

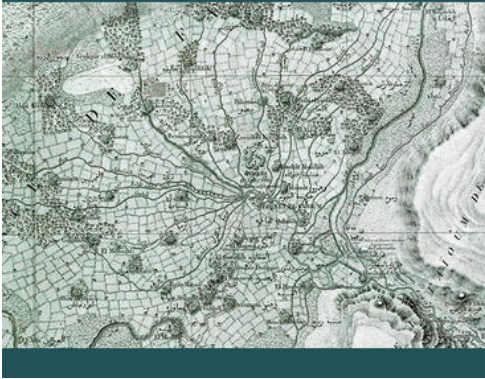


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Garden of Egypt

Irrigation, Society, and the State
in the Premodern Fayyūm

Brendan Haug



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Garden of Egypt revolutionizes our understanding of water and society in ancient Egypt. Haug grasps the dynamic interactions between humans and the environment in the Fayyūm specifically and more generally in the ancient Roman world."

—Cynthia Bannon,
Indiana University

GARDEN OF EGYPT

IRRIGATION, SOCIETY, AND THE STATE IN THE
PREMODERN FAYYUM

Brendan Haug

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Garden of Egypt: Irrigation, Society, and the State in the Premodern Fayyūm is the first environmental history of Egypt's Fayyūm depression. The volume studies human relationships with flowing water, from the third century BCE to the thirteenth century CE. Until the arrival of modern perennial irrigation in the nineteenth century, the Fayyūm was the only region of premodern Egypt to be irrigated by a network of artificial canals. By linking large numbers of rural communities together in shared dependence on this public irrigation infrastructure, canalization introduced to Egypt a radically new way of relating both with the water of the Nile and with fellow farmers. Drawing upon ancient Greek papyri, medieval Arabic literature, and modern comparative evidence, this book explores the ways in which the Nile's water, local farmers, and state power together continually reshaped this irrigated landscape over more than thirteen centuries. Following human/water relationships through both space and time further helps to erode disciplinary boundaries and bring multiple periods of Egyptian history into contact with one another.

Brendan Haug is Archivist of the Papyrology Collection, University of Michigan, and Associate Professor of Classical Studies, University of Michigan.

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