

The political and Religious Significance of Greek coins in Ptolemaic Egypt

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The Greek coins were known in Egypt before Alexander's conquest, especially in the Saite Period, owing to the dependence of its kings on mercenaries and the need to pay their salaries. The coins increased after the Greek conquest and developed during the Ptolemaic Period; therefore, there were various categories and forms. Through the careful study of these coin inscriptions we discovered many political and other religious significance, such as the influence of the Egyptian religions on the Ptolemaic kings and their appearance; and the changes of the sculpture and writings, which were connected with the political evolution.

The study revealed a number of important conclusions, such as coins reflected the weak economic situation in Egypt. It also reflected obviously the impact of political decay upon the central authority. It showed the highness of the Ptolemaic queens' importance. It showed also the influence of the policy on the art. It adopted the spread of many ideas such as Alexander's deification. It handled many social matters such as brothers marriage. It raised many ideas and religious trends such as the worship of Serapis.