

The Judgment Court Scenes in Unpublished Tombs of El-Salamuni

By

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El-Salamuni mountain is the main necropolis of Akhmim during the Graeco- Roman period. It lies 3.k.m south of el-Hawawish necropolis of the Pharaonic period. El-Salamuni tombs lie in five terraces and dates back to from Old Kingdom to Roman Period. F. Von Bissing discovered three tombs during his two visits to the mountain at 1897 and 1913, then later K. Kuhlmann (1979-1982) excavated other three tombs which are lying beneath the rock-cut temple of Ay in the uppermost level of the mountain.

Our paper will focus on the judgment court scenes which are always a theme of questions, through recently seven new unpublished decorated tombs which were discovered by the Akhmim's staff Office at 1996. These unpublished tombs are mainly consist of two chambers with façade-entrance, they are very distinguished by its magnificent religious scenes on its walls and unique astronomical zodiacs on its ceilings with the presence of both Hieroglyphic and Demotic inscriptions.

The paper concludes that these judgment scenes' locations are varying in the studied tombs from the antechamber and in other locations in the burial chamber. It worth noting that the judgment court scene is an essential subject inside these tombs of El-Salamuni. It represents the characteristic features of the burial customs in Akhmim, one of the most important Graeco-Roman centers in Upper Egypt, also these scenes are varied in its details; Some details of the court scenes are unique and scare (e.g. the unusual appearance of god Bes in the court, the representations of Devourer, the black-skeleton figures, the gods who are under the scale, the distinctive appearance of local judges, god Osiris and the deceased himself). The paper approached the compare and analyses through other scenes in Graeco- Roman tombs of Egypt to indicate the uniqueness and remarkableness.