

TRAVAUX DU CENTRE D'ARCHÉOLOGIE MÉDITERRANÉENNE
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TOME 32

BARBARA TKACZOW
TOPOGRAPHY
OF ANCIENT ALEXANDRIA
(An Archaeological Map)

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185

Pharos Island

1. Qait Bey fort (on the site of the lighthouse)

Site: Rocky point on the northeastern side of the island, connected to it by an artificial embankment (cf. Site 1A), which slowly became a natural isthmus.

Disc./invest.: It is commonly accepted that the Qait Bey fort, built in 1477-1479, was constructed upon the foundations of the ancient lighthouse. One of the sources confirming this is fifteenth century report of Arab chronicler Sujuti.¹ Numerous descriptions of the fort and its vicinity mention a number of ancient ruins related to the lighthouse itself. Nevertheless, no thorough investigations were ever conducted of the fort or its neighbourhood. Thiersch's attempts to identify the foundations of the ancient lighthouse in certain parts of the fort foundations are debatable.² Reconstruction and clearing work in the grounds of the fort in the years 1980-1985 led to the discovery of a large cistern located just west of the keep.

Descr.: The dimensions (31 x 31m) and plan of the Qait Bey fort (Fig. 1) are supposed to reflect the dimensions and plan of the lowest stage of the lighthouse. On his plan Thiersch distinguished between extant walls and ones that were rebuilt (i.e. ancient) and marked the presumable perimeter of the lighthouse. He based his reconstruction of the plan and general appearance of the lighthouse mainly on ancient reports and Arab descriptions as well as iconographic sources and numerous structures from all over the Mediterranean, said to have been modelled after the Pharos lighthouse. Ancient rubble, mostly columns frequently mentioned in the vicinity of the fort, was thought to come from the decoration of the lighthouse itself as well as of its enclosure. As for the foundations of the lighthouse, said to support the building of the fort, they were not recognized in the end, but it can be assumed after Adriani that they were of large limestone blocks without mortar, built similarly to other Ptolemaic structures identified in the city and in the waters around the island (cf. *infra* Site 1C). It is generally assumed that most of the remains from the destroyed lighthouse were reused in the construction of the fort; the eighteenth and nineteenth century descriptions mention them only in passing. Following conservation in 1980-1981, some elements of the structure of the fort have been recognized as undoubtedly ancient: two rectangular and perhaps once moulded granite pedestals, two undecorated granite pilasters framing an entrance and a granite lintel which was undecorated (or else the decoration was removed). The "whole columns, marble capitals and fragments of cornices", mentioned in various descriptions, are nowhere in evidence.³

Dat.: The lighthouse was constructed in 300-280 B.C. Rebuilding and repairs are noted in a source for the fifth-sixth century A.D., but earlier works are not to be excluded.⁴ The lighthouse was destroyed on August 8, 1303, after which the ruins gradually deteriorated.

¹ (1) This is the last in a series of Arab mentions of the lighthouse, which was still standing in the twelfth century (after account of Idrisi Ibn Sayji) and already in ruins in the fourteenth (two separate accounts by Ibn Battuta in 1326 and 1349). The number of mentions is proof of lasting tradition of the location of the lighthouse, cf. A d r i a n i, Repertorio C, p. 103.

² (1) See A d r i a n i, Repertorio C, p. 105; also F o r s t e r, Alexandria, p. 151.

³ (1) V a u j a n y, Recherches, p. 7, reports that fragments were still visible under the roughness of the plaster. In the walls of the fort there are several pieces of granite columns, usually placed horizontally.

⁴ (1) It is known that in A.D. 500 the lowest tier of the lighthouse was restored by one Ammonios, cf. EAA I, p. 332, note 6; the name appears in Byzantine epigrams, cf. *Anth.Pal.* IX, 674.

Bibl.: cf. A d r i a n i, Repertorio C, pp. 103-106, with references concerning the history and reconstruction of the lighthouse. The fundamental study on the reconstruction of the lighthouse is Th i e r s c h ' s Pharos, Antike Islam und Occident, Tübingen 1909. Descriptions of the fort Qait Bey and ancient remains: S a i n t - G e n i s, DÉ Ant. V, pp. 17ff; D o l o m i e u, pp. 8-10; cf. Vaujany, Recherches, pp. 5-7. See also F r a s e r, Ptolemaic Alexandria I, pp. 17-21; II, pp. 45-46 (notes 99-128).

1A. Pier between lighthouse and island (secondary deposit of reused ancient elements).

Site: 350 metre long neck of land joining the island to the lighthouse point.

Disc./invest.: The first descriptions of this place and the ancient relics found here come from 1738 (Norden) and from 1798-1799 (Saint-Genis and Dolomieu) and are simply repeated in later reports, making it difficult to tell when exactly did these ruins disappear from view. No excavations were ever conducted here with the exception of Jondet's underwater investigations in 1911-1915 (cf. *infra* Sites 1B and 1C) which indicated that the lighthouse point had actually been an island once and that the neck of land joining it to the island was artificial.

Descr.: The Arab chronicler Ibn el Sayi (1165) gives the dimensions of the pier: 348 m long, 11.60 m wide and 1.75 m above sea level. From the descriptions of Saint-Genis and Dolomieu, it is clear that the pier was constructed using ancient architectural elements, mainly columns, although capitals, pedestals and sarcophagi fragments are also mentioned. Among the column shafts there are great columns of Aswan granite as well as marble and limestone pieces; papyrus and lotus (with lotus bud capitals) columns of granite are described separately, as are numerous shafts and fragments of columns in the Greek style. There is a triglyph fragment of black granite and a cornice fragment. A certain number of finely dressed plain limestone blocks was noted as well. Norden as well as Saint-Genis and Dolomieu observed the unique construction of the pier which apparently consisted of blocked "arcades", reinforced and faced with the ancient elements they saw. All three sources considered the arcades to be the remains of an ancient structure, enlarged and reinforced by the Arabs.

Date: Jondet's investigations led him to believe that the lighthouse point was once separated from the island by channel for ships. Never once did the question of the construction date of the pier become the subject of investigation. Amateur archaeologist, abbé Suard, was of the opinion that it was built together with the coastline fortifications in 1168-1171. Saint-Genis originally thought it to be from the beginning of the Turkish period (1517), but in the end he came to consider it as contemporary with the rest of the Arab fortifications of Alexandria, that is from about 875. A late date for the construction of the pier is suggested by the number of ancient remains which must have come, at least in part, from the demolishing of structures on the island. The question of the unique arcade construction remains unexplained; it is not even known what material it was made of.

Bibl.: Norden, Voyage, p. 3; S a i n t - G e n i s, DÉ Ant. V, pp. 24-25; D o l o m i e u, p. 8; J o n d e t, Les ports submergés, pp. 48-49, pl. IV; S u a r d, p. 21. Cf. also A d r i a n i, Repertorio C, p. 105 and F r a s e r, Ptolemaic Alexandria I, p. 18, and II, pp. 44-45 note 98.

Remark: Most of the ancient materials used in the construction of the pier are believed to come from the lighthouse itself or from the vicinity. However, the variety of the material would suggest that building elements were brought here from the lighthouse, but also from as far away as the city on the mainland. A complete lack of records precludes more specific determinations.

1B. Submerged ruins around the pier and fort

Site: Submerged ruins northeast and southeast of the lighthouse point and pier, relatively close to the shore and on the shore of Manshiyah (Fig. 2).

Disc./invest.: First observed by Saint-Genis in 1798, then by Mahmud Bey in 1866. Briefly explored by Jondet during his investigations of the northern and western sides of the island (cf. Site 1C). Sporadic underwater explorations in the postwar years brought a few spectacular finds (Objs. 1 and 325). In 1979 an American TV network crew filmed some of the preserved ruins.

Descr.: Saint-Genis described the remains of pilasters visible underwater, the foundations of the lighthouse in his opinion, and ruins of structures constituting a continuation of the lighthouse precinct. There is no trace of these ruins either on his map or on that of Le Père, although they do appear on Napier's map (1841). Mahmud Bey described the ruins briefly as some kind of pier and marked their course on his plan ("maçonnerie antique à fleur d'eau"). Limestone blocks had presumably been used in the construction. Fallen columns were also used and Adriani was of the opinion that Saint-Genis' "pilasters" were actually columns. Jondet noted about 30 granite columns lying north of the lighthouse point (between the forts Adda and Qait Bey). The columns were 7 to 8 m tall and 0.80 m in diameter; some were built into the walls of the Qait Bey fort, others lay on the beach, to the left of the entrance to the fort. The latter columns were still seen in the twenties by Forster, who also noted fragments of marble and spotted granite. In 1886-1888 Vaujany was able to see, when the sea was quiet, marble blocks, granite pilasters and brick walls as well as shafts of granite columns used in the construction of the breakwaters around the fort.

The course of submerged walls as indicated by Mahmud Bey would suggest a jetty or port docks of some kind. The fallen columns, which are usually attributed to the porticoes surrounding the lighthouse, could be *in situ* – part of a structure which had once stood on this spot, or they could have come from later fortifications where they were reused as building material.

Date: There is no information on the date of these ruins, but the presence of brick walls and columns of Aswan granite under water could be indicative of the Roman period.⁵ Mahmud Bey observes quite enigmatically that the submerged ruins were built in a relatively recent period and for an unknown purpose.

Bibl.: S a i n t - G e n i s, DÉ Ant. V, pp. 24-25; M a h m u d B e y, Mémoire, p. 44. These submerged ruins can be seen on the map of E. Napier from 1844 (cf. J o n d e t, Atlas, pl. XXXIII); they are marked on the plans of Neroutsos and W. Sieglin, and on the synthetic plan by Blomfield, cf. A d r i a n i, Repertorio C, pp. 54, 59, 61-62; see also: J o n d e t, Les ports submergés, p. 36 ff; V a u j a n y, Recherches, p. 7. also A d r i a n i, Repertorio C, p. 105.

1C. Submerged ruins north and west of the island

Site: Ruins on the sea bottom about 600 m from the coast, around Ras el Tin point and Anfushy Bay, were identified in different spots at depths.

Disc./invest.: A series of underwater investigations were conducted in 1911-1915 by G. Jondet, in connection with the building of new port installations.

⁵ (1B) The granite statue of Isis (Obj. 1) found in context with Site 1B, is considered Ptolemaic in date, similarly as the reused elements of decoration found in the construction of the pier in Site 1A. Thus, we have here a very mixed deposit containing objects from various epochs. In the last thirty years the sea around Site 1B has yielded new objects, including a great granite pedestal in 1963 and a colossal granite statue of Egyptian style in 1983, cf. *Orientalia* 57,3, 1988, p. 309.

Descr.: The ruins, which ran along the northern coast of the island starting from Ras el Tin point, included breakwaters, port docks and jetties, constructed of large limestone blocks without mortar. Apparently no reused materials were observed. The following constructions were identified; a "great western port" northwest of Ras el Tin point, including piers, waterfronts and docks and two lines of fortifications (breakwaters) with an entrance on the southwest; remains of a "private port" (at the foot of the modern lighthouse); an islet with remains of ancient constructions to the northwest of this port; waterfront structures and the "commercial port" on the site of the modern coast guard barracks (Fig. 3).

On the submerged beach of the "great western port", between forts Adda and Qait Bey, Jondet noted the remains of a necropolis(?) and great structures typical of a port. On the rocks at sea level all along the coast of Anfushy Bay there were the remains of jetties and traces of structures extending right up to the location of the Qait Bey fort (cf. *supra* Site 1B).

Date: Jondet believed the ruins to be the remains of the Ramesside port; other scholars attributed the structures to the Cretans (Weil), still others placed them in the Graeco-Roman period (Thuile, Breccia). Only Lehmann-Hartleben was of the opinion that the structures should be dated to Late Antiquity.⁶ Adriani opted for an early date for the ruins, but was not specific; he rejected the Cretan hypothesis, but did not exclude the Ramesside one.

Bibl.: J o n d e t, Les ports submergés, p. 36 ff; A d r i a n i, Repertorio C, p. 58, no. 7.

1D. "Fort" and canals

Site: **Manshiya** district in the southern part of the island, spot almost directly opposite the end of the hypothetical line of the *Heptastadion*. The constructions which Mahmud Bey gave as reference points no longer exist, but they are fortunately marked y and y' on his map (cf. Fig. V).

Disc./invest.: Mahmud Bey described these ruins in 1866; they were never mentioned again.

Descr.: Mahmud Bey described part of a network of canals and inspection wells found here (points x, y, z on his plan). According to him the system was a continuation of the aqueduct which ran along the *Heptastadion*. Mahmud Bey took the small eminence on this spot to be the remains of a fort (*castellum*), but he apparently did not have any concrete evidence in support of such an identification. At least he does not mention any.⁷

Date: Insufficient records to date the Site.

Bibl.: M a h m u d B e y, Mémoire, pp. 38-40; B o t t i, La côte, p. 54.

Remark: According to Mahmud Bey, this network of canals was the island continuation of the so called IInd underground aqueduct running from Lake Mareotis and branching off at the base of the *Heptastadion* (cf. *infra* the cisterns in Sites 10, 10A, 10B and 18A – possibly connected with this network). Many canal outlets were found on the northern shore of the island and the cisterns discovered at a later date (*infra* Site 1E) also constitute a part of this network.⁸

1E. Ptolemaic necropolis

Site: On the coast of **Anfushy** Bay in the district of the same name in the northwestern part of the island.

⁶ (1C) See A d r i a n i, Repertorio C, p. 262.

⁷ (1D) The "fort" in the southern part of the island is also mentioned by S u a r d, p. 44.

⁸ (1D) S a i n t - G e n i s, DÉ Ant. V, p. 215, see also S u a r d, pp. V and 41.

Disc./invest.: An ancient necropolis was identified on the island already in 1798-1799, but it is not quite clear which necropolis the reference concerned. Saint-Genis spoke of ruined catacombs in the rocks of the western part of the island, while Dolomieu mentioned ancient tombs in the northern and northwestern part of the island. In his commentary on this report, Daressy expressed the view that it was Anfushy which was meant in this case.

The discovery and investigation of the Anfushy necropolis took place in several stages. Excavations of the Graeco-Roman Museum in Alexandria were conducted first by Breccia, then by Adriani, in the years 1901, 1913-1914, 1919-1920 and 1939-1940.

Descr.: Saint-Genis described the necropolis in the western part of the island as rock-cut catacombs with walls and ceilings plastered and preserving still in places the frescoes painted on them. Other tombs were to be found further inland, especially in the vicinity of the hill that is apparent in the middle of the island. Saint-Genis noted that the catacombs consisted of numerous interconnected chambers, partly filled with sand in his time.

Dolomieu observed that the floors of the tombs were below sea level and that many still preserved the decoration, garlands and stuccowork, and the remains of a Greek inscription painted "sur une pierre supérieure d'une niche" Both Saint-Genis and Dolomieu stressed the degree of similarity between the tombs on the island and those on the mainland (probably tombs from Sites 2B, 3 and 4), adding that the island tombs were in a much better state.

The Anfushy cemetery complex presently consists of six tombs (only five have undergone conservation). The tombs are underground structures, cut rather deeply into bedrock, extending over an area of about 60 m². Tombs I-IV form one group, tomb V lies some distance away (Fig. 4). All the tombs are of the *oikos* type. No traces of aboveground structures were found, but cisterns were uncovered in places, for instance above tomb II a chamber with six pillars was observed.

Date: Second-first century B.C.

Bibl.: First mentions: S a i n t - G e n i s, DÉ Ant. V, pp. 215, 391; D o l o m i e u, p. 11; B o t t i, La côte, p. 52. Cisterns: B r e c c i a, Rapport 1919-1920, p. 67. Necropolis: B r e c c i a, Alexandria 1914, pp. 115-120; A d r i a n i, Repertorio C, pp. 191-197, nos. 141-146 and p. 266.

1F. Ptolemaic necropolis

Site: **Ras el Tin** point in the northwestern part of the island, the gardens of the royal palace.

Disc./invest.: It is possible that these tombs were described by Saint-Genis and Dolomieu (cf. *supra*). Their discovery and clearing took place in the years 1913-1914 and 1939-1940.

Descr.: The Ras el Tin complex of eleven tombs was not preserved and a collective plan of the necropolis was never made. The tombs appeared both in groups and as isolated hypogea, all were of the *oikos* type and cut in bedrock. No structures were noted on ground surface.

Date: Second-first century B.C.

Bibl.: Cf. A d r i a n i, Repertorio C, pp. 188-191, nos. 134-140 (with earlier bibliography).

Remark: Sites 1E and 1F, both uncovered in part only, could in fact belong to **one and the same** necropolis.⁹

⁹ (1F) J o n d e t noted traces of catacombs in the submerged ruins he was investigating (Site 1C), cf. id., Les ports submergés, p. 34). Abbé S u a r d, cf. id., pp. 41, 42), who in 1899 travelled extensively in the island, searching for antiquities, noted the remains of catacombs in many places on the shore, most of them damaged to a large extent by the sea. However, his observations leave doubts whether the catacombs he saw were not in fact canal exits (cf. *supra* note 8) observed by V a u j a n y a few years earlier (in: Alexandrie et la Basse Égypte, p. 35).

Eastern Districts

72. Submerged ruins (waterfront?)

Site: **Eastern Port/shore**, on Mahmud Bey's grid the section of the shore between the lines marked by streets R4 and R3, closer to R4. The ruins were found on a small point, part of the old shoreline before the Corniche was built, but the majority of them were already partly under water, beyond the shoreline.

Disc./invest.: The ruins were described in 1798-1799 by Saint-Genis and Dolomieu; they remained *in situ* till the end of the nineteenth century (Fig. 46 a-b). Dolomieu noticed that they were already missing many blocks taken as building elements to other sites. Mahmud Bey investigated the course of the ruins and established on this basis the line of the ancient waterfront and an artificial point, called the *Timonion* in written sources. The last description comes from 1888; Vaujany mentions having made some tests in these ruins, but he is presumably referring to a surface investigation of shallowly submerged rubble. The ruins or what was left of them appear in Adriani's photographs which were taken shortly before the construction of the Corniche.¹⁴⁷

Descr.: All the descriptions provide a fairly homogeneous view of the ruins: long walls running into the sea, perpendicular to the shoreline and partly submerged, with submerged rubble all around. Dolomieu noted five such walls, built of enormous limestone blocks (2 m in height, 3 m in length and width). Mahmud Bey's observations included a description of a natural rocky point extended by a wall built onto it, running into the sea some 300 m, ending in a wide platform; all the relics were about 2 to 3 m below water surface. Vaujany's description is extremely chaotic; one can glean from it only the somewhat doubtful information that there were two walls. One of the walls had no more than a few meters and constituted simply an extension of natural rocky point, the other extended into the sea about 30 m. The two walls were probably parallel, but this is not quite clear. Both walls ended in submerged rubble which included enormous blocks (with worn as well as sharp edges to believe Vaujany), various architectural fragments of granite and marble and the shafts of granite columns measuring supposedly up to 1 m in diameter. Vaujany moves on to describe the waterfront, which he says he traced in his tests, "at the Poseidion" and a pier deviating to the northwest. His description conforms with Mahmud Bey's reconstruction of the course of the waterfront. Along it Vaujany saw the rubble of columns and some statues.¹⁴⁸

Date: Presumably the remains of Ptolemaic waterfront constructions and later rubble.

Bibl.: Saint-Genis, *DÉ Ant. V*, p. 47; Dolomieu, p. 35, no. 5; Mahmud Bey, *Mémoire*, p. 43; Vaujany, *Recherches*, pp. 16-18 (15 and 20 too, see note 148) Adriani, *Saggio*, no. 35 (localization of the Site).

¹⁴⁷ (72) Adriani, *Repertorio C*, pp. 66 and 69, nos. 14 and 21, also Adriani, *Annuario* 1932-33, tav. XXVIII-XXXI; since the illustrations were not described in the text, they cannot be surely attributed to any particular Site apart of the view from tav. XXVIII (contained Sites 73, 81 and 82).

¹⁴⁸ (72) Vaujany, *Recherches*, p. 15, where he describes in detail what he mentions only briefly on p. 20; the description from p. 15 probably refers to a greater area covering Sites 72 and 73 (remarks on parallel walls of great limestone blocks and a deposit of fallen columns and fragments of "Egyptian statues"). The basalt statues (or rather statuettes perhaps) depicted the feline head of the goddess Pascht(?) and Isis in a diadem in the form of the hieroglyphic sign denoting her name. The statues, found shattered, were in Vaujany's opinion broken on purpose.

72A. Enclosure and street (passage?)

Site: **Eastern Port/shore**, some metres on the west from the Site 72, in the garden in front of the FAO building.

Disc./Invest.: Trial pits surveyed by Graeco-Roman Museum in 1983 during the building works in this spot.

Descr.: Two long and large limestone walls with unpaved passage between them. The orientation of the walls and the passage is different than orientation of Mahmud Bey's grid (Fig. 47a-b).

Date: Late Ptolemaic or Early Roman Period.

Bibl.: M. Rodziewicz, A.A. Fatah, *Recent Discoveries in the Royal Quarter of Alexandria*, BSAA 44, 1991, pp. 131-150.

Remark: Constructions and streets with orientation different than Mahmud Bey's grid: cf. *supra* Sites 45 and 46.

73. "Palais ruiné" II – baths?

Site: **Eastern Port/shore**, according to Mahmud Bey a site on the line taken by street R3 next to the Arab fortifications, on a tiny point existing here before the building of the Corniche. Actually, the complex of ruins is formed by two Sites set a short distance apart, the first directly on the shore, the other a little further inland, next to a dungeon in the Arab walls built partly on top of these ruins. This part of the fortifications was an addition to the main part of the circuit and was sometimes omitted from city plans.

Disc./invest.: The complex of ruins on the shore remained *in situ* till the turn of the nineteenth century and the dungeon mentioned above is still visible on photographs made shortly before the construction of the Corniche (cf. *supra* Site 72). The ruins were described in 1798-1799 by Saint-Genis,¹⁴⁹ Le Père and Dolomieu, under different names; "Palais ruiné" was the name given them by Le Père (Fig. 48a). The last description of the complex on the shore was left by Vaujany in 1888 and Botti in 1892. Curiously enough, neither Mahmud Bey nor Neroutsos devoted any attention to them. The other part of these ruins was discovered during Noack's excavations in 1900 (trial pit K4).

Descr.: The ruins on the point were described by Saint-Genis, Dolomieu and Le Père as the remains of a brick bathing structure. The foundations were of limestone blocks set directly upon bedrock, as noted by Saint-Genis. The brick structure – "grande massé carrée" according to Dolomieu – included a complex of furnaces where firing temperatures had vitrified the brick on the surface. Below the furnaces there were small vaulted rooms (corridors?) and in two places below the footing of the walls of these rooms, directly on the shore line, it was possible to observe the mouths of canals(?) of some kind (Fig. 48b). The inside walls of the structure were lined with a waterproof plaster (which Dolomieu called stucco and which was supposedly made up of gypsum, marble, brick powder and slag). Close to the ruins Dolomieu also noted part of a Roman street paved with pieces of basalt ("pavé de lavé"). The street lay on a layer of debris about 6 feet thick (= 2 m).

According to Vaujany, the brick ruins were 15 m wide and extended 29 m into the sea (cf. *supra* Fig. 46a). The Arab dungeon mentioned above stood at the edge of the field of rubble, while the whole environs of the point were strewn with large pieces of destroyed brick walls. Botti repeated the description of the ruins after Saint-Genis, but noticed something the others had missed, namely, that the limestone blocks of the foundations were actually part of an earlier structure; he also noted some smaller elements such as the shafts

¹⁴⁹ (73) Saint-Genis, *DÉ Ant. V*, p. 37, thought that this bathing structure could have accompanied a "temple of Neptune"; upon investigation, he believed that the "canals" had once been filled with seawater.

(drum?) of a Doric column and a half of a monumental granite lintel, either submerged just offshore or buried in the sand of the beach. Some of the blocks of the underpinning (Mex limestone and nummulithic limestone) bore stonecutter's marks. Sites 72 and 73 are separated by about 125 m; perhaps the limestone constructions on this Site are a continuation of the walls found of Site 72. Noack presumably discovered a continuation of the same structure in his trial pit to the south, but did not associate Saint-Genis' and Botti's observations with his own findings. The constructions he found were made of large well-dressed limestone blocks; later structures were built into them.

The street identified by Dolomieu is presumably the western extension of street L α , section of which Noack himself identified much farther to the east (cf. Sites 122A-B and 123A). Noack also observed that the limestone walls conformed with Mahmud Bey's network.

Date: Roman building founded on the ruins of Ptolemaic structures; no details on the small finds make dating impossible.

Bibl.: Saint-Genis, DÉ Ant.V, pp. 47-48; Dolomieu, p. 36, no. 6 (see also no. 5 – neighbourhood of Sites 72 and 73); Vaujany, Recherches, pp. 18-19; Botti, La côte, pp. 81-83; id., BSAA 2, 1899, p. 62; Noack, Neue Untersuchungen, pp. 225, 262; Adriani, Saggio, no. 27(a) and 28(b) – localization of the Site. See also id., Repertorio C, p. 66, no. 14.

Remark: It is possible, as stated above, that the Site 72 and the two parts of the Site 73 are parts of a larger construction constituting the architectural frame of the waterfront. Ruins similar to those in Site 73 are also to be found relatively close to it, on the shore to the east (Site 75) and to the west (Site 104). In older accounts these Sites are often jumbled owing to the inaccuracy in giving distance from reference points and they frequently appear under such fantastic names as "palace of Cleopatra", "palace of Alexander", "palace of the Ptolemies", and last but not least, "Baths of Cleopatra".¹⁵⁰

74. Foundations and deposit of architectural elements

Site: **Eastern Port/shore**; according to Mahmud Bey the section of the shore between the lines followed by streets R3 and R2, on the southern side of the hypothetical extension of street L α .

Disc./invest.: Noack's trial pit K3 of 1901 (see Fig. VII).

Descr.: On sea level Noack discovered a deposit of architectural elements containing sections of limestone column bases and an Ionian capital of nummulithic limestone (Obj. 63). A long wall (foundation?) of limestone blocks, half buried in the sand, ran far into the water and was visible when the sea was quiet.

Date: Possibly the remains of a Ptolemaic construction.

Bibl.: Noack, Neue Untersuchungen, pp. 224, 229, 262; Adriani, Saggio, no. 22 (localization of the Site).

Remark: It remains unclear what the relation of Noack's wall was to the waterfront in this section, as traced by Mahmud Bey on his plan (cf. *infra* Site 76).

75. Baths?

Site: **Eastern Port/shore**; a small point on the old shoreline, close to the present Champollion street. According to Mahmud Bey, a Site north of L α , between the lines marked by streets R3 and R2, about 50 m north-east of Site 74.

Disc./invest.: Ruins uncovered during construction works(?) before the year 1870 and remaining *in situ* till the end of the eighties of the nineteenth century. Described by Vaujany in 1888. Earlier on they were presumably buried in sand, for they were not mentioned in the DÉ. On the other hand, Wilkinson's account of 1841 appears to refer to this Site: "west of Lochias there are ruins on the edge of the sea, while a few steps beyond the mouth of a canal¹⁵¹ there are remains of a building ...". The description appears to agree with Vaujany's introduction; possibly the two authors described different parts of the same ruins.

Descr.: According to Wilkinson, the ruins consisted of structures, reservoirs, solid walls and shattered granite columns. Wilkinson also found a small Harpocrates statue in the debris; he bequeathed it to the British Museum later on. In Vaujany's version, the ruins were the bottom part of a bathing establishment with several vaulted rooms lying in axis. The brick walls were lined with waterproof plaster which also covered small marble columns set in one of the rooms. The part directly adjacent to the sea was ruined the most, but the ruins did not go far into the sea; rather they extended along the coast, especially to the east. Evidence of foundations was discovered near the reservoirs of a tannery, lying about 100 m to the east (see *supra* Fig. 46a). According to Vaujany, the area covered almost 150 square metres.

Date: Roman building, presumably the substructure of a baths or some other building requiring water.

Bibl.: Wilkinson, Modern Egypt, p. 157; Vaujany, Recherches, pp. 23-24 (part described by Wilkinson) and pp. 24-27 (the important part); Adriani, Saggio, no. 21 (localization of the Site).

Remark: None of the descriptions notes anything about the foundations of the structure.

76 A-B. Submerged ruins (waterfront and port?)

Site: **Eastern Port/shore**; the two Sites were located on the old shoreline and contained ruins of similar nature, perhaps belonging to a larger complex. **Site A** was found on the shore at the exit of street R2, **Site B** on the shore also, at the base of Silsileh point, between streets R2 and R1.

Disc./invest.: **Site A** was described by Saint-Genis and Le Père; the ruins in **Site B** were *in situ* till the eighties of the nineteenth century and were described by Vaujany, but not registered by Saint-Genis or Le Père. Submerged ruins in this area were also observed by Mahmud Bey.

Descr.: Sites **A** and **B** were separated by about 200 m. Both contained constructions belonging presumably to the ancient waterfront. On **Site A** there were the remains of a wall (walls?) made of great well-dressed limestone blocks; Saint-Genis marked them as "ruines" on his plan (cf. *supra* Fig. 19c), while Le Père designated them "molé ruiné" (cf. *supra* Fig. 48c).¹⁵² On **Site B** Vaujany noted some indistinct stone walls appearing out of the water a few meters offshore and running about 60 m into the sea.

All Mahmud Bey said on the subject was the submerged constructions did in fact exist on this part of the coast, permitting him to reconstruct on his plan the presumable location of the waterfront and the port; perhaps the two Sites in question could be identified with points *e* and *f* on his plan (cf. *infra* Site 78B).

Date: Remains of the Ptolemaic waterfront presumably.

Bibl.: A – Saint-Genis, DÉ Ant.V, p. 50; Le Père, DÉ ÉtMod., p. 319, no. 101; Adriani, Saggio, no. 20 (localization of the Site); B – Vaujany, Recherches, p. 35; Adriani, Saggio, no. 5 (localization of the Site); Mahmud Bey, Mémoire, pp. 15 and 43 (no. 1).

¹⁵¹ (75) I believe that reference is being made to the Farkha canal (cf. *infra* Site 77) taking "beyond" to mean "further to the west of"; if, however, it is understood as meaning to the east, then the walls should be referred to the ruins on Site 77A (?).

¹⁵² (76A) After Adriani this is a part of waterfront from Site 78B.

¹⁵⁰ (73) Cf. Voyages en Egypte, Vol. XII, chap. 3, pp. 17-36 (E. Bremond); XIII, pp. 19-26 (H. Blunt), pp. 195-203 (von Neitzschütz); XVII, pp. 5-20 (A. Morison); XIX, pp. 310-335 (A. Gonzales); XXIII, pp. 3-10 (E. Veryard). Cf. also Lumbruso, Descrittori italiani, pp. 11, 25, 42, 61, 67, 70, 73, 93, 94, 95.

77A-B. Rubble of various buildings

Site: **Eastern Port/shore**; the Site is located at the base of Silsileh point, to the west of it, on line with the mouth of the canal (cf. *supra* Site 75) and street R2. The extent of these ruins is unknown, for they may encompass the architectural remains (**A**) marked on the eastern side of the canal on Smyth's map (cf. *supra* Site 75 note 151) and the rubble (**B**) found about 70 m to the northeast and a little inland, at the base of Silsileh point, between the lines marked by streets R2 and R1, according to Mahmud Bey's plan.

Disc./invest.: The rubble was still in place in the nineties of the nineteenth century and disappeared with the construction of the Corniche. Particular sections of these ruins were described by Wilkinson and Vaujany; perhaps they are among the ruins on the shore of the Eastern Port described in general by Saint-Genis and Le Père and later by Hogarth.¹⁵³

Descr.: **A** – at the port exit of the canal Wilkinson noted fragments of broken columns and other granite elements, a section of street **pavement** and a great complex of walls and brick substructures which crossed the canal running to the port. Forty years later Vaujany saw only rubble with some brick walls and vaults still *in situ*, used as stables from time to time. Consequently, the spaces covered by the vaults must have been rather roomy. Farther to the northeast Vaujany made a few trial pits, finding walls of a brick and much thicker walls built of brick and irregular limestone blocks. These walls were 4.50 m thick and oriented from southwest to northeast. **B** – installing sewage in 1976 opposite Silsileh, i.e. on this region, brought to light brick-and-limestone walls, but only 0.5 m thick. Since the levels of particular finds were not stated anywhere, it appears quite possible that we are dealing with mixed remains of various epochs. Interpretations of these ruins are usually limited to fitting them into Strabo's description of the shore of the Eastern Port.¹⁵⁴ The fragment of pavement mentioned by Wilkinson may have belonged to L4 or an intermediate transversal street between R1 and R2; not knowing its direction, it is difficult to determine to which street exactly.

Date: The brick would indicate that the ruins belonged to a Roman structure of unknown function, perhaps built into the ruins of an earlier building. In the trenches dug in 1976 opposite Silsileh, the constructions that were discovered were accompanied by Early Roman pottery.

Bibl.: The complex of ruins at the mouth of the canal: Wilkinson, *Modern Egypt*, p. 157; Vaujany, *Recherches*, p. 35; Adriani, *Saggio*, no. 7 (localization of the Site); complex of ruins to the northeast: Vaujany, *Recherches*, pp. 35-36; Adriani, *Saggio*, no. 6 (localization of the Site). Complex of ruins opposite Silsileh (1976): Rodziewicz, *Alexandrie III*, chap. I, p. 31 note 51.

Remark: According to Vaujany, ruins of the "bains" Site 75 extended to the east all the way to the buildings of the present tannery (cf. *supra* Fig. 46a), that is almost to the area of Site 77A. Ruins identified by Vaujany farther to the northeast may be identified with the "Ruins" marked on Smyth's map east of the canal (cf. *supra* Fig. 17). All these Sites constituted part of the waterfront architecture, while the structures discovered in 1976 opposite Silsileh may already be part of the architecture discovered a little to the south of the Site 77B (cf. *infra* Sites 123A and 124).

78A-F. Ruins on Silsileh point

Site: **Eastern Port/Silsileh point** and in the sea around it. Ancient ruins are concentrated here in six places: **A** – submerged ruins, rather far from the so called Fort Silsileh; **B** – at the base of the point to the west of it, a little to the north of Site 76B; **C** – in

¹⁵³ (77) Cf. Adriani, *Saggio*, no. 7 general remarks; in the mentioned descriptions reference points are not always given, making it difficult to identify the described areas with particular Sites.

¹⁵⁴ (77) Cf. Vaujany, *Recherches*, pp. 35-36 and 37.

the centre of the present point, north of the so called tower of Silsileh which is no longer standing; **D** – also in the centre of the point, a little to the south of the tower and around it; **E** – in the sea east of the point, on line with street R1; **F** – in the sea west of the point, opposite Site 73.

Disc./invest.: **A** – submerged ruins signalled by Mahmud Bey and Vaujany; **B** – partly submerged ruins still in place at the turn of the nineteenth century, described by Saint Genis, Le Père, Dolomieu, Mahmud Bey and Vaujany; **C** – partly submerged ruins, noticed and described by Hogarth in 1895; **D** – ruins uncovered during excavations conducted by the Graeco-Roman Museum in 1938; **E** – trial pit K2 dug by Noack in 1901; **F** – submerged ruins, noted by Mahmud Bey and Vaujany.

In the years 1979-1980 a series of underwater surveys, sponsored by Graeco-Roman Museum and an American TV network, were conducted around Silsileh point, but brought no tangible results, if one disregards the communiqués about finding the "palace of Cleopatra" and the "palace of Anthony".¹⁵⁵

Descr.: Two Arab structures were built of reused elements of ancient architecture on top of ancient remains on Silsileh point – the so called Pharillon (later Fort Silsileh) and so called Tower of Silsileh (Fig. 49a).¹⁵⁶ The other ancient remains belong in great part to the constructions of the waterfront and port:

A – ruins about 3 to 4 m below water surface and visible in quiet sea, identified along a 200 m long section from the tip of the point toward the port entrance, i.e. in a northwestern direction. Built of limestone blocks(?).

B – only part submerged, the ruins were visible on quiet days. Mahmud Bey and Vaujany described them generally; Dolomieu supplies some more details stating that they were built of great blocks of nummulithic limestone and were founded on the levelled bedrock of the shore. One of the preserved sections of wall was 3.40 m thick. Several branches of the walls ran into the sea, while on the coastline itself Dolomieu noticed the rest of **brick** and limestone-brick walls, probably no longer in existence in the second half of the nineteenth century (an extension of the constructions on Site 77B?).

C – Hogarth reported seeing solid foundations (limestone blocks?) founded upon bedrock and partly submerged, visible only when the tide was out. These foundations ran on the southern side of the partly submerged strip of land which in those times connected Pharillon with the Silsileh Tower.

D – excavations in 1938 uncovered the remains of an underground structure cut in bedrock, submerged until the moment of discovery, and a massive wall of limestone blocks identified along a length of 20 m and 1.10 m wide. The wall lies a little to the south of the underground structure and is oriented ENE-SSW. A small roughly built cistern was built into this wall. Adriani also mentioned some ruins which he saw on the northern side of the wall and considered to be Arab in date. The part of the underground structure which was traced had a similar orientation as the wall, with just a slight deviation (Fig. 49b). Numerous small finds were discovered: among others a Doric capital Obj. 66, various pieces of limestone architectural decoration Obj. 336 and a limestone statue Obj. 365 and presumably also part of a statue Obj. 184.

¹⁵⁵ (78) Egyptian press reported on these explorations, cf. *Egyptian Gazette*, *Progrès Egyptien* and *Journal d'Egypte*, Jan.-Feb. 1980, cf. *Orientalia* 51,1, 1982.

¹⁵⁶ (78) The "Silsileh Tower", an Arab construction existing till the end of the nineteenth century, contains many reused ancient elements taken presumably from some ancient ruins on the point; they include column shafts, architraves, cornices, capitals and dressed limestone blocks, cf. Vaujany, *Recherches*, p. 37, and Adriani, *Repertorio C*, p. 81, no. 41. For "Fort Silsileh" and "Pharillon", cf. Vaujany, *Recherches*, p. 41, and Adriani, *Repertorio C*, p. 81, no. 42.

E – the pavement identified in this trial pit belonged to a street running along the line of R1, 5.20 m above sea level. Beneath it there was a sewage system consisting of channels and cisterns. Three small trial pits were dug on the western side of the street, yielding two fragments of a mosaic floor made of valuable stones such as agate and some indistinct late ruins founded **on top** of structures of large limestone blocks built without mortar at sea level.

F – submerged ruins, found 3 to 4 m below the surface of the water. Mahmud Bey noted underwater rocks in the form of a horseshoe, upon which(?) some massive foundations had been built. Vaujany specifies that the ruins consisted of large well-dressed limestone blocks, partly in place and partly strewn around, interspersed with overturned columns of unknown material, lying on the bottom of the sea some 7 m deep, east of the complex. The ruins were visible in quiet sea.

Date: **A** – traces of the Ptolemaic waterfront(?);

B – as above, but with Roman structures higher up;

C – traces of Ptolemaic architecture on the point;

D – structures from Late Antiquity founded upon Ptolemaic architecture;¹⁵⁷

E – remains of a Roman street and Late Roman buildings founded upon relics of Ptolemaic and Early Roman structures; it is difficult to say what the relation was between the mosaics and the construction of large limestone blocks without mortar.

F – Ptolemaic ruins(?).

Bibl.: **A** – Mahmud Bey, *Mémoire*, p. 42; Vaujany, *Recherches*, p. 43; Adriani, *Saggio*, no. 3 (localization of the Site). **B** – Dolomieu, pp. 36-37, no. 8; Mahmud Bey, *Mémoire*, p. 43, 1st and p. 15 (c and d on his plan?); Vaujany, *Recherches*, p. 37; Adriani, *Saggio*, no. 4 (localization of the Site). **C** – Hogarth, *Report*, p. 5; Adriani, *Saggio*, no. 18 (localization of the Site); id., *Repertorio C*, pp. 81-82, no. 42. **D** – Adriani, *Annuaire* 1935-1939, p. 38; id., *Repertorio C*, p. 81, no. 41. **E** – Noack, *Neue Untersuchungen*, p. 224; Adriani, *Saggio*, no. 17 (localization of the Site). **F** – Mahmud Bey, *Mémoire*, pp. 43, 20; Vaujany, *Recherches*, p. 28; Adriani, *Saggio*, no. 117 (localization of the Site).

Remark: Numerous finds, beside the ones mentioned in Site 78D, are mentioned as coming from the ruins on Silsileh point. These are usually elements of architectural decoration of various kind. Vaujany sadly stresses the lack of any inscribed object except for one illegible piece (Obj. 369) from the rubble north of the ruins on Site 78C.

79A-B. Traces of city walls(?)

Site: **Eastern Port/shore**, east of Silsileh point. The walls were identified in two spots marked as A and B by Mahmud Bey on his plan (see *supra* Fig. V); the two spots fall in between the lines of the streets R1 and R2 bis.

Disc./invest.: Mahmud Bey's investigations in 1866.

Descr.: Lower portion of walls were preserved, extending between Sites A and B about 300 m. They were founded at sea level. About 5 m thick, they were built of (limestone?) blocks in a mortar of gypsum, crushed brick, marble and shell(?) grit. Both Vaujany (1888) and Botti (1898) saw these remains still in place, but in their descriptions they limited themselves to repeating Mahmud Bey's observations.

Date: Mahmud Bey did not specify the dating of the fortifications; in one place he vaguely referred to Deinocrates as their tentative builder. Basing their judgements on the rough construction technique and the kind of mortar, both Vaujany and Botti believed it to

¹⁵⁷ (78) A small cistern built into the wall is called a "costruzione tarda" for example; the structures designed as Arab may in fact be Late Roman or Byzantine, but this presumption is based only on Adriani's analogous dating errors in reference to the buildings from Late Antiquity in Site 31.

be impossible for Deinocrates to have constructed them. Adriani is adamant in dating the walls to Late Antiquity, particularly in view of the fact that they encompassed within their circuit part of the Ptolemaic necropolis (cf. *infra* Remark).

Bibl.: Mahmud Bey, *Mémoire*, pp. 12-13; Vaujany, *Recherches*, pp. 43-44; Botti, *Plan de ville*, p. 22; Adriani, *Saggio*, nos. 1-2 (localization of the Site).

Remark: The wall, as traced by Mahmud Bey, continues through modern districts which presently occupy the site of the ancient eastern necropolises. Mahmud Bey's informations came mostly from elderly "stone robbers" who over the years slowly dismantled these walls in order to supply building material for their own houses as well as for larger construction projects within the city. On the basis of what he learnt this way, Mahmud Bey put two more sites, C and D, on his plan, marking places where the walls were to be found 3 to 4 m underground under layers of rubble. Further sections of this circuit wall were noted south of the city, in trial pits E, F, G, H and I dug by Mahmud Bey. It was built of large blocks, but of irregular size, in a mortar that differed slightly in content from the mortar discovered in Sites A and B. The ruins were 3-4 m underground, as in other places of the circuit, and reached 5 m in width. The preserved height of the wall is not given anywhere. Mahmud Bey's information on the wall being dismantled from under the rubble would point to a certain method being used for this activity, a method which has been evidenced in other parts of the city. This was a method for taking stones from under, because usually the lower parts of the walls were built more solidly with well-dressed blocks. Since Vaujany speaks of the ruins preserved in A and B (level with the beach) as "maçonnerie grossière", it may be assumed that the sections of walls discovered on Site 79A-B belonged to a later and perhaps repaired stage of the wall. The sections indicated by the stone robbers (which were not investigated!) may have in fact been part of the wall from an earlier period, i.e. the period of its construction. Whatever the case, it is clear that the line of this circuit is definitely from the Roman period.

80. Traces of streets and ruins

Site: **Eastern Port/shore**, east of Silsileh point, between Sites 79A and 79B, on the line of street R2 bis.

Disc./invest.: The ruins in this place remained *in situ* for a long time, similarly as the ruins on the other side of Silsileh point. The complex was described in 1799 by Dolomieu, then in 1841 by Wilkinson and by Vaujany in 1888. In 1901 Noack located his trial pit K1 here. The ruins were destroyed in the construction of the Corniche, but as late as 1950 some submerged ruins, described by Adriani, were still visible just offshore.

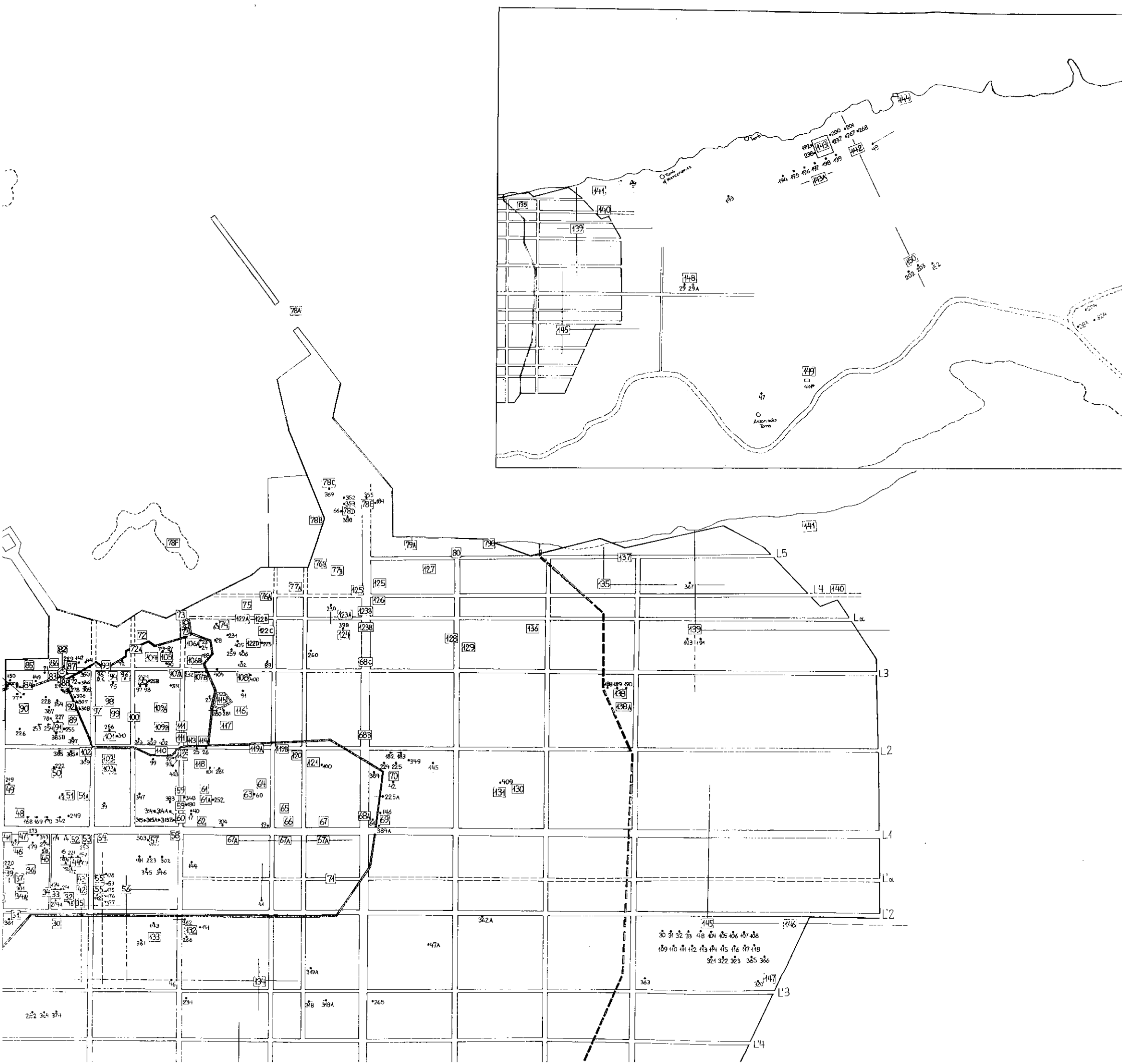
Descr.: Dolomieu reported seeing exit of canals cut in the rock and undoubtedly belonging to some buildings once existing on the spot, then brick walls extending along the coast, faced with stucco (plaster?) and a large section of a street "pavée de lavé", that is paved with basalt blocks (cf. Site 73), bedded on a layer of debris and rubbish about 10 feet (= ca. 3 m) above the ruins already mentioned.

Beyond Silsileh point Wilkinson observed some rubble containing fragments of sarcophagi and columns, and lower down, on the beach, a massif of old walls and remains which he believed were a baths. Presumably he was referring to brick walls covered with plaster and built on top of limestone structure (cf. Sites 73, 75, 77). He also noted some black stones marking the existence of a street or boulevard, some channels cut in the rock running toward the sea, channels with brick vaults and various other remains.

Vaujany mentions nothing beyond the rubble of walls and the exits of canals at the edge of the sea.

In his trial pit Noack discovered a street pavement which he attributed to an extension of street L5, added by him to Mahmud Bey's plan and evidenced farther to the east as well (Site 137). Presumably Dolomieu and Wilkinson saw sections of this street.





- - City walls (according to Mahmoud Bey with verifications)
- - Eastern city wall in Ptolemaic and Early Roman Period (according to Breccia)
- - Arabic city walls
- - course of underground aqueducts
- - course of canals
- - course of waterfront (according to Mahmoud Bey)
- - presumable extent of the Site
- 105 - Objects 279, 407 presumably from this Site
- 112 - Objects 45A, 69, 70, 74, 93A, 94, 95, 96 - presumably from this Site

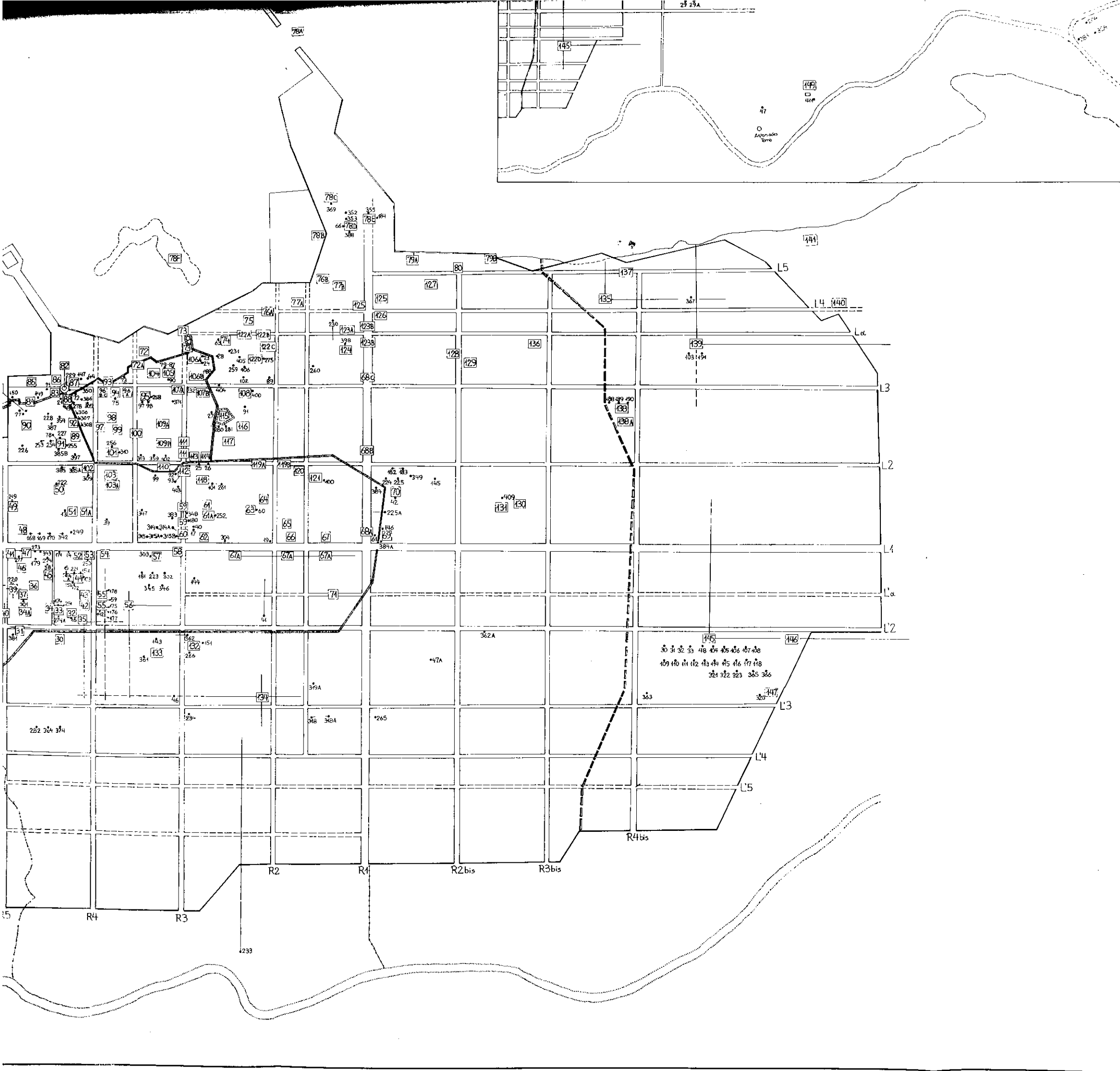
Following Objects are not marked on the map for lack of precise provenance:

Centre: 18, 248

East Port - Mazarita: 20, 22 62, 64, 65, 76, 148, 185, 186, 262, 263, 264, 311, 312, 316, 351, 356, 357, 358, 370, 371, 372, 373, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 399, 408

Silsileh: 257

Moharrem Bey: 317, 319



Following Objects are not marked on the map for lack of precise provenance:

Centre: 18, 248

East Port - Mazarita: 20, 22 62, 64, 65, 76, 148, 185, 186, 262, 263, 264, 311, 312, 316, 351, 356, 357, 358, 370, 371, 372, 373, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 399, 408

Silsileh: 257

Moharrem Bey: 317, 319

