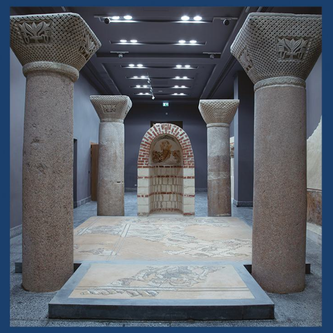
A Sarcophagus, Marble,
Roman Period.

Cinerary Urn, Third Century BC.

THE AFTERLIFE

Tools and objects that were included in burials were characterized in the Greek and Roman eras by continuity and change at the same time. The most significant of these were mummy portraits, mummy masks, mummy labels, mummy shrouds, funerary stelae, canopic jars, cartonnage, coffins, stone sarcophagi and coins.

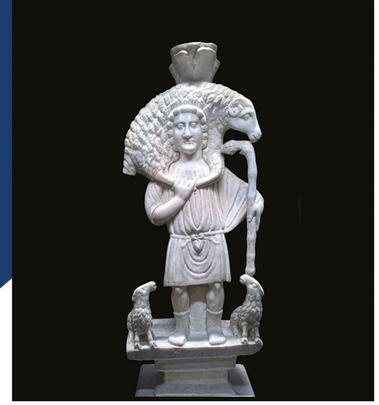
For nearly a millennium that is called the Graeco-Roman Period in Egypt, the funerary beliefs of three greatest civilizations in the history of mankind were merged resulting in a unique outcome.



Reconstruction
of a Basilica Forth Century.

LIFE AND ART IN THE BYZANTINE PERIOD

Byzantine art was an imperial art, evolved from the Christian Greek culture and the artistic production of the Eastern Roman Empire. The subject matter of monumental Byzantine art was primarily a combination of religious and imperial themes. The primary sources of inspiration for Byzantine art were Christianity and Classical Greek mythology.



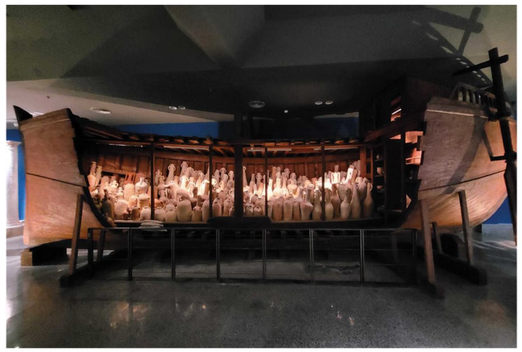
Statue of the Good Sheperd, Marble,
Late Roman Period.

COPTIC ART

Coptic art began to emerge in Egypt around the 2nd century A.D. With the spread of Christianity, most of the popular artistic productions of the Christian Egyptians can be termed as Coptic.

Textiles are the most characteristic product of Coptic Art. They are more than just colorful objects; they serve as a source of information about the social classes.

It is worth mentioning that almost all Coptic mural paintings are monastic and the majority of the icons were found in Egypt's old churches.



Model of a Ship, Roman Style.

THE ECONOMY

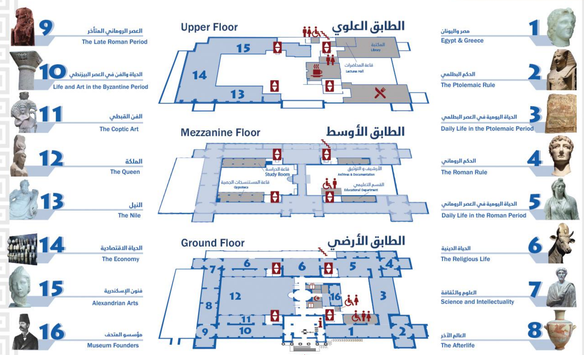
The Greek control of Egypt marked a turning point in the eastern trade: ports, such as Berenike (Marsa Alam), Mios Hormos (Abu Shaar al-Qibli) and Arsinoe (Suez) were established, and safe roads linking those ports to the Nile Valley at Edfu, Koptos and Sheikh Abadah were paved.

Indian, Arabian and African merchandise like incense, ivory, silk, pearls, spices and perfumes were re-taxed and re-exported from Alexandria to the Mediterranean region and Rome.

Bust of Sarapis
Marble, Roman Period.

Mural Painting Decorating the Wall
of a Tomb in Wardian,
Ptolemaic Period.

Statue of the God Mars,
Marble, Roman Period.



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**Government District,
New Administrative Capital, Cairo, Egypt**

THE GRAECO-ROMAN MUSEUM MOYΣEION

The Graeco-Roman Museum of Alexandria is one of Egypt's principal museums, the only one in Egypt to be fully dedicated to the antiquities and civilization of Egypt during the Greek and Roman eras.

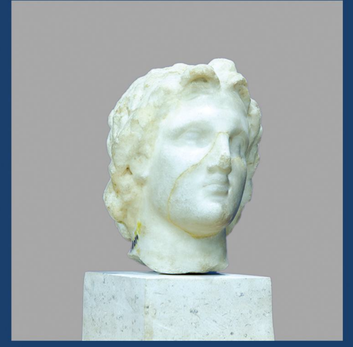
Since 1889, the Italian Giuseppe Botti sought to establish a museum for Alexandria that would protect it's antiquities from displacement and destruction. He continued to work on that until the museum was founded and inaugurated on 17 October 1892.

The museum began in a modest rented property, and Giuseppe Botti was its first director.

As for this current building, it is the earliest building in Egypt to be architecturally designed for the purpose of a museum. It was opened on September 26, 1895.

In September 2005, a decision was made to close the museum in order to carry out a comprehensive project to expand and develop the museum.

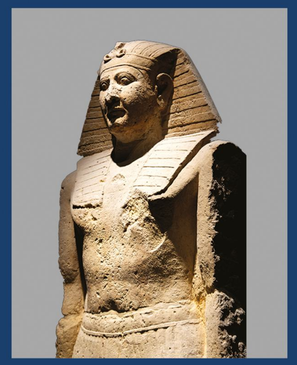
By creating an upper floor, a new interior design was carried out, and a new scenario distributed over 27 halls, according to specific themes that highlight facets of Egypt's civilization in the Greek and Roman eras until 641 AD.



Head of Alexander the Great, Marble,
Ptolemaic Period.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

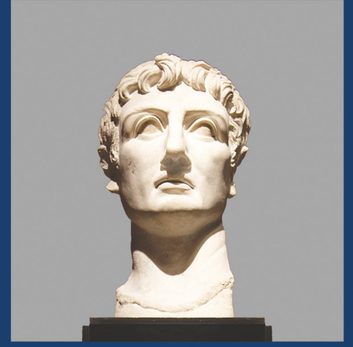
In the autumn of 332 BC, Alexander marched into Egypt and took control of the Persian garrison without fighting, he was hailed by the Egyptians as a liberator.
On his way to visit the temple of Amun at Siwa, Alexander selected the site of the Egyptian fishermen's village of Rhakotis where he ordered the foundation of a new capital, Alexandria. Then, he left Egypt to Babylon where he died on the 10th of June 323 BC.



Statue of Ptolemy XII, Limestone,
Ptolemaic Period

PTOLEMAIC RULE

Ptolemy son of Lagos declared himself king of Egypt 306/5 BC. He managed to transfer Alexander's body to Egypt bestowing great honor to his kingdom. Ptolemy continued the construction of the capital.
Ptolemy I was succeeded by fourteen kings, all of whom bore the name Ptolemy, in addition to religious and family titles, leading up to the famous and ambitious Cleopatra VII.



Head of Augustus, Marble,
Roman Period

ROMAN PERIOD

Egypt was captured by Octavian (later Augustus, 31 BC – AD 14) after the defeat of Marcus Antonius at Actium and Marsa Matrouh in 31 BC.
Egypt became a province that followed the emperor personally, consuls were not allowed to enter except with his consent.
The annexation of Egypt was an event celebrated by Octavian, issuing a coin bearing the figure of a crocodile, and declaring the transformation of his country into an empire.

Statue of the Agora Lady,
Marble, Roman Period

Statue of Isis,
Marble, Roman Period

Bust of a Roman Dignitary,
Marble, Roman Period

Statue of Hermanubis, Marble, Roman Period.

RAS EL-SODA

A group of finely-executed marble sculptures were found near the temple of Ras El-Soda, which is the only temple that has survived from Roman Alexandria. This temple was attached to a Roman rural villa that belonged to a wealthy man named Isidoros.

The group of sculptures included one intact statue of Isis, two statues of the local deity Osiris-Canopus, one of Harpocratis and another of Hermanubi. Also, a votive sandaled foot was found on a pedestal and an altar and two sphinxes of black granite.

The temple was undoubtedly constructed by Isidoros who also dedicated the sandaled foot to the goddess Makari (Isis), as the inscription on the pedestal states.

Statue of the God Apis, Basalt, Roman Period.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

The new Ptolemaic kingdom was in need of a god who would combine the beliefs of its subjects, the Egyptians and the Greeks.
Sarapis was the Greek incarnation of the prominent Memphite deity Osiris-Apis, who was an image of Osiris in the body of the bull Apis, while in his human form Sarapis resembled numerous Greek gods such as Zeus, Hades, Helios, and Dionysus. A temple to Sarapis was erected on the Acropolis of Alexandria, where Diocletian's column (Amoud El-Sawari) presently stands.
But of Sarapis had a family that included Isis and Harpocrates, who together served as the holy triad of Alexandria.

Statue of an Intellectual, Marble, Roman Period.

SCIENCE & INTELLECTUALITY

It is most likely that Ptolemy I was the one who initiated the project of founding the Museion and the library.
The Museion and its great library played a major role in the scientific and literary life of Alexandria and the Hellenistic world.
The contributions of the Museion continued throughout the Roman period and Late Antiquity. In papyri and inscriptions, there are some indications that many members of local elites from the capital and the nomes linked themselves to the Museion. They appeared in their daily life in the form of Greek sophists and intellectuals.