

SA'ID

Designation for Upper Egypt. The division of [Egypt](#) into two parts, Lower and Upper Egypt, goes back to [pharaonic](#) antiquity. The term Misraim, used in some works, is a dual and hence betrays this duality founded on geography. For Lower Egypt, the Delta, the [effective](#) divisions were al-Qalyubiyyah, al-Sharqiyyah, al-Daqhaliyyah, al-Gharbiyyah, al-Minufiyyah, al-Beheira, and al-Jiziyyah.

For the Sa'id, which could not be presented as a block, it seems more practical to follow the [tripartite](#) division of the ancient Greek and Arabic geographers, such as Yaqut (d. 1224), who distinguish (a) the lower Sa'id (or Lower Thebaid), from Cairo (formerly [Fustat](#)-Misr) to al-Bahnasa (Oxyrhynchus); (b) the middle Sa'id (or Thebaid), from al-Bahnasa to Akhmim; and (c) the Upper Sa'id (or Upper Thebaid), from [Akhmim](#) to Aswan. This forms three [roughly](#) equal parts (the third is a little larger).

The Fayyum forms an entity apart, as do the oases.

A summary of the ancient statements and a setting out on the map of the positions adopted are in A. Grohmann (1959, pp. 22-33 and map 4, p. 21).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Grohmann, A. [Studien](#) zur historischen [Geographie](#) und Verwaltung des frühmittelalterlichen Ägypten. Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, philosophisch-historische Klasse, Denkschriften 77, 2. Vienna, 1959.

RENÉ-GEORGES COQUIN

Tags: [Places](#), [Culture](#)