MONASTERIES OF THE FAYYUM. In the notice about the patriarch KHA’IL I (744-767), the HISTORY OF THE PATRIARCHS indicates that there were then thirty-five monasteries in the Fayyum. ABU SALIH THE ARMENIAN repeats the same information, which he seems to relate to the same period; he names or describes only eight of them. Al-Nabulsi cites thirteen. A certain number of these monasteries still exist today: DAYR ABU ISHAQ (or Dayr al-Hammam), DAYR ABU LIFAH, DAYR AL-ÄZAB, DAYR AL-MALAK GHubRIYAL (Naqlun), DAYR ANBA SAMU’IL OF QALAMUN, DAYR MAR JIRJIS OF SIDMANT, and some hermitages in the Wadi al-Rayyan. Monasteries that have disappeared are well enough known from various documents: DAYR ABIRUN, the two DAYR AL-‘ADHRA’ and DAYR AL-IKHWAH at Sayalah, the monastery of al-Hamuli, the scriptoria of TUTUN.

For many others, on the contrary, we have no more than sporadic mention of their existence, here and there among the writers Abu Salih and al-Nabulsi and from other sources.

Abu Salih mentions two monasteries at Aflah al-Zaytun, in the Fayyum: one named after a Saint Theodorus the Martyr on the al-Manha canal (i.e., the Bahr Yusuf, which rules out the place of the same name al-Zaytun to the north of Bani Suef) and the other called that of the Apostles.

He mentions another monastery, Dayr al-Salib, in the district of Fanu, to the north of Madinat al-Fayyum, also attested, although without indication of the name, by al-Nabulsi, who places it to the west of the town (Salmon, 1901, p. 54).

Al-Nabulsi mentions the following monasteries, most often only indicating the nearest town or village and the direction in which the monastery is situated in relation to them: Dayr Anba Shinudah, south of Minshat Awlad ‘Arafah (today Ma‘ṣarat ‘Arafah), southwest of Madinat al-Fayyum (Salmon, 1901, p. 66); Dayr al-‘Amil, south of al-‘Idwah, northeast of Madinat al-Fayyum (Salmon, 1901, p. 46); Dayr Bamwiyyah, east of the town of the same name, in the north of the Fayyum near Sanhur (Salmon, 1901, p. 56); Dayr
Dimushiyyah, south of the town of this name, south of Madinat al-Fayyum (Salmon, 1901, p. 64; Muḥammad Ramzi thinks that this monastery is the same as Dayr al-‘Azab, Vol. 1, p. 253; Vol. 2, pt. 3, p. 95); Dayr Dhat al-Ṣafa, south of this borough; Dayr Disya, north of the town (Salmon, 1901, p. 62); and Dayr Sannuris, west of the town, northwest of Madinat al-Fayyum (Salmon, 1901, p. 51).

Seven monasteries are mentioned in other sources. Dayr Abu Ja‘ran is mentioned only by al Tuhfah al-Saniyyah (trans. Sacy, 1810, p. 682, no. 58). According to M. Ramzi, it was about 5.5 miles (9 km) west of Itṣa (Vol. 1, p. 260). Dayr al-‘Ajamiyyin is indicated in the Book of the Hidden Pearls (Daressy, 1917, p. 206), near the village of this name in the north of the Fayyum, in the district of Ibshaway. Dayr al-Banat is also mentioned by the Book of the Hidden Pearls, but the author has perhaps confused it with the Qasr al-Banat to the southwest of Lake Qarun (Daressy, 1917, p. 200). Under the Greek name Labla, several Greek papyri of the sixth century mention two monasteries "in the mountain called Labla" (Barison, 1938, pp. 69-72; the reader will find in this nomenclature other references to several monasteries in the Fayyum). At Madinat Ghuran, west of Madinat Maḏi, excavations have brought to light a small Coptic monastery backing on to a small Ptolemaic temple (Jouguet, 1901, p. 305). Dayr Shalla is mentioned at the same time as Dayr al-Naqlun (Dayr al-Malak Ghubriyal) in a deed of gift of the tenth century (Abbott, 1937, pp. 19-20). It should not be very distant from the latter: al-Maqrizi speaks of this locality, overhung by the mountain of Naqlun (al-Khiṭat, Vol. 2, p. 505). Dayr al-Zakawah is mentioned only as ruins in the Description de l'Egypt (Vol. 16, p. 52; atlas, fol. 19) southeast of Madinat al-Gharaq (south of the Fayyum).

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


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