

István Ormos

Cairo in Chicago

Cairo Street
at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893



Institut français d'archéologie orientale

Études urbaines 11 – 2021

Table of contents

Preface	XIII
Introduction	1
Chapter I. World's Fairs—Key Points of an Outline	7
1. Origins	7
2. Progress and Knowledge	11
3. Exhibitions and Museums—Panoramas, Cycloramas, Dioramas	12
4. Messages of World's Fairs	13
5. Populations on Display	15
5.1. Dissemination of Knowledge <i>versus</i> Colonialism	15
5.2. Science in Quest of the Right Track: Paths, Byways, and Aberrations	18
Chapter II. The Architecture of World's Fairs	23
Chapter III. Interest in the Orient	27
Chapter IV. Basic Facts about the Fair	35
1. Chicago, "The City of 'I Will'"	35
2. General Layout	37
3. The Ferris Wheel	41
4. Congresses	41
5. Women at the Chicago Fair	42
6. African-American Presence	43

Chapter V. Midway Plaisance	45
1. Origins	45
2. Management	46
2.1. Managers	46
2.2. Sol Bloom	46
3. Ethnology and Anthropology—Education and Entertainment	48
4. Brief Description of the Midway Plaisance	50
4.1. Main Characteristics	50
4.2. Midway at Night	55
4.3. Special Days	55
Chapter VI. The History of Cairo Street	63
1. A Project Is Born	63
1.1. Similar Projects Before and After Chicago	64
1.2. The American Invitation	67
1.2.1. Cyrus Adler	67
1.2.2. The Official Egyptian Answer	68
1.3. The Struggle for the Concession	71
1.4. The Cairo Street Project	75
1.4.1. The Company	75
1.4.2. George Pangalo	75
1.4.3. Max Herz	76
1.4.4. Eduard Matasek	77
1.5. The Final Phase of Preparations	79
1.6. The Concession	80
1.6.1. Henry Ives Cobb	83
1.7. The Project Gathers Momentum	87
1.8. The Egyptians Arrive at Chicago	93
1.9. The Final Touches	95
1.10. The Opening of Cairo Street	96
2. Excursus I. Egyptian Exhibits Outside Cairo Street	97
Chapter VII. A Description of Cairo Street	99
1. Location and General Characteristics	99
2. A Walk Along Cairo Street	100
2.1. The Entrance	100
2.2. The Café	101
2.3. The Mosque	101
2.4. Ḥamāl al-Dīn al-Dahabī's Mansion	110
2.5. The <i>Wikāla</i> or Caravanserai	112
2.5.1. General Description	112
2.5.2. The Interior	114

2.5.3. The Gate	115
2.5.3.1. Identification	115
2.5.3.2. Nestor Gianaclis and His Villa	116
2.6. 'Abd al-Rahmān Kathudā's <i>Sabil-Kuttāb</i>	119
2.6.1. General Description	119
2.6.2. An Urban Legend	124
2.7. The <i>Bišārīn</i> (Nubian) and Sudanese Sections	128
2.7.1. General Description	128
2.7.2. Excursus II. The Mahdist War	134
2.8. Shops	136
2.8.1. An Overview	136
2.8.2. The Booth of G. Lekegian	140
2.8.3. The Booth of Nestor Gianaclis	140
2.9. Arab House	143
2.10. Arab Café	143
2.11. The Temple of Luxor	143
Chapter VIII. Activities in Cairo Street	185
1. General Atmosphere	185
2. Regular Events	187
3. The <i>Mahmal</i>	189
4. Donkey Boys	190
5. Camel Riding	192
6. Minor Activities	194
7. Love Stories, Fights, and Brawls	195
8. Encounters and Experiences	198
Chapter IX. The Belly Dance	209
1. Preliminary Considerations	209
2. The Theatre	210
3. The Dancers	212
3.1. The Dancers' Identities	212
3.2. Outfits and Performance	213
4. Opinions on the Belly Dance	215
5. Complaints and Protests	219
6. The Belly Dance Outside Cairo Street	226
6.1. The Algerian Theatre	226
6.2. The Persian Palace	228
7. The Wider Setting	228
7.1. Attitudes Towards Sexuality and Women	228
7.2. Attitudes Towards the Female Body	234
7.3. Attitudes Towards Dance	236

7.4. Early Dance Shows in the United States	239
7.5. Music and Dance in Islamic Societies	239
7.6. Oriental Dance— <i>‘Awālīm</i> and <i>Ġawāzī</i>	241
7.7. Glimpses of the History of the Belly Dance	244
7.8. A Clash of Cultures?	254
8. Excursus III. Arabs Outside Cairo Street	258
Chapter X. Success of Cairo Street	277
Chapter XI. The End of the Fair	281
1. The End of the White City	281
2. The End of the Midway Plaisance.....	284
3. The Closing of Cairo Street	286
Chapter XII. The Afterlife of the Fair	289
1. The California Midwinter International Exposition	289
2. Midway Projects	289
3. The Afterlife of Cairo Street	291
3.1. The Immediate Afterlife of the Project	291
3.2. The Afterlife of the Belly Dance	293
3.2.1. “Little Egypt”	293
3.2.2. The Gradual Transformation of the Belly Dance in America	296
3.2.3. Excursus IV. Eugen Sandow	302
Chapter XIII. Opinions of Egyptians/Arabs about the World’s Columbian Exposition	307
1. General Considerations	307
2. Individual Views	307
2.1. Dū l-Fiqār Ibrāhīm Bey	307
2.2. Mīhā’il As’ad Rustum al-Šuwayrī	309
2.3. Ḥalil Sarkīs	310
2.4. Scattered Items of Information	312
Chapter XIV. Photography at the Fair	313
1. General Considerations	313
2. Difficulty of Attribution	315
3. Reading the Image	321
4. Captions and Contents	325
5. Main Groups of Photographs	328
6. “Portrait Types”	328
7. A Remark	332

Conclusion	351
-------------------------	-----

Bibliography	357
---------------------------	-----

1. List of Abbreviations for Periodicals and Collections	357
2. Tools for Research	358
3. Archival Records and Manuscripts	360
4. Films and Sound Recordings	362
5. Primary Sources	362
6. Studies	380
6.1. Unpublished Studies (Theses and Blogs)	380
6.2. Published Studies	381

Index	411
--------------------	-----

List of illustrations	441
------------------------------------	-----