

Themis G. Dallas, A Note on the Orientation of Nubian Churches.

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Studies the orientation of 48 churches in Nubia by remote sensing (i.e. Google Earth) and conclude that, (a) 13 are oriented outside the solar sunrise arc; (b) 19 are oriented within 10° , either perpendicular or parallel, to the Nile flow; (c) 13 are oriented towards the equinox sunrise. In addition, we examine 92 churches from the literature, from which we rule out the suggestion that east was determined by sunrise during the construction period. Thus, the Nile is the major orientation factor for the Nubian churches. However, the equinoctial orientations in Old Dongola reinforce the arguments for Byzantine influences on the church architecture of the capital of Makuria.

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