

Visualizing the Afterlife in the Tombs of Graeco-Roman Egypt

Lost in Egypt's honeycombed hills, distanced by its western desert, or rendered inaccessible by subsequent urban occupation, the monumental decorated tombs of the Graeco-Roman period have received little scholarly attention. This volume, which explores the narrative pictorial programs of a group of decorated tombs from Ptolemaic and Roman-period Egypt (ca. 300 BCE–250 CE), serves to redress this deficiency. Its aim is to recognize the tombs' commonalities and differences across what might be considered ethnic and religious divides and to determine the rationale that lies behind these connections and dissonances. Setting the tomb programs within their social, political, and religious context, it analyzes the manner in which the multicultural population of Graeco-Roman Egypt chose to visualize their negotiation of death and the afterlife.

Marjorie Susan Venit is Professor Emerita of Ancient Mediterranean Art and Archaeology at the University of Maryland. She is the author of *Monumental Tombs of Ancient Alexandria: The Theater of the Dead* and *Greek Painted Pottery from Naukratis in Egyptian Museums*. Her previous books have been supported by generous grants from the Kress Foundation and the J. Paul Getty Trust. Among her other awards are a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Research Center in Egypt, the American Association of University Women, and the American Philosophical Society.

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MARJORIE SUSAN VENIT

University of Maryland



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To my mentors, in memoriam

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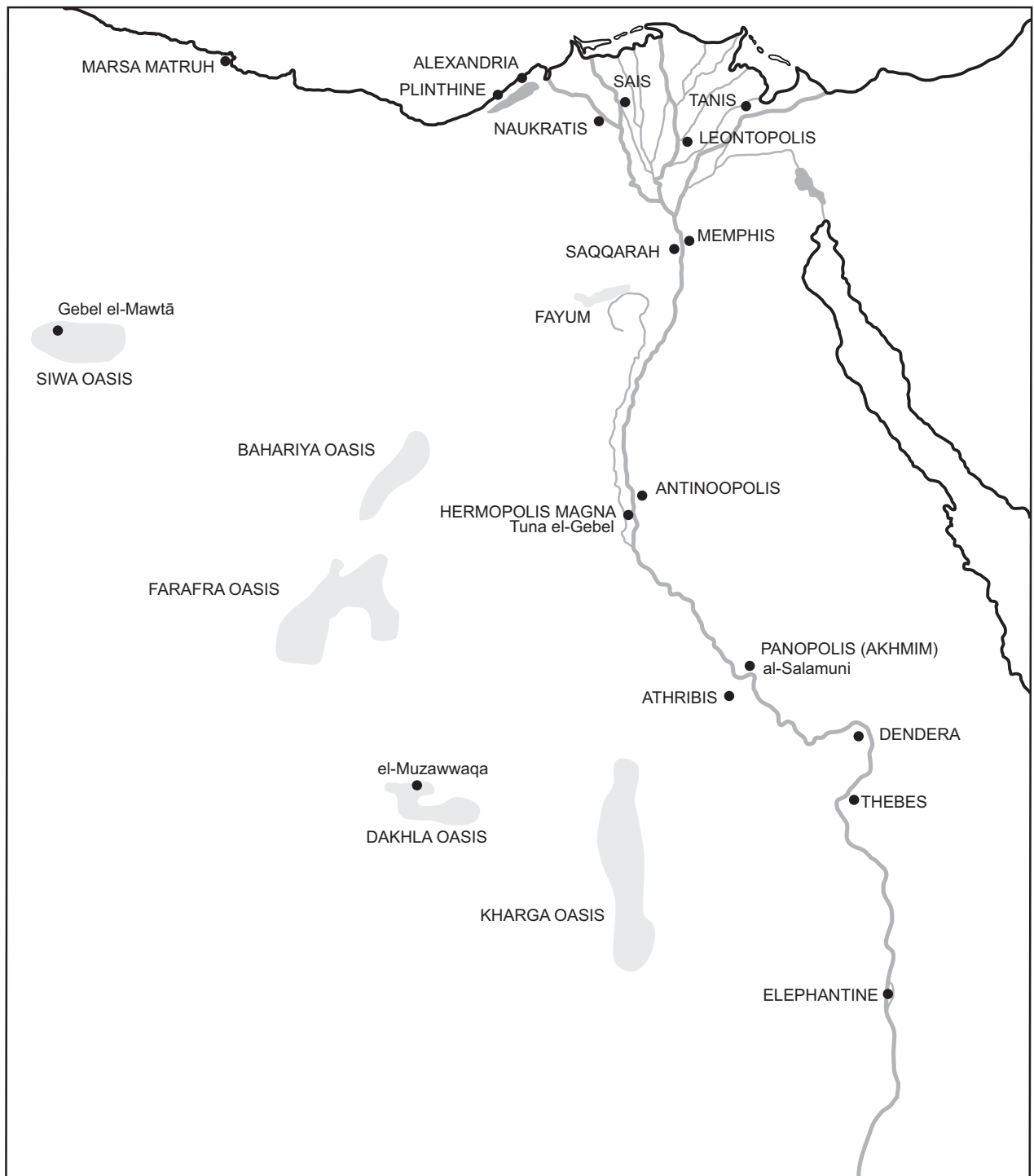
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Map. Sites in Graeco-Roman Egypt Mentioned in this Volume