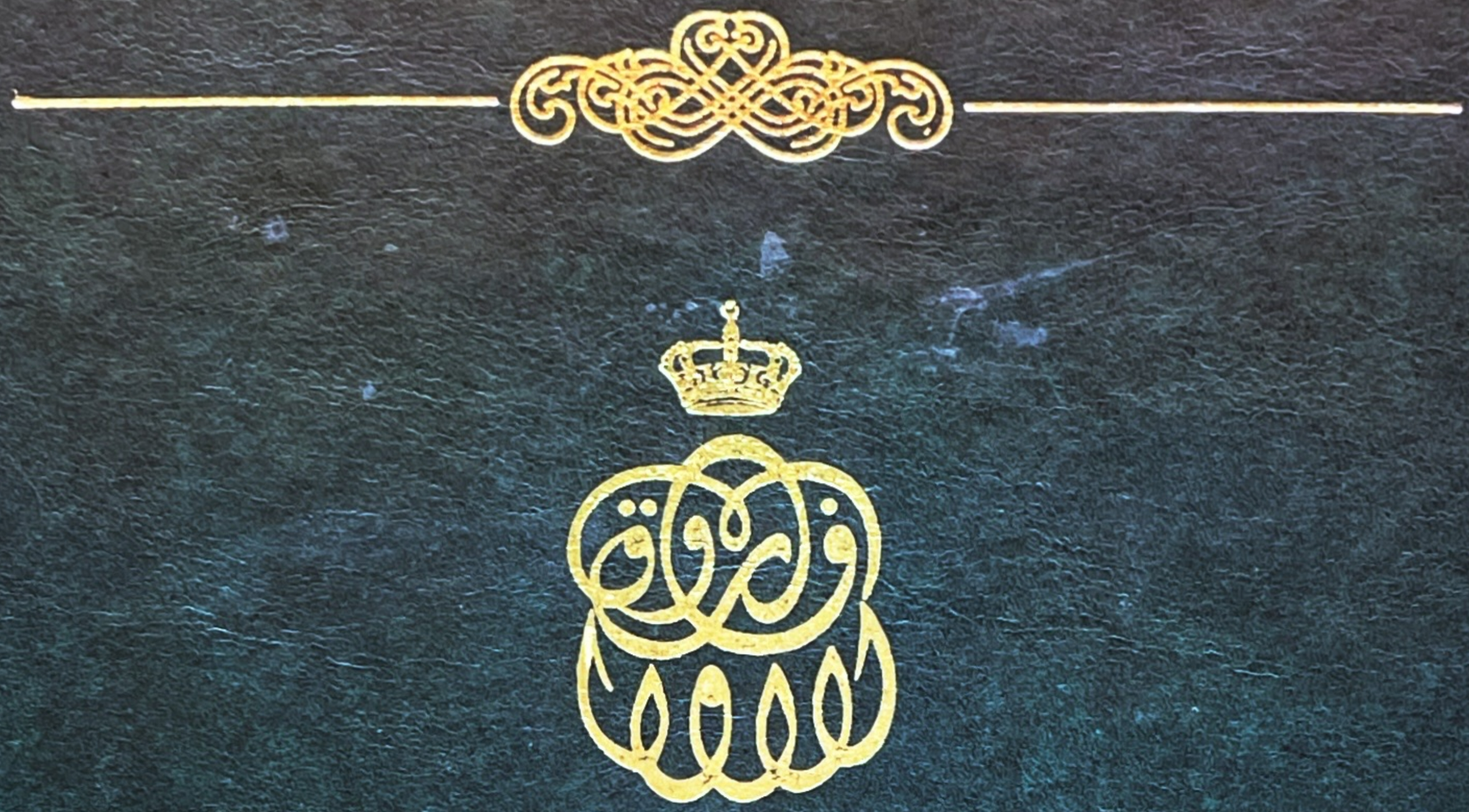


The Photographic Memory of Cairo

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Foreword

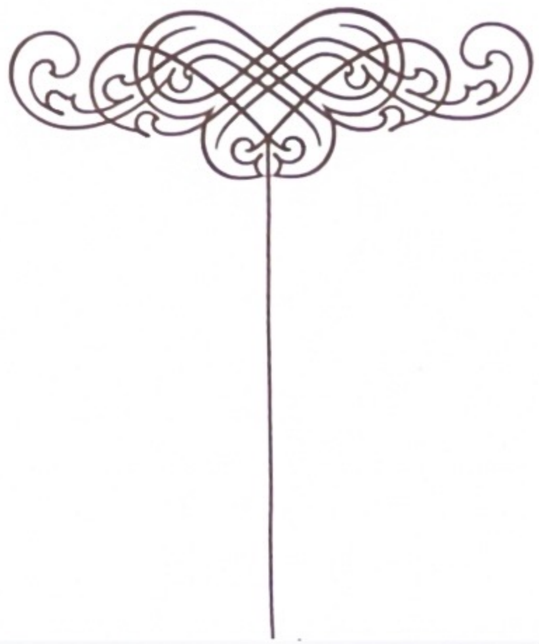
Ismail Serageldin

Preface

Khaled Azab
Shaimaa El-Sayeh

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Mohamed Gomaa



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The First Photograph of Cairo, 1849



The invention of photography marked a monumental leap in human history. Since we started the "Memory of Modern Egypt"—a project that narrates the history of Egypt in the 19th and the 20th centuries, drawing on documents, pictures, stamps, films, coins and people's lives—we were keen to expand the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's collection of original photographs, and form a visual memory of Egypt's history.

Many organizations and individuals helped us achieve this end. The most precious contribution, however, was made by the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism, in an initiative by HE Minister Zoheir Garana. The Ministry presented the Bibliotheca Alexandrina with a rare collection of photo-albums that belonged to King Farouk, and were preserved after the July 1952 Revolution within the library of the Ministry of Tourism. The initiative has added to the BA holdings a collection of photos that would have been rather difficult to attain. The public can now access these photos through the "Memory of Modern Egypt" website. We also decided to present, in printed form, albums of the rarest photographs of Cairo, hence this publication compiled by Dr. Khaled Azab, Director of the BA Media Department; and our promising colleague Shaimaa El-Sayeh. The publication was designed and laid out by Mohamed Gomaa who monitored the production process to its final elegant form.

The album in hand presents rare pictures of public squares, streets, palaces, bridges, aqueducts, lakes and gardens. These pictures evoke a clear conception of Cairo up to 1952, providing us with images of life in this city almost one-hundred years ago. The album is both useful for researchers and enlightening for amateurs. We hope to produce more albums of rare unpublished photographs of Egypt. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina would thus be fulfilling its role as the World's Window on Egypt.

Ismail Serageldin
Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina



In 1839, the head of the French Republican Party, Francois Arago announced to the French National Society the invention of photography and that the French Government had purchased the invention and would introduce it to the world. In Egypt's, keeping abreast of the latest inventions in the West, the first photograph in the Arab world was taken in Alexandria on 4 November 1839 in the presence of Mohamed Ali Pasha. Following this, the Arab region moved into a new stage of visual documentation. Photographers flooded to Egypt and Syria taking thousands of photos of temples and of the ancient structures of cities and villages, their camera lenses also captured a variety of landscapes and scenes from social life.

These photographs were very popular on the European market. During the 19th century alone, there were over 300 photographers in Egypt and the Levant, most of whom were French and British along with a few Germans and Americans.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, architecture flourished in Cairo, as evidenced by a collection of photographs which were compiled in a photo-album and kept at the King Farouk I library. This album introduces various aspects of the social life in Cairo between 1849 and the beginning of the 20th century.

The collection in hand contains photographs of the streets and squares of Old Cairo, including the Mohamed Ali Square, Opera Square and El-Ataba El-Khadra, Emad El-Din Street and Shubra Street. We also have many photographs of palaces used by the Mohamed Ali Dynasty as government headquarters such as the Abdeen, Koubbah and Kasr El-Nil palaces. The architectural development that took place in Cairo can be traced down the ages through photographs of some of the most ancient of Cairo hotels: Continental and Shepheard Hotels. In addition, there are photographs of the old Opera House, Egyptian Museum, Kasr El-Nil Bridge and Abul-Ela Bridge, a collection of photographs of the gardens of Azbakiya and Rosti, the oldest Cairo mosques, and also of the aqueducts, lakes, canals and ponds that were dug in Cairo during that time.

This treasure trove of photographs is a vocal record of the architectural and structural sophistication the city of Cairo witnessed. They were taken by artists who passed through or resided in Cairo, such as Maxime du Camp who published a work that included one-hundred-and-fifty photographs. He specifically included the photographs of the Egyptian monuments that had fascinated him.

Du Camp journeyed through the East, passing through Asia Minor and visiting Italy and Algeria. In 1848, at the age of sixteen, he published his *Souvenirs littéraires* which he dedicated to his colleague Gustave Flaubert. Other artists who photographed Egypt include: Francis Frith, Béchard and Lekegian.

The Photographic Memory of Cairo adequately highlights the different stages the city passed through to reach its present level of refinement and prosperity.

Khaled Azab
Head of the Media Department


ARRET

Districts

11

Azbakiya

Azbakiya was a marginalized residential area near Cairo. It was developed by the Circassian emir Azbak min Tutukh, a Mamluk who was first owned by Sultan Barsbay and then Sultan Jaqmaq. He married the latter's daughter and after her death, he married her sister. He was in favor with the Sultans becoming Chief Chamberlain as well as Deputy of the Sultanate in Syria, and was appointed supreme commander (atabak) of Sultan Qaitbay's armies. The Azbakiya district, hence, owes its name to Azbak min Tutukh.

Prince Azbak's era was one of powerful emirs, each aspiring to become a sultan, and as such, they were very wealthy. In his book *Badā'i' al-Zuhūr fi Waqā'i' al-Duhūr* (Beautiful Flowers from the Chronicles of Time), Ibn Eyas describes Prince Azbak's accomplishments in this district. He also points out that people built palaces and theaters around Berkat El-Azbakiya (Lake Azbakiya), turning it into a city. Azbak then built a mosque and surrounded it with dwellings, baths, alleys, mills, bakeries and other facilities. In other words, he set the constructional foundations for a wholly integrated Cairo suburb. Sultan Qaitbay bestowed the land on "atabak" Azbak when it was fully constructed and its lake was dug and filled. When in 1476, the Sultan passed on to him an official document of land ownership, the construction started on a larger scale and was completed in 1484. The inauguration of the area was the biggest event of the era. With the death of its founder, interest in the area waned. During the reign of Sultan al-Ghouri, it was ransacked and vandalized and was totally destroyed during the Ottoman invasion of Egypt.

The 11th century AH (17th century CE) witnessed a rekindled interest in Azbakiya, where wealthy merchant families and sheikhs, followed by princes, started building around the lake. In the 18th century, the biggest construction work carried out in the area was the building of houses for princes who held high-ranking jobs in the country and for chief merchants.

Azbakiya was the center of attention of the Ottoman Dynasty rulers who were keen to maintain its prosperity. During the rule of Khedive Ismail, wooden houses were confiscated and demolished. He offered the land as a gift to whoever would undertake the construction of luxurious buildings in line with the Ismailian Cairo style he wished to create. Khedive Ismail made of Azbakiya Square the center of the new districts he designed. He connected it east to Mosky and south to the beautiful districts that are still known as Tawfikeya, Abdeen and Ismailia. Khedive Ismail also founded the two opulent theater houses, the New Theater and the Opera House.

Faggala

The district of Faggala was famous for its radish fields that supplied the poor districts of Cairo. Foreigners considered radish to be the staple diet for Egyptians. This district became known as Faggala because "figl" (radish) was grown there. The Faggala Road was not paved and anyone taking that road would find to their right, in the direction of Bab-El-Shaareya, the village known as Kom El-Rish (Heap of Feathers) which grew into high hills that Khedive Ismail ordered to be removed. The district then grew and prospered, stretching widthwise from Ismailia Canal to the Cairo Wall and lengthwise from Awlad Anan Mosque to the Husseineya Gate. Its land was divided, gardens were landscaped, roads chartered and luxurious palaces were built, thus turning it into one of the most beautiful districts in Cairo.

Zamalek

In the 15th century, the present Zamalek Island was divided into two islands. The southern island was known as the Middle Island because it was situated between Rhoda Island and Bulaq on the one hand, and between the shores of Cairo and Giza on the other. The Northern Island, situated between Bulaq and the Middle Island, was popularly referred to as "Halima" and was surrounded by fruit trees and some crops. At the time of the French Campaign, a third island appeared in close proximity to the former two islands. Subsequently, the three islands were joined into one to be known as "Geziret Bulaq" (Island of Bulaq) because it was facing the Bulaq Village.

In 1830, Mohamed Ali had a large palace built in the northern area of the island in the midst of the fields. It was for outings and entertainment. He had kiosks built near the palace for the guards and entourage and ever since the area has been known as "Zamalek". Later on the whole island became known as "Zamalek Island". It became known as such because the word "zamalek" is originally Turkish and refers to the bamboo or straw kiosks which were used instead of tents to accommodate soldiers.

Zamalek today houses many embassies, mainly the Ethiopian and Brazilian Embassies. Three well-known faculties of Helwan University are situated there: the Faculties of Artistic Education, Musical Education and the Faculty of Fine Arts.

The most important landmarks of Zamalek are the Cairo Tower and the palace (now the Marriott Hotel) built by Khedive Ismail for the reception of his guests who were invited to attend the Suez Canal inauguration ceremony.

Shubra

In the 19th century, the British writer and traveler Douglas Sladen described Shubra as "the Eden of Cairo". He praised its Italian-style palaces which were surrounded by the rarest of plants and flowers and by palm, orange, banana and fig trees.

When Mohamed Ali Pasha had his Shubra Palace built—which was known to be his favorite residence—a route was extended, and sycamore and acacia trees were planted on both sides and it became known as "Shubra Street". The street was launched in 1808 and the area surrounding it became known as Shubra.

During the era of Khedive Ismail, Shubra grew and a number of princes, princesses, powerful merchants and members of the nobility built luxurious palaces such as the Zeinab Hanem Bint Mohamed Ali Pasha Palace, the gorgeous Villa Ciccolani filled with rare statues, and the Nozha Palace where Ismail Pasha went for rest and recreation. There were also many elegant houses surrounded by beautiful gardens throughout the whole of Shubra. So beautiful was the district that the French artist Montbard described it as the "Champs Elysées of the East".

In 1881, Shubra Street was paved with limestone; the following year it was lit up with gas lamps. The first division of land in Shubra took place in 1892 and the population grew from the south and moved north on either side of Shubra Street, and accordingly buildings for the locals replaced the gardens. Consequently, in the early beginning of the 20th century, the owners of palaces and mansions started to leave. The area became so populated that it had to be divided into two parts: Shubra and Rod El-Farag.

Rod El-Farag

Rod El-Farag is to the north of Cairo. It is an old popular district that was famous for its theaters and night clubs. Many dancers and singers started there. It was home to the main Cairo vegetable market and was a meeting place for people from all over Egypt until the market was relocated. Most of the residents of Rod El-Farag were originally immigrants from the countryside who sought to be close to the market.



Azbakiya, 1856



Azbakiya, 1870



Azbakiya, 1945



Entrance to Faggala, 1895



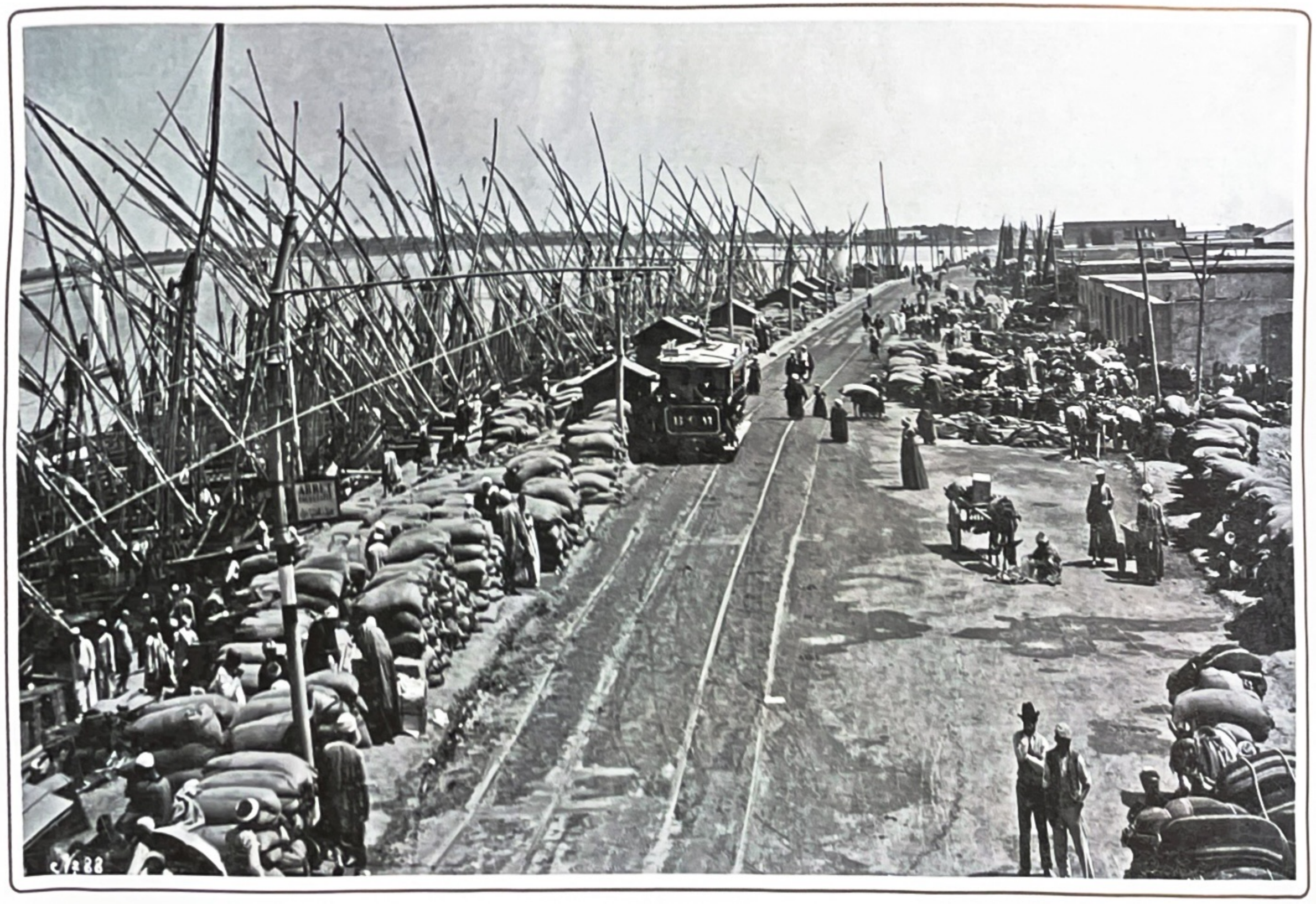
Zamalek, 1896



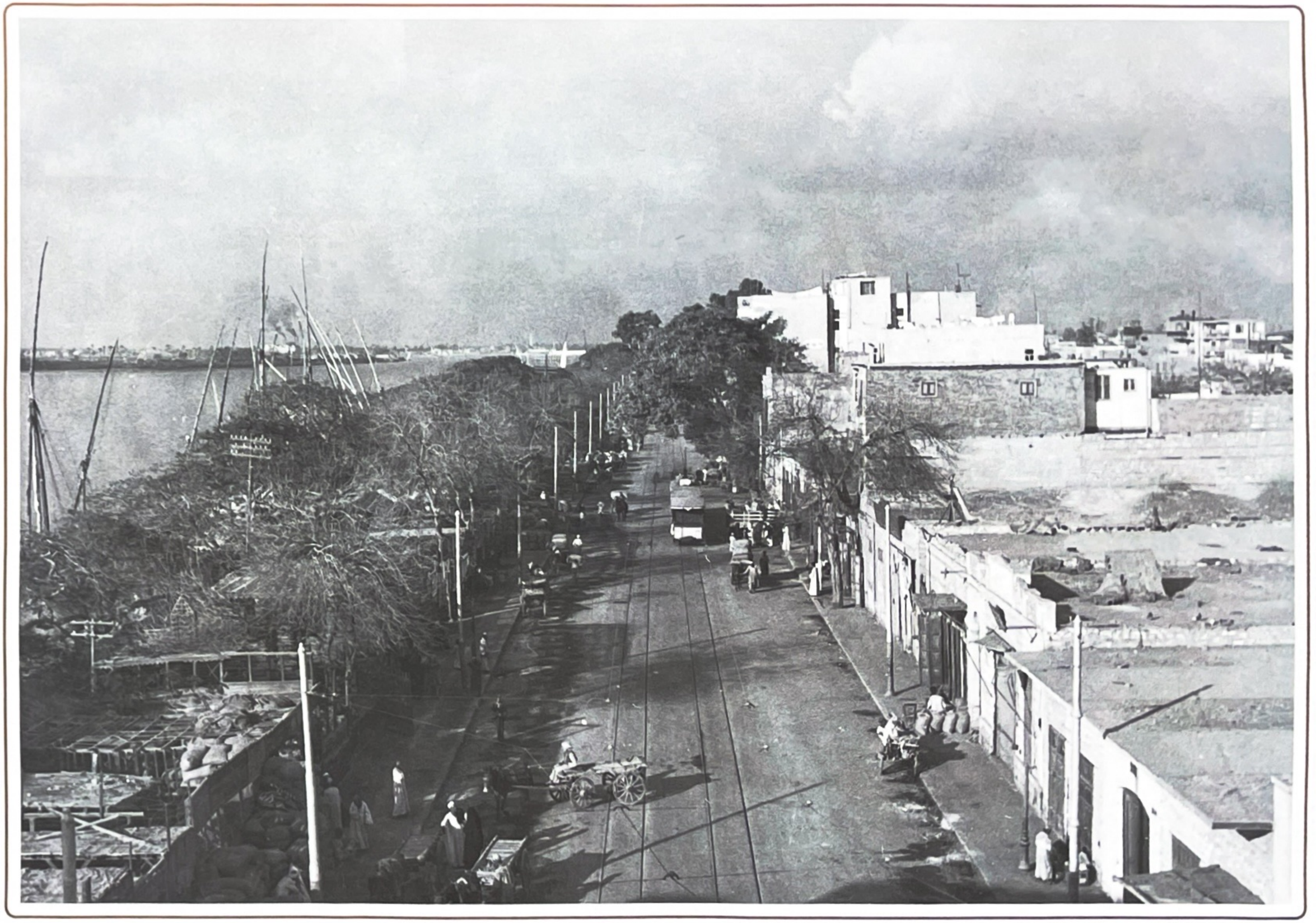
Zamalek, 1896



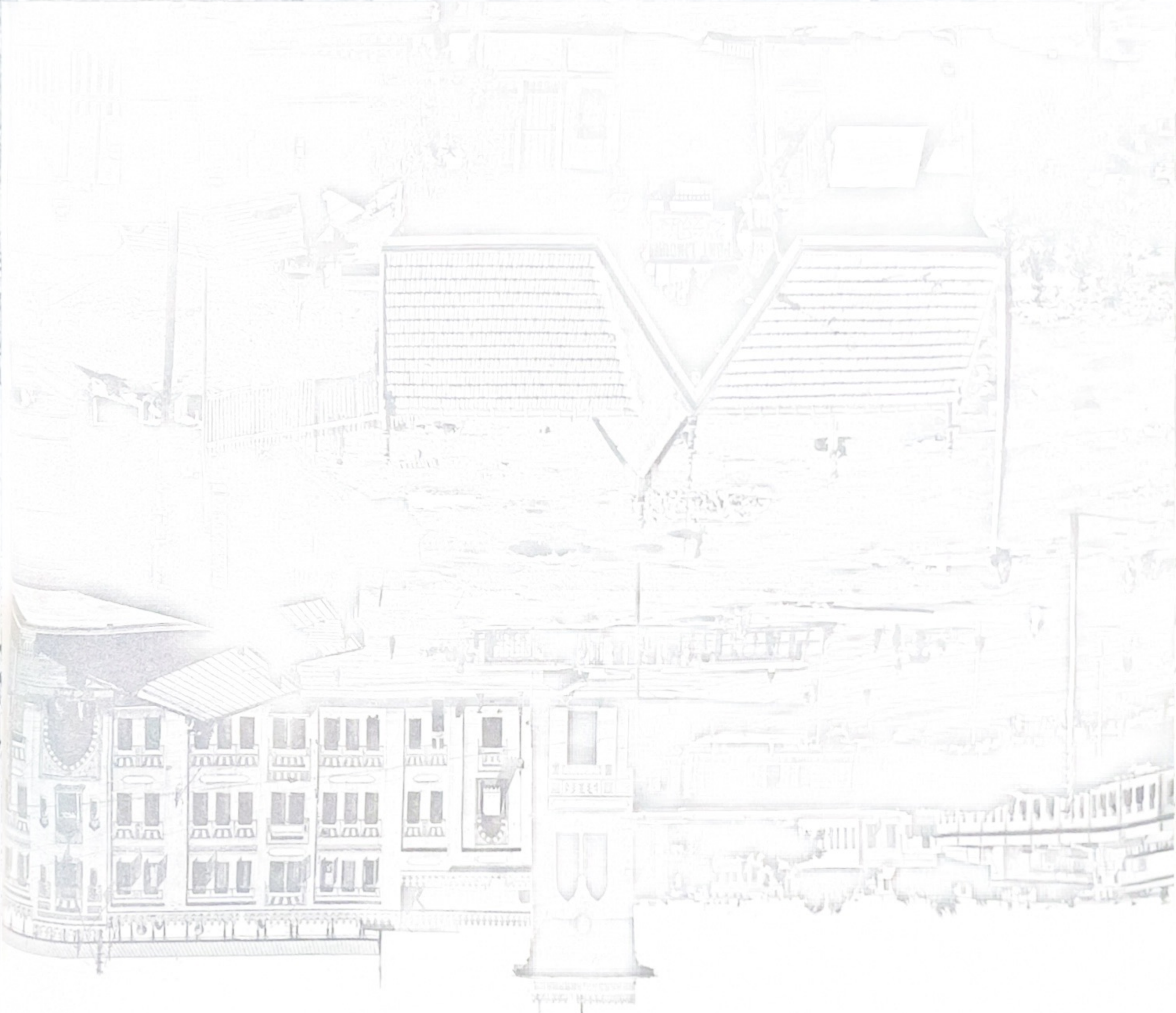
Shubra, 1904



Rod El-Farag Shore, 1904



Rod El-Farag Shore, 1945



Public Squares

25

Malika (Queen) Farida Square (El-Ataba El-Khadra)

El-Ataba El-Khadra Square is situated facing El-Ataba El-Khadra Palace. This Square leads to the streets of Mohamed Ali, Abd-El-Aziz, Al-Azhar, Farouk (now known as "Military Road") and Clot Bek to name a few. El-Ataba El-Khadra square was named after Queen Farida, but after the queen's divorce from King Farouk the square reverted to its original name. Today, the word "khadra" (green) is dropped and the square is simply known as Ataba square. This could be because the greenery has disappeared from the square.

Mohamed Ali Square

One of Ali Pasha Mubarak's greatest contributions to the development of Cairo was designing a large square at the base of the Citadel. Unlike other projects he had supervised, this project was upon the recommendation of Khedive Ismail.

During the French Campaign in Egypt at the end of the 18th century, the area between the eastern wall of the Citadel and the city was divided into two separate parts: the Remeila Square to the north, and the Qaramidan Square stretching southwards down the Citadel walls up to the Imam Shafei cemeteries. Khedive Ismail commanded Ali Pasha Mubarak to redesign the two squares into one square. It was, therefore, redesigned and some of the buildings facing the Sultan Hassan School were removed. The square was then named as the "Mohamed Ali Square".

Khedive Ismail wanted to put an equestrian statue of his grandfather in the center. However, the statue was placed in Mansheya Square in Alexandria instead.

Moustafa Kamel Square

The Square was formerly known as Badrome Square where both the Suares and Seyoufi Buildings were located. Today, it is known as Moustafa Pasha Kamel Square and leads on to Kasr El-Nil Street, one of the main streets in Cairo.

Abdeen Square

The Abdeen district owes its name to Abdeen Bek, Prince of the Sultan's brigade. He was the first to have built and lived in this area. Abdeen was an insignificant district with only a few stagnant ponds and swamps, with a chain of hills and dunes passing through it. Then, Khedive Ismail asked his minister of public works, Ali Pasha Mubarak to draw up the plans for redesigning the districts and squares of Cairo, including the Abdeen District. The hills and dunes were leveled and the ponds and swamps filled in with the resulting debris. Abdeen eventually became one of the most beautiful districts in modern Cairo.

Khedive Ismail built his palace on the ruins of the house belonging to the Turkish prince, Abdeen Bek. The palace and the square covered an area of nine feddans. A large number of ministries and public offices were built there; moreover, politicians built their palaces and homes around the palace. These included the palaces and residences of Saad Pasha Zaghloul, Hussein Pasha Roushdy, Mohamed Said Pasha, Ahmed Pasha Orabi, Mahmoud Sami El-Baroudi, to name but a few. Abdeen became the residential center for all those working in the various governmental offices and ministries. This solved the problem of transportation.

Abdeen witnessed many events that affected the political and military history of Egypt. The quare witnessed the onset of the Orabi Revolution when troops from the Egyptian Army, led by Ahmed Orabi, marched to the square calling for Khedive Tawfik to respond to the demands of the army and the nation. Violent riots took place there during the Egyptian struggle for independence against the British. These very riots led Nahas Pasha to concede the demand for the nullification of the 1936 Treaty. Abdeen Square was the site where troops from the Egyptian Army surrounded the Palace at dawn on 23 July 1952. A new era in Egypt was heralded as King Farouk abdicated the throne, and on 18 June 1953 Egypt was declared a Republic.

Today, Abdeen Square is known as the "Republic" Square, but people generally stick to the old name. One of the most important buildings found there is the Abdeen Courthouse, which lies at the crossroads between Gomhoreya Street and Saha Street (Roushdy). We also have the Chamber of Commerce; the National Bank of Egypt; the Central Bank; and the Gomhoreya Theater, which was built on the site of the Royal Cinema.

Bab-El-Hadid Square (Cairo Station)

Bab-El-Hadid square was known as "Cairo Station square" due to the fact that in 1856 the railway station was built in the district of Bab-El-Hadid, only to be bombed in 1893. The square can be reached via Bab-El-Hadid Street, Clot Bek Street or Faggala Street. Special attention was given to the renovation of the square as it is the first thing tourists lay eyes on when they arrive from Cairo Station. Lofty buildings were demolished and the fish market that was next to the Railway Engineering Building was relocated. Consequently, the square became more spacious and its parameters more defined. The areas where street vendors loitered were cleared and the statue of Ramses II was placed in the square which led to it, subsequently becoming known as Ramses square. In spite of the fact that the statue was later moved from its place at the center to the new Museum at Haram, the square is still referred to as Ramses square.

Khazindar Square

The square is located towards the north of the Azbakiya Park and still holds the same name.

El-Khark Square "Bab-El-Khalk"

The square was originally called Bab-El-Khark as it was an open area penetrated by the winds, hence Khark (which means 'penetration' in Arabic). However, the word became distorted over the years into 'Khalk'. Presently, the most important landmarks in the area are the Museum of Islamic Art which faces the Cairo Police Headquarters, and the Yusuf Agha al-Hinn Mosque.

Opera Square

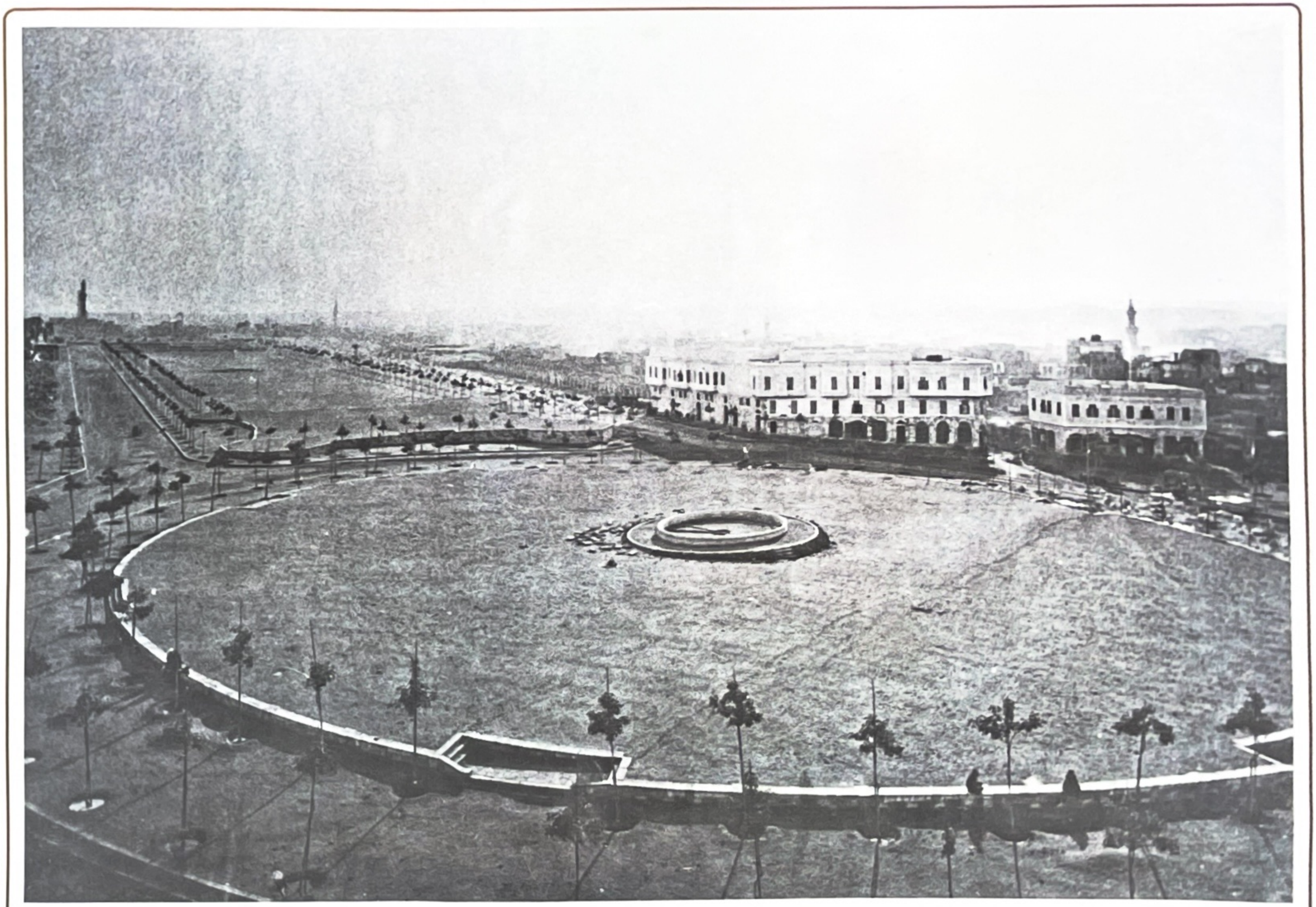
The Opera square is one of the main squares in Downtown Cairo. It is an outstanding paradigm of architecture and aesthetics. The square is referred to as Ibrahim Pasha square as there is an equestrian statue of Ibrahim Pasha placed at its center. This statue first stood at the entrance to Mosky square before it was moved to its present place in the Opera square. The statue of Ibrahim Pasha, sculpted by Cordier, along with its marble base, cost approximately 18,000 Egyptian pounds. The Ibrahim Pasha square is still known to the public as the Opera square, despite the fact that the Opera House was burnt down and was rebuilt at the entrance to El-Gezira Land on Kasr El-Nil Bridge.



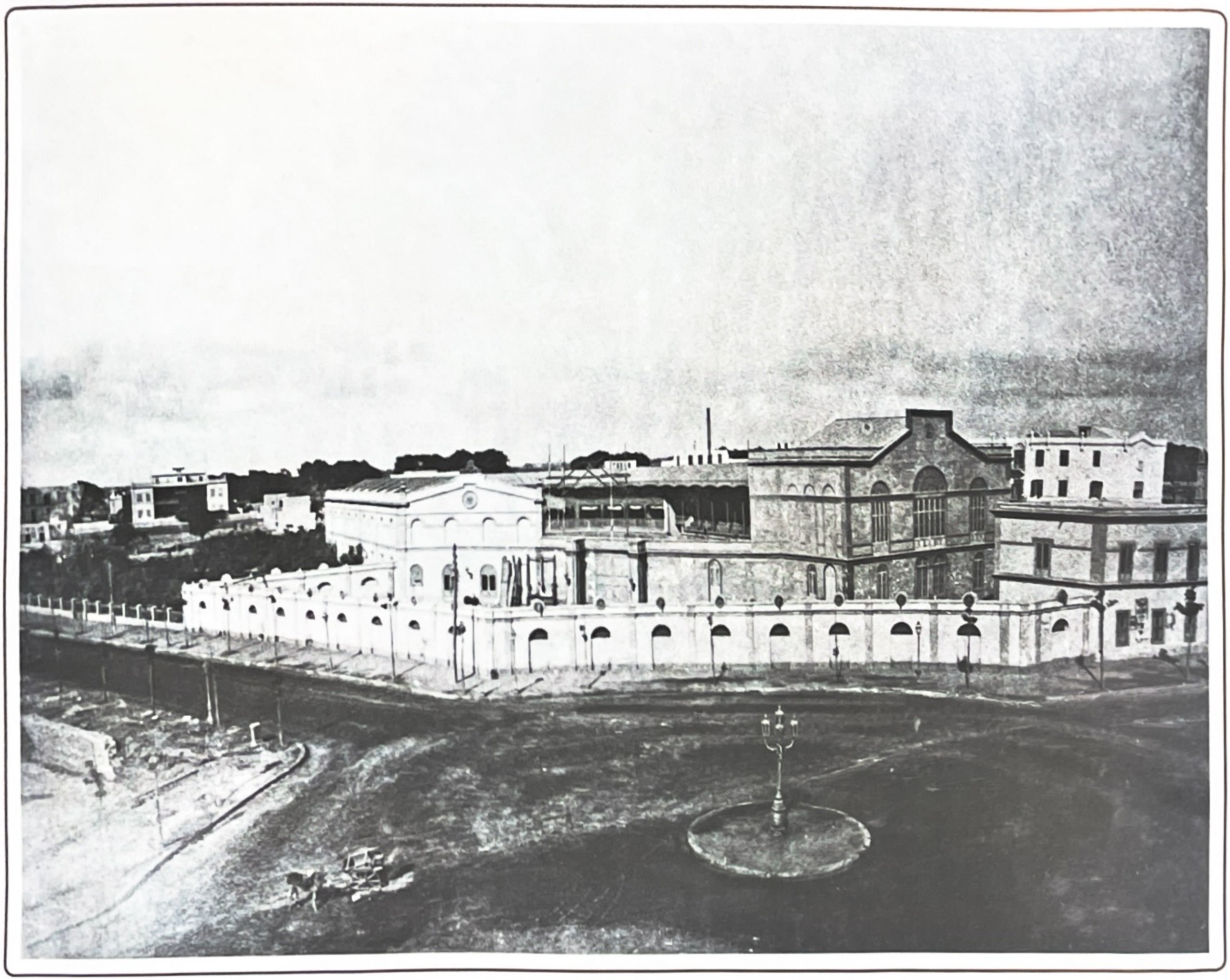
Azbak Mosque, El-Ataba El-Khadra Square, 1868



Queen Farida Square, formerly "El-Ataba El-Khadra", 1845



Mohamed Ali Square in the Citadel area, 1869



Moustafa Kamel Pasha Square, 1869



Moustafa Kamel Pasha Square, 1945



Abdeen Square, 1892



Bab-El-Hadid Square "El-Laymoun Bridge" 1895



Cairo Station Square, 1905



Cairo Station Square, 1945



Khazindar Square, 1895



Bab El-Khark (El-Khalk) Square, 1896



Opera Square, 1911



Opera Square, 1945



A picture planned to be placed at the base of the Ibrahim Pasha Statue

Streets

Malika Farida (Queen Farida) Street

Malika Farida Street extends from the Opera Square to Ramses Street. It was first known as El-Monakh Street, and is today Abdel-Khalek Tharwat. The name Queen Farida was given to both El-Ataba El-Khadra Square and Abdel-Khalek Tharwat Street. After Queen Farida's divorce from King Farouk, both the square and the street reverted to their original names. Presently, this street houses many syndicates including the Journalists' and the Lawyers' Syndicates.

Clot Bek Street

The street stretches from Bab-El-Hadid Square to Khazindar Square and is an extension of Mohamed Ali Street. The houses on this street were built on rows of pillars similar to the style of the French countryside houses. The street now houses a number of hotels, taverns and bars.

The street was not only constructed in honor of the French physician Clot Bek, for his achievements in the field of medicine in Egypt, but also to serve as a reminder for the people of the great health boom that was to prevail in the country. Clot Bek was the first to introduce modern medicine into Egypt and to dissect the human body for Egyptian students at Kasr El-Aini Hospital.

Adly Pasha Yakan Street

The street is 300 meters long, beginning at Teatro Square and ending at Misr El-Atiqa Street. The shrine of Sheikh El-Maghribi, chief Egyptian physician, is still there to-date. It stands in the entrance of building No. 30. Up until 1933 the street was called El-Maghribi Street because of the shrine.

Kasr El-Nil Street

Beginning at Moustafa Kamel Square, the street is 1160 meters long and is known as Kasr El-Nil because it ends towards Kasr El-Nil Palace. It has maintained its name to the present day.

Bostan Street

This 880-meter long street is one of the newly constructed streets of Bab-El-Louk District. It starts at Abdeen Square and ends with Kasr El-Nil Square. It is now known as Abd El-Salam Aref Street.

Mosky Street

The street was named after Emir Ezz El-Din Mosk, who was a prince during the rule of Salah al-Din al-Ayoubi. In the era of Ismail Pasha, the street was broadened and extended. It houses the Mourad Pasha and Mohamed Agha Khazindar Mosques.

Abdel-Aziz Street

This street stretches between Ataba Square and Abdeen Square. Its name commemorates Sultan Abdel-Aziz's visit to Egypt during the reign of Khedive Ismail, in late March 1863.

Nubar Pasha Street

The street, situated near Abdeen Palace, was previously known as Dawaween Street and is now called Nubar Pasha Street. It owes its name to Nubar Pasha, the first Prime Minister of Egypt. The street was one of those constructed near Abdeen Palace which was surrounded by ministries and ministers' headquarters before they were relocated to their present location near the People's Assembly.

El-Sagha (Jewelry) Street

El-Sagha Street was also known as the "Main Street" or "the Greatest Street". It branches off the present day Bab-El-Fotouh and Bab-Zuweila. It became known by a variety of names according to the districts and markets it passed through. It was, therefore, referred to as El-Sagha Street, El-Nahasseen (coppersmiths) Street, and as al-Moez li-din-Allah Street and Bein-El-Kasrein (between the two palaces) Street.

Haram (Pyramids) Street

It is one of the most important streets built to connect the capital to the Giza Pyramids. It was, and still is, a major tourist attraction for foreigners and locals.

Bulaq Street

The street is 748 meters long, beginning from Azbakiya it reaches Meet Okba passing through the districts of Bulaq and Abul-Ela, arriving at Geziret El-Zamalek (Zamalek Island) across the Abul-Ela Bridge then Zamalek Bridge. It was first known as Bulaq Street, then named Fouad I Street. However, following the 23 July Revolution in 1952, it was changed to 26 July Street commemorating the deposition of King Farouk I from the throne in 1952.

Souk El-Selah (Weapons Market) Street

The street can be reached through Salah El-Din Square, "El-Kala'a (Citadel)". It used to be a center for weapons trade. It also houses the Ilgay al-Yusufi Mosque.

Shubra Street

When Mohamed Ali had his palace built in the district of Shubra, a road filled with sycamore and acacia trees was constructed. Launched in 1808, it was named the Shubra Avenue. Many palaces and gardens appeared along the sides of the street. In 1881, the Shubra Street was paved with limestone; the following year it was lit up with gas lamps.

Malika Nazli (Queen Nazli) Street

It is the main street leading to Abbasia District from Tahrir (or Ismailia) Square. It stretches from Abdel-Moneim Riyad Square—close to the present Tahrir Square—to Bab-El-Hadid, intersecting with Khaleeg Street within the Ghamra District and reaching the American Girls Mission College. It extends near Gharb El-Qishlaq Street, passing by the Coptic Cathedral and the Boutros Pasha Ghali Church, arriving at Zaafaran Palace (now Ain-Shams University). Thus, Queen Nazli Street (Ramses) extends to Khalifa Ma'moun Street and intersects with Abbasia Street across the Abbasia Square.

Previously named Abbas Street, after Abbas Helmi I, it became known as Malika Nazli Street after the wife of King Ahmed Fouad I. She is known in history both as Queen Nazli and as Farouk's mother. Her misdemeanor and defiance tarnished the reputation of the country abroad and angered the people within. Due to her misconduct King Farouk removed her name and the street simply became known as Malika Street (Queen Street). When the monarchy was abolished and the republic proclaimed, the street was immediately named "Nahdat Misr Street" (Egyptian Renaissance Street). A monument of the Egyptian Renaissance, by the artist Mahmoud Moukhtar, was placed there. People generally referred to the street as El-Nahda, however, the monument was later moved next to the Giza Zoo in. A statue of Ramses II was placed in its stead until it was relocated. The street is known as Ramses Street.

Bir El-Wataweet Street (Bats Well Street)

On talking abou the Bir El-Wataweet (Bats Well) Quarter, al-Maqrizi mentioned that it was dug in 355 AH by the Minister Abul-Fadl Jaafar bin-al-Fadl bin-Jaafar bin-al-Forat to provide water for the seven waterwheels that he had built for the Muslims in al-Hamra Quarter. By time, the waterwheels became derelict,

a building was constructed over the well, and the place was filled with bats. The area became populated and people started building there during the time of al-Nasser Mohamed bin-Qalawoun and it became known as Bir El-Wataweet Quarter. It is located next to the Ahmed bin-Toulon Mosque on Saliba Street.

Emad El-Din Street

The street is approximately 2500 meters long and extends from Ramses Street to beyond Nasseriya Street. Sheikh Emad El-Din's Shrine is to be found on this street. Most public entertainment houses, such as theaters, cinemas and music halls, are centered at the intersection of Ramses Street with 26 July Street.

During his reign in Egypt, Abbas Helmi II had a number of buildings erected on Emad El-Din Street, known to-date as the Khedive Buildings. Although the ownership of these buildings shifted to a non-Egyptian called Sitton then became national property; they remain known as the Khedive Buildings. The buildings are recognized for their unique architectural design.

Soliman Pasha Street

The Soliman Pasha Street reaches from Tahrir Square to 26 July Street. Soliman Pasha was a French army officer called "Colonel Sève". In 1819, Mohamed Ali made use of his service to help create and train the Egyptian Army. He later converted to Islam. The name of the street was changed to Talaat Harb, in honor of the great economist who supported the economic progress in Egypt by building the Bank Misr and its subsidiary firms.



Malika Farida Street, 1869



Clot Bek Street, 1870



Adly Pasha Yakan Street, 1870



Adly Pasha Yakan Street, 1911



Adly Pasha Yakan Street, 1945



Adly Pasha Yakan Street, 1945



Kasr El-Nil Street, 1870



Bostan Street, 1870



Entrance to Mosky, 1870



Entrance to Mosky, 1903



Entrance to Mosky, 1911



Entrance to Mosky, 1945



Abdel-Aziz Street, 1871



Abdel-Aziz Street, 1945



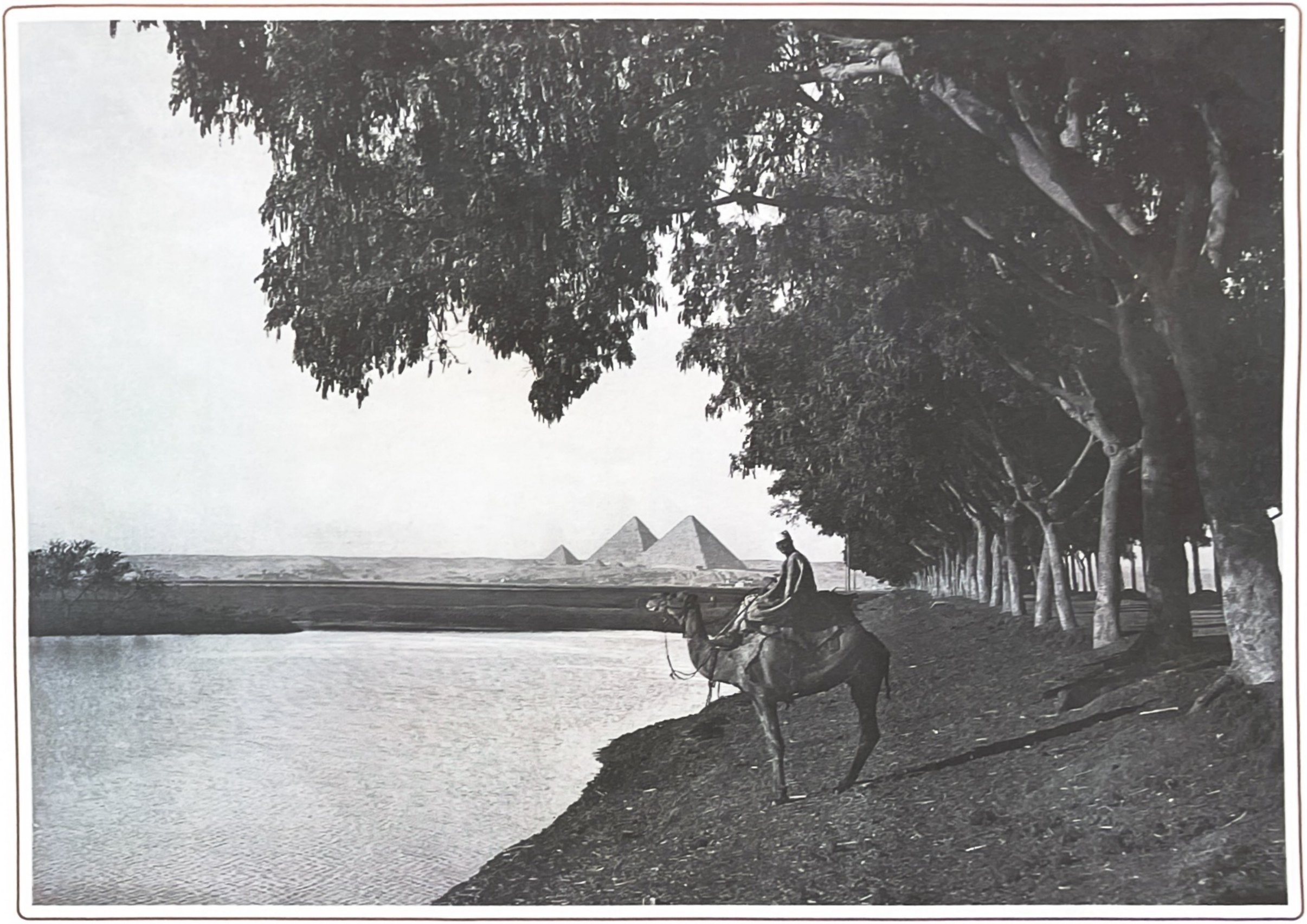
Nubar Pasha Street, 1885



Continental Hotel, Nubar Pasha Street



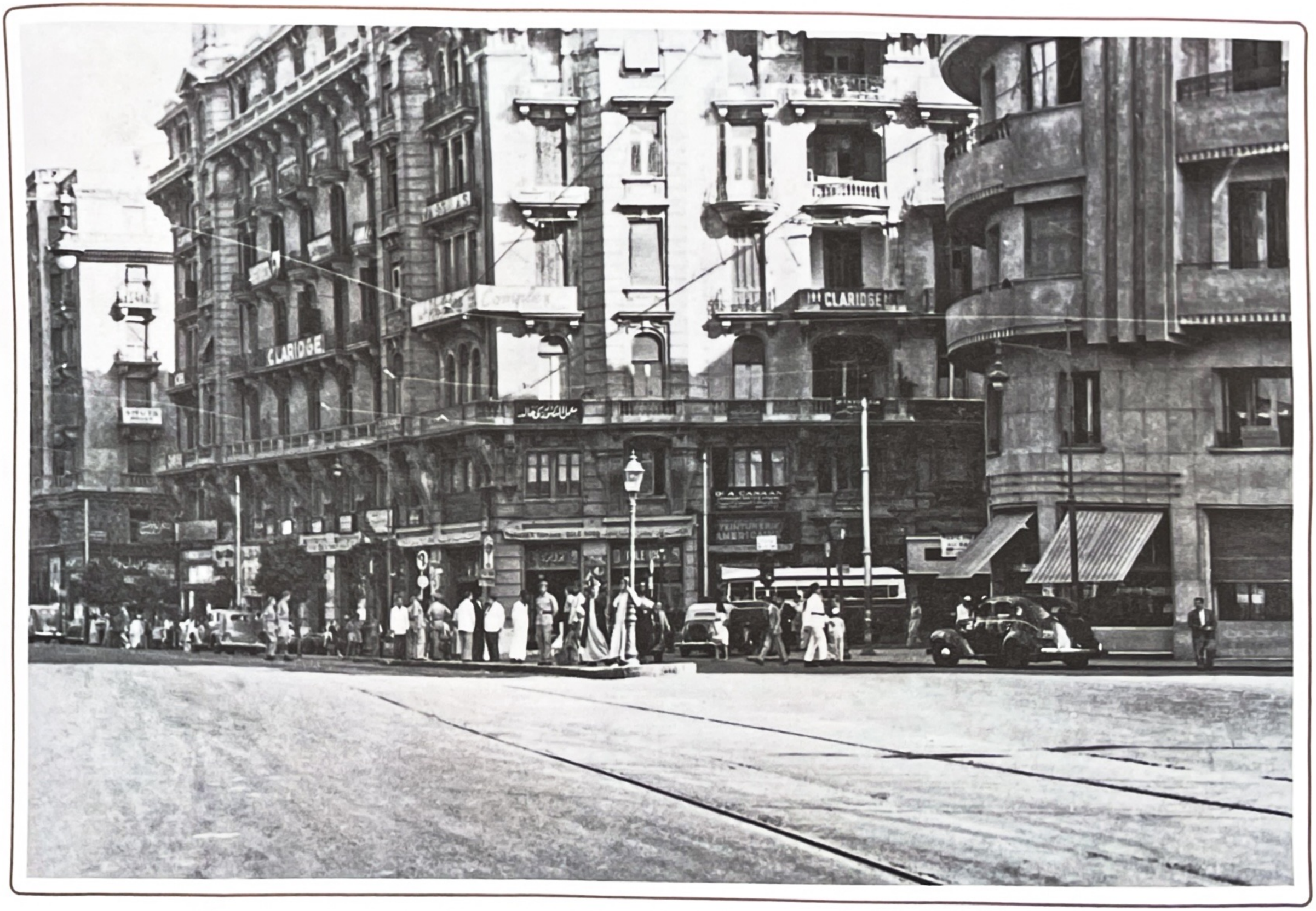
Sagha Street, 1896



Haram Street, 1896



Fouad I Street, Bulaq, 1896



Fouad I Street, Bulaq, 1945



Souk El-Selah Street, 1896



Souk El-Selah Street, 1896



Souk El-Selah Street, 1945



Shubra Street, 1896



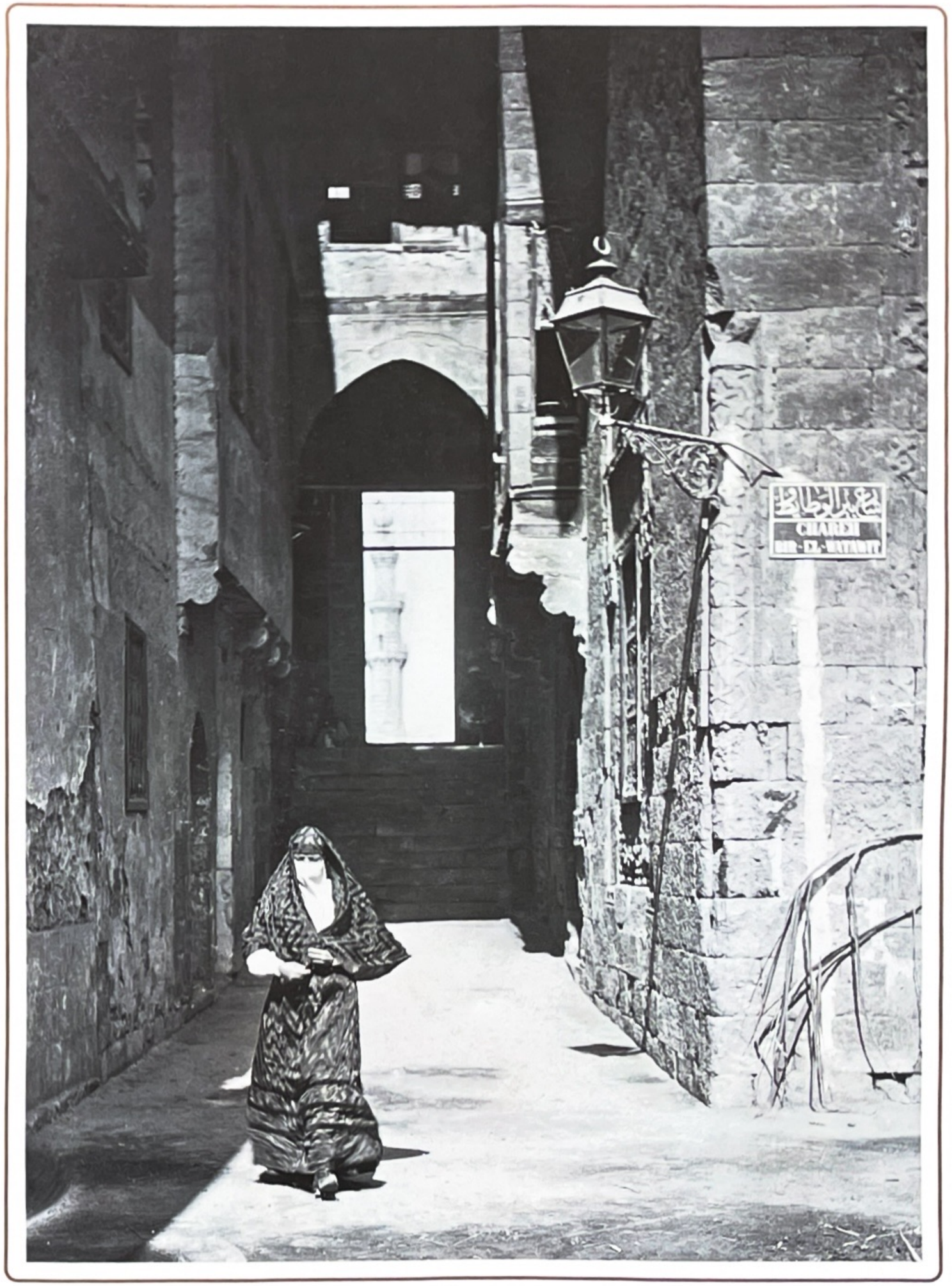
Malika Nazli Street, 1904



Malika Nazli Street, 1904



Malika Nazli Street, 1945



Bir El-Wataweet Street, 1910



Emad El-Din Street, Moustafa Kamel Pasha Square, 1911



Emad El-Din Street, 1915



Emad El-Din Street, Moustafa Kamel Pasha Square, 1945



Emad El-Din Street, 1945



Soliman Pasha Street, 1911



Soliman Pasha Street, 1945

Palaces

Abdeen Palace

This palace was built by Khedive Ismail, along the lines of French Renaissance architecture which was popular during the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. The Abdeen Palace is considered one of Mohamed Ali Pasha's most important palaces built in the 19th century.

Construction of the palace began in 1868, and it was officially inaugurated in 1874. Khedive Ismail had the palace constructed as he sought to announce his presence at the center of Cairo and move his government.

The palace was built on the ruins of a house formerly owned by the Turkish Prince Abdeen Bek. Khedive Ismail bought the house from Abdeen Bek and expropriated hundreds of buildings and facilities around it, including houses, mosques, prayer rooms and gardens.

Erected on an area of 24 feddans, the palace was designed by architect De Curel del Rosso, together with a number of Italian, French, Turkish and Egyptian artists. It took ten years to build the palace at a cost of approximately 38,000 Sterling pounds while the decorations, ornamentation and furnishing cost approximately 700,000 pounds.

The palace is two floors high with a number of open halls in between, and has many entrances. A section of the palace was set for the government bureau, another for parties and festivity and a third for the Khedive's offices; this was referred to as the Salamlek. The Haramlek, on the other hand, is at the back of the aforementioned section together with the kitchens and the south-west garden which is the largest garden of the palace.

In 1891, Abdeen Palace caught fire and a large part was destroyed. As a result Khedive Mohamed Tawfik moved to Helwan Palace until Abdeen Palace was refurbished and supplied with electricity and light. The Salamlek also was refurbished. Furthermore, a door was opened onto Abdeen Square, topped by a veranda from which the Khedive could make an appearance to the public on special occasions.

Sherif Pasha Palace

The palace was situated on Kirdassi Street which branches off Hassan El-Akbar Street. It was built in 1843 by Mohamed Sherif Pasha who held a number of posts during the reigns of Mohamed Ali and his successors. He governed Upper Egypt then became Katkhuda Bek after which he became ruler of the Levant, Minister of Finance, finally becoming Katkhuda of Ibrahim Pasha. Sherif Pasha was father to

Mohamed Sherif who founded the constitutional system in Egypt and became known as "Father of the Constitution".

The palace was built on the west side of Abul-Shawarib Pond towards Hadara Street next to Abul-Shawareb Mosque in Abdeen. A garden was later added to the palace. The palace was originally Prince Radwan Bek Abul-Shawareb's residence before it was demolished in 1807 by Mohamed Ali Pasha. He then used its debris to renovate the Giza houses which had been destroyed by soldiers. The palace then passed on to Sherif Pasha who demolished it, took hold of its neighboring houses, and had it rebuilt. The land on which the house once stood is still known as the Sherif Land, and since then many luxurious houses and building were constructed there.

Shubra Palace

In 1808, Mohamed Ali Pasha built the palace on the site of what used to be a kiosk during the Ottoman Era where walis went for recreation. When Mohamed Ali Pasha became ruler of Egypt he erected a number of buildings on this site and it became his favorite residence, particularly after the 1840 Azbakiya Palace fire. The palace is rectangular in shape with a lake of rare marble at its center. There is an islet supported by crocodile statues in the middle of the lake. The lake is surrounded by graceful marble colonnades with four marble lion statues standing guard and spouting water from their mouths into channels. The palace also had orange and lemon orchards, other fruit trees, a vegetable garden and a laboratory where illumination gas was prepared.

It is said that Shubra Palace was designed by Monsieur Drovetti, the French consul to Egypt, during Mohamed Ali Pasha's rule, although the architect Pascal Coste claimed that Mohamed Ali Pasha had asked him to design the palace.

Kasr El-Nil Palace

Mohamed Ali Pasha had the palace built on the shore of the Nile facing Zamalek Island, for his daughter Nazli Hanem. When Mohamed Said Pasha took over the rule of Egypt, he bought the palace, demolished and extended it, then built army barracks to accommodate "six-thousand" soldiers. Furthermore, he extended a railway line to the palace which he also equipped with a telegraph line.

The palace was designed by the Italian architect Ciro Pantanelli. It was a building of exquisite architectural beauty.

In 1952, the palace was recorded as an antiquity. In 1954, it was removed by the Antiquities Authority from the records of Islamic antiquities because of its location on the extension of the Corniche El-Nil Street which was inaugurated at that time. There was a recommendation to preserve the wooden Islamic-style decorations in the main hall and the marble pillars on the west veranda overlooking the Nile.

Kasr El-Nil Palace was completely demolished, and both the Nile Hilton Hotel and the League of Arab States were constructed on its site.

El-Walda Pasha Palace

El-Walda Pasha Palace was one of the "El-Kasr El-Aali" palaces in Garden City which was known at the time as "Bostan El-Khashab". Mohamed Ali Pasha added it to his son Ibrahim Pasha's property. Barracks were built on it. On his return from his conquest of the Levant, Ibrahim Pasha gave his orders to level the land and had El-Kasr El-Aali compound palace built. El-Kasr El-Aali was made up of a number of palaces within a common wall. Some were consigned to his offices, some to his Harem, and there was one for his nephew Abbass Pasha Helmi.

On his death the palace became state property, and subsequently, bought by Mohamed Said Pasha, then it was owned by Ismail Pasha who presented it, along with the surrounding land, to his mother "Khoushiar Hanem" who became known as "El-Walda Pasha". The palace witnessed the birth of Khedive Tawfik and the historical "weddings of generations of offspring".

The palace remained the property of Khoushiar Hanem until in 1880 it returned to the state. It was demolished and the land was divided. Its luxurious furniture, priceless ornaments and its rare trees were auctioned off to the nobility. The whole of its façade was transferred to the Waqqad family burial ground at the Mamluks' cemetery.

Koubbah Palace

The Koubbah Palace lies in Koubbah Suburb, named after the koubbah (dome) of Emir Yashbakk min Mahdi, a Mamluk prince. It is mistakenly attributed to Sultan al-Ghouri who often visited the area.

This palace was built by Ibrahim Pasha, son of Mohamed Ali. It was inherited by his son Moustafa Pasha Fadel, who sold it to his son Othman Bek. Together with its gardens and extensions, it was then bought by Khedive Ismail, who rebuilt it in 1869. He then bestowed it upon his son Mohamed Tawfik Pasha, who became the first resident, and dubbed it with the name of the suburb where it was built.

The palace is rectangular in form, and its buildings occupy 70 feddans. These include the major palace, known as Sarai El-Hareem (the Harem Palace), the Salamlek, the royal wing, an office, the main reception hall and the protocol offices. The number of the palace rooms amount to 400 rooms. Annexed to the Koubbah Palace was a plot of land for farming and a vine-press, and housing for slave-soldiers. There were also two houses neighboring the farm annexed to the palace. One of these was known as the House of Sheikh Hassan Serag, and the other as the House of Abdel-Hafez Agha, the superintendent of the farm. Annexed to the palace were the stables and waterwheels to irrigate the land, in addition to vast areas of land that surrounded the palace and its annexes. The total area of gardens and parks amounted to 125 feddans. In 1930, under the reign of King Fouad I, a huge gate overlooking the square was added to the palace. The palace witnessed the birth of Khedive Abbass Helmy II in 1874.



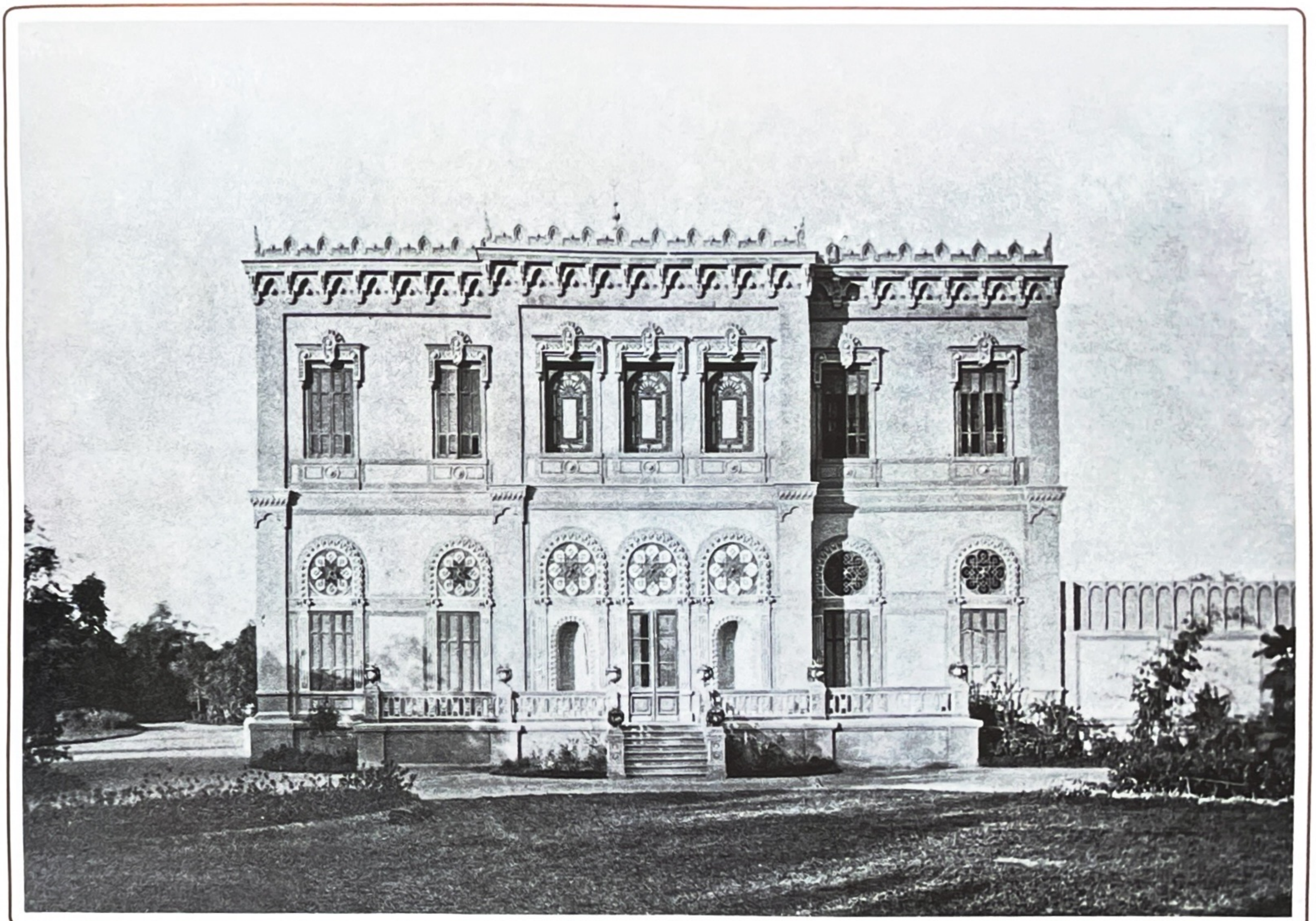
Abdeen Palace, 1870



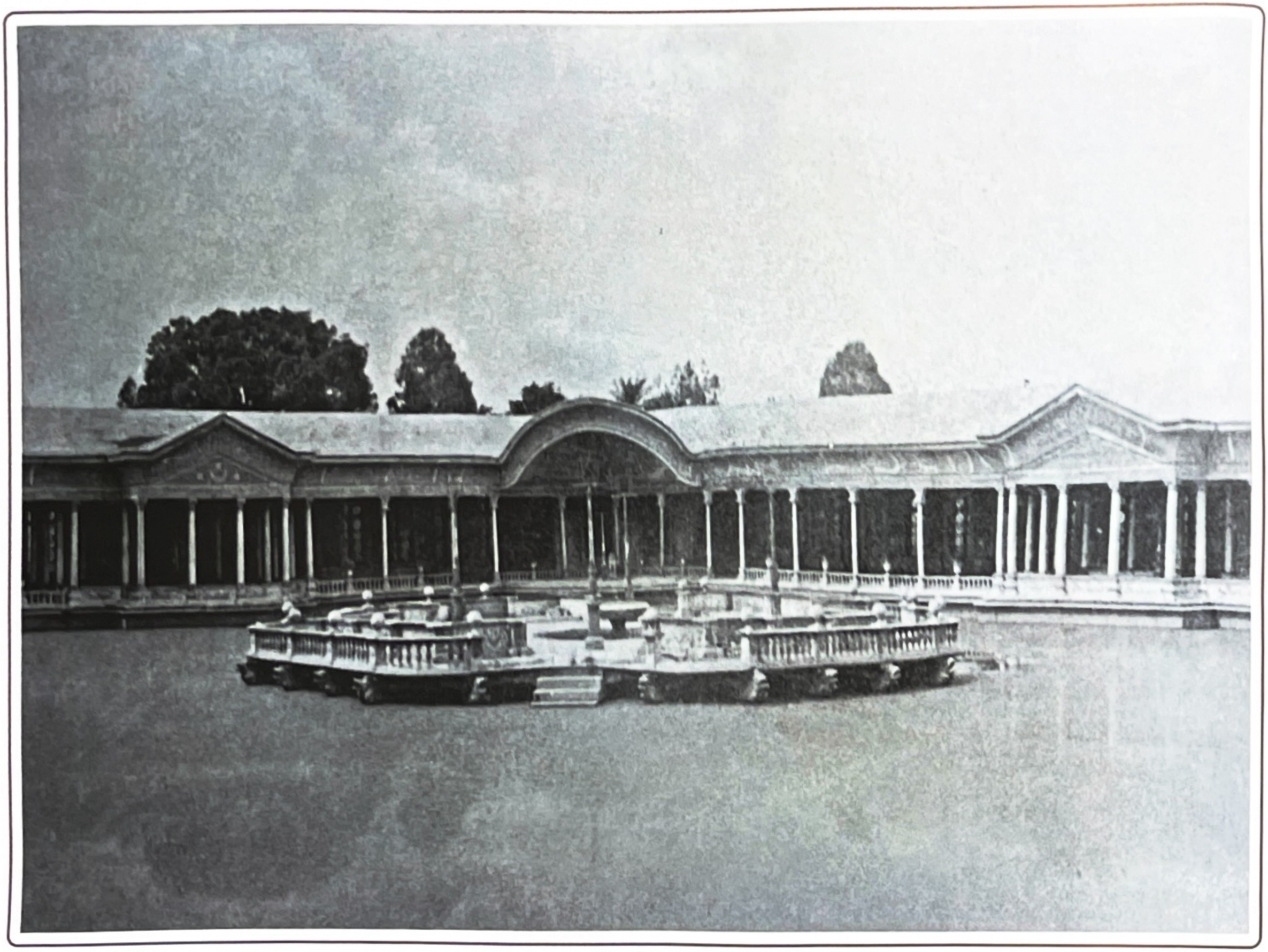
Abdeen Palace, 1911



Abdeen Palace, 1945



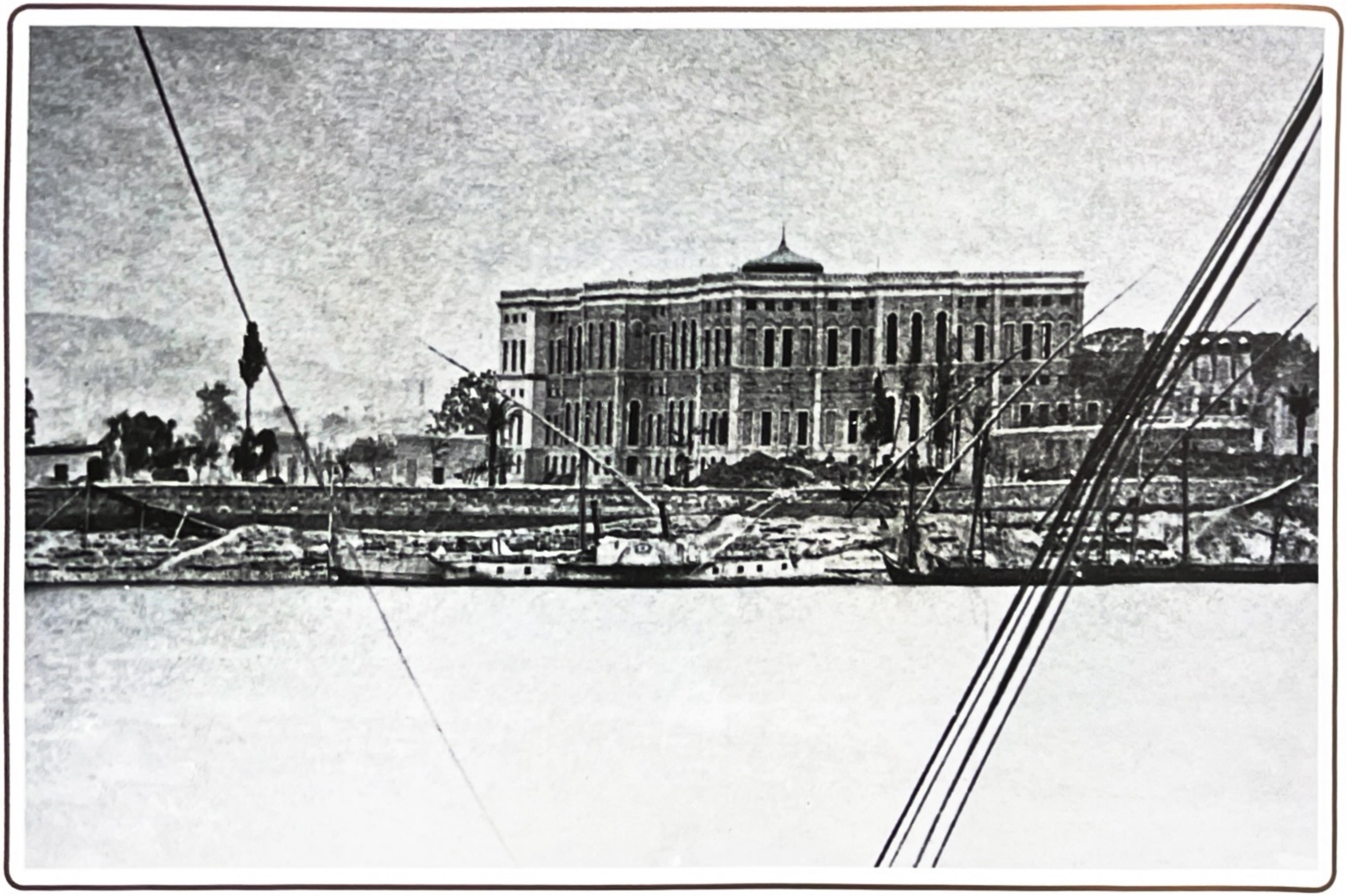
Sherif Pasha Palace, 1870



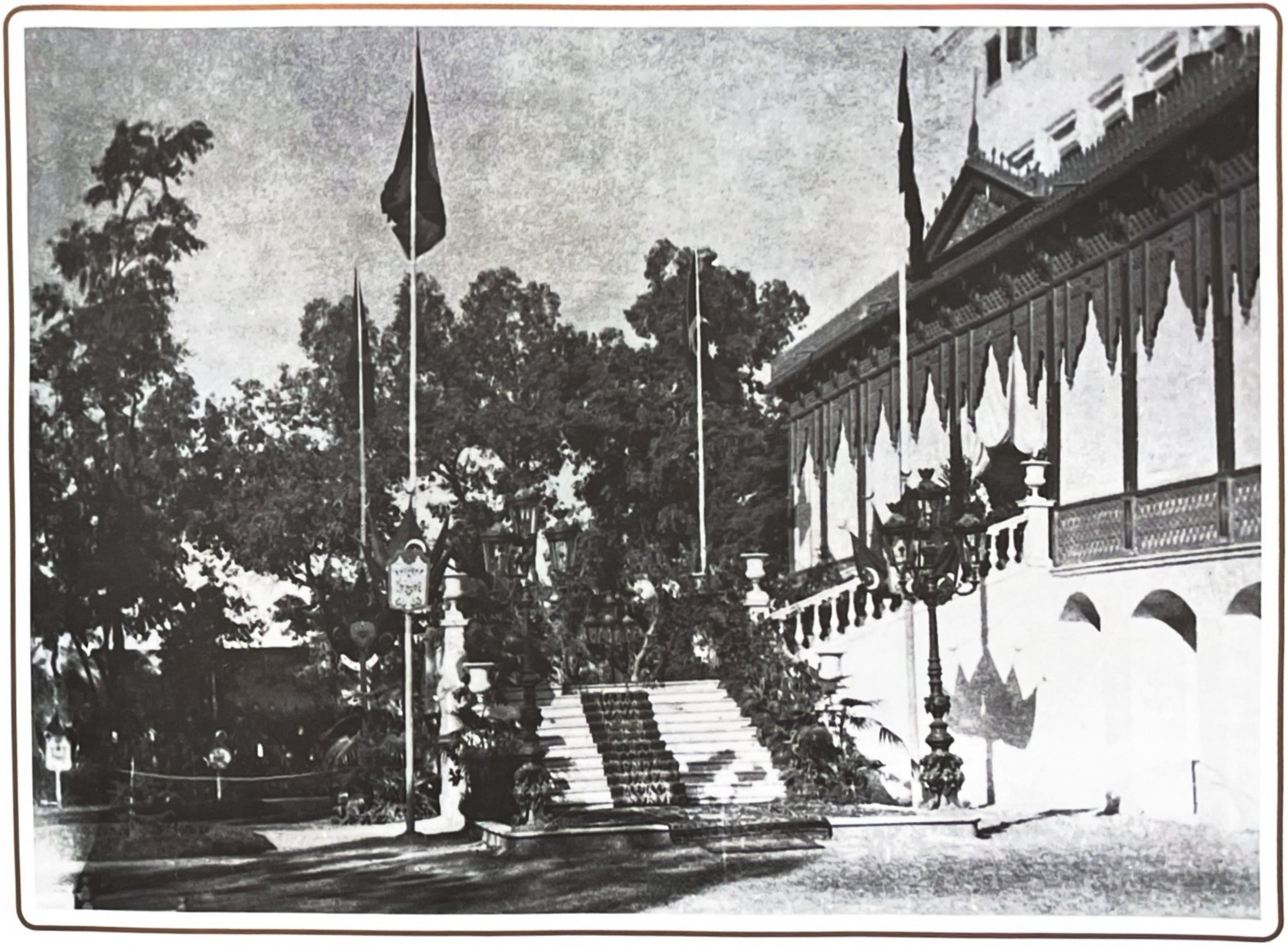
Shubra Palace, 1875



Kasr El-Nil, 1892



El-Walda Pasha Palace, 1892



Entrance to the magnificent Koubbah Palace, 1897



Bridges

99

Gezira Bridge (Pont des Anglais – Galaa Bridge)

The bridge was constructed in 1871, and opened for traffic in 1877, after the riverbed of the Nile was redirected. It was intended to link the districts of Dokki and Bulaq El-Dakrour with Zamalek. It was rebuilt in 1914, 145 meters long and 19 meters wide. It was named "Pont des Anglais", and later became famous as Badeeia Bridge, as the nightclub of dancer Badeeia Massabni was located in the square to the west of the bridge. The night club has been replaced by the Sheraton Hotel, and the bridge is now known as Galaa Bridge (Evacuation Bridge).

Kasr El-Nil Bridge

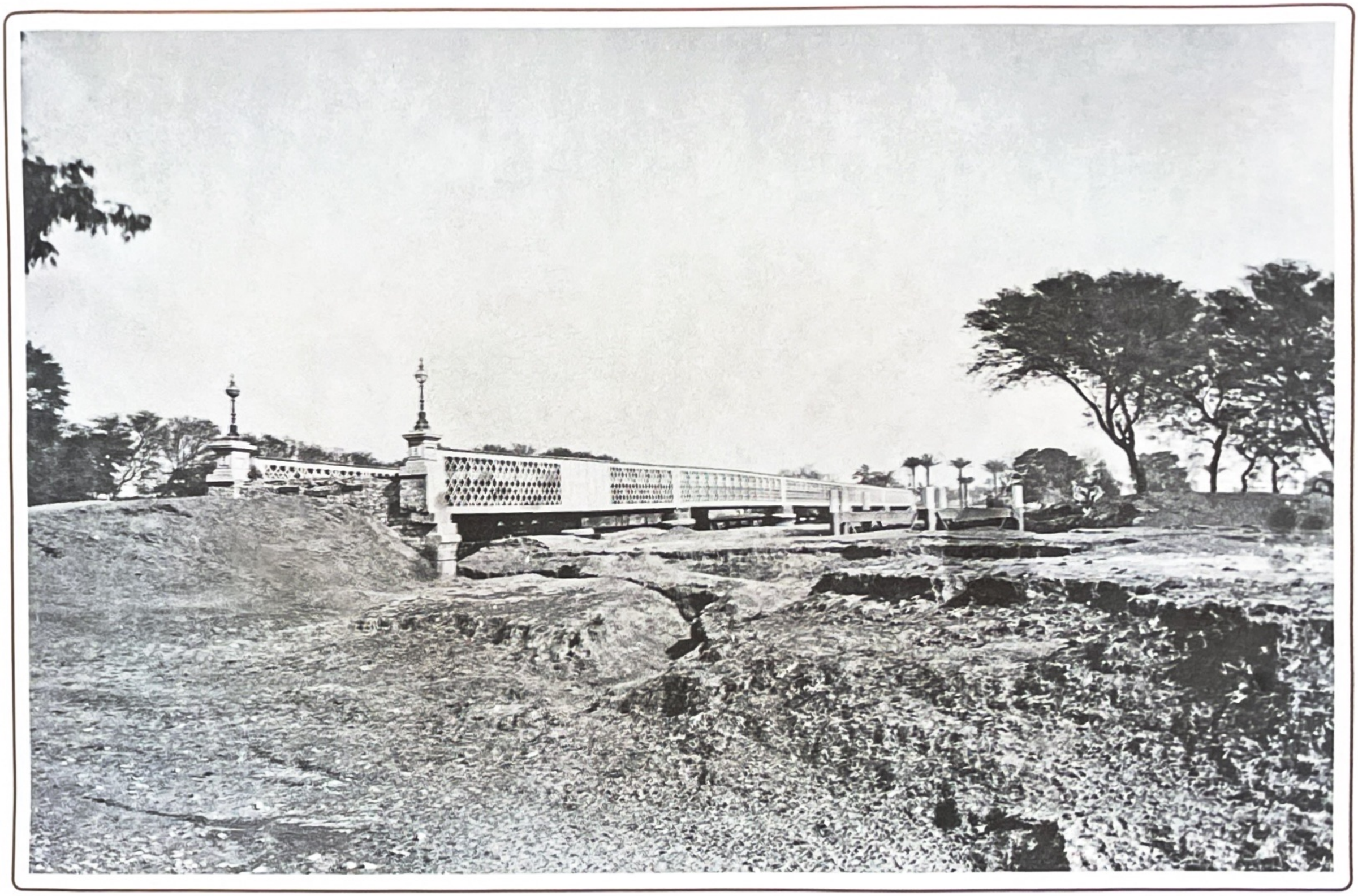
It is the first bridge to be built across the Nile in Cairo. In 1869, Khedive Ismail commissioned a French company to build it. Construction was underway in the Gezira Palace, and it was no longer appropriate to cross from shore to shore using a line of boats spread with wooden boards and tied to each other. It was necessary to build a bridge to suit the splendor of the districts it connected.

The bridge was officially inaugurated in February 1872. It was 406 meters long, 10 meters wide, and of a 10-ton load limit. It contained two navigation openings, and the movable section was rotated manually. The cost of the bridge construction was approximately 114,000 Egyptian pounds. At both ends, four Italian-made bronze lion statues were erected. The cost of the statues and their transportation from Italy to Alexandria amounted to 8450 Egyptian pounds.

On 1 April 1931, traffic across the bridge was stopped, due to defects and failure to meet the needs of the city. The new bridge was constructed in its present location during the reign of King Fouad I, and was inaugurated in March 1933. It was 382.20 meters long, 20 meters wide, of which five meters were for the sidewalks. The total cost amounted to approximately 293,000 Egyptian pounds, and it was called Khedive Ismail Bridge in recognition and commemoration of the Khedive. After the 1952 Revolution, it was renamed as Tahrir Bridge (Liberation Bridge), and then Gamal Abdel Nasser Bridge. However, the name Kasr El-Nil Bridge prevailed.

Bulaq Abul-Ela Bridge

The bridge was inaugurated in 1912 during the reign of Khedive Abbass Helmy II. It was an architectural marvel that linked Cairo and Zamalek Island.



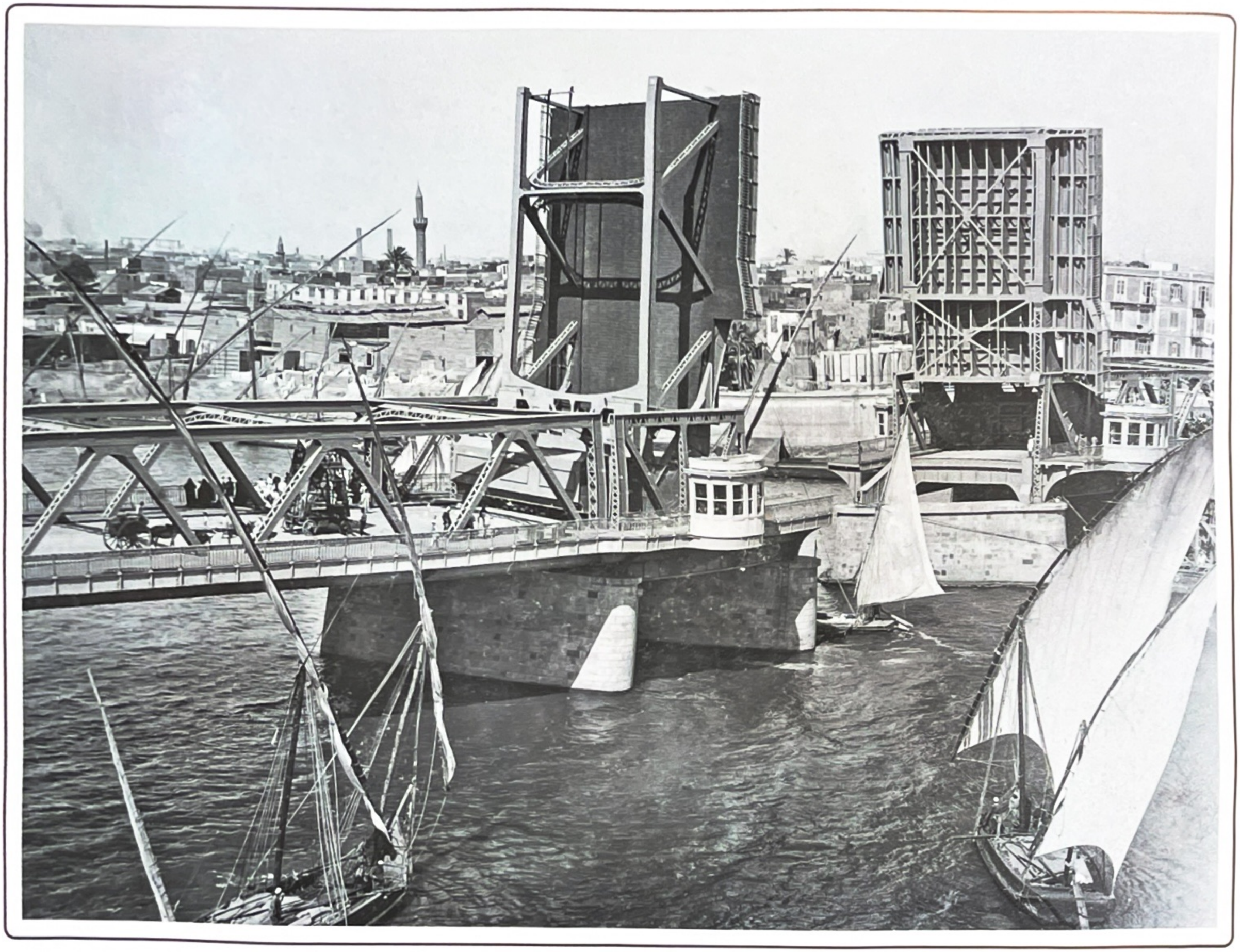
Pont des Anglais, 1870



Kasr El-Nil Bridge, 1870



Kasr El-Nil Bridge, 1911



Fouad I (formerly Abul-Ela) Bridge, 1912

Aqueducts

El-Khaleeg El-Masry

El-Khaleeg El-Masry (the Egyptian Gulf) is known by several names, including "Khaleeg Misr" or "Khaleeg El-Fustat". It was also known as "Khaleeg Amir El-Mo'mineen", attributed to the "chief of believers" Omar bin-al-Khattab. He had ordered Amr bin-al-Aas, the conqueror of Egypt, to have this gulf dug, to connect the Nile and the Red Sea to carry supplies to Hijaz regularly. The gulf was dug in the year 23 AH (644 CE). When Amr bin-al-Aas started the digging, the mouth of the gulf was located at the intersection of Nubar Street with El-Khaleeg El-Masry Street (now known as "Port Said Street") in Sayyida Zeinab district. It then moved north, through Bab El-Khalq Square, Bab El-Shaareya Square, El-Zaher, Mattariya and Ain-Shams within the borders of Cairo. It further moved through Wadi El-Tomaylat where Khosous and Khanka are located in the Governorate of Qalyoubiya, on to Abu-Zaabal and Abbasiya in the Governorate of Sharqiya, on to Ismailia, where it turned south to Lake Timsah, through the Bitter Lakes, until it flowed into the Gulf of Suez near the city of Suez. With time, and after the digging of the Ismailia Canal, the terminal point of the gulf was near Abu-Zaabal.

The length of the gulf stretches along the borders of Cairo and measures 46.20 km. It is 5 to 15 meters wide. The water level during the flooding season reached a height of 6.20 meters. The gulf had no quay and the houses overlooking it were partially submerged in the water.

A number of sultans such as Sultan Barsbay, Sultan Qaitbay, and Sultan al-Ghouri, looked after the gulf. It seems that with the end of the Ottoman Era the gulf was not cleaned properly due to the administrative government corruption which prevailed at that time. The accumulation of silt prevented the flow of water in the gulf, and hindered navigation. High heaps of mud or silt spread along the gulf, were extricated year after year during the cleaning process. For a long time and due to the pollution of the gulf and failure to keep it clean, and as companies had started to distribute water to the homes, the gulf was filled up with earth in the years between 1896 to 1898.

Due to the population growth in Cairo in the Mamluk Era, the number of aqueducts constructed along the Egyptian Gulf increased reaching the west of Cairo. These aqueducts had a tremendous effect in hastening the growth and increase of constructions along the western bank of the gulf. Most of the land there were gardens and fields, and during the Mamluk and Ottoman eras the aqueducts were used as parks. Among these aqueducts are:

Shahine Pasha Aqueduct

It is among the aqueducts constructed under the Mohamed Ali Dynasty, and was filled up with earth in 1898. It was located between the Omar Shah and the Tukutz Tamar (Darb el-Gamameez) aqueducts.

Aq Sonqor Aqueduct

This lies today on Khaleeg Street, towards the entrance of Ismail Pasha Abu-Gabal Street (formerly "Darb El-Hagar Street"). It was built by Prince Aq Sonqor around 725 AH, when he built his mosque on Lake Nasseriya in Suweikat El-Sabaeen. Its name became "Sonqor aqueducts".

Hefni Aqueduct

It is located along the gulf, between Prince Hussein and Mosky aqueducts, only a few meters to the south from the intersection of Azhar Street and Khaleeg Street (also known as Port Said Street).

It was constructed by Prince Abdel-Rahman Katkhuda for Sheikh El-Hefni, who became Sheikh of Al-Azhar in 1757, to cross onto the house and mosque, which was also built by the prince. The mosque was later removed during expansion works on Khaleeg Street.

Darb El-Gamameez Aqueduct (Tukutz Tamar Aqueduct)

This aqueduct was located on El-Khaleeg El-Masri (Egyptian Gulf) towards the entrance of the Darb El-Gamameez Street, which led to the Sultan al-Hanafi and al-Hayatem Alleys, about 20 meters south of Maglis El-Shaab Street. The aqueduct came to be known as the Toqoz Damar aqueduct, reference to Tukutz Tamar al-Hamawi al-Karmani who had built it in 730 AH, to cross onto his orchards on the western shore of the gulf.

It was known as "Darb El-Gamameez", because of the presence of huge sycamore (Gemmeiz) trees known as El-Saadiya sycamores. These trees had been there since the Mamluk times, and the aqueduct remained along the gulf until both were filled up with earth in 1898.

Mosky Aqueduct

It was located at the intersection point of Khaleeg and Mosky Streets, after the Prince Hussein aqueduct. It was built by Prince Ezz El-Din Mosk, a prince in Salah El-Din al-Ayoubi's state. He was renowned for his compassion, piety, charitable nature, and respect for scholars. Prince Mosk died in Damascus in 584 AH, and the aqueduct was renovated under the reign of Mohamed Ali.

Alladhi Kafara Aqueduct

It was introduced in the Ottoman Era, and was located between the Sonqor Aqueduct and the Bab El-Kharq Aqueduct, facing the Rahbat Abdeen Street (now Moustafa Abdel-Razek Street), to the west of Khaleeg Street. It was built by Prince Abdel-Rahman Kahkhuda in 1762, who built a palace and barracks at the Abdeen Alley, and hence built this Aqueduct to reach his palace.

Thabet Pasha Aqueduct

It is located between the Bab El-Kharq Aqueduct and Prince Hussein Aqueduct. It was built during the Mohamed Ali Dynasty.

Bein El-Sourein Aqueduct

It is located between the Mosky Aqueduct and Shaarani Aqueduct. It was built in the times of the Mohamed Ali Dynasty.

Prince Hussein Aqueduct

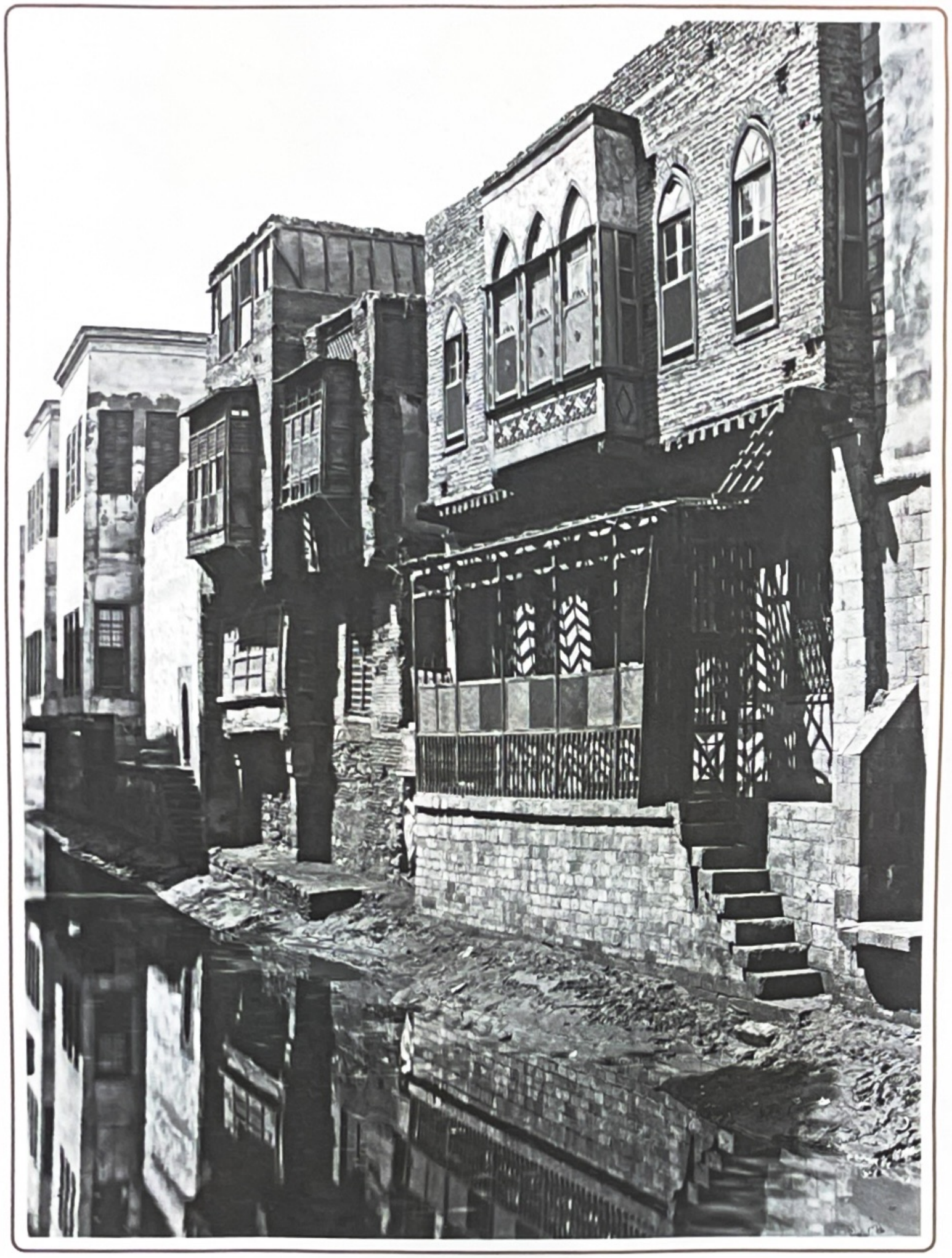
It is located in Bab El-Kharq (Bab El-Khalq) towards Prince Hussein district, on the western side of Khaleeg Street (now Port Said Street). It faced Isti'naf Street to the north of the present Southern Cairo Court-House.

Prince Hussein bin-Ismail bin-Jander Bek al-Rumi built this aqueduct towards the end of 1319 to be able to reach the mosque he had built months earlier on the property of Jawhar al-Nubi, to the west of the Egyptian Gulf. After having built the mosque and the aqueduct, Prince Hussein opened a passage in the western wall of Cairo, at the top of Waziriya district, to pass from his house in Waziriya district across the aqueduct to reach the mosque. This Aqueduct was filled up with earth in 1897, along with the filling up of the first part of the Egyptian Gulf from the side of the Ghamra aqueduct to the Bab El-Kharq Square (now Bab El-Khalq).



The Egyptian Gulf (El-Khaleeg El-Masry), 1869

(Photo by Emile Béchard)



The Egyptian Gulf (El-Khaleeg El-Masry), 1892

(Photo by Lekegian)



The Egyptian Gulf after being filled up with earth, Port Said Street, 1945



Shahine Pasha Aqueduct, 1869

Aq Sonqor Aqueduct, 1880





Aq Sonqor Aqueduct, 1880



Aq Sonqor Aqueduct, 1896



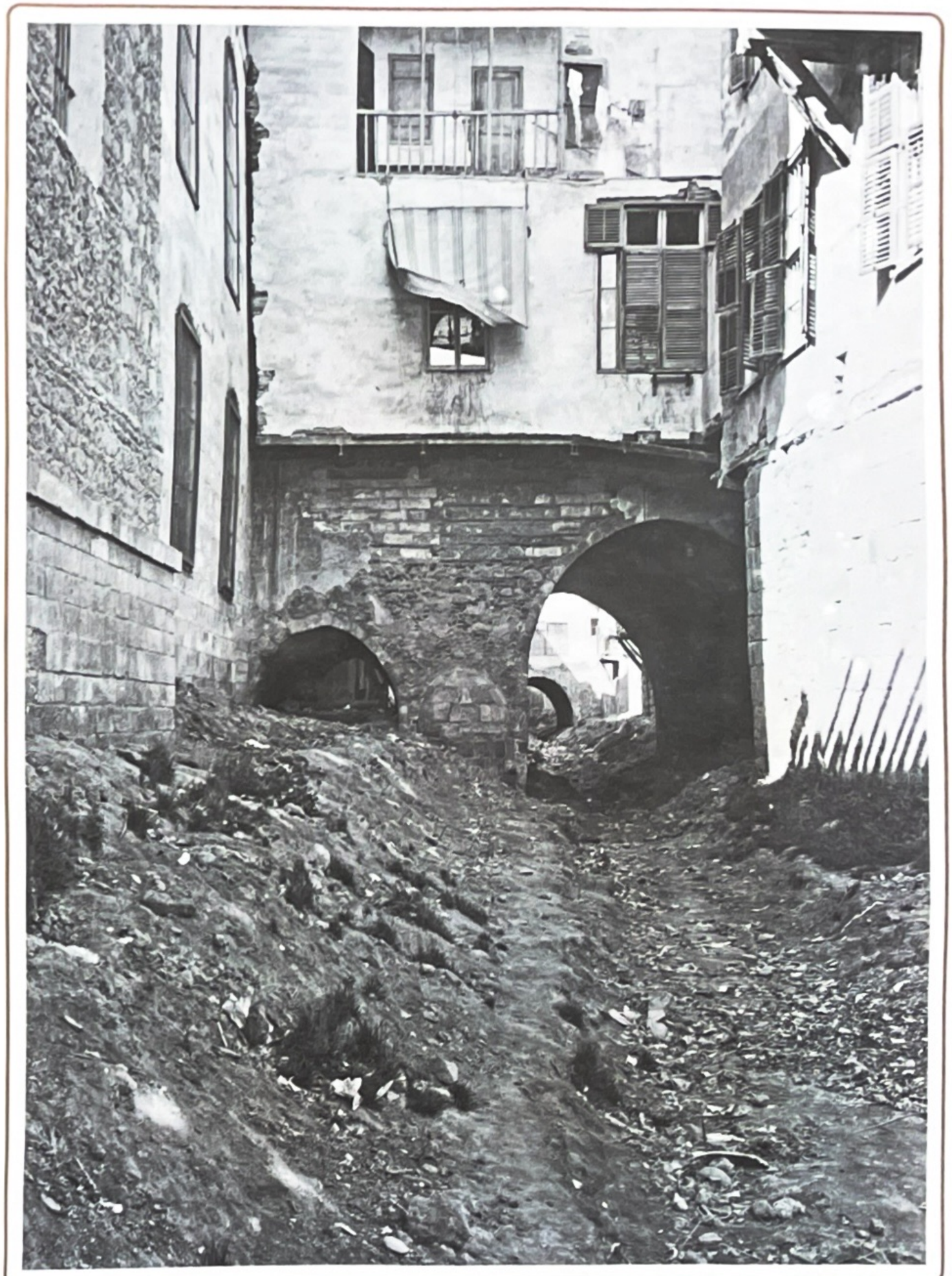
El-Hefny Aqueduct, 1896



Darb El-Gamameez Aqueduct, 1896



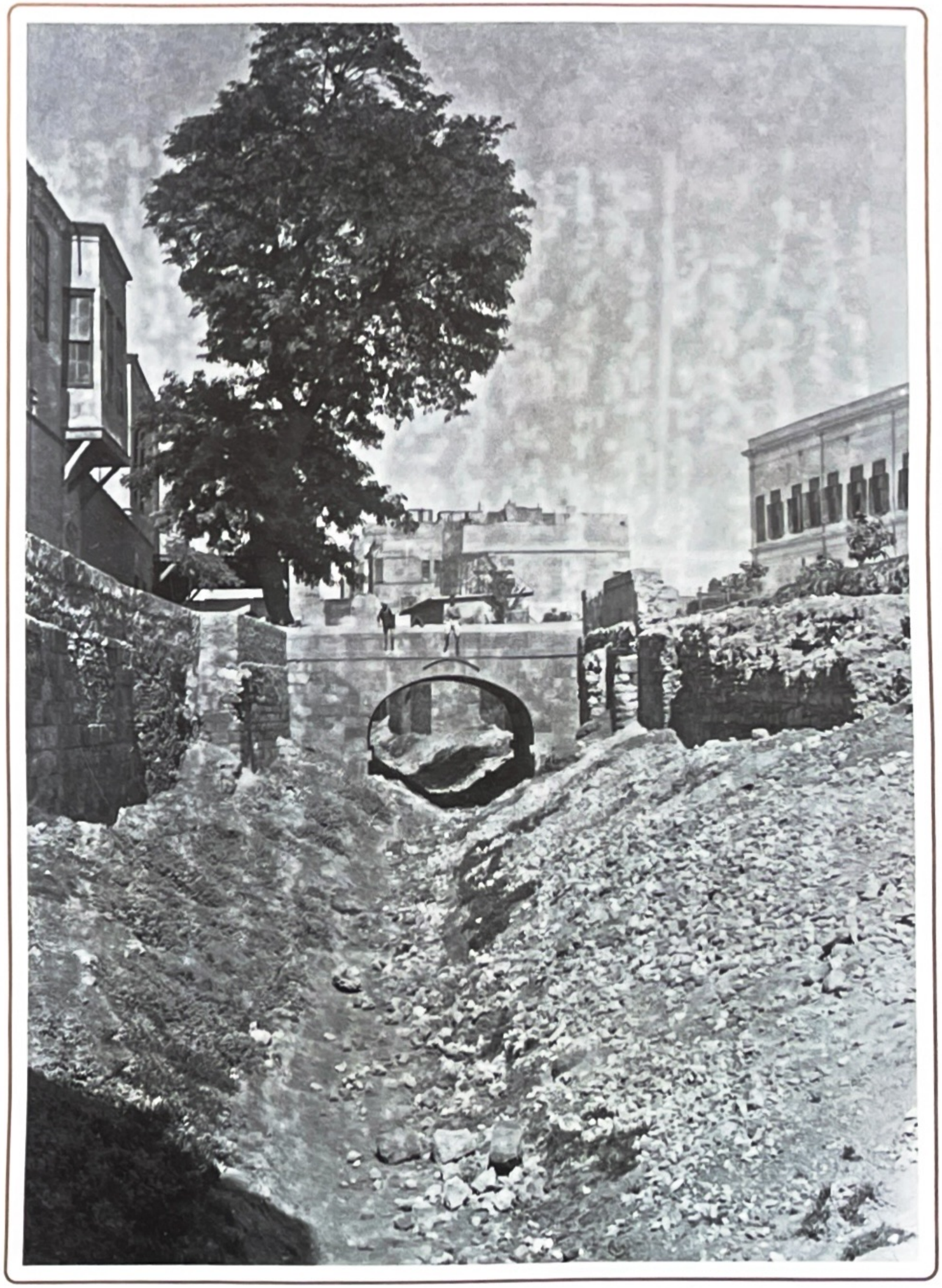
Mosky Aqueduct from the north side, 1896



Mosky Aqueduct from the south side, 1896



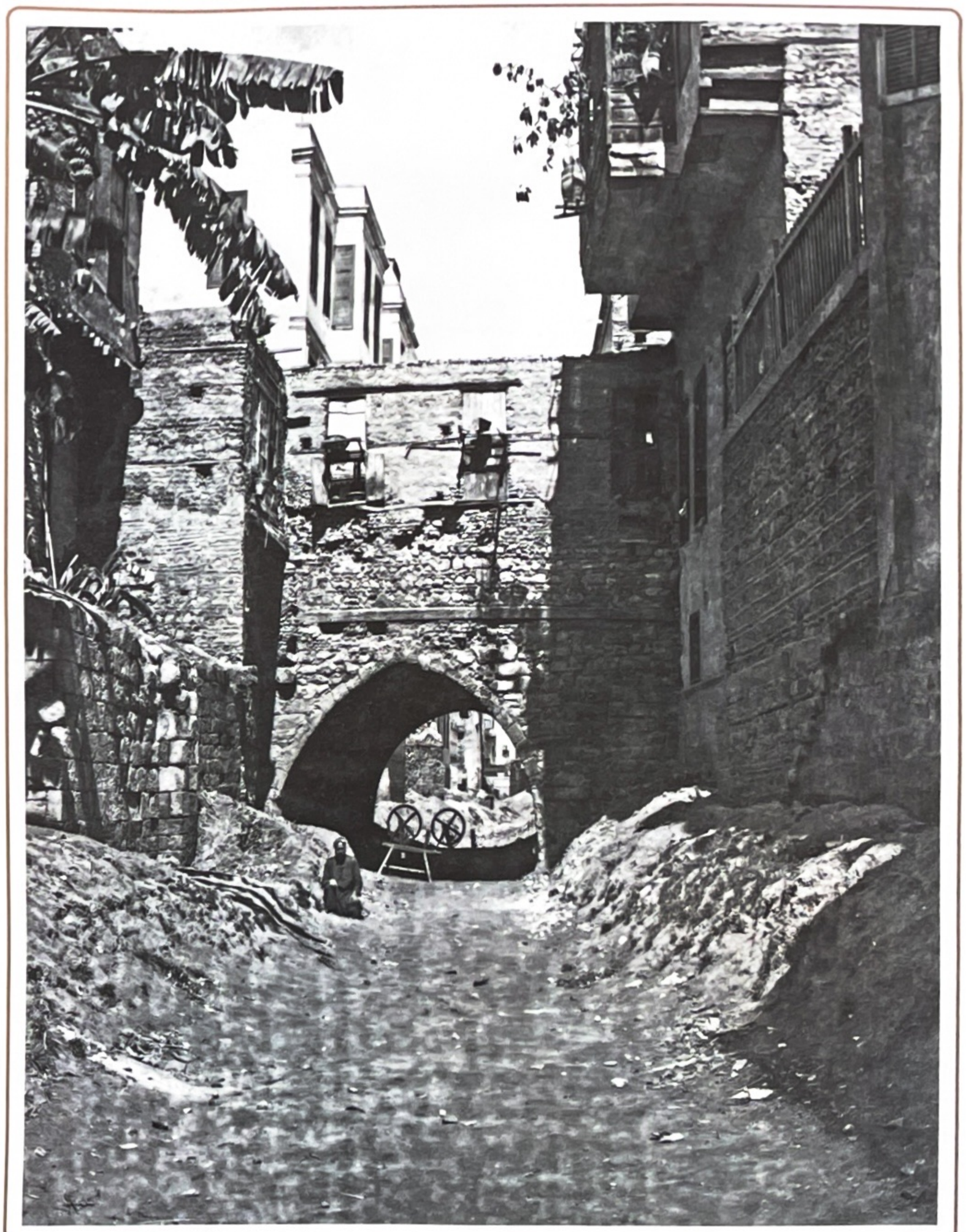
Alladhi Kafara Aqueduct, 1896



Thabet Pasha Aqueduct, 1896



Bein El-Sourein Aqueduct, 1896



Prince Hussein Aqueduct, 1896



Lakes and Canals

Lake Azbakiya

Lake Azbakiya was the biggest lake in the Mamluk and Ottoman eras. It was mostly for picnics and promenades. In its place today is the Azbakiya Park and its surroundings. The lake faced many misfortunes before it was restored by Prince Azbak. It is also thanks to him that major architectural works were erected around the lake.

With the death of its founder Azbak, interest in the urban development of Azbakiya faded. Its buildings were plundered and vandalized during the days of Sultan al-Ghouri's reign. Attention was redirected towards Azbakiya in the 11th c. AH (17th c. CE), when rich families of sheikhs and merchants, followed by eminent emirs, began to build around the lake. There was a great constructional boom around the lake in the Ottoman Era. The lake also played a major role at the time of the French Campaign in Egypt, for the French made of the area their headquarters, their residence and their parks. They usurped many of the palaces and houses to dwell in. They also built a comic theater, restaurants and their own entertainment centers around the lake.

The lake remained as is until the advent of Khedive Ismail, who reorganized it and turned it into a big garden. He built theaters and entertainment centers, and paved modern roads around it. He also built many districts, houses and other establishments, following the European architectural style.

Ismailia Canal

The Ismailia Canal is one of many fresh water canals dug under the reign of Khedive Ismail to bring fresh water to the city of Suez. It begins at the Nile, beside Shubra in the North of Cairo, reaching the Gulf of Suez near Ismailia. It then branches into two, one flowing to Suez, and the other to Port Said. The Suez Canal Company dug part of this canal, and Khedive Ismail completed it. As soon as the Nile water reached Suez through the Ismailia Canal, agriculture flourished on both sides of the canal; corn, barley, clover and other vegetables grew.

Lake Feil

Lake Feil is of the oldest lakes of Cairo in history. There are many views regarding the name of the lake. One attributes it to a man named El-Feil, who was a friend of Ahmed bin-Toloun. Another view attributes the name to the elephant-house which stood on the shore of the lake. A third states that the lake was named Lake Feil because a huge elephant used to swim in the lake, where people used to go and watch it.

Lake Feil was located between Fustat and Cairo. In the Fatimide Era it covered a huge area, and in the Mamluk Era the area was estimated at around 40 feddans. With time its size shrunk.

During the Mamluk Era, the lake had two inputs of water. The first was near the great bridge towards El-Kabsh, through a waterway covered with stone weaves. The other input was through a tunnel connected with the Great Gulf, which was originally an aqueduct known as El-Magnouna (the Crazy). This name was attached to it because the water flowed from the gulf to fill the lake, which was on a much lower level, so the water gushed forth at a "crazy" speed.

Construction of buildings around the lake began in the early 7th c. AH (13th c. CE). Then areas of the lake were appropriated and during the Mamluk and the Ottoman Eras these were built on. Abbass Helmy I built there a palace surrounded by a large garden, and it came to be known as Helmiya Palace.



Lake Azbakiya, 1862



Ismailia Canal, 1870



Mouth of Ismailia Canal, 1904



Lake Feil, 1896



Lake Feil, 1896

Gardens

Azbakiya Garden

The Azbakiya Garden had been a lake, but in 1964 or 1837 Mohamed Ali converted it to a garden. It covered an area of about 60 feddans, and is attributed to Prince Saif al-Din Azbak bin-Tatakh al-Ashrafi al-Zahiri. Khedive Ismail commissioned the French architect and landscaper of the Parisian parks, Barillet-Deschamps, to design and build the Azbakiya Garden. He built the garden following the pattern of Parc Moncau and Rivoli Garden in Paris. The Azbakiya Garden covered an area of 20 feddans and was lit up by 25,000 gas lamps. A theater for comedy performances, a wonderful lake, an artificial hillock, shaded passages, bridges across small lakes, and waterways were constructed, in addition to dinghies propelled by pedals. There were shops, a photography-laboratory, as well as European and Oriental restaurants and cafés. Some of the rarest trees imported by Barillet-Deschamps from Europe, India, Africa, Brazil and Australia were planted in the garden.

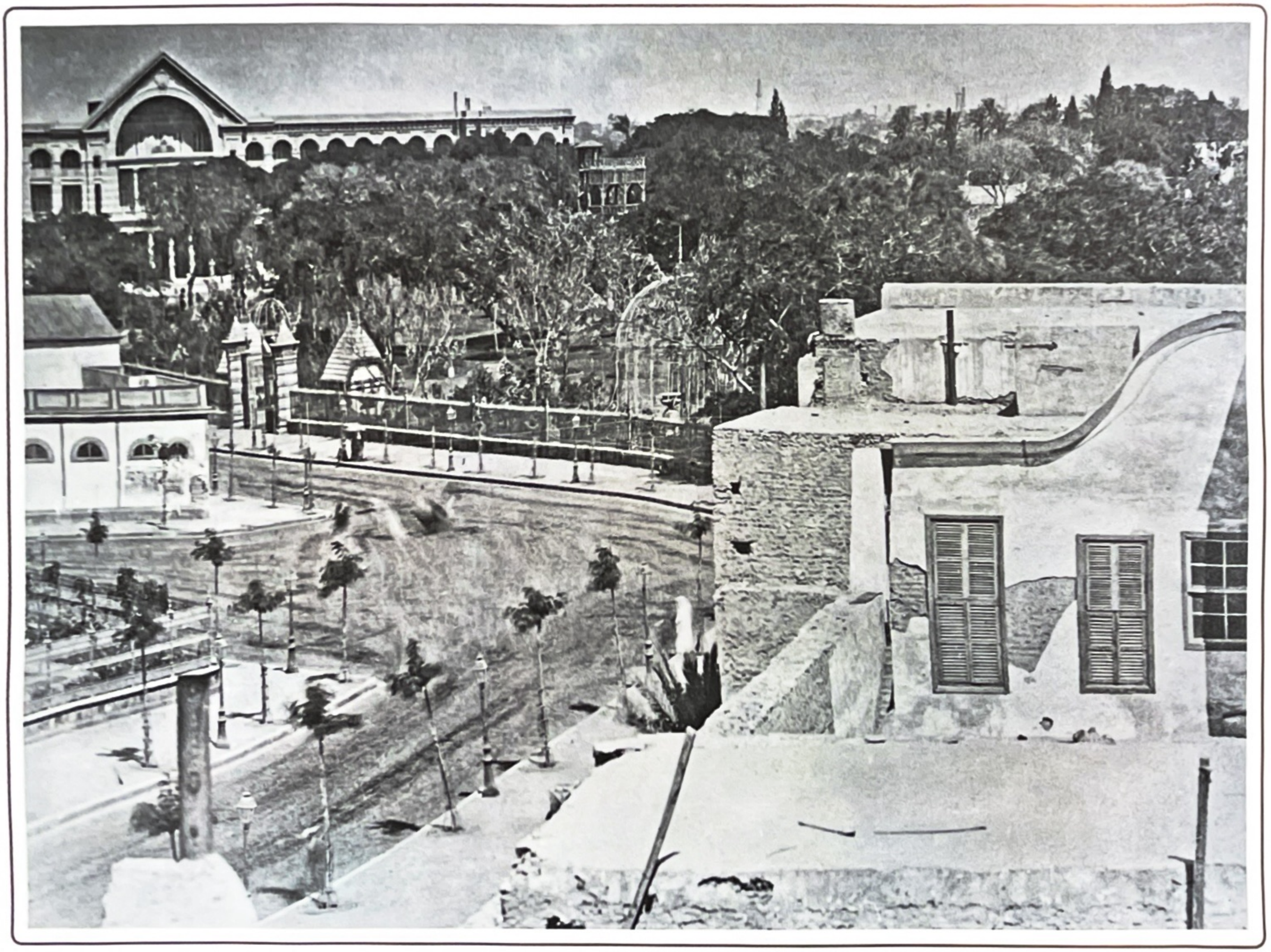
Rosti Garden

This garden was located near the Azbakiya Garden. In 1890, it was turned into a commercial quarter.

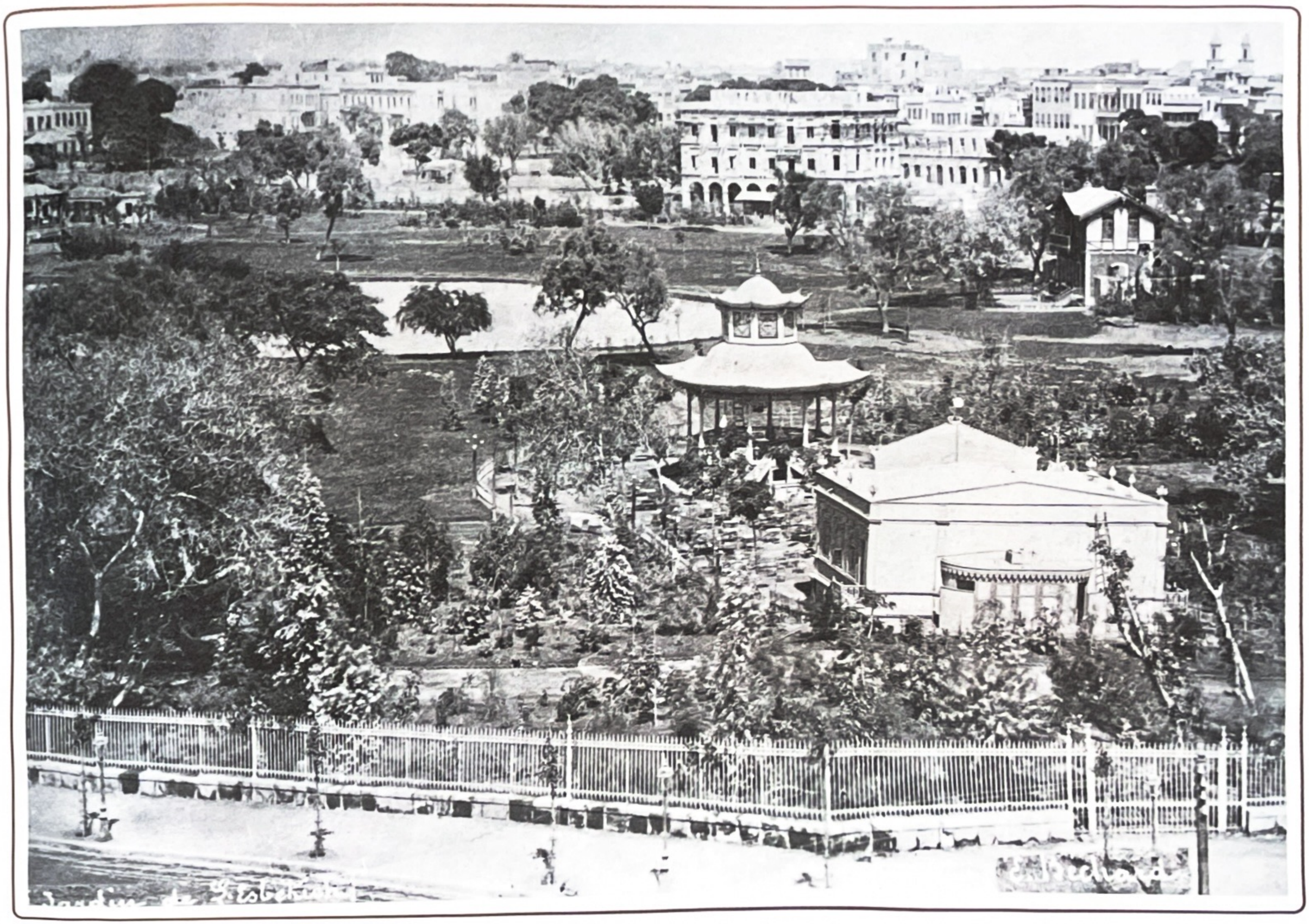


Azbakiya Garden, 1870

(Photo by Emile Béchard)



Azbakiya Garden, 1870



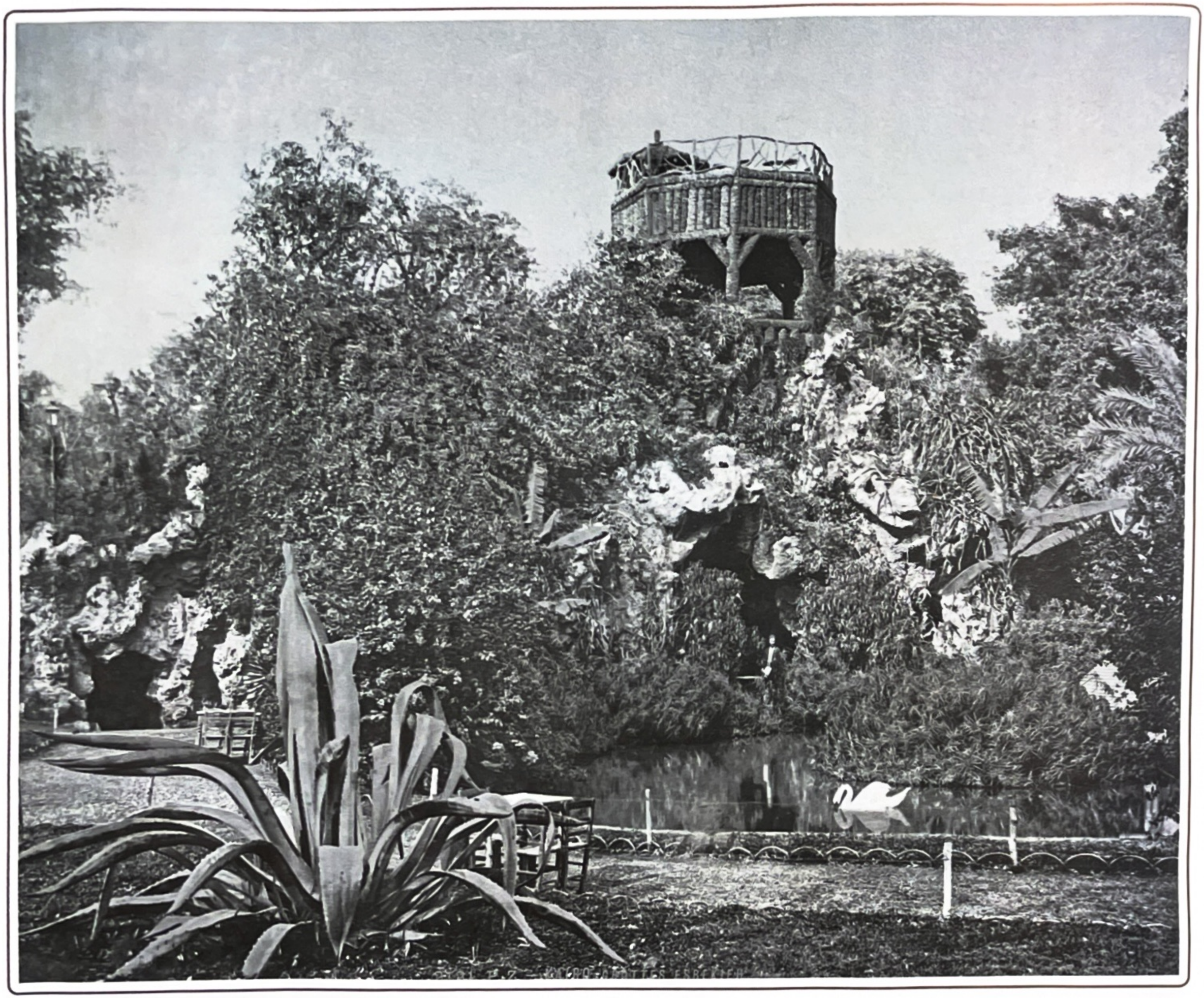
Azbakiya Garden, 1870



Azbakiya Garden, 1870



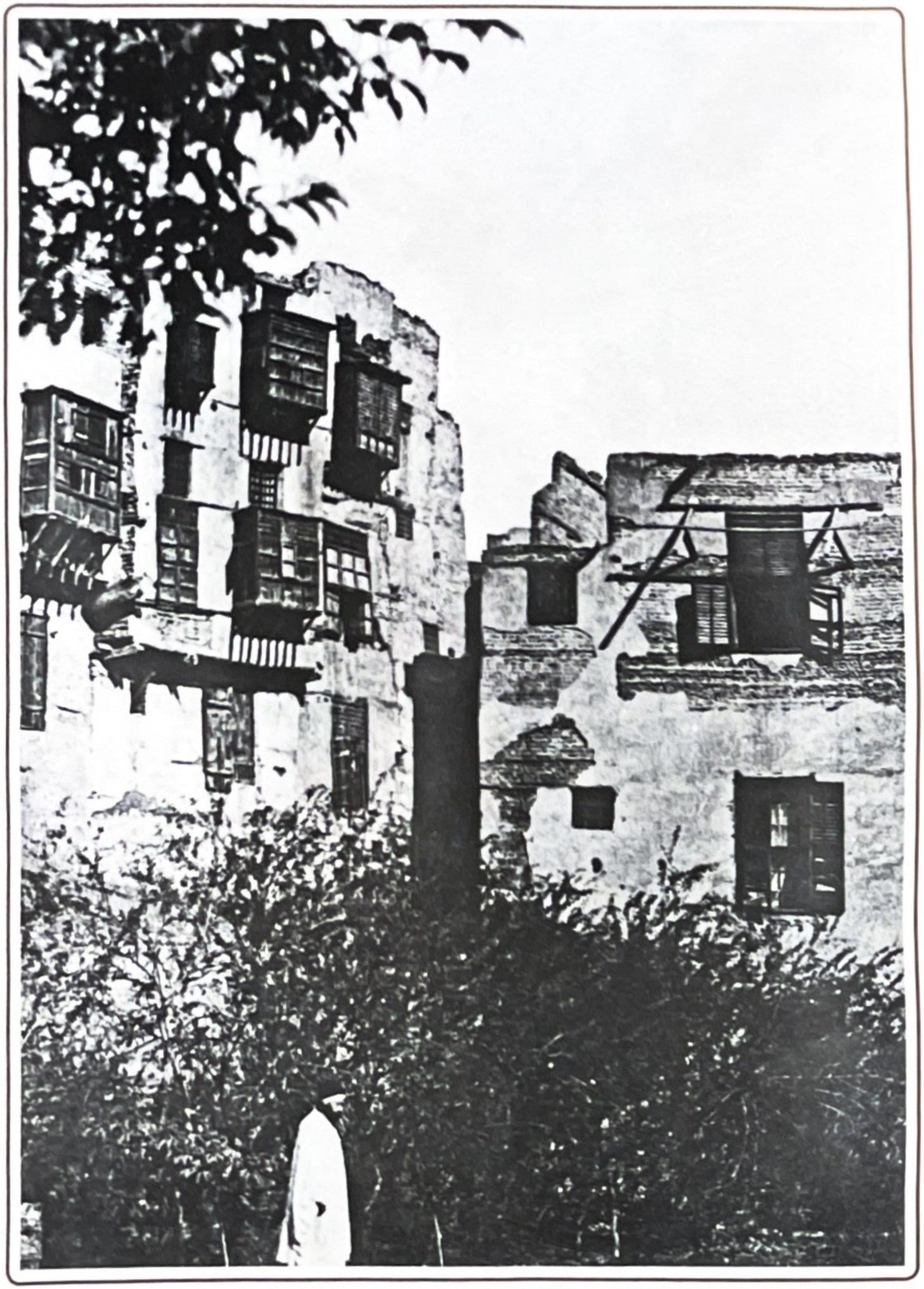
Azbakiya Garden, 1896



Azbakiya Garden, 1896



Azbakiya Garden, 1896



Rosti Garden, 1849

(Photo by Maxime du Camp)

Hotels

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Hotel Continental

The hotel was a huge building, and belonged to Khedive Ismail. It was originally built to accommodate the guests invited to the inauguration of the Suez Canal. The hotel had a marble-floored terrace, where the guests could sit in the shade, away from the glare of the sun. They would breathe in the clean healthy air which distinguished the enjoyable atmosphere in the area. The hotel terraces were surrounded with gardens full of tropical trees and plants. The hotel guests would enjoy watching ever-changing scenery. They would enjoy spending hours and days in this place.

Shepheard Hotel

The Shepheard Hotel was, and remains, one of the well-established hotels of Cairo. It was originally constructed near Lake Azbakiya, by an Englishman called Samuel Shepheard. He first named it the "New British Hotel", then he added his surname to become the "British Shepheard Hotel". When the hotel became well-visited, he moved it to a larger building on Gomhoreya Street, until it burnt down in 1952. The building had originally been the palace of Princess Zeinab, daughter of Mohamed Ali. At some point it was used as a language school (Alsun School).

The hotel remained in Shepheard's possession until 1861, when its ownership was transferred to Mr. F. Zeek. The inheritors of the latter rebuilt the hotel in 1891. Further refurbishment of the hotel took place in the years 1899, 1904, 1909 and 1927.

The Shepheard Hotel has a rich register of famous visitors, including Stanley, who wrote in one of its rooms his famous book *Emin Pasha Relief Expedition*. The Golden Book of the hotel bears the signatures of many members of the royal families across the world, in addition to eminent politicians and leaders who were once guests of this famous hotel.



Hotel Continental, 1869



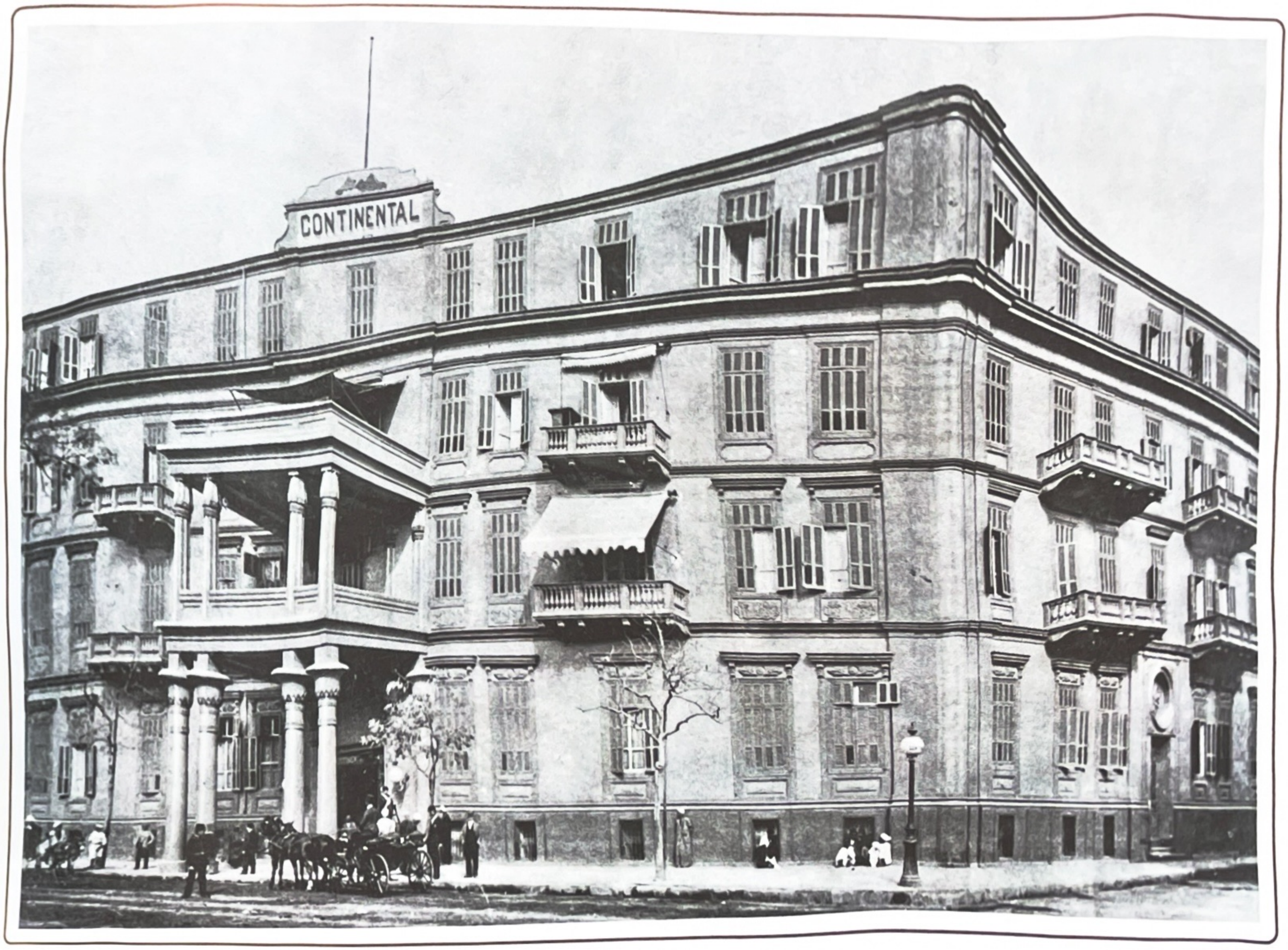
Entrance to the Hotel Continental, 1870



Hotel Continental, 1871



Hotel Continental, 1914



The old Hotel Continental on Kasr El-Nil Street, 1896



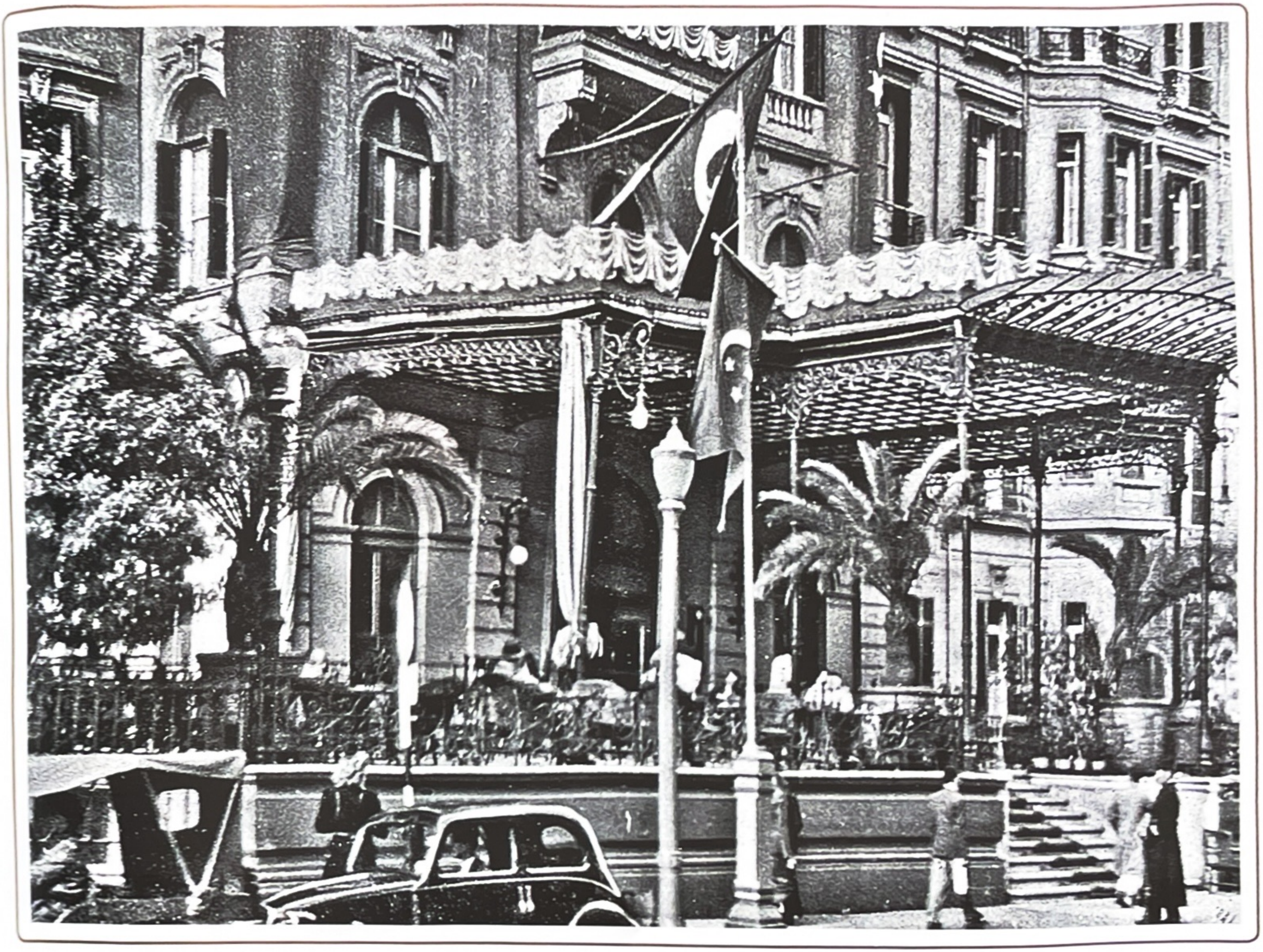
The old Hotel Continental on Kasr El-Nil Street, 1945



Shepheard Hotel, 1870



Shepheard Hotel, 1896



Shepheard Hotel, 1945



Entertainment

Houses and Museums

Egyptian Museum

On 18 October 1863, the Egyptian Museum was opened in Bulaq under the rule of Khedive Ismail and management of Mariette Pasha. The latter diligently collected antiques and monuments, until the Bulaq Museum became too small to hold them, so they were moved to the Giza Palace. It then became necessary to build an independent spacious building to hold this huge number of antiques. Thus, the Egyptian Museum was built in its current location in Tahrir Square at the time of Khedive Abbass Helmy II in 1902. The Egyptian Museum is today considered one of the most important museums in the world, and its collection surpasses the Egyptian collections exhibited in foreign museums.

Museum of Modern Art

The beginnings of the Museum of Modern Art were humble, but ambitious. The first location was a small room in the Fine Art Lovers Society at the Tigran Palace on Ibrahim Pasha Street (now Gomhoreya Street). The museum then became an independent entity and moved to the Wax Museum, then to Bostan Street off Tahrir Square. Then it was moved to the top floor of Count Zogheb's Palace (Qasr El-Nil Street) off Tahrir Square. Then its holdings were moved to Ismail Pasha Abul-Fotouh's villa in Dokki district, Giza. In 1983, a wing in the Opera House was dedicated to the Museum. The wing was built in Islamic architecture style. The Museum is now part of the Opera premises on the Gezira Land, within the district of Zamalek. This Museum of Modern Art differs from all other Egyptian museums, as it holds an unlimited number of artistic schools and trends.

Opera House

Ismail Pasha wanted to dazzle the guests attending the inauguration of the Suez Canal, with its beauty and grandeur of art. He commissioned the Italian architect Pietro Avoscani, who had built the Ras El-Teen Palace for Mohamed Ali Pasha in Alexandria, to supervise the construction works of the Opera House. That same architect supervised the execution of the interior decoration works of the Abbassiya, Helmiya, Gezira and Shubra Palaces, as well as the Zizinia Theater in Alexandria. The Khedive commissioned the Italian architect Scala with the basic design of the main structure, whereas the rear-building was designed by Giovanni Salmon.

The structure of the khedivial Opera House adopted the architectural style of La Scala Opera House in Milan. Its base was built of stone, and the rest of the building made of wood imported from Lebanon, and covered with gypsum.

The Opera House was inaugurated in November 1869, with Verdi's opera *Rigoletto*. Attending in the royal loge were Khedive Ismail, Empress Eugenie, Napoleon III, and the Austrian monarch Francois Joseph. The House accommodated 850 audience, with several restrooms and a smoking hall. There was also a hall for official state banquets, and another for the musicians. Annexed to the Opera House was a building with several rooms to store costumes, stage-sets and scenery in a well-organized manner. There were also changing rooms.

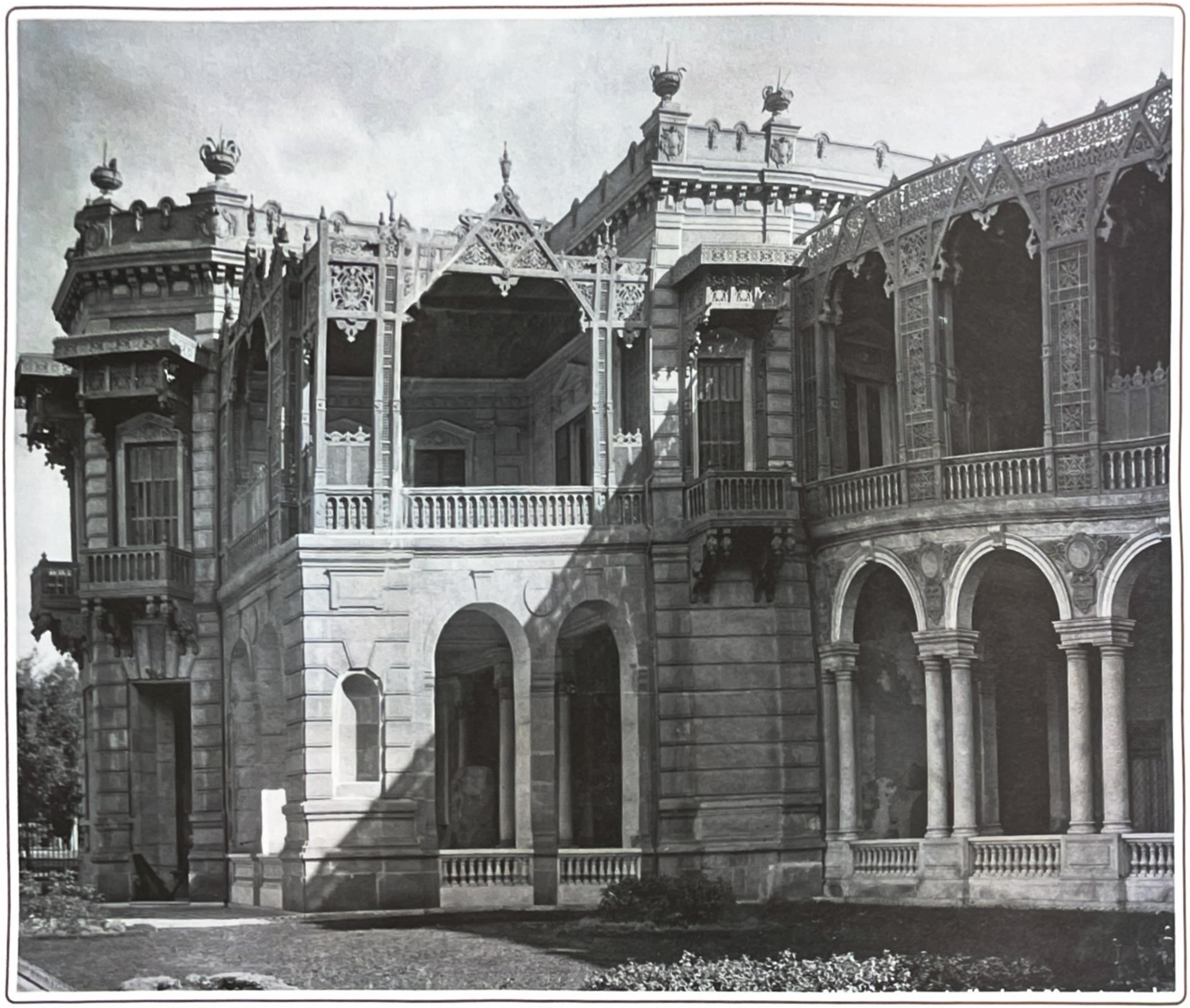
The Opera House was, and remains, like a charmed palace which comes to life when night falls. Then it shines with brilliant and glittering lights, as it receives prominent personalities. Many prominent personalities spend unforgettable nights watching the refined arts.



Egyptian House of Antiquities, Egyptian Museum, Bulaq, 1867



Egyptian House of Antiquities at Giza Palace, 1894



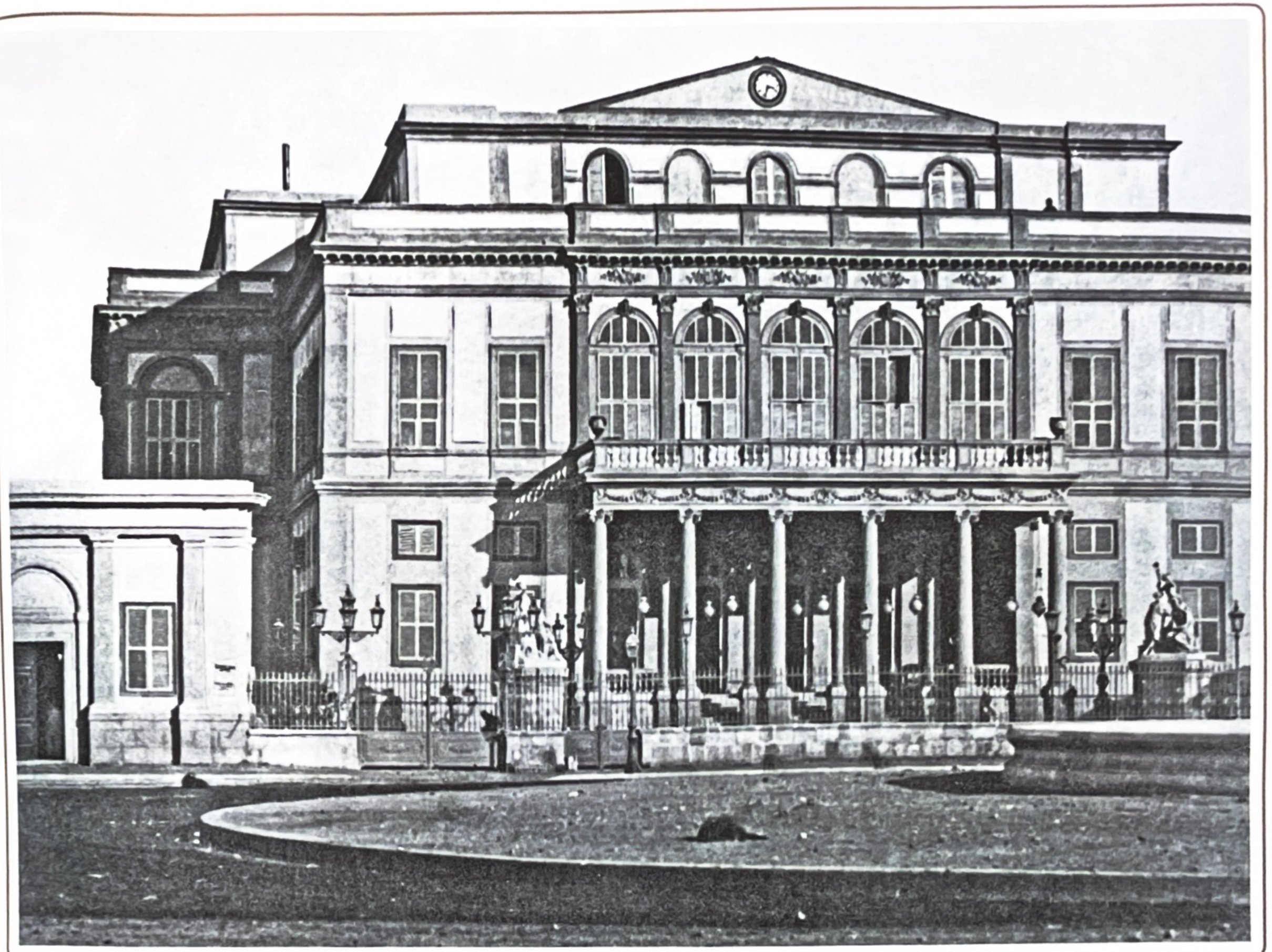
Egyptian House of Antiquities at Giza Palace, 1894



Egyptian Museum, Tahrir Square, 1908



First Museum of Modern Art at Villa Mosseri, 10 Fouad I Street, Cairo



Opera House, 1869



Opera House, 1932

Panorama

Cairo is but a history laden with the fragrance of the past. It bears the imprints of thousands of sultans who built a civilization, and made Cairo a true marvel of architectural beauty.

Cairo is an all-in-one museum of successive eras, from the beginning of its history marked by the Arab conquest of Egypt in 640 CE, i.e., even before the Fatimides established Cairo itself, through a long, gradual and successive evolution that lasted for six centuries, resulting in the birth of Cairo. This history is marked by the construction of a series of "buildings", which in turn paved the way for further urban development. The municipal growth began with the establishment of Fustat, the capital founded by the Arab conquerors in 642 CE, then the establishment of El-Askar in 750 CE and El-Qata'ea in 868 CE, both of which were constructed for the ruling dynasties during the Abbaside and Tolounide eras. It was not until Fatimides, who came from Morocco, that Cairo was established. Finally came Cairo, which was established by the Fatimides who came from Morocco. Yet, the fate of the city was not completed until the construction of the Salah al-Din al-Ayoubi Citadel. With the advent of the Mamluk Era, Cairo reached the zenith of its splendor, or rather its golden age. The Mamluks made of Cairo an exhibit enriched with scenes that survive to the present day. With the advent of the Ottomans to Egypt, Cairo was introduced to new architectural styles.

Cairo and the rest of Egypt's cities were revived as Mohamed Ali Pasha, the great hero and fulfiller of Egypt's aspirations, took over the reigns of power. During his rule, the city enjoyed a special status among other nations. Since the turn of the 19th century until today, Cairo has witnessed changes that made it more of an exhibition of diverse planning and architecture. These changes bear witness that while Cairo, with its skyscrapers, wide streets, grand hotels, big shops and elegant cars, displays attributes of "a modern European city"; the city of great minarets and long-standing civilization is indeed still "an Eastern city" at its core.



Panoramic view of Cairo, 1869

(Photo by Emile Béchard)



Panoramic view of Cairo, 1894

(Photo by Lekegian)



Panoramic view of Cairo, 1894



Panoramic view of Cairo, 1946

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