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.

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To my mentors, in memoriam

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Contents

List of Illustrations  xi
Acknowledgments  xvii

Introduction  1
   Egypt before Alexander  2
   Previous Scholarship and How This Book Approaches Its Subject  3

1  Death, Bilingualism, and Biography in the ‘Eventide’ of Egypt: The Tomb of Petosiris and Its Afterlife  5
   Greeks and Egyptians  5
   The Setting of the Tomb of Petosiris  6
   The Tomb of Petosiris  8
      The Chapel  9
      The Walls Devoted to Neshu  9
      The Walls Devoted to Djedthothiufankh  15
      The South Wall of the Chapel  16
      The Pilasters of the South Wall and the South Pillars  18
      The Pronaos  18
         The Inner Walls of the Pronaos  19
         The North Wall of the Pronaos  19
         The East and West Walls of the Pronaos  23
         The South Wall of the Pronaos  38
   Bilingualism in the Tomb of Petosiris  46
   Visual Biography in the Tomb of Petosiris  48
   The Afterlife of the Tomb of Petosiris  48

2  Egypt as Metaphor: Visual Bilingualism in the Monumental Tombs of Ancient Alexandria  50
   Ptolemaic-Period Tombs  51
   Hypogeum A  52
   The Tombs at Moustapha Pasha  53
CONTENTS

The Tombs of Pharos Island 55
The Saqiya Tomb 60
Roman-Period Tombs 63
  The Bilingual Tombs in the ‘Nebengrab’ 63
  The Main Tomb in the Great Catacomb at Kom el-Shoqafa 66
  The Pronaos of the Main Tomb 67
  The Burial Room 69
  The Imagery of the Main Tomb Situated within Alexandria Tomb Design 77
  The Tomb from Tigrane Pasha Street 78
Greek Eschatology and the Mystery Cults 80
Greek Eschatology and Alexandria’s Bilingual Response 81
Heroization and Alexandria’s Bilingual Response 83
Imaging the Afterlife 85

3 Greek Myth as Metaphor in the Chora of Egypt 87
  Leontopolis 87
    The Tombstones 88
  Tuna el-Gebel 90
    The Tomb of Isidora 91
    House Tombs with Painted Decoration at Tuna el-Gebel 95
      Tombs with Dionysiac Imagery 95
      Tombs with Greek Myth Narratives 96
      The Tomb of the Abduction of Persephone 96
      The Tomb of the Trojan Horse 99
      The Tomb of the Oresteia and of Oedipus 100
      The Myths and the Mysteries 107
  Greek Myth at Leontopolis and Tuna el-Gebel 108

4 Tradition and Innovation in the Tombs of the Egyptian Chora 109
  Tuna el-Gebel 110
    House-Tomb 18 111
    House-Tomb 20 111
    House-Tomb 21 113
      The Anteroom 115
      The Lower Frieze 115
      The Upper Zones 120
      The Burial Room 127
      The Three Long Walls 127
    The Egyptianizing Tombs at Tuna el-Gebel 133
    The Siwa Oasis 133
      The Crocodile Tomb 134

viii
## CONTENTS

The Tomb of Siamun 136  
The East Side of the North Wall 136  
The East Wall 137  
The West Wall 141  
The Ceiling 144  
The Pictorial Structure of the Tomb of Siamun 147  

Athrībis 148  
The Tomb of Psenosiris 149  
The Zodiac Tomb or the Tomb of the Two Brothers 151  
The Zodiac Ceilings 154  
The ‘Traditional’ Tombs in the Graeco-Roman Chora 156  

5 Bricolage and Greek-Collage in the Tombs of the Egyptian Chora 157  

Dakhla Oasis 157  
The Tomb of Petubastis 158  
The Tomb of Petosiris 165  
Room I 166  
Room II 175  

Akhmīm (Panopolis) 182  
The Tombs at al-Salamuni 183  
Bissing’s Tomb from 1913 183  
Salamuni Tomb 8 184  
Kaplan’s Tomb VI 185  
Kaplan’s Tomb VIII 185  
Bissing’s Tomb from 1897 185  

Greek Elements in the Egyptianizing Tombs of Akhmīm and Dakhla 192  

6 Intersection and Interconnection in the Visualization of the Afterlife in Tombs of Graeco-Roman Egypt 196  

Social Positioning 197  
The Image of the Patron 198  
Daemonic Protection of the Tomb 199  
The Efficacy of Afterlife Imagery in Graeco-Roman Egypt 200  

Notes 203  
Bibliography of Modern Works Cited 239  
Index 255
# List of Illustrations

**MAP**

| Map | Sites in Graeco-Roman Egypt Mentioned in this Volume, p. xviii |

**FIGURES**

| 1.1 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Plan, p. 8 |
| 1.2 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Tomb of Petosiris, Chapel, East Side of the North Wall, Lower Register, p. 10 |
| 1.3 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Chapel, East Wall, Funeral of Neshu, p. 11 |
| 1.4 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Chapel, East Wall, the Funeral Cart of Neshu, p. 13 |
| 1.5 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Chapel, East Wall, the Lowest Course, Offerings to Neshu, p. 14 |
| 1.6 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Chapel, West Side of the North Wall, p. 15 |
| 1.7 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Chapel, West Wall, the Lowest Register, Offering Bearers, p. 17 |
| 1.8 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Chapel, the Lowest Register of the West Wall, Offering Bearers, Detail, p. 18 |
| 1.9 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, West End of the North Wall, Metalworkers, p. 20 |
| 1.10 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, North Wall, West End, Upper Preserved Register, Metalworkers, p. 20 |
| 1.11 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, North Wall, the Lowest Preserved Frieze, Metalworkers, p. 21 |
| 1.12 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, North Wall, Metalworkers, p. 22 |
| 1.13 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, North Wall, Metalworkers, p. 23 |
| 1.14 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, North Wall, East Side, Upper Registers, Perfumers, p. 24 |
| 1.15 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, North Wall, the East Side, the Second and Third Registers from the Top, Perfumers, p. 25 |
| 1.16 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, North Wall, Woodworkers, p. 26 |
| 1.17 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, North Wall, Woodworkers, p. 26 |
| 1.18 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, North Wall, the Manufacture of Reed Frames, p. 27 |
| 1.19 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, North Wall, East End, Woodworkers, p. 27 |
| 1.20 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, West Wall, Middle Preserved Register, Left End, Cattle, p. 29 |
| 1.21 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, West Wall, Middle Preserved Register, Cattle, Middle Scene, p. 29 |
| 1.22 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, West Wall, Middle Preserved Register, Cattle, Right End, p. 30 |
| 1.23 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, West Wall, Lower Register, Picking the Grapes, p. 30 |
| 1.24 | Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, West Wall, Lower Register, Picking and Transporting the Grapes, p. 31 |
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

1.25a  Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, West Wall, the Lower Register, Detail of Sphinxes, p. 36
1.25b  Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, West Wall, the Lower Register, Detail of Sphinxes, p. 37
1.26  Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, West Wall, Lower Register, Detail, p. 32
1.27  Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, West Wall, Lower Register, Recording the Vintage, p. 33
1.28  Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, East Wall, Harvesting and Threshing Grain, p. 35
1.29  Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, East Wall, Lower Register, Left End, p. 36
1.30  Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, East Wall, Lower Register, Middle Section, p. 36
1.31  Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, East Wall, Middle Register, p. 37
1.32  Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, East Wall, Middle Register, p. 38
1.33  Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, East Wall, Middle Register, Detail of Young Boy, p. 39
1.34  Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, East Wall, Upper Register, Threshing, p. 40
1.35  Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, South Wall, Offering Bearers and Three Women, p. 41
1.36  Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, South Wall, Bull Sacrifice, p. 43
1.37  Tomb of Petosiris, Pronaos, South Wall, the Bull Sacrifice, p. 44
2.1  Alexandria, Hypogeum A, Plan, p. 52
2.2  Alexandria, Hypogeum A, Reconstruction of the South Wall of the Anteroom, p. 53
2.3  Alexandria, Moustapha Pasha 1, Plan, p. 54
2.4  Alexandria, Moustapha Pasha 1, South Wall and Altar, p. 55
2.5  Alexandria, Moustapha Pasha 1, South Wall, Detail of Sphinxes, p. 56
2.6  Alexandria, Ras El Tin 8 Kline Niche, p. 57
2.7  Alexandria, Anfushy II.1, Egyptianizing Doorway, p. 58
2.8  Alexandria, Anfushy II, the Painting on the Upper Landing of the Staircase, p. 59
2.9  Alexandria, Säqiya Tomb, Herm, p. 60
2.10  Alexandria, Säqiya Tomb, Shepherd, p. 61
2.11  Alexandria, Ras El Tin 3, Herakles Soter, p. 61
2.12  Alexandria, Säqiya Tomb, Reclining Male, p. 62
2.13  Alexandria, Kom el-Shoqafa “Nebengrab” Persephone Tomb 2, p. 64
2.14  Alexandria, Kom el-Shoqafa, Main Tomb, Plan, p. 66
2.15  Alexandria, Kom el-Shoqafa, Main Tomb, Facade of the Pronaos and Burial Chamber, p. 67
2.16  Alexandria, Kom el-Shoqafa, Main Tomb, Female Statue, p. 68
2.17  Alexandria, Kom el-Shoqafa, Main Tomb, Male Statue, p. 68
2.18  Alexandria, Kom el-Shoqafa, Main Tomb, Burial Chamber, Anthropomorphic Anubis, p. 70
2.19  Alexandria, Kom el-Shoqafa, Main Tomb, Burial Chamber, Anupied Anubis, p. 71
2.20  Alexandria, Kom el-Shoqafa, Main Tomb, Burial Chamber, Central Niche, p. 72
2.21  Alexandria, Kom el-Shoqafa, Main Tomb, Burial Chamber, Back Wall of Right Niche, p. 73
2.22  Alexandria, Kom el-Shoqafa, Main Tomb, Burial Chamber, Back Wall of Left Niche, p. 73
2.23  Alexandria, Kom el-Shoqafa, Main Tomb, Burial Chamber, Left Wall of Central Niche, p. 74
2.24  Alexandria, Kom el-Shoqafa, Main Tomb, Burial Chamber, Right Wall of Central Niche, p. 74
2.25  Alexandria, Kom el-Shoqafa, Main Tomb, Burial Chamber, Left Wall of Left Niche, p. 75
2.26  Alexandria, Kom el-Shoqafa, Main Tomb, Burial Room, Right Wall of Left Niche, p. 75
2.27  Alexandria, Kom el-Shoqafa, Main Tomb, Burial Room, Left Wall of Right Niche, p. 76
2.28  Alexandria, Kom el-Shoqafa, Main Tomb, Burial Chamber, Right Wall of Right Niche, p. 76
2.29  Alexandria, the Tigrane Tomb, Dome, p. 78
2.30  Alexandria, the Tigrane Tomb, Male Figure in Entrance Corridor, p. 79
2.31  Alexandria 24040, Loculos Slab, p. 82
2.32  Loculus Slab from a Cemetery East of Chathy, p. 83
## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Illustration Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>Plinthine (Kom el-Nagous) Loculus Slab, p. 85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.34</td>
<td>Alexandria Τ Telephone, Loculus Slab from Marsa Matruh, p. 85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House Tombs, p. 91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Isidora, p. 92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, Kline in the Tomb of Isidora, p. 92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House of Dionysos, Kline and Decoration, p. 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House of Dionysos, Wall Decoration, p. 97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 16, Electra, p. 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 16, Electra and Cocks, p. 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 16, Oedipus and the Sphinx, p. 102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 16, Zetema and Thebe, p. 103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 16, Oedipus Painting, Right Side, p. 104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 18, Isis, p. 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 18, Nephthys and Osiris, p. 112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 20, Falcon, p. 113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 20, Cocks and Grapevine, p. 114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 20, Coitus of Frog-Headed Male and a Female, p. 114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Anteroom, North Wall, Lower Figured Frieze, Djd with Uraeae, p. 116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Anteroom, North Wall Lower Figured Frieze, Djd and Taets, p. 116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Anteroom, West Wall, South End of Lower Figured Frieze, p. 117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Anteroom, West and South Walls, p. 118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Anteroom, West Side of South Wall, Lower Figured Frieze, p. 119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.11</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Anteroom, East Frieze, South End of Lower Figured Frieze, p. 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.12</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Anteroom, East Side of South Wall, Lower Figured Frieze, p. 121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.13</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Anteroom, North Wall, Upper Figured Frieze, p. 122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.14</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Anteroom, West Wall, North End of Upper Figured Frieze, p. 123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.15</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Anteroom, West Wall, South End of Upper Figured Frieze, p. 124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.16</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Anteroom, East Wall, North End of Upper Figured Frieze, p. 124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.17</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Anteroom, East Wall, South End of Upper Figured Frieze, p. 125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.18</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Anteroom, East Wall, South End of Upper Figured Frieze, Detail of Priestess, p. 125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.19</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Anteroom, South Wall, Upper Figured Frieze, p. 126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.20</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Burial Room, West Side of North Entrance Wall, Isis and Nephthys and Wadjet, p. 128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.21</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Burial Room, East Side of North Entrance Wall, Nekhbet and Wadjet, p. 128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.22</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Burial Room, South Wall, Lustration of the Mummy, p. 129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.23</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Burial Room, Detail of Left Side of East Wall, Offering to Osiris, p. 130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.24</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Burial Room, Detail of Right Side of East Wall, the Solar Boat, p. 131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.25</td>
<td>Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Burial Room, Detail of West Wall, Nut Succoring the Mummy, p. 132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.26</td>
<td>Siwa Oasis, Crocodile Tomb, East Wall, Hathor or Isis Pouring a Libation, p. 134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.27</td>
<td>Siwa Oasis, Crocodile Tomb, North Wall, Lower Frieze, the Crocodile, p. 135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.28</td>
<td>Siwa Oasis, Crocodile Tomb, East Wall, Canines and Grapevine, p. 135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.29</td>
<td>Siwa Oasis, Crocodile Tomb, South Wall, Thoth Reporting to Osiris, p. 135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.30</td>
<td>Siwa Oasis, Tomb of Siamun, North Wall, Lower Register, Cart Transporting the Mummy, p. 137</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

4.31 Siwa Oasis, Tomb of Siamun, North Part of the East Wall, Siamun and Sem-Priest, p. 138
4.32 Siwa Oasis, Tomb of Siamun, Left of Center of the East Wall, Deities, p. 139
4.33 Siwa Oasis, Tomb of Siamun, Right of Center of the East Wall, Mahes or Lion-Headed Daemon and Female Deity(?), p. 140
4.34 Siwa Oasis, Tomb of Siamun, South End of the West Wall, Lower Register, Siamun, Son as Sem-Priest, and Siamun’s Wife, p. 142
4.35 Siwa Oasis, Tomb of Siamun, North Part of West Wall, Lower Register, Nut as Sycamore-Tree Goddess, p. 143
4.36 Siwa Oasis, Tomb of Siamun, West Wall, Lower Register, North End, Siamun and Young Son, p. 144
4.37 Siwa Oasis, Tomb of Siamun, Ceiling, Nut, p. 145
4.38 Siwa Oasis, Tomb of Siamun, Boat with Djed Pillar, p. 146
4.39 Siwa Oasis, Tomb of Siamun, Boat with Harpocrates, p. 146
4.40 Siwa Oasis, Tomb of Siamun, Ceiling, Horus and Nekhbet, p. 147
4.41 Athribis, Tomb of Psenosiris, Lion Daemons at Entrance, p. 150
4.42 Athribis, Tomb of Psenosiris, Anteroom, Rear Wall of Niche on North Wall, p. 151
4.43 Athribis, Tomb of Psenosiris, Anteroom, Zodiac Ceiling, p. 151
4.44 Athribis, Tomb of Psenosiris, Burial Room, Zodiac Ceiling, p. 152
4.45 Athribis, Tomb of Psenosiris, Burial Tomb of the Brothers, South End of West Wall, p. 153
4.46 Athribis, Tomb of Psenosiris, Burial Tomb of the Brothers, Niche on West Wall, p. 153
4.47 Athribis, Tomb of Psenosiris, Burial Tomb of the Brothers, Ceiling, Zodiac A, p. 154
4.48 Athribis, Tomb of Psenosiris, Burial Tomb of the Brothers, Ceiling, Zodiac B, p. 155
5.1 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petubastis, South Wall, p. 159
5.2 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petubastis, East Wall, p. 160
5.3 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petubastis, East Wall, Right End Detail, p. 161
5.4 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petubastis, East Wall, Portrait, p. 162
5.5 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petubastis, North Wall, p. 162
5.6 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petubastis, Niche on North Wall, p. 163
5.7 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petubastis, West Wall, p. 164
5.8a Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petubastis, Zodiac on Ceiling, p. 165
5.8b Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petubastis, Detail of Ceiling Zodiac, p. 165
5.9 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Plan, p. 166
5.10 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room I, South Wall, p. 167
5.11 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room I, South Section of East Wall, p. 168
5.12 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room I, North End of East Wall, Petosiris, p. 169
5.13 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room I, West Wall, p. 171
5.14 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room I, West Wall, Lower Register, Detail, p. 172
5.15 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room I, North Wall, p. 173
5.16a Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room I, Zodiac Ceiling, p. 174
5.16b Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room I, Zodiac Ceiling, Detail, p. 175
5.17 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room II, South Side of East Wall, p. 176
5.18 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room II, North Side of East Wall, p. 177
5.19 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room II, South Wall, p. 178
5.20 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room II, North Wall, p. 179
5.21 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room II, South End of West Wall, p. 180
5.22 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room II, North End of West Wall, p. 181
5.23 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room II, Zodiac Ceiling, p. 182
5.24 Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room II, Detail of One of the Winged Figures Supporting Zodiac, p. 182
5.25 Akhmin, Salamuni 8, Room I, Orthostates, Figured Frieze, and Zodiac Ceiling, p. 184
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

5.26 Akhmim, Salamuni 8, Room I, Ceiling, Isis-Sothis and Zodiac, p. 184
5.27 Akhmim, Kaplan’s Tomb VIII, Orthostats and Figured Zone, p. 185
5.28 Akhmim, Bissing’s Tomb of 1897, Plan, p. 186
5.29 Akhmim, Bissing’s Tomb of 1897, Burial Room, p. 187
5.30 Akhmim, Bissing’s Tomb of 1897, Wall D-E and Ceiling, p. 188
5.31 Akhmim, Bissing’s Tomb of 1897, Wall E-F, p. 189

PLATES

I Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris
II Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Chapel Relief, Nut and the Parents of Petosiris
III Tuna el-Gebel, Tomb of Petosiris, Chapel Relief, Petosiris and Neshu
IV Alexandria, Anfushy Tomb II, Wall in Anteroom
V Alexandria, Anfushy Tomb V, Room 4
VI Alexandria, the Säqiya Tomb, Säqiya
VII Alexandria, the Säqiya Tomb, Facade of Sarcophagus
VIII Alexandria, the Tigrane Tomb, Central Niche
IX Alexandria, the Tigrane Tomb, Right Niche
X Alexandria, the Tigrane Tomb, Left Niche
XI Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 1, Abduction of Persephone
XII Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 23, Trojan Horse
XIII Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 16, Oedipus Cycle
XIV Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Anteroom, West Wall, Lower Figured Frieze

XV Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Anteroom, East Wall, Lower Figured Frieze
XVI Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Burial Room, South Wall
XVII Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Burial Room, East Wall
XVIII Tuna el-Gebel, House-Tomb 21, Burial Room, West Wall
XIX Siwa Oasis, Tomb of Siamun, East Wall, Siamun before Osiris
XX Siwa Oasis, Tomb of Siamun, West Wall, Upper Register, Osiris and Thoth
XXI Siwa Oasis, Tomb of Siamun, West Wall, Lower Register, Lustration of the Mummy
XXII Siwa Oasis, Tomb of Siamun, West Wall, Lower Register, Siamun and Isis
XXIII Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petubastis, Wall East of Entrance
XXIV Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petubastis, Wall West of Entrance
XXV Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petubastis, View to Northeast
XXVI Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room I, View toward South
XXVII Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room I, South and East Walls, Lower Register
XXVIII Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room I, North End of East Wall
XXIX Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, West Wall, South Section, Lower Register
XXX Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room II, Center of Ceiling Zodiac
XXXI Dakhla Oasis, Tomb of Petosiris, Room II, Ceiling Zodiac and Winged Figure
XXXII Akhmim, Bissing’s Tomb from 1897, Wall D-E
XXXIII Akhmim, Bissing’s Tomb from 1897, Wall A-B, Upper Register
XXXIV Akhmim, Bissing’s Tomb from 1897, Wall E-F, Lower Register
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Map. Sites in Graeco-Roman Egypt Mentioned in this Volume