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ALEXANDRIAN STUDIES II
In Honour Of
MOSTAFA EL ABBADI

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ALEXANDRIA 2000

ALEXANDRIAN STUDIES II
In Honour Of
MOSTAFA EL ABBADI

CONTRIBUTIONS BY HIS FRIENDS



MOSTAFA EL ABBADI

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Foreword

In the summer of 1997, the idea occurred to a number of former students and friends of Professor Mostafa El Abbadi to issue a Festschrift in his honour on the occasion of his seventieth birthday. To honour Mostafa El Abbadi, in this way is to express the feelings of many who have known and appreciated him as a dedicated scholar and devoted teacher. No sooner did we announce this project in Egypt and abroad, than we received immediate and enthusiastic response. While proceeding with the preparation for the Festschrift, we were gratified by the happy coincidence that, in recognition of Professor El Abbadi's outstanding contribution to scholarship and culture, the Supreme Council for Culture, granted him the prestigious National Award for Merit in the Social Sciences.

El Abbadi deserves to be honoured for various attainments he has achieved in a diverse number of spheres throughout his life. As regards his scholarship, he counts among the topmost historians in Egypt and the Arab world as well as attaining international recognition due to his outstanding scholarly work and research in the history of Egypt and the Mediterranean in Greek and Roman times. His published work in both English and Arabic is distinguished by a remarkable ability to apply a rigorous historical method from an attitude of strict objectivity and scientific humanism. His sharp analytical mind has enabled him, in a number of cases to reach remarkably original conclusions and sound historical judgments. Another feature of El Abbadi's academic work is his interest in points of interaction between successive cultures in the lands of ancient Egypt and the Near East, namely, Pharaonic, Hellenistic and Arab.

It is not our intention here, to embark on a lengthy description of El Abbadi's list of publications that reveal his full command of classical literary sources, his thorough knowledge of papyrological documents as well as relevant modern scholarship; we merely wish to highlight the principal stages into which his academic work can be divided. In the sixties, he concentrated mainly on Hellenistic and Roman Egypt when he attained international recognition by his publication on the "*Alexandrian Citizenship*", "*The Gerousia in Roman Egypt*", "*The Position of Egypt in the Roman Empire*". In the seventies and eighties, he embarked upon a new track in historical studies, namely the transition from Byzantine to Arab times, a field in which he was able to reach remarkably original conclusions as in "*Historians and the Papyri on the Finances of Egypt at the Arab conquest*", "*Egypt in Transition from Byzantine to Arab*", "*Nessana, Before and in Early Islam*", "*Annona Militaris & Rizk of Nessana*" and "*The Poll Tax of Sergius of Nessana*". In the nineties, El Abbadi turned his attention to a field long neglected in Egyptian Universities, namely the history of science in which he tried to emphasize aspects of exchange and points of interaction between Ancient Egyptian and Hellenistic culture as for example, "*Geographical Explorations in East Africa and the Indian Ocean in Antiquity*", "*Alexandria and Ancient Egyptian Learning*", "*Alexandria, Crossroad of Cultures*".

One of the main features of El Abbadi's personality is his wholehearted devotion to his students. As a committed teacher, he has succeeded over the years in creating an academic school in the field of Greco-Roman studies. His numerous pupils, who worked with him on their M.A. and Ph.D. dissertations, fully appreciate his inspiring guidance and unflinching care and patience. The attachment that binds this great teacher to his pupils is not limited by the attainment of academic degrees, the friendship that unites them is lasting and he always continues to show keen interest in their work.

A glance at the details of El Abbadi's curriculum vitae, will reveal the wide range of his academic activities. Due to the high quality of his published work, he has, over the years, been invited to lecture at various universities spread over four continents, Africa, Asia, Europe and America. In addition to his brilliant academic achievement, El Abbadi also showed a keen involvement and commitment to the cultural development of the environment he lives in. This is evident in his well-known role in the initial creation and promotion of the project of the revival of the ancient Library of Alexandria. After a careful study of the nature, formation and history of the ancient edifice, El Abbadi, came forward with the proposition of resuscitating the ancient Library on modern lines. His aim was to create a cultural environment capable of embracing the bulk of human intellectual legacy as well as to provide the necessary library equipment for modern research. This suggestion was first embraced by the University of Alexandria in 1974, later on, it was accepted by the government of Egypt as a national project and adopted by Unesco in 1986. Ever since the inception of the project, El Abbadi has devoted every effort to promote it by writing and lecturing on the subject at home and abroad. These efforts culminated in his composition of a comprehensive book first published in English by Unesco in 1990 under the title of "*Life and Fate of the Ancient Library of Alexandria*". The book was well received and has already been described as a classic on the subject; it has now run into its third edition besides appearing in five different versions, Arabic, French, Japanese, Spanish and Greek.

In connection with his keen interest in public cultural aspects, Mostafa El Abbadi continues to be involved in the promotion of recent archaeological discoveries, notably in the new area of underwater excavations. Last but not least, the city of Alexandria will not forget El Abbadi's role in promoting the interests of the internationally well-known Archaeological Society of Alexandria (founded 1893) during the last forty years as active member, twice secretary general and finally president since 1995. Under his presidency, the Society has advanced further and has become a dynamic centre of cultural activity where distinguished scholars both, Egyptians and foreigners meet and lecture about their most recent discoveries in the fields of archaeology, history and culture. The premises have been enlarged and the Society is now capable of receiving larger numbers of students and scholars to benefit from its activities and specialized library. Furthermore, a newsletter is issued three times a year with the latest information about archaeological discoveries and reviews on recent publications. In recognition of both his achievements and services, it is not surprising that the Archaeological Society of Alexandria has decided to issue this Festschrift as volume 46 of its "Bulletin".

In conclusion, in the name of the Archaeological Society of Alexandria, and of his colleagues and pupils, we hope that Professor Mostafa El Abbadi, will enjoy good health for many more years and continue to contribute to the scholarly community and cultural life of the country as he has done so far.

Mostafa A. H. El-Abbadi

Professor Emeritus of Greek and Roman Studies
Faculty of Arts, University of Alexandria
Alexandria, Egypt.

I. Career :

Born, Cairo 10/10/1928; married with two children.

Education:

- 1951 B.A. Hons. In Ancient History, University of Alexandria.
- 1952 Granted Egyptian Government Scholarship to Cambridge University.
- 1956 B.A. Classics (affiliated special degree) Cantab.
- 1960 Ph.D. Cantab. Ancient History.

Professional Career:

University of Alexandria

- 1951 Demonstrator.
- 1961 Lecturer.
- 1966 Associate Professor.
- 1972 Professor of Greek and Roman Studies.
- 1973 Chairman of Dept. of Greek and Roman Civilization.
- 1976-1979 Vice-Dean of Faculty of Arts.
- 1990- Professor Emeritus.

Beirut Arab University, Lebanon.

- 1966-9 Associate Prof., Greek and Roman Studies (Seconded).
- 1980-4 Professor and Chairman of Dept. of History (Seconded).

Kuwait University, Kuwait.

- 1986-1990 Professor of Greek and Roman History.

II. Honours :

- 1-1997, The Cavafy Award for Classical Greek Studies.
- 2-1998, The National Award for Merit in the Social Sciences.

III. Membership of Learned Societies:

- 01- Membre titulaire de l'Institut d'Egypte (since 1992).
- 02- President of the Archaeological Society of Alexandria (since 1994).
- 03- Société Internationale de Papyrologie, Bruxelles.
- 04- American Society of Papyrology, N.Y.
- 05- Society of Roman Studies, London. (1956-1962).
- 06- Egyptian Society of History, Cairo (1970-).
- 07- Egyptian Society of Greek and Roman Studies, Cairo (1985-).
- 08- Egyptian Society of Coptic Archaeology, Cairo (1974-).

- 09- National Committee to record the history of the “July 23, Egyptian Revolution”. (1978).
- 10- Preparatory & National Committee for the Revival of the ancient Library of Alexandria (1974-1986).
- 11- Conseil International de Philosophie et Études Humaines, Unesco, Paris (observer) 1986.
- 12- Union of Arab Historians. Cairo 1992-
- 13- Supreme Council of Culture, Cairo 1993-
- 14- Comité de Direction du Projet “La Bibliothèque d’Alexandrie”, La Sorbonne- Paris I. 1994-
- 15- Supreme Council of Archaeology, Cairo. 1997-

IV. Academic Visits and Lectures:

- 01- 1969-70, Cambridge, England, to participate in the “Prosopography of the later Roman Empire”.
- 02- 1976, Baghdad and Mossul, Iraq.
- 03- 1977, Vienna, Austria.
- 04- 1978, Rostock, Germany.
- 05- 1980, U.S.A.: George Town; Columbia; Yale ; Harvard; Michigan; Stanford; Berkley; Utah ; Arizona.
- 06- 1982, 1986-90, 1992, Kuwait
- 07- 1985, Dammam, Saudi Arabia.
- 08- 1986, Algiers, Algeria.
- 09- 1988, Qatar.
- 10- 1993, Kosut, Hungary.

V. Participation in Congresses and Symosia:

- 01- 1971, Symp. Cairo “Land and Peasant in Egypt”.
(Land & Peasant in Roman Egypt).
- 02- 1973, Symp. Alexandria “Taha Hussein”.
(Taha Hussein and the Classics).
- 03- 1974, Oxford XIVth Int. Cong. of Papyrology.
(P. Flor. 50, Reconsidered)
- 04- 1974, Symp. Cairo “The Historian Ibn Abdel Hakam”.
(Ibn Abdel Hakam & pre-Islamic Egypt).
- 05- 1975, Symp. Alexandria “Alexandria through the Ages”.
(Roman Alexandria).
- 06- 1977, Symp. Catania, Sicily “Sicily of the Arabs”.
(Sicily, Island of Commerce and Culture).
- 07- 1978, Symp. Alexandria “Studies to Archaeologist A. Fikry”.
(Phoenician immigrations in the Western Mediterranean).
- 08- 1979. Symp. Alexandria “Homeric Studies”.
(Alexandria and Homer).
- 09- 1980, N.Y. XVI th Int. Congress of Papyrology.
(Finances of Egypt at the Arab Conquest).
- 10- 1983, Riyadh, II nd Int. Congress of the History of Arabia.
(The Papyri and the History of Nessana).

- 11- 1983, Napoli, XVII th Int. Cong. of Papyrology.
(Annona Militaris and Rizk of Nessana).
- 12- 1984, Dublin, Int. Cong. of Classical Societies.
(Egypt in transition from Byzantine to Arab).
- 13- 1985, Delphi, Athens, II nd Int. Cong. of Greek & Arabic Studies.
(A code of Navigation on the Nile in Greco-Roman Egypt).
- 14- 1985, Amman, II nd Int. Cong. History of Syria.
(Papyrological evidence on the early Arab Administration).
- 15- 1985, Washington, Annual Cong. of Am.Philological Association.
(Source material on Greco-Roman Alexandria: discussion).
- 16- 1986, Athens, XVIII th Int. Cong. of Papyrology.
(Grain Supply of Alexandria in Byzantine Times).
- 17- 1987, Athens, III rd In. Cong. of Greek & Arabic Studies.
(The Arabs and Greek Heritage).
- 18- 1987, Amman, III rd Int. Cong. History of Syria.
(Taxes of Nessana under early Arab Administration).
- 19- 1987, Bologna, Int. Colloquio, "Egitto e Storia Antica".
(Arabic Contributions to the Study of Greco-Roman Egypt).
- 20- 1989, Paris, Unesco, Seminar on the ancient Library of Alexandria.
(The Universality of the ancient Library of Alexandria).
- 21- 1989, Cairo, IX th Int. Cong. of Papyrology.
(*Phoros Probaton* : Rent or Tax ?) .
- 22- 1991, Granada, Int. Seminar on Mediterranean Civilization.
(Alexandria and the Mediterranean in Antiquity).
- 23- 1991, Cairo, Seminar "India and Egypt".
(Geographical Explorations in the Indian Ocean in Antiquity).
- 24- 1991, Cairo University, Seminar " Life in Egypt in the Light of Papyri".
(The Arabs and Alexandrian Scholarship).
- 25- 1992, Copenhagen, XX th Int. Cong. of Papyrology.
(The Poll-Tax of Sergius of Nessana).
- 26- 1992, Alexandria, "Centenary of the Greco-Roman Museum of Alexandria".
(The Water-clock : Pharaonic and Alexandrian).
- 27- 1993, Alexandria, "Centenary of the Archaeological Society of Alexandria".
(A Festival Day in Ptolemaic Alexandria).
- 28- 1993, Malibu, California, J.Paul Getty Institute, "Alexandria & Alexandrianism".
(Alexandria and ancient Egyptian Learning).
- 29- 1994, Alexandria, Int. Cong. of Mediterranean Civilizations.
(Intellectual Life in multi- Cultural ancient Alexandria).
- 30- 1994, Alexandria, Sem. The School of Alexandria through the Ages.
(A Philosophic Episode in Alexandria, early 1st cent. B.C.).
- 31- 1994, Alexandria, Symp. Europe and Egypt, Cooperation in Archaeology.
(The Papyri as Evidence on Egypt in Early Arab Rule).
- 32- 1995, Rome, Int. Con. "l'Egitto in Italia".
(Philosophic Dispute within the Academy, centred in Rome & Alexandria).
- 33- 1995, Cairo, Ann.Con. of Union of Arab Historians.
(The Fate of *Ancient Books* during the Crusades).
- 34- 1996, Cairo University, Anthropology of Egypt.
(Marriage in Greco-Roman Egypt in the light of Greek Papyri).
- 35- 1996, Alexandria, Alexandria and Mediterranean Civilization.
(Synesius of Cyrenae and his connections with Alexandria).

- 36- 1996, Alexandria, Archaeological Society, Engineering and Archaeology.
(Ctesibius and the Water-Clock).
- 37- 1996, Cairo, Symp. Supreme Council of Culture, Terrorism in History.
(The Conspiracy of Catilina).
- 38- 1997, Cairo University, Hellenim in the Arab World.
(The Arabs and the Sciences of Alexandria).
- 39- 1997, Alexandria, Symp. Submarine Archaeology & Coastal Management.
(*The Greatest Emporium in the Inhabited World*).
- 40- 1997, Budapest, XXXV th Int. Con. On Asian and North African Studies.
(Papyrological Evidence on the Water-Clock).
- 41- 1997, London, Int. Con. Images of Alexandria.
(The Alexandria Library in History).
- 42- 1997, Alexandria, Int. Con. Alexandria: Dialogue of Cultures.
(Alexandria: Interchange between Egyptian and Greek Cultures).
- 43- 1998, Cairo University, II nd Con. Anthropology of Egypt.
(Synesius of Cyrenae in an Age of Transition, Paganism to Christianity).
- 44- 1998, Cairo, Supreme Council of Culture, Southern Frontiers of Egypt through
the Ages.
(Egypt's Southern Borders in the Greco-Roman Period).
- 45- 1998, Alexandria, Supreme Council of Culture, The Northern Coast of Egypt.
(Ancient Alexandria at the Cross-roads of International Sea Routes)
- 46- 1999, Cairo, Supreme Council of Culture, Role of Coptic Church in Egyptian
History. (Early Arab Administration and the Copts of Akhmim).
- 47- 1999, Paris, Colloque, " Des Alexandries, du Livre au Texte " .
(Alexandria, Cross-road of Cultures).
- 48- 1999, Alexandria, Supreme Council of Antiquity, " Underwater Archaeology
at Qaitbey & the Eastern Harbour of Alexandria " .
(On the Future Development of Underwater Arch. Sites at Alexandria).
- 49-1999, Alexandria, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, II nd Int. Symp. Colloque " Des
Alexandrines, Les Metamorphoses du Lecteur " .
(Readers and Texts in Greco-Roman Egypt, the Testimony of the Papyri).

VI. Books :

- 01-Life and Fate of the Ancient Library of Alexandria. Unesco 1990, 2nd ed. 1992.
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Gaston Jondet

The discoverer of the Ancient Harbour of Alexandria

A sketch of his Public Life

Selim Morcos* and Neils Tongring^o

Born Louis Gaston Jondet on 25 December 1866 in Rouen, Département de la Seine Inférieure (now the Seine-Maritime) northwest of Paris, Jondet at first began an ordinary government career in the service of the French Ministry of Public Works. Although he became well known in the world of archaeology and exploration as the discoverer of the submerged ancient harbor of Alexandria, or the “Port of the Pharaoh,” he remained little known in his own country. Our search of his record at the École des Ponts et Chaussées in Paris and Marne-la-Vallée, where his professional career began as Engineer of Bridges and Roads, in the Municipal Library of the town of his birth, as well as in his official file in the Archives Nationales in Paris, found no reference to the fame he attained in the world of archaeology. The French biographical dictionary¹ has no entry for Jondet. The present note is therefore an attempt to point out the oversight, and make more generally known again his contributions and some aspects of his life in Egypt during his twenty years of service in Alexandria.

At the age of eighteen, with his secondary school certificate, Jondet entered the service of the Ponts et Chaussées (Bridges and Roads) in November 1884, and was assigned to the section for the Navigation of the Seine. He volunteered for one year military service in November 1886 as a lieutenant in the territorial infantry regiment. Jondet then resumed his modest position, and in April 1895 successfully passed the “conours” for the grade of “Conducteur” (Supervisor) des Ponts et Chaussées, and was nominated for this grade in May 1897.

In November of the same year, Jondet was granted indefinite leave, and authorized to join the service of the Government of Egypt as an assistant engineer for the harbour of Alexandria. In 1911 he was promoted in his home service to the grade of ordinary engineer (3rd class), and offered the post of Chief Engineer of the Ports and Lighthouses in Egypt. In the annual personnel reports, the “Notes Signaletiques,” his status was changed to “married without children,” beginning with the 1910 report.

The interest of Jondet in contributing to the scientific literature is evident in his first paper, published in 1905, the year he traveled to Egypt. However, it was in Egypt that his interests and talents were stimulated. He authored three contributions in 1907 and 1912, two of them with his supervisor and predecessor, B. Malaval, the Chief Engineer of the Department of Ports and Lighthouses.

In the 1912 annual personnel report, Jondet mentioned under “observations” his studies on the ancient harbour of Alexandria, and referred to his paper published by the Archaeological Society of Alexandria. As marginal to his professional work as this investigation might have been, it necessarily would have taken much of his time. Jondet carried out his investigations of the Alexandrian harbour from 1911 to 1915, the first marine archaeological work ever attempted. His detailed study was published in 1916, appearing in the “Mémoires of the

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Institut Égyptien,” which was the leading journal for scholars living in Egypt, or interested in Egyptian Studies, since its founding by Napoleon at the end of the 18th century. Jondet’s work earned him the Jules Girard Prize from the Geographic Society of Paris, and a short interval of fame as speculation began on the origins of the pre-Ptolemaic constructions he described. The archaeologist Raymond Weill² attributed the harbour to the Cretans. Although Jondet had no formal education in history or classical studies, he contributed to the discussion in his 1916 work, and later, in a lecture to the Archaeological Society of Alexandria in 1919, reviewed and commented on Weill’s work.

The involvement of Jondet with Alexandria and its history made him a collector of views and maps of the city, and in Forster’s book³ on Alexandria, the collection of Jondet is called “unrivaled,” and two examples are reproduced in the volume. Jondet’s *Atlas historique de la ville et des ports d’Alexandrie* (which was published in 1921 by the Royal Society of Egypt). The acknowledgments in his works indicate that Jondet knew a wide circle of writers and scholars in Egypt, at a time when many Europeans contributed to the Egyptian movement of cultural revival- the years of the founding of the first modern Egyptian university and other higher learning and professional institutions.

During the First World War Jondet rendered valuable assistance to the Allied Forces, arranging for the traffic of a great number of British, Australian, Indian and French naval and transport ships in the harbour of Alexandria. The services of Jondet were detailed in a letter dated 25 August 1915 from General d’Amade, Commander of the Corps Expeditionnaire d’Orient to the Minister of War, proposing that Jondet receive the “Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur avec Croix de Guerre,” which was conferred in 1919. He was promoted in the same year to Engineer (First Class) in the Ministry of Public Works in France.

In 1923 his career suffered a serious turn. The Minister of France in Cairo informed the Minister of Foreign Affairs that Jondet was implicated by a commission of Inquiry in what was called the “Port of Suez Affair.” The expert panel blamed Jondet for serious negligence, but his “honorabilité” was not in question. The Commission suspended Jondet from his functions beginning 20 July 1924, and asked him to appear before a Special Disciplinary Council for foreign civil servants. Because of his deteriorating health, he was offered leave to undergo treatment in France, provided he returned before October 1924 to face the Disciplinary Council. In his 1 August 1924 letter, the French representative in Cairo wrote that “. . . the affairs of the Suez Harbour created a bad situation, and made a lot of noise in the national papers, regrettably allowing them to organize a campaign not only against the civil servants implicated in the affair, but also against all European civil servants [employed in Egypt].”

The decision of the Disciplinary Council cleared Jondet of any compromise of his “honour,” but retained the accusation of grave negligence. It decided to permit him early retirement, the minimum sanction possible against him.

Jondet left Egypt on 25 April 1925. He lived in the fashionable 16th Arrondissement in Paris when he wrote to the Minister of Public Works requesting a leave for personal reasons from the date he left Egypt. He retired at his request in 1926 at the age of 58.

Jondet seems to have been the victim of his own scientific curiosity and success at discovering the ancient Pre-Ptolemaic Harbour of Alexandria ; distracted from his

administrative and professional responsibilities, was he careless, had he made a bad decision, or was he simply unlucky? At the time unaware of his incident in Jondet's life, Morcos had written :

Reading Jondet's monograph is an interesting exercise. He worked with full energy over several years to comprehend fully what he believed to be the ancient harbour of Pharos or the Port of the Pharaoh. This was not his primary job in the service of the Government of Egypt as Director of Ports and Lighthouses. However, he managed to find the time and resources to accomplish his goal⁴.

Contemporary with Jondet are two interesting figures, one now almost forgotten and the other rising steadily in importance- Sven Hedin, the Swedish explorer of Central Asia and Tibet, born in 1865, a year before Jondet, and C.P. Cavafy, born in Alexandria in 1863- both with some connection to Jondet. Cavafy very likely knew him; they at least had a mutual acquaintance E.M. Forster. Cavafy worked for thirty years in the Irrigation Service (Third Circle) of the Ministry of Public Works, precluded from becoming a member of the "permanent staff" by his Greek citizenship, and dreamed verse behind the door of his office, remaining virtually unknown in Greece during his lifetime, but now perhaps its greatest modern poet. Hedin had been a celebrity everywhere in Europe, the author of nearly fifty volumes, like Jondet the recipient of a gold medal from the Geographical Society of Paris (1897) for his exploration of the Trans-Himalayas; he died forgotten in Stockholm, having supported Germany in both world wars. The judgement on the discoveries of Jondet has not yet been made; more than eighty years have passed with no other investigations of the site having been carried out. Are his finds the remains of the harbour described by Homer, or Phoenician, Egyptian, or perhaps Cretan, or simply an artifact of the action of the sea on the cemented sand ridges of the Alexandrian coast? This question still remains open.

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