

IDKU

A city located in the northern Delta of [Egypt](#) about 10 miles (16 km) southwest of Rashid in the [Beheirah](#) province.

The first certain attestation of Christianity in Idku comes from the HISTORY OF THE PATRIARCHS, where it is recorded that when the churches of the [Melchites](#) and [Copts](#) in Alexandria were closed by order of al-Yazuri during the patriarchate of CHRISTODOULUS (1047-1077), the *wali* (governor) of Alexandria saw to it that a church was reopened in Alexandria and collected 200 dinars from the Christians in Rashid, Idku, al-Jadidiyyah, and Maḥallat al-Amir, which he gave to the Coptic patriarch. The account suggests that the [Christian](#) community in Idku in the [eleventh century](#) was relatively well-to-do.

In medieval lists of Egyptian bishoprics, the following equivalence of names is given: Meneliatou (Greek); Thbashor (Coptic); Idku (Arabic) (Munier, 1943, pp. 45, 52). The absence of independent corroborating evidence renders this equation suspect and suggests that three different cities are referred to, a Meneliatou whose Coptic and Arabic names were unknown, a Thbashor whose Greek and Arabic names were not known, and Idku. Nonetheless, the appearance of Idku in such a list argues that the city was home to a significant Coptic community in the Middle Ages.

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