

ICOMOS

LISTE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

WORLD HERITAGE LIST N° 36

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| <p>A) IDENTIFICATION</p> | <p>A) IDENTIFICATION</p> |
| <p><u>Bien proposé</u>: Memphis et sa Nécropole. Les zones des pyramides de Guizeh à Dachour</p> <p><u>Lieu</u>: Gouvernorat de Guizeh</p> <p><u>Etat partie</u>: Egypte</p> <p><u>Date</u>: 9 Mars 1979</p> | <p><u>Nomination</u>: Memphis and its Necropolis. The pyramid fields from Giza to Dashur</p> <p><u>Location</u>: Governorship of Giza</p> <p><u>State party</u>: Egypt</p> <p><u>Date</u>: March 9, 1979</p> |
| <p>B) RECOMMANDATION DE L'ICOMOS</p> | <p>B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION</p> |
| <p>Que le bien culturel proposé soit inscrit sur la liste du Patrimoine Mondial, au titre des critères I, III, VI.</p> | <p>That the nominated property be included on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria I, III, VI.</p> |
| <p>C) JUSTIFICATION</p> | <p>C) JUSTIFICATION</p> |
| <p>Memphis fut la capitale de l'Egypte sous l'Ancien Empire, de la IIIe à la VIe dynastie (2.700 c.- 2.150c. av. J.C.). Siègne d'un très influent collège religieux (les prêtres de Ptah), elle conserva son importance tout au long de l'histoire de l'Egypte pharaonique, même alors que Thèbes fut devenue la capitale du pays, et jusqu'à la fin de la période gréco-romaine. Les pharaons, toujours, furent couronnés à Memphis, y compris Alexandre et ses successeurs de la dynastie ptolémaïque.</p> <p>Le site de la ville proprement dite (Badrachein) n'est qu'imparfaitement dégagé. Mais les extraordinaires ensembles funéraires qui l'entourent, au nord et au sud, sont depuis longtemps connus. Guizeh, dominé par les pyramides de Khéops, de Khéphren, de Mykerinos (IVe dynastie : 2.500 av. J.C.) et par le</p> | <p>Memphis was the capital of Egypt under the Old Kingdom of the 3rd and 4th dynasties (ca. 2,700 B.C. to 2,150 B.C.). As the seat of an influential religious establishment (the priests of Ptah), it retained its importance through out the history of pharaonic Egypt to the end of the Graeco-roman period - even when Thebes had become the capital of the country. The pharaons were always crowned at Memphis, including Alexander and his successors of the Ptolemaic dynasty.</p> <p>The site of the city as such (Badrachein) is only imperfectly delineated. But the extraordinary funerary complexes which surround it, to the north and south, have long been known. Giza, dominated by the pyramids of Cheops, Chephren, and Mycerinus (4th dynasty: 2,500 B.C.) and the Great Sphinx is world renowned. Besides these amazing creations,</p> |

Grand Sphinx, est mondialement célèbre. Outre ces stupéfiantes réalisations, le site comporte des tombes rupestres, des centaines de sépultures privées (mastabas) de la IV^e et de la V^e dynastie, les vestiges d'une agglomération où durent habiter les ouvriers des pyramides. Plus au sud, on trouve - pour s'en tenir aux seuls monuments exceptionnels- Abou-Gorab et le temple solaire de Niousserré de la V^e dynastie (XXV^e siècle av. J.C.), Abou-Sir avec les pyramides des rois de la V^e dynastie et enfin Sakkara avec sa nécropole civile archaïque (3.000 c. av. J.C.) et les tombeaux royaux de la I^{ère} à la VI^e dynastie, la pyramide à degrés du roi Djéser, des mastabas disposés en rues des IV^e, V^e et VI^e dynasties, célèbres par la beauté de leurs reliefs, une nécropole du Nouvel Empire et le Serapeum.

L'Icomos recommande l'inscription sur la liste du Patrimoine Mondial essentiellement au titre des critères I, III, VI.

I. Les pyramides d'Egypte ont toujours suscité l'admiration universelle: déjà, dans l'Antiquité, elles comptaient parmi les "merveilles du Monde". Environnées de nécropoles et de temples pourvoyeurs de fabuleux trésors et d'oeuvres d'art inestimables, elles méritent largement le titre de réalisations artistiques uniques et de chefs-d'oeuvre de l'esprit créateur de l'homme.

III. L'ensemble de Memphis englobe des monuments singuliers, d'une très haute antiquité. La pyramide à degrés de Djéser, premier pharaon de la dynastie memphite, entièrement construite en calcaire, est la plus ancienne oeuvre architecturale connue qui soit faite de pierres régulièrement taillées. A Guizeh, dans le complexe de Khéops, on a découvert, intacte, la "barque solaire" qui un des plus anciens bateaux qui se soient conservés jusqu'à nous. La nécropole archaïque de Sakkara remonte à la période de la formation de la civilisation pharaonique.

VI. L'exceptionnel intérêt historique, artistique et sociologique de ces monuments, témoins d'une des plus brillantes civilisations de la planète, se passe de commentaires.

site comprises rock-cut tombs, hundreds of private sepultures (mastabas) of the 4th and 5th dynasties, and the vestiges of a group of buildings which the people who worked on the pyramids must have inhabited. Further south are found (noting only the truly exceptional monuments) Abu-Ghurab and the solar temple of Newoserre of the 5th dynasty (25th century B.C.), Abou-Sir with the pyramids of the kings of the 5th dynasty and finally Sakkara with its archaic civil necropolis (3,000 B.C.) and the royal tombs of the first to the fourth dynasties, the step pyramid of the king Zoser, and the mastabas, aligned along streets, of the 4th, 5th and 6th dynasties, renowned for the beauty of their reliefs, an necropolis of the New Kingdom and the Serapeum.

Icomos recommends the inclusion of this property on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria I, III, and VI.

I. The pyramids of Egypt have always provoked universal admiration; even during Antiquity, they were included among the "Wonders of the World". Surrounded by necropolis and temples which house fabulous treasures and invaluable works of art, they solidly merit their reputation as unique artistic realisations and masterpieces of the creative spirit of man.

III. The ensemble of Memphis embraces singular monuments of a very great antiquity. The step pyramid of Zoser, the first pharaon of the Memphis period, constructed entirely in limestone, is the oldest architectural structure known, which is built from regularly cut stone. At Giza, in the complex of Cheops, one of the oldest boats preserved today, the "solar barge" was discovered intact. The archaic necropolis of Sakkara dates back to the period of the formation of pharaonic civilisation.

VI. The exceptional historic, artistic and sociological interest of these monuments, witnesses of one of the most brilliant civilisations of this planet, needs no commentary.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES

ICOMOS

April 10 1979

Nominations on the World Heritage List

REVIEW SHEET

MEMPHIS AND ITS NECROPOLIS - Egypt - °86

The splendour of Ancient Egypt is world-famous. But must one include in the same definition the "domaine of Memphis" going from Giza to Dahshur? Perhaps one should since it is all one archeological zone.

Panel:

M. André Chastel

Mr. Henry Millon

M. Jean Taralon

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES

ICOMOS

w086

6 April 1979

WORLD HERITAGE LIST (CULTURAL PROPERTY)
ICOMOS TECHNICAL REVIEW NOTES

N.B. All comments are keyed and numbered according to the World Heritage Nominations Forms. Information requested is underlined.

1. (a) Country: Egypt
(c) Name of Property: Memphis (Identification ° 86)

2. (a) Owner: please give the name and address of the State organization which owns the property.
(b) Legal status: please provide details of protective legal and administrative measures provided by the legislation which protects antiquities areas.
(c) Responsible administration: please give the mailing address.

3. (c) Photographic documentation: it would be useful if the photographs were identified in the body of the Nomination.

5. Justification: as the World Heritage Nomination Form points out, a statement must be made as to the property's significance (its "outstanding universal value" in terms of the Convention) that justifies it for inclusion in the World Heritage List. Property is evaluated against specific criteria adopted by the World Heritage Committee and set forth in the Nomination Form (page 10). In every case, consideration must be given to the state of preservation of the property (which should be evaluated relatively, in comparison to the state of preservation of other property dating from the same period and of the same type and category. In addition, the property should meet the test of authenticity in design materials, workmanship and setting; authenticity does not limit consideration to original form and structure but includes all subsequent modifications and additions, over the course of time, which in themselves possess artistic or historical values.

Information requested above should be forwarded to:
The Secretariat of the World Heritage Committee
Division of Cultural Heritage
UNESCO
7, place de Fontenoy
75700 Paris

MOSQUEE DE CORDOUE

