

DAYR AL-'AWANAH (Asyut)

The [village](#) of al-'Awanah is situated on the right bank of the Nile to the southeast of Asyut, about 11 miles (18 km) to the north of the basin of [Badari](#) and about 7 miles (12 km) to the south of DAYR AL-BISRAH. The monastery of al-'Awanah is today a Christian quarter with a church that is to the south of the village.

V. de Bock (1878, pp. 67-72) drew attention to it as worthy of interest and called it Deir Awana Cherbana. The atlas of the *Description de l'Egypte* (1821-1829, fol. 12) also registers it in its place.

The ancient part of the church is formed by a choir with three altars under deep, perforated domes and, in front of them, a bay of joists roofed by three similar domes. This is Type C in S. Clarke's classification (1912, p. 109). The back of the church has a ceiling opposite the dome.

The church is dedicated to Saint George. Perhaps it is the same as the one called Dayr Mar Jirjis of Khammas (or Hammas) by al- Maqrizi (1853, Vol. 2, p. 503). But the name of this town does not appear to be attested elsewhere.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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