



# ANNALES ISLAMOLOGIQUES

en ligne en ligne

Ansl 13 (1977), p. 217-245

Terence Walz

## Wakālat al-Ǧallāba: The Market for Sudan Goods in Cairo [avec 1 planche].

### Conditions d'utilisation

L'utilisation du contenu de ce site est limitée à un usage personnel et non commercial. Toute autre utilisation du site et de son contenu est soumise à une autorisation préalable de l'éditeur (contact AT ifao.egnet.net). Le copyright est conservé par l'éditeur (Ifao).

### *Conditions of Use*

You may use content in this website only for your personal, noncommercial use. Any further use of this website and its content is forbidden, unless you have obtained prior permission from the publisher (contact AT [ifao.egnet.net](mailto:ifao.egnet.net)). The copyright is retained by the publisher (Ifao).

## Dernières publications

9782724711523	<i>Bulletin de liaison de la céramique égyptienne</i> 34	Sylvie Marchand (éd.)
9782724711400	<i>Islam and Fraternity: Impact and Prospects of the Abu Dhabi Declaration</i>	Emmanuel Pisani (éd.), Michel Younès (éd.), Alessandro Ferrari (éd.)
9782724710922	<i>Atribis X</i>	Sandra Lippert
9782724710939	<i>Bagawat</i>	Gérard Roquet, Victor Ghica
9782724711547	<i>Le décret de Saïs</i>	Anne-Sophie von Bomhard
9782724710915	<i>Tebtynis VII</i>	Nikos Litinas
9782724711257	<i>Médecine et environnement dans l'Alexandrie médiévale</i>	Jean-Charles Ducène
9782724711363	<i>Bulletin archéologique des Écoles françaises à l'étranger (BAEFE)</i>	

# WAKĀLAT AL-ĞALLĀBA: THE MARKET FOR SUDAN GOODS IN CAIRO

Terence WALZ

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the varied products of Black Africa, or *bilād as-Sūdān* as the African interior was known, were sold in Cairo at a great central market and caravansary called Wakālat al-Ğallāba<sup>(1)</sup>. It was situated, and a portion of the edifice may still be seen, on Sharia aş-Şanādiqīyya; the segment that remains has been designated No. 425 among Muslim monuments of the city<sup>(2)</sup>. The street, formerly known as *hutṭ al-Harrāṭin*, used to extend from the medieval Qaṣaba (modern day Sharia Mu'izz lidīn Allah) just south of al-Asrāf mosque up to the northwestern facade of al-Azhar. On the basis of the large number of *wakā'il* (sing. *wakāla*) located on this fairly short thoroughfare, Wakālat al-Ğallāba must have occupied one of the choice commercial addresses in the old city<sup>(3)</sup>. Within its gates, caravans from «distant Sudan» took up quarters for the time it took travelling merchants (*ğallāba*, sing. *ğallāb*) to

<sup>(1)</sup> At the turn of the nineteenth century there were actually three *wakā'il al-ğallāba* in the heart of Cairo. In addition to the subject of this article, which is usually identified in *šarī'ya* court documents as the «great» *Wakālat al-Ğallāba*, Sudan goods were also sold at Ḥān Masrūr «on *hutṭ Bāb az-Zuhuma*» and at another *wakāla* on aş-Şanādiqīyya called Wakālat as-Safāt (or Qafas). Both are given the alternative name of «small» Wakālat al-Ğallāba (aş-Şuğrā) in our sources.

<sup>(2)</sup> (Survey of Egypt, 1951), *Index to Mohammedan Monuments in Cairo*. Today the *wakāla* is bounded on the west by Zuqāq

al-Midaqq, on the north by a row of shops facing Sharia Ğawhar al-Qā'id (al-Mūski) and on the east by a modern apartment building. On the map of Cairo in *Description de l'Egypte*, its location is given in Section VII as 191 and 192 K6. (Ḥān Masrūr is located at 404 16 and Wakālat as-Safāt at 187 K6).

<sup>(3)</sup> Jomard lists 11 in his «Description abrégée de la ville et de la citadelle du Kaire», *Description de l'Egypte, Etat Moderne*, II, 2<sup>e</sup> partie (Paris 1822), 638-9; 'Alī Mubārak enumerates nine: *Hīṭaṭ at-Tawfiqīyya*, 20 vols. (Būlāq, 1306/1888), II, 85.

complete their business, and in its central courtyard and surrounding dependencies were sold the exotic products of Sudan : ivory, gum, ostrich feathers, gold dust, tamarind, ebony and slaves.

In the course of our research on trade between Egypt and Black Africa during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries<sup>(1)</sup>, a great deal of information was collected on the management and functioning of this market building and on officials, merchants and brokers attached to it. The data makes it possible to draw a historical profile of one of Cairo's great khans, a study which to our knowledge has never before been attempted. The primary sources are documents from the rich archives of the old religious courts (*mahākim aš-ṣarīyya*) and the Ministry of Awqāf<sup>(2)</sup>.

#### FOUNDATION OF THE BUILDING

An early European travelogue reports the existence in Cairo of a special « fondique » for « Ethiopians », evidence that the adoption of particular *wakā'il* by merchants of Black Africa dates to the early sixteenth century at least<sup>(3)</sup>. 'Ali Mubārak, more specifically, claims that « Wakālat al-Ǧallāba was among [the buildings] constructed by Sultan al-Ǧawrī » (1501-16)<sup>(4)</sup>. It seems probable this passage was used by the committee responsible for dating historical monuments in Cairo to ascribe its foundation to the early part of the tenth century *hiğra* (late fifteenth — early sixteenth century)<sup>(5)</sup>. Pauty, in the only study yet published of the city's commercial architecture, settled for a general sixteenth century construction date<sup>(6)</sup>. It would be pleasant to connect the early European reference

<sup>(1)</sup> The author's doctoral thesis, « The Trade between Egypt and *Bilād as-Sūdān*, 1700-1820 », Boston University, 1975. It is due to be published by the Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale, Cairo.

<sup>(2)</sup> The *Mahkama* archives were located during our stay (1970-73) in the Daftarḥāna, Maṣlahat aš-Šahr al-‘Aqāri on Sharia Ramsīs. Documents taken from this archive, unless otherwise not obvious, are preceded by (MSA).

<sup>(3)</sup> Greffin Affagart, *Relation de Terre Sainte* (1533-1534), (Paris, 1902), 177, quoted in René Clément, *Les Français en Egypte aux XVII<sup>e</sup> et XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècles*, (Cairo, 1960), 6.

<sup>(4)</sup> *Hiṭat*, II, 85.

<sup>(5)</sup> *Index to Mohammedan Monuments*, loc. cit.

<sup>(6)</sup> Edmond Pauty, « Les okelles d'époque ottomane », Appendix II in *Procès-verbaux, Comité de conservation des monuments de l'art arabe*, Fasc. XXXVIII (Cairo, 1944), 20.

to an Ethiopian *funduq* with the celebrated building activities of Sultan al-Ğawrī, but it is now clear that the Wakālat al-Ğallāba edifice dates no earlier than the end of the sixteenth century<sup>(1)</sup>.

‘Alī Mubārak undoubtedly based his assertion on the fact that Wakālat al-Ğallāba was among those buildings controlled by the extensive Waqf al-Ğawrī a rich collection of urban real estate and rural landholdings assembled for the purpose of subsidizing the sultan’s charities. The *Kitāb waqf al-Ğawrī*, preserved in the Daftarḥāna of the Ministry of Awqāf, contains particularly long descriptions of edifices constructed by the sultan, yet no mention is made within the main text of a « Wakālat al-Ğallāba » or any building bearing a similar name or owning its recognizable boundaries<sup>(2)</sup>. However, an addition to the waqf, dated 5 Ramaḍān 926 / 23 August 1520, four years after the sultan’s death, briefly notes the inclusion of « buildings and grounds located near the Ašrafiyya School and Sūq al-‘Anbarīn on *ḥuṭṭ* al-Harrāṭīn, formerly known as the residence of the late al-Kāmili al-Bārizī »<sup>(3)</sup>. This note provides an indispensable link between the al-Ğawrī waqf and Wakālat al-Ğallāba of a later date.

The property, made into a waqf by al-Kāmili Muḥammad ibn al-Bārizī, one of the private secretaries to Sultan Mu’ayyid-Šayḥ (fifteenth century)<sup>(4)</sup>, was ceded by his descendants to Sultan al-Ğawrī in 912/1506 for 1600 dinars<sup>(5)</sup>. By

<sup>(1)</sup> Our building should not be confused with a *sūq ar-raqīq* constructed by al-Ğawrī (Ibn Iyās, *Journal d’un bourgeois du Caire*, tr. Gaston Wiet, 2 vols. [Paris, 1955-60], II, 91). In addition to evidence presented further on, the location of this slave market seems to have been near al-Husayn mosque, a city district quite distinct in waqf documentation from as-Şanādiqīyya/Harrāṭīn. See the author’s « Trade between Egypt and *Bilād as-Sūdān* », 94-5.

<sup>(2)</sup> (Daftarḥāna, Ministry of Awqāf), Waqf N° 882 and Copy, N° 883. It has been studied by Dr. ‘Abd al-Laṭīf Ibrāhīm, University of Cairo, in his *Dirāsāt tārihiyya wa ajarīyya fī waṭā’iq min ‘aṣr al-Ğawrī*, unpublished Ph.

D. thesis, 3 vols., University of Cairo, 1956.

<sup>(3)</sup> Waqf N° 883, 213-14.

<sup>(4)</sup> Aḥmad ibn ‘Alī al-Qalqašandī, *Şubh al-aṣṣā’*, 14 vols., (Cairo, 1913-18), IX, 42, 45; X, 120. See also Gaston Wiet, « Les secrétaires de la chancellerie en Egypte sous les Mamlouks circassiens », *Mélanges René Basset* (Paris, 1923), Nos. XXII and XXVI.

<sup>(5)</sup> (Daftarḥāna, Ministry of Awqāf), Collection of documents titled « Watā’iq al-muktašifa », No. 172, 27 Ḡūmāda II 912 / 14 November 1506. The outside wrapper does not correspond to the roll inside. The author wishes to express his gratitude to Dr. Muḥammad Amīn, University of Cairo, for bringing this to his attention.

this time, part of the complex of *dawwār*, *qaṭāt*, *arwiqa*, *sāwābit*, *hawāsil* and other dependencies of the Mamluk-period residence <sup>(1)</sup> had collapsed <sup>(2)</sup>, and it is probably for this reason that the *Kitāb waqf al-Ğawrī* contains no detailed description of the property and that for many years afterwards it was referred to as « Hawš al-Bārizī » <sup>(3)</sup>. In 982/1574, for instance, the *nāżir* (administrator) of al-Ğawrī waqf rented « the whole of the *hawš* located on *ḥuṭṭ* al-Ḥarrāṭīn known as al-Bārizī » to one Ahmad al-Rūmī 'Abd Allah, a bluer (*as-ṣabbāğ al-zarqa*), for 70 *nisf fidḍa* per month. Ḥān al-Baq (?), located nearby on *ḥuṭṭ* al-Azhar, described in the same documented as having storerooms, chamberrooms on the upper and lower floors, a *rab'* on the upper level and shops on the groundfloor — in other words, all the attributes of a proper *wakāla* — was rented for 230 *nisf fidḍa* per month <sup>(4)</sup>.

Renovation of « Hawš al-Bārizī » was begun sometime toward the end of the sixteenth century. In the course of construction work, the *nāżir* of the waqf of Sultan al-Ašraf Barsbay, which owned property on the corner of *ḥuṭṭ* al-Ḥarrāṭīn and *ḥuṭṭ* al-Ašrafiyya <sup>(5)</sup>, registered a complaint during the year 1592 against the ḡawrī waqf administrator over the narrowing of an alley leading on one side to properties under his control and on the other « to the renovated *wakāla* now being constructed from among the properties in Waqf al-Ğawrī, in the place known as Hawš al-Bārizī » <sup>(6)</sup>. The site was examined by a group of surveyors (*muhan-*

<sup>(1)</sup> Mme. Layla Sirāğ ad-Dīn graciously helped to plot a floor plan of the al-Bārizī complex and her valuable assistance is much appreciated.

<sup>(2)</sup> Description of the property begins : « *Ğamī'* al-amākin al-kāmila ardan al-mustah-dima bunā' al-kā'ina dāhil al-Qāhira ... ». Many buildings on Ḥarrāṭīn fell into ruin or were deserted as a result of turmoils in Cairo in the fifteenth century : Ahmad Darrag, *L'Acte de waqf de Barsbay*, (Cairo, 1963), p. 42, Note 7.

<sup>(3)</sup> *Hawš* was used to describe a large courtyard, usually with deteriorated dependencies wherein poor people with their

animals camped or otherwise dwelled : Jomard, « Description abrégée », 662, 696.

<sup>(4)</sup> (Daftarḥāna, Ministry of Awqāf), « Waṭā'iq al-muktašifa », No. 1089, 23 Ṣafar 982.

<sup>(5)</sup> The building is mentioned in the Barsbay waqf published by Darrag (Arabic text, 13-14) which has been checked against the Barsbay waqf roll in the Ministry of Awqāf, Waqf No. 880, pp. 48-51. In both cases the *qibli* (east) boundary bordered on a *zuqāq* which led to the house of al-Kāmili al-Bārizī.

<sup>(6)</sup> (MSA), (Maḥkama) al-Bāb al-Ālī, vol. 57, p. 67, No. 240 (29 Dū'l-Higga 1000). The text refers to an earlier survey (*hugğat al-kaṣf*) which could not be located.

*disūn*) who found that construction work had extended into the Barsbay property and rectifications in boundaries were subsequently made. Nevertheless, property deeds to certain quarters in Wakālat al-Ğallāba at a later date refer to groundrent (*hikr*) owed to Barsbay waqf<sup>(1)</sup>, and although these particular locations cannot be exactly plotted on a floor plan of the structure, it is apparent that later enlargements of Wakālat al-Ğallāba entailed new encroachments on neighbouring buildings controlled by Barsbay waqf.

It is not clear when renovations were completed, but in 1605 the « renovated *wakāla* located on *hutṭ* al-Ḩarrāṭīn, known as Hawš al-Bārizī » was leased to Zaynī 'Abd al-Fattāḥ ... al-Baysūnī al-‘Umārī for 500 *nīsfiḍḍa* per month. According to the contract, the complex then included 39 vaulted storerooms inside the structure, a stable and two storerooms outside. In the middle was a well<sup>(2)</sup>. (Other renovated dependencies belonging to the former residence are not mentioned). The shops (*hawānīt*) located on Ṣanādīqīyya/Ḥarrāṭīn were rented, as was customary practice, separately from the main structure. Soon thereafter the new *wakāla* was taken over by visiting merchants from Black Africa, for in 1631 it is identified in legal deeds under the new name of « Ḥān al-Ğallāba »<sup>(3)</sup>.

#### PHYSICAL PLAN

The archtypal plan of Cairene *wakā'il* is so well known through eighteenth- and nineteenth-century travel literature there is no need to describe it in much detail here<sup>(4)</sup>. The usual complex of a central courtyard surrounded by storerooms

<sup>(1)</sup> For instance, the storeroom known as *al-hāṣil al-kabīr* : (MSA) (Maḥkama) al-Qism al-‘Askarīyya, vol. 184, p. 264, No. 617 (1183/1770); *ibid.*, vol. 272, pp. 143-4 (1236/1821), etc.

<sup>(2)</sup> (MSA) al-Bāb al-‘Ālī, vol. 83, p. 277, No. 1084 (10 Muḥarram 1014). Zaynī 'Abd al-Fattāḥ is identified elsewhere as « the ḡawrī waqf revenue collector and tenant of Wakālat al-Ğallāba » : see the following

footnote. He owned at least three storerooms in the building.

<sup>(3)</sup> Al-Qism al-‘Askarīyya, vol. 42, p. 174, No. 280 (27 Muḥarram 1041).

<sup>(4)</sup> See the footnotes in Marcel Clerget, *Le Caire, Etude de géographie urbaine et d'histoire économique*, 2 vols. (Cairo, 1934), II, 313-17; and in André Raymond, *Artisans et commerçants au Caire au XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle*, 2 vols. (Damascus, 1973-4), I, 256. The best

(*hawāṣil*) on the groundfloor, chamberrooms (*atbāq*) on the second floor and a connecting stable (*istabl*) to one side was designed to serve as a hostelry as well as a market place. The rectangular or square shape of the courtyard often resulted in a rectangular or square shape for the structure as a whole, and such common *wakāla* plans may be seen today by visiting numerous still-extant *wakā'il* in the heart of the old city. Despite the common pattern, it will probably be borne out in studies of commercial architecture now being made<sup>(1)</sup> that general rules of *wakāla* construction were as often broken as those applied to the construction of private houses and religious buildings and that architectural plans frequently followed contours shaped by earlier structures or set by existing neighbouring buildings. This seems to have been the case with Wakālat al-Ǧallāba.

One of its curious architectural features are two identical *bābs*<sup>(2)</sup>. The main doorway, fronting on Sharia aş-Şanādiqīyya, is decorated in post-Mamluk style of pleasant but undistinguished taste. Its lintel is of two stones (or one stone cut in imitation of two), the lower flat and upper relieving arches exhibiting the customary joggled voussoirs. The name of Allah is embossed in the center of the top arch. The sides of the doorway are bordered by a modest interlooping rope moulding; they are otherwise plain except for ornamental panels recessed on both sides slightly above mid-point and for capitals done in simple *muqarnas* design located on the jambs. There is no hint of Ottoman influence in the overall design<sup>(3)</sup>.

Today the main *bāb* opens onto a wide corridor which runs the length of the structure. It is divided into three sections. The first measures approximately three meters in width by 13 meters in length and is entirely closed in by arched

western descriptions of Wakālat al-Ǧallāba are in : W. Jowett, *Christian Researches in the Mediterranean*, (London, 1822), 122-5; Stephen Olin, *Travels in Egypt, Arabia Petraea and the Holy Land*, 2 vols. (New York, 1860), I, 61; and Gérard de Nerval, *Voyage en Orient*, 3rd edition, 2 vols. (Paris, 1851), I, 162-4.

<sup>(1)</sup> Mr. Fawzī Muḥammad Amin of the

Architectural Section, Ministry of Awqāf, is studying medieval period *wakā'il* as is Mme. 'Abd al-Tawwāb of Cairo University.

<sup>(2)</sup> Lettered « F » in Figure 3.

<sup>(3)</sup> See Figure 1. Source : Jean Bourgoin, *Précis de l'Art arabe et Matériaux pour servir à l'histoire, à la théorie et à la technique des Arts de l'Orient Musulman*, 4 vols. (Paris, 1892), I, plate 70, titled « Porte ».

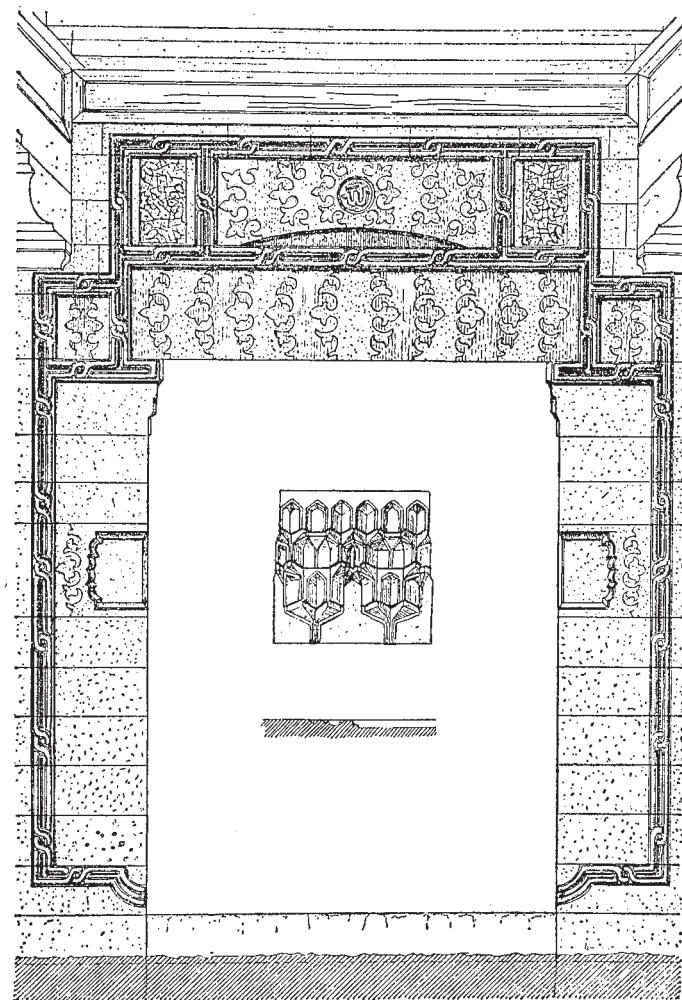


FIGURE 1. — *Bāb* of Wakālat al-Ğallāba  
(letter F in Figure 3).

vaulting<sup>(1)</sup>. The second section, open to the sky, measures roughly five meters by six in length and is surrounded on its east and west sides by rows of storerooms. The final section, also enclosed by vaulted arches, narrows to the width of the first

<sup>(1)</sup> It is this portion — the first *bāb* and the «vestibule» — which was marked for preservation : *Procès-verbaux du Comité de conservation*, Fasc. XXXVI, 66.

section and extends 12 meters in length. Just beyond the point where the corridor narrows is found the second *bāb*. Covered by dust and somewhat obscured by modern wood and stone additions, this second doorway is easily missed, yet a close look reveals what appears to be an exact replica, including the embossed «Allah», of the doorway on Ṣanādīqīyya. Both doorways, therefore, may date from the same period of construction; the second *bāb* seems to have corresponded to an entrance to inner apartments in the early al-Bārīzī residence.

Entrances to eight or nine storerooms backing onto shops facing Ṣanādīqīyya may have been reached through small doors on either side of the first section of the corridor (modification of the original structure makes this difficult to verify), and another ten storerooms open out onto the wider middle section. The remaining six storerooms now located in the *wakāla* are entered from an alley outside the northern facade of the building. The masonry of all these dependencies have the appearance of original stonework, and it seems unlikely that modern renovations disturbed their original arrangement<sup>(1)</sup>.

A second storey of rooms or apartments (*rab'*), constructed in the seventeenth century and often visited by western travellers in the nineteenth, has now disappeared. It has in modern times been replaced by a mountainous rubbish heap. Earlier, the second floor was reached by several staircases, one of which was located in Ṣanādīqīyya<sup>(2)</sup>.

Drawings of Wakālat al-Ǧallāba<sup>(3)</sup> all depict a building with a large central courtyard surrounded on all sides by *hawāṣil*, measuring the distance of five storerooms on one side and perhaps six or seven on the other. Since *hawāṣil* in the present day structure extend 2.9 meters in width as a rule (using as a basis

<sup>(1)</sup> The following people generously provided advice or assistance on the foregoing description: Mr. 'Abd al-Tawwāb of the Antiquities Service, Mr. Fawzī Muḥammad Amīn, and Mr. Sam Peterson.

<sup>(2)</sup> (MSA) (Mahkama) aş-Šāliḥīyya an-Naḡmīyya, vol. 527, p. 228, No. 484. A *sullum bi-rab'* Wakālat al-Ǧallāba was opposite Hammām al-Ḥarrāṭīn.

<sup>(3)</sup> Robert Hay, *Illustrations of Cairo*, (London, 1840), plate XXV, « Slave Market »; Hector Horeau, *Panorama d'Egypte et de Nubie*, (Paris, 1841), plate titled « Marché d'esclaves » between pp. 4-5; G. Ebers, *Egypt, Descriptive, Historical and Picturesque*, 2 vols. (London, 1898), II, plate titled « Slave Market », facing p. 36.

a crude floor tile count), a courtyard with the approximate dimensions of 14.5 meters by 17.4 to 20.3 meters should be expected. Yet where is it now?

Title deeds registered in the *Mahkama* in the eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth centuries indicate two other special features of the *wakāla*'s physical plan during those times. First, the area formerly known as « Hawš al-Bārizī » had been transformed into two separate but connecting buildings, or in effect two *wakā'il*<sup>(1)</sup>. The smaller « *wakāla* » abutted onto Sharia aş-Şanādiqīyya and is probably that part of the original building that remains today. The larger « *wakāla* », encompassing the central courtyard described so often in the literature, extended on the northern side of the smaller one and would have been reached either by passing through the former from the entrance on Şanādiqīyya or by an alley once originating in Ḥān al-Ḥalili. This larger portion would have been located on the direct path of Sharia Ğawhar al-Qā'id (ex-Sharia al-Mūskī, ex-Sikka al-Ğadīda) and was almost certainly torn down when that street was extended from al-Āṣraf mosque to the eastern desert in 1863-6<sup>(2)</sup>. In reconstructing the boundaries of the missing portion of the original building (Figure 3), it has been assumed that shops now facing Sharia Ğawhar al-Qā'id directly north of present day Wakālat al-Ğallāba date from the nineteenth century and that a more or less straight rear wall line of shop boundaries on the northern side of the street (see Figure 2), as shown in the 1937 Survey Department map of Cairo (scale : 500:1), was the probable northern boundary of the original Wakālat al-Ğallāba complex<sup>(3)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> For instance, al-Bāb al-Ālī, vol. 409, p. 234, No. 577 (1254/1838), a storeroom is described as « *dāhil al-wakālat al-mā'rūfa bi-wakālat al-ābid dāhil hawš al-Bārizī al-mā'rūf bi 'l-wakālat aş-ṣuğrā al-mutawaṣil minha lil-wakālat al-kubrā al-mā'rūfa bi-hawš al-Bārizi ... ».*

« Wakālat aş-Şuğrā » should not be confused with Ḥān Masrūr or Wakālat as-Safāt, both of which were controlled by different awqāf.

<sup>(2)</sup> Amīn Sāmī, *Taqwīm an-Nil*, 6 vols. (Cairo, 1334-55/1916-35), III, part 2, 512, 640. When the street was completed, Wakālat al-Ğallāba opened out onto it : 'Ali Mubārak,

*Hiṭat*, II, 85; similar information is recorded in a title deed dated 1868 : (MSA) Qism al-Askariyya, vol. 283, p. 49, No. 42 (5 Muḥarram 1285); the completed street appears for the first time on the « Plan de la Ville du Caire et de ses Environs en 1868 », lithograph by Maurat-Comte, Marseille.

<sup>(3)</sup> We have also taken into account boundaries mentioned in the description of the al-Bārizī residence which suggest a more northern location of the site. At that time its western and northern boundaries (*bāhri* and *śarqī* respectively) touched on Ḥān Masrūr and a « renovated ḥān near Ḥān al-Ḥalili ». In

Second, *Mahkama* deeds<sup>(1)</sup> and European travel accounts<sup>(2)</sup> attest to the existence in former times of an alley ('atfa) inside the original building. Lane commented somewhat mischievously, « As there is a thoroughfare through this weka'lah, the slaves are often exposed to public view; and they amuse themselves by observing and quizzing the passengers »<sup>(3)</sup>. The alley was too small to have been noted to the *Description de l'Egypte* map of Cairo, but it is clearly discernible in more detailed maps published by Grand bey in 1874 and by the Survey Department in 1923<sup>(4)</sup>. The alley's route is now obliterated by modern construction, but it is very likely that the wide corridor running the length of the present day building is a remnant and that it once exited the demolished portion of Wakālat al-Ǧallāba somewhere on the eastern side of the courtyard, leading into Ḥān al-Ḥalili. No doubt this alley related to a *cul-de-sac* and rights-of-way (*haqq al-istaṭrāq*) mentioned in the al-Bārizī residence description.

Prior to Muḥammad 'Alī's reign, Cairo streets were bounded by mastabas<sup>(5)</sup>. Therefore, they must also have been constructed in the alley in Wakālat al-Ǧallāba. To Europeans visiting the market and walking through the southern half of the complex — that part of the corridor affronted by storerooms — it must indeed

the nineteenth century 'Alī Mubārak indicated that Wakālat al-Šilihdār, in Ḥān al-Ḥalili, had a doorway which projected onto Wakālat al-Ǧallāba « which is on Ḥarrāṭin because [the wakāla] is behind it » : *Hiṭat*, V, 15.

<sup>(1)</sup> Three storerooms are described as « *kā'inīn dāhil ḥān al-Bārizī al-madkūr dāhil al-'atfa illatī dāhil al-ḥān al-madkūr ...* » : al-Bāb al-'Alī, vol. 118, p. 316, No. 1322 (1046/1637); *ibid.*, vol. 409, p. 234, No. 577 (1254/1838).

<sup>(2)</sup> *Voyage d'Italie et du Levant, de Fermanel Fauvel, de Launay et Stochove*, (Rouen, 1670), 416; *Journal des voyages de Monsieur de Monconys*, (Lyon, 1665), 278, 286; *The Travels of Monsieur de Thevenot into the Levant*,

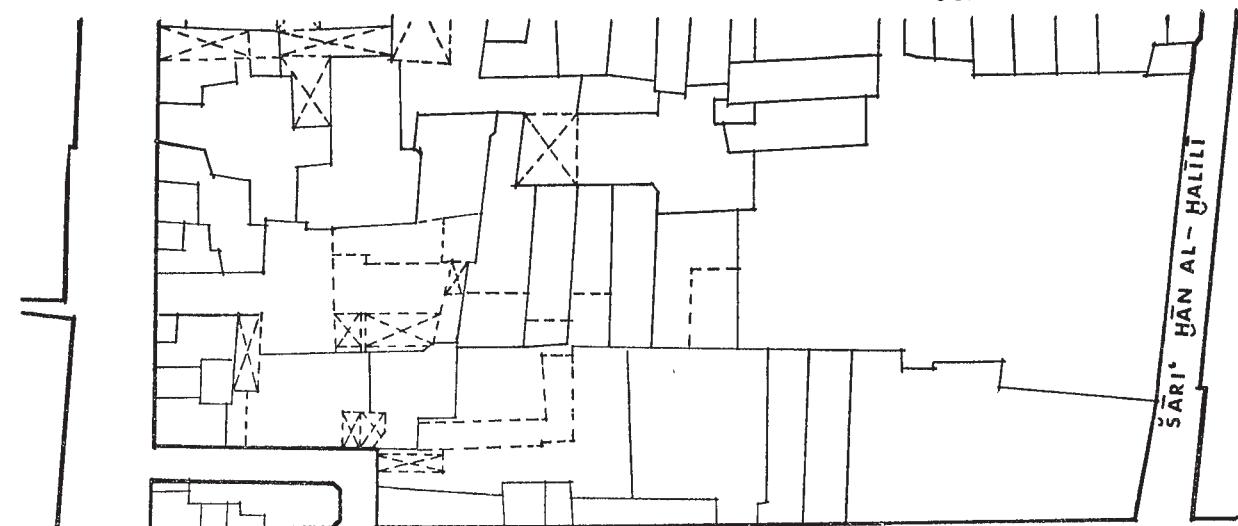
(London, 1686), Part 1, 143. The author is indebted to Professor Jean-Claude Garcin for bringing these references to his attention.

<sup>(3)</sup> Edward W. Lane, *Description of Egypt (Notes and Views in Egypt and Nubia during the Years 1825-26-27-28)*, British Museum MS, 9 vols., Add. 34080-8, I, 165. Portions were later published as *Cairo Fifty Years Ago* (London, 1896).

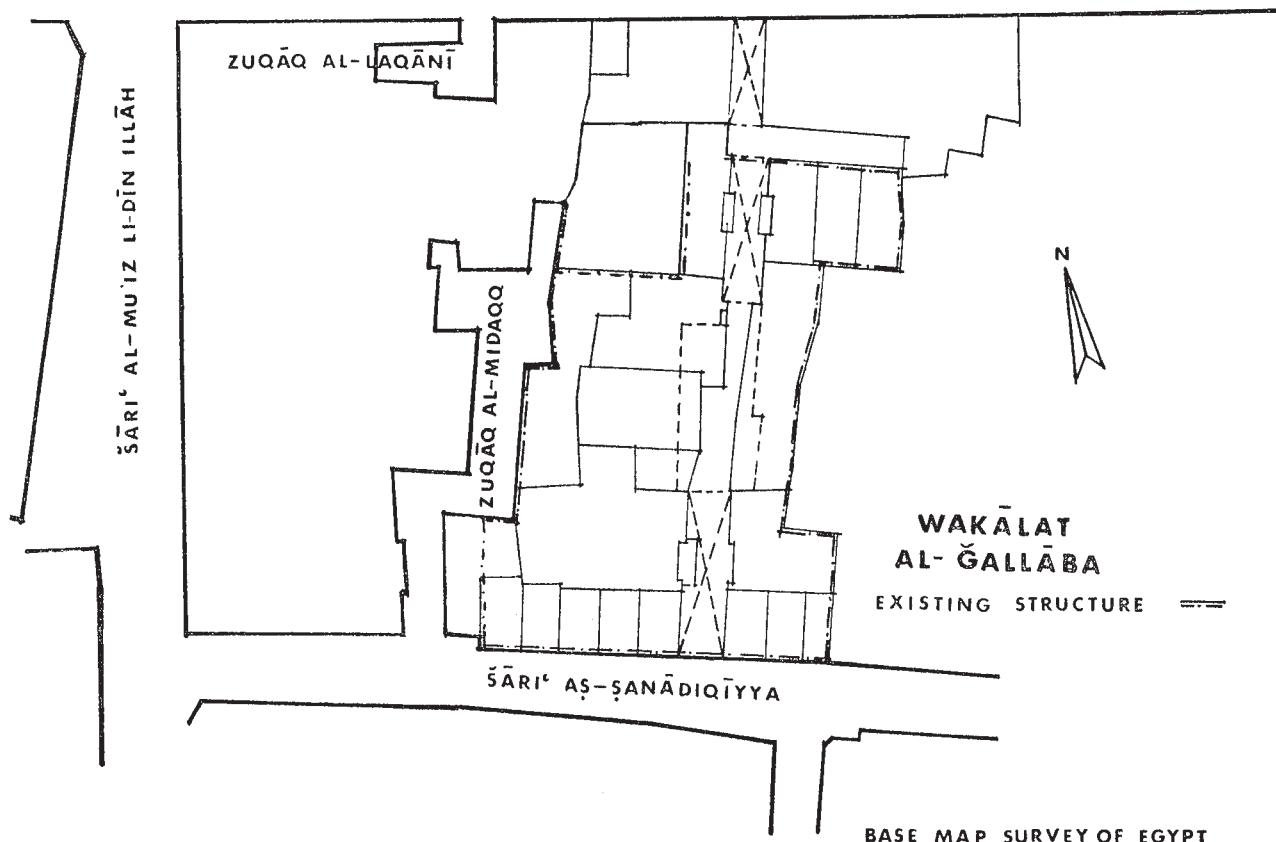
<sup>(4)</sup> Grand bey, « *Plan de la Ville du Caire* », (Cairo, 1874); Survey of Egypt, « *Map of Cairo showing Mohammedan Monuments* », (Giza, 1923).

<sup>(5)</sup> On the demotion of mastabas, E.W. Lane, *Manners and Customs of the Modern Egyptians*, (Everyman Edition, New York, 1954), 322.

FIGURE 2



AS-SIKKAT AL-ĞADĪDA (AL-MŪSKĪ)

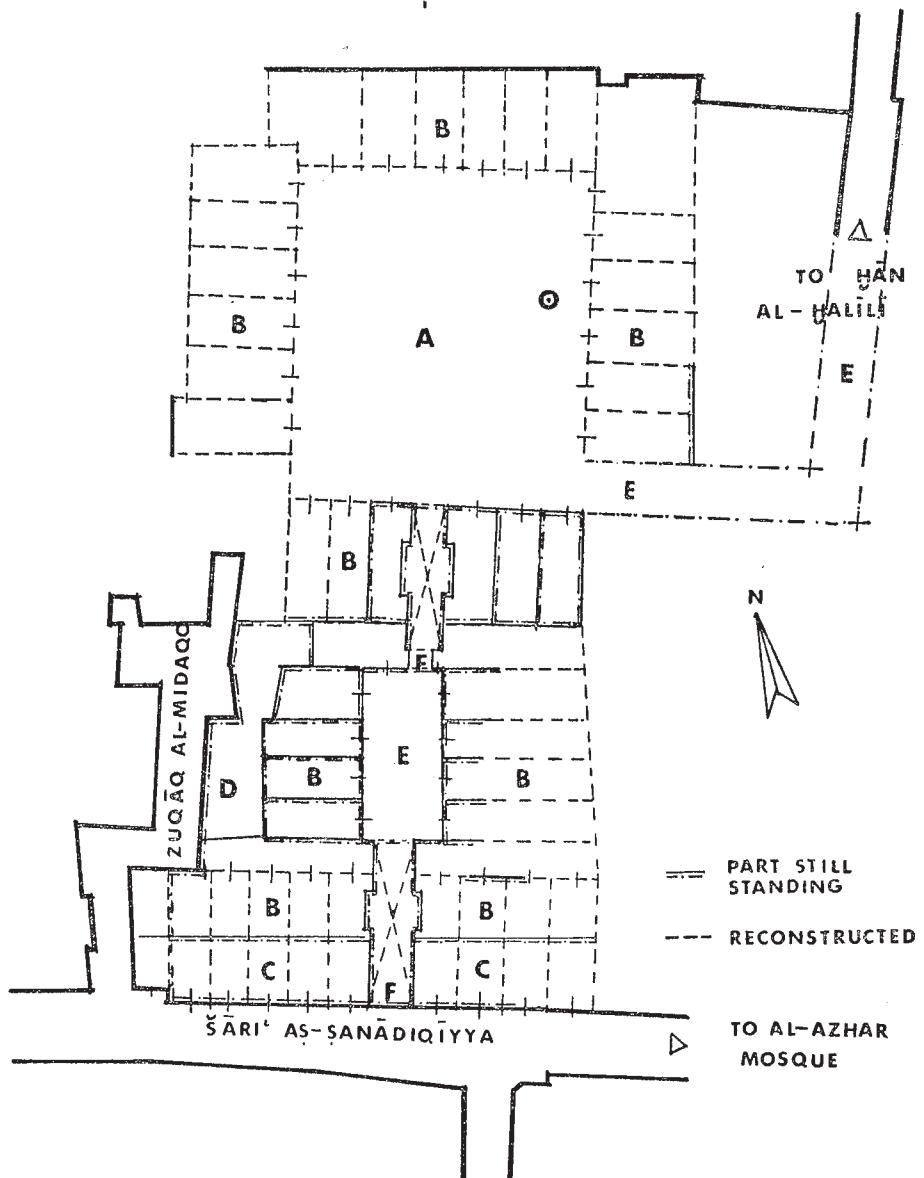


(Drawing, Muna Sirāq ad-Dīn)

FIGURE 3

**WAKĀLAT AL-ĞALLĀBA**  
PLAN RECONSTRUCTION-GROUND FLOOR

A - CENTRAL COURTYARD	E - PASSAGEWAY
B - VAULTED STOREROOMS	F - IDENTICAL PORTALS
C - SHOPS	○ - WELL
D - AREA OF STABLES	+ - DOORS TO STOREROOMS



(Drawing, Muna Sirāq ad-Dīn)

have seemed to them as though slaves were exhibited while « ranged the length of houses »<sup>(1)</sup>. In fact, they were sitting or standing outside *hawāṣil*.

### LOCALIZATION OF AFRICAN TRADE AT WAKĀLAT AL-ĞALLĀBA

An interesting theme in Cairene commercial history is the remarkably continuous location of specialized trades in the same quarter or street over a long period of time. As Raymond has shown, the placement of markets as found by the French at the end of the eighteenth century are surprisingly similar to locations mentioned by Maqrīzī in the fifteenth<sup>(2)</sup>. A history of Wakālat al-Ğallāba from the early seventeenth to the mid-nineteenth century seems to bear the overall picture out, and yet during this period the position of the market underwent subtle but significant changes.

Evidence from the various names given to the *wakāla* in *Mahkama* texts testify to the general market preoccupation : Wakālat al-‘Abīd, Wakālat ar-Raqīq, Wakālat an-Nūbī all indicate its use as a slave market even though other products from the interior were just as heavily traded there. What is noteworthy, perhaps, is not the continuity of this particular trade at this particular market, but the fact that prior to the eighteenth century local merchants trading in Sudan goods (as distinct from *ğallāba*, or travelling merchants) often occupied commercial quarters outside Wakālat al-Ğallāba. In the latter part of the seventeenth century, for instance, al-Hāgḡ Ibrāhim Madkūr (d. ca. 1670), engaged in trade between Egypt, Sudan and Ḥiğāz, owned storerooms in Wakālat al-Ḥamzāwī as-Şuğrā (on Ṣanādiqīyya/Harrāṭīn), Wakālat al-Ḥamzāwī al-Kubrā (on *ḥuṭṭ* al-Bunduqānīn) and Sūq al-Ğawār (Bunduqānīn?). Aḥmad Šūrbağī « al-Ğazzār » (d. 1690), operating in a similar commercial network, stored goods at Ḥān az-Zarākisa (Harrāṭīn). Muḥammad aş-Şanaylī (d. 1698) kept his stock of ivory, tamarind, ebony, feathers, beads, textiles and other staples of the African trade at Ḥān aş-Şuğgā (Bunduqānīn)<sup>(3)</sup>. All these *wakā'il* are located within a short distance

<sup>(1)</sup> *Voyage d'Italie et du Levant, de Fer-  
manel, etc., 416; Journal de ... Monsieur de  
Monconys, 278.*

<sup>(2)</sup> *Artisans*, I, 319 ff.

<sup>(3)</sup> (MSA) al-Qism al-‘Askariyya, vol. 69,  
p. 377 (1981/1671); *ibid.*, vol. 74, p. 292

of each other and of Wakālat al-Ǧallāba, and while it cannot have been unusual for merchants trading in the same goods to have operated out of different khans within a general district, the situation had clearly changed by the end of the eighteenth century. By that time, Sudan merchants were entirely housed in Wakālat al-Ǧallāba and its two adjuncts<sup>(1)</sup>.

Thus, evidence suggests that the exclusive location of trade in Sudan goods at Wakālat al-Ǧallāba occurred sometime during the eighteenth century and most probably during its third and fourth decades. This development may have evolved naturally — the result of independent actions by *wakāla* merchants — or have been produced by government interference in local commerce. Perhaps the most plausible explanation at this time involves a conjunction of the two. The *wakāla*'s enhanced position necessitated considerable enlargement of its facilities and prompted a tightened control over its operatives by the authorities.

Eighteenth-century renovations are indicated in descriptions of the market's dependencies as listed in a half-dozen rental contracts (*ḥuḡaġ at-tawāġir*) registered in the courts (copies of which are preserved in the Ministry of Awqāf). At the beginning of the seventeenth, it will be recalled, Wakālat al-Ǧallāba enclosed 39 inside storerooms, two outside storerooms and a stable. During the following hundred years, a second storey and possibly other rooms were added, for in 1704 the building is described as having 44 storerooms (including two *ḥazāna*), 22 chamberrooms, 9 shops (*hawānīt bi-haqq al-nisf*), a *maq'ad* and *mahzan*<sup>(2)</sup> — obviously remnants of the al-Bārizī structure — a stable and a mill for grinding coffee (*midaqq bunn qahwa*). The complex was rented for a period of three years to al-Ḥāġġ 'Abd al-Karīm 'Alī as-Samhūdī and his son, 'Abd ar-Rahmān, for 19,500 *nisf fidḍa* per year. They were allowed to pay the rent in four yearly installments and to deduct from the amount due the sum of 225 *nisf* for the hire of doorkeepers (*uğrat al-biwaṭa*). In addition, they were required to pay a yearly *hulwān* fee, presumably in order to renew an earlier contract which has not been

(1089/1678); *ibid.*, vol. 84, p. 58 (1102/1690);  
*ibid.*, vol. 84, p. 425 (1102/1691); (Mahkama)  
 al-Qism al-‘Arabiyya, vol. 72, p. 114, No. 183  
 (1110/1698).

<sup>(1)</sup> Jomard, « Description abrégée », 723;

this is confirmed by data from *Mahkama* archives.

<sup>(2)</sup> *Maq'ad* : open reception room; *mahzan* : storage room; *ḥazāna* : another term for *ḥāṣil* but perhaps not open to the courtyard.

preserved, which was fixed at 900 *nisf* to the *nāzir* of the Ğawrī waqf and 400 *nisf* to waqf scribes. An identical contract was drawn up between the same parties in 1707 and carried the same description and similar financial details. In 1719 the *wakāla* was rented to 'Abd ar-Rahmān alone for the sum of 20,000 *nisf* per year while the *nāzir*'s fee was reduced from 900 to 800 *nisf*<sup>(1)</sup>.

In late 1721 'Abd ar-Rahmān renewed his lease for the usual three year period, but the rent was established at 4,329 *nisf* above a now customary rate of 20,000 *nisf* per year. The increase was due to 17 new (*mustaġidd*) chamberrooms and a new storeroom<sup>(2)</sup>. The deed signals the beginning of a number of renovations which 'Abd ar-Rahmān or the Ğawrī *nāzir* undertook, not all of which were made in connection with the market's commercial facilities. In 1743, for instance, 'Abd ar-Rahmān rented on a long-term basis the stable and one storeroom which he had been allowed to transform into a bakery (*furn mu'add al-‘amal al-ahbāz al-qamh al-hintā*)<sup>(3)</sup>. He himself paid day-to-day costs and submitted a bill to the *nāzir* for 20,125 *nisf* that included the cost of cement (*mawn*) — lime, gypsum and clay — of stones and bricks, ashes, wood, tiles, padlocks, mats and other materials<sup>(4)</sup> as well as wages of masons, laborers, surveyors, porters and haulers of dirt to the city's refuse mounds. By way of repaying him, the *nāzir* allowed 'Abd ar-Rahmān to lease the bakery — a profitable property — for only 15 *nisf* per year<sup>(5)</sup>.

By 1751, the date of the last rent contract we have been able to find, Wakālat al-Ğallāba had 45 storerooms and 49 chamberrooms : in the thirty-three year interval between this contract and 1719, 27 new chamberrooms and one storeroom had been added, doubling in size the number of private quarters available to visiting merchants. The tenants this time were 'Abd ar-Rahmān and his brother, Mūsā — identified elsewhere as tenant of Wakālat Aruzz in Bulaq, the port of Cairo<sup>(6)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> « Waṭā'iq al-muktašifa », No. 949 (7 Muḥarram 1116/1704); No. 555 (18 Dū 'l-Qaḍā 1118/1707); No. 810 (18 Rabī' I 1131/1719). Contracts were always dated from the beginning of Muḥarram to the end of Dū 'l-Hiġga. They tended to be drawn up during the month of Rabī' al-Awwal.

<sup>(2)</sup> *Ibid.*, No. 88 (5 Rabī' I 1134).

<sup>(3)</sup> This has now (1973) been turned into a henna mill. Entry is from Zuqāq al-Midaqq.

<sup>(4)</sup> *Habl nāsūs* and *dablāq*.

<sup>(5)</sup> (MSA) al-Bāb al-‘Āli, vol. 227, p. 183, No. 350 (8 Rağab 1156).

<sup>(6)</sup> Al-Qism al-‘Askariyya, vol. 161, p. 295, No. 379 (20 Muḥarram 1164).

— who accepted a lease for three contract periods or nine years. The annual rent had risen to 25,500 *nisf fidda* to account for the extensions while wages of doorkeepers remained steady at 225 *nisf* and *hulwān* fees also remained fixed at 800 and 400 *nisf* to *nāzir* and scribes respectively<sup>(1)</sup>.

The role played by 'Abd ar-Rahmān al-Bannāwī or Bunnāwī — a *lagab* he assumed during these years — was significant in the organization of the Sudan trade in Cairo as a whole. Not only was he from an early age co-tenant or tenant of the market building (he died in 1769), thereby coming into continual contact with visiting merchants from the interior, but he became shaikh of brokers and merchants stationed permanently in the *wakāla*. It may be that the two offices were regularly associated in Ottoman Cairo<sup>(2)</sup>, but in 'Abd ar-Rahmān's case he seems first to have been tenant and then to have become guild shaikh. He exhibited an innovative spirit in trade and personal affairs — *Mahkama* texts show he was almost constantly buying, renovating and selling real estate in the city and on his final residence, made into waqf in 1755, he spent 3,000 *maḥbūbs* (330,000 *nisf*)<sup>(3)</sup>, an enormous sum by current standards<sup>(4)</sup> — and at one point levied an illegal tax (*mazlama*) on bluers and sellers of *batīna* cloth who came to the *wakāla* to do business with *gallāba* when they arrived in the city<sup>(5)</sup>. His general industriousness could suggest that he actively encouraged localization of trade in Sudan goods at Wakālat al-Ǧallāba. Certainly there were financial rewards for such a course of action, as will become clear in the section below.

In any event, he was recognized by civilian authorities as shaikh of the « guild of brokers dealing in imported [black] slaves (*ṭā'ifat al-dallālin fir-raqīq al-ḡalab*) when it was incorporated *ca.* 1733 and was held personally responsible for seeing that brokers paid a duty collected on the sale of slaves in his market<sup>(6)</sup>. The

<sup>(1)</sup> « Waṭā'iq al-muktašifa », No. 90 (18 Rabi' II 1164).

<sup>(2)</sup> Market tenant — guild shaikh relationships need further examination.

<sup>(3)</sup> (MSA) al-Bāb al-‘Ālī, vol. 249, p. 170, No. 255 (8 Ṣafar 1169/1755). A biographical sketch is found in the author's « Trade between Egypt and *Bilād as-Sūdān* », 276-89.

<sup>(4)</sup> It equalled the value of houses owned

by the richest merchants of Cairo according to Raymond : *Artisans*, II, 409.

<sup>(5)</sup> (MSA) as-Ṣālihiyya an-Naġmīyya, vol. 516, p. 81, No. 183 (12 Muḥarram 1144/1731). He was obliged to rescind the tax.

<sup>(6)</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 516, p. 320, No. 784 (10 Ša'bān 1145/1733). The document refers to an earlier contract dated 1731 which has been lost or misfiled in *Mahkama* archives. An

earliest document concerning the guild stemmed from an imperial *faramān*, carrying with it all the sense of official approval that such decrees embodied, and in addition to rules it laid down affecting the guild's organization, it singled out Wakālat al-Ğallāba and Ḥān Masrūr as specific outlets for Sudan products in the city. 'Abd ar-Rahmān, tenant of Wakālat al-Ğallāba, was made shaikh of brokers in both khans.

The movement to enlarge the size of the *ğallāba*'s caravansary, possibly as a result of the tenant's personal ingenuity, became linked with the authorities desire to tighten control over urban revenues. As a consequence, Wakālat al-Ğallāba became the central market and storage depot for Sudan goods during most of the eighteenth century up to the middle of the nineteenth. Under European pressure Muḥammad 'Ali prohibited the sale of slaves there in 1842, but the building continued to be occupied by merchants selling Sudan goods until the 1880's<sup>(1)</sup>. Today it is very much delapidated but still known by its old name. It is no longer a market but serves as a storage depot for merchants selling henna, paper and other goods.

#### THE WAKĀLA'S PERSONNEL : OFFICIALS AND OPERATIVES

Documents from *Maḥkama* archives show that *wakā'il*, as specialized markets, contained fairly complex coteries of officials and operatives, the layers of people involved quite obviously depending upon the type of goods handled by the market. At Wakālat al-Ğallāba the number of market officials may have been somewhat larger than average since the trade in slaves, among other « commodities » sold there, was regulated by the government by means of a tax farm and individual transactions required the attendance of legal witnesses<sup>(2)</sup>. As the tenant was also shaikh of the resident guild, he was clearly the most important personality in the

article discussing this and other guild documents is forthcoming.

<sup>(1)</sup> Amin Sāmī, II, 518; see also the author's « Notes on the Organization of the African Trade in Cairo, 1800-1850 », *Annales Islamologiques*, XI (1972), 263-86.

<sup>(2)</sup> The sale of gold dust (*tibr dahab*) and ivory may also have been as complex — involving tax farms and special brokers — but relatively little information about these interesting trades is found in *Maḥkama* texts.

the market and any discussion of the *wakāla*'s personnel should be begin with him.

**TENANT.** Names of tenants (titled in our sources *al-Mustā'iriş*, *al-Hāngī*, but also *al-Bawwāb*<sup>(1)</sup>) for the period 1704-59 have been recovered : they all refer to 'Abd ar-Rahmān al-Bannāwī and members of his family (father and brother). Wakālat al-Ğallāba probably continued to be leased during the rest of the eighteenth century and for part of the nineteenth, though precise information is lacking. More research into the means by which Muḥammad 'Alī implemented his far-ranging reforms in local trade needs to be done, and the possibility that he took over leases to *wakā'il* controlled by state awqāf (such as *Waqt al-Ğawrī*) should not be dismissed. Yet when the shaikh of Wakālat al-Ğallāba was obliged to rent alternative market space in 1842 in pursuance of the pasha's wishes<sup>(2)</sup>, this could be interpreted as evidence that the *wakāla* continued to be let as it had under the Mamluk regime.

The tenant assumed management of the market and, as shown earlier, paid the wages of doorkeepers. Through them he allocated rooms to visitors, collecting a monthly rent in advance<sup>(3)</sup>. Resident merchants paid in general 30 *nisf fidḍa* per month for storerooms at the end of the seventeenth century and close to 50 *nisf* in the eighteenth<sup>(4)</sup>; private quarters (*aṭbāq*) may have gone for 15 *nisf* per month<sup>(5)</sup>. If the tenant was able to rent out all the rooms in the *wakāla* during the whole of the year, he would have collected from 27,020 *nisf* to 35,820 *nisf* from rents alone. However, on the basis of a fairly high number of property

<sup>(1)</sup> For instance, *al-Hāngī* : (MSA) as-Şāli-ḥīyya an-Nağmīyya, vol. 516, p. 272, No. 652 (1145/1732); (Maḥkama series) al-Dašt, vol. 232, p. 24 (1135/1723); *al-Bawwāb* : as-Şāli-ḥīyya an-Nağmīyya, vol. 511, p. 365, No. 831 (1127/1715); al-Qism al-'Askarīyya, vol. 117, p. 6, No. 10 (1132/1720). *Al-Bawwāb* here would seem to be idiomatic as it ordinarily referred to doorkeepers.

<sup>(2)</sup> (MSA) (Maḥkama series) I'lāmāt, vol. 13, p. 104, No. 259 (1259/1843). The shaikh

had paid three months' rent in advance.

<sup>(3)</sup> Raymond, *Artisans*, I, 257-8; Richard Burton, *Personal Narrative of a Pilgrimage to Al-Medinah and Meccah*, 2 vols., (New York, 1964) I, 42. Burton termed it «key money».

<sup>(4)</sup> Al-Qism al-'Askarīyya, vol. 86, p. 176, No. 213 (1104/1693); *ibid.*, vol. 150, pp. 129-30 (1154/1741); *ibid.*, vol. 273, p. 245, No. 531 (1235/1820).

<sup>(5)</sup> Raymond, *Artisans*, I, 259.

deeds affecting ownership of *hawāṣil* and *aṭbāq* in Wakālat al-Ğallāba, the tenant was limited in the number of rooms at his disposal (see the following section). On the other hand, if he was unable to cover the annual rent of the *wakāla* (25,500 *nīṣf* during the latter part of the eighteenth century), he had further recompense in the form of market taxes. At the end of the century, each *ğallāb* paid 60 *nīṣf* ( $\frac{1}{2}$  *māhibūb*) to him for the right to use the market<sup>(1)</sup>. As great caravans from the interior could number from 400 to 500 merchants<sup>(2)</sup>, the tenant may have earned from 24,000 to 30,000 *nīṣf* in market taxes, sufficient to cover his costs. In theory, at least, he could have cleared as much as 40,000 *nīṣf* yearly from his position, providing all rooms at the *wakāla* were available and full occupancy was maintained throughout the year.

In practice neither condition was met. Not only did private merchants and other individuals own storerooms and chamberrooms in their own right, but large caravans rarely came every year to Egypt. When they did, merchants seldom stayed in Cairo more than six to eight months<sup>(3)</sup>. There must have been, consequently, lean years in the tenant's business. As shaikh of the guild, part of the loss was made up by special financial privileges attached to that office (see below), but other tactics may have been adopted. Although he had been wealthy enough to spend a fortune on his private residence, 'Abd ar-Rahmān al-Bannāwī apparently stopped payment on the *wakāla*'s lease several years before his contracts ran out and upon his death owed 900 *riyals* (81,000 *nīṣf fidā*) to Waqf al-Ğawrī. The debt was larger than the total value of his estate<sup>(4)</sup>.

The market's maintenance staff would have been composed of sweepers and swabbers; they were paid by occupants, not the tenant<sup>(5)</sup>. Little attention seems to have been given to maintenance *per se*. Western travellers commented on the shabbiness of Wakālat al-Ğallāba in the nineteenth century<sup>(6)</sup>, but more reliable

<sup>(1)</sup> P.S. Girard, « Mémoire sur l'agriculture, l'industrie et le commerce de l'Egypte », *Description de l'Egypte, Etat Moderne*, II, 1 (Paris, 1812) 636. In one inventory it was itemized as 'awā'id šayḥ al-ğallāba : (MSA) al-Qism al-'Askariyya, vol. 179, p. 250, No. 433 (1180/1766).

<sup>(2)</sup> *Ibid.*, 632.

<sup>(3)</sup> *Loc. cit.*

<sup>(4)</sup> (MSA) al-Dašt, vol. 284, pp. 326-7 (26 Muḥarram 1183/1769).

<sup>(5)</sup> Burton, I, 43.

<sup>(6)</sup> Olin, I, 61; Hay, « Descriptive Notes » at end of his *Illustrations of Cairo*, 19; James Ewing Cooley, *The American in Egypt*, (New York, 1842), 406-7.

testimony is given in O.B. Carter's drawing of it in the 1830's and published in Hay's *Illustrations of Cairo*. Second floor rooms are in sad repair, the roofs of many having crumbled as to resemble the battlements of a ruined castle. The arches of groundfloor storerooms appear in fairly good condition, but the total effect nonetheless produces a picture of long-time neglect<sup>(1)</sup>.

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS : MULTAZIM AND STAFF.** Slaves imported from Black Africa were taxed by the government upon being sold in Cairo. The tax, called *resm-i pençik* in Turkish, was farmed out annually and in 1798, the privilege to collect it cost the farmer (*multazim*) only 1,623 *nisf*<sup>(2)</sup>. At this time the tax was fixed at either one *riyal* (90 *nisf*) or one *maḥbūb* (120 *nisf*), depending on the sources<sup>(3)</sup>. The number of slaves sold each year at Wakālat al-Ğallāba vary in estimate from as low as 1,500 to as high as 4,000<sup>(4)</sup>, and on these base figures it can be deduced that the *multazim*'s annual earnings ranged from 135,000/180,000 to 360,000/480,000 *nisf*, excluding the paltry cost of his privilege. The Wakālat al-Ğallāba farm proved a profitable if modest source of income for its farmer.

The names of individual holders have escaped mention in *Mahkama* documents with the exception of Amīr Ḥasan Ğāwiš, identified in one text as « *multazim* of Wakālat al-Ğallāba at Bāb az-Zuhūma» (Ḩān Masrūr)<sup>(5)</sup>. He attended the property

<sup>(1)</sup> Significantly, 'Ali Mubārak failed to note a second floor in his description of the *wakāla* though he usually did when describing others.

<sup>(2)</sup> Comte d'Estève, « Mémoire sur les finances de l'Egypte », *Description de l'Egypte, Etat Moderne*, I (Paris, 1809), 362; Stanford S. Shaw, *The Financial and Administrative Organization of Ottoman Egypt, 1517-1798*, (Princeton, 1962), 141, No. 10. On the *pençik* in Turkey : Evliya Čelebi, *Narrative of Travels in Europe, Asia and Africa*, tr. Joseph von Hammer, 2 vols., 3 parts, (London, 1846), I, 1, 176; Robert Mantran, *Istanbul dans la seconde moitié du XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle*, (Paris, 1962), 507.

<sup>(3)</sup> Louis Frank, « Mémoire sur le commerce des Nègres au Caire », appendix in Vivant Denon, *Voyages dans la Basse et la Haute Egypte*, 2 vols., (London, 1807), II, 243; E. de Cadalvane et J. de Breuvery, *L'Egypte et la Turquie de 1829 à 1836*, 2 vols., (Paris, 1836) II, 235, note.

<sup>(4)</sup> Frank, 240; other estimates are found in Girard, *op. cit.*, but they include the total number of slaves imported, many of whom would have been sold in Upper Egypt.

<sup>(5)</sup> Qism al-Askariyya, vol. 179, p. 250, No. 433 (3 Rabi' I 1180); see also Raymond, *Artisans*, II, 646.

inventory of a wealthy Asyūt-born merchant who died in Cairo in 1766 leaving most of his heirs in Dār Fūr, then Egypt's most active trading partner in the interior. A study recently made of the slave trade in sixteenth-century Bursa shows that the corresponding farm regulating the sale of slaves there was divided or sub-contracted<sup>(1)</sup>. It can be postulated that a similar development occurred in Cairo and that different farmers presided over the two markets designated for the sale of black slaves.

The *multazim* exercised his duties with the aid of a small staff. Estève commented that « his agent collected the tax and delivered the necessary papers recording the sale [of each slave]<sup>(2)</sup>. This official has been identified in several *Mahkama* documents as *al-mubāśir al-binġik ar-raqīq al-ġalab* or simply, *al-binġikġi*<sup>(3)</sup>. In each case his name indicates he was Muslim, though Dr. Frank stated that during his residence at the end of the eighteenth century a Coptic scribe performed notarial duties<sup>(4)</sup>. The paper signed by the *binġikġi* (*pençikçi*) included the name and sex of each slave, the names of buyer and seller, the amount of the transaction and the date. It was retained by the purchaser as evidence that the slave tax had been paid and had to be produced by him if he wished to sell or free the slave at a later date<sup>(5)</sup>.

Also attached to the *multazim*'s staff was a cashier (*şarrāf*) and a scribe (*kātib*). Their duties involved the actual collection of taxes and writing of receipts. Both also bore Muslim names during most of the eighteenth century despite the accepted generalization that Christians and Jews monopolized both professions<sup>(6)</sup>. At an earlier time the scribe's office depended on the local *qādī* who regularly confirmed

<sup>(1)</sup> Halil Sahillioglu, « The Position of Slaves in the Social and Economic Life of Bursa in the late 15th and early 16th Centuries », paper presented at Conference on the Economic and Demographic History of the Middle East, Princeton University, 1974, 21-2.

<sup>(2)</sup> Estève, 632.

<sup>(3)</sup> Aş-Şālihiyya an-Naġmīyya, vol. 508, p. 80, No. 272 (1106/1695); *ibid.*, vol. 522, p. 264, No. 612 (1172/1759); *ibid.*, vol. 528, p. 182, No. 364 (1187/1773).

<sup>(4)</sup> Frank, 243.

<sup>(5)</sup> Mantran, 507; James W. Redhouse, *A Turkish and English Lexicon*, (Constantinople, 1890), 454.

<sup>(6)</sup> *Şarrāf*: as-Sayyid aš-Šarīf 'Abd Allah Naṣr (1148/1735); Badawī Ibrāhīm (1173-87/1759-73); *Kātib* : Şayh Aḥmad b. Şayh Muḥammad Šams ad-Dīn (1155-6/1743-4); 'Alī Muḥammad al-Ašmūnaynī (1158-73/1745-59), perhaps Şayh Aḥmad's son.

appointments to it<sup>(1)</sup>, and the custom may have persisted into the eighteenth century.

Administrative officials had a permanent office in Wakālat al-Ǧallāba. The room occupied by the *dīwān* had once been used by a *qahwağī* (coffee-maker) and was located on the left-hand side of the corridor just inside the entrance<sup>(2)</sup>.

**CUSTOMS OFFICER.** Another government official, only rarely mentioned in our sources, was called *mu'arrif al-ǧallāba*<sup>(3)</sup>. His functions are imperfectly known at this time. He would appear to have been connected to the Customs administration and been concerned with ascertaining goods brought by *ǧallāba* to the *wakāla* that were subject to import duties. In this way his office may have been related to an old Cairo customhouse position noted in other *Mahkama* texts as (*wazīfa*) *ta'rif wa kitābat ar-raqīq al-ǧalab*<sup>(4)</sup>.

**JUDICIAL OFFICERS.** The sale of slaves also required the attendance of official witnesses who vouched for the legality of particular transactions. They were known as *šuhūd* (sing. *šāhid*) and were often members of the Cairene religious establishment<sup>(5)</sup>. Associated with them — indeed, probably identical to them — were officials called *'udūl* (sing. *'adl*). One *'adl* identified in *Mahkama* texts seems to belong to a family of *šuhūd*<sup>(6)</sup>. No description of either official exists in local sources or Egyptian travel literature, but the role played by *'udūl* in similar markets in Morocco

<sup>(1)</sup> (MSA) al-Bāb al-Ālī, vol. 51, p. 70, No. 390 and p. 79, No. 445 (993/1585).

<sup>(2)</sup> Aṣ-Šāliḥīyya an-Nağmīyya, vol. 524, p. 566, No. 1026 (1175/1761); al-Qism al-'Askariyya, vol. 218, p. 98 (1206/1791); al-Bāb al-Ālī, vol. 367, p. 49, No. 107 (1236/1821).

<sup>(3)</sup> As-Šāliḥīyya an-Nağmīyya, vol. 517, p. 357, Nos. 841 and 842 (1148/1735).

<sup>(4)</sup> (MSA) (Mahkama series) *at-Taqārīr an-Nuzzār*, vol. 9, p. 46, No. 341 (1176/1762); the office was taken over by Muḥammad 'Alī in 1821 : *ibid.*, vol. 31, p. 15, No. 59

(28) Ğumāda I 1236). On other *mu'arrifin* attached to customhouses, see Shaw, *Financial and Administrative Organization*, 81, and Raymond, *Artisans*, II, 606.

<sup>(5)</sup> For example, Šayḥ Yūsuf b. Šayḥ Yūsuf as-Sabsīrī (1014/1605); Aḥmad and 'Abd ar-Rahmān, sons of Šayḥ Yūsuf al-Ḥanbālī (1175/1761); and members of the al-Ḥaṭīb aš-Širbīnī family (1141-1212/1728-1797).

<sup>(6)</sup> Šayḥ Abū 'l-Hasan b. (former) Šayḥ al-Islām al-Ḥaṭīb aš-Širbīnī (source : footnote 3 above).

has been well documented<sup>(1)</sup>. According to these sources, they drew up slave sale papers, a task which in Cairo was seemingly performed by the *multazim*'s staff. In some as yet unspecified area the two employments overlapped.

**MARKET OPERATIVES.** Trading rested in the hands of merchants and brokers. The former are usually identified as *tuğğār fir-raqīq al-ğalab*, the latter as *dallālin fir-raqīq al-ğalab*. Both were organized along well known guild lines, but the terms « merchant » and « broker » are employed so ambiguously in *Maḥkama* documents that it remains difficult if not impossible to distinguish between the two except on theoretical grounds. The author has argued elsewhere that for general purposes the two guilds were in fact one, merchants usually having licenses to practice brokerage<sup>(2)</sup>.

In this discussion, the broker's role is most pertinent. The authorities held *dallālin* responsible for paying the *resm-i pençik* (the cost of which was no doubt passed onto clients). By imposing the obligation on them rather than on merchants they were recognizing a market customary law which required that slaves be sold through brokers. For their services they received a one per cent commission<sup>(3)</sup>. We cannot be concerned here with all the details involved in brokerage or even the organization of the brokers' guild, but in line with our aim to describe how the *wakāla* functioned, certain key guild regulations may be pointed out.

The guild at Wakālat al-Ğallāba had the usual hierarchy : a shaikh served as headman and a *naqib* acted as deputy. In two documents registered by the guild in the 1730's the total membership numbered 12 brokers, including the shaikh. In 1772, 11 merchants witnessed court registration of a new shaikh of

<sup>(1)</sup> Roger Le Tourneau, *Fez avant le protectorat*, (Casablanca, 1949), 202; C. René-Leclerc, « Le commerce et l'industrie à Fez », *Bull. Comité de l'Afrique française, Renseignements coloniaux*, No. 8 (August, 1905), 318; Gabriel Veyre, *Dans l'intimité du sultan*, (Paris, 1905), 228. See also the article on 'adl by E. Tyan in *Encyclopedia of Islam*,

2nd edition, I, 209-10.

<sup>(2)</sup> « Trade between Egypt and *Bilād as-Sūdān* », 121-2; 237-42; it will be further discussed in forthcoming article on the guild.

<sup>(3)</sup> Raymond, *Artisans*, I, 274. The commission rose to 2 per cent in the nineteenth century.

the *ṭā’ifat al-tuġġār fīr-raqīq al-ġalab* <sup>(1)</sup> — thus a membership of 12 seems to have been average for most of the eighteenth century. All guild members pooled their brokerage earnings and divided them equally. Due to his ranking position, the shaikh was given extraordinary allowances. Instead of the common share (*qism*), he was allotted two shares (*qismayn itnayn*) or one-sixth of total earnings in place of one-twelfth. Second, he was exempt from paying the tax normally imposed on slave sales. The stipulation meant that he could purchase slaves at a lower cost than anyone else or that he could sell them more cheaply than could other brokers. Third, the shaikh was due a « favor » (*ma’rifa*) by fellow guild members. Neither its amount nor means of payment is recorded <sup>(2)</sup>.

Such financial rewards secured a dominant trading position for the shaikh at Wakālat al-Ǧallāba. Coupled with the social prestige attached to shaikhship (and tenancy) he became the best known personality in the market. In *Mahkama* documents he is often simply identified as « Shaikh of Wakālat al-Ǧallāba ». The office, however, did not necessarily mean he was the wealthiest person there : other « brokers » and « merchants » left richer estates than did, for instance, ‘Abd ar-Raḥmān al-Bannāwī.

Guild documents do not disclose special compensations for the *naqib* or for market officials, such as the *muhtasib*, outside formal guild membership. Within ordinary ranks a distinction existed between full brokers (*dallāl kāmil*) and half-brokers (*nisf rāġil*), the difference being that the latter earned only half what full brokers did. One guild document registers the resignation of one broker and elevation of two half-brokers to the status of full brokers <sup>(3)</sup>, signifying that internal guild structure was not overly rigid. Indeed, *Mahkama* texts suggest there was considerable mobility of status among operatives at the *wakāla*, brokers becoming merchants or lesser merchants (*mutasabbibūn*) becoming more substantial ones (*tuġġār*). However, the practical significance of *dallāl*, *mutasabbib* and *tāġir*, occupational titles so well defined in Islamic literature, deserves further examination.

<sup>(1)</sup> Aṣ-Šāliḥīyya an-Naġmīyya, vol. 527, p. 455, No. 962 (Ǧurrit Ĝumāda I 1186). <sup>(3)</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 517, p. 357, No. 841 (1148/1735).

<sup>(2)</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 516, p. 320, No. 784 (1145/1733).

Among merchants there are few indications they specialized in the trade of particular Sudan imports. An occasional document refers to a *mutasabbib fīs-sinn*/ merchant in ivory<sup>(1)</sup>, but the tendency in general was toward diversification. An analysis of merchant inventories shows that so-called *tuğğār fir-raqīq* customarily owned stocks of ivory, feathers, gum or tamarind as well as beads, tin bars, copper scrap, *milāyāt*, *śilān*, *fuwāt*, *aṭwāb* and other textiles popular in *bilād as-Sūdān*<sup>(2)</sup>.

**QABBĀNĪ AND BAWWĀB.** Wakālat al-Ğallāba had a resident weigher (*qabbānī*)<sup>(3)</sup>. His fees ('awā'id al-qabbān) are listed in *wakāla* rental contracts as part of the tenant's terms<sup>(4)</sup>. It was probably understood the tenant would guarantee collection of these 'awā'id for persons who owned rights to them. Goods such as ivory, tamarind and ebony had to be weighed in accordance with a complicated system of weights and measures prevailing in eighteenth-century Cairo, the kantar of each item often composed of varying numbers of rats. The weighing of ivory entailed special procedures as scraps (*scrivilloes*) could not be weighed with « sound, healthy » pieces which sold at higher prices. In the nineteenth century discounts were offered on the former and ivory buyers were known to give « favors » to weighers in order to have large purchases measured according to the discount value<sup>(5)</sup>.

Doorkeepers (*bawwābūn*) received a share of weighers' fees in addition to the small annual salary given them by the tenant<sup>(6)</sup>. They probably also collected additional sums from ğallāba seeking quarters in the *wakāla* as well as from property owners anxious to lease their private holdings. Some *bawwābūn* earned

<sup>(1)</sup> Al-Qism al-'Askariyya, vol. 145, p. 65 (1150/1737). Inventories of a few other merchants include large quantities of ivory or other goods.

<sup>(2)</sup> For an analysis of merchant stocks, see « Trade between Egypt and *Bilād as-Sūdān* », 166-82.

<sup>(3)</sup> Al-Qism al-'Askariyya, vol. 205, p. 317, No. 516 (1195/1781).

<sup>(4)</sup> Contract terms included storerooms, chamberrooms and other dependencies and

« ... *wa ma yatba' dālik min 'awā'id qabbān al-tamrahindī wa 'l-abnūs wa 'r-raqīq al-ğalab wa ğayr dālik* ». As taxes on slaves were collected by the *pençikçi*, so weigher's fees must not have been the tenant's prerogative either.

<sup>(5)</sup> « Trade between Egypt and *Bilād as-Sūdān* », 47-8, 77-8, based on British and French consular records and reports.

<sup>(6)</sup> Raymond, *Artisans*, I, 258, footnote (2).

enough from various sources to engage in commercial transactions and partnerships with resident merchants <sup>(1)</sup>. Curiously, though Nubians were well known in this occupation, none of the *bawwābūn* carried the relevant *nisba* of *al-Barbarī* <sup>(2)</sup>.

### PROPERTY OWNERS

Wakālat al-Ǧallāba was part of waqf domain, but private individuals could purchase storerooms and other dependencies. Their rights resembled long-term leases, a period of 99 years being understood, yet considering the frequency with which titles were registered they must have been synonymous in practice with privileges of out-right ownership. Other persons were able to acquire perpetual right to certain quarters and to incorporate them in their charitable or family awqāf. Although this appears contrary to generally held ideas about waqf, the transfer of property from one waqf to another was not unusual.

It is impossible in the present state of the *Maḥkama* archives to recover all the numerous transactions involving property titles at Wakālat al-Ǧallāba <sup>(3)</sup>, but in the absence of a comprehensive compilation there is evidence suggesting that almost half the storerooms and other quarters in the building fell into private hands. This picture emerges from an examination of a register of charitable waqf revenues compiled by the *Diwān al-Awqāf* in 1251/1835-6. The information post-dates the period of our study, but it may nonetheless be indicative of the eighteenth-century situation. Under a general heading of *iḥkār* (groundrent) from *ḥawāṣil* and *aṭbāq* in Wakālat al-Ǧallāba, listed among properties governed by Waqf al-Ǧawrī, 11 storerooms, a stable (?), four chamberrooms and five

<sup>(1)</sup> Various debts and loans of « al-Ḥāgg̃ Ah̄mad al-Bawwāb » are recorded in the inventory of al-Ḥāgg̃ Muḥammad aṣ-Šā’idī b. ‘Abd al-Barr ad-Durunkī, a merchant at the *wakāla* : (MSA) al-Dašt, vol. 271, pp. 485-6 (1173/1759).

<sup>(2)</sup> Several, however, are nicknamed « aṣ-Šā’idī » (Upper Egyptian) : aṣ-Šā’idīya an-Naġmīya, vol. 511, p. 123, No. 265 (1126/

1714); al-Qism al-‘Askarīyya, vol. 190, p. 177, No. 138 (1187/1773).

<sup>(3)</sup> Due to lack of court series indices, periodic gaps in those series, loss of documents in the past by misfiling or fire, and the fact that individual titles could be registered in any one of the 15 courts of Cairo regardless of location of the property involved.

shops are enumerated<sup>(1)</sup>. To this number may be added rent (*uğra*) and *iḥkār* from seven other storerooms and four residences (*manzil* : renovated dependencies) in the *wakāla* which were or are known to have been held in private awqāf<sup>(2)</sup>. In other words, as many as 18 storerooms out of a possible total of 45 were privately owned. At this time Waqf al-Ğawrī collected an average annual groundrent of 135 *nisf* on storerooms, a rate which was unchanged since the eighteenth century.

Property owners may roughly be grouped into two broad categories : those engaged in trade in the market and those who had no visible connection to it. Among the latter group were a few individuals belonging to the city's social and political elite. Āmina Ḥātūn bint 'Abd Allah al-Bayḍa, a freed slave of 'Alī bey al-Kabīr, owned a *ḥāṣil* during 1206-36/1781-1821; her more important real estate holdings were in Wakālat aş-Şābūn, of which she owned half. Two amirs, 'Alī 'Abd Allah, *mātūq* of Aḥmad Kathuda Mustaḥfiẓān Şāliḥ, and Aḥmad 'Abd Allah, *mātūq* of Amir 'Abd Allah bey, owned another *ḥāṣil* « at the head of the alley, next to the doorway » in 1782; it was sold to them in partial settlement of a debt owed by a merchant in the *wakāla*. Other grandees mentioned in the sources include 'Utmān Kathuda Mustaḥfiẓān Zaduğlı, Amīr Sulaymān 'Abd Allah Mustaḥfiẓān, 'Alī *efendi* Mustaḥfiẓān b. Muḥammad al-Burşalı and Amīr Muḥammad Ğarkis of the Mutafarriqa<sup>(3)</sup>. Except for Amīr Muḥammad who owned three *ḥawāṣil*, none of these individuals owned more than a single property.

The more important group of property owners were merchants attached to the *wakāla*. They tended to belong to that class of well-to-do merchants who left estates valued at 50,000 (constant) *nisf fidda* or more<sup>(4)</sup>. Despite their financial resources, it is perhaps surprising to find that during the eighteenth century

<sup>(1)</sup> (Daftarḥāna, Ministry of Awqāf), *Muḥāsibāt al-awqāf al-ḥayriyya*, 2 vols., I, 213, 218.

<sup>(2)</sup> Waqf Amīr Muḥammad Ğarkis : (MSA) al-Bāb al-'Ālī, vol. 118, p. 316, No. 1322 (22 Dū 'l-Higga 1046/1637), entry on p. 322; Waqf 'Id Aḥmad 'Abd al-Ḥāliq at-Taytilāwī : *ibid.*, vol. 221, p. 122, No. 164 (Gurrit Dū 'l-Qaḍā 1152/1740); Waqf 'Utmān Kathuda Mustaḥfiẓān Zaduğlı : *Muḥāsibāt*, II, 44.

<sup>(3)</sup> (MSA) al-Qism al-'Askariyya, vol. 218, pp. 98-100 (1206/1781); al-Dašt, vol. 304, p. 21 (1196/1782); *Muḥāsibāt*, loc. cit.; aş-Şāliḥiyya an-Nağmīyya, vol. 524, p. 566, No. 1026 (1175/1761).

<sup>(4)</sup> See « Trade between Egypt and *Bilād as-Sūdān* », 132-46; Raymond considers this figure the lower limit of what he terms the *bourgeoisie commerçante* : *Artisans*, II, 399.

very few owned more than a single *hāsil*. 'Abd ar-Rahmān al-Bannāwī owned two during his long life and 'Id Aḥmad 'Abd al-Ḥāliq at-Taytilāwī (d. 1752) incorporated three into his waqf. Of the 11 merchants witnessing the election of a new shaikh in 1772, property titles to only four have been found. The rest either rented storerooms themselves or sought alternative space in nearby Wakālat as-Safaṭ or Ḥān Masrūr<sup>(1)</sup>. A general scarcity in leasable property at Wakālat al-Ǧallāba would seem to have been the case.

The price of *hawāsil* varied and depended upon their location, size and other attributes. During the period between 1760 and 1785, for example, prices ranged from 35 to 90 *riyals* (3,000-8,100 *nīsf*). Price differences are partially explained by the depreciation of local currency during this period, but in some cases, more personal reasons can be detected. Bahīt 'Abd Allah, freed slave of Muṣṭafā Luṭfī, *naqib* and later shaikh of the guild, had to pay 50 *māhbūb* (5,500 *nīsf*) for a *hāsil* in 1761 although another storeroom was sold in the same year for 3,000 *nīsf*<sup>(2)</sup>. The difference no doubt stemmed from the fact that Bahīt purchased his from two amirs while the other was sold by 'Abd ar-Rahmān al-Bannāwī to one of his colleagues. However, another storeroom of the shaikh, known descriptively as *al-hāsil al-kabīr*, was valued in his inventory at 100 *riyals* in 1769, yet was sold a year later by his heirs to a one-time associate for 40 *riyals*<sup>(3)</sup>. 'Abd ar-Rahmān was obviously unable to protect his interests. By and large *hawāsil* were sold as whole units during the eighteenth century. The tendency to divide them into portions as small as one-sixth and one-twelfth increased markedly in the nineteenth.

Ǧallāba, temporary residents, were rare property holders. An exception was 'Alī Dānūn from the region of Maḥās, north of Dongola. His heirs forfeited a storeroom in 1773 which 'Alī had bought four years earlier. Al-Ḥāgg Haykal 'Urābī, one of the *wakāla*'s most prosperous merchants, accepted it in exchange for an old debt<sup>(4)</sup>. The general pattern, however, allows us to distinguish between

<sup>(1)</sup> Sources show at least seven Wakālat al-Ǧallāba merchants owned or rented quarters at Wakālat as-Safaṭ; Ḥān Masrūr tended to be monopolized by *tuğčār fī'r-raqīq* from Asyūṭ; 'Abd ar-Rahmān had property in both.

<sup>(2)</sup> Aṣ-ṣāliḥīyya an-Naḡmīyya, vol. 524,

p. 566, No. 1026 (1175); (Maḥkama) Ǧāmi' al-Ḥākim, vol. 577, p. 121, No. 445 (1175).

<sup>(3)</sup> Al-Dašt, vol. 284, pp. 326-7 (1183/1769); aṣ-ṣāliḥīyya an-Naḡmīyya, vol. 719, p. 420, No. 1007 (1184/1770).

<sup>(4)</sup> Al-Qism al-‘Askariyya, vol. 190, p. 117, No. 138 (1187/1773).

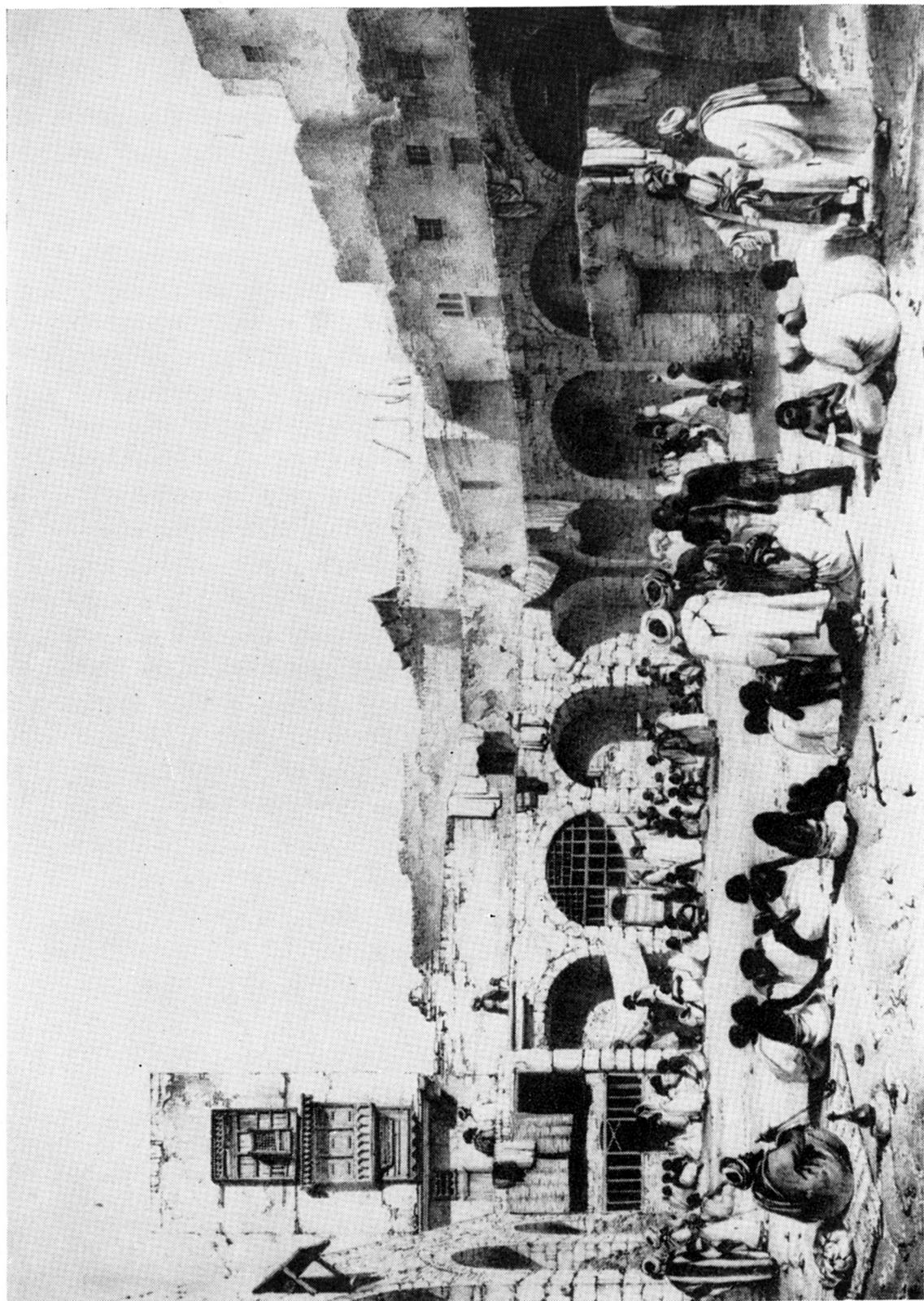
ğallāba as individuals and the group of resident merchants, who normally purchased properties in the market.

## CONCLUSION

Wakālat al-Ğallāba was not a typical Cairene market. In physical appearance it bore the unlovely marks of a make-shift assemblage, lacking the architectural unity of a Wakālat al-Ğawrī or a Wakālat Qaitbey. In commercial terms, it not only served as an emporium for imported goods but also dealt in such special commodities as to complicate the ordinary market hierarchy. The result was that unusual layers of government and judicial bureaucrats were brought within its walls.

On the other hand, a study of this *wakāla* reveals a picture of commercial Cairo in microcosm. It played its part in the system of specialized urban markets; its operatives participated in the widespread network of guilds; its resident merchants, whom we have not had space to portray, came from similar cultural backgrounds. These organizational and social structures helped to bring order to a market which, when host to great Sudanic caravans and foreign merchants, would otherwise have been chaotic. Trade served local interests : exploitation permeated market operations on several levels. Profits, where made, flowed in descending order to tax farmer, tenant, guild shaikh and full broker. Weighers and doorkeepers also received a cut in the marketing of Sudan goods in Cairo.

As records of the *šarīyya* courts and Ministry of Awqāf are more fully researched, our knowledge of everyday life in Ottoman Egypt becomes more complete. Problems of commercial terminology and linguistic usage, tenant-guild shaikh relationships, patterns of property ownership, waqf procedures and profits, identification and functions of heretofore unknown market officials — such as have been encountered in this microcosmic study — can then be set in contemporary perspective.



Wakālat al-Ǧallāba, from Robert Hays, *Illustrations of Cairo*, plate XXV.