An Epitaph of a Roman Legionary Soldier from the Legio II Traiana stationed in Alexandria

قهش شاهد قبر لجندي روماني من الفرقة التراجانية الثانية في الإسكندرية

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ملخص

يتناول هذا البحث دراسة أثرية وتاريخية ولغوية في نشر علمي لأول مرة لشهد قبر لجندي روماني من جنود الفرقة التراجانية الثانية التي كان مقرها الإسكندرية. ويجري البحث في نقش شهد القبر بالقرن الثاني الميلادي. ويقسم البحث إلى قسمين رئيسين؛ القسم الأول يركز على الدراسة الأثرية لشهد القبر وما يحتويه من مشهد متكامل بالنحت البارز. أما القسم الثاني من البحث فيتناول النشر العلمي للنقش اللاتيني في أسلف اللوحة الموضووعة أثريًا.

وينتشر هذا النشر في القسم الثاني من البحث تعليق تاريخي مستفيض يتناول جانبيه؛ الأول: تعليق خاص بالنقوش المكتشف. 'موضوع البحث' وأهميته. الثاني: تعليق تفصيلي تاريخي عن الفرقة التراجانية الثانية في مصر.
This paper is an archaeological, historical and linguistic study of a tombstone of a Roman legionary soldier from Alexandria, dated to the second century CE.

It is divided into two main sections:

1. The Archaeological Section includes:

1.1 The Provenance, its archaeological finds, and the characteristics of the location.

1.2 An Archaeological Description, commentary and conclusions of the depiction of the deceased soldier in the upper part of the slab.

This section has been prepared by Hasnaa Mahmoud Fahmy, Chief Archaeological Inspector of the Eastern District of Alexandria, together with Inspectors Aia Mohamed Taher and Nesreen Abd-el-Kareem Tawfiq.

2. The publication of the accompanying inscription on the lower part of the slab. This section includes the publication of the Latin text with an English translation and linguistic and explanatory notes. This is followed by detailed commentaries on the discovered inscription and on the Legio II Traiana in Egypt. This is the work of Prof. Mohamed Abd-el-Ghani.

1. The Archaeological Section

1.1 The Provenance, its archaeological finds, and the characteristics of the location

This epitaph is one of the recent discoveries that were found in an unearthed graveyard during the process of digging trial trenches to the foundations (as a part of the required procedures by the municipalities to build or rebuild an empty space of land) at 219, Tiba (Thebes) St., Sporting district, Alexandria. The measurement of the trenched open area is 551.64 square meters, the digging of the trial trenches began in February and ended in June 2013, the epitaph in question was discovered during April 2013. The location of the unearthed graveyard clearly indicated that it was one of the graveyards constituting the Eastern Cemetery of Alexandria during the Greco-Roman Era (Map 1) which was situated beyond the city walls. This Cemetery was the burial place of the Macedonians, Greeks and Romans in Alexandria; it included the graveyards of Chatby, Ibrahimaia, Cleopatra, Sidi Gaber, Tigran, El Hadara, Mustafa Pasha to the east of the barracks known as the Roman camp of Mustafa Pasha.

The epitaph in question was discovered above one of the tombs hewn in the rock in the trench

(Map 1a) General Map of Alexandria.