IDENTIFICATION

Nomination: Necropolis of Arg el Ghazouani
Location: Governorate of Nabeul
State Party: Tunisia
Date: December 23, 1985

ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION

That the necropolis be incorporated in the protected area of the Punic town of Kerkuane, included on the World Heritage List in 1985.

JUSTIFICATION

When the Kerkuane site was included on the World Heritage List in December 1985, the Tunisian delegation announced it would promptly send an addendum nomination relating to the old Punic city's necropolis, abandoned about 250 B.C.

The present nomination concerns the necropolis of Arg el Ghazouani, located on a rocky hill less than one kilometer northwest of the city, which is the most well-conserved portion of the great Kerkuane necropolis whose tombs are scattered throughout the coastal hills at the extreme end of Cap Bon.

In the protected area measuring 170 meters long and 100 meters wide, lie approximately 200 tombs, including 50 which have not been unearthed. Investigations of the site on an irregular basis until 1930 and on a regular basis since 1957 have revealed two types of tombs: tombs hewn in rock and tombs comprising a funerary chamber, with dromos in tiers and an antechamber. No other example of this type of tomb with steps has been found outside the area of Cap Bon.

The funerary chambers reveal a rich collection of seats, niches and dug-out sarcophagi never before found in other necropolises. Decorations painted red ochre and inscriptions of the name of the deceased engraved above the entrance doors are a basic source for the study of funeral rites. Exceptionally rich furnishings (ceramics, bronze artefacts, jewelry, coins, etc.) add to the value of the site. Burials at the site cover a long period, from the 6th century to the middle of the 3rd century B.C.

ICOMOS is delighted by the addendum nomination presented this year by the Government of Tunisia. The outstanding site of Kerkuane,
which has provided so much first-hand information on urban planning and daily life in a Punic city, would be incomplete without the necropolis.

ICOMOS, April 1986.
Necropole AREG EL GHAZOUANI

Site de KERKOUANE

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