The Depiction of Apis in the Greco-Roman Tombs of Egypt

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Abstract

The bulls’ cult was well known during the Greco-Roman in Egypt, especially the bull Apis. Memphis was his main cult center, where his cult was associated with the chief god Ptah, and a priest responsible for both cults. Furthermore, Memphis also contains subterranean galleries for the dead mumified bulls as Osir-Apis. The Ptolemies paid a great attention to the cult of Apis and shared the coronation of the New Apis, and the funeral of the dead one. They integrated the cult of Serapis, the chief god of the Ptolemaic Kingdom, as the Hellenization form of the Egyptian Osirified Apis bull. Moreover, The Romans paid respect to the cult of Apis inside Egypt, and outside either. Apis’s prominence during the Greco-Roman period added him new aspects in both funeral and burial customs. The research tries to identify the new attributes of Apis in the Greco-Roman tombs as a funerary god, besides, other roles initiated from his integration with other gods. Apis was a main figure not only in the decorated Greco-Roman tombs of Egypt, but also upon the stelae, the Mummy Coffins and Mummy Cartonage of Egypt. He appeared as a burial god; equated with Osiris and Dionysos. His association with Serapis in the Hellenistic Egypt represented him as the protector of the kingship of Egypt. Ptolemaic and Roman rulers depicted themselves under his respect, and either spread to the Hellenistic world with Isis as her husband. In addition, his cult appeared in the Roman Isaeums in Rome, and the other Hellenistic temples consecrated for her with the Egyptian figure as a bull. Apis was the carrier of the deceased in the netherworld, and he appeared in the judgment’s court of the deceased. He either performed the role of Isis and Nephtys as the deceased’s guardians in his tomb, as they did with Osiris, and as protectors of the fetish of Abydos.

Keywords: Apis bull, Cult, Greco-Roman period, Serapis, Memphis, Osir-Apis

Introduction

Since early times, cow and bull cults were widespread in Egypt. In later times, this became more prevalent. In the first dynasty; the worship of the bull Apis appeared, besides a priest for his cult since the fourth dynasty. The worship of the Apis bull had a close relation with the pharaoh. Memphis was his cult center, its necropolis belongs to the living bull Apis, whose cult was mainly associated with the temple of Ptah at Memphis. The coronation of the bull Apis was held within the temple of Ptah, with the attendance of about hundred of priests – according to Roman historians- from all over Egypt.

Between 1850-1853, Mariette explored the burial shafts of the Apis bulls; these were dated back to the reign of Ramses II. Many underground galleries of the mumified Apis bulls date back to the Late Period, with the predominance of the worship of the sacred bulls in Egypt, especially during the reign of Pasmatik I, and Amasis. The earliest recorded burial of a sacred animal was the Isis cow -the mother of Apis- in the Necropolis of Hepnebes, according to Herodotus, Amasis was the founder of the great temple of Isis in Memphis.

The association of Apis with Osiris as ‘Osiris- Apis’ or ‘Apis-Osiris’ began from the 18th dynasty; as the mumified Apis in the Serapeion of the desert of Memphis. In the Ptolemaic period; Osiris was identified with god Serapis, who was considered the stiff Hellenized form of Osiris. The association of Serapis and Osiris dated to the 3rd century B.C through the reign of Ptolemy I (Soter), as an incarnation of Osiris-Apis (Osor-Hapi), the deified bull of Memphis. Rendering to the command of the god Hades in the king Soter’s dream, he exported the statue of the god from Sinope. Later, primary Ptolemies regarded Serapis as the ideal source to create a dynastic god without genuine Greek roots. In one oblique reference from athenodoros of tarsus, which states Osiris was originated from the association between Osiris and Apis. This emphasizes Serapis was often nothing, other than an interpretation of Graeca of Osiris.

Alexander the Great conquered Memphis and made offerings and scarifications before the bull Apis. When Ptolemy I ruled Egypt; the cult of Osir-Apis became the chief cult; not only in whole Egypt, but in the Hellenistic world either. The name was pronounced by the Greeks as ‘Osorapis’, patronized by the early Ptolemies as Serapis. The Egyptians depicted Serapis as a bull worshiped in the Serapeum of Memphis, while, the Greeks depicted it in human form, in the new ‘Serapeum’ temple in Alexandria. Therefore, his worship spreaded all over Egypt. The Ptolemaic efforts and propaganda succeeded to put the Egyptian “Osarapis”, the Hellenistic “Serapis” as the chief deity of Alexandria, P. Oxy described “Osarapis” as ”master of Alexandria”.

In Abydos, both Osiris and Serapis refer to one god. The graffiti dedications of the visitors of Seti I’s temple, the stelae, and the grave reliefs of the Ptolemaic period in Abydos necropolis, these confirm this assimilation. The Classic writers mentioned this connection. Sarapis was a fusion of Osiris with the bull Apis of Memphis, and the term “Osorapis” clearly refers to the souls of the dead Apis bulls, whose souls have become part of Osiris as the
Osirified bull. When Apis died, the country mourned, the death of Apis led to frantic searching up and down the country until his successor could be found. Perhaps the priest of Ptah was responsible for. When an Apis bull had found it brought to Memphis, and crowned in the temple of Ptah, Ptolemy might officiate, however, the high priest of Ptah performed the ceremony.

Seventy-day long preparations for burial commenced at once. The ritual, with detailed instructions on how to mummify, survived in a part of a bilingual papyrus text, in both hieratic and demotic. Dramatic ceremony was held through the seventy days. After the coffin of Apis was hauled out of the 'Embalming House', placed within a shrine, and then upon a boat with a wheeled base (pl. 1 a, b, c), to enable him passes through the pharaoh’s lake, with the participations of Egypt’s great gods; such as the divine sisters mourning the god: Isis, Nephtys, two Wepwawet-wolf gods-, gods of the north and the south, who opened the ways. Those were followed by Horus, Thot, and then Apis bull in the rear. On his arrival at the shore, Apis was placed again on a sand couch, his face turned towards the south. Priests with scepters and staffs in their hands embarked in a papyrus boat, the sacred bark of Re and Osiris, to make passing over and reading the nine holy books during the sailing of Apis, mentioning the battles in mythical times, of Horus and Seth, Re, and the serpent Apophis.

A canopy was erected on the shore; Apis enters it from the west, and gets out from the east to mark his resurrection. Opening of mouth ritual was done by Anubis’ priests to bestow new life to the bull, which returns to the embalming house through the Gate of Horizon, where the sun rises as a cosmic resurrection, then the priests threw the mshn.t brick down before him to secure resurrection.

On the seventieth day; the mummified bull as ‘Osiris-Apis’ was to join the other Osiris cults of the Memphite necropolis in the desert, where the burial shaft was well prepared in advance. However, the huge granite sarcophagus had to be dragged into place and prepared for the final closing of the shaft. The ‘Pavilion of Appearance’; the place where the bull was kept, lived, and died, has a window opens to the temple of Ptah, and from its southern entrance, the crowds gathered by thousands as molytes, mourners, and watchmen. A special police officer was charged for controlling and discipline. The first documented burial of Apis was in the 37th year of Amasis’s lifetime between 664-525. However, the last burial was on the 11th year of the queen Cleopatra VII’s reign.

The Greeks assimilated the deified Apis with their god Dionysos. They interpreted these Memphite rituals in terms of Dionysiac mysteries. The Greeks located Memphis within the traditional Greek topography of Hades. The pharaoh’s lake; which Apis crossed, this was of Acherousia. Staffs and scepters of the priests become Dionysiac Thyrsoi. While the dress; which Anubis’ men wore were nebrides, the fawn skins. The great gates of the Sarapieion were those of Lethe and of Kokytos, bound in bronze and found within the temple of Hekate.

Although the god Apis was worshipped all over Egypt; Memphis was the cult center. His cult associated with kingship, ruling power, and Apis has a special oracle at Memphis either. Moreover, Classical authors stated he was well known for the oracles and fortune-telling associated to the cult either. Many pilgrims and tourists visited him in his stall close to that of Apis’s mother.

During the Roman period, sacrifices were made for the bull, Greek settlers had ample chance to interpret their dreams and future foretold inside the temple of Osir- Apis at Saqqara, which still attracting sightseeing, the bull’s reputation of foreseeing the future. For others, the prophecy came through children whether playing or speaking aloud. Apis oracle had a constant tradition.

The oracular role of Apis associated with Thot, enjoy a popular vogue. They were further connected with the interpretation of dreams, both were connected with Astronomy and Astrology. Moreover, the bull was associated with magical qualities, pilgrims increasing with the site’s fame to ask the god to make their demands true. The necropolis was once enclose several guest households and catering shops. In addition; the papyri inform us, a large number of highly specialized occupation, butchers, beakers, inn-keepers, launderers, porters, and water-carriers were existent there.

Scenes of Apis in the Graeco-Roman tombs
1. Kom el-Schukafa
Scene no.1, on the rear wall of the burial chamber’s right side niche

The bull Apis standing upon a battered pedestal with a denticulate upper molding, decorated with teeth-ornaments. It is standing opposite to the central niche. Before the stand is a small altar, the bull marked with a crescent on his side, wears a solar disc between his horns, and a Naos-shaped emblem on a cord around his neck. A string of amulets hangs above him with festoons and wd3t-eye. A Roman emperor paying homage to the Apis bull in the custom of a pharaoh, appeared in an incised kilt similar to the one Horus wore, but decorated with a feather pattern like the kilt of Thot, a short mantle across his neck, and a pschent crown. He is offering a decorated collar to the bull, the Menat-collar. Behind Apis; stands Isis-Maat with outstretched wings for protection, holding the ostrich feather of Maat in her left hand. She wears a band with a Uraeus across her brow, and she is crowned with a disc fronted by a second Uraeus (pl.2).
Scene no.2, on the rear wall of the burial chamber’s left niche

This scene is identical to the previous one; Apis is depicted standing upon the similar pylon-shaped plinth, and the Roman emperor as a pharaoh is offering the same decorated collar. The only change is the bull has a distinct crescent, a cord with festoons and the wd3t-eye within a circle marked on its flank. Moreover, an altar is in between the Pharaoh and Apis, while goddess Isis-Maat protects him by her outstretched wings (pl.3). (57)

2.  Tigrain’s Tomb
The upper panel on both sides of the burial chamber’s entrance corridor

Two signal figures of the bull Apis on the sidewalls of the burial chamber’s entrance corridor. Standing figure of Apis is painted in brownish red and white, a dark-brown crescent is on his side, and his belly is painted white. (58) Both of them directed towards the burial chamber, with their right legs forward. A male figure below each of Apis figures is in the lower panel. It is standing to the left, with a situla in his right hand, and an ‘Ankh-sign in his left hand. An adjacent panel shows a long serpent with lotus-headaddress (pl. 4 a, b, c). (59)

3. Gabbari Tomb
Scene no.1, Tomb A - Habachi’s tomb (60)
On the right side of the niche of the burial chamber

Two recumbent figures of Apis on an Egyptian posture with battered sides are facing the tomb’s visitors. Their foreparts are painted yellow, while, their bodies are painted green in one time, and red in the other (pl.5). (61)

Scene no.2, The Sieglin tomb-Gabari (62)
On both hands of lateral facade walls.

A striding bull Apis, a crouching griffin, and a recumbent Apis are depicted stacked vertically upon a delicate floral stand, creates the impression of a candelabra on the right side. Three matching figures are also depicted on the left side (Pl.6). (63)

4. Minet el-Basl (Wardian) (64)
On the right side of the niche of tomb A.

Apis is standing upon a pedestal, and Isis is protecting him by her outstretched wings (pl.7). (65)

5. Mafrusa
Upon architrave of a loculus in the hypogeum of Mafrusa (66)

Destroyed plaster-decoration portrays two opposite figures of Apis upon pedestals. Each bull’s horns are flanking a solar disc, and a collar surrounds their necks. (67) Before the two figures; is an altar, while behind, is a damaged inscription. (68)

6. Dakhla Oasis
Scene no.1
The western wall of the antechamber of El-Mazawka, tomb of Petosiris

The scene depicts seven gods in different figures. They are shown holding natron bowls in their right hands, and mummy bandages in their left. They are followed with sons of Horus in their traditional figures, then a goddess with wd3t-eyes; so entitled as wd3t-goddess. This goddess holds an incense flame in her left hand, and a scepter in her right. She is standing before the deceased’s (Petosiris) cenotaph, who is lying as a mummy inside, and the falcon Horus stands upon his body. The bull Apis stands upon the cenotaph with the solar disc between its horns, which in turn topped with two ostrich-feathers. A collar with b3t symbol surrounds the bull’s neck (pl.8). (69)

Scene no.2
El-Mazawka, tomb of Petubastis, the lower register of the burial chamber’s northern wall

Petubastis adores two Apis bulls, which are venerating the sun’s fetish (pl.9). (70)

7. Akhmim
Tomb IV, the rear wall of the burial chamber’s niche (71)
The niche contains three scenes; the third one depicts the deceased in a white Roman robe is making offering before a standing figure of Apis in reddish colour, remains of a pedestal, and an altar in between. (pl.10)

Tomb C3. Scene 1. The left side of the north wall

The wall also contains a damaged scene, hardly depicts a damaged figure of the deceased in a white Roman robe, probably in adoring attitude. He is standing before a partially damaged crouching figure of the bull Apis on a shrine decorated with long striped lines in brown and black colors. Between the bull’s legs; is the representation of the djed-pillar, besides two festoon decorations; one above and the other is behind the deceased (pl.11).
Scene 2. The eastern wall of the burial chamber

The fifth scene upon the wall shows gods Thot and Horus while erecting the fetish of Abydos, topped with two feathers and a red sun disc in between. Two bull figures are flanking the fetish; each figure is standing upon a standard, the scene is bordered by two festoons, and topped with another (pl.12).

Tomb C5, The southern wall of the burial chamber

The upper one shows a damaged female figure in a white Roman garment. She is rising her hands in adoring-attitude before a damaged figure of the bull Apis, who is surmounting the deceased’s cenotaph, where his mummy is lying, and decorated in red and black, then the fire lake with an idolon “Skeleton” inside. Then a partially damaged figure of the legendary animal, the Devourer "Am Am”. The wall’s lower register contains a judgment's scene (pl. 13a, b).

Conclusion

1- During the Greco- Roman period; the bull Apis has diverse aspects with different functions. The association between Apis and Serapis at Memphis attributes them to Serapis’ function as a god of oracles, healing, and interpreting dreams, depending on the existence of a shrine of Serapis inside the precinct of the bull Apis. Moreover, he was associated with the sun's cult of Re, he was called as the son of Re, similar to the Serapis' identification with the sun. While the Apis' relation with Osiris gives him the function as god of the dead, symbol of fertility. His connection with the inundation, linked him with women's sexuality, and was considered a lunar-god either. The association of Serapis (Apis) and Dionysios at Memphis and Alexandria, enter him to the mythological Dionysos-Hades- Osiris cult, so Osiris was considered as the father of Apis. He was associated with particular intimacy with the pharaoh. Furthermore, in the Graeco- Roman period, he was connected with the cult of Isis, as the representation of the young cow Isis- Hathor.

2- The representation of the bull Apis upon the walls of the Graeco- Roman tombs related to his incarnation of Ptah, and Osir-Hapi, was worshipped at Saqqara. The Greeks identified him as "Epaphus" in red color. The depiction of the bull Apis upon the tombs’ walls was due to his association with the Osiris myth. Horus took the form of the bull Apis, while, Isis represented in a cow (hr-sh3) figure when chasing the killer Seth. They succeeded to hold him, subsequently they brought Osiris in the city of Apis (hpt.t). According to this legend, the bull Apis’s cult was associated with other major cults in the Graeco- Roman tombs of Egypt:

- The father Osiris (the defied bull Apis), who was entered the cycle of the Osride cult after his death. Moreover, he was assimilated with Osiris in the Serapeum of Memphis, in the tombs, and on the stelae (pl. 14).
- The mother Isis (the mother-cow) as the mother of Apis galleries of North-Saqqara, contain many sarcophagi and mummies for the mother-cow of the bull Apis. The cow Isis associated during the Graeco- Roman period with Hathor as Isis-Hathor or Hathor-Isis as the bull Apis’s mother.
- The son Horus (the young calf).
- The consort of Hathor. The association between Apis and Isis as his mother, furthermore, it creates a normal link with Hathor; described as "the greatest cow, who Re has born”. Moreover, Apis accompanied Hathor at her shrine at Deir el- Bahari as her counterpart, and her consort either. He was described in the temple of Deir el-Bahari as “Apis, the bull, who inseminated the cows”, Hathor who was the kings’ nursing mother (the incarnation of Horus and Sons of Re). as a result, the famous healer saint Amenhotep son of Hapu at Deir el-Bahari was attributed to Apis – not Hapu- as his father and to Hathor – not Ikit- as the mother.

3- The bull Apis was a common deity of Alexandria and a familiar figure in tombs there. Rendering this; the main tomb of kom el-Schukafa, most probably dated back to the 1st century A.D; encloses a scene of a Roman emperor venerating the bull Apis in the presence of Isis is unique for two reasons:

First: the suffering of the Egyptian deities; like goddess Isis at Rome; on the second half and either the first half of the 1st century B.C. Her cult was prohibited, besides; the Senate and early Roman emperors had destructed her altars and sanctuaries. Augustus and Tiberius banned it, but Caligula reinstated it. He – Caligula- rebuilt the Iseum on the Campus, which Tiberius destructed. Only the end of the Julio- Claudian reign, the Isiac's worship was part of the Roman state religion.

Second: the animal- figure of Apis, though during this period, worshipping animals was still strange and not acceptable to the Romans. Therefore, early Roman emperors most probably associated with Isis, through her Hellenistic consort figure Serapis and his adjunct the bull Apis.

Venit suggested most probably Vespasian is the Roman emperor depicted under the homage of the bull Apis. On July 1st 69 A.D, Nero sent Vespasian and his son Titus to Jerusalem to suppress the Jewish rebellion there. A year after, the Roman troops in Egypt proclaimed emperor Nero's suicide.

Vespasian left Titus in Judea to continue his war, and travelled to Alexandria. He visited the Serapeum, to ask the god about the permanence of his position. He performed miracles at Alexandria under the auspices of Serapis, curing one man of a crippled hand and causing another blind to see. He visited Alexandria in the Winter of 69-70 A.D, and departed in August of 70 A.D. Later Titus visited Alexandria, on his way to Memphis in 70 A.D, he consecrated the bull Apis. When Titus
attended the installation of the bull Apis, wearing a diadem, according to the custom and rite of the ancient religion.\(^{(97)}\) The event's significance did not go unremarked in Rome.

Venit suggested the tomb dates back to the Flavian's period, and Vespasian was the emperor depicted four times on the walls of Kom- el-Shukafa tomb for three reasons, these are;

**First:** his proclamation as a Roman emperor was by the Roman troops of Egypt- not at Rome- on the 1\(^{st}\) of July 69 A.D. \(^{(98)}\)

**Second:** he was honored in Alexandria as the son of Re, God Cesar, and the son of Ammon.

**Third:** Dio Cassius's referred that Vespasian entered Alexandria while the Nile was over flowed, this had taken place only once before, perhaps he came from Memphis. \(^{(99)}\) especially Memphis has a very important trading harbor, mainly with the Arsinoite Nome of Fayoum.\(^{(100)}\) The payment of the Memphite harbor tax; eventually made to its own Grammateus, this suggests a destination along the Nile, often, beyond Alexandria, besides other cities of the Delta. Furthermore, Memphis was a center of shipping and shipbuilding.\(^{(101)}\)

Identifying and recognizing the real character of the Roman emperor at Kom el-Shukafa was such a big debate among the scholars. Thompson suggested this was recorded for posterity in the burial chamber of Kom el-Shukafa. Kater-Sibbes and Vermaseren hested in suggesting the king of Kom el-Shukafa may be the Roman emperor Titus. \(^{(102)}\) Malaise, \(^{(103)}\) Pfeiffer \(^{(104)}\) and Thompson, \(^{(105)}\) suggested the depiction of a king before Apis at Kom el-Shukafa might allude to this incident of Titus's. Specifically Suétionius, \(^{(106)}\) stated Titus was not emperor at that time (thus the rumors), while the scene depicts a king wearing the double crown. Kaplan assumed a new hypothesis, the deceased is in the form of a king sacrificing before Apis. In the Roman period, the deceased always seek to become Osiris NN, and here the deceased is depicted as Osiris in his function as a king.\(^{(107)}\)

The identification of the Roman emperor in his Egyptian figure at Kom el-Schukafa, discovers not only the one who is venerating Apis, but gives the specific date of the hypogeum. Some Scholars try to specify the date according to the architectural style of the Triclinium style of the main tomb of Kom el-Shukafa. The Triclinium- shaped hypogeum appeared on the coins between the reign of Trajan’s reign and the time of a son of the emperor Licinius, almost after 324 A.D.\(^{(108)}\) Von Bissing assumed this shape dates back to the period between the reign of Vespasian and Hadrian.\(^{(109)}\)

Kaplan agrees the assumption; the hypogeum dated to the period from the end of the 1\(^{st}\) century till the beginning of the 2\(^{nd}\) century A.D. Furthermore, this still in use till the 4\(^{th}\) century A.D.\(^{(110)}\) Bernard stated; the hypogeum dates back to the reign of Antonius Pius or Septimius Severus.\(^{(111)}\) Other scholars attempt to date the hypogeum according to the artistic view of the hair-style of two statues before the main tomb of Kom el-Shukafa, or according to the statues found in the Rotunda’s well. Botti suggested; the male figure dates back to Antonius Pius’s reign.\(^{(112)}\)

Empereur attributed the female statue’s hair-style to the end of the 1\(^{st}\) century A.D. \(^{(113)}\) While Th. Schreiber, \(^{(114)}\) suggested the two figures dated back to the end of the 1\(^{st}\) century A.D. Lembke mentioned the man’s hair-style was similar to the emperor Titus’s style. While the woman’s hair-style was attributed to the empress Agrippina (15-59 A.D wife of Claudius.\(^{(115)}\) One of the marble busts of the Rotunda (Greco-Roman Museum, Nr. 40.3469) attributed to Hadrian, another one (Nr. 3.3516) attributed to Titus or Domitian. \(^{(116)}\) El-Fakharni dated the tomb to Antonine’s period.\(^{(117)}\) A. Rowe assumed the tomb dates between the 1\(^{st}\) and the 2\(^{nd}\) century A. D, and still in use till the 4\(^{th}\) century A.D.\(^{(118)}\) Adriani, \(^{(119)}\) and Fraser, \(^{(120)}\) assumed the 1\(^{st}\) century A.D the right dating of the tomb.

No doubt Vespasian has an Egyptian ritual’s inspiration, he paid great homage to god Serapis in Alexandria, and prayed before him in the Serapeum of Alexandria, where Serapis was the protector of the imperial cult of Vespasian. Moreover, he attributed his victory on the Jewish rebellion to Serapis. He get into the Serapeum while the Nile was over flowed, this had taken place only once before, perhaps he came from Memphis, specially Memphis has a very important trading harbor, mainly with the Arsinoite Nome of Fayoum.\(^{(100)}\) The payment of the Memphite harbor tax; eventually made to its own Grammateus, this suggests a destination along the Nile, often, beyond Alexandria, besides other cities of the Delta. Furthermore, Memphis was a center of shipping and shipbuilding.\(^{(101)}\)

Vespasian and his son Titus, spent the night within the Serapeum and the Iseum in Isis’s temple of the Champ of Mars, in Rome.\(^{(123)}\) sharing the victory’s celebration of Jerusalem in the precinct. This is a new way to affirm the link between Egyptian gods and power, in its most spectacular show.\(^{(124)}\) Therefore, Vespasian is most probably the Roman emperor who venerated Apis at Kom el-Schukafa.

The appearance of goddess Isis behind Apis, suggested her normal role as the guardian of the dead Apis (as Osir-Apis) as his wife. The worship of Apis in Alexandria was mainly connected with the Isiac cult, specially his cult was accompanied with Isiac sanctuaries outside Egypt. \(^{(125)}\) Therefore, Isis spread her wings to bestowing protection to the Osirs-Apis.

Offering the broad Menat collar for the deified bull Apis on the walls of Kom- el schukafa emphasizes the association between the cults of Apis and Isis in the Greco- Roman period. The Menat-collar was an important attribute for the cow-goddess Hator from the Middle Kingdom, or for Hathor-Isis since the New Kingdom.\(^{(126)}\) However, during the Greco- Roman period, as a result of the close relation between Hathor- Isis and Apis, the collar was attributed to the bull Apis, where many bronze
statues of Apis were found wearing the Menat. Kaplan suggested, according to the association with Apis, the domination, and royalty; offering the collar to Apis will bestowing the deceased a guarantee of the rejuvenation and the protection of the person and his tomb. 

Offering the Menat to Apis can be affirmed also outside Egypt. This has occurred in Italy, on one side a libation cup with Egyptian ritual scene, from Stabiai. It depicts a man -wearing a short mantle- while offering a collar and a lotus-flower to Apis (pl. 15). The same broad-beads collar is depicted also on one of the columns of the Iseum Campense, where a man is offering the collar to the priest of Isis. This indicates the offering of this collars’ type connected to the cult of Isis (pl. 16). The offering of the broad collar is an important element of burial equipment. In chapter 148 of the book of the dead; the deceased hope to has a golden collar, which ensuring the deceased an eternal power. Offering a collar to Apis is also seen upon one of the tombs of Petosiris at Tuna el-Gebel (pl.17).

- Each short entrance wall in the tomb of Tigrainis was divided vertically into two zones in two registers, the upper one depicts the bull Apis, while the lower depicts a male acolyte of Isis guides the visitors into the tomb. The two male figures depicted on the lower register appeared as Isis adherents and wearing the same garment of Isis’s pastophori (shrine bearers or priests of Isis). Their garments tied under their pectorals, and holding the situla. The Isiac mummified-form cultic vessel, characterized by high looped handle, flaring mouth, and round or piriform shape with a knob at the bottom. In addition, it is straited horizontally to import a sense of sphericity and a silvery sheen.

The two male figures and the Apis bulls are the first images to greet and accompany the tomb’s visitors. Their placement at the entrance to the burial chamber is the key to illuminate their narrative scene. They are painted in a formalistic Egyptian manner, and garbed in traditional Egyptian short kilts, though bound around their pectorals, and wear the pharaoh's nemes headdress, and beneath their chairs, lines indicate they also wear the false beard of a pharaoh. They are depicted in the form of a pharaoh or a priest. Empereur suggested, they are pharaohs. Picard stated, they were connected with the cult of Isis, as an Isis’s figure. While Venit suggested these two Egyptian pharaohs’ figures are completely differ from the two-aphaors of Kom el-Sukaka. They do not represent a pharaoh, rather than an “Egyptian figure” as " pastophori” Isiac’s priests” in one of the Roman tombs of Alexandria. Relating to the influence of Egyptian religious concepts in Roman tombs of Alexandria, this appeared in this pharaoh’s figure presents a form of employing them in the Graeco-Roman tombs.

The appearance of the bull Apis twice with Isis followers on the entry corridor to the burial chamber. It emphasizes Apis is the personification of the Egyptian Osir- Apis, the Hellenic figure; Serapis, Isis’s consort in Egypt during the Graeco- Roman Egypt. The worship of Osiris in the Hellenistic period was almost merged in the form of his syncretism with Dionysos. Osiris was venerated in the Greco-Roman period in Alexandria, and frequently appeared in iconic form on funerary monuments in Roman Egypt.

- The appearance of a pair of Apis bulls is popularly depicted in tombs of Alexandria, as Habachi’s tomb, Sieglin’s tomb at Qabbari, and Mafrusa Tomb Nr.3. In Tigrain's tomb, a single figure of bull Apis is depicted on each side of the burial chamber’s corridor. On Sieglin's tomb, these are depicted separately in a recumbent attitude. On Habachi's tomb, these figures are depicted as a couple (one in green color, and the other is in red) recumbent on the same pedestal. While on Mafrusa’s tomb, these figures are depicted opposite to each other, and an altar is depicted in between. Furthermore, the paired bulls were well-known outside Alexandria tombs; of these, the tomb of Petubastis at Dachla, and upon the shroud of the tomb of Bocchoris at Saqqara.

Kaplan suggested the two bulls’ figures, as in Habachi’s tomb, resembles Apis and his mother. While Venit referred doubtingly the green color might relate to the Osirin association of the bull Apis due to the other red color. Probably, the one in red refers to the Osiris (Osiris-Apis). Another explanation stated; one refers to the bull Apis, while the other attributes to Mnevis bull of Heliopolis, in accordance to the connection between Alexandria and Heliopolis during the Greco- Roman period.

Whitehouse supposed the appearance of the paired bovides on the shrouds, or the tombs’ walls, according to their representation on the shroud of Bocchoris’s tomb at Saqqara (pl.18). These could be wooden images, draped and kneeling as in Herodout’s description of the Saite cow, or may be as mummys. Edda Breschiani described the bull Apis standing alone on top of the shroud as the son of Isis. Furthermore, she assumed another one on the corresponding area to the right side of the shroud, which is completely destroyed. Typically, it contained identical figure of a bull, probably the sacred Mnevis-bull of Heliopolis. It stands opposite to Apis figure at Saqqara. Furthermore, Bresciani assumed the other crouching opposite bulls in the scene’s core, resembling two mummys. These may belong to Apis and his mother Isis, or Apis and Mnevis of Heliopolis. If the later; they could be seen as funerary doubles to the living bull(s) depicted at the shroud’s top, with the nearby figure of Anubis as their embalmer.

Whitehouse referred their headgear, however, the disc, feathers, and horns typical of Isis-Hathor, these indicate to cows not bulls; though the curly hair on their bulls, which is not mainly attributed to the bulls. Therefore, they may display two cows’ representations, as mothers of Apis and Mnevis, the white h3st-cow of Aphroditopolis, worshipped at Aphroditopolis. Thus their combined appearance as cows in the tombs or shrouds, signify the role of Isis and
Nephtys, who are depicted wearing green dresses with purple sashes knotted under their breasts, the same colors of the combined cows.©

He indicated the assumed opposite figures of Apis and Mnevis at the top of the shroud, associate with the sun and the moon cult. The image of the sun as infant god sitting in his boat, and the moon as a female figure on a crescent, while Isis and Nephtys are raising their hands in adoring attitude for the sun and the moon. While two goddesses of the east and the west, and the bulls are incarnations of the sun and the moon, who were born in the east, and encounter each other on the day of meeting the two bulls as the time of full moon.© Here, the bulls played another role, manifesting the east and the west, and their meeting is the full moon time. The relative position of Apis and Mnevis like two bulls are probably related to this assumption.©  

6- The bull Apis is depicted twice; surmounting the cenotaph, contains the deceased’s mummy. One on the antechamber’s western wall of Petosiris’s tomb at Mazawaka necropolis. The second one is on the southern wall of the burial chamber of Tomb C5 at el-Salamuni necropolis in Akhmim.

Apis was associated with the myth of Osiris. It accompanied Horus while searching for the scattered parts of Osiris’s body, and transfer them on his backbone. His accompanying with Horus in searching for his father’s body authorizes him as the "companion of the kings" and "the helper god". Hence, Apis was the carrier of Osiris’s mummy to Memphis to be embalmed there.© Moreover, he was the carrier of the deceased’s mummy in "hurried run", the deceased as Osiris, hope Apis to carry him to his tomb in a secured journey to his afterlife (pl. 19).©

When the bull Apis carried the deceased to his afterlife residence, this imitated the actions of chapter Nr. 162 of the book of the dead, called a spell (for) (proving) (heat under the head of the blessed one),© or formula for placing warmth under the head of a transfigured spirit.© This is very great protection, which the heavenly Cow used for her son Re at his site, when his seat was surrounded by ardent troops with kindled faces, by putting this amulet upon the living person’s throat, this will be transformed like a flame and fire in his enemies’ face, and by locating it around the deceased’s throat, he will be divine in the god's domain and shall not be kept from any of the underworld gates.©

Later, during the mumification, this amulet was put around the mummy’s neck. The sky-cow "Ihet" is asking the creator "Atum" to secure the deceased. Here, the name of the creator "Atum" is conceived in an amulet in shape of disk+scarab+old man. The final words and illustration evoke the sky-cow in visual and material terms, as an amulet to be surrounding the wrapped body’s neck. During the Late and Ptolemaic period; this amulet was written on metallic, cloth, or cartonnage disks under the mummy’s head. These disks are known in Egyptology as hypcephali, originated from the Greek term hypo means "under", and kephalos means "head".©

The scene where Apis carrying the mummy either depicted on the mummy cartonnage of Berlin 22728, shows the bull Apis while surmounting a shrine in standing position, the deceased (Antinos son of Hierax) in the mumified form, while goddess Maat is crouching, with here two feather-emblem, one upon her head, the other on her knee.© Apis carrying the deceased was a basic representation of the book of the dead papyri from Akhmim. Apis is depicted while carrying the deceased in different ways. Such scene is depicted on the “Papyrus of Hor” from Akhmim (BM EA 10479), Apis is crouching upon a shrine, while the deceased in his mumified form is not depicted as usual inside the shrine, but Apis carries him between his two horns (pl.20).© An identical scene is illustrated on the Papyrus of Mac Gregor,© and that of Berlin 10477, both from Akhmim,© on the Papyrus of Mac Gregor; Apis was depicted carrying the deceased in a different way, on his backbone(pl.21).©

Carrying the deceased to the underworld is connected with the heavenly cow, who is accompanying the sun-god in his daily journey in the heaven. every night, he entered the underworld of Osiris, and then resurrected in the morning as a youthful god. The deceased depicts himself in the mumified-form in his tomb, with the help of the sky-cow goddess he will secure a good sending to his afterlife, with neither dangers nor evils.©  

7- On the tomb of Petosiris at el-Mazawaka; the bull Apis and the four sons of Horus are depicted twice. They are shown before Apis in their normal human figures. The existence of the Apis bull with the four sons of Horus is depicted in chapter 148 of the book of the dead. Dating to the Ptolemaic period, Apis is either depicted in the tomb of Iufankhof at Bahariya Oasis. Moreover, the crouching figure of the bull Apis is depicted on Nesmin’s Papyrus from Akhmim.© Since the 18th dynasty; the four sons of Horus appeared in their human figures in several positions; behind Osiris, protectors for the father-god Osiris, as in spell 17 and 137 of the Book of the Dead© holding the royalty scepters and pieces of clothes, or as worshippers for god Osiris.©

8- The two Apis bulls adoring the fetish of Abydos are either depicted twice. One is in Petubastis’s tomb, exactly on the lower register of the tomb’s northern wall, this show the tomb’s owner while adoring the two bulls, who are venerating the fetish of Abydos. The other one is in Tomb C3 at Akhmim.

There is a close connection between the two Apis bulls and the fetish of Abydos from the Pharaonic period.© This is the illustration of chapter 138 of the Book of the Dead,© in which the deceased is repeating a formula to enter Abydos and being among Osiris’ followers. The deceased is acting as Horus, declares divine status following judgment, and triumphing over enemies in the afterlife.©
Adoration scene is preceded by carrying Petubastis’s mummy on chariot by three men and a priest, he is making libation by his right hand, and burning incense by the censer in his left hand. However, the judgment scene of Petubastis is depicted on the wall’s upper register before Osiris.

Venit suggested the two bulls are alternatives for Isis and Nephtys, who venerated the fetish of Osiris either. He built his assumption due to the depiction of two uncrowned kneeling females in the eastern half of the southern entrance wall of Petosiris’s tomb, a vertical object in a shrine where the sun god is in a falcon’s form, and perches as a depiction of the sun rise. Definitely, they resemble Isis and Nephtys.

In the funerary house no. 21 of Tuna el-Gebel, Isis and Nephtys are depicted twice in the burial chamber. They appeared in the lunette over the burial chamber’s door, with Horus and Anubis, they are revering an aspect of the sun god, and depicted either on the western side of the northern wall venerating the sun disc. The funerary beds which were found in tomb nr.7 of Tuna el-Gebel, entitled as the Pyramid-Tomb. There were representations of two Apis bulls with the sun-disc upon their heads, and the Uraeus on the foreheads are depicted flanking Osiris. On the same bed, Isis and Nephtys are flanking Osiris twice, one in the form of Ibis Thot, who was unified with Osiris in the city, while the other one depicts Osiris in his normal form. Moreover, Isis and Nephtys are depicted flanking the Abydos-fetish on another funerary bed, which was uncovered in the same tomb.

Scenes of the deceased while making direct offerings before the bull Apis occurred three times in Akhmim tombs. One scene exists upon the rear wall of the burial chamber’s niche of tomb IV. The second scene is on the left side of the burial chamber’s northern wall in tomb C3. The third scene is on the southern wall of the burial chamber of tomb C5. The deceased in white robe is semi-damaged to know the kinds of offerings he presents, and an altar before him.

The offerings and libations before the bull Apis is a major scene on the Papyri of the book of the dead tradition from Akhmim, can be seen on Nesmin’s papyrus, where the deceased is making libations with his right hand, and burning incense with his right hand. In addition, on the papyrus of Hor; the deceased is making a libation with his left hand upon a very lower altar. The same scene is depicted on P. Hildesheim 5248 from Akhmim, where the female deceased is raising her hands in adoration attitude before the bull Apis, who is wearing the menat-collar and an altar in between.

Furthermore, the offering before the bull Apis was extant several times outside Egypt. Of these, at Mensa Isiaca of Rome, a priest is offering two Egyptian cups before Apis, and an altar is between. Another sample is on an obsidian cup from Stabia, where a man is making offering with his left hand, and making libation with his right hand before Apis in his Egyptian shrine. Besides a female figure; probably Isis; holding a scepter in her right hand behind Apis as a kind of protection, related to her role as a guardian for Osiris.

Plates

Pl. 1(A). The wheeled barque of Apis
Petrie, F., Roman Portraits and Memphis (IV), pl. XXX

Pl. 1(B). The Apis catafalque
Farag, S., Two Seerapeum Stelae, JEA (61), p.164, No.2
Pl. 1(C) El Amir, M., JEA (34), pl. XVII

Pl. 2 The right niche- Kom el-Schukafa
Ibid, pl.35 (a)

Pl. 3. The left niche- Kom el-Schukafa
Kaplan, I., Grabmalerei und Grabreliefs der Römerzeit, pl. 36 (a)

Pl. 4 (B). Tigrain's tomb
Kaplan, I., Grabmalerei und Grabreliefs der Römerzeit, pl. 51 (a)

Pl. 4 (C). Tigrain's tomb
Kaplan, I., Grabmalerei und Grabreliefs der Römerzeit, pl. 51 (b)

Pl. 5 Qabbari Tomb A- Habachi Tomb
Kaplan, I., Op. Cit, pl.61 (b)
Pl. 10 The niche of the burial chamber- tomb IV- Akhmim
Kkaplan, I., Grabmalerei, pl. 93 a

Pl. 11 Tomb C3- Akhmim, the researcher’s photo

Pl. 6 Sieglien Tomb-Qabbari
Pagenstecher, R., Nekropolis. Untersuchungen, Leipzig, 1919, fig.10

Pl. 7 Minet el-Basl plaster-decoration
Kaplan, I., Op. Cit, pl.71 (b)

Pl. 8 Petosiris tomb- el-Mazawaka
Ibid, pl. 106 (a)

Pl. 9 Petubastis Tomb
Osing, G., Denkmäler der Oase Dachla, pl.26 (c)
Pl.12 Tomb C3- Akhmim, the researcher’s photo

Pl. 13 (A) Tomb C5- Akhmim, the researcher’s photo

Pl.13 (B) Tomb C5- Akhmim, the researcher’s photo


Pl.15 (A) an obsidian cup from Stabiai Malaise, Inventaire Prélinaire des Documents Egyptiens découverts en Italie, EPRO (21), Leiden, 1972, pl.54

Pl.15 (B) The other side of the obsidian cup from Stabiai, Ibid, pl.54
Pl. 16 Offering the Menat-Collar to the Priest of Isis- A column of the Iseum Campense
Kaplan, I., Op. Cit, pl. 17 (a)

Pl. 17 Petosiris Tomb-Tuna el-Gebel
Lefebvre, G., Le Tombeau de Petosiris, Troisième Partie, Vocabulaire et Planches, IFAO, Le Caire, pl. XIX

Pl. 18 The shroud of Bocchoris
Whitehouse, H., "Sacred Bovids: An unusual Terracotta Statuette from Roman Egypt", in: Sitting beside Lepsius, fig. 2

Pl. 19 The carrying of the Deceased by Apis
Peppler, J., "Der Kult des Apis", in: Kemet (2012/3), 2012, p. 43, fig. 5

Pl. 20 P. BM 10479- Akhmim
Mosher, M., Op. Cit, pl. 3, frame 10

Pl. 21 P. Mac Gregor- Akhmim
Mosher, M., The papyrus of Hor (BM EA 10479), with Papyrus McGregor, pl. 17.1, frame 9
Pl. 22 Isis and Nephtys are erecting the Fetish of Abydos- Petosiris Tomb
Kaplan, I., Op. Cit, fig. 106 (b)

Pl. 23 The Pyramid tomb-Tuna el-Gebel
Flossmann, M and Schütze, A., Ein Römerzeitliches Pyramidengrab und seine Ausstattung in Tuna el-Gebel, pl. VIII

Pl. 24 The Pyramid tomb-Tuna el-Gebel
Ibid, pl. VII

Pl. 25 The Pyramid tomb-Tuna el-Gebel
Ibid, pl. IX

Pl. 26 The Pyramid tomb-Tuna el-Gebel
Ibid, pl. XXII

Pl. 27 Mensa Isiaca
Kaplan, I., Op. Cit, pl. 17 (B)
Endnotes

2. Simpson, W., "A running of the Apis in the Reign of 'Aha and passages in Manetho and Aelian", in: Orientalia (26), 1957, pp. 139-142
4. Thompson, D., Memphis under the Ptolemies, Princeton, 1988, p. 191
5. Ibid, pp. 196-197
10. Hephebes is a large area close to the Ibis galleries, is a demotic ostraca archive of Hor/ Harhotep preserve numerous details of the complex including courts and a tower. Thompson, D., Memphis under the Ptolemies, p.30
12. Burials are attested as early as the life time of king Amenhotep III. Devauchelle, D., "Osiris, Apis, Sarapis set the Autres, Remarques sur les Osiris Memphites au Ier Millénaire av. J.C." in: Le Cult d’Osiris au Ier Millenium AVJ.C. Découvertes et Travaux Récents, Actes de la table ronde Internation etene a Lyon Maison de l’orient et de la Méditerranée (Université Lumiere- Lyon2) les 8 et 9 Juillet 2005. (ed. By Coulon, L), IFAO, Cairo, 2010, p. 51. Kaplan, I., Grabmalerei und Grabreliefs der Römerzeit, Wechselwirkung zwischen der Ägyptischen und Griechisch-Alexandrinischen Kultur, Band(16), Vienna, 1999, p. 81. While the subterranean galleries for burials of Apis bulls were begun during the reign of Ramses II at Saqqara. The serapeum of Memphis was built during the 26th dynasty, and by the 30th dynasty there were 134 sphinxes in place along the Serapeum as processional way. Bommas, M., "Isis, Osiris, and Sarapis", in: The Oxford Handbook of Roman Egypt, (ed By Riggins, C), Oxford, 2012, p.422. The burial vaults of Apis of the serapeion were closed after Cleopatra’s, but the burials continued but not discovered yet.


The Ptolemy’s seek to create a dyad with Egyptian and Greek pantheons, by making Sarapis, the consort of Isis, the main deity of Alexandria, being a god without myth. Bommas, M., Op. Cit, p. 422
19. The figure of Sarapis was presented to the Greeks in human figure, not an animal. Greek sculptor “Braxis” is credited with devising the statue of the god, and images show Sarapis as a bearded deity, with a remarkable attribute of a kalathos, or basket on his head, and his hair addressed similar to Hades with strands hanging down onto his forehead. Venit, M., "Alexandria", in: the Oxford Handbook of the Roman Egypt, Oxford, 2012, p.113
20. Diodorus mentioned: an Apis bull died during the lifetime of Ptolemy I. He did not only paid for the high costs of the ritual ceremony of Apis, but also advanced 50 talents towards additional expenditure. Diod, I,84. All the Ptolemies paid for devising the statue of the god, and images show Sarapis as a bearded deity, with a remarkable attribute of a kalathos, or basket on his head, and his hair addressed similar to Hades with strands hanging down onto his forehead. Venit, M., "Alexandria", in: the Oxford Handbook of the Roman Egypt, Oxford, 2012, p.113
21. The Ptolemaic Serapeum of Ptolemy II and III second only to the Capitolium in Rome. Ammianus. Marc. 22.16.12. The Ptolemaic Serapeum of Ptolemy II and III stood until a fire in 181 in Alexandria. This also claimed the temple of Harpocrates. Then the temple was rebuilt between 181 and 217 A.D. M’kenzie, J et al., "Reconstruction the Serapeum in Alexandria from the Archaeological Events", in: JRS (94), 2004, pp. 73-121, and remains till the final destruction in the late 4th century A.D by Theophilus. Venit, M., "Alexandria" in the Oxford Handbook of Roman Egypt, p. 114. The destruction of the Serapeum in 391 A.D must also have an end to the worship of the Apis bull. But the Apis bull appeared later in a poem by Claudian dates back to the Christian Emperor Honorius in Rome, this poet was born in Egypt, the poem in Latin, referring to a procession for Apis bull in Memphis. Hemelrijk, E. and Smelik, K., "Who knows Not What Monsters Demented Egyptian Worship", in: ANRW (17,4), 1984, pp. 1980-1981. A magnificent basalt statue of Apis bull was found in the galleries of what is called "the library of Alexandria", it dates back to the reign of Hadrian, now in the Graeco- Roman museum of Alexandria. About the Serapeum of Alexandria see: Sabottka, M., Das Serapeum in Alexandria, Untersuchungen zur Architektur und Baugeschichte des Heiligtumes von der Frühen Ptolemaischen Zeit bis zur Zerstörung 391 n. Chr, in: Etudes Alexandria (15), Cairo, IFAO; 2008, pp. 215-218, 477-481. The Apis bull was certainly worshipped in the Serapeum of Alexandria but in a separate shrine. Wace, A., Greek Inscriptions from the Serapeum, in: Bulletin of the
Faculty of Farouk I University (Alexandria), II, 1944, p.21, n.2; Stambaugh, J., Sarapis under the Early Ptolemies, Leiden, 1972, pp. 65-66.

There were 42 Sarapieia or temples of Serapis in Egypt. See Höpfner, Th., Fontes Historiae Religionis Aegyptiacae, Bonn, 1922, p. 306; Behr, Ch., P. Aelius Aristides. The Complete Works, II, Leyde, 1981, p.208

P.Oxy. 3239, II, 31f.


According to Herodotus the deified Apis bull has special characteristics as basically black in color, with double hairs to his tail, a white square on his brow, an eagle on his flank, and a scarab under his tongue, inverted white triangle on the forehead, the Horos falcon stretched over its flanks, and a vulture a cross the shoulders, judicious touching-up with paint might help on special occasions. The Apis bull lives beside the sources of the Nile as a standard ingredient of classical accounts of the land of Egypt. Herod. 3. 28.3

P. Cornell 1.8. The high priest of Ptah was the chief religious representative of the city and when the synods of priests of all Egypt during the Ptolemaic period met in Memphis was under the auspices of Ptah temple, where the Ptolemaic king was crowned. Crawford, D., Stud. Hellen.(24), p. 23


The embalming house (hw.t qbh) lies in the southern western quarter of the temple of Ptah. The identification of the embalming house is conclusively made by Veroucetter, J., Textes Graphiques du Serapeum de Memphis, Paris, 1962, pp.55-58, Dimick, J., ”The Embalming House of the Apis Bulls”, in: Archaeology (11), 1958, pp.183-189 . The details of the inhumation of the bull Apis was inscribed in admetic papyri. See: Voss, R., The Apis Embalming Ritual, P. Vindob. 3873, OLA (50), 1993; Hoffmann, F., “Boebkbesprekingen: The Apis embalming ritual”, in: BiOr (52), 1995, pp. 581-589. Pierre Meyrat suggested that the place of embalming the Apis was not related to the embalming of the bull, but that it was a place where priests would purify themselves by a ritual bath and by shaving before starting the embalming operation, Meyrat, P., “Topography- related problems in the Apis Embalming Ritual”, in: Ägyptische Rituale der griechisch- römischen Zeit, in: Orientalische Religionen in der Antike (6), Tübingen, 2014

Petrie,F., Roman Portraits and Memphis (IV), British School of Archaeology, London, 1911, p.24, pl. XXXI; Farag, S., “Two Serapeum Stelae”, in: JEA (61), pp.165-166, pl. XXIII (1).

A Greek papyri of Ptolemaios archive of Memphis from the Serapeum mentioned a dramatic ritual ceremony for a dead Apisbul in 6th April 164 B.C. the bull's death age is 22 years, 2 months and 23 days. Two Egyptian twin sisters named as Taosand Thaues mourning the Apis bull in the show. See. Brugsch, H., in: ZÄS (22), pp.125-126; Wilcken, U., UPZ 1, 18, 46-47, II, 8-9, 20-21, 23-25. About the twins and the bull see: Thompson, D., Op. Cit, pp. 233-244


Ibid, p. 201

The so-called Apis papyrus. Vienna No. 27 gives complete details of the mummification of the dead bull during the 26thDyn. About the Apis Papyrus see: Spiegelberg, W.,” Ein Bruchstück des Bestattungsrituals des Apisstier (Demot.Pap. Wien Nr. 27”, in: ZÄS (56), pp.1-33


42. Peppler, J., "Der Kult des Apis", in: Kemet (2012/3), 2012, p. 43
44. Bommas, M., Op. Cit, p.422
46. Diod, 1.84.6; Strabo, 17.1.31
53. Many oracles were connected in the site with the sacred animal necropolis of Saqqara, that oracles and dreams formed part of the spiritual life connected with these cults, the visitors came to interpretation their dreams or asking for health and medical help. Especially there was an Asklepieion in the site and alarge deposit of anatomical casts of Ptolemaic date found in the area behind the temple terrace of the sacred animal necropolis and similar dedications within the upper baboon galleries may be for Imhotep's cult at Memphis. Sauneron, S., "Les Songs et leur Interpretation, Paris, 1959, pp.40-53; Lang, P., Medicine and Society in Ptolemaic Egypt, Leiden- Boston, 2013, pp.56-57
58. Kaplan, I., Op. Cit, p. 82, fig.50 (b), 51 (a)
59. Kater-Sibbes, G and Vermaseren, J., Op. Cit, p. 27, pl. LXIV(97)
61. Venit, M., Monumental Tombs, p. 120
62. Kaplan, I., Op. Cit, p. 82, fig. 62 (a). The Sieglin tomb discovered at Gabbari in 1900 during the first Sieglin expedition, the tomb is known only from a drawing by Doctor-Engineer Ernst R. Fiechter, who was one of the architects along with August Thiersch of the Sieglin Expedition during the excavations at Kom el-Schukafa. The tomb illustrates the power of Egyptian signs and themes in the period of Roman rule. Venit, M., Op. Cit, pp. 124-125; Rowe, A., "Excavations of the Graeco-Roman Museum at Kom el-Schukafaduring the Season 1941-1942", in: BSAA (35), 1942, p. XV
64. The tomb was excavated by Adriani in 1950 /1951. It combines Greek and Egyptian elements, Greek architectural elements and Egyptian iconographic signs. Adriani, A.,"Scavi e ScoperteAlessandrine (1949-1952), C. NuoveScoperteneNecropoliOnocentale", in: BSAA (41), 1946, pp. 17-33. Tomb A contains two large niches; the east one contains a rock-cut sarcophagus with a sloping lid, while the western one contains a kline-sarcophagus with a mattress. Venit, M., Op. Cit, p.97
69. Oising, J etal., Denkmäler der Oase Dachla, Aus dem Nachlass von Ahmed Fakhry, Archäologische Veröffentlichungen (28), Mainz, 1982, p. 83, fig 26 (a). This kind of necklace appeared as a collar on the neck of goddess Mehet, the eye
of Re as a cow on the western wall of the tomb of SI- Amon at Siwa. Fakhr y, A., The Egyptian Deserts, Siwa Oasis, its History and Antiquities, Cairo, 1944, p. 145, fig. 25


71. It was numbered by Kaplan as Tomb IV. fig. 91 (a) - 95(b); Kuhlmann, K., MaterialienzurArchäologie und Geschichte des Raumes von Achmim , in :SDAIK(11), Mainz,1983, pl.38 (a)


73. A stela was found at Memphis of the 2nd century B.C, shows Apis standing beside an altar, accompanied by an inscription that alludes to the interpretation of dreams. Edgar, C., Greek Sculpture (CGC, Nos. 27425-27630), Cairo, 1903.


75. Diodorus described women's ritual involvement with the new Apis bull, during his stay in his barque with a gilded cabin. He still forty days at Nilopolis before his final installation in the temple of Ptah at Memphis. In Nilopolis, only women has a permission to look to the Apis bull, they stand, face him, and pulling up their clothes, display their genitals, but after this they are prevented from ever coming into the presence of the god a gain. He is connected with pregnancy and the apotropaic effects on women. Diod.I, 85. Montserrat, D., Sex and Society in Graeco- Roman Egypt, London, 1996, p.167. Frankfurter, D., Religion in Roman Egypt, p. 104. Marriette excavated a full-size statue of an Apis bull at Saqqara in 1851, where local childless women spontaneously gathered to straddle the statue's back, may the bull's fertility might be imparted to them. Maspero, G., Le Serapeum de Memphis, p.30; Montserrat, D., Op. Cit, pp. 167-168


77. About the connection between Serapis and Dionysos see Stambaugh, J., Sarapis under the Early Ptolemies, pp. 55-59


80. Brugsch, H., "Eine geographische Studie", in: ZÄS (17/1), 1879, p. 19f

81. Apis was connected also with the moon. See Kucharek, A., Altägyptische Totenliturgien, Die Klagelieder von Isis und Nephtys in Texten der Griechisch- Römischen Zeit, Band (4), Heidelberg, 2010, p. 138

82. Chassinat, E., Textes Provenant du Serapeum de Memphis, Paris, 1901, p. 79

83. A stela in Berlin Museum nr. 7304 of Graeco-Roman Period, depict the owner is adoring Osiris, and Isis behind him, in the upper register of the stela, while two men are adoring the Apis bull and Isis behind in the lower register. See : Erman, A., Die Religion der Ägypter, Ihr Werden und Vergehen in Vier Jahrtausenden, New York, 2001, pp.384-385, fig. 157


87. The nick name of the mother of Apis was called Sibbes, G and Vermaseren, J., Apis II, Monuments from outside Egypt, n° 350, pl. XCII; Haase, M., “Kulte der Isis in den germanischen ProvInzen”, in: Isis en Occident, p. 133, n.7. Many bronze statues for Apis in his groughng or moving attitude with his two horns and the solar-disc were found in many places outside Egypt. Malaise, M., Op. Cit, pp. 23-24

95. Tacitus. Historia IV. 82; Suetonius, Vespasian VII.1.
96. Tacitus. Historia IV. 81; Suetonius, Vespasian VII.2; Dio Cassius 6.8.1.
99. it was suggested that his act had subversive overtones. Suetonius, Tit. 5.3; Herklotz, F., Prinzeps und Pharaos: Der Kult des Augustus in Ägypten, Frankfurt am Main, 2007, pp. 297-298. The Diadem was a symbol of kingship in the Hellenistic period. See: Ritter, H., Diadem und Königsherrschaft, Untersuchung zu Zeremonien und Rechtsgrundlagen des Herrschaftsantritts bei den Persern, bei Alexander dem Großen und im Hellenismus, Vestigia, Beiträge zur Alten Geschichte (7), München,1965.
101. He did not obtain the official confirmation of the Senate and the Romans before the end of December, after Vitellius had been defeated and killed. Henrichs, A., Op. Cit", pp. 51-52.
103. The Port of Memphis lies down on the Nile to the east of the Ptah temple and the area known as the city frontage, the proasteion, this was an active center of the city’s economic life, and though the foundation of Alexandria may have effected its role. During the Roman period Memphis served the northern villages of the Arsinote nome, where a new Roman tax sheds some light on the cargoes transported overland and shipped through the city. Paid the Fayoum customs houses of Dionysias, SoknopaiouNesos, Karanis, Bakhchias, Philopator (also called Theogonis), Philadelphia, the tax of Memphis harbor was both on livestock (generally imported camels) and on what these camels and donkeys carried through these ports. See: Thompson, D., Op. Cit, pp. 59-65.
106. Pfeiffer, S., Der römische Kaiser und das Land am Nil, Kaiserverehrung und Kaiserkult in Alexandria und Ägypten von Augustus bis Caracalla (30 v. Chr.- 217n. Chr.), Historiariiten Einzelsch(212), Stuttgart, 2010, p.120.
108. Suetonius, Tit, 5.3.
109. in one of the mummy-case at Budapest, the deceased is depicting himself as a king, wears the atef crown of Osiris, and his name in a cartouche. Kurth, D., Der Sarg der Teuris, Eine Studie zum Totenglauben im römzerzeitlichen Ägypten, Aeg Trev (6), Mainz am Rhein, 1990, p. 62, fig.20.

Lembrke, K et al., Ägyptens spät Blüte, Die Römer am Nil, Mainz am Rhein, 2004, p. 55

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El-Fakhariani, F., "Semi-Dome Decoration in the Graeco- Roman Egypt", in: AJA (69), 1965, p. 62

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Malaise, M., "La Diffusion des Cultes isiaques, Un Problème de terminologie et de critique", EPRO (159), p.23;

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Möller, G., "Das HB-Sd des Osiris, nach Sargdarstellungen des neuen Reiches, in: ZAS (39), 1901, pp.71-75, pls. 4-5


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The cup now in Naples Museo Archaeological 312; sporintendenza Archeologica della provincia di Napoli and Caserta Archivio dell'Arte Pedicin. It was found in villa di San Marco in Stabia at 1954. About this cup see: De Caro, S., Egittomania, Iside e ilMistero, Milano, 2006, pp.212-214, Malaise, M., Inventaire Preliminaire des Documents Egyptiens decouverts en Italie, EPRO (21), Leiden, 1972, pl.54; Kaplan, I., Op. Cit, p.84, fig. 16(c)

Ibid, fig. 17(a)

Kapln, I., Op. Cit, p. 84

Quirke, S., Going out in Daylight, Ptt m hrw, the Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead, Translation, Sources, Meaning, London, 2013, p. 388

Lefebvre, G., Le Tombeau de Petosiris, Troisième Partie, Vocabulaire et Planches, IFAO, Le Caire, pl. XIX

During the Roman period, the situla always in the right hand of the deceased and takes a number of forms and serves a number of functions. See: Lichtheim, M., " Situla n. 11395 and Some Remarks on Egyptian Situlae", in: JNES (6), 1947, pp. 169-179, pls. IV- VII; Walters, E., Attic Grave Reliefs that represent Women in the Dress of Isis, Hesperia Supplement XXII, Princeton, 1988, pp.20-25


Venit, M., Ancient Egyptomania, p. 274

Venit, M., Monumental Tombs of ancient Alexandria, pp. 148-150

Carton, G., Op. Cit, p. 97


Picard, Ch., "L'hypogee alexandrin de la rue Tigrane Pacha reconstitué a Kom el-choufaga", RevArch, janvier-Juin 1965, p.98

Tigrain's tomb uses Egypt in ways not found elsewhere in Alexandrian tomb design at all, the position of Egyptian deities with classical influence, it reuses and reinterprets the iconographic signs of Ancient Egypt, the rhetorical power of the Tigrain tomb emphasizes the term of “Egyptomania” by the Romans, both in Egypt and Rome. See: Venit, M., *Ancient Egyptomania*, pp. 261-278. The human figure is similar to a bronze statue of the Roman period, now in the Staatlichen Sammlung Ägyptischer Kunst de Munich (inv. AS 4202) represent Isis-Magic in a Greek form with the knot of Isis, holding Situla in her left hand, while a serpent is coiled around, and looking forward on her right hand.

Cartron, G., Op. Cit, p. 97


Otto, E., Beiträge zu Geschichte der Stierkulte in Ägypten, UGÄA (13), Hildesheim, 1954, pp. 35-36


160. Allen, T., The Book of the Dead or Going Forth by Day, Ideas of the Ancient Egyptians Concerning, the Hereafter as expressed in their own Terms, SAOC (37), Chicago, 1974, pp. 157-158.

161. This scene is depicted from the third intermediate period, Late period and Ptolemaic period as the papyrus of Amun Ifankh at Bawiti, Bahariya Oasis. Munro recorded 29 example of the formula inscribed on the papyri. See Munro, I., Spruchvorkommen auf Totenbuch-Textzeugen der Dritten Zwi schenzeit, in: SAT (5), Wiesbaden, 2001, pp.88-89; Quirk, Book of the Dead, p.394.


164. Kurth, D., Materialien zum Totenglauben im römerzeitlichen Ägypten, Hüttel, 2010, p. 77, fig.5.


166. Ibid, pl. 13 (2), frame 2.


174. Owing, J., Denkmäler der Osiris Dachla, pl. 22 (b); Kurth, D., Der Sarg der Teüris, p.56, pl. B.


189. Alfano, C., "Egyptian Influence in Italy", in: Cleopatra of Egypt from History to Myth (ed. by Walker, S and Higgs, P), London, 2001, p. 284, fig.9.5