

Introduction

The subject of this research paper was chosen because of the importance of the archaeological site of Abu Sir El-Malaq region, especially the cache.

It is located about 35 km from the north east of Beni Suef. There are many villages in Upper and Lower Egypt named Abu Sir, it was named in the ancient Egyptian texts in northern Abydos to differentiate it from southern Abydos in Sohag. If that indicates anything, it indicates its great religious status as a center for the worship of the god Osiris. It has a great heritage significant, a group of cemeteries of various periods, it extends to about 650 acres,¹ where there are many shaft tombs in the area that are difficult to count, from the pre-dynastic, "the first and second dynastic", the old king dome, some of the tombs from the New Kingdom, the Saite period, the Graeco - Roman period, the Coptic period and also found the area traces of the Islamic period. Also, there were remains of a temple to God " Ptah skr",² under the the old mosque and religious institute now.³



(Fig.1) Some tombs from the cemetery of Abu Sir El-malaq, ©Researcher's photo.

During this study, a description and an analytical study of 20 pieces from the excavations of the Abu Sir El-malaq area, the so-called "Abu Sir Cache ", and preserved in the Grand Egyptian Museum and the Beni Suef Antiquities Museum.

Among the previous studies that have been reviewed is the manuscript of a doctoral dissertation, by Dr. Ahmed Jalal Abdel-Fattah, entitled "Abu Sir El-Malaq and Sedment, Al-Jabal during the Graeco and Roman periods, a historical-archaeological-religious study".

¹ The inspection record of the antiquities area in Beni-Suef Governorate.

² The god Ptah Skr Osiris combines three gods in the form of a human wearing a knitting robe (Ptah), the head of falcon "skr" and the "Atef" crown of Osiris. And the god Ptah-Suker-Osir captures the signs of "Haqa-Was-Ankh, HkA wAs c'nx". The aforementioned formation appears in many places, although it was more evident in the temple of "Seti I" in Abydos. The fame of this deity spread greatly on the monuments and sarcophagi of the late period until the Graeco-Roman period; Abd El-ftah.A, Abusir El-Malaq and the mountain dam during the Greco-Roman period - an archaeological, historical and religious study, Doctor's thesis, Faculty of Archeology - Cairo University – 2006, p.8.

³ During the excavations that took place under the mosque in 1905.

At the end of the study, the sources, references, findings and recommendations that the study concluded will be mentioned.

I. The topography and significant location of Abu Sir El-Malaq.

Abu Sir is situated in the northeast area from the mountain which is named after the cemetery "Abu Sir Mountain" and is recorded in all surveying maps. The length of Abu Sir Mountain which represents in a low desert area extends to 14 KM, width of average 4 KM, and is situated in the east from Fayuom entrance and alongside pyramid of "Senusret II" and towards the northwest from Beni Suef and to the west of the river Nile. This mountain is also situated in the southwest of the province of El-Wastta. The village which is situated to the east is called "Abu Sir Villag" as it was established upon an ancient village which was one of the worshiping places of God Osiris⁴, and therefore the mountain which is situated to the west and northwest of it was called "Abu Sir Mountain", which includes the ancient cemetery that once was used since the period before the dynasties and until the Islamic period. Abu Sir is situated on latitude 21.15 north and longitude 31.5 east. It includes also Al-Hargah cemetery which is situated in the far southwest.⁵

The significance of the geographical location, both in ancient and modern times, Abu Sir is the entrance to Fayuom city and also an entrance to Asyut western road, and it can be reached through the road beside El-Gizawya canal which extends from Bahr Youssef at El-Lahun and it is in Director general the road leading there, and the people of Abu Sir village exchange trade with Fayuom city. The location of the cemetery to the west of Abu Sir village may reflect the great talent of the intelligent Egyptian in choosing the location of the cemetery, as the west was the favorite direction according to the Ancient Egyptian to set there most of their cemeteries. The location of Abu Sir is very significant as it represents the southern boundary to region no. 21 among Upper Egypt regions which is called "Naret Bhattet" and intersects with the end of region no. 20 which is called "Naret Khanttet". The boundary of region no. 21 started from the south where Abu Sir El-Malaq is located and from there onward to the north where Medium is situated and above is El-Raqa, and above Gerza and Tarkhan, and the capital of that region was "Kafr Amaar". Abu Sir is recognized by its location in the north of Ehnasya city.⁶⁷

Abu Sir is situated to the west of Ashment village which is located in the west of Ibrahimiya Canal and Cairo / Aswan Road. Abu Sir village and cemetery can be reached through the road of Ashment. There is another road leading to Abu Sir from Dallass village and passing to Tenssa Al-Meleq village and from there reaching Abu Sir village and cemetery. There is a third road coming from the north and northeast of Wastta passing by Infast village then Maassaret Abu Sir and finally reaching Abu Sir. Finally there is a fourth road alongside Al-Gizawia canal starting from Al-Lahun village in Fayuom Governorate leading to Al-Hargah village and passing by Maassaret Abu Sir and reaching from there the village and cemetery of Abu Sir El-malaq. Abu Sir is situated KM 35 Northwest of Beni Suef, and a small canal called "Mahmoud Yassin Canal". To the west and southwest of the village, Hemeda and Nakhareen manors are situated, and the far southwest in Al-Hargah village represents the boundary of Abu Sir Mountain.⁸

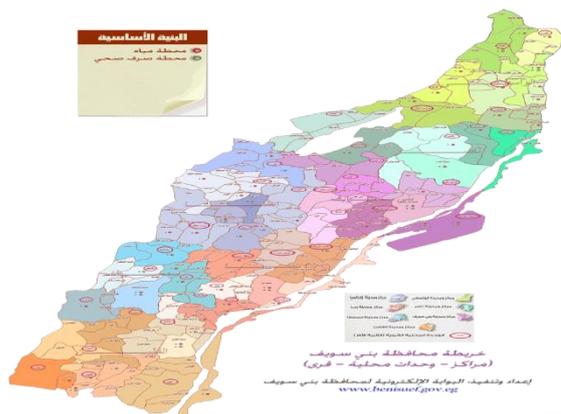
⁴ Rubensohn.O, Kanatz.F, Bericht Uber die Ausgrabungen bei Abusir el Malaq im Jahre 1903, ZAS 4, 1904, p.1.

⁵ Abdel-Fattah.A, 2006, p. 17-18.

⁶ Mokhtar.M; Ell.Din, Ihnasya Ell Medina (Herakleopolis Magna) Its Importance And Its Role in Pharaonic History, Le Caire, 1983, p.39.

⁷ Abdel-Fattah.A.G.S, 2006, p. 18.

⁸ Engelbach.R, Gunn.B, Harageh, London, 1923, p1.



(Fig.2) A map showing the location of Abu Sir El-malaq, after: <http://www.benisuef.gov.eg/NewPortal/maps/InfoMap/villages/maps/A9.png>, 5/8/2023, 1:30 p.m.



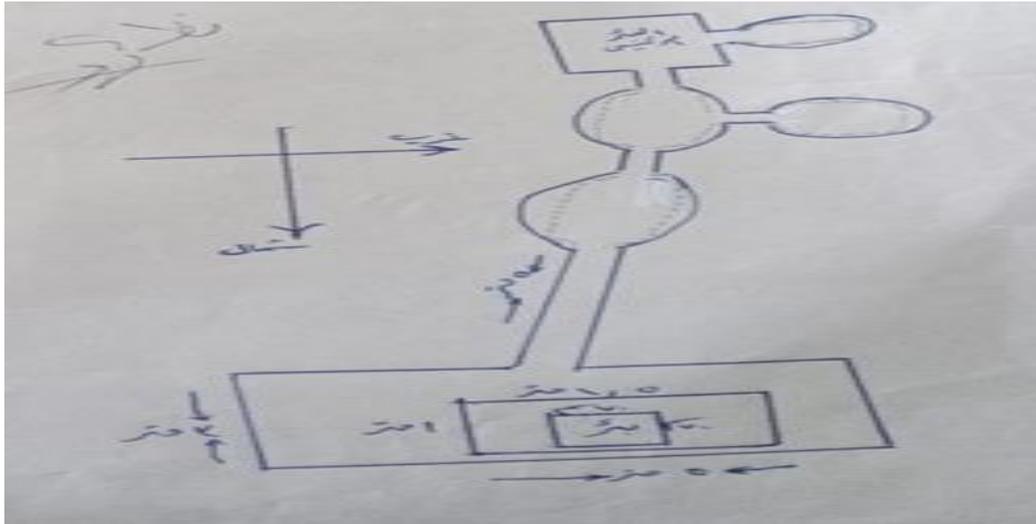
(Fig.3) A sketch to the location of the shaft tombs discovered by Engelbakh, after: report on the excavations of Season1973preserved in the scientific preservation of the supreme council of

II. The cache of Abu Sir El-Malaq.

This cache was discovered during the excavation season 1985,⁹ from 3/9to 9/11/1985, committee chairman: Mr. Mohsen Khalil. When making sensors for the purpose of constructing the microwave tower of the Air Force, Unit No. 4022C, on an area of 20 x 20 meters. It located on the western edge of the archaeological area, the excavation was performed in a small site in the form of a square with 10 meters for each side, and luckily a Shaft was found with 15 m depth which bottom reaches a large hall. In the middle of that hall there is another Shaft leading to the burial chamber with dimensions of: length 3 m, width 2 m, and height 1.50 meters. The tomb was used in different period for storing the remains of the artifacts"hidden", where 44 antiquities were discovered inside and registered with serial 897 – 940 back to the Graeco-Roman period. So many human and animal statues of limestone with different shapes were discovered, however most of them were broken into pieces while some were broken whether in the head, arms, or legs and they demonstrate clearly the Graeco art. Many broken stone tablets engraved with Graeco scripts, pottery utensils and dishes were discovered as Shaft. Most of the above-mentioned antiquities were placed in Beni Suef Museum for Antiquities and registered with serial 649\2, 654, 655, 656, 657+658\2, 659, 667, 669, 673, 675, 676, 679, 914, 1023, 1026, 1027, 1114, 1181,¹⁰ and also in 5 of them were transfers to the Grand Egyptian Museum.

⁹ Khalil.M, Excavation Reports, Season 3/9 to 9/11/1985, preserved in the scientific archives of the Supreme council of antiquities.

¹⁰ Khalil.M, Excavation Reports of the 1985 Season, Record of the Antiquities of Beni Suef, Series 897-940, preserved in the Scientific preservation of the Supreme council of antiquities.



(Fig.4) A sketch showing a layout of the Shaft, after: A report on the excavations of Season1985, preserved in the Scientific preservation of the supreme council of antiquities.



(Fig.5) The cache "Shaft of the Governorate", ©Researcher's photo

1. Artifacts preserved in the Grand Egyptian Museum.

Doc.1: A statue of a lady.



(Fig.6) ©Researcher's photo

Place: The Grand Egyptian Museum.

Number: 66163.

Material: Limestone.

Dimension: H.154cm, W.40cm.

Date: Roman Period.

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir El-malaq, cache of the governorate Shaft. By Mr. Mohsen Khalil, discovery number 902. A statue of a lady lost parts of arms. She stands on a pedestal. And she's wearing a long interweave sleeve. Her hair is styled in braids that fall to the shoulders. There are support behind. Repaired, punched and black spots.

Doc.2: A statue of a man.



(Fig.7) ©Researcher's photo

Place: The Grand Egyptian Museum.

Number: 66196.

Material: Limestone.

Dimension: W 50 cm, T 189cm, brace length 164 cm, Base 70×32×14 cm.

Date: Late Period, 30 dyn.

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir El-malaq, cache of the governorate Shaft. By Mr. Mohsen Khalil, discovery number 904, 905, 915.

A statue of a man with normal size he stands on the base of his left front leg in the usual Egyptian shape. The Egyptian wears "Shendit", and the kilt is on his head. The face is full and clear. The statue is missing the right forearm and the nose is smashed, there is a back pillar extending from the head to the base.

The statue is assembled and restored, as it consists of three pieces, each of them bearing a number discovered in excavations, as follows (904, 905, 915). And the register number of the

Beni Suef archaeology Museum is as follows 661, by Mr. Mohamed Taha,¹¹ before the artifact was transferred to the Grand Egyptian Museum. The base has cracks.

Doc.3: A statue of a man.



(Fig.8) ©Researcher's photo

Place: The Grand Egyptian Museum.

Number: 66195.

Material: Limestone.

Dimension: T 154 cm, W 40 cm, Base 40×36×11 cm.

Date: The head Roman period (Hadrian), the body late period.

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir Al- malaq, cache of the governorate Shaft. By Mr. Mohsen Khalil, discovery number 905+ 915. And in Beni suef archeology museum, no. 660+662/3 were collected, by Mr. Mohamed Taha.

A statue of a man with normal size he stands on the base of his left front leg in the usual Egyptian shape. The Egyptian wears "Shendit". The face is clear, curl's hair, the chin is partly broken. The statue is missing the right forearm and the nose is smashed, there is a back pillar extending from the head to the base. The statue has been restored.

¹¹ Antiquities restoration specialist at Beni Suef archeology Museum.

Doc.4: A statue of a priest.



(Fig.9) ©Researcher's photo

Place: The Grand Egyptian Museum.

Number: 66162.

Material: Limestone.

Dimension: T 155 cm, W 37 cm, H.base 60cm.

Date: The head late period and the body Graeco period.

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir Al- malaq, cache of the governorate Shaft. By Mr. Mohsen Khalil, discovery number 903.

A statue of a man believed to be a priest. With normal size he stands on a stone base of his left front leg in the usual Egyptian shape. He wears a Graeco cloak wrapped around his body.

The statue is missing large parts of the arms. Supported by a stone pillar from the top of the head to the base. There are some bevels at the nose, ears and base.

The statue was broken into three pieces and was assembled and restored.

Doc.5: Winged lion.



Drawing by: Mr. Gamal Alish¹²



(Fig.10) ©Researcher's photo

Place: The Grand Egyptian Museum.

Number: 657+658/2

Material: White limestone.

Dimension: H 83 cm, H.body 60 cm, base 34×33 cm.

Date: Graeco period.

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir El-malaq, cache of the governorate Shaft. By Mr. Mohsen Khalil, discovery number 906,931.

A winged lion with a human face is believed to be the face of a man. It is characterized by precision workmanship and beauty, and every detail is exquisitely anthropomorphic. The hair is parted from the middle. It is believed that he wears a large human earring with his ears. He wears a necklace on the chest with a circular strap in the shape of flower petals. The sculptor has depicted the details of the legs Shaft, as we find that he showed the hooves of the feet embedded in the base. The number of full fingers 4 for each foot. The lion's tail is wrapped around the left thigh from the back to the top of the thigh. Putting the piece on it has many salts and dust and it needs to be cleaned, and the base erodes and its layers peel off. The base has smashing from several sides of the wings, with fractures and smashing from above. We can see a rendering of the lion's spine in the back.

There is a cylindrical stone piece holding the two wings together from the top. Many restorations and assemblies have taken place by the piece. The nose is completely smashed.

¹² General Director of the Restoration of the Antiquities of Middle Egypt.

2. Artifacts preserved in the Beni Suef Museum.

Doc.1: A statue Of A lady lost Right Arm standing on a pedestal.



(Fig.11) ©Researcher's photo

Place: Beni suef Archeology Museum.

Number: 675.

Material: Limestone.

Dimension: Body length 58 cm, base circumference 63 cm, base height 13 cm, base diameter circumference 24 cm, h 54 cm, w 13 cm, t 64 cm, waist circumference 55 cm, Shoulder circumference 49 cm, neck circumference 16 cm, head height to chin 8 cm, head circumference from nose 25 cm, nose height 2cm, Eye circumference 1.5 cm, Mouth circumference 1 cm. The length of the broken arm is 8 cm, base height 13 cm, base diameter circumference 24 cm, chest circumference 7 cm, pot length 10 cm.

Date: Roman Period.

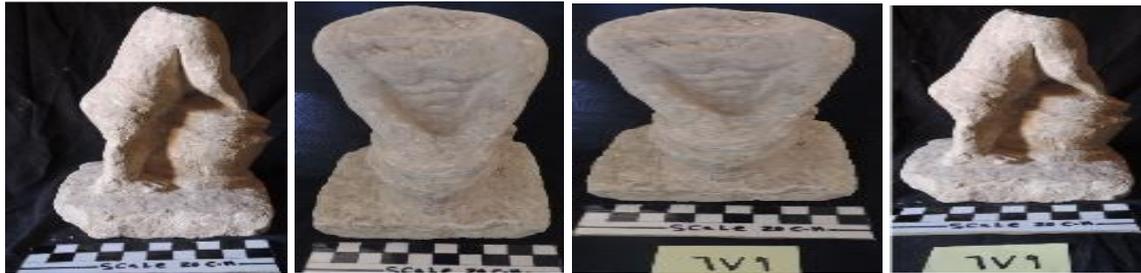
Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir Al- malaq, cache of the governorate Shaft. By Mr. Mohsen Khalil, discovery number 936.

Statue of a woman standing on a pedestal, wearing a robe. Her head is decorated with a Roman hairstyle, parted from the middle from the front to the sides and gathered from the back in the style of itch. The lady has a full and beautiful face and very precise face measurements with a small mouth and a straight nose, the neck is a bit full, perhaps the artist did this to support the neck area so that it does not break. She wears a transparent robe that is wrapped around her body from the middle in the form of a ribbed belt from under the chest, and the robe has multiple pleats that wrap from the front and back, open from the chest in a V-shape. We can also see the lady's bundle from under the transparent robe. The right arm is broken and there is a hole in it that may have been to stabilize the forearm, and the arm has fractures from below the shoulder. The left arm rests on a column that is not separate from the body, and the part of the forearm and palm is missing. The right leg is straight and resting on the base and part of it appears under the robe (the front part), the left leg is bent under the robe and part of it appears on the base.

We note the discovery number written in black ink 40/936, as Shaft as writing in red ink for the part number in the Museum Register 675. The piece has impermeable holes and has black spots and was previously restored, and many cleaning operations were made for it. It is believed that this piece was in an art workshop in Abu Sir El-Malaq area before it was preserved in the cache that was discovered later.

Comment: It is believed that in the Roman period, the 1st and 2nd centuries, women were represented in Roman robe, and with their right hand they were holding papyrus scrolls or situla of Isis, and the left hand was holding palm fronds or olive twig.

Doc.2: Statue of a man making beer or kneading.



(Fig.12) ©Researcher's photo

Place: Beni Suef Archeology Museum.

Number: 679.

Material: Limestone.

Dimension: Height at the base is 29.5 cm, Base length 18.5 cm, base height 5 cm, base width 19.5 cm, Base diameter circumference 48 cm, the length of the arm is 10 cm, Chest circumference 7 cm, pot length 10 cm.

Date: Graeco Period.

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir El-malaq, cache of the governorate Shaft. By Mr. Mohsen Khalil, discovery number 919.

A statue in the form of a man making beer or kneading, without head and neck. The man wears a loincloth and a belt from the middle showing his protrusion from the back and the left side, and his upper half is naked. The sculptor did not take into account the anatomical proportions of the body, but the details of the man's chest muscles can be clearly seen from the front. The artist did not separate the mass of the legs from the body so that there would be no cracking or smashing, and he showed the fingers of the hands badly as if they were longitudinal lines. Only 4 toes appear on the right foot, as Shaft as the left foot.

The piece has cracks and fractures. On the left thigh of the man, there is a detection number of 23/929. We also note the number of the piece in the museum register in red ink on the base from the back of 679. There are some black spots behind the piece and is believed to be due to the black ink with which the discovery number was written.

Doc.3: A statue base with a child's feet on it.



(Fig.13) ©Researcher's photo

Place: Beni Suef Archeology Museum.

Number: 659.

Material: Limestone

Dimension: 30.8x 23 x 17 cm, the circumference of the square of the child's feet is 13.5 x 13.5 x 1 cm.

Date: Graeco Period.

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir El-malaq, cache of the governorate Shaft. By Mr. Mohsen Khalil, discovery number 914.

A statue base with the feet of a boy or girl on it, on a square protruding from the base. We can read on the base inscriptions in the Graeco language in three lines....., one side a polygon, with directions from top to bottom that are clear from the bottom and from left to right at an angle of inclination of 24.5 cm.

The base has many cracks (peels) and cuts, except for the side on which the writings. The left foot is crushed more than the right from above and from the toe. The greater forefinger of the right foot is completely crushed. The part number is written in red ink on the right side with respect to the observer 18/914 in black ink, the disclosure number.

Doc.4: Winged lion.



(Fig.14) ©Researcher's photo

Place: Beni Suef Archeology Museum.

Number: 655.

Material: White limestone.

Dimension: Base 46 × 30 × 6 cm.

Date: Graeco period.

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir Al- malaq, cache of the governorate Shaft. By Mr. Mohsen Khalil, discovery number 898.

A winged lion had lost the head. He wears a necklace on the chest with a circular strap in the shape of flower petals. The sculptor has depicted the details of the legs Shaft, as we find that he showed the hooves of the feet embedded in the base. The number of full fingers 4 for each foot. The lion's tail is wrapped around the left thigh from the back to the top of the thigh. Putting the piece on it has many salts and dust and it needs to be cleaned, and the base erodes and its layers peel off. The base has smashing from several sides of the wings, with fractures and smashing from above. We can see a rendering of the lion's spine in the back. Many restorations and assemblies have taken place by the piece.

Doc.5: Sphinx Statue.



(Fig.15) ©Researcher's photo

Place: Beni Suef Archeology Museum.

Number: 673.

Material: Limestone.

Dimension: Base length 53.5 cm, base width 13.3 cm, base height 5 cm, the length of the front foot 12 cm, the width of the front foot 5 cm, Chest height 11cm, Chest width 13 cm, Unit length 9 cm, front width 9 cm, mouth 2 cm, nose 3 cm, eye 1 cm, ear 3 cm, body length 24 cm, body circumference 34 cm, butt circumference 30 cm, tail length 36cm, back foot length 14cm,

Date: Roman Period.

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir El-malaq, cache of the governorate Shaft. By Mr. Mohsen Khalil, discovery number 935.

A statue in the form of a Sphinx, with a human head wearing a mongoose, with a cobra in full details until the end of the mongoose from the back, with a clear face and there is a hole above the nose. On the chest there are two indistinct letters. The tail is wrapped around the stern from the right to the top of the right thigh and part of it is missing. The left thigh is smashed from above. The front left foot is broken, the back left foot has 2 toes, the third is crushed, and the right foot has 3 toes. There is an inscription on the base in red ink for the part number 673 of the Museum Register.

The piece has many black holes, and the side of the piece from the shoulder to the bottom of the feet has a fully restored crack, the base from the right side in the front is broken, and from the back has fractures, and it has many salt calcifications, the last restoration of the piece more than 29 years ago.

Doc.6: Sphinx Statue.



(Fig.16) ©Researcher's photo

Place: Beni Suef Archeology Museum.

Number: 676.

Material: Limestone.

Dimension: Base width 15 cm, base length 27 cm, base height 3 cm, the length of the front foot is 14 cm, chest height 10 cm, chest width 13 cm, the length of the face with the head is 11.5 cm, face width 12 cm, eye circumference 2 cm, ear circumference 3 cm, body length circumference 23 cm, body width 35 cm, the whole ferret is 16 cm long, the length of the mongoose from shoulder to chest is 7.8 cm.

Date: Graeco Period.

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir Al- malaq, cache of the governorate Shaft. By Mr. Mohsen Khalil, discovery number 919.

A statue in the form of the Sphinx, with a human head wearing a mongoose, and on the left side a Graeco letter that reads “AXpa”, with a full face, but the nose, mouth and chin are smashed. On the chest there are two indistinct letters, the front legs are straight and have 4 fingers. We can see the details of the lion’s body from the right side, where the sculptor highlighted the ribs of the body, and on the chest from the top of the necklace worn by the statue, and below it is a book in Graeco that reads “NIKe (o)CTPATie”. The left side of the head is smashed, the back half of the statue is smashed and completely missing, the base on the left side is smashed, and there is a crack in the piece on the left leg from above. We read the discovery number written behind the head in black ink 260 / 922, and another writing on the base in red ink for the piece number in the Museum Register 676. The piece is in poor condition as there are black dots (mold) on it, and restoration remains with yellow wrong Material.

Doc.7: Antlers.



(Fig.17) ©Researcher's photo

Place: Beni Suef Archeology Museum.

Number: 649/2.

Material: Limestone.

Dimension: T 63 cm, H from the front 19,8 cm, H from the back 31,4 cm, W from upper 24 cm, W from middle 26,3 cm, W from lower 24 cm, The perimeter of the foreground with the decorations is 78 cm, H.base 45 cm, H.base 39,2 cm, W.base 22,4 cm.

Date: Graeco period

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir El-malaq, cache of the governorate Shaft. By Mr. Mohsen Khalil, discovery number 916.

Two cylindrical columns with torsion. They have floral decorations made of grapes and pomegranate. Their circumference is reduced from the bottom and united by one belt. We find them in one piece, flattened and then bent by one part with a frieze. It was used for fixing in walls in the Graeco period and also for decoration.

The small part at the bottom of the piece is broken and restored on 8/17/2002.

In the middle of the front there are two circular figures with recessed pits, in which it is believed that something was attached to them. There are circular indentations at the front of each horn 10 cm. At the end of the two centuries there is a polygonal decoration of 26.5 cm. The base is broken from behind, resulting in one side longer than the other.

The piece is decorated with corn cobs. (Cob of corn is 12 cm and 15 cm in the green part, the number of corn kernels in the left cob is 53, the number of corn kernels in the right cob is 70, and there are fruits around the cob of corn that are believed to be Roman).

The left side of the front of the piece is smaller in terms of area and height than the base. The piece has some cracks in the front and its decoration is incomplete. The piece was restored in 1998 during the museum display.

Doc.8: A Pillar crown with pedestal.



(Fig.18) ©Researcher's photo

Place: Beni Suef Archeology Museum.

Number: 667.

Material: White limestone.

Dimension: From the top 38.5 x 33 cm, from the bottom 23.8 x 28 cm, Height 21 cm.

Date: Graeco Roman period.

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir Al- malaq, cache of the governorate Shaft. By Mr. Mohsen Khalil, discovery number 908.

Column crown with a small base. Divided into 4 grooved parts with a curved cornice top. It has some graffiti that is not clear in the form of |x| - |x|.

The piece has flakes and smashed parts at the top of the column's crown on the right side. It has corroded holes. The part number is written in reverse in red ink.

Doc.9: A stone pillar crown.



(Fig.19) ©Researcher's photo

Place: Beni Suef Archeology Museum.

Number: 669.

Material: White limestone.

Dimension: From the top 33 x 37 cm, from the bottom 25 x 32 cm, Height 20 cm.

Date: Graeco period.

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir El-Malaq, cache of the governorate Shaft. By Mr. Mohsen Khalil, discovery number 909.

The capital of a square column is decorated on top with a cornice, with a hollowed-out part on the top, 4 cm deep, and 16 × 18 cm long. It contains remnants of gypsum.

We read on one of its sides from the bottom an inscription in Graeco "ΚαζςΑΝΔροεχπερΗοΝΔΑοχπογγ'γΑςκΑτπις.....ΥΥΗΝ"

Doc.10: Amafora.



(Fig.20) ©Researcher's photo

Place: Beni Suef Archeology Museum.

Number:1181.

Material: Red pottery

Dimension: Height 63 cm, base diameter circumference 16 cm, body circumference from the middle 65 cm, the circumference of the nozzle is 7.5 cm, nozzle hole 6.5 cm.

Date: Graeco Roman Period

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir El-Malaq. By Mr. Ahmed Galal, discovery number 496.

Amphora with two handles does not have any inscriptions. The body contains decorations in the form of circular lines in relief around the body, about 29 indentations from the base to the top of the nozzle. At the top of the body is a short neck with two handles connecting the top of the neck and the top of the body, drawing scale 1: 6 cm. Similar amphorae have been discovered in Ahnasiya, Saqqara, Umm Al-Jaab, Klei and there are many of them in museums in Europe.

The piece is not Shaft polished, has many holes, cracks (peels), and some cracks, and has calcified salt. The nozzle opening has many bevels and uneven heights. The masterpiece number is written on the base in red ink 1181.

An Egyptian cemetery dating back to the Graeco-Roman period cannot be devoid of large vessels known in Graeco writing as “amphora” or remnants of them. The hull has a strong neck and is suitable for the size of the hull. It contains two strong handles to carry the pot from them. Most of the large-sized pots have decorative motifs in the form of lines around the body from the neck to the bottom of the body. These pots were designated for transporting drinking water and some other liquids. The styles of these pots differ from one period to another, as they have been known since the modern state. These pots remained in use until the end of the Roman period. Many of them were revealed in the various cemeteries of Beni Suef dating back to this period.

Doc.11: Vessel.



(Fig.21) ©Researcher's photo

Place: Beni Suef Archeology Museum.

Number:1114.

Material: Red Pottery.

Dimension: Length 14 cm, the circumference of the hull diameter is 34 cm, neck diameter 27.5 cm, neck length 4 cm, the inner diameter of the nozzle is 8.5 cm, handle length 9.5 cm, handle diameter circumference 6 cm, base 5 x 5 cm, base diameter circumference 18cm.

Date: Roman Period.

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir El-Malaq, Hajar Al-Jabal Basin, Plot No. 14, Number 4. By Mr. Ahmed Galal, discovery number 1219.

A vessel with a wide mouth and a long neck that ends at the bottom of the vessel's body, which rests in turn on a small base. The bottle is poorly made and has protruding parts on the body. The vessel has a handle that connects the nozzle and the body. We can notice remnants of white paint on the upper part of the vessel, and remnants of brown paint on the body and neck. We also note that the base is uneven and has cracks, and the nozzle has many markings. The part number is written in red ink on the body of lot 1114.

Doc.12: Saddle.¹³

¹³ The saddles were known in Egypt since the beginning of the dynasties, after the Egyptian was guided to the knowledge of lighting with oil, as the saddles were made with an ignition wick. The production of saddles continued to develop, as this was clearly evident in the types that were revealed in the cemeteries of Lahoun and Hawara in Fayoum, Beni Hassan in Minya, and Sedmand in Beni Suef, which dates back to the period of the Middle Kingdom. It is an imitation of what was done in the tombs of Bani Hassan. In the late period, many of them were revealed in Akhmim, when the Graecos came to Egypt, they brought with them their own saddles and succeeded in maintaining their own style. At the end of the second century AD, the identity of the Egyptian music industry developed and clarified, as it was made in Kom Oshim in abundance on the wheel and from two parts and some of them. It was made by hand, and from that period onwards, the lamps spread in all archaeological areas dating back to the Greco-Roman period, and among the most important areas adjacent to the Abusir and Sedmand cemeteries are the cemeteries of Fayoum, especially Kom Oshim, Al Bahnasa and Ashmounin in Minya, Al Clayhal cemeteries, Mazoura, Abu Saleh Island, Ihnasia, Salman Al-Sharqiya and Tama Fayoum built Beni Suef.

Hardly an archaeological area in Egypt dating back to the Graeco-Roman period is devoid of theaters, including, of course, the aforementioned Beni Suef cemeteries. Where many numbers were discovered in Ihnasia, Kom Oshim, Bahnasa, Armant, Al-Madamoud and Habu, and the Saddles were revealed in Christian places of worship, the most famous of which are the Abu Mina Monastery, the Ephanios Monastery, and Tell Atrib. The Saddles continued to be produced in Egypt on a large scale during the Islamic period, when Saddles of yellow-painted cperiodmics were discovered in Abusir. There were many forms of saddlebags, some of which are rectangular, which is the "dolphin" style, and what is circular and has one or two shoulders on the side of the body. The decorations vary on the surfaces of the Saddles. There are various types of plant decorations, geometric decorations, the famous "frog" style, and the "Erinaceinae" style. In the late Roman period, explicit Christian decorations spread on the roofs of the halls to show the shapes of the cross clearly. The cross was placed in more than one place. The saints began to be depicted on their roofs while they were holding the cross and around their heads a large halo as a symbol of holiness and their religious status. It was customary for some Saddles to include factory marks at the bottom, which are different signs and inscriptions that help to a large extent in dating the period to which they belong. There are poor Saddles that were devoid of any decoration.

The Saddle general contains two openings, one of which is in the front for ignition and is mostly in the front of the saddle, and the wick for ignition is placed in it, and the second hole is often in the middle of the saddle surface, especially by supplying the saddle with its own oil for lighting.



(Fig.22) ©Researcher's photo

Place: Beni Suef Archeology Museum.

Number: 914.

Material: Red pottery.

Dimension: Length 7 cm, Width 6 cm, Height 3 cm, body circumference 21 x 15 cm, Nozzle circumference 2 x 2 cm.

Date: Roman (5th century).

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir Al- Malaq, Hajar Al-Jabal Basin, Plot No. 14, Number 4. By Mr. Ahmed Galal, discovery number 1451.

Saddle bags it is below the mark of manufacture. It has a longitudinal body that expands from the rear and is greatly reduced from the front, as it contains the ignition nozzle. Some lines and geometric decorations are engraved on it, and there is a line that wraps the surface of the saddle, containing in the middle the fuel nozzle, surrounded by small circles with the eminence, and inside each of them a small dot. Below the saddle for not being used, and there are two rows of identical holes on the base, with the discovery number in black ink 1451 and the record number in red ink 914 on it. Similar saddles were discovered in Ihnasiya.

Doc.13: Glass bottle.



(Fig.23) ©Researcher's photo

Place: Beni Suef Archeology Museum.

Number: 1023.

Material: Green glass.

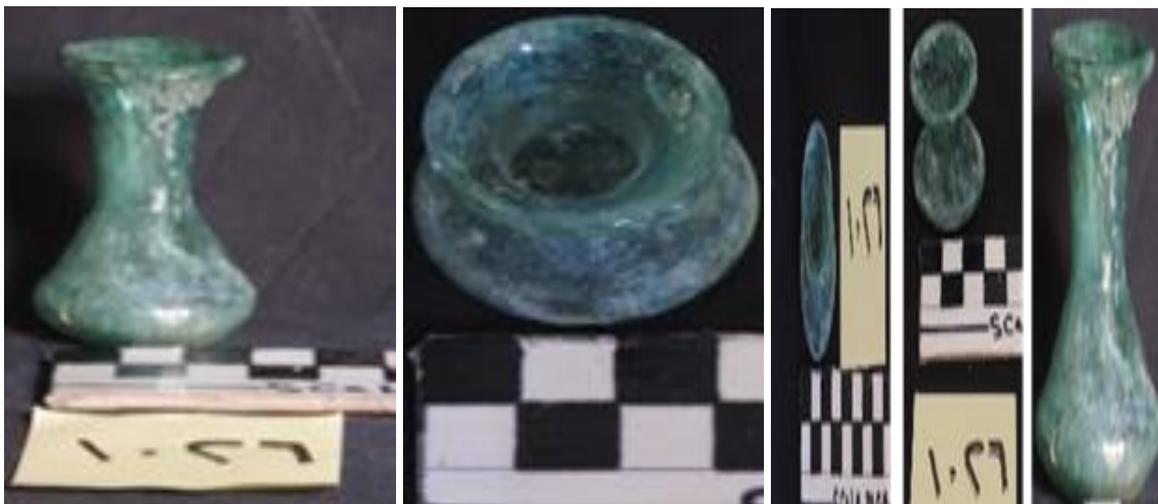
Dimension: Height 19 cm, Height without base and nozzle is 15 cm, base height 4 cm, base diameter circumference 23 cm, the circumference of the body from the middle is 5.5 cm, the circumference of the nozzle is 12.5 cm, and the circumference of the nozzle opening is 5 cm.

Date: Graeco Period.

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir Al- malaq, Hajar Al-Jabal Basin, Plot No. 14, Number 4. By Mr. Ahmed Galal, discovery number 475.

A poorly made green glass bottle, with bubbles on the inside. There is an inscription on the base in red ink for the piece number in the Museum Register 1023

Doc.14: Glass bottle.



(Fig.24) ©Researcher's photo

Place: Beni Suef Archeology Museum.

Number: 1026.

Material: Green glass.

Dimension: Height 9 cm, base diameter circumference 22 cm, the circumference of the body from the middle is 10 cm, the circumference of the nozzle 7.5 cm.

Date: Graeco Period.

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir Al- malaq,. By Mr. , discovery number 474.

A poorly made green glass bottle, with bubbles on the inside and flaking on part of the base. There is an inscription on the base in red ink for the piece number in the Museum Register 1026.

Doc.14: Glass bottle.



(Fig.25) ©Researcher's photo

Place: Beni Suef Archeology Museum.

Number: 1027.

Material: Green glass.

Dimension: Height 9 cm, height without base and nozzle is 5 cm, base height 4 cm, base diameter circumference 14 cm, the circumference of the body from the middle is 8.5 cm, and the circumference of the body from the middle is 9 cm, the circumference of the nozzle 13 cm, the circumference of the nozzle opening 5.3 cm.

Date: Graeco Roman Period.

Description: It was discovered in the cemetery of Abu Sir Al- Malaq, Hajar Al-Jabal Basin, Plot No. 14, Number 4. By Mr. Ahmed Galal, discovery number 473.

A poorly made dark green glass bottle, with bubbles on the inside. There is a fracture at the nozzle. We notice remnants of a paint-like color on it, and it is believed that this color is from the same manufacture. There is an inscription on the base in red ink for the piece number in the Museum Register 1027.

Results and recommendations

After conducting the research study and within the limits of the theoretical and field framework, the researcher reached the following results and recommendations:

- A study and publication for the first time 20 artifacts, which preserved in the Beni Suef Antiquities Museum, archaeological record series under numbers registered with serial 649\2, 654, 655, 656, 657+658\2, 659, 667, 669, 673, 675, 676, 679, 914, 1023, 1026, 1027, 1114, 1181, and also in 5 of them were transfers to the Grand Egyptian Museum.
- Through the analytical study, the study was able to shed light on the artistic styles used in making hula statues in the Greco-Roman era.
- The study confirmed, according to the reports of the excavations of the region, that the stash was discovered during the excavation season in 1985, in the time period from 3/9 to 9/11/1985, the head of the excavation committee, "archaeological inspector / Mohsen Khalil". This is

contrary to what was mentioned by mistake in the antiquities record of the Beni Suef Antiquities Museum.

- The study confirmed, according to the excavation report, that the cache was discovered by chance during the work of sensors at the site for the purpose of constructing the microwave tower for the Air Force, Unit No. 4022C, on an area of 20 x 20 meters. This is on the western edge of the archaeological area in the mountain of Abu Sir El-malaq.
- The mountain of Abu Sir El-malaq is considered one of the most important archaeological areas in Beni Suef Governorate, as it contains burials of different eras and styles in the same location.
- The study confirmed the existence of great neglect in the archaeological area of the mountain of Abu Sir El-malaq, as the site is full of scattered pottery shards and remains of human and animal burial bones (Fig.26).



- The study confirmed that the region lacks all tourism services and facilities.
- The study recommends the preparation and implementation of a study for managing the site of the archaeological area of the mountain of Abu Sir El-malaq using modern scientific methods.
- The study recommends quickly completing the project to develop the Beni Suef Antiquities Museum, so as not to affect the unique artifacts stacked in the antiquities store inside the museum.

References

- Abd El-ftah.A, Abu Sir El-Malaq and the mountain dam during the Graeco-Roman period - an archaeological, historical and religious study, Doctor's thesis, Faculty of Archeology - Cairo University – 2006.
- Engelbach.R, Gunn.B, Harageh, London, 1923.
- General Director of the Restoration of the Antiquities of Middle Egypt.
- Khalil.M, Excavation Reports, Season 3/9 to 9/11/1985, preserved in the scientific archives of the Supreme council of antiquities.

-Khalil.M, Excavation Reports of the 1985 Season, Record of the Antiquities of Beni Suef, Series 897-940, preserved in the Scientific preservation of the Supreme council of antiquities.

-Mokhtar.M; Ell.Din, Ihnasya Ell Medina (Herakleopolis Magna) Its Importance And Its Role in Pharaonic History, Le Caire, 1983.

-Rubensohn.O, Kanatz.F, Bericht Uber die Ausgrabungen bei Abu Sir el Malaq im Jahre 1903, ZAS 4, 1904.

-The inspection record of the antiquities area in Beni Suef Governorate.

دراسة لتحف خبيئة أبو صير الملق

المستخلص

تتمتع منطقة أبو صير الملق بتراث أثري كبير، حيث تعتبر من أهم جبانات محافظة بني سويف، وأيضاً تعتبر أكبر جبانة في مصر الوسطى خلال العصر اليوناني الروماني. تم اكتشاف الخبيئة خلال موسم التنقيب 1985، رئيس اللجنة: السيد محسن خليل، عندما تم عمل المجسات لغرض إنشاء برج الميكروويف للقوات الجوية الوحدة رقم 4022 ج على مساحة 20×20 متر. تم إكتشاف البئر حيث استخدمت المقبرة في عصور مختلفة لتخزين بقايا القطع الأثرية "المخفية"، حيث تم اكتشاف 44 قطعة أثرية مكسورة بداخلها ومسجلة بالسلسلة 897 – 940 ترجع إلى العصر اليوناني الروماني. حيث تم اكتشاف العديد من التماثيل البشرية والحيوانية من الحجر الجيري ذات الأشكال المختلفة، كما تم اكتشاف أواني وأطباق فخارية وتيجان أعمدة. وتتناول هذه الدراسة 20 قطعة أثرية تتميز بالسماط الفنية والتاريخ والوظيفة، 5 قطع محفوظة بالمتحف المصري الكبير، و 15 قطعة أثرية محفوظة بمتحف آثار بني سويف.

الكلمات الدالة: بني سويف ، أبو صير الملق ، خبيئة، يوناني روماني، متحف.