

1: El-Ashmunein | El-Minya Attractions

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2: Donald M. Bailey (Author of Excavations at El-Ashmunein V)

Excavations at el-Ashmunein. 5, Pottery, lamps and glass of the late Roman and early Arab periods: 9. Excavations at el-Ashmunein. 5, Pottery, lamps and glass of the.

It was a minor coastal settlement situated at the northeastern fringe of the Marmaric region, some 25km west of Marsa Matruh ancient Paraitonion. Despite inadequate anchorage beneath the lee of a projecting headland Ras Umm el-Rakham, the Graeco-Roman town is mentioned by a number of the classical authors, starting with Herodotus circa BC. The author of the Periplus of Scylax of Caryanda indicates that by the mid-fourth century BC Egyptian control extended as far west as Apis. The potsherd-littered plain between the coastal road and the sea is still largely unexcavated, but its appearance suggests that the later town followed the normal layout for Roman period settlements on this coast. The Egyptian Antiquities Organization EAO has recently cleared a number of rock-cut tombs, some of which have been provisionally assigned to the 26th Dynasty. Bits of clothing or shrouds still survive from the burials, which were placed in lead coffins and provided with pottery and glass vessels. An uninscribed but heavily built rectangular building of cut stone, with interior rooms of probable post-pharaonic date, has been partly cleared in the ancient town north of the coastal road. Some tombs are known to exist in the face of the low line of hills that parallel the sea to the south. The most important archaeological evidence at Apis is its Ramesside fortress, located a short distance south of the coastal road. The walled compound, originally surveyed by Alan Rowe soon after the Second World War and subsequently excavated in a few random places by Labib Habachi in the s, is a rectangular enclosure, measuring circa 80xm. It was laid out with its four corners at the four cardinal points of the compass. Traces of a thick mudbrick outer wall are only visible on the northeast side. At the east corner was the entrance, now a poorly preserved stone gateway, to the west of which was a stone-lined passageway. A small stone temple, circa 20x12m, was erected against the northwest wall of the fortress. A ramp leads to a pillared courtyard behind which are two transverse chambers, leading to three sanctuaries. Apart from one pillar inscribed with one of the names of Ramesses II, the temple is uninscribed and lacks decoration. In the vicinity of the stone passageway, Rowe recovered three detached, inscribed door jambs, hailing Ptah, "Lord of Ankhtau. One of the door jambs refers to Ramesses II "destroying Libya. The stela was given to the temple by the standard-bearer Amenmessu, who is shown kneeling in a lower register. On another stela Ramesses II offers a bouquet of flowers to the goddess Sekhmet. The lower register shows the dedicant, "the royal scribe and the great chief of the army, Panehesi," kneeling with uplifted arms to adore the goddess and to wish the king numerous jubilees heb-sed. The entrance and stone passageway were inscribed with the names of the pharaoh and fragmentary texts describing his prowess. Badly preserved relief scenes depict Ramesses II descending from his chariot to smite his enemies. Habachi suggests that the temple was erected to the triad of Memphite gods, and, following Rowe, that the fortress served as the westernmost one in a chain of fortresses erected by Ramesses II to provide an early warning system against an attack by Libyans, and perhaps also their Sea People allies. Armant The site of Armant, known as Hermonthis in Graeco-Roman times, is located on the west bank of the Nile about Myers excavated there in the late s and early s with the financial backing of Sir Robert Mond. Several areas were excavated with Predynastic, Dynastic and Coptic burials. Two cult centers, the Great Temple of Armant and the Bucheum, were also investigated. Predynastic evidence The main Predynastic cemetery at Armant was in Area , on the low desert fringe beyond the present-day edge of cultivation. Some Predynastic graves were also located in Area and near two Middle Kingdom tombs and Of the numerous Predynastic cemeteries excavated in Upper Egypt in the first half of this century, Cemetery is the best documented one, and Werner Kaiser has developed a seriation system for Predynastic pottery based on this sequence of graves. To the east of Cemetery , Area contained twenty-seven burials. The larger burials in this area are all Dynastic, with a few Predynastic graves located closer to the edge of cultivation. To the east of Area , two large brick-lined tombs , , dating to the end of the Predynastic sequence Nagada IIIb , were excavated in Area These tombs have areas of They are quite unlike other Predynastic burials at Armant, in scale, energy expenditure and quantities of grave goods. Myers also excavated a Predynastic settlement in

Area , about 2km from Cemetery at the edge of cultivation. Although the cemetery next to this settlement was destroyed by later graves, pottery in Area suggests that it was earlier in date than Cemetery In this settlement was investigated by Polish archaeologists. Most of the ceramics at this site were of a chaff-tempered ware known as Rough class , but a red-polished class and grey and brown classes were also found. The burials in Cemetery were usually single inhumations in pits circa 1m deep. Mummification was not practiced until Dynastic times, and skeletons were always in a flexed position, usually resting on the left side. In a few instances corpses were covered with linen instead of matting. Several graves had traces of wood, either as a grave lining or a coffin, and two graves , contained a wooden bed. Five graves had recesses cut next to the burial pit, presumably for additional grave goods. Burials in Cemetery may have been oriented to the river: Body orientation with the head to the south to southwest facing west, was by far the most common, as Flinders Petrie also observed at the main Predynastic cemetery at Nagada. Armant, however, was not a major Predynastic center like Nagada and Ballas. Cemetery numbered around graves and was x75m in area. Burials exhibit spatial patterning that shifts through time. The early graves Nagada Ic and IIa , which are small rough ovals commonly less than 1m² in area , are distributed throughout the southern part of the cemetery in a somewhat crowded pattern. This pattern changes in Nagada IIb, when larger rectangular graves are distributed farther north, in less dense concentrations, while smaller Nagada IIb oval graves tend to be more closely spaced among those of Nagada Ic and IIa. With a shift to larger rectangular graves Nagada IIc, m² in area , there is a northward movement in the cemetery, and graves are widely spaced. Pottery was the most common type of grave goods found in the Predynastic burials at Armant. Even the poorest burials which contained no other grave goods usually included one or two pots. Slate palettes were found in graves of all phases. The earliest palettes at Armant Nagada Ic are shaped as rhombs, sometimes with two amorphous animal heads or horns at the top. Fish- and turtle-shaped varieties appear in the middle Predynastic phase Nagada II , and circular and rectangular examples were found in a late grave Nagada IIIb. Palettes were more common at Armant in the earlier graves Nagada Ic and IIa , but this could be the result of the earlier graves being much less robbed than the later ones. Small grinding pebbles were sometimes found along with the palettes, and pigments to be ground on the palettes for cosmetics, such as galena, malachite and red ocher, were placed in some of the graves. Next to pottery, beads were the most common grave goods. Materials for beads varied, from one bead of lapis lazuli from Afghanistan to simple beads of fired clay. Steatite beads were the most common, but carnelian was also frequent. Stones from the Eastern and Western Deserts, such as chalcedony, quartz and garnet, were used for beads, as were faience and imported materials, such as malachite, amber, bitumen, resin and Red Sea coral. Ostrich eggshell was also used for beads. Other jewelry included bracelets or armlets in shell, and an ivory finger ring. Whole shells, both riverine and marine Red Sea , were found in a number of burials. Chipped stone tools, such as points, flakes and blades, and cores from tool manufacture were found in some of the graves. Other stone artifacts in graves included polishing and grinding stones, and a hammer stone. Other craft goods were found in the Predynastic burials at Armant, including combs, tag-like objects, points and a vessel carved in ivory. Some of the more unusual grave goods included a carved ivory "gaming set" with two stone balls, two carved stone hippopotami and three clay "hands. Numerous stone vessels or fragments were found in the two brick-lined tombs and These were made of alabaster, diorite, limestone, marble, porcelainite, rose quartz, slate and steatite. Copper was rare at Armant: Analyses of the Predynastic burials at Armant show a trend to greater numbers of pots and larger grave pits through time. Larger graves are probably a function of larger numbers of grave goods mainly pots , and indirectly, greater energy expenditure on burial. The burials do not seem to be greatly differentiated except into two basic hierarchies of poorer and richer graves, based on numbers of pots and relative grave size. Dynastic evidence In the west forecourt of the Great Temple in the town of Armant, Myers excavated a sondage deep sounding and found potsherds and fragments of stone vessels dating to the Early Dynastic period. A second sondage with artifacts from the Old Kingdom and First Intermediate Period was excavated in what Myers thought was the ancient town. Although the sondages demonstrated earlier archaeological evidence, blocks of the earliest temple at Armant date to the 11th Dynasty. Construction of this temple continued in the 12th Dynasty, and there is an offering table with the name of a 13th Dynasty king Sobekhotep. In the 19th Dynasty Ramesses II

gave two colossi to the temple and his son Merenptah is associated with some statues of Osiris. During the Ptolemaic period the older temple was dismantled and blocks were used for the foundation of a great new temple, but one New Kingdom pylon was left standing. During the Roman period construction continued on this temple, and Antoninus Pius built a "gateway" in the second century AD. Traces of a Roman bath were recorded by Myers, and a large town wall was built in later Roman times. Unfortunately, many building stones from the Graeco-Roman temple were used for the construction of house foundations and a sugar factory in the nineteenth century AD. The Bucheum, another temple northwest of the town of Armant, was also investigated by Myers. This is where the Buchis bulls, believed to be representatives of the god Re, were mummified and buried. To the east of the Bucheum was a Roman village with a large walk-in well. Northwest of this village was the Baqaria, a long vaulted passage with twenty-eight tombs for the mothers of Buchis bulls. Human burials in the area of the Bucheum were mostly from the Roman period, but Myers states that Ptolemaic priests were buried in a cemetery east of the Bucheum. Although Armant was never a major city in ancient Egypt, there is evidence of continuous occupation from Predynastic times to the present. During the Coptic period it was the seat of a bishopric and a large church was built. Muslim burials cover many unexcavated parts of the ancient temple.

Army In the Old and Middle Kingdoms, the concept of an "army," as it is understood today, namely the organized military establishment of the state, did not exist. A number of ad hoc military titles are recorded, but the rank of their incumbents cannot be determined. In short, there was no real table of organization. When the occasional pictorial depictions of armed warriors are accompanied by descriptive captions, they are simply labelled "retainers" literally, "followers," smsW. The sole preserved Old Kingdom narrative in which the raising and use of "the army" is recounted is the tomb biography of Weni, the governor of Upper Egypt under the 6th Dynasty King Pepi I.

3: El-Ashmunein | Egyptian Monuments

Excavations at El-Ashmunein V: Pottery, Lamps and Glass of the Late Roman and Early Roman and Early Arab Periods (Vol 5).

Analysis of pottery finds from excavations in the Royal Mortuary Cult Complex has resulted in a preliminary typology of pottery forms from the Temple of Hatshepsut and a chronological classification of the assemblage. A third shaft from [Fig. It was located by the south and S. The tomb appears to have had been discovered but not excavated been plundered in modern times. The evi- already in , proved to be 6 m deep. This term will be used in this article for the sake of convenience. Chapel, beneath the foundation of the Outside the Chapel, trench S. The face of the south wall of the chapel. The burial chamber was undecorated. Catalogue of selected pottery The pottery from the excavations covered Sherd descriptions include identification a time horizon from the building and func- of fabric according to the Vienna System tioning of the Temple of Hatshepsut in New Arnold, Bourriau Clay nary catalogue of vessel forms. It should be color descriptions follow the Munsell noted that the assemblage, while abundant Soil Color Charts Munsell All photos and drawings of the material The presentation follows a breakdown presented in this report have been prepared by chronological period and type of vessel. New Kingdom Flower pots [Fig. Even so, their function acted as the upper part of the mold, the is not certain. They could have served as holes being vents for releasing air from containers for dry goods like fruit or for inside the mold during baking. Holthoer has suggested a function function is also possible, the vessels being PAM 20, Research Deir el-Bahari egypt found commonly in graves, together with Hardness: Hole in base Firing: Without full forms and particularly the rims, it is DeB HT. Deeply impressed finger prints are Preservation: Both this idea, one may note that smaller, lighter surfaces smooth. Differences in how prints distinct near base. Hole pierced, deeply finger prints were impressed can be prior to firing, with more precision than in observed on the examples mentioned from example DeB HT. Deir el-Bahari, Temple of as the other beer jars. Two other fragments Hardness: Interior surface smooth, Beer Jars [Fig. Beer jars are the most numerous group Description: Exterior and interior surfaces beer jar no. Traces of later burning on phase I, Nineteenth Dynasty Aston both surfaces and fracture. Eighteenth Dynasty, clay I-b-2 equivalent Preservation: Roughly made base; irregular narrow Technology: Interior surface splashed with uncoated, color 2. The hole or crack? An example of a beer jar Parallels: Third Intermediate Period Bowl with inverted lip [Fig. Bowl Period Aston Third Intermediate Period pottery: Bowls with flat bottom from Technology: Frying pans fluted inside were Examples from Jar [Fig. D1 , E, Dimensions: B10 North Pit Bailey Traces of a black 11 cm, Th. Pottery of the 5thâ€”8th century AD: Elephantine, type K , 3rdâ€”4th century Parallels: Philipp von Zabern Aston, D. Philipp von Zabern Burial Assemblages of Dynasty 21â€” Chronology, Typology, Developments, Wien: Egypt Exploration Society Bailey, D. British Museum Publications Ballet, P. Philipp von Zabern Godlewski, W. Egypt Exploration Society Naville, E. The Upper Court and Sanctuary, London: Egypt Exploration Fund Pawlicki, F. Nutt Gizeh and Rifeh, London: Egypt Exploration Society Rzeuska, T. Aksamit et alii eds , Essays in Honour of Prof. Note from the Editorial Board.. Kom el-Dikka excavations and preservation work. Excavations Renata Kucharczyk. Pottery from excavations Anna Drzymuchowska Two field seasons in Bogdan T. Revitalization project at Banganarti Bogdan T. Preliminary report after the third season of the Polish-Lebanese survey Krzysztof Jakubiak Sustaining the dead for eternity Salima Ikram. Preliminary study Krzysztof M. Evidence of mortuary practices from the necropolis in Marina el-Alamein Iwona Zych

4: Bibliography Graeco Roman Islamic Egypt

*Excavations at El-Ashmunein V: Pottery, Lamps and Glass of the Late Roman and Early Roman and Early Arab Periods (Vol 5) by Donald M. Bailey () [Donald M. Bailey] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

Mandy Mamedow Mandy Mamedow M. It has long been considered as the necropolis of Hermopolis Magna El-Ashmunein and is famous for its animal cult and galleries. However, recent research activities at the site, undertaken by the Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, have revealed a more complex structure to ancient Tuna. Apart from the mainly underground installations and the Petosiris necropolis that were excavated during the last century several over-ground examinations of the area have taken place over the last ten years. These investigations brought to light parts of a Graeco-Roman burial ground and several Ptolemaic houses located southeast of the animal galleries. G6 is the only one of these excavated tombs that was decorated and richly equipped, containing mummies and grave goods of at least two burial phases in situ. Various finds belong to this burial Fig. The tomb was dis- assemblage: G6 The better preserved pottery originates mainly from Rooms Nos. Some of the mummies had a bowl under their head, others a hoard of pottery vessels besides. Other vessels were deposited in niches or elsewhere in the rooms where they could not be directly connected with a certain burial. The vessels found together with, or next to, the dead are clearly vessels that were meant to be grave goods. Other vessels and fragments - particularly amphorae fragments as well as fragments of cooking pots and dishes - that were lying scattered on the ground in Room No. Hence, those remaining vessels can be declared as offerings. This consideration is supported by the fact that the vessels found close to the mummies usually are intact or well preserved and mostly do not show traces of former usage e. Some of the bowls from inside and outside the tomb once served as incense burners and therefore as an offering or ceremonial device, although these bowls are not likely to have been made for certain purpose. The type is well known from Roman Egyptian pottery and appears in different contexts. Two unfired mudbowls, however, were purposely made for ceremonial usage. A rather less common and not well published table amphora-type was most probably produced for funerary purposes since this type is usually connected to such Fig. Besides parallels from Dakhla, the closest comparable material is known from Tuna itself where such fired mud bowl incense burner made and used for ceremonial purpose right , inside the tomb. The hoard was located next to the bench in the northeastern corner of the room. G6 is locally made from a red to brown fired alluvial clay mass, that varies in its composition regarding the amount and size of sand and organic inclusions. This variation usually relates to distinct types. Nevertheless, some cooking pots are made from a significantly sandy and rather soft mass the same as some amphorae , which probably would not have stood the heat of a fire. Thus, it is highly likely that these pots were intentionally made for funerary purpose instead of domestic usage. Interestingly, these pots belong to the same type of cookers as the ones that were clearly used on the fire, though made from a harder and less sandy clay mass that was used for bowls and amphorae too. From this observation, it is likely that in the Tuna region a quite mixed corpus of material was produced in independent though not type-specialized pottery workshops, even though it can be assumed that an intentional funerary production of certain types existed. Usually the vessels are wheel-thrown, with some of the small bowls being handmade, finished on a slowly rotating wheel. The range of shapes is restricted and repeated in different quantities both inside and outside the tomb. Some certain types within the assemblage, however, exhibit unique examples. They appear to be special objects that are mainly placed inside the tomb. These can be considered Fig. Most of the pottery from Tomb TG Only the table amphorae type shows a common tendency of and outside in front of the entrance around the altar. The material found in funerary contexts at Tuna el-Gebel was mostly locally produced. Only in a few cases careous decoration, made from a sandy fabric that was also used for bowls do non-regional and even unique elements appear that are most probably related to the dead themselves. Grave goods, and cookers. CCE 7, , " Tomber, The Pottery, in: Whitcomb, Roman Ceramics, in:

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Excavations at El-Ashmunein V: Pottery, Lamps and Glass of the Late Roman and Early Roman and Early Arab Periods
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A detailed guide to the archaeological sites of the Nile Valley and desert areas of Egypt El-Ashmunein Near modern el-Ashmunein, on the west bank of the Nile, north-west of Mallawi, was a town known as Khmunw in Pharaonic times. During the Old Kingdom the town was of great importance as a cult centre of Thoth, god of wisdom, healing and writing. In the Graeco-Roman Period the city was capital of the 15th Upper Egyptian nome, when it was called Hermopolis Magna – the Greek god Hermes was associated with the Egyptian Thoth, who dominates the site in the guise of two famous colossal baboon statues. These were eight primeval deities four frog-gods and four snake-goddesses who were associated with the Hermopolitan creation myth and who symbolised different aspects of chaos before they eventually brought the primeval mound into being. There are no remains of the earliest development of the city and the only surviving elements of the site now comprise of crumbling mounds of mudbrick ruins and destroyed stone temples. The once great Temple of Thoth at el-Ashmunein was visited by several early explorers and in the early 19th century some of the columns of the hypostyle hall were still standing. During the 1820s a German expedition directed by Gunter Roeder excavated the pylon of a temple built by Rameses II, finding over one thousand re-used talatat blocks brought from the dismantled Aten temples at el-Amarna. During the 1920s, several seasons of excavations were directed by Jeffrey Spencer and Donald Bailey of the British Museum. The town site also revealed mudbrick houses dating to the Third Intermediate Period as well as Roman monuments. Most visitors will arrive first at the site of the old archaeological mission house, which has now been turned into an open-air museum containing blocks, statues and stelae from excavations at el-Ashmunein. At the entrance to the museum are two huge reconstructed baboon statues, their bodies over 4m high. The monuments at Hermopolis have suffered from stone quarrying from early Christian times down to the early Islamic Period, but some of the stone masonry from the temple complex has remained in place. The largest remains of the Temple of Thoth date to the reign of Nectanebo I Dynasty XXX , who rebuilt parts of the structure and enclosed the temple precinct within huge mudbrick walls, 15m deep. A structure in front of the Ramesside pylon contained obelisks, royal statues, stelae and sphinxes of Nectanebo. Alexander the Great extended the Late Period temple by constructing a magnificent portico, or pronaos, consisting of two rows of six limestone columns and much colourful decoration, which was decorated by Phillip Arrhidæus and Ptolemy I Soter I. Only the foundations of the columns remain today since the portico was demolished in and the stone re-used in the building of a sugar factory. To the south-west of the Temple of Thoth and lying at right-angles, are remains of an east-facing limestone sanctuary of Amun, protected by a turreted fortress wall. The entrance pylon and part of the hypostyle hall of this structure can still be seen, but the rear parts are reduced to ground level and surrounded by water. South-east of the Amun temple there are remains of a monumental gateway dating to the late Middle Kingdom reign of Amenemhet II, perhaps the original entrance to the Temple of Thoth. Further south another small temple was built in the reign of Rameses II with additions by Nero, where two seated colossi of Rameses stood before the entrance. On the edge of the village there are fragmentary remains of a temple dedicated during the time of the emperor Domitian to the goddess Nehemetaway, wife of Thoth which was the latest temple to be built at Hermopolis. Outside the temple enclosure on the eastern side of the site are substantial remains of a Roman agora and a restored Coptic basilica, constructed with many blocks from Ptolemaic monuments and following an entirely Greek style of architecture. Most of the graceful granite columns still stand in the rectangular structure of the church – the best example of a monument from this period in Egypt. Nearby, a long architrave inscribed with a Greek text lies on the ground. The British Museum excavation team also uncovered parts of the town site of Hermopolis. At the western side of the site there are well-constructed mudbrick houses dating to the Third Intermediate Period and objects found here indicated that the majority of buildings belonged to the wealthier families of the town. Three successive levels of construction were identified. This is a paved processional street running from north to south through the city

and which, when excavated, was found to contain re-used stone from earlier times. One of these elements, an alabaster altar inscribed with scenes and titles of Amenhotep III, was found set into the pavement. It would appear that the Graeco-Roman parts of the town were built over the top of many earlier destroyed structures dating to the New Kingdom and Third Intermediate Period. Also from the Third Intermediate Period, over fragments from a large alabaster stela of Osorkon III were discovered, which is thought to describe donations of lands and property. The oldest feature to be found at el-Ashmunein is a Middle Kingdom cemetery which was also excavated in the s by the British Museum team. Enclosed by a massive mudbrick wall, the tombs consist of small vaulted chambers, originally with a superstructure. Over time new graves were superimposed over older ones to the top of the enclosure. Many pottery jars were found at the site, offerings for the deceased typical of the period, but the graves were poorly preserved. The later cemetery associated with Hermopolis can be seen at Tuna el-Gebel. How to get there El-Ashmunein is on the west bank of the Nile, about 8km north of Mallawi and 7km east of Tuna el-Gebel. The ticket office for the site is at the open-air museum and tickets cost EGP

6: Apis To el-Ashmunein (Archaeology of Ancient Egypt)

Late Roman and Early Islamic pottery from Middle Egypt and some Palestinian connections. DONALD M. BAILEY, EXCAVATIONS AT EL-ASHMUNEIN, vol. 5: POTTERY, LAMPS AND GLASS OF THE LATE ROMAN AND EARLY.

El-Minya Hermopolis Magna or simply Hermopolis is the site of ancient Khmun, and is located near the modern Egyptian town of El Ashmunein located near modern el-Ashmunein, on the west bank of the Nile, north-west the town of Mallawi in El Minya Governorate in Middle Egypt, was a town known as Khmunw in Pharaonic times. During the Old Kingdom the town was of great importance as a cult centre of Thoth, god of wisdom, healing and writing. In the Graeco-Roman Period the city was capital of the 15th Upper Egyptian nome, when it was called Hermopolis Magna – the Greek god Hermes was associated with the Egyptian Thoth, who dominates the site in the guise of two famous colossal baboon statues. These were eight primeval deities four frog-gods and four snake-goddesses who were associated with the Hermopolitan creation myth and who symbolised different aspects of chaos before they eventually brought the primeval mound into being. There are no remains of the earliest development of the city and the only surviving elements of the site now comprise of crumbling mounds of mudbrick ruins and destroyed stone temples. The once great Temple of Thoth at el-Ashmunein was visited by several early explorers and in the early 19th century some of the columns of the hypostyle hall were still standing. During the 1800s a German expedition directed by Gunter Roeder excavated the pylon of a temple built by Rameses II, finding over one thousand re-used talatat blocks brought from the dismantled Aten temples at el-Amarna. During the 1900s, several seasons of excavations were directed by Jeffrey Spencer and Donald Bailey of the British Museum. The town site also revealed mudbrick houses dating to the Third Intermediate Period as well as Roman monuments. Most visitors will arrive first at the site of the old archaeological mission house, which has now been turned into an open-air museum containing blocks, statues and stelae from excavations at el-Ashmunein. At the entrance to the museum are two huge reconstructed baboon statues, their bodies over 4m. The largest remains of the Temple of Thoth date to the reign of Nectanebo I Dynasty XXX, who rebuilt parts of the structure and enclosed the temple precinct within huge mudbrick walls, 15m deep. A structure in front of the Ramesside pylon contained obelisks, royal statues, stelae and sphinxes of Nectanebo. Alexander the Great extended the Late Period temple by constructing a magnificent portico, or pronaos, consisting of two rows of six limestone columns and much colourful decoration, which was decorated by Phillip Arrhidaeus and Ptolemy I Soter I. Only the foundations of the columns remain today since the portico was demolished in and the stone re-used in the building of a sugar factory. The oldest feature to be found at el-Ashmunein is a Middle Kingdom cemetery which was also excavated in the 1900s by the British Museum team. Enclosed by a massive mudbrick wall, the tombs consist of small vaulted chambers, originally with a superstructure. Over time new graves were superimposed over older ones to the top of the enclosure. Many pottery jars were found at the site, offerings for the deceased typical of the period, but the graves were poorly preserved. The later cemetery associated with Hermopolis can be seen at Tuna el-Gebel. Other Attractions in El-Minya.

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9: el-Ashmuneim (Ancient Hermopolis)

Excavations at el-Ashmunein Alan 5. Pottery, lamps and glass of the Late Roman and Early Arab periods Hermopolis Magna (Extinct city). (source)lcsh.

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