

## **DAYR ANBA PISENTIUS**

In 1926 W. E. CRUM left unanswered the question of the location of the monastery of Tsenti (al-Qassas in Arabic), where PISENTIUS, bishop of [Qift](#) at the beginning of the seventh century, habitually lived and where it seems he died.

‘ABD AL-[MASIH](#) SALIB AL-MASU‘DI al-Baramusi (1932, p. 184), however, mentions “in the mountain of al-Asas which extends to the west of Naqadah, the dayr of St. Anba Bisantawus, bishop of Qift, to the south of Dayr Mar Jirjis, also called Dayr al-Majma’.” He specified that formerly only the [tomb](#) of the saint was there, but that “around the year 1904 the dayr was built, that is to say a church and round it a wall enclosing about two *feddans*.”

The map of the Survey of Egypt (1943, 1954) marks at the edge of the desert to the west of the village of al-Bahri Qamulah, the Dayr Anba Pistentius, about 430 yards (400 meters) south of DAYR AL- MAJMA’, still called Dayr Mar Jirjis.

It seems then that the Dayr al-Majma’ is indeed the monastery of Tsenti, of which the life of [Pistentius](#) speaks and near which Pistentius himself was buried. ABU SALIH THE ARMENIAN (1895, pp. 233-34) speaks of a monastery of Saint Pistentius, to the west of Qus (no doubt the Dayr al-Majma’), outside of which was the [tomb](#) of the saint.

This monastery and [tomb](#) are not mentioned by O. Meinardus.

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