexandria's water supply, with a particular focus on aqueducts, cisterns, and wells. Furthermore, it presents findings from a recent salvage excavation by the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities between 2024 and 2025 at the Port Said site, located 69 meters west of the Chatby Necropolis. The discovery sheds new light on the extent and functionality of Alexandria's ancient water management system, offering fresh insights into its role in urban sustainability and long-term resilience.

Tell Heboua (Tharu) during the Middle Kingdom and late Second Intermediate Period in light of recent excavations

Mohamed Abd el-Maksoud and Elsayed Abd el-Alim

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The northern Sinai region has long been considered Egypt's eastern gateway, and the discovery of Tell Heboua—ancient Tharu—along the defunct Pelusiac branch of the Nile in the northeastern Delta represents a landmark event in historical research. Since excavations began in 1985 under the auspices of the Egyptian mission in North Sinai, a wealth of fortifications and structures from various eras has been uncovered. Notably, the Egyptian mission has found enclosure walls at the site that may date to the Middle Kingdom. This evidence raises the possibility that Tell Heboua is linked to the so-called "Walls of the Ruler" mentioned in period sources such as the Tale of Sinuhe. In addition, there is the discovery of an impressive mudbrick fortification—a sloped dyke encircling an area of about 450 by 310 meters—dating from the Hyksos period. The site yielded numerous artifacts from this era, including remains of buildings, tombs, and a significant collection of pottery that closely resembles finds from layers D3-D2 at Tell el-Dab'a (Avaris). The ongoing excavations have also revealed an early 18th Dynasty fortress that was rapidly constructed after the expulsion of the Hyksos and that probably dates to the reign of King Ahmose I.

Combining Multiple Geophysical Approaches to Image Archaeological Ruins at Tell Barnugi, Behiera Governorate, Egypt

Amr Abd El-Raouf (1), Elhamy Tarabeas (2), Osman Badran (2), Penelope Wilson (3), Ramy Ghoneim (2), Mohamed A. Hakim (4)

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Archaeological prospection utilizing non-invasive geophysical techniques is crucial for mapping subsurface features and structures before excavation. This study presents the results of an integrated geophysical survey conducted at the archaeological site of Tell Barnugi in the Beheira Governorate of Egypt. The objectives were to delineate buried architectural remains and investigate the site's structural layout utilizing complementary magnetic gradiometer and 2D electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) methods. Multiple fluxgate magnetic gradiometer datasets were collected across the site at a high spatial resolution of 0.25 x 0.5 m. After processing, the resulting magnetic maps revealed a complex pattern of linear and rectangular anomalies of varying magnitudes, suggesting buried wall foundations, roads, paved surfaces, and other archaeological features related to a substantial ancient settlement. To further investigate the subsurface structural remains detected by the magnetic survey, a series of 2D electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) profiles using a dipole-dipole (DD) array were acquired. The inverted ERT resistivity models corroborated the magnetic interpretations, exhibiting shallow high resistivity anomalies between 0.5 to 3 m depth that could be related to construction ruins from fired bricks and contrasting with the relatively lower resistivity surroundings of compacted anthropogenic sediments and soils. The integrated geophysical mapping approach suggests a well-preserved settlement layout at Tell Barnugi, with the combined magnetic gradiometer and ERT datasets revealing a series of rectilinear structures that potentially represent domestic housing units organized along ancient street networks. The complementary nature of the two techniques enabled comprehensive archaeological imaging and characterization of the buried architectural remains at this important Egyptian site. The geophysical prospection successfully established a strong basis for informing future excavation strategies and archaeological investigations.

Archaeological finds from South-western corner of the Fortress of Tell-Abqa'in, 2023-2024.

Dr. Ahmed Saeed Ibrahim Al-Kharadly (1), Zeinab Mohamed Ali Yehia (2), Wafaa Ibrahim Hassan Mohamed (3), Mohamed Younis Kamal Abu Zeid (3)

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The site of Tell Abqa'in is located 75 km south-east of Alexandria and 5 km south-east of the town of Hosh-Issa in El-Beheira Governorate. The site has long been considered as one of a chain of forts constructed during the reign of Ramesses II on the edge of the Western Delta. In 2023-2024 the Egyptian Archaeological Mission working at Tell Abqa'in discovered the military barracks area for soldiers in the southwestern corner of the fortress, and of archaeological material was found that shed light on the military identity of the fort's inhabitants and their religious beliefs.

The paper will present the archaeological finds that included a bronze weapons, such as a bronze sword engraved with the birth and coronation cartouches of King Ramses II, arrowheads, and knives. These weapons highlight the military identity of the fortress inhabitants and reflect the advanced level of weapon-making techniques and their use in defending the area. In addition, amulets and scarabs with inscriptions of deities and sacred motif were found, revealing the religious and popular beliefs of the inhabitants and indicating the connection between daily life and religious

practices. The paper also presents a study of some of the stone blocks found in the fort that were possibly used in construction, along with a linguistic and cultural commentary.

Recent discoveries at Tell el-Yahudiya, seasons 2023-2024

Excavations at the second rock cut cemetery

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Tell El-Yahudia is situated about 2km southeast of Shibin El-Kanater and 19km north of Heliopolis. The site is one of the most distinctive and unique sites in the Delta, home to the rare middle Bronze Age Hyksos fortification similar to those found in Syria and Palestine, a group of rock cut tombs, rare tumulus tombs and the temple of Onias. It is one of the rare sites that reflects the influence of the environment in regards to the use of the site.

The SCA continued excavations in the small *tell* at Tell el Yahudiya in the area we called the second rock cut cemetery, which extends under the so-called Roman camp. The cemetery contained several types of tombs. During the seasons 2023-4 more tombs were discovered, as well as many small objects that helped in dating the cemetery, understanding the growth of the city and occupation, as well as the population density and social status of the people buried there. However, we do not know whether some of the tombs were decorated with drawings on the walls during the 18th dynasty, or whether the nature of the rock prevented this, or whether these drawings were destroyed during the reuse of the second rock cemetery in the Late Period.

Among the important objects that were found was the Cypriot pottery that reflects the relations of the site with Cyprus and the Mediterranean world, including a complete black-on-red Cypriot flask with geometric patterns, as well as other rare pottery types, faience and alabaster objects, and bronze weapons.

The Transition of the Cult of the Near Eastern Storm God from the Hyksos Rule to the 18th Dynasty: New Results in the Study of the Development of the Sacred Precinct at Tell el-Dab'a/Avaris

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When evaluating the site stratigraphy of Tell el-Dab'a, we discovered that the Hyksos temple continued in use during the 18th Dynasty, extending at least into the reign of the Thutmoside kings. A notable feature of this temple was a large round altar in front of the shrine, a type also found at Tell Rawda, Tell Umm el-Marra, Tell el-Zeraqon, and Megiddo. Just north of this location, Horemheb constructed a new temple to Seth, which was either rebuilt or completed by Seti I. It was here that Ramses II erected the so-called "Stela of 400 Years," wherein the Egyptian storm god Seth was depicted as a Near Eastern storm god and honoured as the "Father of the Fathers" of the 19th Dynasty.

The new evidence from Tell el-Dab'a reveals that the Syrian storm god was respected by the Egyptians, despite their conflicts with the Hyksos. This phenomenon may be explained by the fact

that the Temple of the Storm God had already been established by the kings of the 14th Dynasty, meaning this foreign deity had been introduced to Egypt prior to the rise of the reviled Hyksos dynasty. Additionally, the Egyptians may have sought the favour of this foreign god to achieve success in warfare, particularly in regions under his divine influence.

The cemeteries of Tell el-Farkha - recent updates

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The Pre- and Early Dynastic site of Tell el-Farkha brought the discovery of a settlement, a cultic and elite-power connected sector, as well as a series of regular cemeteries. Overall, a monumental mastaba dated to NIII A/B and nearly 150 graves were excavated. The graves represent three separate cemeteries and correspond to the settlement's final layers offering a more complete insight into the life and death of the ancient inhabitants of Tell el-Farkha.

In recent years, some work was conducted in the area of the mastaba and the Proto- and Early Dynastic cemeteries. The paper will present the results of work at the site together with some general remarks on the excavated objects, structures and people who build the graves and were found buried inside them.

Architecture and burial practices in the necropolis of Terenuthis/Kom Abu Bello

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The Terenuthis Necropolis, situated within the present-day archaeological site of Kom Abu Bello, was probably one of Lower Egypt's largest burial grounds. The French CNRS-HiSoMA/IFAO mission undertook a new study of a part of the necropolis in 2014, along with work on other parts of the site, including the Roman town. Presently, nearly 500m² of the necropolis has been excavated, revealing a significant number of well-preserved funerary monuments and burials. Following a brief introduction to the archaeological site and the Imperial-era necropolis, the communication will focus on three main themes, leveraging recent excavation findings to shed new light on the population of Terenuthis. Firstly, an anthropological perspective will be explored. By analysing burials through anthropological and paleopathological studies, insights into funerary practices such as tomb spatial organisation, burial types, and body orientations will emerge. Additionally, aspects like age, sex, height, and health conditions will be scrutinised to reconstruct ancient lifestyles, diets, and overall health of the local population. Secondly, archaeological and epigraphic viewpoints will offer insight into Terenuthis society. The study of monuments and funerary stelae will illuminate aspects such as anthroponymy, origins, and social status, providing a deeper understanding of the community dynamics. Lastly, attention will be directed towards the examination of post-burial rites conducted in front of tombs, including offerings, incense, and deposited objects. These rituals embody funerary beliefs within the multicultural context of imperial Egypt, offering tangible glimpses into religious and cultural practices of the era.

Pot Bellows and Metal Production in Tell Dafana

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This paper will focus on a prominent tool commonly associated with metal works, depicted on the walls of New Kingdom tombs alongside various other crafts. Known as the "pot bellow", this tool consists of a basin made from pottery or stone, with a pipe-like extension. It is used to blow air into furnaces or kilns during the metal melting process. While this tool is illustrated in ancient Egyptian scenes, making it relatively easy to identify, it is less commonly recognized among archaeological finds. Typically, these tools are found in fragmented condition, which can complicate their identification, as their general form resembles that of other coarse pottery wares such as basins, trays, and molds.

Two noteworthy complete pot bellows were found at Tell Dafana, however. The first was found during Flinders Petrie's excavations at the site in 1886, while the second emerged during more recent, unpublished excavations in 2015-2016. This paper will examine the depiction of the pot bellow in Egyptian scenes, review the relevant finds in both the Levant and Egypt, and provide and analyses of the Tell Dafana discoveries. By surveying their function and role, this study will shed new light on the significance of this tool at the well-known Saite Period site

Kom Al-Ahmar (Menouf) : an Archaeological Window into the Nile Delta's Past

Hatem Eltablawy (1) and Hossam Hegazi (2)

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Inspector of antiquities at Behbeit Elheggara temple, PhD in Egyptology.

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Kom Al-Ahmar, located in the heart of Egypt's Nile Delta, is a significant archaeological site that offers profound insights into the region's historical and cultural evolution. This study explores the archaeological remains at Kom Al-Ahmar and their implications for understanding life in the Nile Delta from antiquity to more recent times. The research focuses on key objectives: analyzing artifacts unearthed during recent excavations, identifying patterns of settlement and subsistence, and investigating how these findings reflect broader socio-economic dynamics within ancient Egyptian society.

Utilizing a combination of fieldwork methodologies, including stratigraphic excavation and artifact analysis, this study examines layers of habitation spanning various historical periods. Preliminary results indicate that Kom Al-Ahmar was not only an important centre for agricultural production but also played a crucial role in trade networks connecting disparate regions. The discovery of pottery sherds, tools, and domestic structures sheds light on daily life practices while revealing interactions with neighbouring cultures.

In conclusion, this study underscores Kom Al-Ahmar as an essential resource for understanding the complexities of human activity within the Nile Delta. By illuminating its archaeological significance, we hope to contribute valuable knowledge toward reconstructing Egypt's rich heritage while fostering further investigation into other underexplored sites across the region.

Distribution of the Pottery Coffins and its belongings of the Ceramic Vessels within the Pre-Dynastic and Early Dynastic Graves from Kom el Khilgan Cemetery (in Arabic)

El Sayed F. El Talhawy

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This study aims to discuss the distribution of and relation between two pottery coffins and the pottery vessels from graves at Kom el-Khilgan dated to the Early Dynastic period. The research includes a study of coffin types, vessel forms, the number and quality of vessels in the assemblages and the chronology of the excavated graves.

Bes Vessels from the Late Period: An Archaeological Study of Recent Discoveries at Tell Tebilla (in Arabic)

El Sayed Fathi El-Talhawi (1), Hanan Abdel Hakim Ismail (2)

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The current research aims to study and publish four pottery vessels for the deity "Bes," preserved in the museum storage of Tell El-Rub'a in Al- Dakahlia Governorate. These vessels are part of the discoveries from the excavations conducted by the Egyptian inspectorate of Dakahlia antiquities - at Tell Tebilla site near Mendes in the Egyptian Delta during the second season of 2024. The research concluded that the vessels date to the Late Period and were locally manufactured, with decorations that differ slightly from similar vessels produced in other regions of Egypt during the same period. The use of "Bes" vessels in the Late Period spread for protection, especially in garrison sites or camps such as Tell el-Herr and Tell Defenneh. Their functions and uses varied between daily life and religious contexts during the Saite Period and beyond.

Old Kingdom pottery from the western kom at Tell Basta

Ashraf es-Senussi

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The excavations of the Tell Basta Project on the Western Kom at Bubastis have revealed rich contexts of pottery dating from the Early Old Kingdom to the Middle Kingdom. The paper will present and contextualize pottery types found in the so-called trash-layer, which partly provided a building ground for the erection of the ka-temple of Pepi I. Furthermore, the paper will show that mass production of beer jars took place at the time of the transformation of a Governor's palace to a temple area at the beginning of the 6th Dynasty, proving residential management of provincial temple building in the late Old Kingdom.

Two Palaces at Qantir-Piramesses: links to Memphis and Malqata?

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Between 2022 and 2024 three seasons of fieldwork were conducted at Qantir-Pi-Ramesses, focusing upon a site which was known from the magnetic measurements to contain the remains of a large-scale building complex. Excavations brought to light two successive palatial buildings, which have a totally different layout and different characteristics. The later of the two edifices compares in its layout, size and orientation closely to the so-called palace of Merenptah at Memphis. While heavily destroyed, a few surviving fragments of decorated limestone bear traces of inlays, which underline the close connection between the palace at Memphis and the building at Qantir. Beneath the upper palace, the remains of a second palatial edifice were identified, that shares the same orientation with the later building but seems to have been much less monumental. This can be seen in the lack of evidence for major elements made of stone as well as walls of a lesser thickness. Moreover, at least three rooms of the building seem to have been decorated with polychrome wall paintings. In general, it shares these features with the palace of Malqata of Amenhotep III and royal buildings at Amarna. While there is no inscription which links either building with a specific king, the earlier palace can most likely be connected to the earlier reign of Ramesses II while the later edifice might belong to the later reign of Ramesses II or one of his immediate successors. The paper will give an overview of the results of the excavation and discuss the above-mentioned similarities with other palaces of the New Kingdom in Egypt.

Understanding the ancient city of Buto by its boundaries (Graeco-Roman period): results and new issues

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Over the past few seasons, the archaeological work carried out by the Buto mission has focused on three major components of urban life: living, producing and dying, using the center and north-western part of Kom A as its field of exploration. But the boundaries of the city, where the potters' workshops and necropolis are located, are also rich in information.

The French mission, working on the site in cooperation with the DAIK, which has been linked by an agreement since 2023, and the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (inspectorate of Kafr el-Scheikh), has shed light on certain types of occupation, using a multidisciplinary approach. Excavation of the potters' activity zone enabled further study of the specific features of the workshops (firing technology, type of production and spatial organization of the work areas) and the extension of the artisanal zone to the north-west, although not in a strictly adjacent position. The Greco-Roman necropolis is being extensively excavated, allowing us to characterize the nature of funerary practices (mummification) and the evolution of the town's territory.

Discovery of the largest astronomical observatory from the sixth century BC in the temple of the city of Buto

Hossam Ghonim and Mahmoud Ali Arab

أكتشفت البعثة المصرية بمعبد بوتو (تل الفراعين) بمحافظة كفر الشيخ مبنى ضخم من الطوب اللبن يمثل تصميمًا معماريًا لمرصدًا فلكيًا لرصد وتسجيل الأرصاء الفلكية وحركة الشمس والنجوم بالمعبد .

كما أن مبنى المرصد الفلكي كشف عنه في الركن الجنوبي الغربي لمنطقة المعابد ومدخله ناحية الشرق حيث شروق الشمس ويتكون تصميمه المعماري من صالة أعمدة وسطى مفتوحة على شكل حرف (L) ، كذلك تم الكشف عن ساعة شمسية حجرية منحدرية (ساعة الظل المنحدرة sloping sundial) تتجه ناحية الشمال وتتصل بصالة الأعمدة وهي من أهم الوسائل الخاصة بقياس الوقت .

كذلك عثر على منصة حجرية (مرسوم) منظمة الشكل 2.80م X 2.60م سجل على هذه المنصة نقوش ضعيفة تمثل مناظر فلكية في الغالب لشروق الشمس وغروبها خلال فصول السنة الثلاثة .

كما عثر بداخل مبنى المرصد على تمثال من الجرانيت الرمادي (من عصور إيب رع الأسرة السادسة والعشرين) للكهنة المسئول عنه يدعى (بسماتيك سمن) ويحمل تمثال المعبد أوزير ومدون عليه لقب حامل الختم الملكي والرأى ، كما عثر على أداة المرحت التي تستخدم في أعمال القياس

تتم أهمية الأكتشاف في أن المرصد بصفة عامة كان لها دورًا هامًا ، حيث عرفت المراصد منذ العصر الحجري الحديث بمرصد نبتا بلايا بأسوان وعلى مدار التاريخ القديم .

Excavations at Kom al-Diba' at the Lake Idku waterfront, Buhaira

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Currently, several archaeological projects are being conducted in the hinterland of Alexandria, particularly around Lake Idku, in addition to those around Mariyut Lake (see Kenawi M. 2014). This area has often been neglected in the field of classical archaeology due to its perceived low agricultural production. Intensive agriculture was not seen as practical in this region, which suggests that daily economic activities along the waterfront may have relied on a "composite livelihood", involving a series of part-time occupations. The site at Kom al-Diba', appears to be a typical "temple precinct" settlement, situated around the naos at the higher point of the hill, which measures 660 cm in width with a wall thickness of 76 cm, which is composed of a single chamber and is surrounded by an outer wall that is 144 cm wide. Excavations have been conducted over two seasons since 2023, and careful observation of the lowest part of the wall and the remaining floor indicated that the hilltop buildings extend down to the foot of the hill. The varying orientations of the walls suggest a history of repeated architectural activity. Notably, two coins featuring a portrait and the eagle symbol of Ptolemy II were found, one of which was located at the surrounding wall of the naos. This discovery may indicate an early stage in the site's foundation. Additionally, the assemblage of objects, which includes fragmentary pieces of Balbotine ware and Sigillata ware, suggests that the hilltop was active during the early Imperial period (1st century AD).

Tell Abu Seifi: New Discoveries and Reassessing Its Role on Egypt's Eastern Frontier

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Tell Abu Seifi, a key site on Egypt's eastern frontier, has long been recognized for its Ptolemaic and Roman military and trade significance. Located north of the defunct Balah Lake, approximately 3 km east of the Suez Canal in Qantara East, previous excavations uncovered remains of fortifications, administrative buildings, residential areas, and industrial zones, reflecting its strategic importance in border defense and cross-regional trade.

Recent excavations have expanded upon these earlier discoveries, revealing new architectural features that provide deeper insights into the site's function and transformation over time. Among the latest findings are a fortified military complex, a dry moat system, and urban planning elements, indicating multiple phases of occupation and structural modifications. Notably, the discovery of two distinct phases of limestone pavement at the eastern gate highlights continuous reconstruction efforts between the Ptolemaic and Roman periods. Additionally, the excavation of a 500m-long tree-lined entrance pathway suggests intentional planning to enhance site accessibility and organization.

By integrating past and recent discoveries, this research reassesses Tell Abu Seifi's role as a military stronghold, trade hub, and evolving urban center. These findings contribute to a broader understanding of border defense strategies, military logistics, and the geopolitical significance of North Sinai during the Ptolemaic and Roman periods.

Kom Abu Billo Excavations 2023-2024

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From September 16th 2023 to May 30th 2024, scientific excavations were carried out at Kom Abu Billo. They resulted in the discovery of part of a huge cemetery used for the burials of the lower and middle class residents of the nearby city of Terranuthis, Tarana. In total, 227 limestone sarcophagi, 94 ceramic coffins, and 12 examples of the remains of wooden coffins were unearthed in the first and second layers. A wide variety of customs and methods of burial, mummification and treatment of the dead were used at that time. Preliminary field studies have shown that we are on the cusp of uncovering a huge cemetery dating back to the beginning of the Ptolemaic period at the site. This paper will provide details of the findings.

Ptolemaic perfume vases from newly discovered cemeteries in Alexandria, Egypt

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Unguentaria, or perfume vases, are the most common pottery vessels found in cemeteries in Alexandria, probably because perfume was used in funerary rites, or perhaps the deceased used these vessels during their life and then they were buried with them. Two cemeteries were discovered recently by the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities: the cemetery of El-Haddad and the cemetery of El-Abd. They are located about 300 and 900 meters east of the cemetery of El-Shatby, which was discovered by Evaristo Breccia between the years 1904 and 1910. The cemetery of El-Haddad dates to between the 2nd half of the 3rd century and the late 2nd/

early 1st century BC. However, the newly discovered areas of the cemetery of El-Abd (excavation seasons from the year 2017 to 2019) date back to the 2nd half/late 2nd century BC to the 3rd century AD. Large numbers of perfume vessels of different types were found in loculi and in the fill of the cemeteries, with a reasonable number of them coming from specific archaeological layers, or in three phases dating to the 2nd half of the 3rd to mid-2nd century BC; the 2nd half of the 2nd to early 1st century BC; and the late 2nd to late 1st century BC. The majority of the perfume vessels, recorded from the two cemeteries, were in local fabrics, and they are mainly influenced by the prevalent models in the eastern Mediterranean during the Hellenistic and early Roman periods. This paper aims to trace the shape evolution of the perfume vessels, and compare the numbers of each type with their counterparts in the three phases of the cemetery.

Buto during the Old Kingdom

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The DAI's current work at the Buto settlement mound in the northwestern Delta / Egypt is investigating the development of Buto as a local centre during the Old Kingdom (ca. 2600 - 2200 BC). Excavations between 2021 and 2024 have uncovered for the first time at Buto layers from this period. The individual buildings from the different phases of use are all related to supply and storage activities, within an institutional framework and will be presented in this paper.

Tell el-Murra: the latest research results from the cemetery and settlement of the 4th-3rd millennium BC in the eastern part of the Nile Delta

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Excavations conducted in recent years at the Tell el-Murra site (eastern part of the Nile Delta, 4th-3rd millennium BC) have focused mainly on the cemetery. Settlement area have been investigated to a lesser extent. Recent research has also focused on the study campaigns and documentation of the material collected so far. Based on the work done so far, the chronology of the Tell el-Murra site has been determined. The oldest settlement is dated to the Lower Egyptian Culture. After the decline of this culture, we are probably dealing with a settlement break caused by an exceptionally large flood of the Nile and lasting until the Protodynastic period. The settlement's heyday was in the Early Dynastic period and the Old Kingdom.

The paper will present the results of work during which the chronology of the cemetery was specified and confirmed earlier findings regarding the dating to the Early Dynastic period – Naqada IIIC- IIID (based on the discovery of subsequent graves from this period). In addition a grave was found in 2024 of a grave that allowed us to shift the chronology of the cemetery back to the Protodynastic period (Naqada IIIB). The paper will also focus on settlement issues from the re-

occupation of the settlement in the Protodynastic period, after a settlement break lasting from the end of the Lower Egyptian Culture.

Western Nile Delta: ARCE fieldwork in the region of Kom Firin and Naukratis (1977–1983) revisited

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Between 1977 and 1983 a team led by William D. E. Coulson, Albert Leonard Jr. and Nancy Wilkie undertook a major survey and excavations in the central-western Nile Delta, in the area around Kom Firin and Naukratis. They examined over thirty sites, spanning the 3rd millennium BC to the late 1st millennium AD. This was the most significant in-depth archaeological exploration of this important border region, yet it remained largely unknown with only the site of Naukratis published but misunderstood.

This presentation discusses a re-evaluation of their work from a present-day perspective together with new data. The research, conducted at the British Museum in collaboration with many colleagues, sheds new light on settlement patterns, environment and historical development by bringing together data from different disciplines. Many sites, hitherto identified as Ptolemaic or Roman foundations, now emerge as settled in the Pharaonic period.

A Testimony of Hydraulic Constructions in Tell Timai

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Climate change cycles throughout the history of Egypt can be modeled using a variety of sources. Proxy data can be drawn from alluvium, pollen, isotope analysis (Carbon-14, O-18, and other sources), and tephra volcanic dating. Other indicators can be collected from the mural paintings in the tombs, the appearance of new positions in the administration to deal with times of famine, and the presence of certain insects in some tombs indicating the presence of a drought when the tomb was sealed. We suggest that engineering responses to environmental stress also provide a means of assessing the nature and extent of environmental stimuli through functional interpretation of **Hydraulic Constructions**. We focus on Tell Timai, ancient Thmouis, because constructions have been

uncovered that appear to have been built to accommodate specific stresses. The Nilometer, the aqueduct, the wells, and the ancient harbour offer clues to a dynamic palustrine environment. The discoveries from Thmouis offer an expanded approach for understanding the ancient climate and ecology in Egypt during the Graeco-Roman period. Environmental variation has previously been proposed as the driving force to the political and economic of the Mendesian nome elevating Thmouis to the capital city and there are means to test this hypothesis.

In addition, the modern study of the site has been ongoing since 2007, yielding a familiarity with the archaeology and *longue durée* study opportunity to assess modern climate change. This knowledge is necessary to develop new strategies for the sustainability of cultural heritage sites.

The Reuse of Late Roman Containers at Kom al-Ahmer (Western Delta)

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Between 2016 and 2022, excavations were carried out on a building consisting of five rooms at Kom al-Ahmer, located 50 km southeast of Alexandria and 35 km south of Rosetta. Inside the building, 260 containers were found carefully arranged within the rooms. These include 256 amphorae and four common ware vessels. Most of the amphorae were produced in Middle Egypt, but numerous imported containers were also identified, including LR 1, 3, and 4 amphorae, as well as the Samos Cistern amphora.

The excellent state of preservation of the contexts has allowed for a detailed study of the deposit's organization. Data were collected on the positioning of the containers and the condition of the stored materials. Based on this analysis, the building has been interpreted as a shop specializing in the sale of reused containers. The study aims to present the deposited materials and further investigate the practice of container reuse. Particular attention will be given to containers that were deposited with missing parts and holes, rendering them non-functional for liquid storage.

A New Archaeological Discovery at Rod Iskandar site, Ismailia : the tomb of a military commander from the New Kingdom

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At Rod Iskander, Ismailia, a mudbrick tomb has been found. It was divided into three chambers. In the main burial chamber, there was a human skeleton covered with a layer of cartonnage. Inside the tomb, alabaster vessels were discovered, one of which bears two cartouches of King Horemheb. A golden seal with the cartouche of King Ramesses III was also found, along with a large collection of bronze arrows and a Was-scepter. This confirms that the tomb belonged to the military commander of the eastern borders during the 20th Dynasty. Further details will be presented in the Conference.

نشر نقوش ورسوم صخرية نبطية من موقع الهريبات- جنوب غرب سيناء

Publishing Nabataean inscriptions and Petroglyphs from Al-Horibat site, southwestern Sinai

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يتناول البحث دراسة موقع الهريبات بجنوب سيناء وهو أحد المواقع المكتشفة حديثاً أثناء أعمال مسح أثري قام بها الباحث، موقع الهريبات يوجد على مرتفع من وادي الهريبات وهو وادٍ قصير من روافد وادي الحمر بجنوب غرب سيناء، الموقع به لوحة

صخرية واحده أبعادها حوالى 200سمx100سم, النقوش والرسوم منفذه بطريقة الحز والتشهير, تنتشر النقوش النبطية بسيناء انتشاراً كبيراً خاصة في الجنوب, معظم تلك النقوش هي نقوش تذكارية قصيرة غير مؤرخة إلا النادر منها وهو مؤرخ بالفترة اللاحقة لسقوط المملكة النبطية عام 106م, وقد ظهرت النقوش النبطية منذ القرن الثاني قبل الميلاد واستمرت حتى القرن الخامس الميلادي وتعتبر هي أصل اللغة العربية, يهدف البحث إلى دراسة ونشر الموقع وبيان أهميته الأثرية والتاريخية.

This research focuses on the discovery of a rock panel bearing Nabataean inscriptions and a number of petroglyphs in Al-Horibat site. Al-Horibat is one of the tributaries of Wadi Al-Homr in southwest Sinai. The panel is approximately 200cm x 100cm in size. Nabataean inscriptions are widely spread in Sinai, especially in the south. Most of the inscriptions are short, undated memorial inscriptions, except for the rare ones, which are dated to the period following the fall of the Nabataean Kingdom in 106 AD. The research aims to study these inscriptions and petroglyphs and explain the relationship between them.

Tanis 2024. Current work on the Tell San el-Hagar

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The Mission française des fouilles de Tanis (MFFT), which celebrated its 60th anniversary this year, has resumed its work on the *tell* of Sâ el-Hagar, which was interrupted after 2020. The site is notable for the presence of a large number of monumental remains, raising the question of their preservation and the study of those that have been unearthed over centuries in an unfavourable geographical environment. The 2024 mission focused on the documentation, restoration and protection project for the tombs in the royal necropolis of dynasties 21 and 22 (c. 1069-730 BC). The use of photogrammetry has made it possible to overcome the difficulties inherent in the small spaces of these tombs, and to gain a better understanding of their construction, the organisation of their decoration and the circulation of salts.

Delta Survey Online: Creating an online web-map of the Egypt Exploration Society's Delta Survey data

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This presentation describes the conversion of the Delta Survey data, published as Spencer 2024, *Archaeological Sites of the Nile Delta of Egypt: A Gazetteer*, into a geographic information system (GIS) database in ESRI ArcGIS Pro, its upload to ArcGIS Online, and dissemination as an interactive map on the Egypt Exploration Society website. I will describe the process of distilling the Delta Survey data into concise descriptions of each site, locating and including relevant external web-based resources. The resulting satellite imagery web-map with sites presented as points publicises the Delta Survey data, provides a useful hub of collated external resources, and an online profile for many poorly known ancient sites. This is the first time descriptions, references, and relevant external links have been so easily accessible for many of these sites. For others it provides a useful introduction to a wider audience, and a hub for the collation of external resources. Since, the GIS-database and online web-map are dynamic and updatable, new information, and additional or

updated external links can be added as necessary. Viewing Delta Survey sites on satellite imagery also clarifies their archaeological, geographical, and topographical relationships, showing that the Delta Survey Online map may aid in the contextualisation of Delta sites, and the development of new research questions and lines of enquiry. The GIS-based web-map and derivative applications created during this project provide a dynamic, updatable introduction to the Delta Survey sites, and a powerful tool for exploring, explaining, and disseminating the settlement archaeology of the Nile Delta.

A primary deposit of terracotta roof tiles in Alexandria

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The archaeological warehouse of the Centre d'Etudes Alexandrines (Alexandria, Egypt) includes a collection of more than 500 architectural terracotta tiles for which no systematic study has yet been undertaken. Cross-referencing research on several Hellenistic sites around the Mediterranean (Delos, Thasos, Alexandria, Bahig) and methodological approaches carried out in recent years have led us to reconsider this type of artefact and give it the attention it deserves.

The vast majority of the collection, including bricks and terracotta roof tiles comes from secondary deposits, destruction debris or backfill. However, one group stands out by the nature, number and quality of its finds: coming from the Jardin de l'Ancien Consulat site, the group belongs to a Ptolemaic-period fill identified as a primary deposit. The material in the layer consists exclusively of fragments of large rectangular pan tiles and pentagonal joint covers in Corinthian style. It has been possible to reconstruct the complete profile of several tiles and joint covers, and to identify distinct individuals. The aim of this study is to present the most interesting objects in this collection, their specific features and their technical characteristics.

Times of Turmoil: Archaeological evidence of temple destruction in North Timai from the 29th Dynasty to Ptolemy V and their correlates with historical sources

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Excavations at north Tell Timai, ancient Thmouis, have uncovered the foundations of two destroyed temples, one dating to the 29th Dynasty and the other to the Early Ptolemaic Period. A number of lines of data suggest that these temples correlate to events documented on the Great Mendes Stela and in various historical sources concerning the second Persian conquest and the Great Rebellion of Rosetta Stone fame. While these interpretations are preliminary, the archaeological evidence of destruction appears to provide rare glimpses into key episodes of political unrest and transition that shaped the geopolitical position of Egypt in the Hellenistic world. It also advances the understanding of the ideo-political relations that led to the subordination of Mendes to Thmouis beginning in the latter half of the Hellenistic Period and that continued throughout the Roman Period.

Kom Bahig: Latest results and new perspectives on a site from the southern part of the Mareotic Region

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The site of Kom Bahig is located in the Mareotide Region, about 50 km west of Alexandria, on the southern shore of Lake Mareotis and north-west of the modern village of Bahig. Since 2016, archaeological researches, including surveys and excavations, have been carried out on the site by Centre d'Etudes Alexandrines (CEAlex, UAR 3134, CNRS).

This presentation will particularly focus on the two main areas excavated, shedding light on the nature and the chronology of the site's occupation. In the southern part of the site, the excavation in the eastern part of the western *kom* has revealed the presence of large limestone buildings of domestic nature dated to the Ptolemaic Period (3rd-2nd century BC), succeeding an earlier settlement from the end of the 7th century BC and consisting of mud-brick buildings. Another excavation, still ongoing in the northern part of the central valley, that splits the western from the eastern *kom*, revealed large limestone blocks and several sections of a limestone pathway, associated with the remains of small buildings. These features, located in an area occupied since the Third Intermediate Period, belongs to an ancient sanctuary that remained active at least until the Augustan period.

The New Kingdom pottery from Qantir-Pi-Ramesses: issues of dating and interpretation

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A large amount of pottery was discovered in the course of the excavations at the site QVIII at Qantir-Pi-Ramesses. During the field and study seasons in 2022–2024 the pottery from various strata have been studied. Ceramic vessels were found in abundance on the floors and in the foundation trenches of what were, most likely to have been, two palatial buildings, as well as in the upper layers of the site. The pottery from the strata of the palaces is dated to the New Kingdom. In general, the range of shapes is typical of the pottery corpus of the Ramesside period (19th–20th Dynasty). It includes funnel-necked jars, beer jars, cooking pots, various dishes and bowls, ovoid jars (so-called 'meat jars'), Egyptian amphorae, and Canaanite jars. Moreover, various blue painted vessels of high quality were found among this material, including funnel-necked jars, necked jars, and carinated bowls. Fineware with blue painted decoration stands out by its quality and finesse.

In addition, various figurines of animals and humans are present which are made in same technique as blue painted pottery. These pieces can mostly be considered as applied decoration of vessels.

The presentation will give an overview of the material and focus on issues of dating and interpretation of the pottery from the excavations at QVIII at Qantir.

Posters

Ancient Egyptian society in Marina (North Coast) and Philadelphia (Fayoum), through the study of human remains.

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The ancient Egyptians' belief in resurrection after death and immortality in eternal life was the basis that prompted them to build tombs and mummify corpses, among other aspects of their civilization. The nature of the environment surrounding the population also affected the form of their daily lives, as there was a difference between coastal society and desert society, and this difference appeared clearly in the nature of the work and daily activity they carried out in their daily lives and the nature of food and even the nature of the materials used in the mummification process.

Through studying the human remains in the two sites of El-Marina and Philadelphia, from the same time period, this difference also appeared in the nature of diseases present in each society, which was a result of the humans being affected by the surrounding environment and the social status of the members of society, in addition to the form of health care for each society.

Recent discoveries in Tell Abu Gudour

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The site of Tell Abu Gudour is located in the northern western side of the city of Abu Al-Matamir. The tell is located near important archaeological sites in the southwest, about 7 km from Kom Trugi, and to the north Kom Al-Faraj and Kom Abu Al-Ada, about 9 km away.

The results of work by the archaeological mission at the site revealed the presence of architectural elements dating to different historical eras, from the Ptolemaic Period until the Byzantine era. A Ptolemaic public bathhouse was found in the northeast of the tell, as well as architectural units that extended outside the work area. Bronze coins dating back to the Ptolemaic era were also found at the site. Amphorae handles amongst the pottery had stamps from the island of Kindos and Rhodes dating to the Hellenistic period, and there were other types of pottery, such as oil lamps, storage vessels and perfume bottles also from the Ptolemaic period.

From Ancient Icon to Future Forest: A Net-Zero Burj Rashid Project Revives the Sycamore's Cultural and Ecological Value

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Rooted in ancient Egyptian culture, the sycamore tree transcended mere arboreal status, embodying profound symbolic weight tied to life, death, and the divine. Adorning tomb walls amidst fertile fields, it signified not only rebirth and the promise of a bountiful afterlife, but also served as a cherished locus for family reunions in eternity. The tree's fruit and sap symbolized mercy and compassion, qualities epitomized by the tree goddess, often depicted under its branches offering protection and nurturing. Its enduring presence in a harsh landscape represented resilience, strength, and the persistence of life. However, this iconic status has diminished in modern times due to misinterpreted heritage beliefs leading to its dwindling presence. This project seeks to rectify this decline and restore the sycamore to its rightful place as a cultural and ecological keystone. By re-educating local communities through farmer workshops, the project aims to dispel negative myths and revive understanding of its true value. This initiative emphasizes the sycamore's practical benefits: its ability to combat aridity and salinization, its sustainable yield of food and resources, and its historical role as a communal gathering place. Through strategic replanting and community engagement, the project seeks to establish a "future forest," a living testament to the enduring power of the sycamore symbol. Ultimately, this approach will not only reclaim a vital environmental asset but also revitalize cultural pride and foster a stronger connection to ancestral traditions. By understanding the symbolic importance we have to restore the plant in this area.