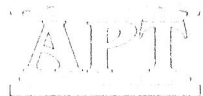
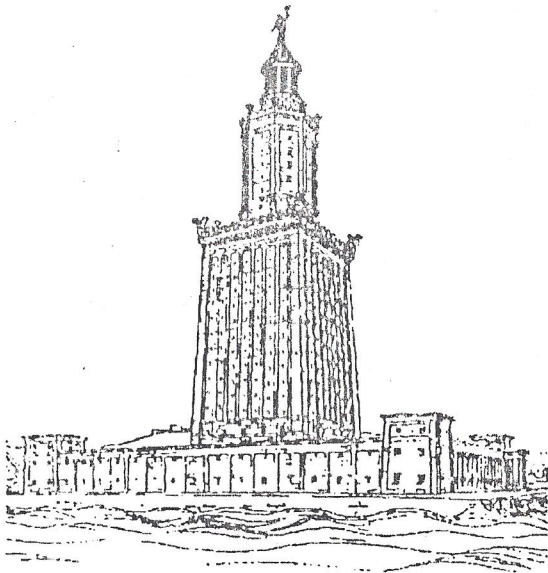


THE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SITES OF
ALEXANDRIA
(331 B. C. - 1801A. D.)



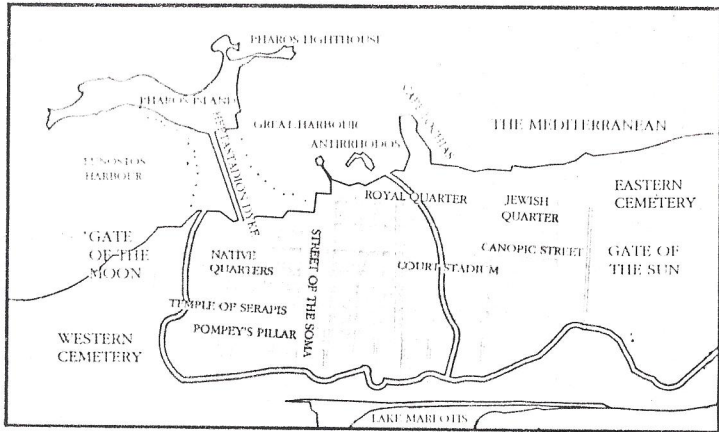
THE ALEXANDRIA PRESERVATION TRUST

HISTORIC MAP SERIES No. 1

ALEXANDRIA

AN HISTORICAL OUTLINE

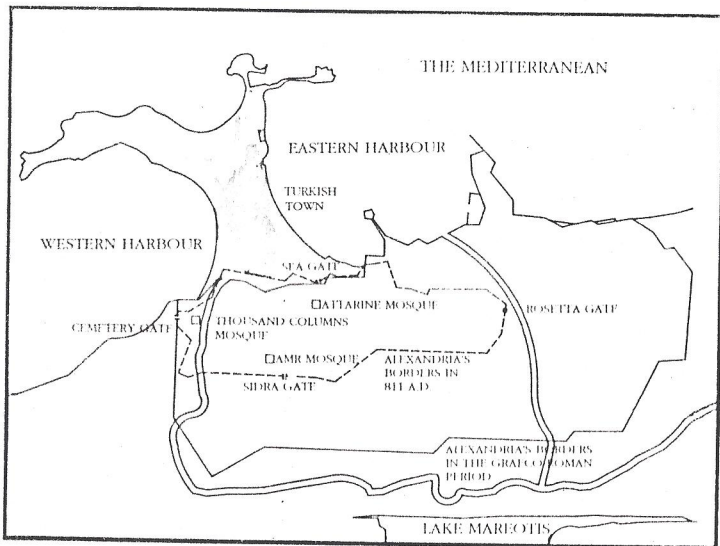
(331 B. C. - 1801 A. D.)



Map of Alexandria during the Graeco-Roman era.

The city of Alexandria was founded in 331 B. C. and laid out according to the plan of the Greek architect Dinocrates. The vision was of a simple grid-plan of 11 roads running north-south, intersecting with 7 running east-west. The principle axes of this matrix were the Canopic Way (part of Horreya Avenue) and the Soma (believed to be in the vicinity of Nabi Daniel Street).

The Eastern and Western Harbours were created by the construction of a causeway (the Heptastadion) connecting the mainland with the island of Pharos, upon which was built the wonderful lighthouse in 279 B. C. The true glory



Map of Alexandria during the Islamic era.

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INTRODUCTION

The intention of this map and guide is to record all the archaeological sites and buildings of historical interest existing in and around Alexandria covering the period from the city's foundation in 331 B. C. to the beginning of the 19th century. The hope is that such a document will help to focus attention on these sites and thus encourage their preservation. It is also hoped that this record will serve both visitors to and natives of Alexandria in their exploration of the city.

Certain sites of potential interest have, however, been deliberately omitted. They are those which over the millennia have been irrevocably altered through rebuilding or straightforward destruction.

Other sites, not actually open to the visitor have been included in order to make this map as comprehensive as possible.

Accessible sites will be marked with an asterix * and a photograph.

The cover represents an impression of the lighthouse or "Pharos" of Alexandria by the German archaeologist Herman Thiersch. The Pharos, designed by the architect Sostratus, was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world and stood 120 meters high. It was built around 279 B. C. and was destroyed by successive natural disasters from the 8th century A. D.



The Alexandria Preservation Trust

AWAD AND PARTNERS

1, Mohamed Talaat Noman St., Alexandria, EGYPT

15, Kafr Abdou, Rouchdi, Alexandria, EGYPT

Photos by Mohamed El Dakhkhni

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of this new city, however, was the Mouseion and its adjoining Library of some half a million manuscripts. It was this beacon of culture and thought which made Alexandria the greatest seat of learning in the classical world.

When Egypt fell under the domination of Rome in 30 B. C. Alexandria lost much of her prominence. Although her major institutions continued to function, the focus shifted from literature and science to philosophy and theology. It was in the hearts and minds of Alexandrians that Christianity began to take on coherent form.

As the power of Byzantium weakened that of the recently Islamicised Arabs grew. Amr Ibn El Ass and his army entered Egypt in 640 A. D. and, although Amr is recorded as admiring the glories of Alexandria, he chose El Fustat, near modern Cairo, as the new capital. Moreover, the towns of Damietta and Rashid on the main branches of the Nile were developed as the ports of the new Egyptian state. This double blow left the city to decline. New walls were built and mosques were established, often by converting existing churches, but gradually Alexandria shrunk.

During the Ottoman period new construction was confined to the thin neck of land between the eastern and western harbours. Over the centuries the Heptastadion had silted up creating a habitable, if restricted, peninsula and it was this huddled settlement that witnessed the arrival of Bonaparte in 1798. By then Alexandria consisted of around 7,000 inhabitants and this number was to fall by 1,000 during the brief French occupation. Bonaparte's primary interest was military and thus he did little more for the city than fortify her crumbling walls and construct some forts. Of this activity, little remains. The disastrous naval engagement in Abu Kir Bay, when Nelson smashed the French fleet, ended any possibility of a long term stay and, in 1801, under pressure from British land forces, the French evacuated. Alexandria, however, was not allowed to slip back into her isolated torpor. By 1805 Mohamed Ali had begun his energetic and ambitious reign of Egypt which would see Alexandria rise spectacularly from her ashes.

LEGEND :

THE HISTORICAL ERAS OF ALEXANDRIA

Foundation of Alex	331 B.C.
Ptolemaic Era	305 B.C. - 30 B.C.
Roman Era	30 B.C. - 323 A.D.
Christian Byzantine Era	323 A.D. - 640 A.D.
Islamic Era	640 A.D. - 1798 A.D.
The French Expedition	1798 A.D. - 1801 A.D.

MONUMENTS OF THE GRAECO-ROMAN ERA

1. CHATBY CEMETERIES *

Dating from 4th/3rd Century B. C. Situated on Port Said Street next to College St. Marc. The principal tomb comprises of an entry, two separate chambers where two beds are carved into the rock. The importance of this site comes not only from its age but also from the many statues and tana-gra discovered within. These are now housed in the Graeco-Roman Museum.



1

2. ALABASTER TOMB (Latin Cemeteries) *

Dating from 3rd Century B. C. Situated within the Latin Cemetery in the Bab Sharki district. Discovered before 1914, the site presents a large squared-off alabaster portal to what was once a great tomb. On first discovery it was thought to be part of the tomb of Alexander the Great and may yet prove to be.



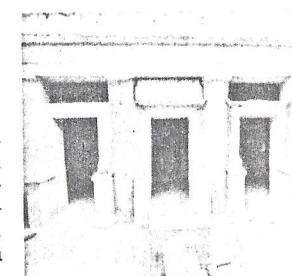
2

3. HADARA TOMB

Dating from 3rd Century B. C. Situated on inaccessible land by the railway line behind the Italian Hospital in Hadara district. In its layout the tomb resembles that of Chatby. First discovered in 1941, work on the site continued sporadically until 1987.

4. ANTONIADIS TOMB

Dating from 3rd Century B. C. Situated behind the nursery within Antoniadis Gardens in Nouzha district. The layout of the tomb resembles that of a Ptolemaic house of the period. Discovered in 1904. Also unearthed were a Byzantine cistern and several huge granite columns.



5

5. NECROPOLIS OF MOUSTAFA KAMEL *

Dating from 2nd Century B. C. Situated on Moaskar El Romani street in Rouchdi district. The site was discovered in 1933 and consists of four individual tombs of unique construction. The main tomb is decorated with a fresco of horsemen.

THE WESTERN NECROPOLIS

6. NECROPOLIS OF ANFOUCHI *

Dating from 3rd/2nd Century B. C. Situated in front of Ras El Tin Palace, this site was discovered in 1901 and is distinguished by its decorative frescoes which demonstrate the meeting of pharaonic

in 1983, the building consists of three lecture rooms and within each are 3 throws of seats facing the teacher's chair. This is the sole example of a Roman-Byzantine school in Alexandria.

13. CATACOMBS OF KOM EL SHOGAFA *

Dating from 2nd Century A. D. Situated on Bab El Molouk Street in Karmouz district. Discovered in 1892 this complex on three levels consists of several halls, chambers and hundreds of burial niches carved out of solid rock and reaching down some 100 feet. The curious bas-relief decorations exhibit the mingling of ancient Egyptian and Graeco-Roman art. In the grounds of the catacombs stands the Tigrane Tomb, removed from its original site on Port Said Street, Cleopatra. Kom El Shogafa is one of the most important sites in Alexandria.

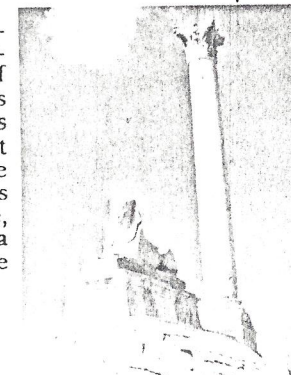


12

13

14. POMPEY'S PILLAR AND SERAPIS TEMPLE *

Dating from 3rd Century A. D. Situated on Amoud El Sowari Street in Karmouz district. Erected in honour of the Roman Emperor Diocletian, this granite column stands 26.85 metres high with a diameter of 2.7 metres at its base tapering upwards to 2.3 at the top. The surrounding area includes the remains of the Serapeum Temple, the "daughter" library of Alexandria and a "Nilometer" for measuring the annual Nile floods.



14

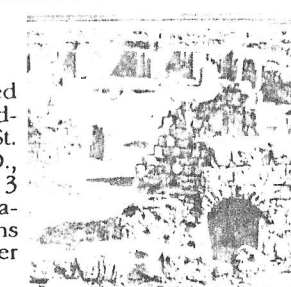
15. EL BARDISSI AREA

Dating from 3rd Century A. D. Situated on Nabi Danieli Street, below the Mosque of Abdel Rizaq El Wafai. In 1929 4 pedestals and 2 granite columns without capitals were discovered at this site. The massive size of the individual pieces suggested the remains of a major Roman temple. Excavations were never completed due to the proximity of the mosque.

SITES WEST OF ALEXANDRIA

16. ABU MENA DISTRICT *

Dating from 4th Century A. D. Situated near the town of Borg El Arab El Gedid some 55 kms from Alexandria. St. Menas, martyred around 266 A. D., was buried here and the remains of 3 churches stand over his grave. Adjacent to the monastery are the remains of a small Basilican Church, a water reservoir and a bath.



16

17. EL SHEWILHA DISTRICT *

Dating from 4th Century A. D. Situated in the vicinity of Abu Mena. The site consists of the ruins of a number of villages (Karm

was once a Roman resort is now reduced to the bases of a few columns and a 2nd century cemetery. Within the sea off Fardos Beach lie a rose granite sarcophagus and the remains of a Roman bath.

24. TEMPLE OF RAS EL SODA *

Dating from 2nd Century A. D. Situated in Ras El Soda behind the linen factory. Discovered in 1936, this temple is called Isadora after the chariot-
 12



24

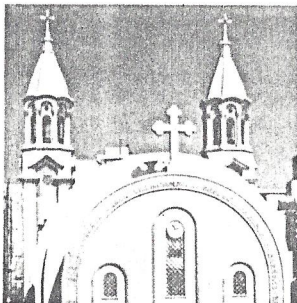
MONUMENTS OF THE CHRISTIAN ERA

25. KING MARIOUT TOMB

Dating from 1st Century A. D. King Mariout is four kms from Am-reya. In 1984 a Byzantine tomb was discovered in the vicinity. It is still under excavation and not open to visitors.

26. TOMB OF NARRIMAN HOSPITAL

Situated underneath the Narriman Hospital in Hadara district. This tomb, discovered in 1908 and dating from the 5th century A. D. is triangular in form and surrounds a funeral chapel. Not open to visitors.



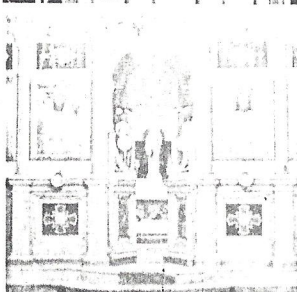
27

27. CATACOMBS OF THE PATRIARCHATE CHURCH OF ST. MARK *

Dating from 7th Century A. D. Situated on Coptic Church Street in the town centre. Reputed to have been established by St. Mark the Evangelist, one of Christ's disciples, the present Basilica stands over the catacombs of the Coptic patriarchs of the 7th to 11th centuries.

28. CHURCH OF ST. SABA *

The original church was founded in 615 A. D. but the present building dates from 1687 and was remodelled in 1975. Situated in central Alexandria. The entrance courtyard features a huge bronze bell presented by the Russian Orthodox Church. Steps lead into a columned court, off which are two chapels; one dedicated to St. George, the other to St. Catherine.



28

MONUMENTS OF THE ISLAMIC ERA

PUBLIC AND RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS :

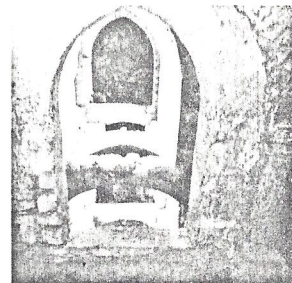
Many monuments of the Islamic era have disappeared over the years such as public baths and commercial Wekalas. Others have

34. IBN BATTOUTA CISTERN

Situated on Saha Bikeer St. in El Laban district.

35. CISTERN OF DAR ISMAIL HOSPITAL

Situated on Sherif Street in Karmouz district near Ismail Hospital, was used during World War II as an underground shelter.



33

36. SESOSTRIS STREET CISTERN

Situated on Sesostris Street adjacent to the former Averoff Girl's School - Downtown.

37. HORREYA STREET CISTERN

Situated at 80 Horreya Street on the corner of Ptolemies Street. It was used as a shelter during World War II.

38. ANTONIADIS GARDENS CISTERN

Situated in Antoniadis gardens - Nouzha district.

TOWERS AND FORTS

The fortifications encircling the city of Alexandria were built over an extended period of time, and consist of walls, towers, fortresses and gateways mostly of the Islamic era. Some other sites not mentioned in this guide were constructed under Mohamed Ali and his successors.

39. THE REMAINING WALLS AND TOWERS OF THE ARAB ERA INCLUDE :-

- THE EASTERN TOWER

Once a major fortification in the city walls, it is now integrated into the municipal sports stadium.

- THE WESTERN TOWER

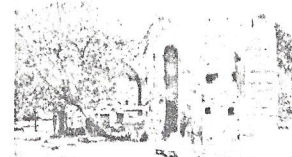
Situated in Shallalat Gardens. Sections of this structure date from the Roman era with additions during the Mamluk, Ottoman and Mohamed Ali periods.

40. ASSAKEL EL GHELAL GATE *

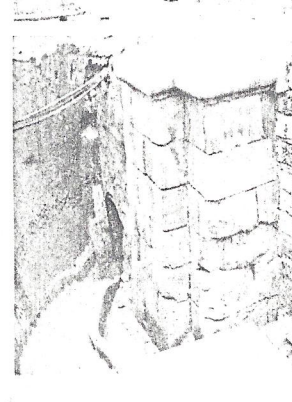
Situated at the junction of Bab El Akhdar Street and Assakel El Ghelal Street in El Goumrok district. This was also known as the Small Gate or the Gate of Peaches.

41. BORG EL ZAFR FORTRESS (KAIT BEY) *

Constructed in 1480 A. D. Situated in Anfouchi district. Built by Sultan Ashraf Kait Bey upon the foundations of the ancient Pharos, the fort has a central keep of 3 storeys surrounded by two curtain walls constructed of huge stone blocks. The fort houses a



39



40



41

been altered and renovated such as :

El Emary mosque (25 Hejiry - 645 A. D.),
Attarine mosque (773 Hejiry - 1371 A. D.),
El Ardy mosque (1113 Hejiry - 1701 A. D.)

Other mosques of the Islamic era are concentrated in what was known as the Turkish Town in El Goumrok district and include :-

29. MOSQUE OF ABDEL QADER EL GILANI

17 Founded in 342 Hejiry - 953 A. D. Situated on Abul Ballah St. branching from Doueko Lane in El Goumrok district. The mosque is a single square room with a low ceiling of 4 domes supported by a single, antique pillar. Adjacent is the tomb of Sidi Abdel Qader El Gilani.

30. MOSQUE OF ABU ALI

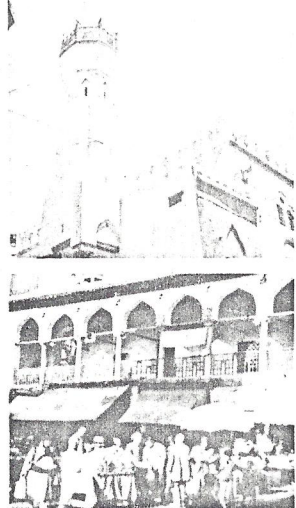
18 Founded in 678 Hejiry - 1279 A. D. Situated on Ali Bey Genenah St. in El Goumrok district. It has the same form as the Mosque of Abdel Qader El Gilani.

31. THE MOSQUE AND SABIL (Public Fountain) OF IBRAHIM TERBANA *

19 Founded in 1677 A. D. - 1097 Hejiry. Situated at the junction of Terbana Street and Souk El Tabbakhine Street in Manchieh district. The lower floor is occupied by shops and the "Sabil". Access to the mosque itself is through a small doorway decorated in the "Delta" style of painted bricks. The prayer room is supported by columns of antique provenance and the "Mehrab" is decorated with ceramic tiles reminiscent of the Maghreb.

32. MOSQUE COMPLEX OF ABDEL QADER EL SHORBAGY *

20 Founded in 1171 Hejiry - 1757 A. D. Situated on Mahmoud Fahmy El Nok-rashi Street in Manchieh district. This complex of two storeys consists of a mosque, shops, and residential quarters. The interior of the mosque features fine ceramic work and a mixture of antique columns of different forms and sizes. In the vicinity stood the "Wakala Hamza". Now all but destroyed, this included 24 commercial and 28 living units.



CISTERNS

The Arab historian, El Makrisi, once wrote that Alexandria held 700 underground water reservoirs or cisterns. Many originated in the Roman era and were renovated for re-use during the Islamic period. Of those remaining only the Ibn El Nabih is open to visitors.

33. IBN EL NABIH CISTERN *

Situated next to Shallalat Gardens. Square in form, it consists of 3 levels, each divided into 5 sections and supported by a mixture of granite columns salvaged from more ancient structures. Open to visitors.

mosque and a naval museum containing artifacts relating to the French fleet destroyed by Nelson in Abu Kir Bay.

42. SHAFKHANA FORT

Situated in El Mex district

43. NORTHERN FORT OF EL AGAMI

Situated on Marabou Island

44. ABU KIR FORT (KAIT BEY)

Situated in Abu Kir district

MONUMENTS OF THE FRENCH EXPEDITION

45. FORTS OF THE FRENCH EXPEDITION

The French were primarily concerned with fortifying the beaches and renovating the city walls. The Fort Cretin once stood in the vicinity of the government hospital, Ramleh station. The Napoleon Fort at Kom el Dik has also been completely demolished. The site was excavated in the 1960's revealing Roman remains.

- CAFARELLI FORT (KOM EL NADOURA)

Little is left except an underground passage leading to a gun emplacement. The remains of the fortifications are from the Ottoman and Mohamed Ali eras.

MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES

46. GRAECO-ROMAN MUSEUM (Founded 1892)

Mathaf El Romani Street, Downtown.

47. KAIT BEY FORT MUSEUM

Anfouchi.

48. MARITIME MUSEUM

El Geish Street - Stanley Bay.

49. MUNICIPAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS AND MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

Menasce Street - Moharrem bey.

50. LIBRARY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

6, Mahmoud Mokhtar Street - Downtown.

51. LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY

Ahmed Mohamed Hassanein Street - Chatby.

52. LIBRARY AND MUSEUM OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS, ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY

Dr. Moustafa Mousharafa Street - Mazarita.

53. MUSEUM OF COLLEGE ST. MARC

Port Said Street, Chatby.

54. LIBRARY OF GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE

Greek Patriarchate Street, Manchieh.