

2008

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VOLUME 0

TURATH - EGYPT'S HERITAGE REVIEW

A Private Tour through ZAAFARAN PALACE

Who Really Bought the
Tramway?

Going, Going GONE?
Heritage at Risk

Live Colors, Nicosia

Publisher

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Printing Sponsored by **EL-SHOROUK PRESS**




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E-mail: editor@live-colors.com Website: www.ct-egypt.com
* Copyright 2007. Turathi is a Quarterly publication published by
LC Live Colors Nicosia, Cyprus

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Nearly a year and a half ago, as I was looking through my bookshelf at all the different history and heritage magazines, it hit me: Where is Egypt? I wasn't thinking of Ancient Egypt, Coptic or Islamic Egypt or any one era of the country in particular. I was thinking of "Egypt"; ALL of it.

Names and images quickly flashed in my mind; the Pharaohs and their gods, the Sultans and Khedives, the Ptolemies and the Romans, the mosques, churches and synagogues, temples and tombs, palaces and qahwas, songs and proverbs, the fellahin, the pashas, Mohamed Ali, Cleopatra, Imhotep, Sayyed Darwish...I spent the rest of the evening fervently pouring my thoughts onto a little notepad.

The messy notes of over a year ago have now metamorphosed into Turath, a heritage review covering Egypt's history from all eras and in all its kinds.

This dream would not have become a reality without the contributions of all our notable writers, the generous advice of countless experts as well as the support of Live Colors Egypt, who had full faith in me from the very start. I must also thank my close friends, my "oasis-group" who have had to endure hours and hours of endless talk about every little detail as Turath was slowly becoming a reality. Finally, none of this would have been accomplished without the constant encouragement and moral support of my mother and father who instilled in me an unyielding love for this country; a love that transcends traffic jams, pollution, noise and the headaches of every day life, such that have distorted the perception of many regarding the deeper meaning of Egypt and what it is. I now know that the notion of Egypt is much older and more profound than what we see of it in our brief life spans. We are but mere passersby in this country's long, long life.

This long life is what we are here to celebrate. Without reviving its memories, without preserving its monuments and relics, the idea of an Egypt that transcends the chaos of everyday life will cease to exist. All that will remain will be the faceless, soulless concrete blocks that imprison us all in a meaningless existence. Egypt--without its history remembered and its heritage sustained--will itself enter an era of meaningless, shallow existence. Our humble effort to help perpetuate the identity of Egypt will be here, on these pages, where we hope to provide a venue for those who care to express themselves, communicate with each other and become more informed.

I hope you enjoy our first issue of Turath: Egypt's Heritage Review.

Special Thanks to:

Dr. Ahmed Zaki Badr, President of Ain Shams University for kindly granting us permission into Zaafaran palace, our main sponsor, Dar El Shorouk (Mr. Ibrahim El Moalem), Ms. Marianne Ghali, Ms. Nagwa Shoeb, Mr. Romani Hafez for designing our beautiful logo, Mr. Amr Talaat and Mr. Max Karkegi for their always generous supply of knowledge and information, Ms. Iman Abdulfattah from the SCA for her incredible commitment and support, Dr. Nasser Rabbat for his efforts in Egypt and for his valuable advice and Mr. Raymond Stock, who helped me write my very first concept paper for Turath. Finally, I must thank Mr. Gamal El-Ghitani for writing us such a profound and heartfelt forward for our first issue.

Gamine El Dorghany
Founder and Managing Editor

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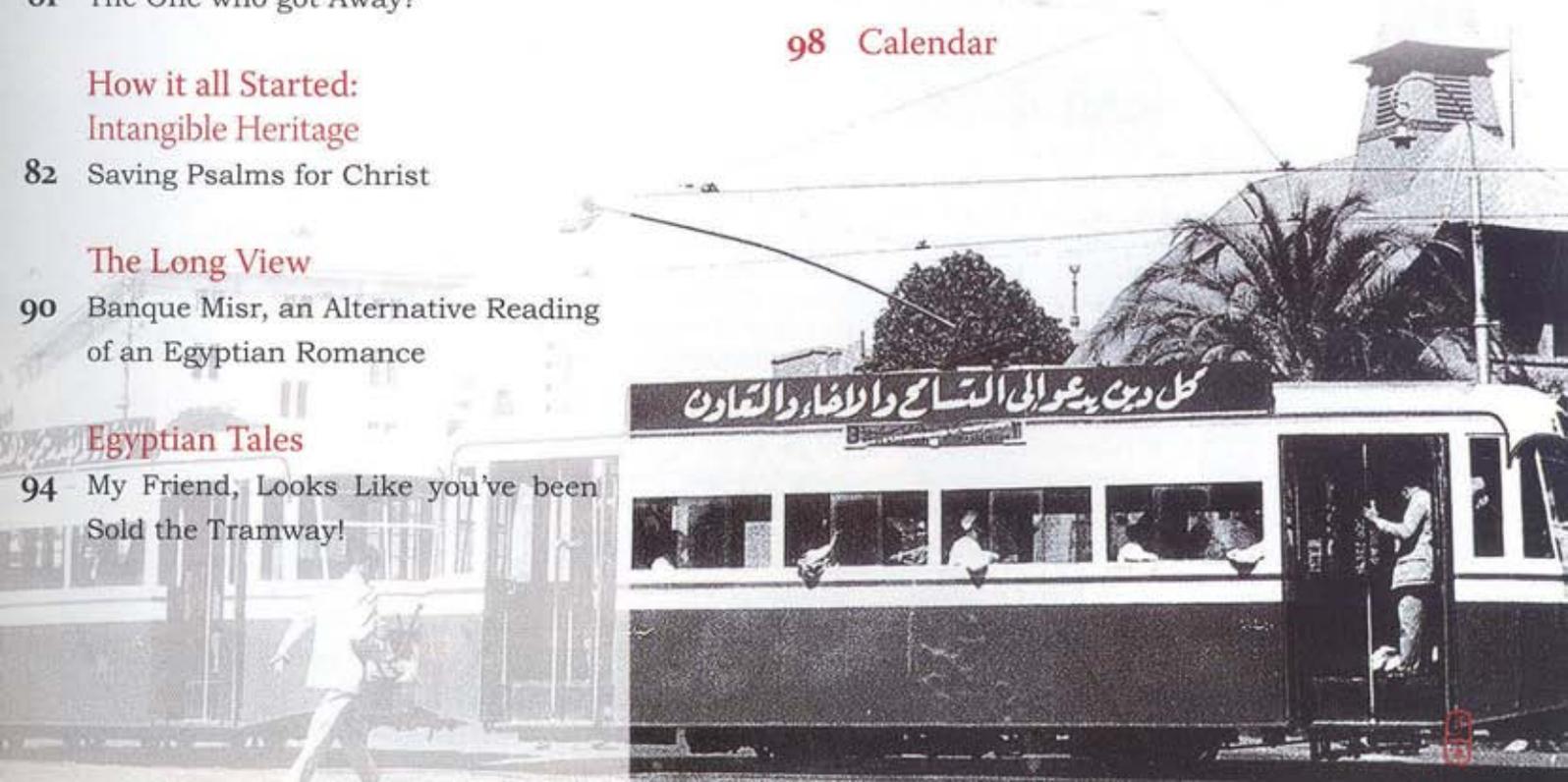
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Forward by Gamal El Ghitani

Gamal El Ghitani is a widely acclaimed novelist, short story writer and journalist. He is the author of many historical novels and cultural and political commentaries and is the current editor-in-chief of the literary periodical *Akhbar Al-Adab* ("Cultural News").



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Mercedes Volait is an architectural historian and the coordinator of the International Research Network «Architectures modernes en Méditerranée» at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris. She has written extensively on the architecture of 19th and 20th c. Cairo and is currently preparing a book on Antiquarianism in 19th century Cairo.



Dina Eshak Bakhom is a construction engineer specialized in conservation and restoration of built heritage and holds an M.A. in Islamic Art and Architecture. She worked on several conservation and archaeological projects in Cairo and in the Theban Necropolis. Currently she works as Heritage Site Manager for the Aga Khan Cultural Services – Egypt.



Mohamed El Hebeishy is a freelance travel writer and photographer. His articles and photo-essays cover travel destinations, mainly in Egypt and the Middle East. He has also participated in different photography exhibitions held in Cairo, London and Rome. El Hebeishy is author and photographer of the widely acclaimed book 'Egypt Rediscovered'

Nasser Rabbat is the Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of



Technology (MIT). His scholarly interests include the history and historiography of Islamic art and architecture, urban history, and post-colonial criticism. He is currently completing a book on the historian al-Maqrizi and another on Mamluk history.



Nigel Hetherington (Heritage News pg.19) is a graduate from the Institute of Archaeology at University College London and is a member of the International Association of Egyptologists. He runs his own consultancy company; Past Preservers providing historical and archaeological consultancy and professional support to the media industry. Nigel is also in the process of researching and writing a book on the history of tourism in Luxor.

Philipp Speiser is an architect and archaeologist, born and educated in Switzerland. He has been working since 1977 in Egypt, including (from 1979 to 1988) on several restorations in Historic Cairo on behalf of the German Archaeological

Institute. One Cairo Project (Darb al- Qirmiz) received



The Aga Khan Award in 1983. Speiser has been teaching since 2000 at the Technical University (TU) Berlin.



Raymond Stock, a current Guggenheim Fellow, is writing a biography of Egyptian Nobel laureate in literature Naguib Mahfouz (1911-2006) for Farrar, Straus & Giroux in New York, and has translated many of his works. Stock conducted a videotaped oral history project with Dr. Ragheb Moftah and his niece Laurence Moftah for the Library of Congress' World Heritage series in 1996-97.



Vanessa de Castro Dutra is an art conservator/restorer specialized in archaeological materials.

She lives and works in Egypt for various Egyptian and Foreign institutions.



Wael Nawara is a regular contributor in "Al Masra'at Al Youm" newspaper and the "Economic Reform Bulletin".

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