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## Ancient Greek temple found in Alexandria

Archaeologists have unearthed a 2,000-year-old temple that may have been dedicated to the ancient Egyptian cat goddess, Bastet, the Supreme Council of Antiquities said Tuesday. The ruins of the Ptolemaic-era temple were discovered by Egyptian archaeologists in the heart of the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria, founded by Alexander the Great in the 4th century B.C.

The city was the seat of the Greek-speaking Ptolemaic Dynasty, which ruled over Egypt for 300 years until the suicide of Queen Cleopatra.

The statement said the temple was thought to belong to Queen Berenice, wife of King Ptolemy III who ruled Egypt in the 3rd century B.C.

Mohammed Abdel-Maqsood, the Egyptian archaeologist who led the excavation team, said the discovery may be the first trace of the long-sought

location of Alexandria's royal quarter.

The large number of statues depicting Bastet found in the ruins, he said, suggested that this may be the first Ptolemaic-era temple dedicated to the cat goddess to be discovered in Alexandria.

This would indicate that the worship of the ancient Egyptian cat-goddess continued during the later, Greek-influenced, Ptolemaic period, he said.

Statues of other ancient Egyptian deities were also found in the ruins, he added.

Zahi Hawass, Egypt's chief archaeologist, said the temple may have been used in later times as a quarry as evidenced by the large number of missing stone blocks.

Modern Alexandria was built squarely on top of the ruins of the classical-era city and many of its great temples, palaces and libraries remain undiscovered.

The temple was found in the Kom el-Dekkah neighborhood near the city's main train station and home to a Roman-era amphitheater and well preserved mosaics.

Article from ABC News



This undated photo released, Jan. 19, 2010, by Egypt's supreme council of antiquities shows the ancient cat-goddess Bastet found amongst the temple's ruins in the Kom el-Dekkah area of the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria. Egypt says its archaeologists have unearthed a Ptolemaic temple dating back more than 2,000 years and which may have been dedicated to the ancient cat-goddess Bastet. (EGYPT'S SUPREME COUNCIL OF ANTIQUITIES/AP Photo)

## Fruit sculpture

- Face shape in aubergine



Jack Elia from Greenacre shows off his remarkable looking eggplant, complete with 'ears and a nose' Photo by GEORGE VOULGARPOULOS

This remarkably shaped eggplant has had everyone talking in Solomon Court.

It's unusual resemblance to a human face struck Greenacre resident Jack Elia, who was shopping with his wife in Parramatta when he came across the fruit.

"My wife was picking some eggplants and I came across this one... I showed it to one of the [staff members] and I said 'look I found it I'm keeping it', he said.

"They said 'jesus what's this? For it to be that well proportioned and to notice the nose is longer than the ears, well that makes it really special'."

Jack punctured two holes, for the eyes and showed it off to all.

"The bottom area - where the mouth would be is perfectly wide, and just the shape of the nose - that really surprised me, and the green leaves look like a hat!"

It has some odd resemblance to a human.

Jack's fascination with the plant is such that he's been parading it to all his neighbours, who he says are stunned.

"Everybody loved it, whoever looked at it was stuned", he said. "My grandkids loved it".

But this eggplant won't join its fellow friends in the fry pan just yet.

"I can't eat such a beautiful thing", he laughed.

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