

Week 3 Monday
E7

Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt

HPHP4013

From Egypt to the Near East: Phenomena
of the Mediterranean

Dr. Katharina Zinn

Additional Reading

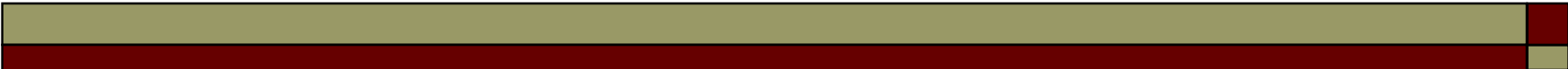
- ❑ Manning, J.G. (2010). *The last pharaohs : Egypt under the Ptolemies, 305-30 BC*. Princeton : Princeton Univ. Pr.
- ❑ Hölbl, G. (2001). *History of the Ptolemaic empire*. London: Routledge.
- ❑ Arnold, D. (1999). *Temples of the Last Pharaohs*. New York: Oxford Univ. Pr.
- ❑ Thompson, D. J. (1988). *Memphis under the Ptolemies* . Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Pr.
- ❑ Ashton, S.-A. (2001). *Ptolemaic royal sculpture from Egypt : the interaction between Greek and Egyptian traditions*. Oxford : Archaeopress.
- ❑ Coppens, F. (2007). *The wabet : tradition and innovation in temples of the Ptolemaic and Roman period*. Prague : Czech Institute of Egyptology Faculty of Arts, Charles University of Prague.

Ptolemaic Period

- ❑ Egypt was ruled by a series of kings all named Ptolemy, started with conquest of Egypt by Alexander the Great
- ❑ on his death (323 BC) empire divided among his generals: Eg. fell to Ptolemy, declared himself king as Ptolemy I Soter
- ❑ Greek = state language, capital moved to newly founded Alexandria

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- ❑ Greek = state language, capital moved to newly founded Alexandria
- ❑ fusion of Eg. culture and Hellenistic influences supported new administrative system



Ptolemaic Period

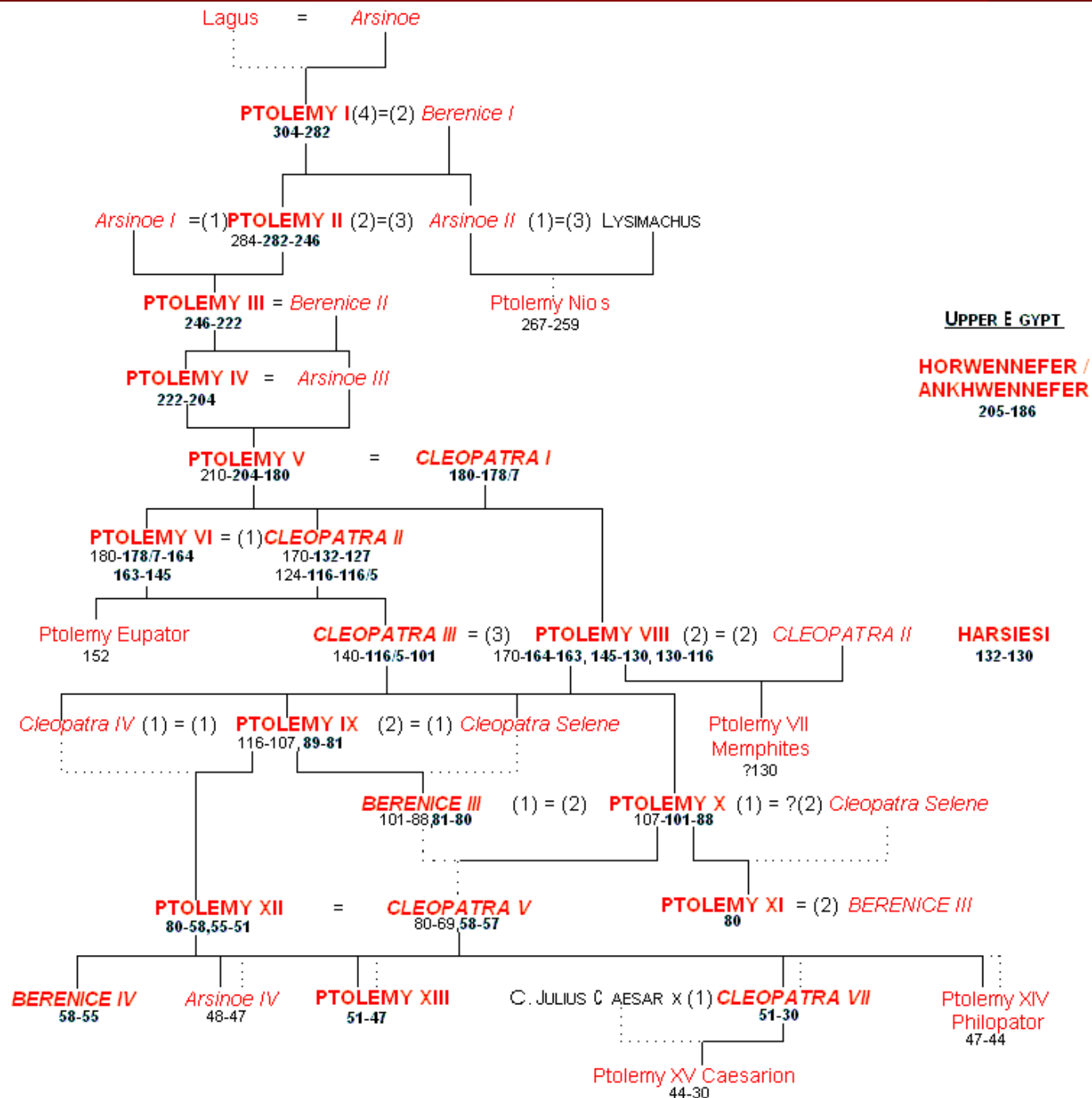
- ❑ Ptolemies stressed their desire to support 'Egyptian' identity and manners
- ❑ many temples built or extended during this period
- ❑ Osiris, Isis and Horus = symbolic ideal family with particularly popular Isis cult (spread outside Eg.)
- ❑ new Hellenistic influence: clothing + more realistic representation of facial features (coffins with mummy portraits)



Who are the Ptolemies?

- Family of (Greco-)Macedonian kings who ruled Egypt for almost 300 years from 306 – 30 BCE
 - Foreign rulers of Egypt
- The founder of the dynasty and the first king is Ptolemy I, who was a general and friend of Alexander the Great
- Most famous figure from the Dynasty is Cleopatra VII (*the* Cleopatra), who was the last reigning monarch of the Ptolemaic dynasty
- All the kings are called Ptolemy and are numbered I – XV
- The royal women are usually called Arsinöe, Cleopatra or Berenike





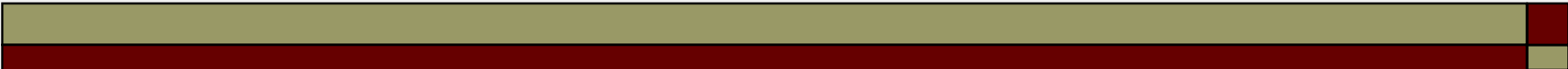
When did they rule Egypt?

- Part of the 'Greek', 'Macedonian', 'Hellenistic' period of Egypt
- Ruled Egypt after Alexander the Great and his shortlived successors.
- Ptolemy takes the title of king in 306 BCE
- Ruled Egypt after a long period of rule under the Persian Empire
- The end of the Ptolemaic Dynasty with the death of Cleopatra VII in 30 BCE marked the beginning of Roman rule in Egypt



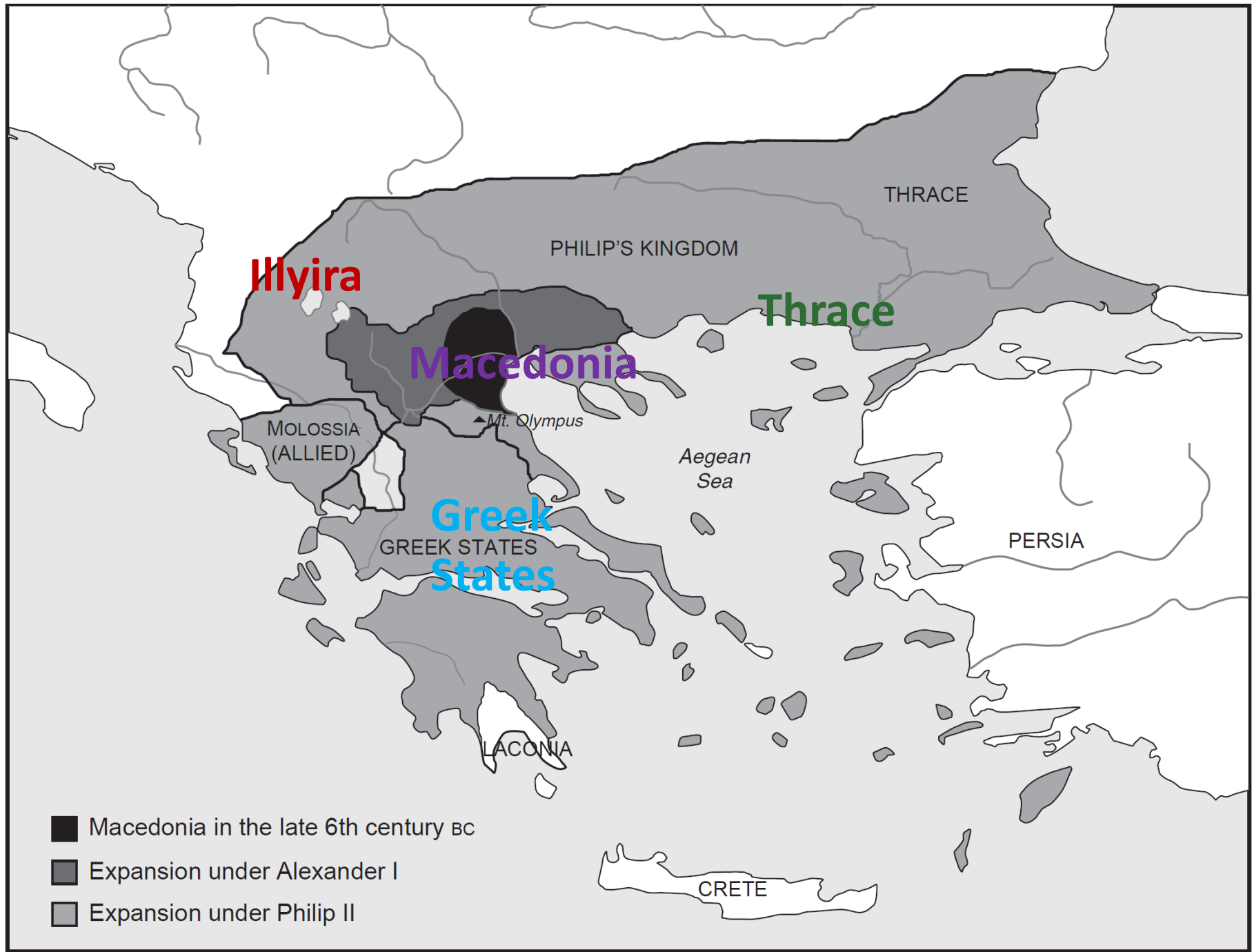
Ptolemaic Kingdom





Where were they from initially?

- ❑ Macedonia - Northern area of modern day Greece
- ❑ Situated between Greek city states to the south, Thracian kingdoms to the east, and Illyrian kingdoms to the west
- ❑ Culturally, Macedonia shows similarities with both the Greek states and Thrace



Greek City States:

Athens and **Sparta** are the two most politically dominant. Other important cities and areas include Thebes, Corinth, Thessaly, Delphi

Mixture of rule by kings and democracy



Macedonia

Aegae: Old capital and burial ground of Macedonian kings

Pella: Capital/political centre

Ruled by kings

‘Macedonian’, ‘Greek’ and ‘Hellenistic’

- ❑ Macedonia is a participant in the Greek speaking world and shares some cultural ties to it
- ❑ Some Greeks did not regard the Macedonians as a part of the wider Greek diaspora
- ❑ Macedonia also shares many cultural ties to Thracian culture
- ❑ The Hellenistic period is a term given to the time of and after the conquests of Alexander the Great, however the term sometimes has an earlier starting point than this in places such as Cyprus



How did the Ptolemies come to rule
Egypt?

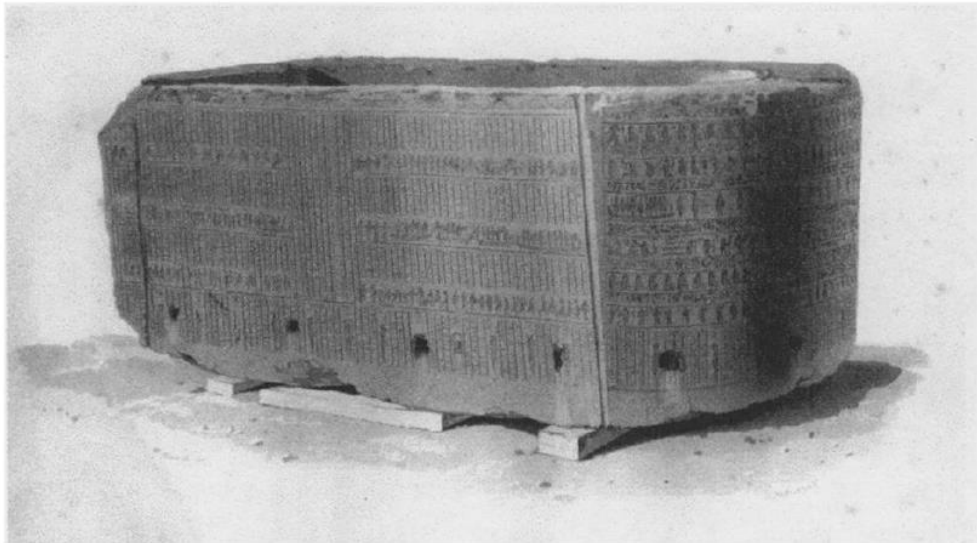
Ptolemy son of Lagos

- Born c. 367
- Son of Lagos and Arsinoe
 - Prominent Macedonian family
- Autumn 330 *somatophylax* of Alexander
- Distinguished commands
- Marriage at Susa
- *History of Alexander*

The Tomb of Alexander

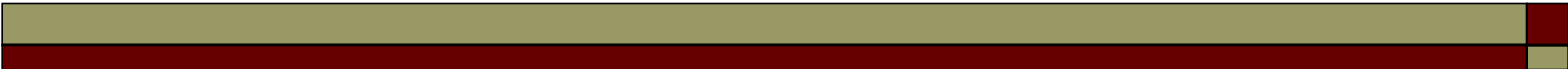
- Original Resting Place: Memphis
 - “From the Time when Antigonus crossed to Asia, and Alexander was laid to rest in Memphis”

Parian Marble FGrH 239 B 11



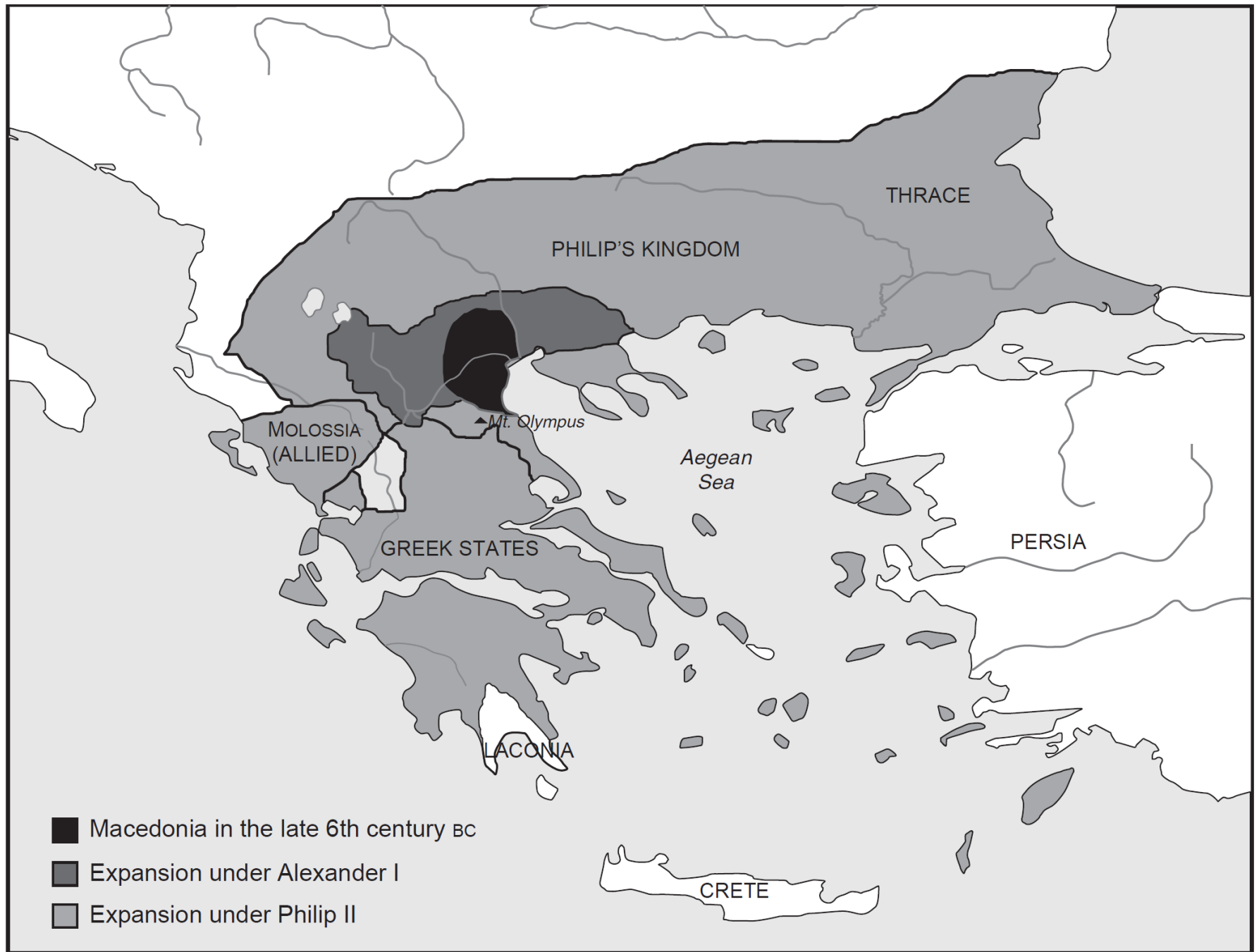
Chugg, A. “[The Sarcophagus of Alexander the Great?](#)” *Greece & Rome* Second Series, Vol. 49, No. 1 (Apr., 2002), pp. 8-26

Fig. 2: The sarcophagus in an engraving from E. D. Clarke, *The Tomb of Alexander* (Cambridge, 1805).



Coronation of Ptolemy

- 305/4 – first year of Ptolemy as Pharaoh
- Retroactive dating of his reign in Greek



Alexander the Great and the Macedonian Period

- ❑ Alexander III of Macedonia ('the Great') begins his conquest of the Persian empire, building off of the successes of his father Phillip II
- ❑ After the battle of Issus against the Persian king Darius III, Alexander moves westward towards Egypt instead of chasing Darius who flees East
- ❑ Egypt puts up no resistance, the Persian Satrap (governor) of Egypt had already lost all/most of his troops at Issus

Macedonian / Greek Culture in Egypt

Very few cities : Alexandria, Naukratis,

Agricultural settlements: *kleroi* (*allotments*), *klerouchoi* (lot holders)

Settlement of the Fayoum (*Nomos* of Arsinoe; chief town: Philadelphia)

New Mediterranean crops: olives, bread wheat, vines

Contrast the Egyptian staples: beans, beer

Literacy: papyri, ostraka

Bureaucratic system: tax demands, receipts, population census by household

Bi-cultural or multicultural society. Graeco-Macedonians 15%; native Egyptians 85% (at least)

Ptolemy I Soter (BM EA 1641)



Head of Ptolemy II Philadelphos (MMA 12.187.31)



- superb workmanship, skills of royal workshops had survived

Ptolemy II

- Joint-ruler with his father from 284
- Sole ruler/Pharaoh in 282
- Marries Arsinoe I (daughter of Lysimachos)
 - Ptolemy 'the son'
 - Ptolemy (III)
 - Lysimachos
 - Berenike

Arsinoe II

- Married to Lysimachos c. 300
- Conspires against Agathokles and he is killed in 283/2
- His widow Lysandra and her brother Ptolemy Keraunos flee to Seleucus
- Seleucus defeats Lysimachos at Korupedion in 281
- Keraunos assassinates Seleucus and crowned king of Macedon
- Arsinoe flees back to Egypt
- Marriage to Ptolemy II (c. 279)

Cleopatra VII Philopator

- Statue Hermitage (right)
- Limestone head of a woman resembling Cleopatra VII (Castellani Collection GR 1879.7-12.15)



Cleopatra VII

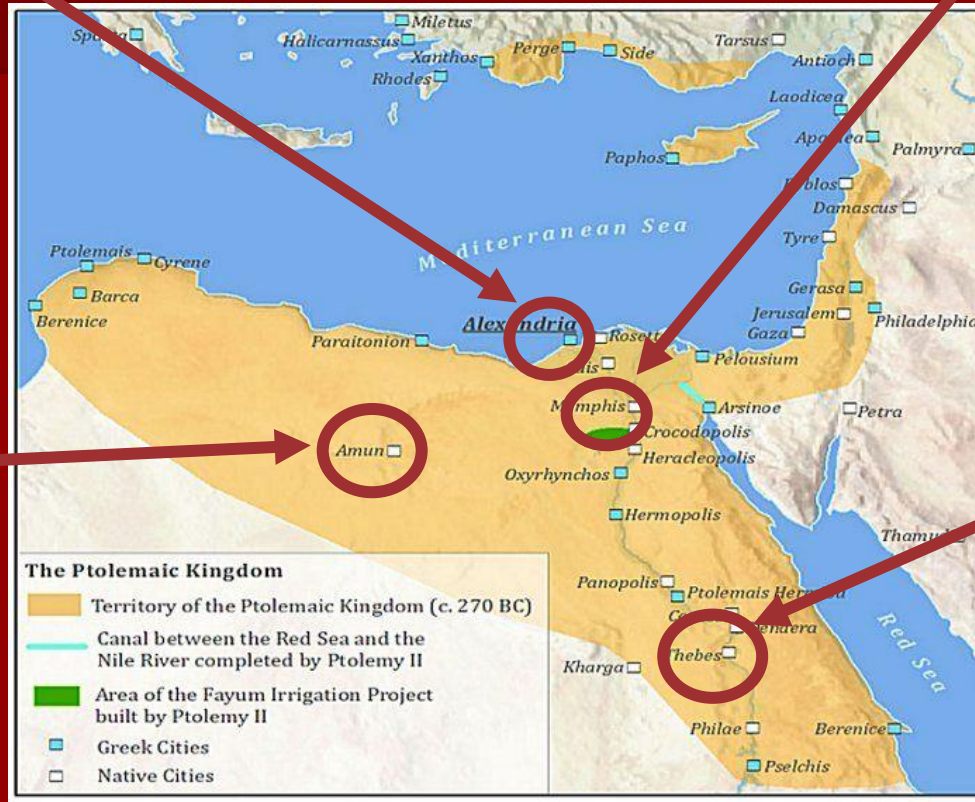
- Caesar occupies Alexandria, orders return to joint rule
- Riots in Alexandria
- 47 riots put down Cleopatra and Ptolemy XIV now king
- 44 Caesar murdered
- Sides with Caesarean faction
- Relationship with Antony

Founds Alexandria

- Apparently plans the layout of the future city
- Leaves construction to Cleomenes
- Practical and Religious reasons for the location
- City founding is important legitimising act

Consults Siwah Oracle:

- Son of Zeus-Ammon
- Father's murder has been avenged
- Siwah is well known in the Greek world
- Similar messages arrive from other oracles



Offers to the Apis Bull

- Sacred bull of the god Ptah, believed to be a vessel for the spirit (Ka) of Ptah
- Located in Memphis – one of Egypt's oldest and largest political centres
- Cambyses accused of killing the Apis bull and Memphite governors

Rebuilds the Barque Chapel at Luxor Temple:

- Temple dedicated to the royal Ka
- Has close associations with divine kingship
- Originally built by two kings who were deified during their lifetime



PTOLEMAIC EGYPT

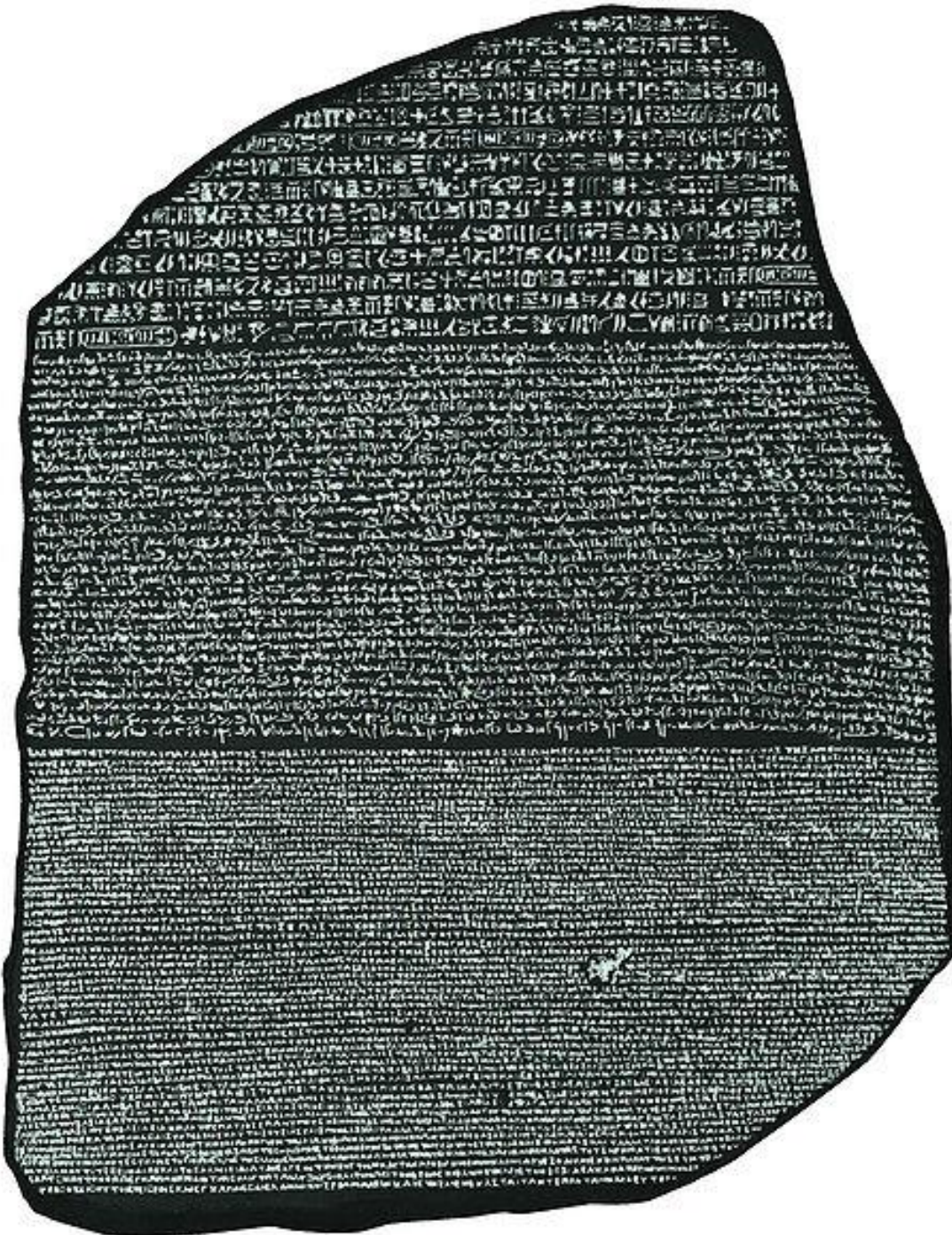
c. 270 B.C.

The extent of Ptolemaic control (dashed red lines) is approximate and, in many places, very uncertain.

Map by Tom Elliott for the Ancient World Mapping Center
University of North Carolina (www.unc.edu/awmc/)

The Macedonian king as native Egyptians

- Rosetta Stone (196 BC):
- King Ptolemy (V) . . . Has conferred benefits in many ways on the temples and their staffs and on those subject to his rule, as he is a god from a god and goddess just as Horus, the son of Isis and Osiris, the defender of his father Osiris, he has assigned to the temples revenues in money and grain . . . With good fortune it has been resolved by the priests of all the temples in the land that all the honours belonging to king Ptolemy, the eternal, beloved of Ptah, god Epiphanes Eucharistos, and likewise those of his parents, the gods Philopatores, and of his grandparents, the gods Euergetai [and] those of the gods Philadelphoi and those of the gods Soteres shall be increased greatly. . .



The Rosetta Stone

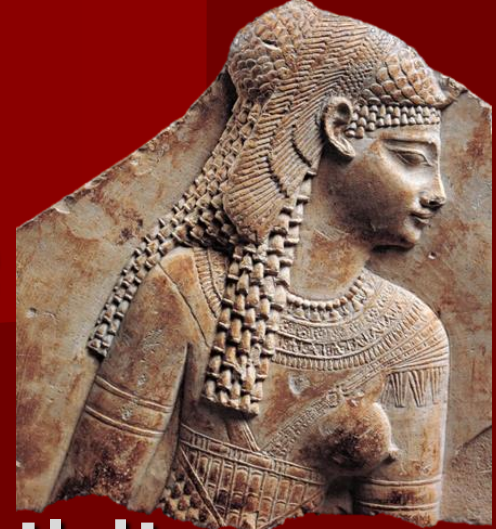
Hieroglyphic

Demotic

Greek



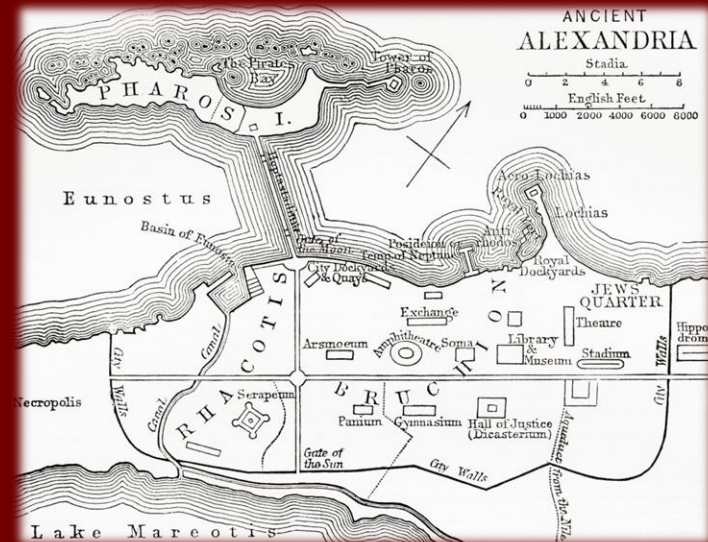
How did the Ptolemies rule in Egypt?



Temple and City Building

The Ptolemies founded (perhaps re-founded) and built up many new cities in Egypt. These are generally regarded as 'Greek' cities and centres:

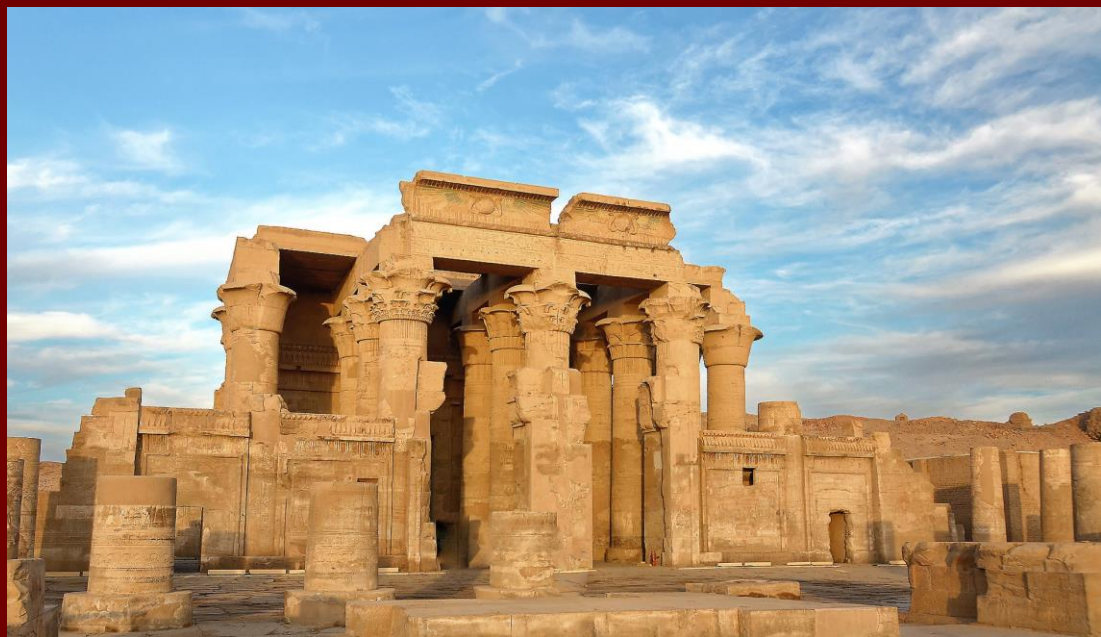
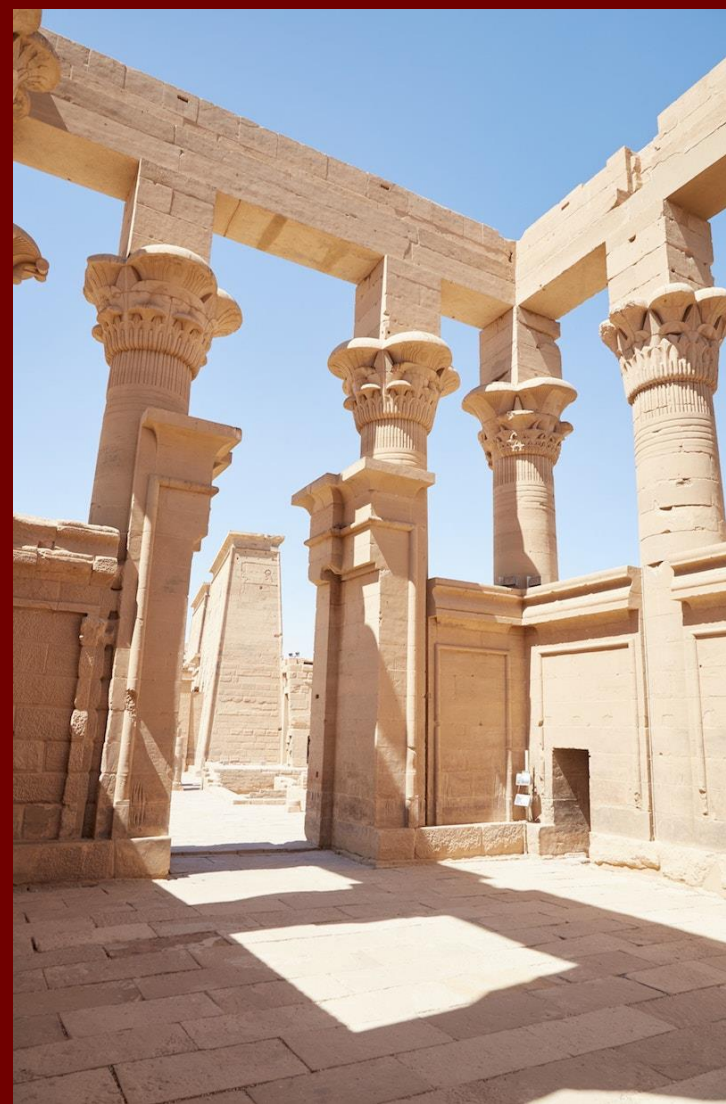
- Alexandria
- Arsinoe
- Ptolemais
- Berenike
- Myos Hormos
- Philotrea (Mera Gawasis?)
- Settlements in the Faiyum



Temple and City Building

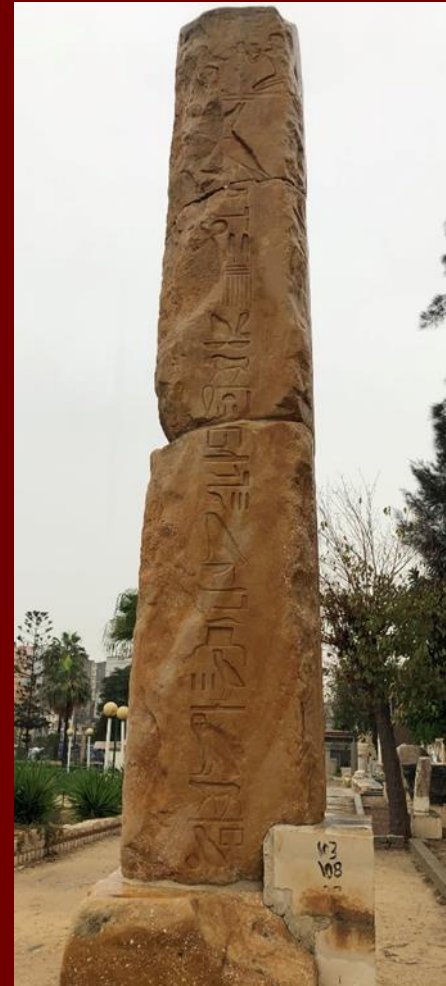
- Native temple building projects are numerous
- Both the construction of 'new' temples and additions made to existing ones
- Temple building is an important aspect of Egyptian kingship
- Notable sites include:
 - Edfu
 - Dendera
 - Philae
 - Kom Ombo
- Many of these projects built upon 30th Dynasty foundations (Nectanebo II and the last native dynasty)





Temple and City Building

- Artistically there is very little to no Greek influence seen in native temples (although much of the elite likely spoke Greek, especially in the North of the country)
- New Ptolemaic cities, specifically Alexandria, are decorated with Egyptian artistic elements in addition to those from Greek world





Ancient Alexandria

(1st c. B.C.–1st c. A.D.)



Population

- Diodorus estimate 300,000 “free” inhabitants (Diodorus 17.52.6)
- Total population 500,000

O ye gods, what a big crowd! However are we to get through this crush, and how long will it take? Ants, numberless and immeasurable! You’ve conferred a great many benefits on us, Ptolemy, since your father (Ptolemy I) went off to join the gods. Nowadays no criminal harms the passer by, sneaking along in Egyptian fashion.

Theocritus *Idyll* 15

Religion

- Respect for Egyptian religious institutions
- Greeks in Egypt before Alexander & the Ptolemies adopted Egyptian deities e.g. Osiris-Apis in Memphis
- Classical temples exist in new cities and Greek centres in Egypt
- Possible attempts to syncretise deities – seen in the poetry of Callimachus and Theocritus
- A new god called ‘Serapis’ becomes the primary deity of Alexandria
- The ‘Ruler Cult’ or ‘Dynastic Cult’ is established

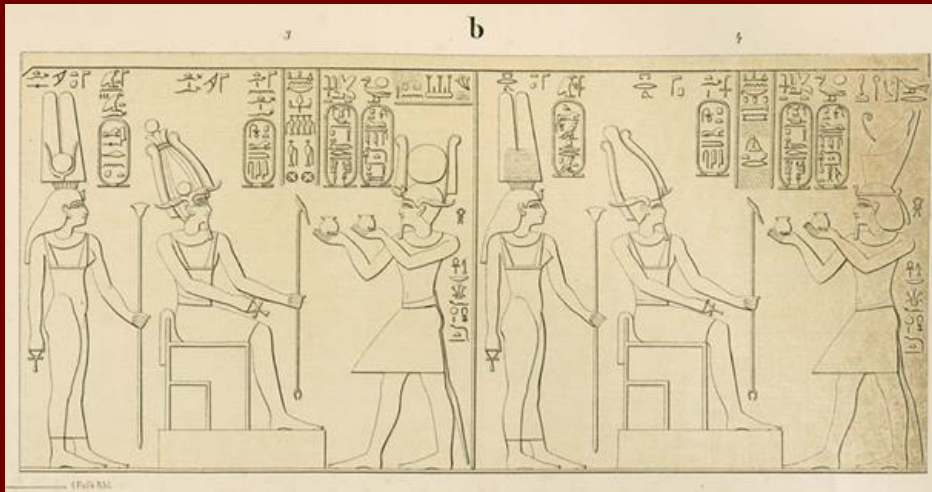


Serapis

- Introduced by Ptolemy I to Alexandria
- According to Plutarch/Arrian, Ptolemy I dreamt of the god whose statue resided in Sinope (northern Turkey) and proceeded to bring the god to Alexandria
- In reality, it is likely that Serapis was adapted or evolved from Osiris-Apis, who was already an established deity venerated by the Greeks already living in Memphis
- This scenario is bolstered by the fact Ptolemy I spent 20 years in Memphis before moving to Alexandria & the close relationship established between the Memphite priesthood and the royal house
- Does not gain much popularity outside of the Greek/Alexandrian Sphere



- Ptolemaic Ruler Cult
- Deification of king / royal predecessors, including royal women
- Developed between the reigns of Ptolemy I – IV in various ways
- Connected to the cult of Alexander the Great in Alexandria – each royal couple is added to the cult and the title of the priest of Alexander
- The veneration of the preceding royal couple appears in the Egyptian titulary of every Ptolemaic king from PIII onwards
- Royal figures are venerated in native temples too



Ptolemy IX (?) offers to Ptoelmy IV & Arsinoe III Ptoelmy V & Cleopatra I

Ptolemy II offers to Isis and Arsinoe II



Coin depicting the royal pairs of Ptolemy II and Arsinoe II (left) and Ptolemy I and Berenike I (right/reverse)



Joint Rule



Centralized Royal command economy

Inventory of the royal domain . . . Everything connected with it was delivered to Phoinix the chief treasurer in year 28, in the month of Thoth of the king who was victorious over the Philopersian king when he entered Syria. His scribes and district officials compiled it, from Elephantine to the Mediterranean, in detail nome by nome, altogether 36 provinces.

Demotic Ostrakon from Thebes 258 BC

Command Economy

They declared and reported concerning the water (noting) when the basins (are full) and the flooded fields are green, enumerating their water sources and levees. A census of Egypt was ordered, specifying field by field, their irrigation possibilities, their location, their arable portions, their relation to the property of their protector gods, their common borders with the fields of the benefices themselves and of the royal fields, specifying area by area the size of the parcels and the vineyards, noting when the fields and areas are dry – likewise the pastures – and the water channels, the fields that are free and vacant . . . Specifying orchard by orchard the trees with their fruits, the gardens, . . . The list of leased parcels with their equipment . . . And in addition their taxes, the total of the expenditures for the welfare of Egypt and its sublime freedom, of its cities and of its temples.

Burstein 97

Payment of 1/6 of produce (*apomoira*) for the royal cult of Arsinoe II. Greek Papyrus

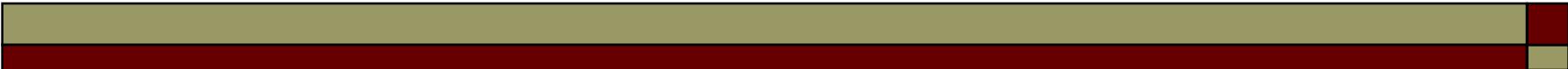
[King] Ptolemy [to all the] *strategoí*, [hipparchs], officers, nomarchs, [toparchs], *oikonomoi*, *antigraphéis*, royal [scribes], Libyarchs and chiefs of police, greetings. We have sent you copies of the [ordinance which] requires payment of the sixth to (Arsinoe) Philadelphus. [Take care therefore] that these instructions are carried out. Farewell. Year 23, Dios 2 (= Nov.-Dec. 263 BC). [All those who] have vineyards or orchards, [whatever] their tenure, shall all give to the agents of Satyrus, [and to] the accountants appointed as agents of Dionysodorus, [nome by] nome] a written statement, drawn up by themselves, or their managers, or [those cultivating] their property, from year 18 to [year 21], (indicating) the amount of produce and to which temple they used to give the sixth, and the annual amount. Similarly the priests (shall make a statement) from which property they used to receive (the sixth) and the annual amount of wine or money. Similarly the royal scribes and the . . . shall give . . . written statements of these.

Royal monopoly on coinage

Demetrius to Apollonius greetings. It is well if you are in good health and everything else is as you wish. As for me, I am devoting myself to what you wrote me to do: I have received 57,000 (drachmas?) of god, which I minted and returned. We would have received many times as much, but as I have written to you before, the foreigners who come here by seas, the merchants, the forwarding agents, and others, bring their own fine local coins and the *trichrysa*, to get them back as new coins, in accordance with the ordinance which instructs us to take and mint them, but as Philaretus does not allow me to accept them, we have no one to refer to on this matter, and are compelled not to accept them. The men are furious because we refuse the coins at the banks and they cannot send their agents into the country to purchase merchandise.

P. Cairo Zen 59.021; *BD* 102; Austin 238/299





Ptolemaic Period –religious ideas

- ❑ Absolute monarchy, controlled in all matters by the king, corresponded with Egyptian ideology of king: Ptolemies took particular care to act as cultic active kings
- ❑ start of ruler cult connected with Egyptian divine kingship
- ❑ Hellenistic dynastic cult started under Pt. I for Alexander, from Pt. II onwards combined with cult for living king

End of Ptolemaic era

- ❑ Egyptians getting restless year by year
- ❑ 206 BC: Upper Egypt openly rebelled
- ❑ Suppressing of revolts; done, but could not be afforded by Ptolemies
- ❑ less-than-sound foreign policy of the later Ptolemies
- ❑ → Egypt increasingly under the influence of Rome

Edfu



Tell Edfu Project →

<http://www.telledfu.org/>



Innovative Hieroglyphs



Innovative usage of ancient motives and Horror Vacui (fear of empty spaces)



Empty or unspecific cartouches

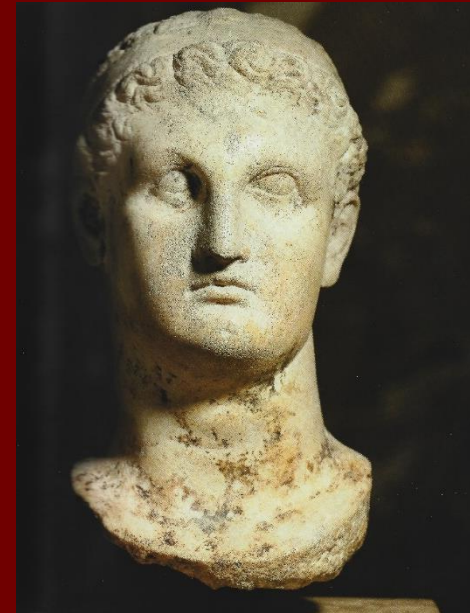
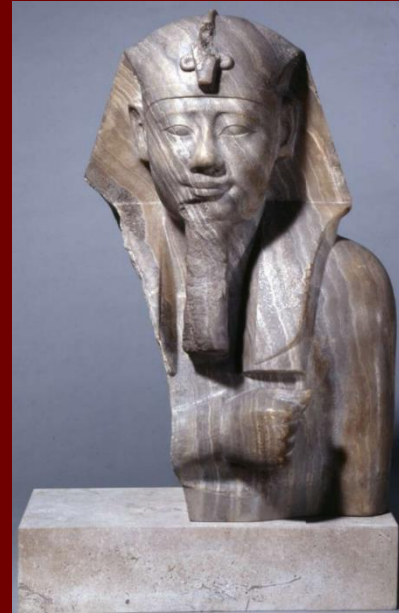
Temple of Hathor, Dendara **Temple of Hathor, Dendara**



King and Pharaoh



Art



Royal Women

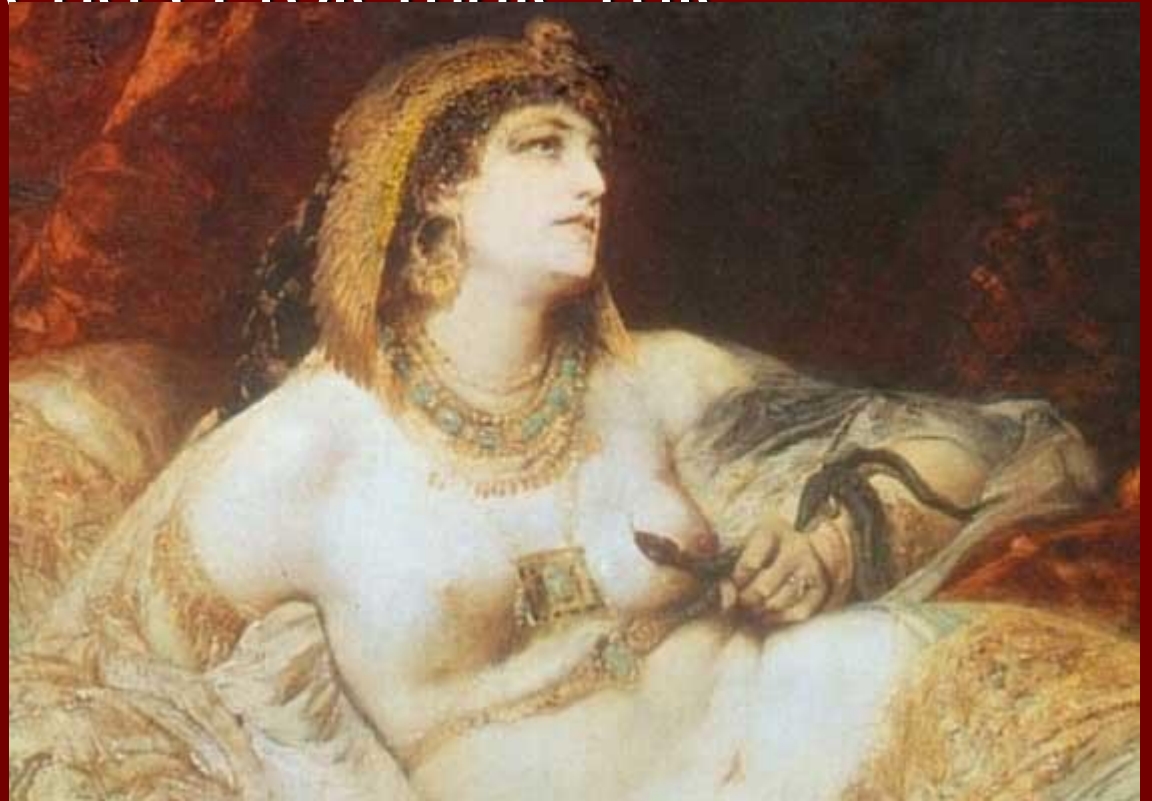


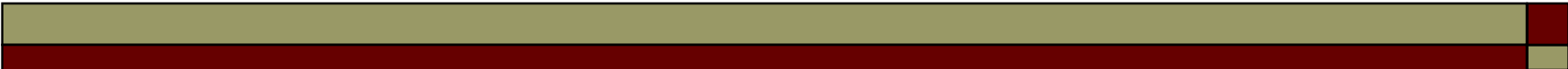
5A. CLEOPATRA I³³

Horus: *ḥwn(t) s3t ḥk3 ir(t).n ḥk3 mr(t) nṯrw b3kt ḥkr(t).n ḥnmw t3tt s3t dḥwty wr(t)-pḥty shr(t) t3wy rdi n.s nbty rḥyt n nfrw kni sy nt nb(t) s3w tni sy ḥt-ḥr m mrwt.s* (*hun(et), sat heqa, ir(et).en heqa, mer(et) netjeru baqet, kheqer(et). en khnemu, tjetet, sat djehuty, wer(et)-pehty, seher(et) tawy, redi en.es nebty rekhyet en neferu, qeni sy net neb(et) saw, tjeni sy hut-hor em merut.es*), The youthful one and the daughter of a ruler, whom a ruler begat, beloved of the gods of Baqet, whom Khnum ornamented, vizier,³⁴ daughter of Thoth, great of strength, who has pleased the Two Lands, to whom the Two Ladies have given the common folk because of (her) perfection, whom Neith, mistress of Sais, has made brave, and whom Hathor has elevated through love of her Birth: *ḳlw-p3-tr3/ḳl3w-p3-dr3* (*qlu-pa-tra/qliu-pa-dra*), Cleopatra

Actium and the end of the Hellenistic World

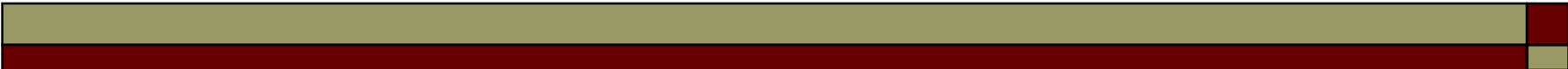
- Antony loses at Actium
- August 30 Octavian comes to Alexandria and formally ends Ptolemaic rule





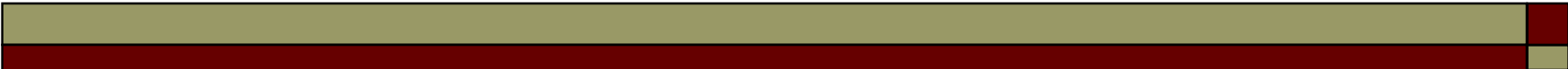
Roman Period

- ❑ 31BC: Eg. = province of Roman Empire (Mark Antony + Cleopatra VII defeated at Battle of Actium)
- ❑ No ruling family living in Egypt; members of Rome's élite classes = forbidden to enter Eg. without permission of emperor
- ❑ Romans left religion and culture of Egypt intact: temples completed (followed style of predecessors, represented in Egyptian manner)
- ❑ Important: Temple of Isis at Philae (cult of Isis incorporated into Roman religion as 'mystery cult')



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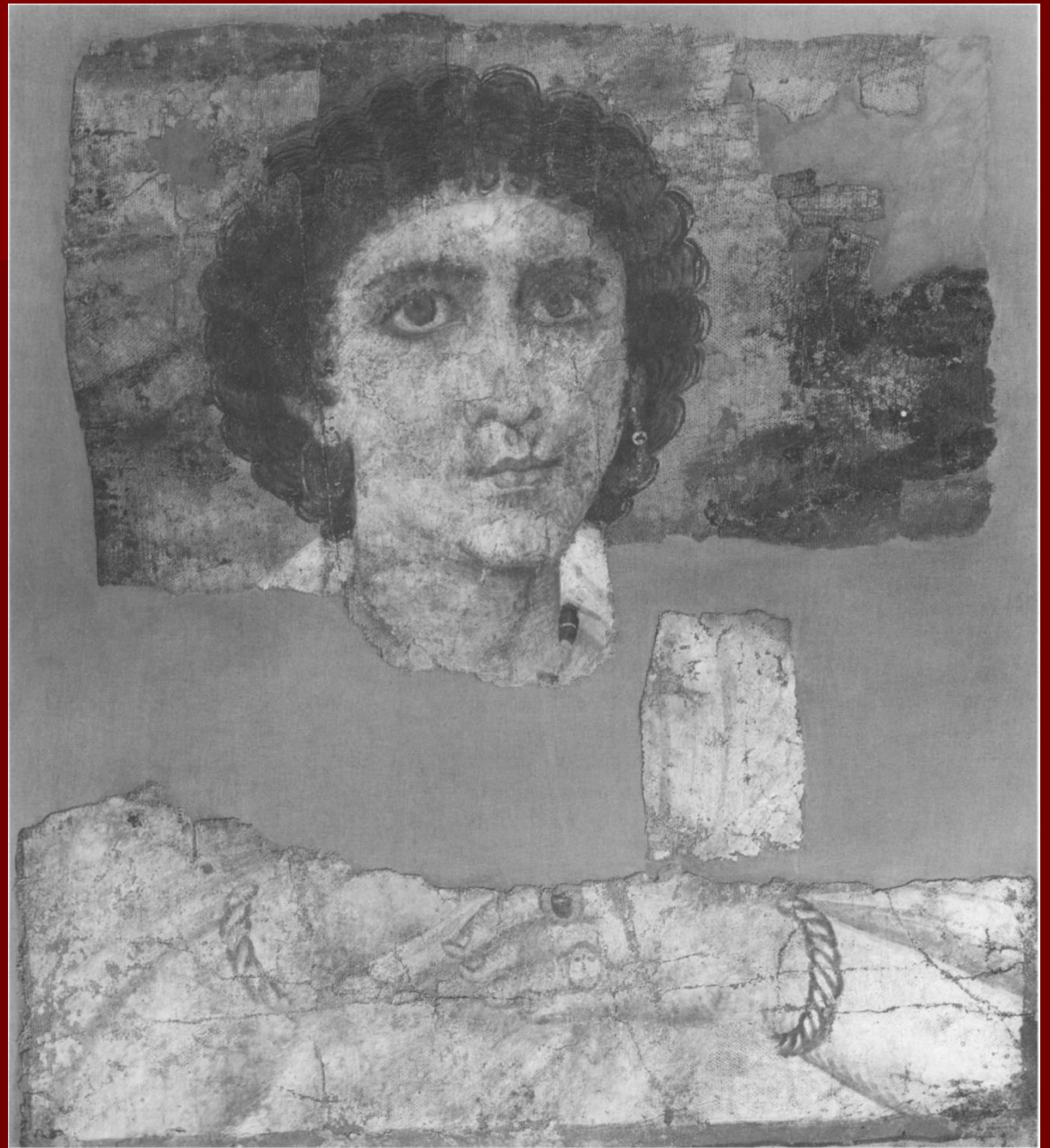
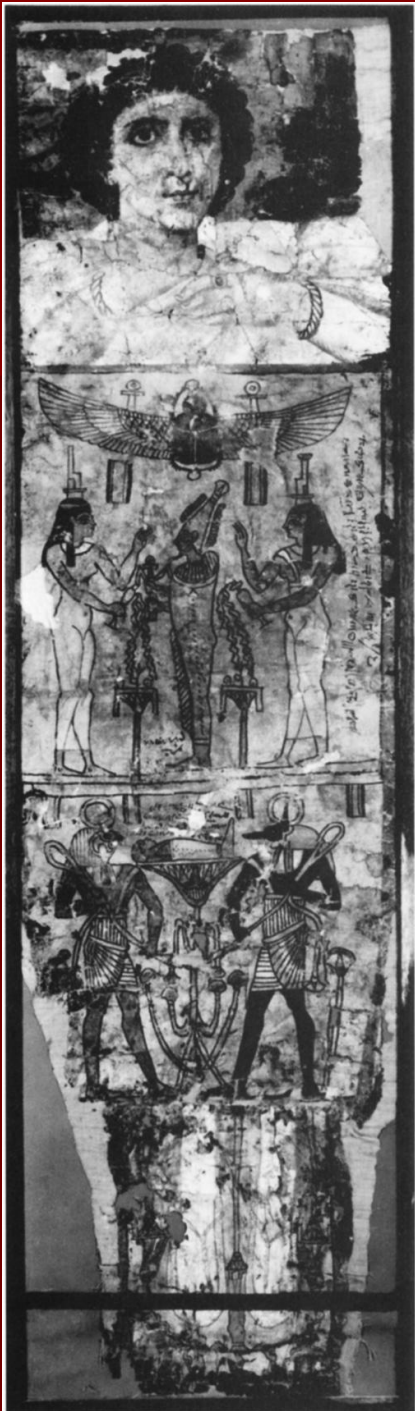


Roman Period

- ❑ Romans installed own administrative system (well documented in papyri)
- ❑ greatest changes: in everyday life
 - included the introduction of agricultural implements and practices → Eg. important for grain supply for Rome
 - iron-working
- ❑ Egyptian culture gradually became subsumed by that of the Roman empire.

Funerary art

- ❑ variation across regions and over, not to mention within, generations
- ❑ between the 2nd cen. B.C. and third cen. A.D. → range of funerary art produced in Egypt:
 - 1. portrait panels from mummies in the Delta, the Fayum
 - 2. commemorative shrines of uncertain provenance
 - 3. painted shrouds from Hawara in the Fayum, as well as Saqqara, Antinoe, Asyut and Thebes





Shroud of a boy named
Nespawtytawy, from
Thebes, second century
A.D. Oxford, Ashmolean
Museum 1913.924

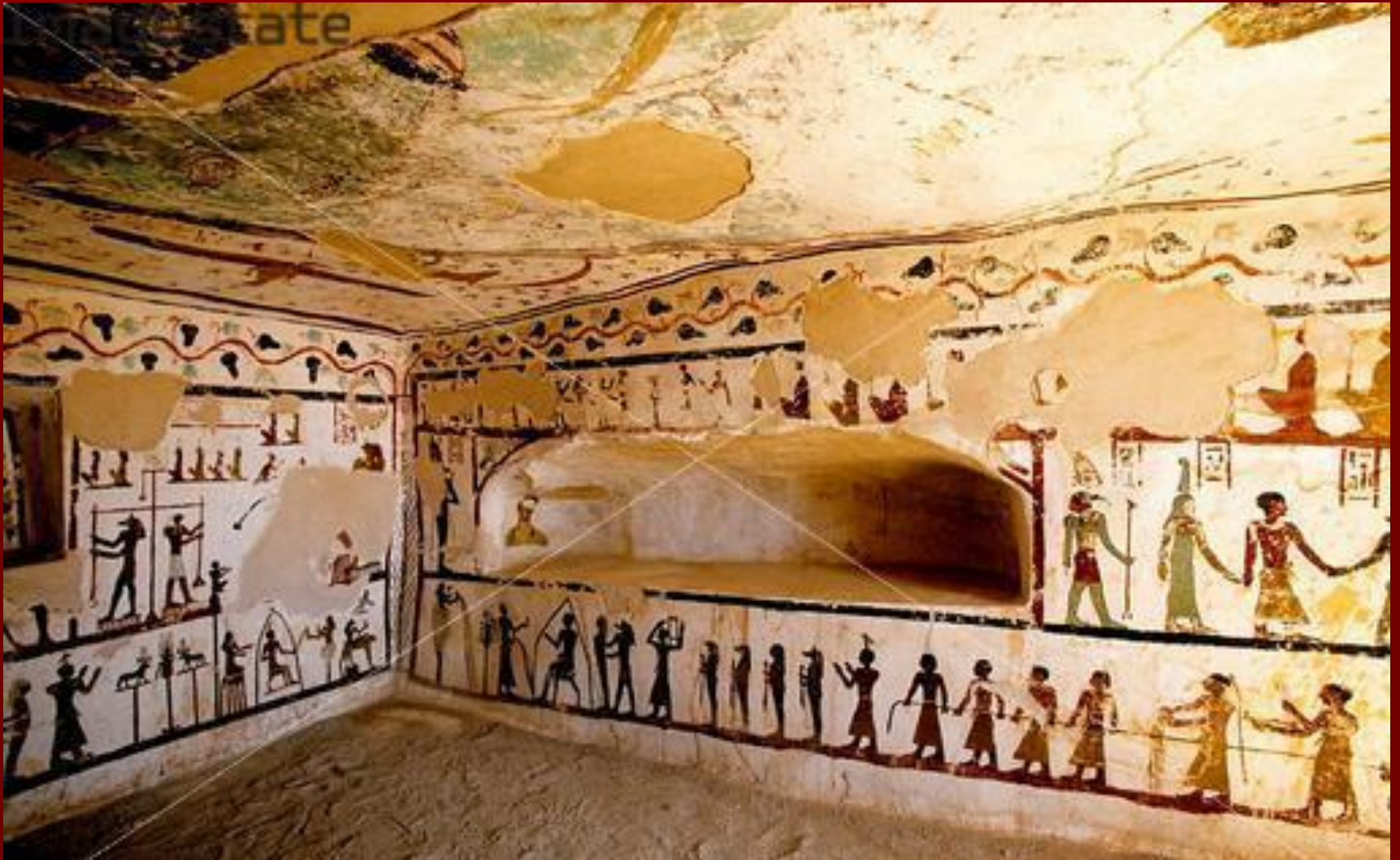


- **Mummy of Herakleites with Cartonnage and Portrait.** Roman Egyptian, 100-150 A.D. Wax tempera and gilding on a wooden panel; linen and encaustic. H: 175.3 x W: 44 x D: 33 cm (69 x 17 5/16 x 13 in.). J. Paul Getty Museum.

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 - 4. decorated tombs in Alexandria, Tuna el-Gebel, Qau el-Kebir, Akhmim, and the western oases, including Dakhleh Oasis

Decorated walls in Petosiris tomb, Muzawaka tombs. Dakhla oasis. Libyan desert



Dakhla, Qaret el Mouzawaka, Pedoubastis and Petosiris



Kom el Shuqafa, Alexandria

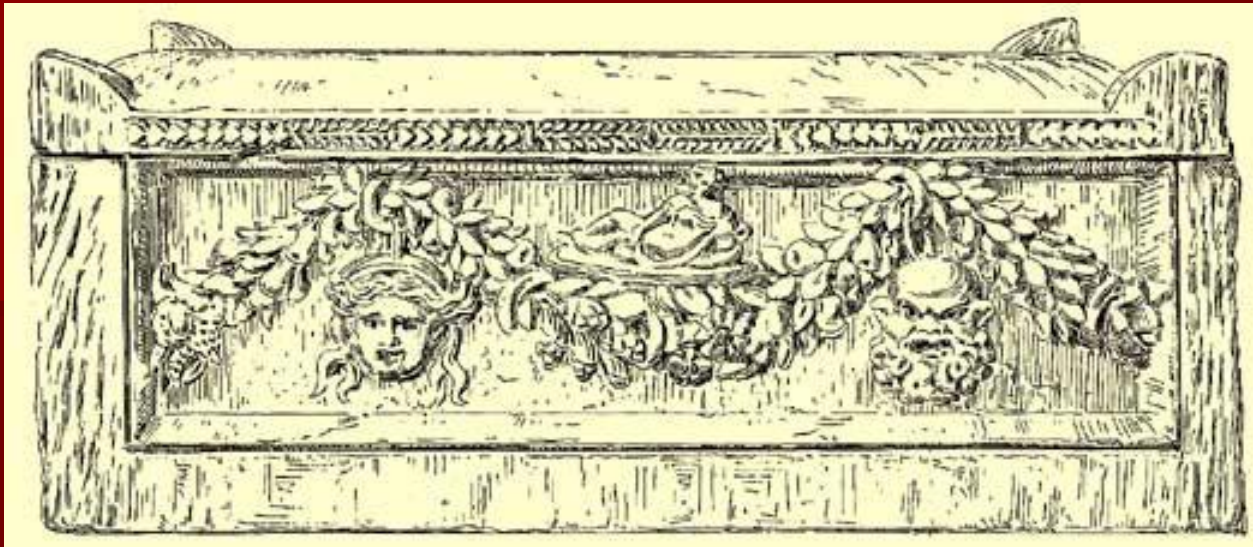


- Niches: house the statues
- slightly smaller than life size
- wear traditional ancient Egyptian costumes, but heads unmistakably Roman style
- according Roman portrait types: date Flavian period (69-98 AD)
- Statues intentionally embody two cultural traditions

Kom el Shuqafa, Alexandria



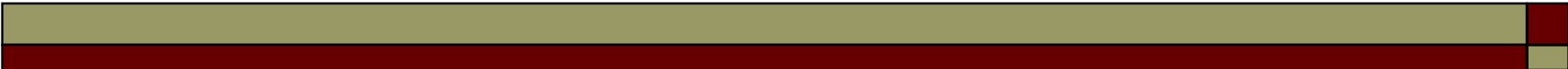
- Egyptian jackal-headed god Anubis in military uniform
- sundisk on his head, holding long staff / spear
- dressed as a Roman centurion: standing frontally, weight shifted to left leg, head facing entrance
- pose usually reserved for Hellenistic rulers / Roman emperors
- wears a muscle cuirass = armored breastplate over short chiton or tunic, short sword, lower right hand rests on shield, seen in profile.
- Guides doorway burial chamber



Sarcophagus



Wall behind
sarcophagus



Funerary art

- 5. mummy cases of mud-mixture or cartonnage from Akhmim
- 6. wooden coffins from Abusir el-Meleq, Middle Egypt, and Thebes
- 7. plaster and cartonnage mummy masks from the Fayum, Middle Egypt, Thebes, and the western oases, including Bahria Oasis
- 8. stelae from Terenouthis, Dendera, Abydos, and elsewhere
- 9. tomb sculptures from Tebtunis and Oxyrhynchus.

BM 29584

(Anthropoid mummy-
case; painted
cartonnage; no text)



Stela of a man named Besas, inscribed in hieroglyphs, Demotic, and Greek, first century A.D. Cairo, Egyptian Museum CG 27541

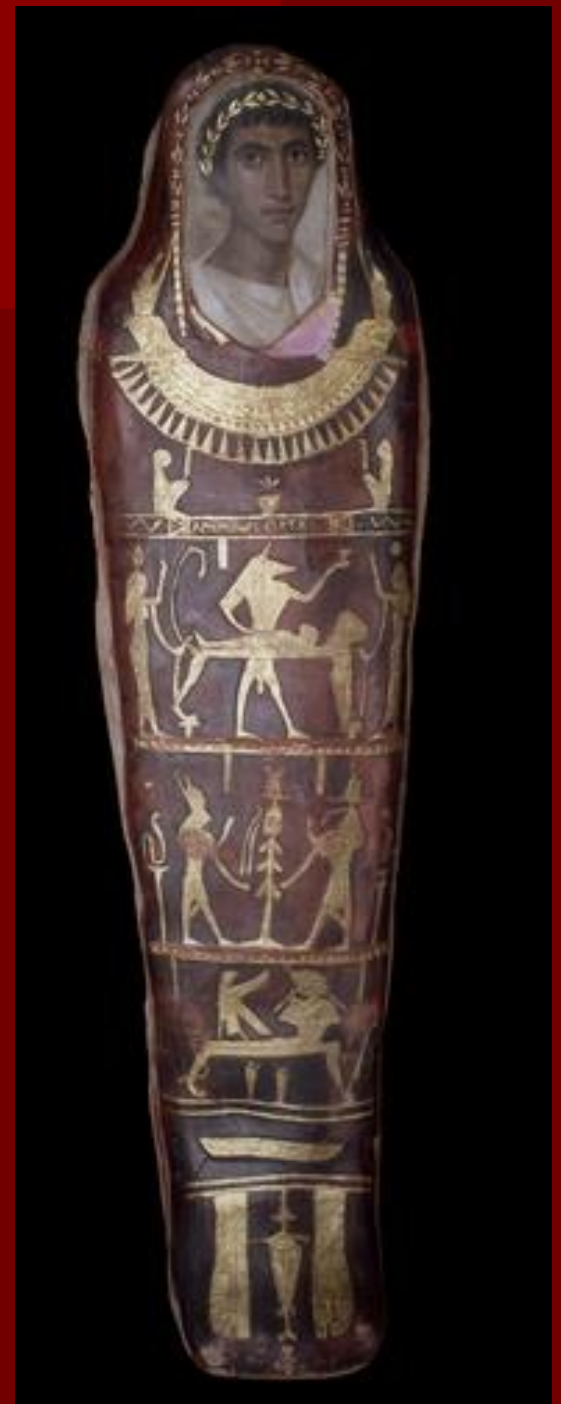


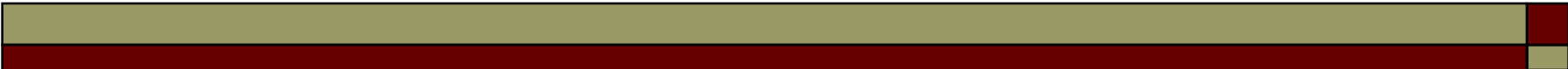
Mummy case and portrait of Artemidorus

Hawara

Roman Period (AD 100-120)

A mixture of cultural
influences





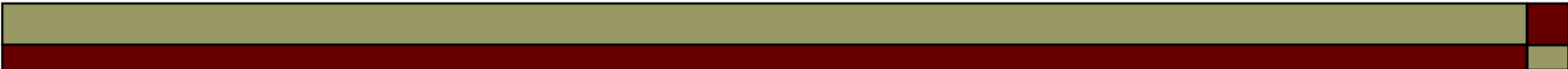
Egyptian mummy portraits

- portrait to show how individual would have looked like = important in Roman art: portraits placed in tombs as memorial of family members
- Mummy portrait appeared in first century AD, popular for 200 years
- placed on the outside of the cartonnage coffin (over head of individual or wrapped into mummy bandages)
- painted on wooden board (lifelike scale)



Painted plaster cartonnage mask of a woman

- ❑ covered upper body
- ❑ particularly popular in Middle Egypt
- ❑ face sometimes made separately in a mould and subsequently attached to the head-dress and torso
- ❑ Eg. Symbolic ornaments (collar, winged scarab beetle, protective wings of Isis and Nephthys)
- ❑ Roman influence: garland of rosebuds in hair, holds sprig of leaves (myrtle)



Egyptian mummy portraits

- ❑ Some dateable on basis of hairstyles, jewellery, clothes worn
- ❑ Possible identification of family members (physical similarities)
- ❑ Accuracy often been questioned: checked in comparison mummy board and mummy with techniques used in delicate facial surgery (portraits indeed show person) with some element of artistic licence (make people slimmer. ...)

Reuse of funerary artefacts



- *false door* from the tomb of User (vizier Queen Hatshepsut), found near Karnak temple, c. 1.80m, mentions him and Toy, his wife
- Sometime during the Roman period (30 B.C.-364 A.D.) false door was removed from User's tomb on west bank ; then incorporated into the wall of a Roman structure

Roman Annexation

With the suicide of Antony and Cleopatra in 30 BCE, Octavian took control of Egypt.

Roman officials and military personal had already been present in Egypt.

Most distinctly since the time of Caesar's intervention and during Antony's triumviral rule.

Also Aulus Gabinius (55 BC).

Roman businessmen and traders had already been present in earlier periods.

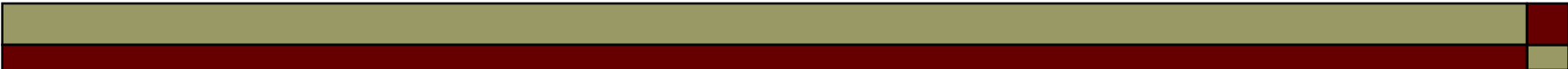
“And some also say that Cleopatra's arm was seen to have two slight and indistinct punctures; and this Caesar also seems to have believed. For in his triumph an image of Cleopatra herself with the asp clinging to her was carried in the procession...” – **Plutarch *Antony* 86.3.**



House of Giuseppe II, Pompeii. Cleopatra drinking poison with Caesarian standing behind her.

Philae





Roman Period

- ❑ Romans installed own administrative system (well documented in papyri)
- ❑ greatest changes: in everyday life
 - included the introduction of agricultural implements and practices → Eg. important for grain supply for Rome
 - iron-working
- ❑ Egyptian culture gradually became subsumed by that of the Roman empire
- ❑ Egypt ceases to exist as country and culture

Octavian's Initial Actions

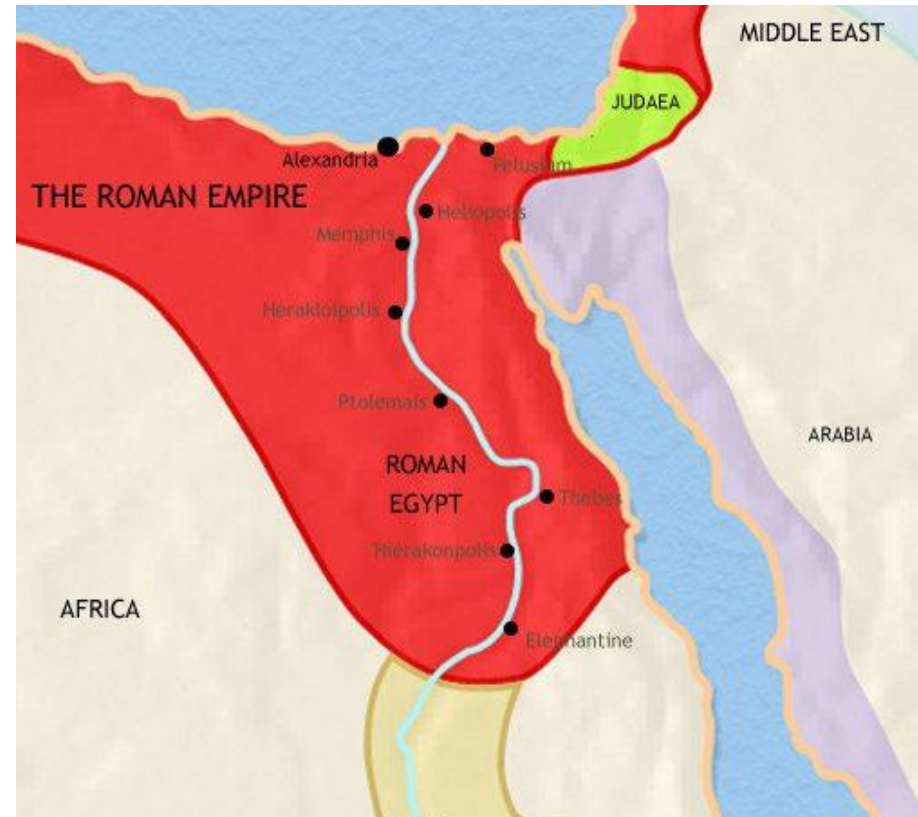
- Octavian (Augustus) revived stipulation of the need for a “passport” to enter and leave Egypt.
Senatorial elite primary targets.

- *Kaisereion* of Alexandria made into the *Sebasteion*.

Ritual acts of swearing oaths of the Roman emperors instituted.

“Caesar, Son of a God” –
P.Oxy. 12.1453.

- Foundation of Nikopolis.



Denarius,
minted 28
BCE. BM no:
1866,1201.4189



Management, Taxation and Early Revolts

- Land belonging to Antony, Cleopatra, their *philoï*, and estates connected to Egyptian temples confiscated
 - Former Royal land turned into public land or imperial estates.
- Land of *katoikoi* became transferable
- Liturgies and corvée continued/extended.
- Reorganisation of the irrigation system
- Revolt in the Thebiad as a result of new taxes
 - Inscription of Cornelius Gallus mentions subduing five cities.



Trilingual inscription of Cornelius Gallus (CIL 3.14147)

Offices and Administration

Prefect of Egypt appointed as governor (took over old royal palace in Alexandria).

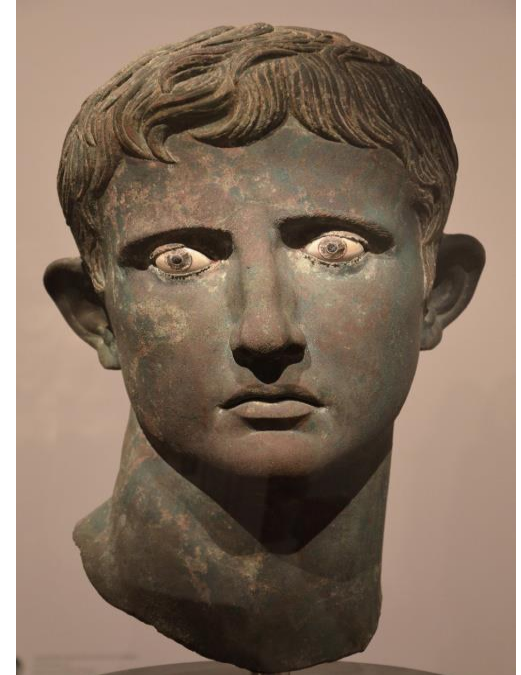
Equestrians appointed to some of the most senior posts, otherwise much of the Nome and lower Ptolemaic-style offices left in place.

- *epistratêgoi* supervised regions, while *stratêgoi* administered Nomes, supported by local secretaries.
- *archidikastês* continued to supervise legal tribunals.

Local administration centred on “capitals” (*metropoleis*).

The Romans and the Kingdom of Meroë

- ❑ Discontent in the Thebiad – support from Meroë?
- ❑ Portion of troops from the Triakontaschoinos withdrawn for Aelius Gallus' (26-24 BC) Arabian campaign [schoinos = c.40 stades].
- ❑ Capture of Syene, Elephantine and Philae.
- ❑ Gaius Petronius (24-21 BC) launches two Ethiopian campaigns in 24 BC and a second ending in 22 BC.



Augustan Treatment of Egyptian Subjects

- ❑ “Greeks” integrated into local administration, but exclusion of Egyptians.
- ❑ Augustus notionally excluded Egyptians from Roman senate and service in army (but not fleet).
- ❑ Alexandrian citizenship a pre-requisite for Roman citizenship.
- ❑ *epikrisis* (scrutiny) introduced in 4/5 CE, for membership of *gymnasion*.
- ❑ Roman citizens, Alexandrian citizens, members of *gymnasion* class, and Greek elites exempted from poll tax.

Taxes

- ▣ *tributum* (direct taxes)
 - capitis* (capitation or poll tax) – usually collected in cash
 - Egyptians paid about 160-40 drachmas, probably based on productivity of a region.
 - Censuses to determine liabilities.
 - solī* (land tax) – could be collected in kind, but also commuted to cash payment.
- ▣ *vectigalia* (indirect taxes)
 - customs duties, tolls, sales tax, etc.
- ▣ Other taxes: *chômatikon* (“dyke tax”), at 6 drachmas and 4 obols or its equivalent – *penthêmeros* (“five days”); also a surtax of 4-7 drachmae imposed on whole population, intended to cover taxes not paid by those who lacked income.

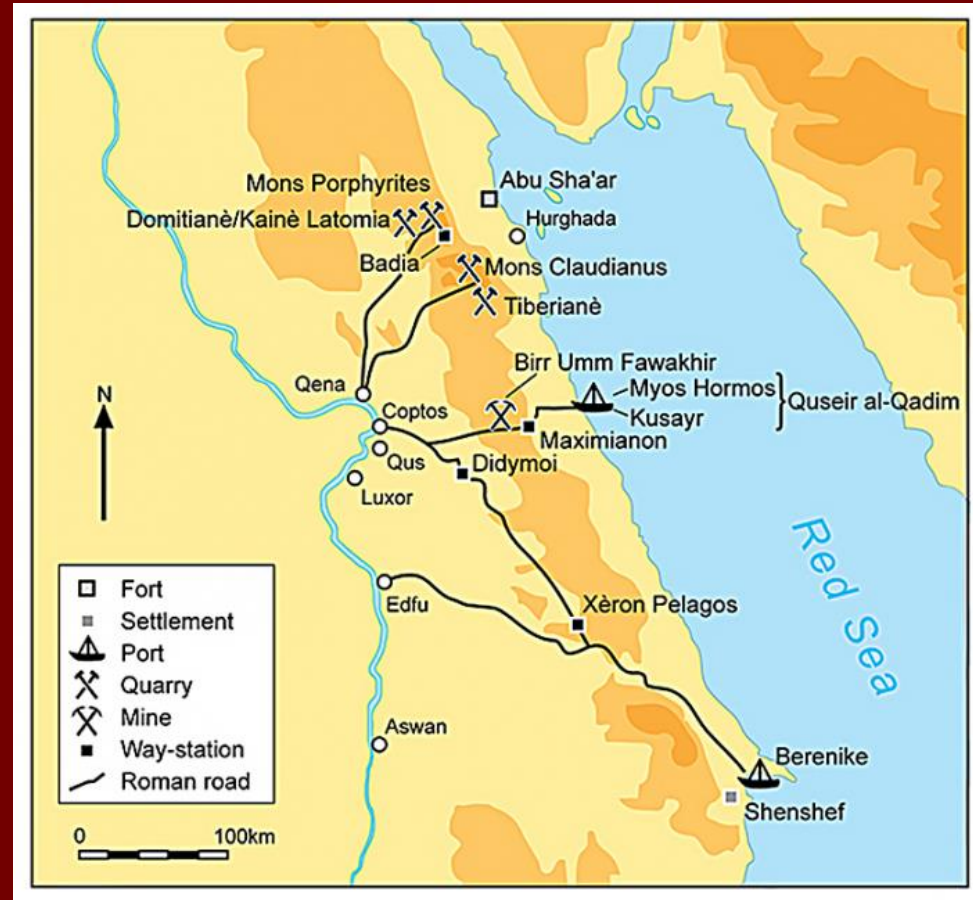


Grain Tax

- ▣ *sitologoi* (state officials who worked at the public granaries):
 - Distributed seed to those working on public land.
- ▣ *phorologoi* –supervisory role and ensured collection of grain tax.
- ▣ These Augustan era officials (based on Ptolemaic precedent), replaced by procurators in later periods.
- ▣ Whole villages may be responsible for collective taxes.
- ▣ Reports from Philo, and in contemporary papyri of brutality inflicted on taxpayers and tax-collectors who failed to deliver the agreed upon lump sum to the authorities.

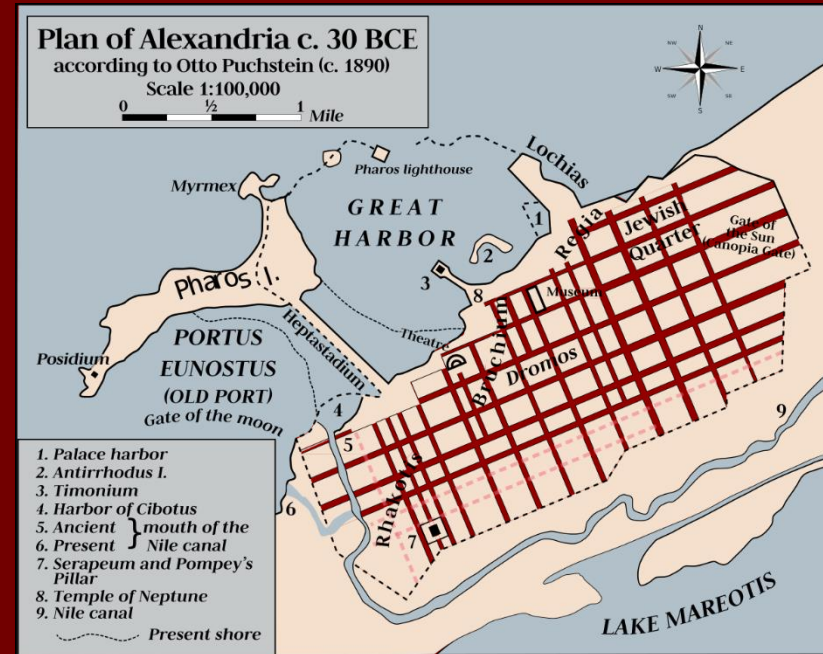
Mineral exploitation and international trade

- ▣ Quarrying activity: exploitation of the Eastern Desert for certain hard stones.
- ▣ Mining activity: some gold mining and activity in Mons Smaragdus region.
- ▣ Taxation of Indian Ocean goods imported via Egyptian Red Sea ports.



Inter-communal relations

- ▣ Diverse “ethnic” and linguistic population in Egypt.
- ▣ Egyptian, Greek, Jewish, among others.
 - Philo would claim that a million Jewish people lived in Egypt (*In Flaccum* 43).
- ▣ Demotic, the cursive script used in Persian and Ptolemaic periods declines by 2nd century CE (at least in documentary material). By Late Antique period, see development of Coptic.



Jewish Population of Egypt

- ▣ “Hellenic” Egyptians more clearly distinguished from Jewish population from Augustus onwards.
- ▣ Many Jewish people living in Alexandria; periodic tensions with “Greek” population.
- ▣ Also forms of accommodation, e.g. Tiberius Julius Alexander governor from 66-69 CE [apostate].

“There was now a tumult arisen at Alexandria, between the Jewish inhabitants and the Greeks; and three ambassadors were chosen out of each party that were at variance, who came to Gaius [Caligula]... [Apion a rival Greek ambassador pointed out that] these Jews alone thought it a dishonourable thing for them to erect statues in honour of him – **Josephus Jewish Antiquities 19.8.1.**

Women in Roman Egypt – Egyptian rights

- A range of letters have been recovered from Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt written by women (or by scribes on their behalf).

Set of letters connected to an Isidora, relating to her business interests (*BGU* 4.1204-7 – Augustan era).

- Some indication of female “primary school” teachers.
P.Oxy. 31.2595 (3rd century CE).

- More formal “Byzantine style” in Greek from Late Antiquity, but still colloquial styles in Coptic.



- More freedom for commercial and property transaction than for other women in part of the “Greek” world.
Note also the Roman practice of “right of 3 children”.
- Marriage confirmed by cohabitation; rights for unilateral divorce; less treatment as “legal minors”.