

ABYAR

A city located in the Egyptian Delta about 9 miles (14.5 km) northwest of Tanta in the province of Gharbiyyah.

The earliest reference to Christians in the area of Abyar is the notice in the [HISTORY OF THE PATRIARCHS](#) that around 1117 a hermit named Mercurius lived near the city. The first attested bishop of Abyar was Mark, who was among the [bishops](#) who joined with [Patriarch CYRIL III IBN LAQLAQ](#) in 1240 to issue new canons (Munier, 1943, p. 31).

About one-half mile southwest of Abyar is Dayr al-Habis (Monastery of the Hermits) with its church of ABU MINA. The antiquity of this church is indicated by the fact that it is named in a medieval list of churches in Egypt (Amélineau, 1893, pp. 578, 580).

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