

## EGYPT AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN WORLD

During the period 500–1000 CE Egypt was successively part of the Byzantine, Sasanian, and Islamic empires. All kinds of events, developments, and processes occurred that would greatly affect its history and that of the eastern Mediterranean in general. This is the first volume to map Egypt's position in the Mediterranean during this period. Drawing on a wide range of disciplines, the individual chapters detail its connections with imperial and scholarly centers, its role in cross-regional trade networks, and its participation in Mediterranean and Near Eastern cultural developments, including their impact on its own literary and material production. With unparalleled detail, the book tracks the mechanisms and structures through which Egypt connected politically, economically, and culturally to the world surrounding it.

JELLE BRUNING is a University Lecturer in Middle Eastern Studies at Leiden University. He is the author of *The Rise of a Capital: Al-Fuṣṭāṭ and Its Hinterland, 18/639–132/750* (2018).

JANNEKE H. M. DE JONG is a classicist and ancient historian, with an expertise in Greek papyrology. She has published various articles on Roman and late Byzantine and early Islamic Egypt.

PETRA M. SIJPESTEIJN is Professor of Arabic at Leiden University. She has published various academic and popular books and articles on the daily life experience of Muslims and non-Muslims in the caliphate.

# EGYPT AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN WORLD

*From Constantinople to Baghdad, 500–1000 CE*

EDITED BY  
JELLE BRUNING  
JANNEKE H. M. DE JONG  
PETRA M. SIJPESTEIJN



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## *Notes on Contributors*

GIDEON AVNI is Chief Archaeologist for the Israel Antiquities Authority and Professor of Archaeology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. His academic interests focus on various aspects of classical, late antique, early Islamic, and medieval archaeology, cultural and religious transformations, the diffusion of technologies and movement of people in the Near East and beyond. His recent books are *The Byzantine–Islamic Transition in Palestine: An Archaeological Approach* (2014), and *A New Old City: Jerusalem in the Late Roman Period* (2017).

JELLE BRUNING is a University Lecturer in Middle Eastern Studies at Leiden University and a historian of early Islamic Egypt. He has a particular interest in the social history of slavery and (un)freedom under the Umayyads and Abbasids and in literary descriptions of Egypt's religious landscape, especially Islamic images of Alexandria. He is the author of *The Rise of a Capital: Al-Fuṣṭāṭ and Its Hinterland, 18/639–132/750* (2018).

JENNIFER CROMWELL is Senior Lecturer in Ancient History at Manchester Metropolitan University, having previously held research positions in Oxford, Sydney, and Copenhagen. Her research interests focus in particular on the social and economic history of late antique and early Islamic Egypt, including the role played by Coptic after the conquest. She is the author of *Recording Village Life: A Coptic Scribe in Early Islamic Egypt* (2017).

JOHANNA H. M. (JANNEKE) DE JONG is a teacher of Classics and an independent scholar, having previously been employed as Assistant Professor in Roman History (Utrecht University, Radboud University Nijmegen) and as postdoc researcher in Greek papyrology (Leiden University). Her research interests focus on the political and social

history of Egypt in the Greek millennium (ca. 330 BCE–800 CE), in particular on relations of power and constructions of identities.

SYLVIE DENOIX is a French historian of the medieval Arabic world. She is currently Senior Researcher at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). Using both medieval Arabic chronicles and archival material such as *waqfs*, she has carried out several studies into urban history, either by studying a particular city such as Fustāt (seventh–fifteenth centuries) or Cairo (Mamluk period), or by thinking about urban typologies in the medieval Muslim world. She has also worked on specific issues such as the relevance of working on topics such as private property and public domain in the medieval Arab world. She is currently working on how the Arab historians reported on Muslim conquests in a frame of the rhetoric of war and peace in medieval Arabic texts.

EUGENIO GAROSI is a postdoctoral researcher in the research group on Arabic Papyrology at the Ludwig Maximilian University. His research focuses on the social history of the early Islamic Empire, Arabic papyrology and diplomatics, and diglossia in pre-modern Islamic societies. His publications include *Projecting a New Empire: Formats, Social Meaning, and Mediality of Imperial Arabic in the Umayyad and Early Abbasid Periods* (2022).

ALISON L. GASCOIGNE holds an Associate Professorship in Archaeology at the University of Southampton, having gained her PhD at the University of Cambridge. Her research interests lie mainly in Egypt, with particular focus on the archaeology of urbanism from late antiquity to the late medieval period. She has co-directed a program of fieldwork at the important site of Tell Tinnis in Lake Manzala, published as *The Island City of Tinnis: A Postmortem* (2020). She has also published on the archaeology of Old Cairo/Fustāt, Ḥiṣn al-Bāb (Aswān), and the North Kharga Oasis in Egypt, as well as the sites of Jam and the Bala Hissar (Kabul) in Afghanistan.

MATTHEW S. GORDON teaches Islamic and Middle East History at Miami University (Oxford, Ohio). His first monograph was *The Breaking of a Thousand Swords* (2001). He has co-edited *Concubines and Courtesans: Women and Slavery in Islamic History* (2017) and is the co-editor/translator of *The Works of Ibn Wāḍiḥ al-Ya'qubī: An English Translation* (2018). He has completed a biography of the Egyptian governor Aḥmad b. Ṭulūn (2021), and has begun, with Mathieu Tillier (Université Paris-Sorbonne), a translation of al-Kindī's chronicle of the governors of Egypt.

*Notes on Contributors*

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YAACOV LEV obtained a PhD at the University of Manchester, and is Professor (Emeritus) in Medieval Islamic History, Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan. His recent publications include *The Administration of Justice in Medieval Egypt: From the Seventh to the Twelfth Century* (2020).

MAGED S. A. MIKHAIL is Professor of History at the California State University, Fullerton. His research and teaching focus on late antiquity, Coptic Christianity, and the Islamic Middle East. Among his publications are *From Byzantine to Islamic Egypt* (2014), *The Legacy of Demetrius of Alexandria* (2017), and *On Cana of Galilee: A Sermon by the Coptic Patriarch Benjamin I, Revised Edition* (2019). He contributed to and co-edited (with T. Vivian) the *Life of Bishoi: The Greek, Arabic, Syriac, and Ethiopic Lives* (2022).

PETER SARRIS is Professor of Late Antique, Medieval and Byzantine Studies at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Trinity College. His publications include *Economy and Society in the Age of Justinian* (2006), *Empires of Faith: The Fall of Rome to the Rise of Islam* (2011), *Byzantium: A Very Short Introduction* (2015), and (with David Miller) *The Novels of Justinian: A Complete Annotated English Translation* (2018). He is also a Quondam Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

STEFANIE SCHMIDT is a post-doctoral researcher at Free University Berlin where she is currently directing the DFG project “The Economy of Byzantine and Early Islamic Aswan Mirrored in Papyri, Ostraca, Inscriptions and the Archeological Evidence (Fifth to Ninth Centuries CE).” Her research centers on the economy of Roman, late Roman, and early Islamic periods with a special focus on Egypt. She has published a monograph on the finances of *metropoleis* in Roman Egypt (2014) and several articles on economic change between late antiquity and the early Islamic period.

PETER SHEEHAN is an archaeologist who has been working in and around historic buildings and landscapes in Egypt and the Middle East for the past thirty years. He has a particular interest in site-formation processes and the development of cultural landscapes and has published extensively on his work in and around the Roman fortress of Babylon in Old Cairo and the historic oasis landscape of the World Heritage Site of Al Ain in the United Arab Emirates. Since 2007 he has been based in Al Ain as Head of Historic Buildings and Landscapes with the Abu Dhabi Department of Culture and Tourism, where he has been involved in the

investigation, conservation, and presentation of historic buildings and cultural landscapes throughout the emirate.

PETRA M. SIJPESTEIJN is Professor of Arabic at Leiden University and is currently (2020–21) a Senior Fellow at the Historisches Kolleg in Munich. Her research concentrates on recovering the experiences of Muslims and non-Muslims living under Islamic rule, using the vast stores of radically under-used documents surviving from the early Islamic world. Since 2017 she has been the Principal Investigator of an international research project entitled “Embedding Conquest: Naturalising Muslim Rule in the Early Islamic Empire (600–1000),” funded by the European Research Council. She is the author of *Shaping a Muslim State: The World of a Mid-Eighth-Century Egyptian Official* (2013).

MATHIEU TILLIER is Professor of Medieval Islamic History at Sorbonne University and a member of the research unit “Orient et Méditerranée” (UMR 8167) at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). His research mainly focuses on Islamic law and institutions. He is the author of *Les cadis d’Iraq et l’état abbasside (132/750–334/945)* (2009), and of *L’invention du cadi: la justice des musulmans, des juifs et des chrétiens aux premiers siècles de l’Islam* (2017).

JOANITA VROOM is Professor of the Archaeology of Medieval and Early Modern Eurasia at the Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University, specializing in medieval and post-medieval archaeology in the eastern Mediterranean and the Near East (including the Byzantine, Islamic, Crusader, and Ottoman periods). She takes a particular interest in the socioeconomic (production and distribution) and cultural aspects (cuisine and eating habits) of ceramics in these societies, and is series editor of the Medieval and Post-Medieval Mediterranean Archaeology series (MPMAS) at Brepols Publishers (Turnhout). For her publications see: [www.academia.edu/JoanitaVroom](http://www.academia.edu/JoanitaVroom) and [www.researchgate.net/profile/Joanita\\_Vroom](http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Joanita_Vroom). For further information on her various research projects and international field projects see [www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/stafmembers/joanita-vroom](http://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/stafmembers/joanita-vroom).

## *Notes on Transliteration, Names, and Dates*

The transliteration of Arabic words and phrases follows the system used in the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (IJMES).<sup>1</sup> In historical contexts Arabic personal and place names are transliterated according to their medieval forms, except for very common place names such as Alexandria (not al-Iskandariyya) or Damascus (not Dimashq). Depending on their historical contexts, Greek or Coptic place names are used alongside or in place of their Arabic counterparts. Modern place names are only mentioned when referring to the modern location, for example in reports on finding places or archaeological activities. If not otherwise specified, dates given in this volume are Common Era (CE) dates. If two dates are provided (e.g. 18/639), the first one is the year according to the Muslim Hijra calendar (AH) and the second is the CE date. For dates preceding the year 1 AH only the CE date is provided.

<sup>1</sup> See [www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-journal-of-middle-east-studies/information/author-resources/ijmes-translation-and-transliteration-guide](http://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-journal-of-middle-east-studies/information/author-resources/ijmes-translation-and-transliteration-guide).

## *Preface and Acknowledgments*

This volume originates with the program *Provinces and Empires: Islamic Egypt in the Ancient World: Administrative Transformations, Pluralistic Society and Competing Memories*,<sup>1</sup> a collaboration between the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (UMR 8167 Orient et Méditerranée), the Institut français d'archéologie orientale, New York University's Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, the University of Tunis, and Leiden University. Within the program three conferences were held in Cairo, New York, and Leiden between 2013 and 2015 entitled "Fustat: contrôle des territoires et réseaux d'autorité," "Multilingualism and Social Belonging in the Late Antique and Early Islamic Near East," and "Egypt Connected, 500–1000 CE" respectively. Together the program aimed to examine Egypt's transition from a Byzantine province centered on Constantinople to a province in the Islamic caliphate successively ruled from Medina, Damascus, and finally Baghdad, covering the period from around 500 to 1000 CE.

As a follow-up to this conference series, the editors of this volume, together with Sylvie Denoix, organized an interactive workshop at the Lorentz Center in Leiden in December 2016. This workshop, entitled "Egypt Incorporated: Economic, Political and Cultural Developments from Late Antiquity to Islam," further explored Egypt's integration in the Byzantine and Islamic empires and reassessed the extent to which the Muslim conquest of Egypt in the mid-seventh century created new networks and interactions, influenced interregional connectivity, and facilitated exchanges along new ways and according to new formations. Adopting a format that allowed for much discussion between its participants, the workshop explicitly aimed at producing a scholarly volume on this theme. The workshop has resulted in the current volume. It includes

<sup>1</sup> See [www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-journal-of-middle-east-studies/information/author-resources/ijmes-translation-and-transliteration-guide](http://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-journal-of-middle-east-studies/information/author-resources/ijmes-translation-and-transliteration-guide).

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contributions of the workshop's participants as well as contributions by participants to one of the conferences of the *Provinces and Empires* series. The conversation between the authors of the different chapters has continued since the workshop took place and papers have been updated since then to include the latest scholarly publications in each discipline.

Some words of thanks are in place. Many institutions have contributed to the organization of the conferences and the workshop that made this volume possible. In addition to the institutions already mentioned, the editors of this volume would like to express their gratitude to the Juynboll Foundation, the Leiden University Centre for the Study of Islam and Society (LUCIS), the Leiden University research profile area Leiden Global Interactions (2009–19), the Leids Universiteits Fonds, the Lorentz Center, the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), the Oosters Instituut, and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Science (KNAW) for their financial support. In addition, the Oosters Instituut, the Juynboll Foundation, the Fonds Wetenschapsbeoefening of Radboud University, and the Radboud Institute for Culture & History (RICH) have generously contributed to the publication costs of the present volume.



Map of Late Antique and Early Islamic Egypt