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Activities and Future Perspectives

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Anniversary of the Archaeological Society
of Alexandria

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Edited by
Mona Haggag

This volume is dedicated to the memory of

Azza Karara

Significant and exceptional member of the society

Contents:

• Mieczyslaw D. Rodziewicz: <i>Extention of Basileia from the Point of View of Excavations at Bibliotheca Alexandrina</i>	1
• Ahmed Abd El-Fattah: <i>Salvage Excavations at Alexandria: Topographical Notes</i>	17
• Stefan Schmidt & Christoph Rummel: <i>Shatby Revisited</i>	49
• Calliope Limneos-Papakosta: <i>Hellenic Research Institute of Alexandrian Civilization: The Shallalat Excavation Project</i>	69
• Harry E. Tzalas: <i>The Underwater Archaeological Survey Conducted by the Greek Mission in Alexandria, Egypt (1998-2013)</i>	77
• Kyriakos Savvopoulos: <i>Alexandrian Public Architecture Reconsidered: The Ptolemies, Egypt and Roman Monumental Interventions, a Reassessment Based on Recent Underwater Discoveries</i>	115
• Mohamed Abd El-Maksoud, Ahmed Abd El-Fattah & Mervat Seif El-Din: <i>Foundation Deposit Plaques from the Boubasteion</i>	133
• Nicola Bonacasa & Patrizia Minà: <i>The 'Great Peristyle Tomb' in the Mustapha Pasha Necropolis</i>	155
• Emad Khalil: <i>Water Management in the Mareotic Region</i>	177
• Mieczyslaw D. Rodziewicz: <i>Supplement to the Article: Philoxenité – Pilgrimage Harbour of Abu Mina, BSAA 47, 2003, 27-47</i>	195
• Marie-Françoise Boussac: <i>Recent Works at Taposiris and Plinthine</i>	205
• Anne-Marie Guimier-Sorbets: <i>Une Nouvelle Proposition pour l'Architecture de la Tombe d'Alexandre (with an English Summary)</i>	235
• Marie-Dominique Nenna: <i>Innovation and Tradition in Glass Craftsmanship of Graeco-Roman Egypt</i>	263
• Sobhi Ashour: <i>Two Unpublished Plaster Heads in Alexandria: Portraits of Avidius Cassius?</i>	295
• Elżbieta Rodziewicz: <i>Current Research on Alexandrian Luxury Furniture in Late Antiquity</i>	379
• Rogério Sousa: <i>The Serapeum of Panóias: A Multicultural Complex</i>	401
• Selim A. Morcos & Mostafa El-Abadi: <i>The Hydroscope of Alexandria (with an Arabic summary)</i>	413
• Athanasios Koutoupas: <i>Ptolemaic Royal Iconography on Coins: Religion, Ideology and Politics</i>	445
• Cornelia Römer: <i>From Alexandria to the Fayum: Greek Literature in the Villages of the Fayum</i>	461
• Mohamed Abd-el-Ghani: <i>Business and Politics in the Egyptian-Syrian Relations during the Hellenistic and Roman Times: Some Case Studies</i>	471
• André Pelle: <i>Kom El Chougaffa de la Découverte d'un Invisible à l'Exploration de ses Couleurs</i>	503
• Ahmed Mansour: <i>The Digital Library of Inscriptions and Calligraphies (DLIC), Challenges for Digital Preservation of Cultural Heritage: Project Overview</i>	517
• Gabriele Ziethen: <i>Many People, Many Possibilities, Proposals for Future Subjects in Alexandrian Heritage Management Written from a German Perspective: An Outline</i>	529

- Fathia Gaber Ibrahim & Heba Haïm Samy Gayed: *The Role of Modern Technology in the Antiquities' Museums: The National Museum of Alexandria a Case Study* (Arabic with an English Summary) 535
- Mohamed Kenawi, Emacauly Lewis & Judith S. Mackenzie: *Garden Archaeology in Egypt: A Roman Plant Nursery in the Western Delta, Beheira* (Arabic with an English Summary) 569
- Abdul-Hameed Hamed Soleiman: *The Annual Maintenance for the 'Alexandria Canal' in the Ottoman Era: Documentary View* (Arabic with an English Summary) ... 609
- Contributors 635

Foreword

In April 2013, the Archaeological Society of Alexandria celebrated its 120th anniversary by organizing an international conference held in collaboration with the Centre for Alexandria and Mediterranean Studies (AlexMed) and the Calligraphy Centre of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the French Centre for Alexandrian Studies of the CNRS (CEAlex).

Following the Society's long tradition, the event aimed at bringing together national and international members of the archaeological missions working at Alexandria and environs as well as other researchers interested in Alexandrian studies to discuss the major challenges in studying, documenting, preserving and managing Alexandria's tangible heritage and share their experiences, in order to develop a vision for future prospects.

In addition to the fact that this gathering was to underline our Society's history in preserving, documenting and promoting awareness of Alexandria's cultural heritage, the conference witnessed presentations of the tireless work of so many teams of scholars and researchers in the field of excavating and studying the remains of our city's glorious past.

This volume of *BSAA* represents the fruits of this three-day event. It embraces the contributions of more than 30 international figures in the field of Alexandrian studies. The 26 papers are designed, according to the conference programme, for capturing a number of stimulating topics:

Current Archaeological Field Work:

Papers in this section deal mainly with the much disputed topic of the topography of ancient Alexandria, especially its royal quarter. It includes Mieczyslaw Rodziewicz's reflections about his field enterprise especially in the site of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Ahmed Abd El-Fattah introduces some topographical notes for the *Bruccheion* as well as other parts of the ancient city as inferred from the salvage excavations he carried out there. Stefan Schmidt & Christoph Rummel brief us about their field investigations conducted recently inside the Shatby cemetery with some stimulating outcomes. Calliope Limneos-Papakosta reports the Hellenic Research Institute of Alexandrian Civilization (HRIAC) survey in Shalalat Gardens. Then comes the work of another Greek expedition, that of the Hellenic Institute of Ancient and Mediaeval Alexandrian Studies (HIAMAS) headed by Harry Tzalas who, since 1997, has been involved in surveying the

underwater coastal area extending over 10 kilometers from the Silsileh Promontory to Sidi Bishr. Zalas' comprehensive report, though not lacking the author's personal insights, is continued by Kyriakos Savvopoulos who introduces an attempt to reconsider the nature and role of Alexandria's public architecture, based on some monuments uncovered by the same HIAMAS mission. Mohamed Abd El-Maksoud, Ahmed Abd El-Fattah & Mervat Seif El-Din enrich this volume by a comprehensive study of the six foundation deposit plaques of the *Boubasteion* of Alexandria, uncovered in 2009-2010 in rescue excavation at Kom El-Dikkah. However, this part of the proceedings ends with the 'Great Peristyle Tomb' in Mustapha Pasha Necropolis, which is considered as the largest and most elaborate hypogeum ever found in Alexandria. Nicola Bonacasa and Patrizia Minà give us their illuminating account of the archaeological, topographical and GPR surveys which they carried out in the tomb sponsored by the University of Palermo.

Alexandria's Environs:

Papers in this part add to our knowledge about the Mareotic area and how it reflects life in Alexandria as capital of Egypt. After many years surveying and excavating in Mareotis, Emad Khalil gives us an account of how water was managed there, throwing much light upon the role this region has played in the economy of Ptolemaic and Roman Alexandria. Mieczyslaw Rodziewicz comes back to a previous article of his, published in *BSAA* 47, resorting this time to some Arabic sources which provide more evidence to his theory regarding the separation between Philoxenité as the Byzantine pilgrimage harbor to St. Menas shrine and Marea, the capital of the Mareotic region during Hellenistic and early Roman periods. Marie-Françoise Boussac, head of the French expedition working in the Mareotic region, writes a recapitulation of the work they have been conducting from 2007 onwards. Boussac's article sheds light on the decline of Hellenistic Plinthine to the advantage of the increasingly vital role played by Taposiris during Roman times. Abdul-Hameed Soleiman adds a documentary view of the annual maintenance of the 'Alexandria Canal' during the Ottoman rule. Mohamed Kenawi, Emacauly Lewis & Judith Mackenzie provide their view of a Roman plant nursery near Abu Hummus which was part of their 'Beheira Survey' carried out between 2008 and 2011 in the Western Delta.

New Tendencies in Alexandrian Studies:

This part of our proceedings begins with a very tempting topic, the tomb of Alexander the Great. Anne-Marie Guimier-Sorbets uses her long and deep

expertise in Alexandria's monumental tombs in order to give an idea about the architectural design of the much debated tomb of the great Macedonian leader. Marie-Dominique Nenna, being an expert in ancient glass craftsmanship, introduces us to the role that Egypt has played during Graeco-Roman times in the glass production, both as a production centre of the raw material and as home to the development of refined techniques. Sobhi Ashour brings to attention two unpublished plaster heads in Alexandria. Ashour assumes that these heads are replicas or copies of a monumental sculpture once portrayed a remarkable individual whom, after a comprehensive scholarly argumentation, he interprets as the Roman general Avidius Cassius.

Excavations in Alexandria and its surroundings carried out during the last two decades, provided new material which led Elżbieta Rodziewicz, the expert in late antique bone and ivory carvings, to revise her earlier views and suggest an extensive production of ivory adornments for furniture in some Alexandrian workshops which produced such luxurious thin veneers, in a large repertoire of techniques and styles. Finally Rogério Sousa takes us to one of the most remote locations where a cult of Sarapis has ever been attested in the Roman Empire, the Serapeum of Panóias, in Vila Real, Portugal, where he could detect the mingling of local cults into the newly introduced cult of Sarapis.

New Approaches to Ancient Sources and Historical Events:

The source and historical studies in this volume vary as much as the interests of their authors but all add to our knowledge of ancient Alexandria. Selim Morcos and Mostafa El-Abbadi provide textual evidence that the Hydrometer assumed to be invented in the 17th century is a revival of the Hydroscope of Alexandria described in details by Synesius of Cyrene at the turn of the fifth century. Athanasios Koutoupas explains how the royal iconography on coins of the Ptolemaic Dynasty was one of the tools used by the Lagides in order to promote their religious and political ideology. Cornelia Römer, through her thorough investigation of some *Oxyrhynchus papyri*, explains how Greek literature reached not only the nome's capital, Oxyrhynchus, but also the villages of the Fayum during the 2nd century AD. Last but by no means least, Mohamed Abd-el-Ghani, in a comprehensive source study, sheds light on the interaction of business and politics in the Egyptian-Syrian relations being administered by Alexandria as capital of Egypt.

Challenges for Documentation and Future Management of Alexandria's Tangible Heritage:

Two papers deal with the documentation of Alexandria's heritage, one by André Pelle, who has made use of his professional long experience and creative talents to create new methods that enable us to see the invisible on the walls of Kom El-Shokafa cemetery. Some - nearly complete - mythological and funerary coloured scenes appeared as a result of his photographic campaign there. Ahmed Mansour provides an overview of the ongoing project for creating a digital library of inscriptions and calligraphies carried out by the Calligraphy Centre of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Mansour gives examples of inscriptions from Alexandria and environs. As for heritage management, Gabriele Ziethen rings the bell to archaeologists, historians, heritage management staff as well as decision makers urging them to offer an integrated creative program, not sacrificing neutrality, for Alexandrian heritage preservation, protection and management. Finally, Fathia Ibrahim and Heba Gayed introduce the results of an empirical study they conducted on the National Museum of Alexandria, to point out the role of modern technology in antiquities' museums.

In addition to the previously hinted of contributions of some talented scholars, I honestly can say that the conference and the entire event of celebrating the 120th anniversary of the Archaeological Society of Alexandria was a work of a group of special people who played different roles in making it a successful and meaningful event, I take this opportunity to sincerely express my gratitude and thanks to each and every one of them.

A particular word of thanks is extended to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina co-organizing bodies: the Centre for Alexandria and Mediterranean Studies (AlexMed), especially Sahar Hamouda, who very aptly engineered the planning and details of the organization and also for the very agreeable atmosphere she conveyed to us all. Special thanks to Randa Ahmed for her exceptional energetic work. My thanks also go to the staff of the Calligraphy Centre with special appreciation of the efforts of Ahmed Mansour, Azza Ezzat, Sherine Ramadan and Rana El-Zalabani, they all have put scores of hours of hard work into the preparations of the event.

I want to sincerely express my gratitude and thanks to Jean-Yves Empereur, director of the Centre d'Etudes Alexandrines (CEAlex). Four years ago, we were lucky enough to have him joining the Society's executive board, but decades before, he was supporting the Society in many different ways. I am

not sure there is enough words of thanks to express my gratitude for his assistance which comes always just when we need it most. Part of the CEALex sponsorship of this conference is the documentary film which was specially created for the event. The importance of this documentary is not only that it is the first ever to deal with the Society's history and contributions but also that it is created by one of the most talented documentary directors, Raymond Collet and one of the most experienced professional photographers, André Pelle whom I thank for accomplishing this piece of art in a few score weeks.

I'd like also to thank those who didn't manage to send their papers on time: Hans-Christoph Noeske, Paolo Gallo, Mohamed Mostafa, Isabelle Hairy, Grzegorz Majcherek, Magda El-Noweimy, and Mohamed Awad. The Society is keen to publish their valuable articles in the next *BSAA* volume. This volume to come is also intended to include papers for some eminent scholars who, for different reasons, could not participate in the event: Marianne Bergman, Pascale Ballet and Marie-Cecile Bruwier.

To the Archaeological Society team, Ahmed Amin, Salwa Mohsen and Hassan Mahmoud whose devotion and hard work facilitates all the complicated details of our work, I extend my heartily thanks.

I would like to specially mention the members who are now out of the executive board of the Society, Farouk Abaza, Suzan El-Kalza and Salwa Nasr. During the past two decades, they showed true commitment to the mission of the Society, and so ably engineered the activities and decisions that helped our Society to continue fulfilling its goals and keep it worthy of holding the imperishable names of its Founding Fathers and the noblest ideals of voluntarily work and donations inspired from those Society's leaders.

Finally, I would like to tender our heartfelt and most reverential homage to Mostafa El-Abbadi, the lifeblood of our Society whose greatest commitment, dedication and talents always perpetuate the vitality and growth of the Society. In Fabruray 2014, the General Assembly has unanimously elected Mostafa El-Abbadi as Honorary President of the Society. Known as a passionate historian, dedicated mentor, a strong advocate for Alexandrian heritage, we are honoured and thankful to have him as the second honorary president of the Society after his sole predecessor, Prince Omar Tousson.

The editor

Extention of Basileia from the Point of View of Excavations at Bibliotheca Alexandrina

MIECZYSLAW D. RODZIEWICZ

The area of the ancient Basileia in Alexandria is located in front of the promontory Silsileh, called in antiquity *Lochias*. Strabo in the years 25-24 BC wrote:

*“On entering the Large Harbour the island with the Pharos Tower is on the right hand and on the left a group of rocks and Cape Lochias crowned by a palace on its summit. As the ship advances a view is gained of the palaces behind the Cape, surrounded by many gay buildings and bowers”*¹.

Since that time the area was intensely used and therefore it was continuously changing its character and functions. In modern times big part of it was occupied by the quarantine and tannery, variety of utilitarian constructions, and finally a lot of the soil with its contents from this place was shifted to the shore of the sea for extending the usable surface of the large Corniche, constructed at the beginning of the last century.

Achille Adriani in his monumental work on the topography of ancient Alexandria suggested that the *Basileia* occupied a very substantial part of the surface of the town located in front of the Eastern Harbour (*Portus Magnus*) and on the *Lochias* promontory, homing not only the royal palaces but also many institutions like the Big Library, Theatre, temples, royal tombs, military structures etc.². Location of the Royal Quarter of Ptolemaic Alexandria has been a topic of many disputes, and it is still very actual because there is no precise definition of the term *Basilea* used by Strabo and other ancient writers, and lack of direct archaeological documents which could be confronted with them. However, from the point of view of archaeological evidence obtained in course of latest excavations in 1993/4 at the site of the modern Bibliotheca Alexandrina we should turn our attention back to the results of the activities of an older

1 Strabo, Geography, XVII, 9.

2 Adriani, A., 1963: 209-210.

archaeological research there known as Expedition Ernst von Sieglin, directed by Theodor Schreiber which was trying to delineate the extension of the Royal Quarter of Ptolemaic Alexandria³.

The program of Ernst von Sieglin expedition has been modeled on very successful results of the German excavations in Greece, particularly in Pergamon. The excavation in Alexandria on the suspected area of ancient *Basileia* has been lead at the beginning by Ferdinand Noack⁴. In search for the limit of the Ptolemaic Royal Quarter in Alexandria, Ernst von Sieglin Expedition decided at the end of 19th century to dig several trenches on the most promising places situated at the sea coast and along streets L2, R1 and R3, according to the map of ancient Alexandria published by Mahmoud El Falaki in 1872. Yet, because the results of these excavations were not satisfactory enough for lack of architectural remains of famous Ptolemaic structures known from literary sources, and absence of spectacular sculptures like in Pergamon, the most of the German funds and efforts were shifted soon west of Alexandria on excavations of the cemetery at Kom el Shougafa located nearby the poorly preserved remains of the Serapeum. None the less several trial pits excavated on the assumed area of ancient *Basileia*, particularly in front of the promontory *Lochias*, brought to light valuable data. They have proven the location of the ancient streets excavated and measured by an Egyptian team in 1866, and published by Mahmoud El Falaki in 1872 as being correct (Fig.1)⁵. In the trench excavated at the coast of the Eastern Harbour unearthed by them, ancient Street L4 was encompassed by urban structures of the late Roman period. This was not meeting the pre-concept of excavators, and expected there Ptolemaic palaces or other buildings known well from the literary sources, on which their effort and archaeological program was centered (Fig. 2). Four other trenches (N1 – N4, Fig. 3) which were excavated by Noack nearby, just at the edge of the southern limit of the site of nowadays Bibliotheca Alexandrina missed the Street R1, which was considered as the Royal Street of

3 Laube, I., 2012.

4 Noack, F., 1900: 215-279.

5 El-Falaki, Mahmoud, 1972.

Ptolemaic period. However the pavement of the Street R1 has been uncovered by Noack in the same campaign further to the south in the trench No. 5 (Fig. 1). The visual remains of Street R1 were unearthed there very quickly, only one and a half hour of digging, but the remains of lower levels including Ptolemaic were not excavated then, thus not investigated. The pavement of the Street R1 unearthed by Noack was disappointingly much narrower and less impressive than in the report of excavations of Mahmoud El Falaki in 1866. Other trenches of Noack were located further to the south, near to the main street of the ancient city, so called *Via Canopica*. However search for expected limits of the Royal Quarter along the street L2 occurred to be inconclusive (see trenches along streets L2 and R3 on Fig. 1).

Thus the limits of Ptolemaic *Basileia* were not identified by the archaeological expedition of Noack, but his excavation at Street R1 proved that its position at the southern part of *Basileia* was properly oriented by Mahmoud El Falaki during his excavations in 1866⁶. Noack questioned only its width. Broader excavations in *Basileia* carried out by Adriani in 1930s at the *Cape Lochias*, which was according to Strabo covered by the so called outer palaces, revealed remains of Ptolemaic foundations from which one followed typical geographical orientation, while the second one has slightly different orientation⁷. Also in the area of *Basileia*, in front of the former WHO Headquarter Building at the Corniche, a group of early Ptolemaic urban elements following geographical (solar) orientation was unearthed in 1983 by the Egyptian Antiquities Organization⁸.

Another group of architectural remains in the region of *Basileia*, spotted in casual dig in 1984, not far from the "Garden of the Immortals" located below the Street L3 (according to El Falaki's map of the city), may belong to the oldest structures of the site, since they were located on the virgin rock and sand⁹.

6 El-Falaki, Mahmoud, 1972.

7 Adriani, A., 1940: 38, Fig. 12.

8 Rodziewicz. M. & Ahmed Abd el-Fatah, 1991: 131-150.

9 Rodziewicz, M., 1984.

The latest excavations at the site of modern Bibliotheca Alexandrina strongly suggest that the eastern part of the Royal Quarter, north of the crossroads of L4 and R1 (see map of El Falaki) was separated from the southern sector of the city by a massive Gate made of solid limestone blocks¹⁰. The remnants of 1.90 m. Gate foundation are crossing the Street R1 about 80 meters north of the Street L4, and some 300 meters south of the *Lochias* promontory base. Nearer to the *Cape Lochias*, about 150 m. south of it, a wall following the geographical orientation has been identified during the last excavations (1993-1994) on the ground of modern Bibliotheca Alexandrina. It is located at the eastern edge of Street R1. The remains of the walls unearthed at the site of ancient *Basileia* show that the coastal area of Alexandria in the early Ptolemaic period might have been built upon more freely, centering orientation of their edifices toward the local configuration of the terrain, coastal line, harbour installations, water canals etc. Yet, the Street R1, 8-9 m. in width, existed here already in early Ptolemaic stage, what has been proven at the excavations on the site of Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Fig. 4). Unearthed there remains of Ptolemaic buildings show their location in the terrain designed quite freely. They sometimes agree with the street orientation measured by El Falaki, sometimes show the so-called solar orientation following the Egyptian cadastre. Excavated architectural remains and street segments contradict there the principles of symmetrical plan of Ptolemaic *Basileia*, and suggest that the strict Hippodamian rules were not exercised in the Alexandrian Royal Quarter as was presented in older publications.

To the most important remains from the area of ancient *Basilea* unearthed recently, belong remains of a monumental Gate at the Street R1 (Fig. 5) which linked the sea harbour of *Portus Magnus* and the Royal Quarter at the northern coastal line with southern Alexandrian harbour at the Mareotis Lake, and thus with the life giving Nile and with the whole Egyptian hinterland¹¹.

10 Rodziewicz, M., 1992: 227-235.

11 Rodziewicz, M., 2002: 1-22. Remains of Portus Mareoticus are presented in *Description de l'Égypte*, vol. V, pl. 31.

It is very possible that in the time of Strabo (25 -24 BC) this structure has not been already seen. It can not be also excluded that Strabo's description of Alexandria based not on his own observation, but on the second hand information where this monumental Gate has not been mentioned. It is also possible that other structures which existed in the Ptolemaic period north of the Gate have not been functioning in time of Strabo's stay in Alexandria. To them belong: the aqueduct, residential buildings and structures connected with them, including edifice excavated in 1993 with floor mosaics, which may belong to the remains of a bath, according to their context and adjacent finds ¹².

The course of architectural urbanistic changes of *Basileia* starting from the promontory of *Cap Lochias* down to the monumental Gate excavated on the ground of new *Bibliotheca Alexandrina* is very little known, but the remains of one mosaic recorded by Noack in his trench located very close to the Gate on much higher level i.e. about four meter above sea level, indicates existence of new urbanistic phase, which began there in the early Roman period¹³. These changes continued at least up to the 5th century AD, when a very large structure was located close to the *Cap Lochias*, separating the whole area from the promontory. Its remains, investigated at the end of 19th century, has been located very near the surface of the contemporary level i.e. about one meter below the nowadays used pavement of the new *Bibliotheca Alexandrina*. Similar structuring system of walls is located along the northern side of Street L4 on el Falaki's map (Fig. 1, 2). These structures parallel the structuring system of public buildings at Kom El Dikka such as the earliest stage of theatre, bath, cistern/*kastellon*¹⁴, and also remains of a public bath at the Anubis Street excavated in 1986 by the Egyptian Antiquity Organization¹⁵.

As far as the extension of the Royal Quarter in front of *Cap Lochias* is concerned, a basic question arises whether the information of the recently excavated remains of monumental Gate suffice to conclude

12 Rodziewicz, M., 2009: 191-201, Figs 3-5.

13 Noack, F., 1900: passim.

14 Rodziewicz, M., 1984, passim.

15 Rodziewicz, M., 2009: Figs 12-15.

that there was a limit of *Basilea* at that point. In time of existence of the Gate, there functioned also constructed highly sophisticated subterranean aqueduct which runs through the foundations of the Gate, and both were in use most of the time together. The preserved part of the Gate foundations is equal to 2/3rd part of its original width, which follows the width of Street R1. The Gate was extended on both its sides by a solid wall about 60 cm. thick, functioning as a fence of the area situated north of it. This wall was well attested on the eastern side of the Gate, and has a form of specific type of foundation (Fig. 5).

The representations of monumental gates appeared quite often in the ancient city's landscapes, like those depicted on Alexandrian bone tesserae in the form of extensive Egyptian type of gate with horizontal pylons, and two leaved massive doors. Such pylons depicted on tesserae are too high to have had any structures of walls adhered to them. The iconographical parallels on tesserae refer most probably to architectural structures existed in Ptolemaic Alexandria, because bone tesserae were produced in Alexandria at the end of the Ptolemaic period till the early Roman time of Nero. On one of such representations appear animalistic figures on both sides of the gate, and the whole relief was interpreted as probably a sanctuary of particular cult¹⁶. Yet, more realistic interpretation of pictures with gates on bone tesserae seems to be visualization of external views of monumental gates with walls encompassing the *temenos* of particular temples which were located in the centre of the sacred area, like Osiris Temple in Taposiris Magna, or in Dendera at Upper Egypt ¹⁷.

In the present state of research on the topography of the Royal Quarter, remains of foundation of the monumental Gate unearthed across the Royal Street R1, appeared as the sole archaeological document suggesting that this spot was marking the limit of *Basileia* just in front of the peninsula *Lochias*. It proves that the area north of the foundation has been guarded, and it is very likely that similar gates existed on several points near the sea coast of the Royal Harbour down to the *Caesareum* in the west, and big theatre at the

16 Fragaki, H., 2011: 117, Nos. 27-28.

17 Ward Perkins, J.B., 1943: 48-53.

south. Therefore the information on the large extension of the *Basilea* occupying one fifth of the surface of the whole city is highly exaggerated because the excavations of Sieglin's Expedition have not attested it. Yet, their trenching have not surpassed the line of el Falaki Street L2 and have not reached the line marked by the Street L3, which runs along the modern Street of Alexander the Great¹⁸.

Although we do not have a direct evidence to the architectural form of the unearthed recently remains of the monumental Gate at the area of ancient *Basilea*, and kind of decorative elements adorning it, we have however finds from the site, which can be associated with the unearthed architectural structure, and the decoration of the Gate. The character and meaning of loosely found fragments of larger sculptures is not conflicting an iconographical programme of such monumental Gate decoration. To gather finds in the area, a fragment of the left leg of a life size sitting human figure with preserved part of a skirt, sculpted in dark-grey syenite granite, was found. A fragment of *cornucopia* adorned with acanthus leaf, belonging to another sculpture made of the local limestone. The most curious find is a fragment of a large scale sculpture depicting thick body of snake encompassing trunk of a tree. The last one could have been the most appropriate iconographical element located at the external site of the monumental Gate of the Royal Quarter, facing the city. It could have served there as an important element symbolizing protection of the entrance to the Royal Quarter from the city expanding to the south, by the snake – *Agathodaimon* (Fig. 6).

Representations of two *Agathodaimons* carved in relief still exist in the catacombs at Kom El Shugafa, where they are located on top of the Egyptian type of pylons, which are framing the entrance to the main chamber of catacombs¹⁹. Above them there are depicted two shields with apothropaic heads of Medusa. It is also worth to mention that the two snakes (guardians) are painted on a very important and unique loculi slab from Shatby Cemetery²⁰. Snakes on the loculi slab

18 El-Falaki, Mahmoud, 1972: passim; Noack, F., 1900: passim.

19 Adriani, A., 1963: Tav. 98-99.

20 Rodziewicz, M., 1992: 329-344; See also in this volume: Ahmed Abd El-Fattah, Salvage Excavations at Alexandria: Topographical Notes, Fig. 14.

from Shatby are depicted just besides the painted impressive gate leading up to the Elysium (Fig. 7). This colorful slab with a unique scene of the Underworld (*Nekyia*), dated to the late Ptolemaic period was uncovered in winter 1981 at the necropolis, is located near the foundation of the monumental Gate, recently unearthed on the site of modern Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

Representation of snake usually appears with the god *Asklepios*, this however should be excluded as far as the snake found at the Gate in the Royal Quarter is concerned, since it is attached to the thick trunk of tree. In such a case representation of snake may have a special meaning, such as protector of the site. Representation of *Agathodaimon* was often chosen by the founder as a protector of individual home, other structure, particular place, or of the whole city. However at the site of the Alexandrian *Basileia*, the sculpture representing *Agathodaimon* was equipped with more symbolic power. Firstly it appears as the topographical protector of the *topos*, and secondly as a protector of biological life.

Civic cult of a singular *Agathodaimon/Agathos Daimon* as a protector of Alexandria was established in Alexandria probably in the third century BC, together with the private cults for plural *Agathoi Daimones* (Fig. 6) as protectors of individual homes within the city. To the period of Ptolemy Soter is assigned the original statue-type of the Alexander Aegiochus representing Alexander the Great in his role as a founder of the city²¹. There are fragmentally preserved statuettes of Alexander the Great (such as the one in Louvre, Collection Lambros-Dattari, and another in Museo Biblico y Oriental in León) where Alexander's leg is attached to tree-trunk around which a serpent winds²². The fragment of a large sculpture representing snake, from excavations at the site of Bibliotheca Alexandrina, was very masterly carved, slightly flattened on one side, with deeply cut rectangular cavity for attachment (Fig.7). Certainly, it was meant to be strongly fastened to a large flat background. It should be considered as a piece of art of the highest

21 Ogden, D., 2013: 287-291.

22 Ogden, D., 2013: 288, Fig. 8.2.

artistic quality, comparable to the sculptures from the frieze of Pergamon Altar.

The Gate at the southern section of the Royal Quarter in Alexandria has been pulled down and removed from the site in the end of 1st century BC, probably in Augustan time. Removal of the Gate is associable with the end of the great wall surrounding the Ptolemaic Royal Quarter, which finally meant the removal of the border separating the area of Ptolemaic Royal Palaces from the rest of the city, and the alteration of the character of the Street R1 from the evidently Royal Street linking northern *Portus Magnus* and Royal Palaces with the southern Lake Mareotis Harbour, into one of the N-S streets of already Roman Alexandria ²³.

23 Remains of Portus Mareoticus are presented in *Description de l'Égypte*, vol.V, pl. 31, see also: M. Rodziewicz "Mareotis Harbours", *Alexandrie médiévale* 2, 2002, p. 1-22.

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List of Figures

- Fig. 1:** Location of trenches excavated by the Expedition Ernst von Sieglin at the northeastern section of ancient Alexandria, published by F. Noack in 1900, according to the plan of Mahmoud el-Falaki from 1872.
- Fig. 2:** Picture taken by Expedition Ernst von Sieglin at the end of 19th century of their trench dug at the coast of the Eastern Harbour, supposedly the area of Ptolemaic Royal Quarter. Visible remains of the ancient Street L4 and architectural structures are of the Roman period. On the background, the 19th century quarantine, and the terrain occupied now by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.
- Fig. 3:** Trenches N1–N4 excavated by F. Noack in 1898 at the southern edge of the terrain occupied now by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.
- Fig. 4:** Remains of the foundations of a monumental Gate across the Royal Street R 1, unearthed in 1993/4 at the southern border of the modern Bibliotheca Alexandrina site, near the trenches dug by F. Noack in 1898.
- Fig. 5:** Plan of the foundations of monumental Gate crossing the Royal Street R1, at the site of the modern Bibliotheca Alexandrina.
- Fig. 6:** Over life size sculpture representing *Agathodaimon* winding around trunk of the tree. Grey granite. Found in 1993/4 near the monumental Gate crossing the Royal Street R1. *Agathodaimon* could have been attached to the monumental Gate as a symbolic protector of the Ptolemaic Royal Quarter. Drawn by the author.
- Fig. 7:** Unique painted tomb-slab showing gate leading to Elysium, guarded by two snakes. Late Ptolemaic period. The painted slab was used to close one of the rock-hewn loculi in the Ptolemaic Cemetery at Shatby. Drawing made *in situ* in 1981 by the author.

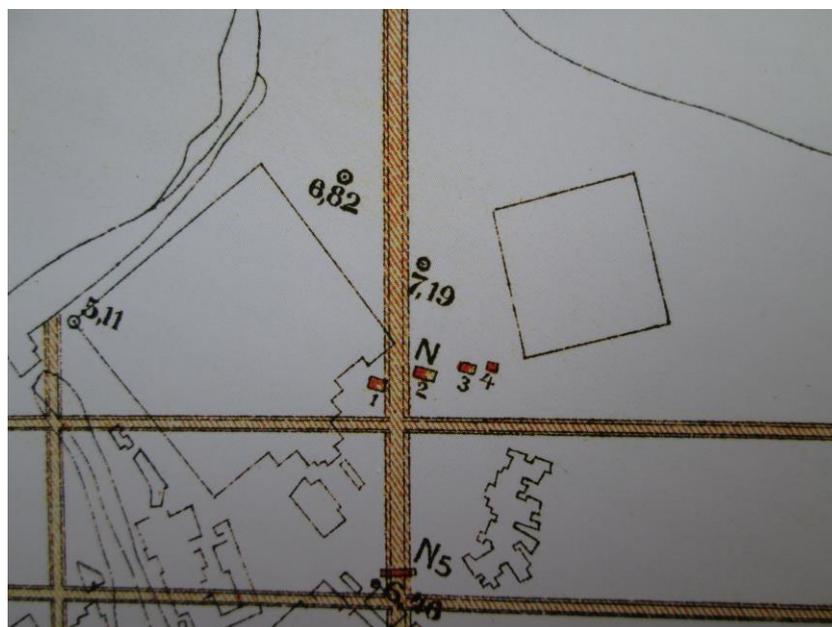


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

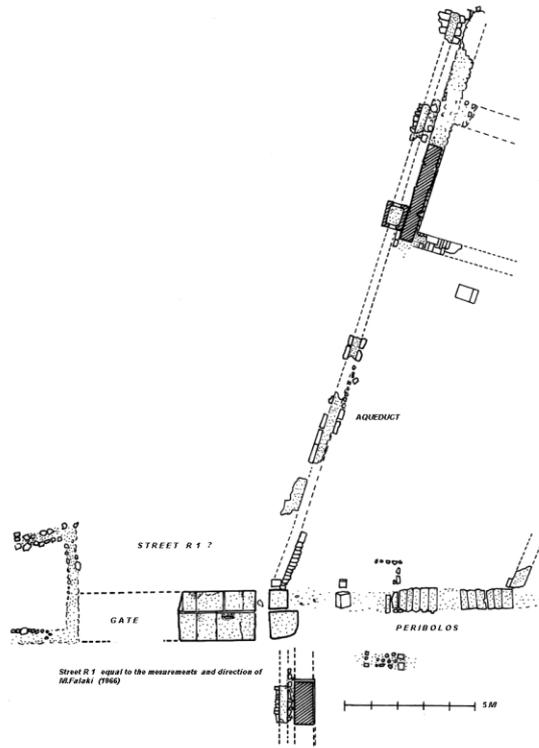


Fig. 5

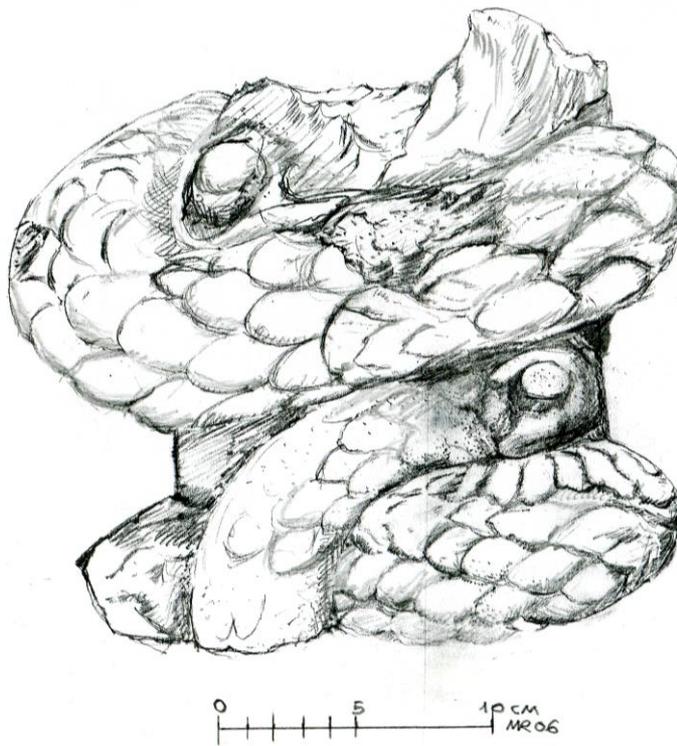


Fig. 6



Fig. 7