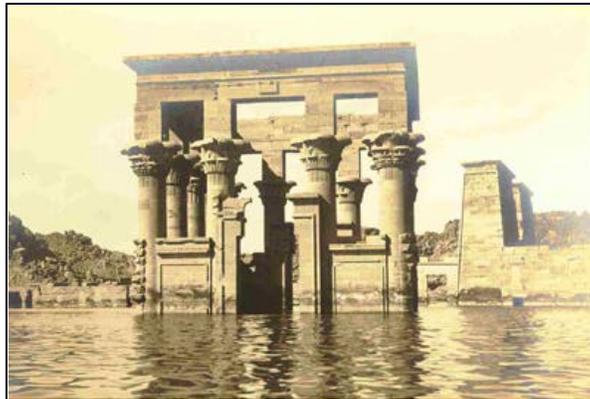


The Aswan Dam and Nubia

In the early 1900s a dam was built along the Nile River in Aswan, Egypt to help control flooding and to provide hydroelectric power to the region. However, in times of extreme flooding, it proved inadequate and the land and towns thought protected by the dam would be covered with floodwaters. In the 1960s, it was decided that a second dam would be built at Aswan to solve the problem. This dam created a 300-mile-long lake. The area used to create the lake was located on the site of an ancient civilization known as Nubia. Prior to completion of the dam, the United Nations began a rescue operation to excavate the area so that endangered Nubian monuments could be uncovered and moved to other locations. All together, twenty-four monuments were dismantled and relocated and many others were identified and documented before the area was flooded to make the lake.

Below are photographs taken of Nubian monuments before the second Aswan Dam was completed.

The Kiosk of Trajan is in the foreground, while the Temple of Isis is at the right rear. The reservoir of the first Aswan Dam flooded the complex for much of each year.



The Nile can be seen in the background of this photograph. After the building of the first Aswan Dam, the reservoir waters could at times reach the feet of the seated figures.

