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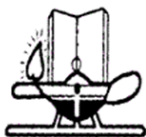
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Crocodilopolis - Kiman Faris

A Study of the Ptolemaic and Roman Pottery

A Thesis Submitted for the Degree of PhD. in Greek and Roman
Archaeology to the Faculty of Arts - Ain Shams University

Submitted by

Yahya Elshahat Mohamed Mahmoud

The Supervision Committee

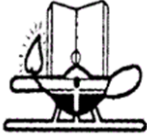
**Prof. Dr. Abdel Hamid
Abdel Hamid Masoud**

Professor of Greek and Roman
Archaeology - Ain Shams University

Dr. Sylvie Marchand

Head of the Ceramology laboratory
(IFAO)

**Cairo
2021**



كلية الآداب



كلية معتمدة



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اسم الباحث: يحيى الشحات محمد محمود

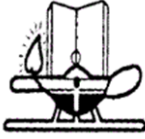
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اسم الكلية: كلية الآداب

الجامعة: جامعة عين شمس

السنة : ٢٠٢١ م



كلية الآداب



كلية معتمدة



جامعة عين شمس

اسم الباحث: يحيى الشحات محمد محمود

عنوان الرسالة: كروكوديلوبوليس - كيمن فارس - دراسة للفخار البطلمي والروماني

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لجنة الإشراف

أ.د/ عبد الحميد عبد الحميد مسعود (مشرفا رئيسا)
أستاذ الآثار اليونانية والرومانية – كلية الآداب - جامعة
عين شمس

د/ سيلفي مارشان (مشرفا مشاركا)
مسؤول معمل الفخار والخزف - المعهد العلمي الفرنسي
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Preface

Pottery is a potential tool in archaeological studies; it is used to answer fundamental questions related to chronology, trade, goods distribution, vessels' functions, and social status. In addition, every pot or sherd of pottery could give more information about production technologies, work arrangement and regional preferences. Archaeologists realise the approaches of pottery study through various methods. The scientific analysis could be integrated according to the nature of the assemblage and the questions that archaeologists want to answer.¹

This study applies archaeological methods of pottery study to write a history of an ancient town, Crocodilopolis, the metropolis of the nome of Arsinoe, which was one of the chief towns of Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt. It was a cosmopolitan residence where Greeks from the Mediterranean Basin, Macedonians, Syrians, Bithynians, Jews, Libyans, Arabs, Thracians, Romans, and others lived with the indigenous and colonized Egyptians.² Many papyri enrich our knowledge about its inhabitants and everyday life; on the contrary, the archaeological evidence is very little and scattered.

During the 1960s, the Ministry of Antiquities (previously, Maslahat al-Athar / the Supreme Council of Antiquities) led rescue excavations at Kiman Faris. After the archaeological work, a large part of Kiman Faris's area was used for urban development, and more rescue diggings were made until 2018. Pottery from the excavations of the Ministry of Antiquities (1963-2005) is kept at the Storeroom of Ali Radwan at Kom Aushim. The materials are mainly unpublished.

An archaeological mission from the Faculty of Archaeology of Fayoum University conducted excavations in 2016-17 and 2019. The excavations focused chiefly on the Eastern Hellenistic Bath. The writer carried out a survey on Kiman Faris in the archaeological area to collect pottery and document the buildings in 2018.

The current study tries to give a general evaluation of the Ptolemaic and Roman pottery corpus of Kiman Faris. For some administrative restrictions, the stamped amphora handles and the lamps of Kiman Faris at the Storeroom of Kom Aushim are not incorporated in the current study. The main bulk of the studied corpus is Ptolemaic and Roman pottery, but as the corpus includes few Late Roman vessels/sherds, these Late Roman Materials are added at the end of each group.

¹ Orton, Tyers, Vince 1993, pp. 23-37.

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