

ANSINA

The Arabic name of the city known in Greek as Antinoë or ANTINOOPOLIS. Located on the east side of the Nile about 6 miles (9.5 km) north of [Mallawi](#) in the province of Asyut, the city was founded in 130 by the emperor Hadrian in honor of his friend Antinous, who had drowned in the Nile. The ruins of Antinoë/Ansina are located just east of Shayk 'Abadah.

The earliest attestation of Christianity in Antinoë/Ansina is a notice in the writings of EUSEBIUS OF CAESAREA that Bishop Alexander of Jerusalem wrote a letter to the [Christians](#) in Antinoë, which indicates that Christianity had been established in the city by the middle of the third century (*Historia ecclesiastica* 6.11.2). [Coptic-Arabic](#) hagiographic literature indicates that Antinoë/Ansina was a [bishopric](#) by the beginning of the fourth century when a man named Timotheus administered as bishop in the city. In 325, Antinoë was represented at the Council of [NICAEA](#) by its bishop, Tyrannos (Munier, 1943, p. 5).

Antinoë/Ansina was the birthplace or place of martyrdom of many [Christians](#) in the early years of the fourth century (for a list with bibliography, see Timm, 1984, pp. 113-16). [Monasticism](#) also made an early entry into the city. Among the most important monks was Apa Pammon, a contemporary of [Patriarch](#) ATHANASIUS I (Halkin, 1932, p. 119). At the beginning of the fifth century there were twelve nunneries in Antinoe and its environs; the monasteries in the same area were beyond counting (Palladius, *Lausiaca History* 59).

[See also: Antinoopolis; Dayr al-Dik; Dayr al-Nasara (Antinoopolis); Dayr Sunbat; and Shaykh Sa'id.]

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