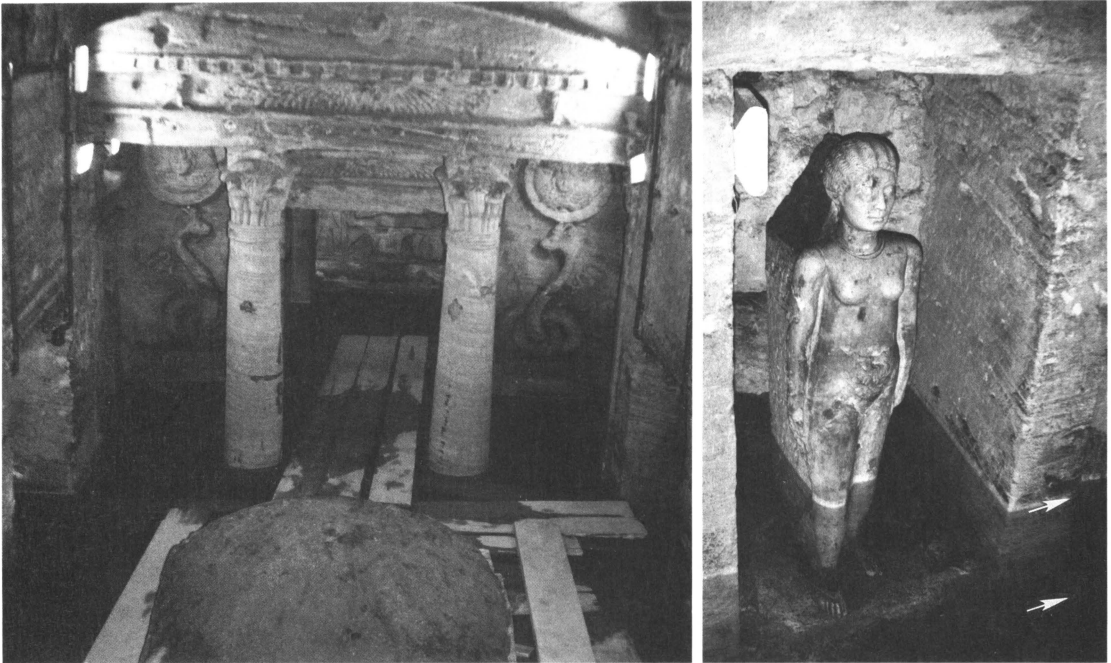


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COASTAL PHOTOGRAPH BY D. J. STANLEY

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Inundation of archaeological site along the southeastern Mediterranean coast as a result of rising ground water, probably due to a coupling of sea level rise with altered climate and anthropogenic effects. Photo on left shows boards placed above flooded floor of vestibule, antechamber and (in background) sepulchral chapel in Kom el-Shukafa catacombs, Alexandria, Egypt. This famous Second Century A.D. site, an excellent example of the fusion of Egyptian and Graeco-Roman styles, was hewn from Pleistocene calcareous aeolinites on which the city of Alexandria is built. Over the years, water level on the catacomb floor has been rising, but was usually high during a period of intense winter rainfall (photo taken on 27 January 1992), possibly resulting from backup of canal and sewage drainage. Art work on walls is experiencing serious deterioration. Photo on the right shows a water depth of approximately 80 cm (between the 2 arrows), submerging legs of statue to knee level.



(Photos: Daniel Jean Stanley, Mediterranean Basin Program, E-206 NMNH, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560.)