

Alarm Egypt

14/03/2013 Cinzia Dal Maso

The last message concerns Antinoe, the city built by Emperor Hadrian on the banks of the Nile in the name of the beloved Antinous, who had lost their lives in the river not far from there. In recent months, the inhabitants of what remains of the greatness, the village of Sheikh Abada, have built homes and cemeteries modern ruins, hills paved with bulldozers to obtain building materials, are cultivating fields, and especially looting everything. Objects and papyri Antinoe all the rage in the black market, as reported with a dossier in the American network that cooperates with Jay Heidel Antinoe excavations directed by Rosario Pintaudi papyrological Vitelli Institute of Florence. The necropolis, the racecourse of the city and large parts of the walls, almost not seen, while the holes grave robbers scattered to hundreds landscape.

The devastation of archeology of Egypt has been constant since the revolution of January 2011. The institutional vacuum, and the pressing economic crisis, have led many to take possession of what should be the heritage of all. In Egypt, there will also be very severe penalties for those who plunder or destroy the antiquities, but do not seem to deter most. In recent months, however, the situation has become much more critical, perhaps as a result of the new destabilization. Almost always, the guards can do nothing because those who come to take possession of the land or look for antiques is armed, as happened recently at Dahshur necropolis where the shadow of the pyramids has become a modern cemetery. The locals said it was forced to act because the force applied to the government land for their dead for over four years, but without success. But, as everyone knows, the cemetery is often an excuse to plunder the area freely.

A Dashur finally the police arrived, and it turns out that the modern cemetery is finding a new location. But illegal buildings are still there and the devastation is evident, as pointed out on Tuesday the Director General of UNESCO Irina Bokova, on a visit to Cairo. He has even aired Dahshur risk losing his place in the prestigious list of World Heritage, apparently unwilling to believe the assurances of the Minister Mohamed Ibrahim. Who continues to complain about his own helplessness, while doing good of the few achievements: days ago said that at Tell al-Amarna, the city founded by the heretic pharaoh Akhenaten, the sun worshiper, the police chased the illegal the tombs of dignitaries of the king and the great temple of the sun god is good news that we would like to listen to Antinoe. Despite knowing that it would only be a Pyrrhic victory.