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Rosicrucian Park
1342 Naglee Ave ☞ San José CA 95191
(408) 947-3695 ☞ librarian@rosicrucian.org
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PTOLEMAIC PERIOD

Greek speaking Pharaohs ruled Egypt from Alexander's conquest in 332 BCE until 31 BCE. This is divided into (1) a brief Macedonian Dynasty of three Pharaohs beginning with Alexander himself, and (2) the three centuries of the Ptolemaic Dynasty (305 – 31 BCE), descendants of Alexander's General, Ptolemy, who was the first Pharaoh of this line.

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EGYPT AFTER THE PHARAOHS I (THE ROMAN ERA 31 BCE – 642 CE)

The Roman Empire ruled Egypt from Octavian's victory at the Battle of Actium over Cleopatra and Mark Antony in 31 BCE until the Arab Conquest in 642 CE. Therefore, the entire period can be termed "The Roman Era." In modern histories, this is often divided into two periods: Rule from Rome (31 BCE – 330 CE) and Rule from Constantinople (330 – 642 CE), as the Capital of the Roman Empire shifted from West to East. The period of rule from Constantinople is often called "The Byzantine Period" in modern authors, although no ancient author would have recognized the distinction.

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