

# Alexandria

The cosmopolitan remaking of  
Egypt

# Themes and questions:





- Is Alexandria really a part of Egypt? – *ad Aegyptum*
- What are the limits to an urban history? Do cities really matter?
- Which Alexandria? How can we know it? (methodology and epistemology)



# CLEOPATRA

· THE SEARCH FOR THE LAST QUEEN OF EGYPT ·

An exhibition from  NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Supported by  HILTI FOUNDATION

June 5, 2010 - January 2, 2011

The world of Cleopatra, which has been lost to the sea and sand for nearly 2,000 years, surfaces in this new exhibition, *Cleopatra: The Search for the Last Queen of Egypt*, making its world premiere at The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. Organized by National Geographic and Arts and Exhibitions International, with cooperation from the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities and the European Institute for Underwater Archaeology (IEASM), the exhibition features never before seen artifacts, and takes visitors inside the present-day search for Cleopatra, which extends from the sands of Egypt to the depths of the Bay of Aboukir near Alexandria.

<http://www.fi.edu/cleopatra/>

# Sources of our knowledge: The crossroads of archaeology and textual history

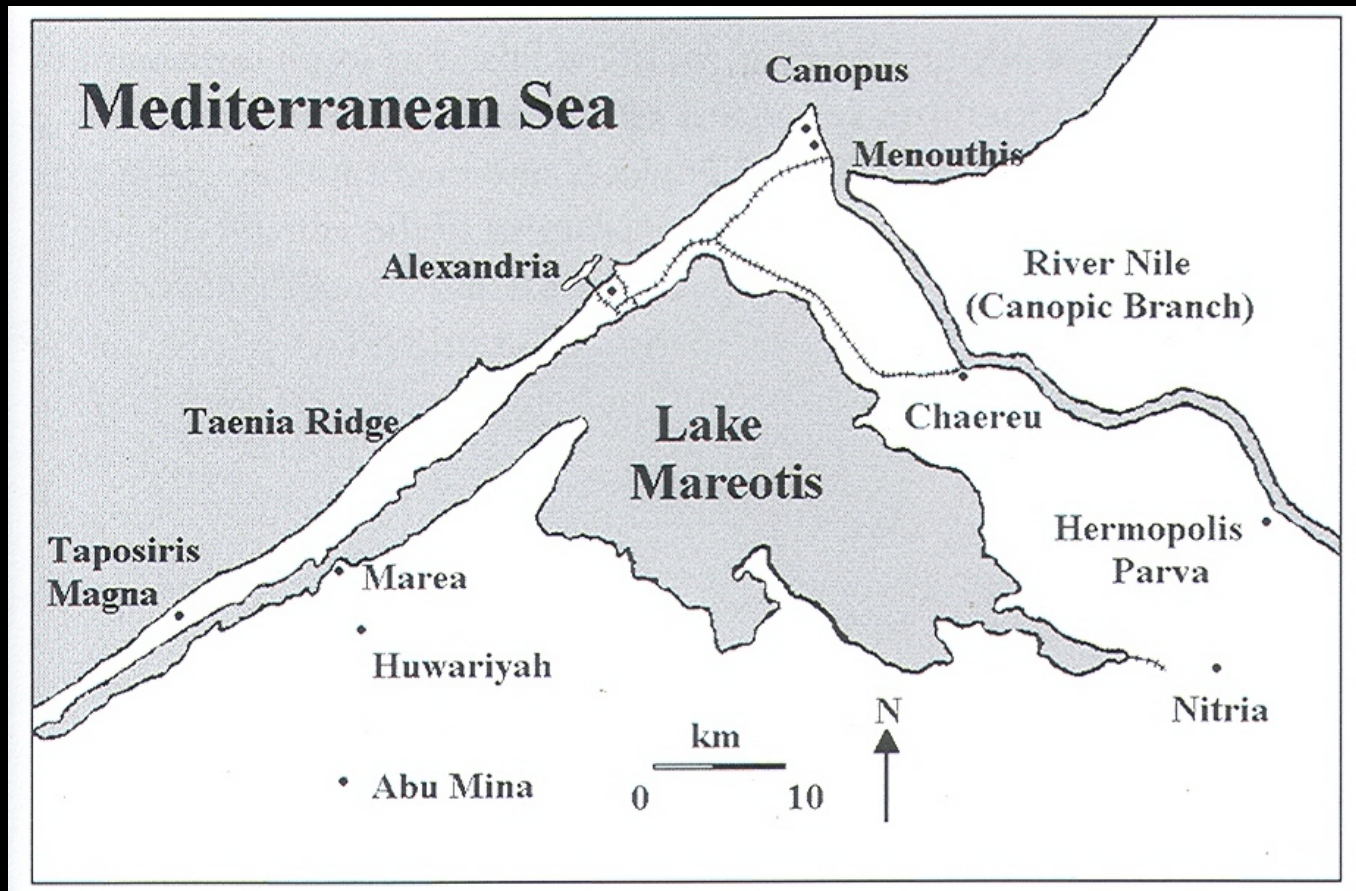
- Excavations
- Archival studies (papyri)
- Urban surveys
- Historical surveys
- Art Historical studies
- Material sciences
- Religious Studies

# Archaeology in Alexandria:

- Napoleonic *Description...*
- D.G. Hogarth evaluates Alexandria's potential for Brit School in Athens mid-19<sup>th</sup> c.
- Schliemann and the quest for Alexander's tomb
- Mahmud al-Falaki (Ottoman astronomer)
- Graeco-Roman Museum founded 1892
- Egyptian led expeditions
- Polish excavations at Kom el-Dikka 1959-present
- Growing interest of foreign missions – esp French Center for Alexandrian Studies
- 1990s-present underwater excavations take off (Frank Goddio)

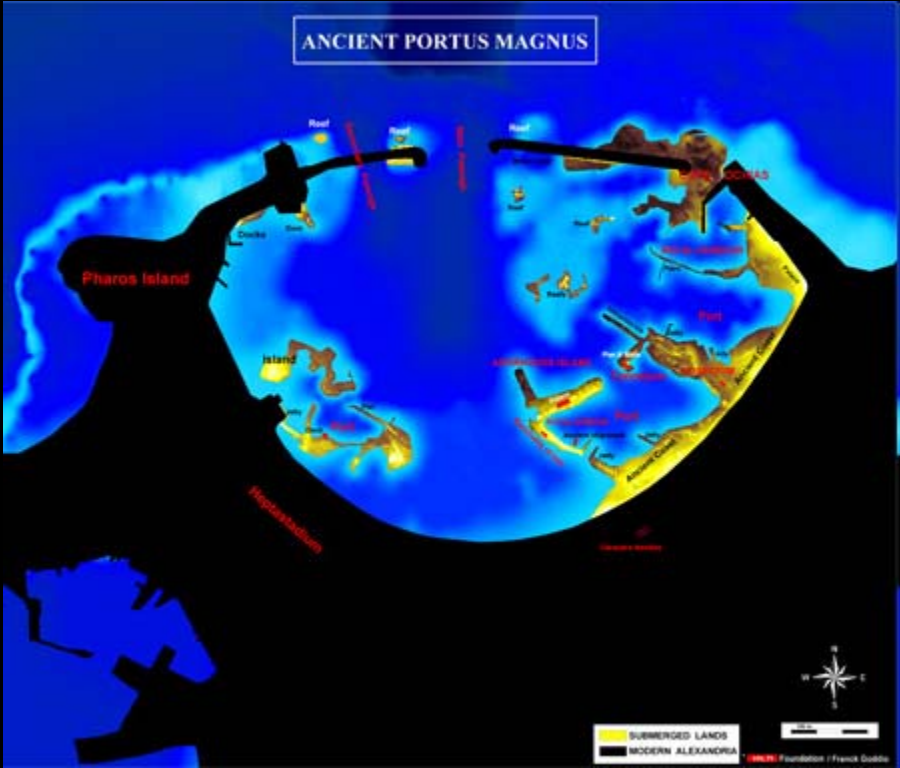


# Making Space for Cosmopolitanism: The Physical Fabric of the City

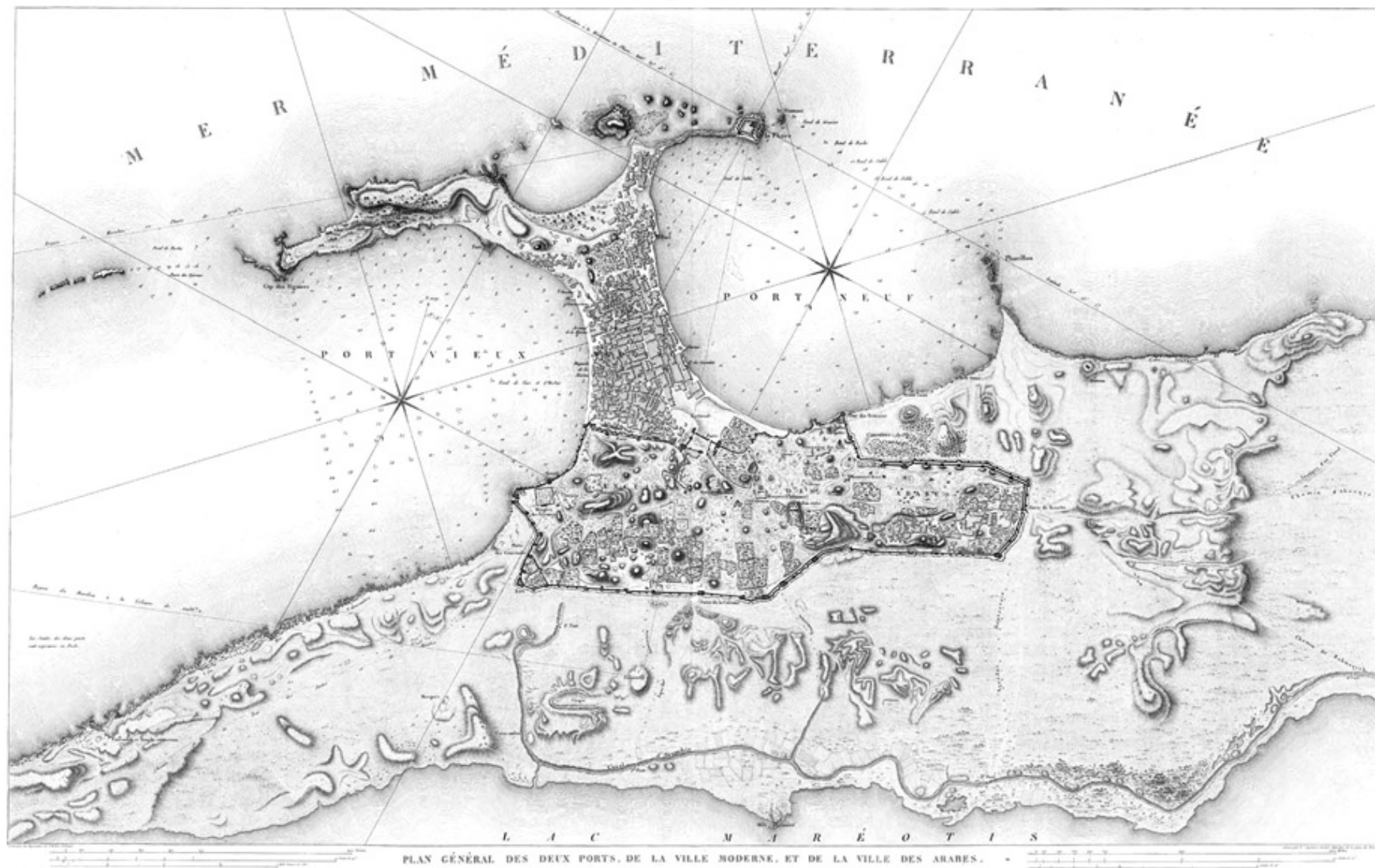




# The Urban Plan



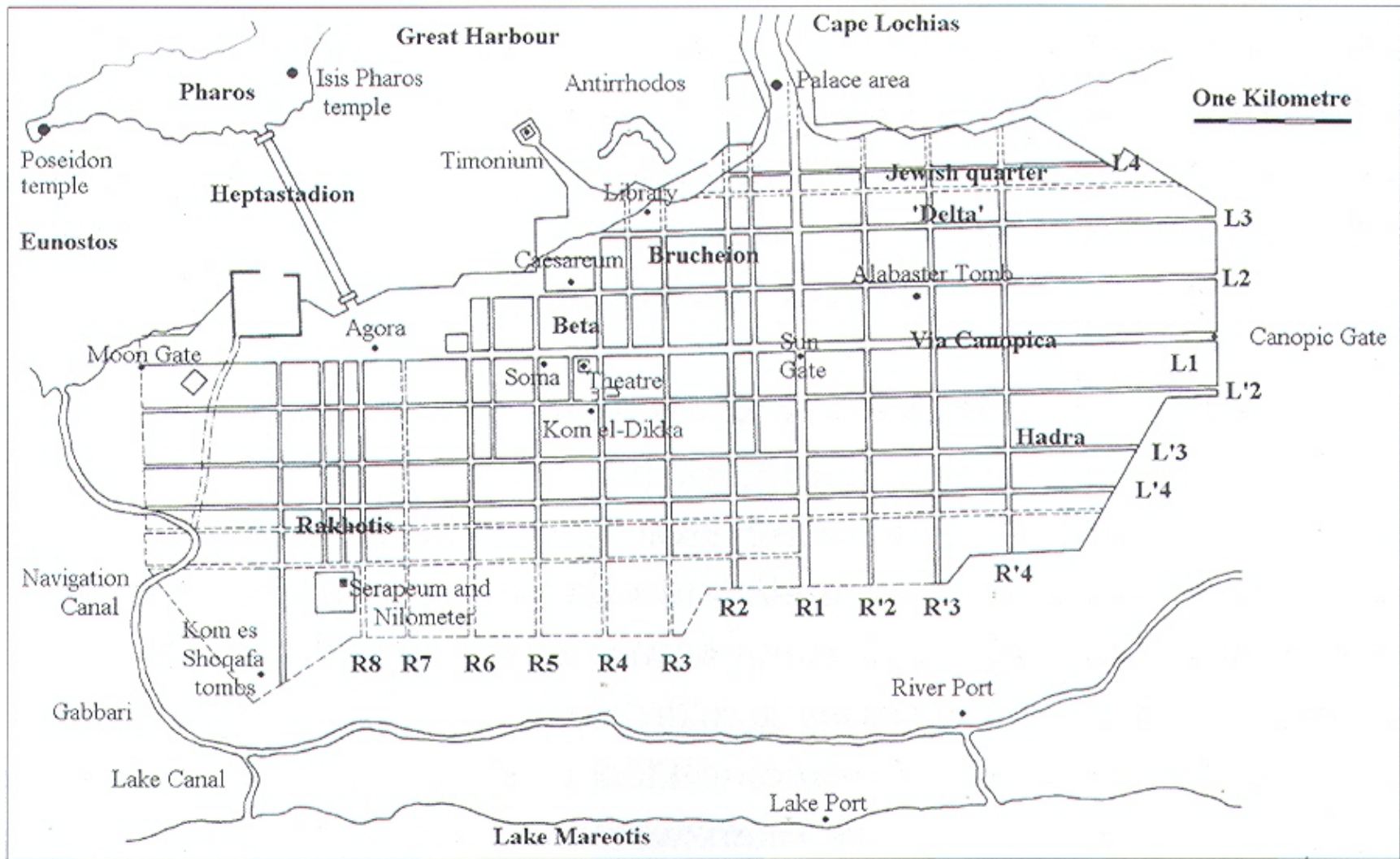
Veduta d'Alessandria - Secolo XV, d'Ugo Comminelli, 1472.



Plan général des deux ports, de la ville moderne et de la ville des arabes, levé par MM. les Ingénieurs de l'Armée d'Orient, 1798.



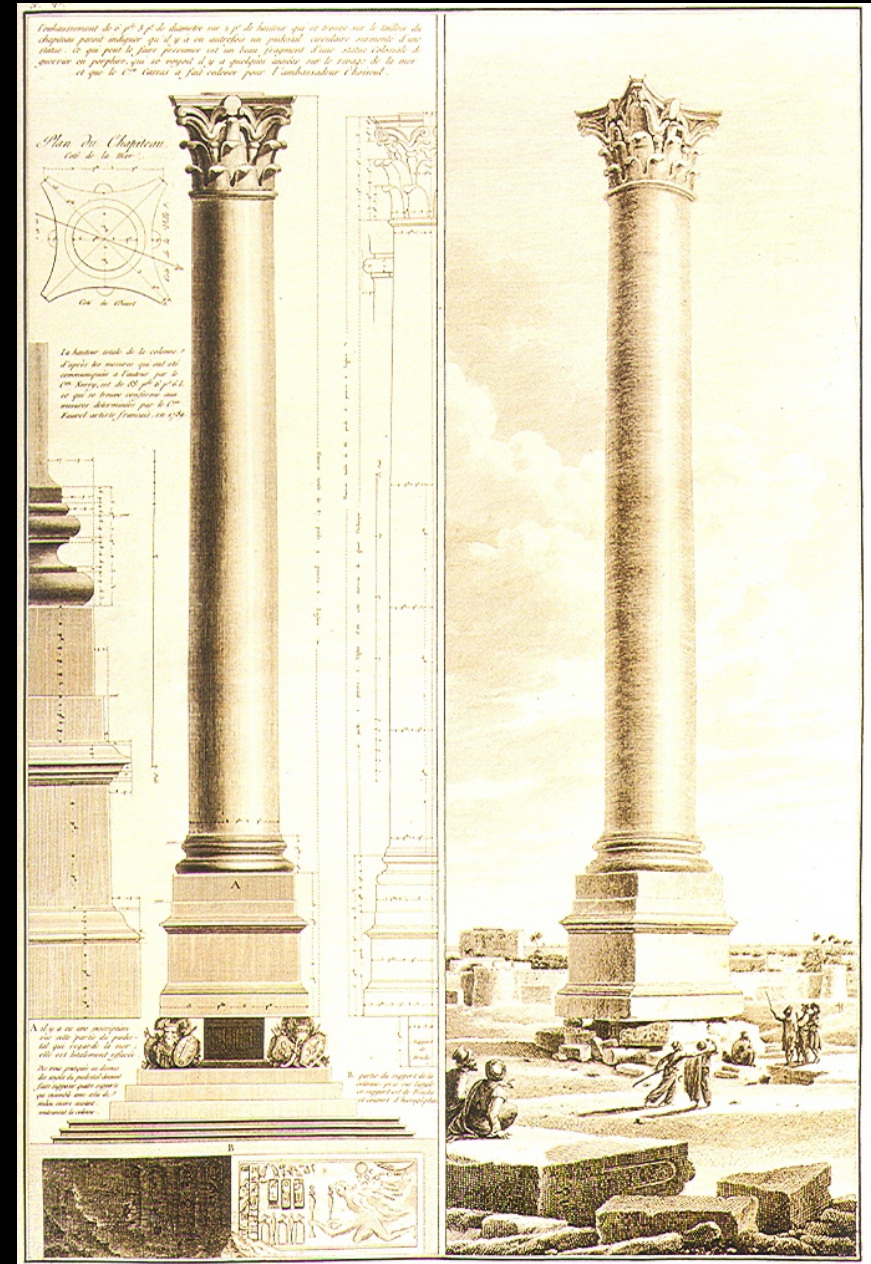






# So many monuments:

- Alexander's tomb
- Biblioteca and Mouseion
- Serapeion/Serapeum
- Caesarium
- The Seventh Wonder
- ....and much, much more







Serapis in his bull form, black basalt statue uncovered in the Serapeum, given by the Emperor Hadrian in the 2<sup>nd</sup> c. AD



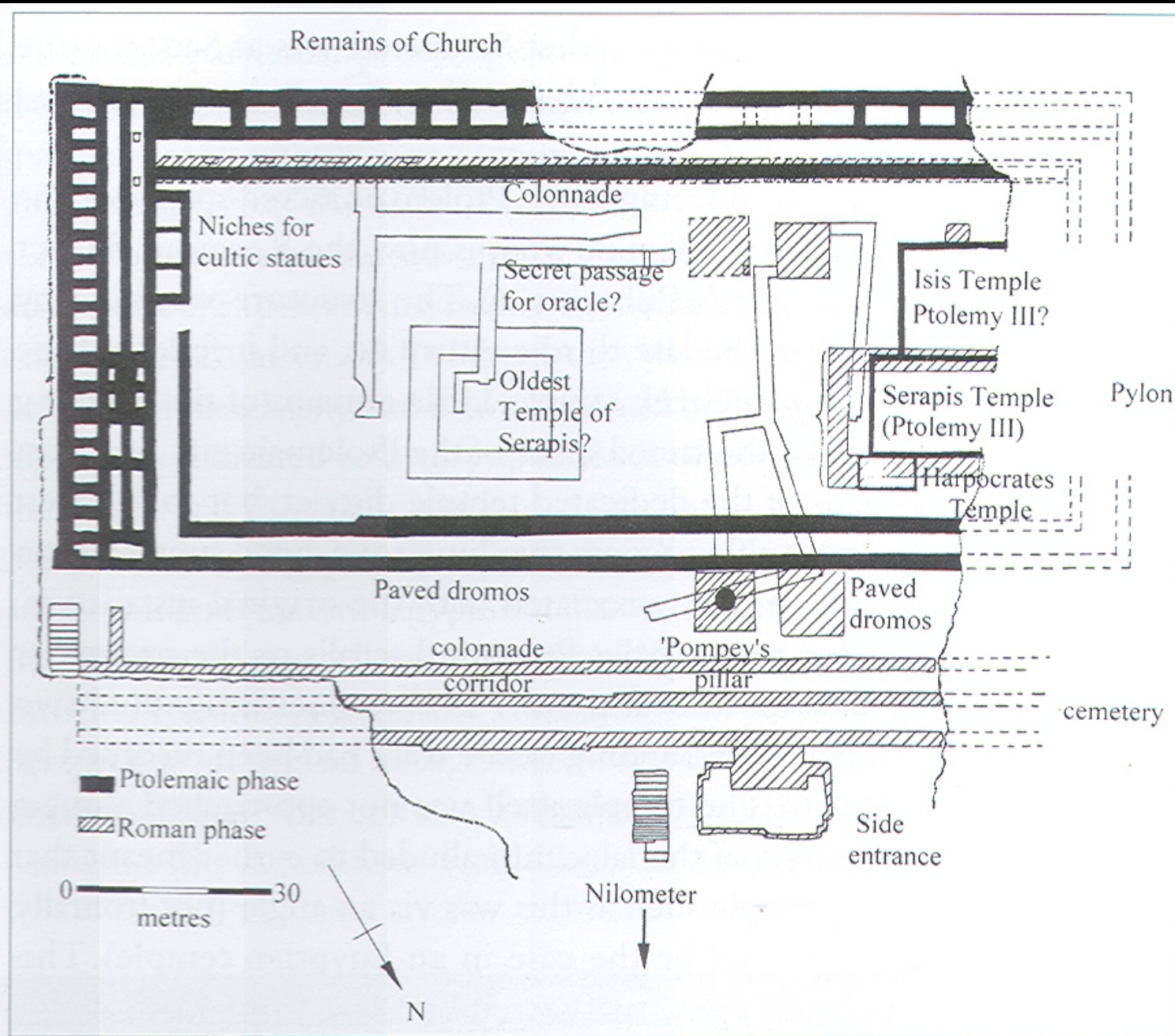
One of the underground galleries of the Serapeum of Alexandria



Serapis in his anthropomorphic form



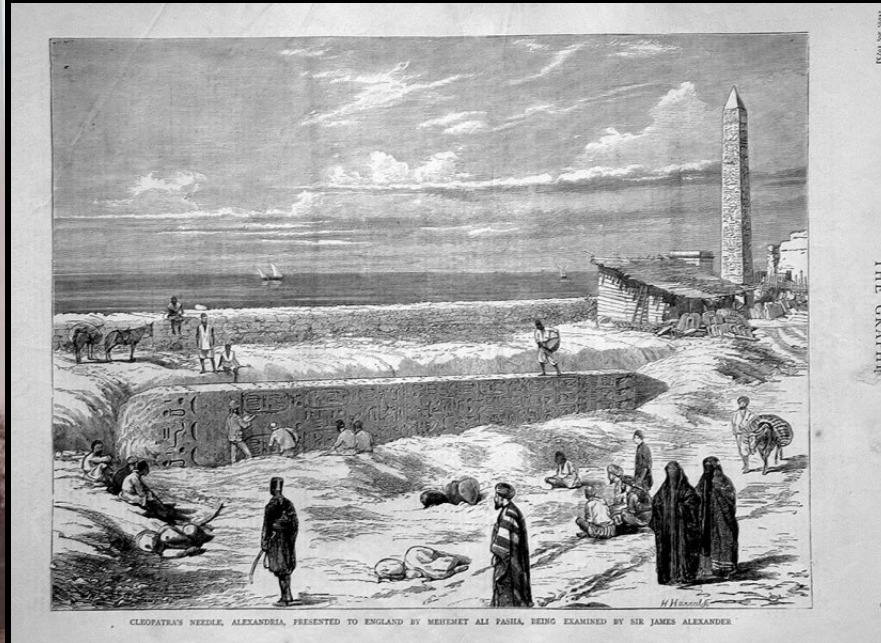
One of the only pictorial representations of the Serapeum comes from a second-century coin from Alexandria







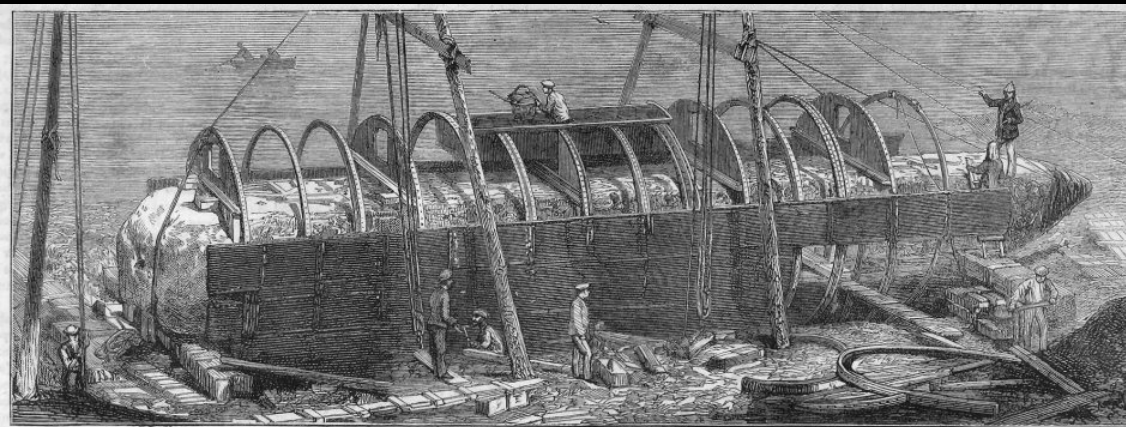
One of Cleopatra's Needles  
in Manhattan



Travelers view Cleopatra's  
Needles and the site of the  
Caesareum, note that one has  
already fallen on its side



Caesar Augustus

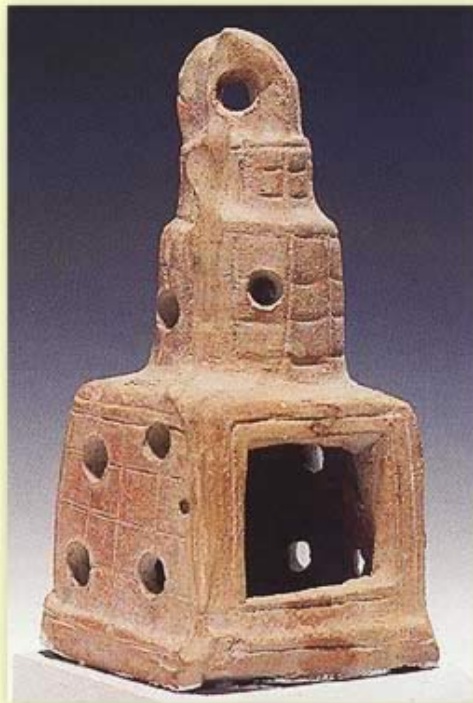


CONSTRUCTION OF THE CYLINDER SHIP "CLEOPATRA" ROUND THE OBELISK

"CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE"

AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE OBELISK BELONGING TO GREAT BRITAIN, AND OF OTHER EGYPTIAN MONOLITHS





Terracotta lantern  
representing the  
Pharos, Ptolemaic  
Period



Reconstruction of the Pharos



Bronze coin featuring the Pharos

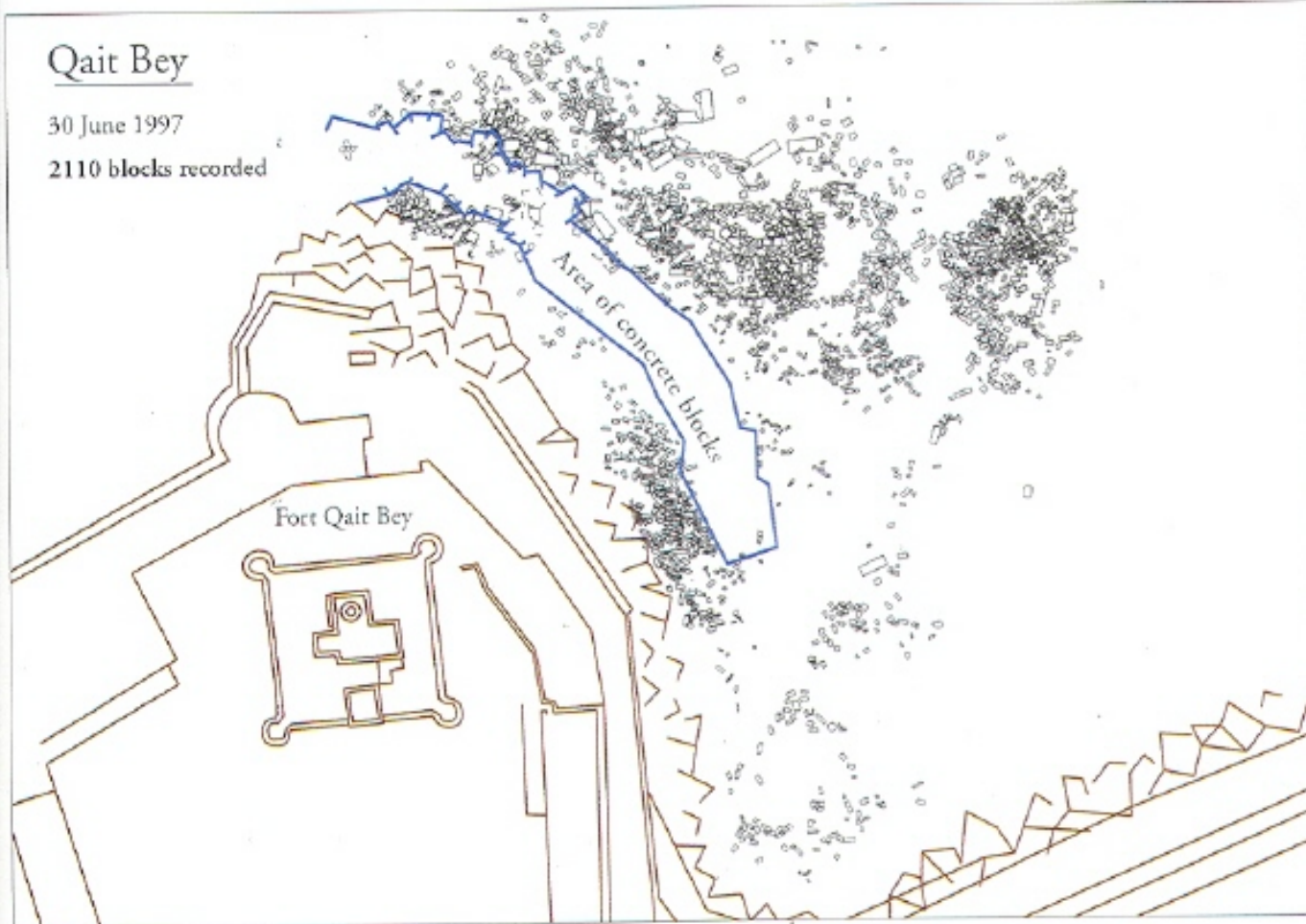


Divers working near the fort of  
Qait Bey, in Alexandria's  
eastern harbor

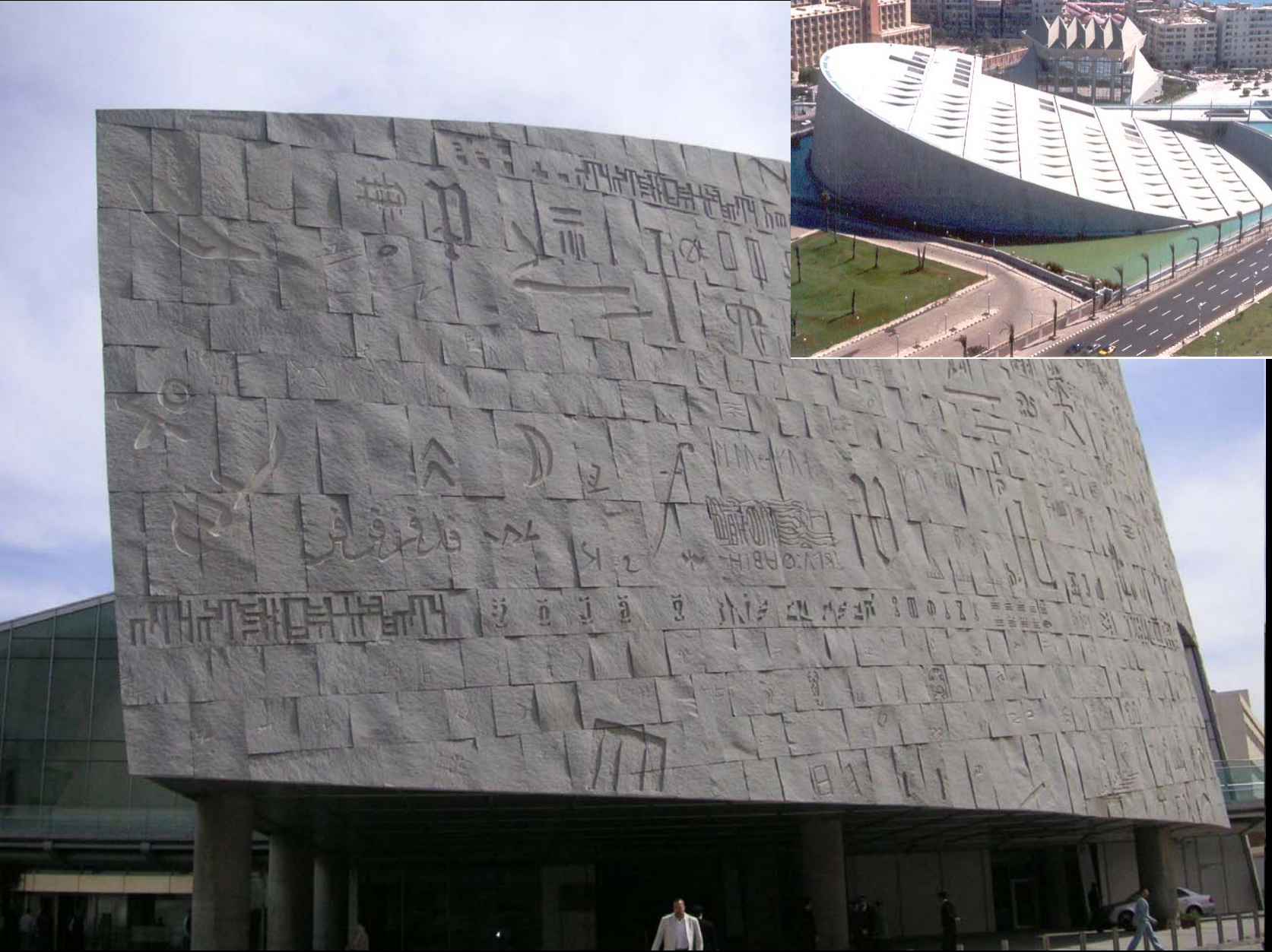
## Qait Bey

30 June 1997

2110 blocks recorded











4<sup>th</sup> c. CE odeum at Kom el-Dikka (Alexandria)

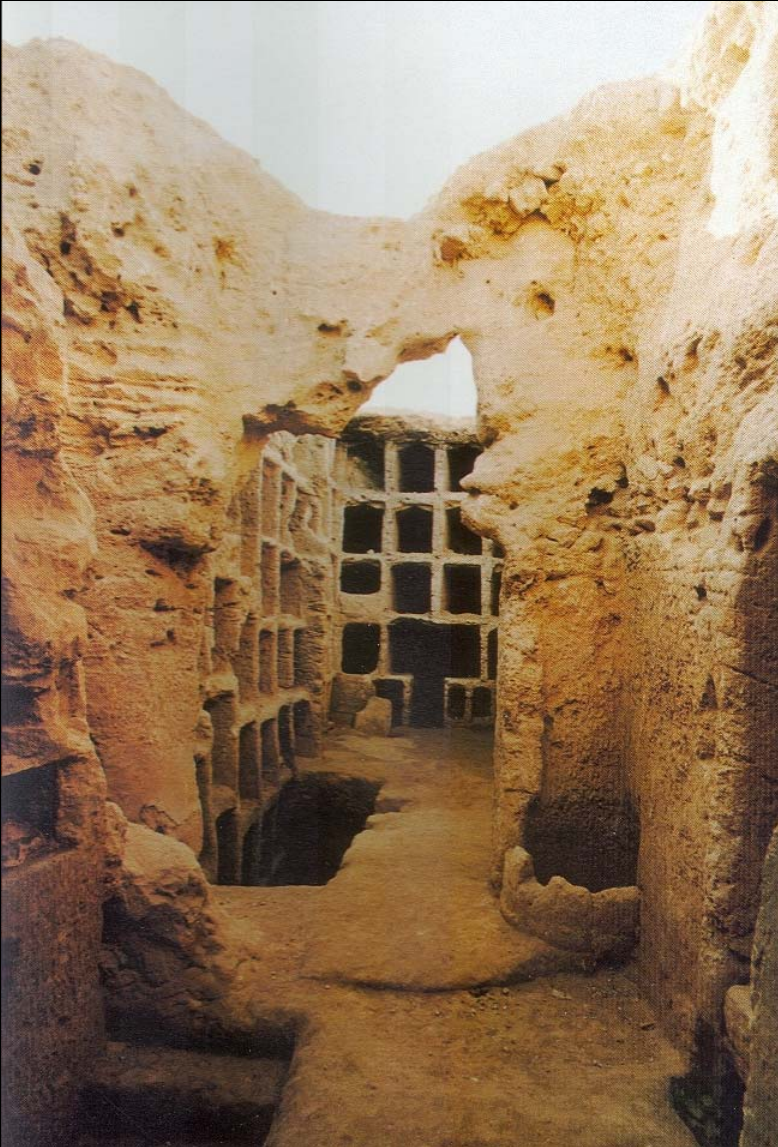


Catacombs of Kom el-Shuqafa



Scene from the tomb of Caracalla





Loculi in Tomb 1 – The necropolis (Gabbari)

## Pilgrims, pilgrimage and Abu Mina





# What lies beyond the highlights tour?



## Is Islamic period Alexandria merely a footnote?