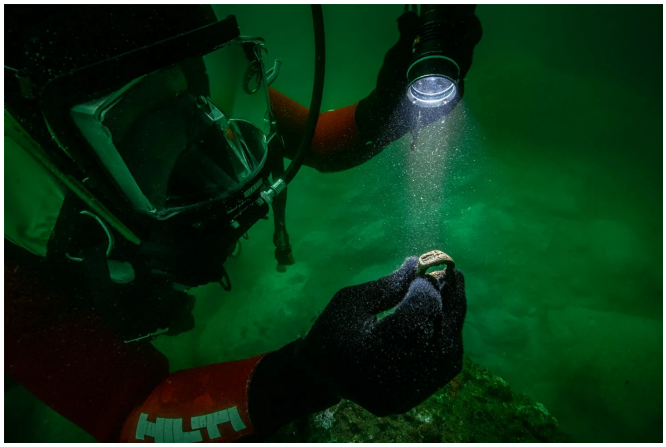
WHAT CAN A TINY RING TELL US ABOUT THE LOST LIGHTHOUSE OF ALEXANDRIA?



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Underwater archaeologists working near Alexandria in Egypt have found a bronze signet ring showing the famous Lighthouse of Alexandria. The lighthouse was built more than 2,000 years ago during the rule of the Ptolemies, a Greek-speaking dynasty that ruled Egypt after the death of Alexander the Great. It may have stood between 330 and 430 feet tall and guided ships into the city's harbour. Earthquakes eventually destroyed it, and much of the building now lies underwater. The newly found ring is the first known example of jewellery showing the lighthouse. It was discovered near the remains of a palace where rulers and powerful figures once lived. The ring may help researchers understand how the lighthouse looked and who worked in the centre of power around it.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

The Lighthouse of Alexandria was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, but almost all of it has disappeared. A small object can still provide important evidence about a huge building and the people connected to it. The discovery also shows how Egypt combined Greek, Egyptian and wider Mediterranean cultures.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

"How can one small object help historians understand a huge building?"

Source: Smithsonian Magazine

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/this-one-of-a-kind-bronze-ring-offers-a-tantalizing-glimpse-at-the-lighthouse-of-alexandria-a-lost-wonder-of-the-ancien