

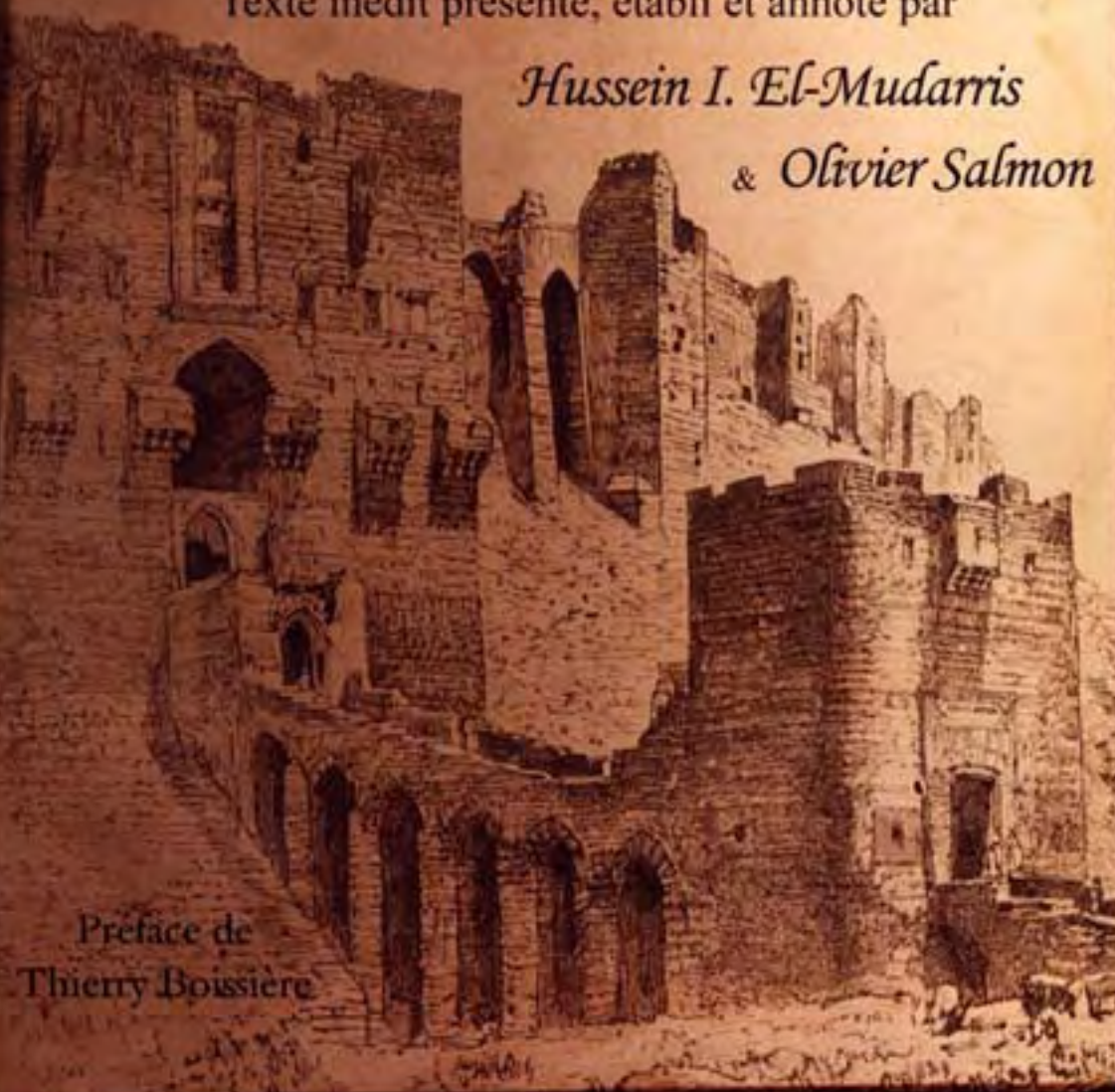
WHAT'S ON

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Camille Callier
Mémoire sur la Syrie
ou
Promenades d'un ingénieur géographe
à Alep (1831-1832)

Texte inédit présenté, établi et annoté par

Hussein I. El-Mudarris
& Olivier Salmon



Preface de
Thierry Boissière

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The exquisite and myth-like atmosphere and landscape of Syrian cities leave unforgettable impressions on their visitors, especially those who come from the west. This effect has always motivated many western travelers to release books detailing whatever they felt and experienced during their stay in Syria.

The text is divided into four journeys: The first is a tour of the ramparts and gates of Aleppo, the second is an excursion in the eastern and northern outskirts with a way back to Bâb al Faraj and the souks, the third is a visit of the major monuments of the old city and the fourth is a description of the southern suburbs.

Callier's presentation resembles touristic guide textbooks, but the 180 old and new photos added by Hussein El Mudarris and Olivier Salmon (the old ones date back to 19th century) enrich the information previewed in the book and lead the reader to discover the changes and the differences between the past and the current face of Aleppo city.

Dr. Thierry Boissière, Director of the French Institute for Middle East Studies (Ifpo) in Aleppo, wrote the preface of the book which is dedicated to Mahmoud Hretani and Abdallah Hajjar, both well-known Aleppian historians and tourist guides who did their best to introduce Syria in a proper manner to every foreigner.

Dr. Hussein I. El Mudarris is an Aleppian historian who has served as honorary consul of the Netherlands in Aleppo for many years. Recently, he decided to abandon his position to concentrate on his researches and spread the knowledge around through exhibitions held in Syria and abroad. He edited several books together with Olivier Salmon, a French scholar who is currently writing his PhD on Aleppo city at the University of Sorbonne in France.

Among these books are: Aleppo under the consulate of Henri Guys (1838-1847), The French Consulate at Aleppo in the 17th Century, Travel to the East by the French poet Lamartine, Romantic Travel through Bartlett's Engravings, Souvenir from Damascus and The Relations between the Netherlands and Ottoman Syria.

A remarkable series of their joint work could be seen through: www.aleppoart.com.

One of these writings is 'Mémoire sur la Syrie', a manuscript written by Camille Callier around 1836 which speaks of Aleppo city and its surrounding. Callier served as a military officer and, towards the end of his diplomatic mission, he was appointed as a General of the French army. The manuscript, placed at the French National Library in Paris, attracted the attention of Hussein I. El Mudarris (Syria) and Olivier Salmon (France) who decided to turn their finding into a book.

Camille Callier (1804-1889) had the chance to discover the secrets of Middle Eastern territories through his position as a geography engineer sent by the French government to study the topographical values of Cyprus, Asia Minor, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and the Sinai. At the early age of 26, the young officer found it extremely difficult to move between these countries with a limited choice of transportation and with a very poor command of Arabic language.

From September to October 1831, he had his first two-month visit to Aleppo city, and this led to a second visit from December 1831 to April 1832. He stayed at Khan al Tâf and made several excursions in and around the town where he wrote down in his diary what he found and saw.

Speaking of language, Callier didn't lean much on technical scientific terms as much as well-expressed vocabulary and eloquent style. This is in addition to the poetic descriptions of Aleppo seen at sunset from jebel Sheikh Muhassin (a nearby mountain) and of its romantic gardens along the Guwaiq River crossing the city from the north to the east.

His poetry is not a mere ornamentation of language but rather an anthropologic method to understand the East and its inhabitants and further explain it to western audiences. Callier says: *"In a country full of poetry, things must be seen through poetry to enjoy its impact on the Oriental minds. Don't we know that poetry is the daughter of the East?"*

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المشرق

مؤسسها الأب لويس شيخو اليسوعي
عام ١٨٩٨



السنة الخامسة والثمانون الجزء الأول كانون الثاني - حزيران ٢٠١١

**Mémoire sur la Syrie
ou Promenades d'un ingénieur géographe à Alep (1831-1832)**

Par Camille Callier
El-Mudarris, 2010, 208 pages

في ٧ آذار من العام ١٨٠٤، وُلِدَ كميل أنطوان كاتي في فرنسا، وبعد سنوات، بدأ يسير على حُطى أبيه فتوجّه إلى المجال العسكريّ ودخلَ كَلِيَّةَ العلومِ التّقنيَّةِ (١٨٢٣). لقد خدَمَ وطنه فرنسا فترةً طويلة، كما أُرْسِلَ إلى بلدانٍ أخرى في مَهَامٍ سياسيَّة، كمصر وسوريا، لمحاولة وضع حَدِّ للحرب بين العثمانيين والمصريين العام ١٨٣٩. أما الحَدَثُ الأهمُّ الذي ساهمَ في تأليفه هذا الكتاب فكان تعيينه عضوًا في الجمعية الجغرافيَّة، آذار ١٨٣٠، قبل ذهابه في مَهْمَةٍ أربع سنوات ببلاد الشرق.

إنَّ كميل كاتي، بالرغم من إنجازاته المتعدّدة، وقدراته الثقافيَّة والسياسيَّة، والأوسمة الفرنسيَّة والأجنبيَّة التي حصل عليها طوال خدمته الدبلوماسية والعسكريَّة، يبقى مجهولًا إلى حدٍّ بعيد. في الحقيقة، لم يكن أمينَ سرٍّ عامًا للجمعية الجغرافيَّة إلا لبضعة أشهر، كما أنّه لم ينشر قطّ تفاصيلَ رحلاته الاستكشافيَّة أو نتائج أبحاثه. بالإضافة، اتَّسمَ عددٌ من المَهَامِ التي وكلتها إليه وزارة الشؤون الخارجيَّة بالسريَّة التامة. لذا يقتضي الواجبُ أن نستفيد من الكتاب الذي بين أيدينا، بهدف التعريف بجانبٍ من استكشافات المهندس الجغرافيِّ القدير. والكتابُ عبارة عن مخطوطٍ تمّ تنقيحه وترتيبه ليُصبحَ عملاً يقدّمُ وصفًا مفصّلًا لمدينة حلب في سوريا. فقبل أيّ شيء، يحدّد كاتي موقع حلب الجغرافيِّ، ثم يرافقنا في رحلةٍ داخل المدينة لرؤية جوامعها، وأسواقها، وخاناتها. بعدها، يتحدّث عن سكّانها، ولا سيّما الأقلّيَّة المسيحيَّة والكنائس التي تمثّلها. وقد اهتمَّ كاتي بهيئة مدينة حلب التنظيميَّة وبتركيبتها، سابقًا في هذا علماء التاريخ والاختصاصيين يعلم الإنسان الذين بدأوا يدرسون مظاهر تلك المدينة في القرن العشرين. نراه يصفُ مبدأ انطوائيّة منازلها ودبارها بسبب الضغط السياسي والاجتماعيِّ والدينيِّ. كما يعالج بدقّة شديدة مبدأ الفصل بين الأمكنة العامّة والأمكنة الخاصّة، فيستنتج وجودَ توزيع مكانيٍّ للفئات الاجتماعية والطوائف الدينيَّة، بحيث تسكنُ كلَّ مجموعة في جزءٍ من المدينة خاصٌّ بها.

إنَّ هذا العمل، الوجيز والمليء بمعلوماتٍ وتفاصيلٍ في آن، يقدّمُ شهادةً غنيَّة عمّا كانت عليه مدينة حلب في مرحلةٍ زمنيَّة غير مستقرّة سياسيًا. يبقى أن نأملَ ظهورَ أبحاث كميل كاتي الأخرى المتحدّثة عن الشرق، فيلجأ إليها القارئ الراغب في الاستزادة وفي إغناء معارفه الجغرافيَّة.

أن ماري شكور

LE LIVRE DU MOIS:

Mémoire sur la Syrie
Ou
Promenades d'un ingénieur
géographe a Alep Recueil
d'informations sur la Syrie 1830-
1834 par le General
Camille Callier (1804 -1889)
Ce livre, édité pour la
première fois par les
chercheurs Hussein
El-Mudarris et Olivier
Salmon - aux éditions

RAY-REND COMPTE DES
SEJOURS DU General a Alep, de
ses promenades ainsi que de ses
découvertes des alentours. " Dans
ce pays tout de poésie c'est
souvent par ce cote-la qu'il faut voir
les choses pour en
apprécier l'action sur l'esprit des
Orientaux, car c'est
presque toujours a ce point de vue
qu'ils se
placent eux-mêmes. Ne sait-on pas
que la poésie est la fille de l'Orient?
C'est donc a elle de nous faire les
honneurs du pays et de nous en
expliquer ce qui nous parait
mystérieux" fin de citation

