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ROSE AND ALEISTER CROWLEY'S STAY IN EGYPT IN 1904

A STUDY OF THE CAIRO WORKING AND WHAT IT LED TO

BY

PERDURABO ST

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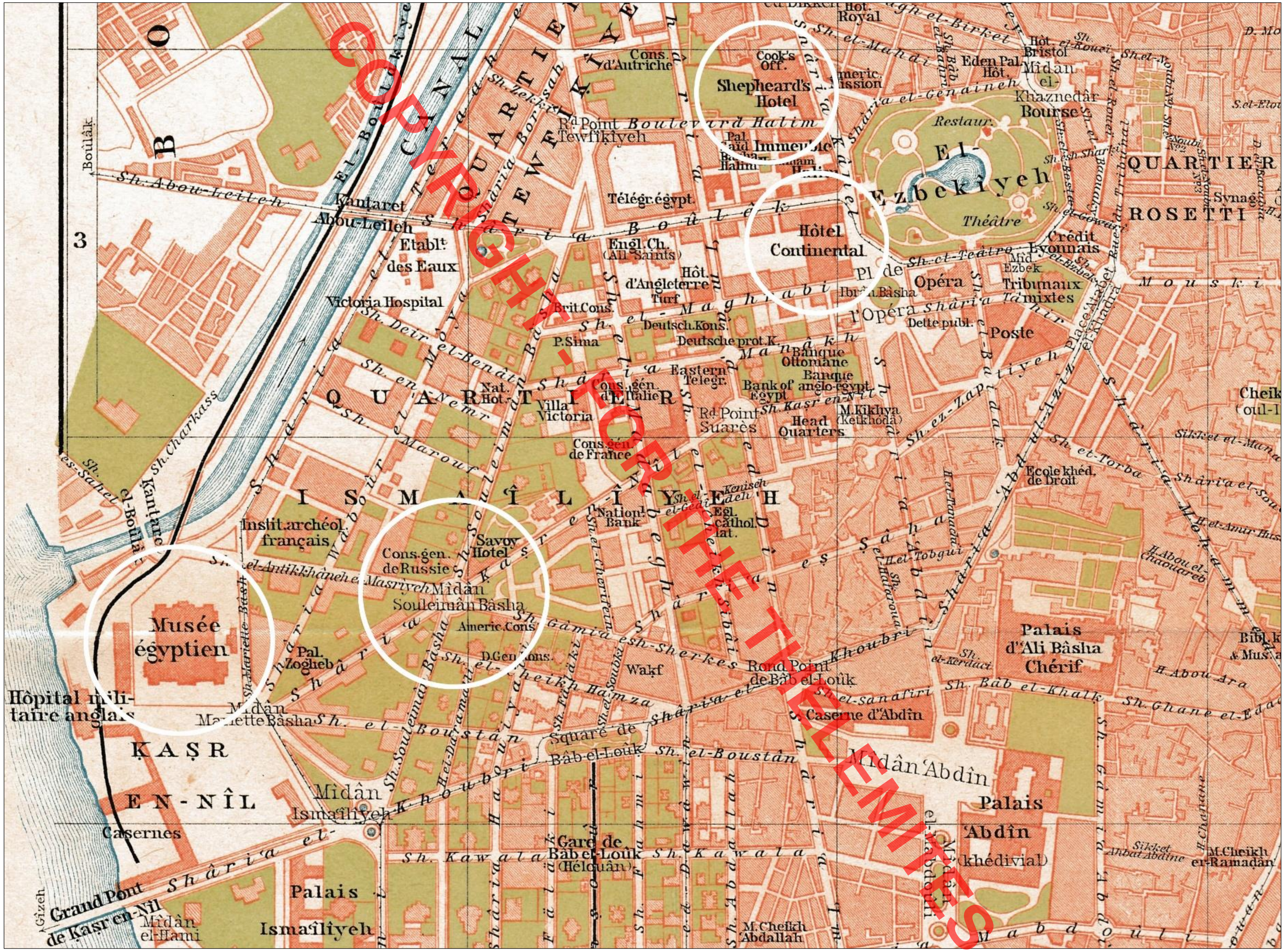
FRATER PERDURABO, to whom this revelation was made with so many signs and wonders, was himself unconvinced. He struggled against it for years. Not until the completion of His own initiation at the end of 1909 did He understand how perfectly He was bound to carry out this work. (Indeed, it was not until his word became conterminous with Himself and His Universe that all alien ideas lost their meaning for him). Again and again He turned away from it, took it up for a few days or hours, then laid it aside. He even attempted to destroy its value, to nullify the result. Again and again the unsleeping might of the Watchers drove Him back to the work; and it was at the very moment when He thought Himself to have escaped that He found Himself fixed for ever with no possibility of again turning aside for the fraction of a second from the path.

The history of this must one day be told by a more vivid voice. Properly considered, it is a history of continuous miracle.

THE EQUINOX OF THE GODS, 1936 E.V.



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Map from c. 1905-6 E.V. showing the "Quartier Ismaîlîyeh", the European district of Cairo. The four white circles show places of great importance in Aleister Crowley's account of the visit to Cairo in 1904 E.V.

CHAPTER 3 ⊗ [*niwt* (*niut*), "city"] • Cairo and the writing of *Liber L vel Legis*

One day Crowley's wish was to study Islam from within and play some golf, the next day his true will was awaken and took over – although he tried for some years to fight against it – for the rest of his life and beyond in the name of Horus and as *"ΛΟΓΟΣ ΑΙΩΝΟΣ θελημα"*[405], LOGOS AIŌNOS thelema. Crowley's universe was shaked and the following lines were soon to be dictated to him and written down in what became known as *Liber L vel Legis*[406] – *The Book of the Law*:

I am the Hawk-Headed Lord of Silence & of Strength;
my nemyss shrouds the night-blue sky.
Hail! ye twin warriors about the pillars of the world!
for your time is nigh at hand.
I am the Lord of the Double Wand of Power; the
wand of the Force of Coph Nia – but my left hand is empty,
for I have crushed an Universe; & nought remains.[407]

Of this writing, which took place on Friday, April 8; Saturday, April 9; and Sunday, April 10, 1904 E.V., in an apartment taken possession of about the 14th of March[408], Fra. P. has given a detailed description in *TSK1912*; *EG*; *Confessions*; et al. But where did this writing, whose outcome exceeded all else, take place? Fra. P. writes in *EG* concerning this:

The city was Cairo.

The street, or rather streets, I do not remember. There is a 'Place'[409] *where four or five streets intersect; it is near the Boulak Museum, but a fairly long way from Shepherd's. The quarter is fashionably European. The house occupied a corner. I do not remember its orientation; but, as appears from the instructions for invoking Horus, one window of the temple opened to the East or North. The apartment was of several rooms on the ground floor, well furnished in the Anglo-Egyptian style. It was let by a firm named Congdon & Co.*

The room [in which the writing took place] *was a drawing-room cleared of fragile obstacles, but not otherwise prepared to serve as a temple. It had double doors, opening on to the corridor to the North and a*

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[405] I.e. Logos Aeon of θελημα (*thelema*) as signed by him together with ΤΟ ΜΕΓΑ ΘΗΡΙΟΝ (*The Great Beast*) on the so-called *Mediterranean Manifesto*, dated An XX (1924 E.V.), and titled *TO MAN – Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.* • See: *Khaled Khan* [*Aleister Crowley*]. The Heart of the Master. London, UK: O.T.O., 1938, p. 34. (*III. THE TEMPLE OF TRUTH*; The Initiation, pp. 28-35.) • Also in: *Aleister Crowley*. The Master Therion – A Biographical Note. ◆ In: The Equinox. Volume III. Number 10. Edited by Hymenaeus Beta X°. New York, NY: Ordo Templi Orientis – Thelema Publications, 1986 E.V., pp. 13-8. (*The Master Therion – A Biographical Note*, pp. 13-8.) ◆ Revised Second Printing: New York, NY: 93 Publishing and and York Beach, Maine: Samuel Weiser, Inc., 1990, pp. 13-8. (*The Master Therion – A Biographical Note*, pp. 13-8.) • For "*TO MAN*", see note[4332] below.

[406] For the title written on the original title page of the MS., see note[2106] and note[3977] below.

[407] *Liber L vel Legis*, chapter III, verse 70-72.

[408] See note[296] above.

[409] '*Place*', French for square.

door to the East leading to another room, the dining-room, I think. It had two windows opening on the Place, to the South, and a writing table against the wall between them.[410]

[…]

Lieut.-Col. Somebody, beginning, I think, with a B, married, middle-aged, with manners like the Rules of a Prison. I cannot remember that I ever saw him; but the apartment was sublet to me by him.[411]

Let us try to locate this 'place' in the European district of Cairo – the quarter known as the Ismailiya quarter, and the smallest of Cairo's quarters – from Fra. P.'s description, a description unfortunately written many years later for the use in *EG* and not for his account in *TSK1912*, which he wrote only some seven years after his stay in the apartment. However, it turns out that Fra. P.'s few words, in fact, are an unmistakable description of a well-known place in the Ismailiya quarter. The Ismailiya quarter was the European district of the foreign hotels, shops, business offices, and chief residences. It was bounded by the Sharia Kasr en-Nil, the new Cairo Museum at Kasr en-Nil, the Ismailiya Canal, and the Sharia Kamel.[412] As we have established above, the museum was not the Boulak Museum but the Cairo Museum at Kasr en-Nil, which today is called the Egyptian Museum at Tahrir Square.[413] Since my visit to Cairo in An IIIxiv T.A.A.L. (i.e. 1984 E.V.) I have been convinced that the apartment in which the writing of *Liber L vel Legis* took place was located close to the Cairo Museum at Kasr en-Nil and in its Eastern neighbourhood or, more precisely, at a large square or 'rond point'[414] named Rond Point Soliman Pasha, or, in Arabic, Midan Soliman Pasha (Figure 20 and Figure 21), situated in the lower part of Sharia Kasr en-Nil, and only half a kilometre from the museum (see Figure 7). In fact, this is the square mentioned above where the Savoy Hotel (Figure 21 and Figure 23) was located, and where the Crowleys probably stayed during their search for an apartment, and probably also met General Dickson. I think that we can establish with almost absolute certainty that when Crowley describes the quarter as fashionably European and having a 'Place' where four or five streets intersect and being near the museum, but a fairly long way from Shepherd's, then it must be there! There seems to be very little alternative all things considered. The distance between Shepherd's and Rond Point Soliman Pasha (see Figure 6) was 1.3 kilometres, and therefore "*a fairly long way from Shepherd's*", as Crowley writes. In the upper part of Sharia Kasr en-Nil is Rond Point Suarès where four streets intersect, a little southwest of Place de l'Opéra, but it is to close to Shepheard's and to far away from the museum to be considered a candidate.[415]

Interestingly, Congdon & Co. whom Crowley mentions in *EG* is in Karl Baedeker's *Egypt – Handbook for Travellers* from 1902 listed as a goods agent: "*Goods Agents. […] Congdon & Co., Shâria' Kasr en-Nîl.*"[416], and in the book's 1908 E.V. edition they are found at the same address and under

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[410] EG, p. 109.

[411] Ibid., p. 114.

[412] *Douglas Sladen*. Oriental Cairo. The City of the" Arabian Nights". Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co. and Hurst & Blackett Ltd., 1911, p. 13.

[413] See note[424] below.

[414] French for Circus (at intersection of roads). This term is found on some French and German maps showing this area and its midan. • See also note[446] below.

[415] Rond Point Suarès (Midan Suarès) was later renamed Midan Moustafa Kamel.

[416] Karl Baedeker. Egypt. Handbook for Travellers. Fifth Remodelled Edition. Leipzig: Karl Baedeker, Publisher, 1902, p. 29. • The book's preface (p. vi) states that the information for the book was collected in 1900. • Congdon & Co. is not mentioned in the Fourth remodelled edition of the book from 1898 but its preface states that the information for this edition was collected in 1895.

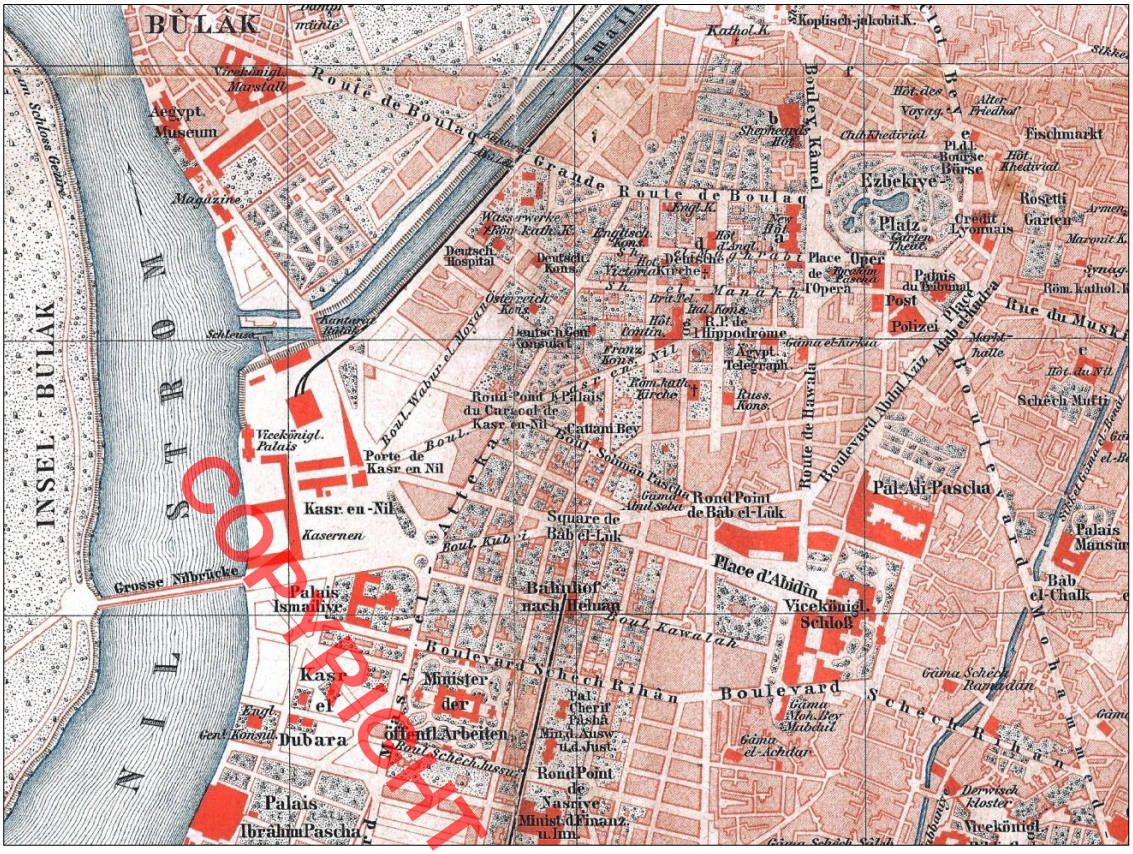

FIGURE 6. ***Section from a German map of Cairo from the 1880s showing the Egyptian Museum at Boulak and the European quarter of Cairo***

At the upper left beyond the Ismailiya Canal is the Boulak Museum ("*Aegypt. Museum*") situated directly on the bank of the River Nile, and to the upper right Shepheard's Hotel ("*Shepheards Hôt*"), the Ezbekieh ("*Ezbekiye-Platz*"), and Place de l'Opéra. Further right is the Fishmarket ("*Fischmarkt*") that Crowley mentions in his account of his 1902 visit to Cairo. In "*Boulevard Kâmel*" at Place de l'Opéra is the New Hotel ("*New Hôt*"), which became the Grand Continental and where the Crowleys stayed shortly in 1904. Further south-west down Boulevard Kasr en-Nil ("*Boul. Kasr en-Nil*") is the "*Rond Point du Caracol de Kasr en-Nil*", which in the middle of the 1890s changed name to Rond-Point Kasr en-Nil and around the time of the Crowleys' visit became Midan Souleiman Basha. *KAIRO. 1:18000. Bibliographisches Institut in Leipzig*. © From the author's collection.

FIGURE 7. ***Section from a French map of Cairo from c. 1905-6 E.V. showing the Egyptian Museum at Kasr en-Nil and a part of the European quarter***

To the left is seen the new Cairo Museum ("*Musée égyptien*") at Ḳaṣr en-Nîl, which was inaugurated in 1902, and to the east of it Shâria Ḳaṣr en-Nîl with its 'Place' or square, Mîdan Souleimân Bâsha, where six streets intersect. At the square's north-east corner is the Savoy Hotel, and opposite at the south-west corner is the Standard Life Insurance Building which was built where a small police station, a so-called Caracol, had been located, as seen on FIGURE 6. My research suggests that this square situated close to the Cairo Museum was the centre of the Cairo Working since it to all appearances was the 'Place' mentioned by Crowley where the apartment that He and Rose rented was located – presumably in the newly built Standard Life Insurance Building – and where the announcement of the Equinox of the Gods took place together with the writing of *The Book of the Law*. *LE CAIRE (MASR EL-KÂHIRA) 1:12.300.* Engraved and printed by *Wagner & Debes, Leipzig*. © From the author's collection.

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FIGURE 20. *Soliman Pasha Square, late 1900s*

Photograph of Soliman Pasha Square from the late 1900s. To the right the corner opposite the Standard Life Insurance Building with the Savoy Hotel and to the left the massive front of Immeuble Michel Ayoub with its characteristic corner turrets topped by what to all appearances were belvederes open on four sides. The belvederes have disappeared today. Some small signboards on the building seem to indicate that at least a part of the ground floor and probably also the "look-out" basement contained business premises. The square is adorned by the statue of Mohammed Ali's military chief-of-staff, Soliman Pasha (1788-1860). Black and white postcard marked *LL.* [*Léon & Lévy – Paris.*]. © From the author's collection.

the same heading: "*Goods Agents.*" […] *Congdon & Co., Blattner & Co., both in the Shâriaʿ Kasr en-Nîl;*".[417] However, in *Reynolds-Ball1905* Congdon & Co. is, in fact, listed as house agents: "*(Practical Information), House Agents. — Congdon & Co., Sharia Kasr-en-Nil.*".[418] I have walked down Sharia Kasr en-Nil (today's Kasr al Nil), which is a little more than one kilometre long many times, and stood on its grand square, and after my return to Europe rereading Fra. P.'s account I knew that it was the '*Place*' he mentioned. We are not informed of the number of the house in which Congdon & Co. had their business, but at that time many addresses in guides are given without numbers of the houses, only the street is mentioned together with words such as "*near*", "*close to*", "*next to*", or, "*opposite*", something. This seems due to the fact that a quantity of sites, especially in the area east of the New Museum, still were unbuilt. However, we know from *The London Gazette*, which on June 1, 1915 E.V., announced that J. W. Congdon had passed away on August 18, 1914 E.V., that the address was 21, Sharia Kasr-el-Nil, and thus situated half way between the Savoy Hotel and the National Bank of Egypt in the part of Sharia Kasr en-Nil that led up to Rond Point Suarès.[419] The address '23, Sharia Kasr-el-Nil' belonged to St. Andrew's (Church of Scotland).[420] In Baedeker's 1908 E.V. edition Blattner & Co. is also mentioned on the List of Tourist Agents: "*Blattner & Co., Shâriaʿ Kasr en-Nil, near the Savoy Hotel.*"[421]. The building of the Savoy Hotel started in 1897, and it was inaugurated in November the following year. Like the Grand Continental it was owned by George Nungovich Bey, a Greek Cypriot who had started as a railway porter in Cairo station in 1883 and ended up as the owner of a hotel empire.[422] The building was designed by the Syrian-born architech Dimitrius Fabricius Pasha (1847-1907), who became architect to H.H. the Khedive. The Savoy Hotel was in 1904, as mentioned above, the newest hotel in Cairo. An advertisement for the hotel stated:

> *The Savoy Hotel – "The hotel-de-luxe of Egypt." – and Savoy Restaurant. The Finest, Newest, and most Luxurious Hotel in Egypt. Built especially for an Hotel in 1897. Full South, with Beautiful Surroundings and Gardens. Large Terrace on the Promenade. A larger number of Elegant Suites, each with Private Bathroom, than any other Hotel in Egypt. Fireplaces in every Room.*[423]

Baedeker's 1908 E.V. edition of *Egypt and the Sudân* says about Sharia Kasr en-Nil:

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[417] *Karl Baedeker*. Egypt and the Sudân. Handbook for Travellers. Sixth Remodelled Edition. Leipzig: Karl Baedeker, Publisher, 1908, p. 37.

[418] *Reynolds-Ball1905*, p. 19. • Also in the book's 1898 edition are they mentioned as house agents: "*House Agents. — Congdon and Co., Sharia Kasr-en-Nil.*" • *E. A. Reynolds-Ball*. Cairo of To-Day: A practical Guide to Cairo and its Environs. London, UK: Adam and Charles Black, 1898, p. 16. (*Practical Information*) • See also note[626] below.

[419] "*JOHN WILLIAM CONGDON, Deceased. Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Law of Property Amendment Act, 1859, that all persons having any claims or demands upon or against the estate of John William Congdon, late of 21, Sharia Kasr-el-Nil, Cairo, Egypt, deceased (who died on the 18th day of August, 1914,* [...]" • The London Gazette. London, UK: The London Gazette. ◆ 1 June, 1915, p. 5266. (*JOHN WILLIAM CONGDON, DECEASED*, p. 5266.)

[420] The "Queen" Newspaper Book of Travel; A Resume of the Practical Travel Information Which has Appeared in the "Queen" From 1894 to 1905. London, UK: Horace Cox, 1905, p. 167. ("*CHURCHES:* [...] *St. Andrew's (Scotch), 23, Sharia Kasr el Nil;*")(*Some African Resorts*, p. 167.) • For the address '23, Sharia Kasr el Nil', see also note[455] below.

[421] *Karl Baedeker*. Egypt and the Sudân. Handbook for Travellers. Sixth Remodelled Edition. Leipzig: Karl Baedeker, Publisher, 1908, p. 33.

[422] *Nina Nelson*. Shepheards Hotel. London, UK: Barrie & Rockliff, 1960, p. 59.

[423] *Reynolds-Ball1905*. Advertisement on the inside of the back cover.

Farther to the S.[outh] *is the Shâriaʿ Kasr en-Nil, leading from the Shâriaʿ ʿAbdîn to the Mîdân Suleimân Bâsha, which is adorned with the monument of Suleimân Pasha, while at the N.*[orth] *E.*[ast] *corner stands the Savoy Hotel. Beyond this point the street leads past the handsome Palace of Count Zogheb, built by Herz-Bey in the Arabic style, to the barracks of Kasr en-Nîl and the new Museum of Egyptian Antiquities.*[424]

The first part of Sharia Kasr en-Nil led from Sharia Abdin near Place de l'Opéra and down to Rond Point Suarès. It was around the time of the Crowleys visit that the mentioned "*Mîdân Suleimân Bâsha*" officially changed its name from '*Rond-Point Kasr en-Nil*' to '*Midan Suleiman Basha*', or, '*Soliman Pasha*'[425] as mostly used nowadays. In Baedeker's 1902 edition the book's Cairo map has '*Rond-Point Kasr en-Nil*', and in the next edition, 1908 E.V., whose information likely was collected around 1905-6 E.V., it has been changed to '*Mîdan Souleimân Bâsha*'. Baedeker's 1898 edition, whose information is stated to have been collected in 1895[426], is the first to mention the monument of Soliman Pasha, which was erected in 1874.[427] Midan Soliman Pasha was a circular square[428] where six streets intersected. The midan still exists. It had a diameter of some seventy metres, and the streets' intersections created four radiating triangular sites located to the East and to the West, and two large sites that followed the curve of the midan to the North and to the South. This 'Place' was in 1904 E.V. unlike today a quiet place in the European part of Cairo, and a greater part of its surroundings were gardens.[429] Many streets in this part of Cairo were flanked by trees – thus also Sharia Kasr en-Nil. This square, or midan, is still sometimes spoken of as Midan Soliman Pasha, although officially renamed Midan Talaat Harb in 1964 E.V. The monument of Soliman Pasha, which in 1904 E.V. was surrounded by a low, wrought, iron fence, was also removed in 1964 E.V.,

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[424] *Karl Baedeker*. Egypt and the Sudân. Handbook for Travellers. Sixth Remodelled Edition. Leipzig: Karl Baedeker, Publisher, 1908, p. 48. • Count Zogheb was Danish consul-general: "*Consulates* […] — *Danish, Count Zogheb, consul-general, Shâriaʿ Kasr en-Nil*." • Ibid., p. 32. • The museum's official name and address today is *The Egyptian Museum*, *Midan el Tahrir* (Tahrir Square), *Cairo* – the building is located on the northern edge of the square.

[425] The man who gave the midan its name and statue was Mohammed Ali's French-born military chief-of-staff. He was born Octave Joseph Anthelme Sève (1788-1860) but became known in Egypt as Soliman Pasha al-Faransawi, i.e. '*the Frenchman*'. Once a promising young naval officer he had killed a senior officer in a career-ending duel. He had founded renewal in Napoleon Bonaparte's vast army and years later he went to Egypt as colonel and served Mohammed Ali. Among other things he founded Egypt's first modern military academy and his services was highly esteemed by Mohammed Ali. Sève converted to Islam and married a daughter of Mohammed Ali and became the great grandfather of King Farouk who abdicated in 1952. It was in Syria that Soliman Pasha together with Mohammed Ali's son (or adopted son), general Ibrahim Pasha (1789-1848), won military fame by defeating an Ottoman army at Homs and gaining a final victory at Konya in December 1832 that resulted in that Syria and Adana were ceded to Egypt. • For Soliman Pasha's statue, see: *Lesley Lababidi*. Cairo's Street Stories: Exploring the City's Statues, Squares, Bridges, Gardens, and Sidewalk Cafés. Cairo: The American University in Cairo Press, 2008, pp. 55-7. ◆ For his military career, see: *Andrew James McGregor*. A Military History of Modern Egypt: From the Ottoman Conquest to the Ramadan War. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger Security International, 2006, p. 79 ff. • For Ibrahim Pasha, see also note[39] above. • For the square's original name, see note[446] below.

[426] See note[416] above.

[427] *Baedeker*. Egypt. Handbook for Travellers. Fourth remodelled Edition, Leipsic: Karl Baedeker, Publisher, 1898, p. p. 40. ("*Monument to Sulêmân Pasha.*") • For the date 1874, see: *Lesley Lababidi*. Cairo's Street Stories: Exploring the City's Statues, Squares, Bridges, Gardens, and Sidewalk Cafés. Cairo: The American University in Cairo Press, 2008, p. 56. • The statue's creator was the French sculptor Henri Alfred Jacquemart (1824-1896) who also made the four bronze lions guarding Pont de Kasr el-Nil.

[428] Midan (Mîdân) means in Arabic 'open space, a common; public square'.

[429] See: *Reynolds-Ball1905*, p. 48 and the advertisement for the Savoy Hotel, Advertisements, p. vi. See also below.

and the statue on its centre today is the man who gave the midan its new name, Talatt Harb, founder of the Egyptian National Bank.[430] The statue of Talatt Harb was unveiled on April 3, 1964 E.V., the anniversary of the establishment of Bank Misr, founded by Talaat Harb in 1920 E.V.[431] The midan still is one of Cairo's most prominent squares.

Where on this midan was the house located? Using maps showing details of this part of Cairo at that time[432], together with photographs from the same period, and by examine Fra. P.'s description in *EG* carefully, we must try to locate the house and its apartment on this midan which, as mentioned above, was only half a kilometre away from the Cairo Museum at Kasr en-Nil. There seem to have been two buildings on the midan in 1904 E.V. which must be taken into consideration in the light of Fra. P.'s description, and the facts at that time. The first is the '*Immeuble* [French for 'building'] *Michel Ayoub*' (Figure 20) that was situated to the left of the Savoy Hotel. This elegant 1900s Art Nouveau building had been built by Senator Michel Ayoub Pasha who was Director of Alexandria Customs and Stock Exchange.[433] It does not appear on early photographs of the Savoy Hotel, which was inaugurated in 1898, but seems to have been build around the same time as the Standard Building. The five-storeyed building had a 'look-out' basement and four floors. It had two corner turrets topped by what to all appearances were belvederes, handsome structures that have disappeared today. The building's massive front curves inwards, following the circular midan, and occupies most of its northern section. The front of the house is some forty-five metres long. At the time of the Crowleys visit to Cairo the street to the right of the building was named Sharia Soliman Pasha (today's Talaat Harb), and the one to the left Sharia el-Antikkhaneh el-Masriyeh, Street of the Egyptian Antiquities Museum (today's Mahmoud Basiouni).[434] A part of the building's front has windows to the east. One can of course say that this building in a manner of speaking occupies a corner, but I think that this description fits more another building, as we shall see, which was located on a corner to the south-west and opposite the Savoy Hotel on the north-east corner. However, we must take into consideration that the description given by Fra. P. was a description made for "*Genesis Libri AL*", and apparently written some twenty-five years after the visit to Cairo took place.[435] But if the apartment was in the

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[430] The statue seems to have the same orientation as its predecessor.

[431] Arab Observer; The Non-Aligned Weekly. Cairo, Egypt: The National Publishing House. ◆ No. 189, February 10, 1964, p. 19.

[432] Maps of Cairo found in: *Reynolds-Ball1905*; Murray's Handbook for Egypt and the Sudan. H. R. Hall (Ed.) London: Edward Stanford, 1907. Wagner & Debes made a new edition of their accurate plan of Cairo – Le Caire (Masr El-Kâhira) 1:12,300 – which was published in: *Karl Baedeker*. Egypt and the Sudân. Handbook for Travellers. Sixth Remodelled Edition. Leipzig: Karl Baedeker, Publisher, 1908, facing p. 31. This plan – drawn around 1906-07 – seems to be their newest made after 1904. (The Fifth Remodelled Edition was issued in 1902 and had a plan of Cairo, facing p. 24.) The same plan as issued by Baedeker in 1908 was also issued as "*The newest map of Cairo*" in: *Douglas Sladen*. Oriental Cairo. The City of the Arabian Nights. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co. and Hurst & Blackett Ltd., 1911, facing half-title. • See Figure 6 and Figure 7 in this book. • Of interest is also the "*Plano del Cairo*" from 1900 ("*Midan Soliman Basha*"; "*Museo Egipcio*") found in *Enciclopedia ilustrada Seguí* (published c. 1905-10): Plano del Cairo. Institut Cartogràfic i Geològic de Catalunya. • Enciclopedia ilustrada Seguí. Diccionario Universal con todas las voces y locuciones usadas en España y en la América Latina. 12 tomos. Barcelona: Centro Editorial Artístico de Miguel Seguí, s.a. [c. 1905-10]. ◆ Tomo III, Desde C á Cazziol, "*Plano del Cairo*", facing p. 88. • This Catalan-made map is also found online at: http://cartotecadigital.icc.cat/cdm/ref/collection/africa/id/577

[433] See the article in Cairo Times, March 18, 1999 by Samir Raafat: "*Soliman Pasha Square*". The article may be found online at: www.egy.com/landmarks • The building's address today is № 6-8 Midan Talaat Harb.

[434] In Arabic the museum was called El-Antikkhâneh, '*The Antiquities Museum*'.

[435] "*Genesis Libri AL*" was originally planned by Crowley to have been published as an appendix to Volume III of *Confessions* together with *Liber Legis* and the Comment. This volume was never published owing to the closing of

Immeuble Michel Ayoub we should expect to hear of 'one' of the building's corners, or, the part between, I think. On photographs of the building from the 1900s are seen some signboards, which seem to indicate that at least a part of the building's ground floor fronting the midan contained business premises (see Figure 20). In the 1920s/30s there was, among others, a dentist's shop at the ground floor.[436] Today the nine storeyed Baehler Building on the north-east corner in front of the statue of Talatt Harb stands where the Savoy Hotel, as mentioned, was situated back in 1904 E.V.[437] On the opposite corner, behind the statue, is the so-called Chark Building, a seven-storeyed building with the name '*Al Chark Assurances*' displayed above a towering clock on the building's second-story deck.[438] This building situated in the south-west sector of the midan occupies the corner of Sharia Talaat Harb and Sharia Kasr en-Nil. It is a sharp corner having a triangular site, which in 1904 E.V. was the corner of Sharia Soliman Pasha and Sharia Kasr en-Nil. It is my guess that this seven-storeyed building probably stands where the house containing the apartment let by the firm Congdon & Co. stood in 1904 E.V.

Let us look at the history of this corner and of the rest of the midan, and demonstrate its buildings in 1904 E.V., and today. The Scottish company Standard Life Assurance Company did business in Egypt from 1898, and in 1904 they built their headquarters on Midan Soliman Pasha – a building which became one of modern Cairo's landmarks, and is the '*Chark Building*' referred to above.[439] However, as I shall discuss below, so was the original building a six storeyed building, which had a look-out basement and five floors (see Figure 22). The company's business in Egypt became known as the '*Standard Life Insurance Company*', and their headquarters on Midan Soliman Pasha the '*Standard Life Insurance Building*'. The company had been represented in Egypt by agents from 1898 onwards, but in late 1901 they started to look for suitable premises to set up business in Cairo.[440] A history of the company published in 1925 E.V., *The Standard Life Assurance Company,*

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the Mandrake Press, in 1930 E.V. "*Genesis Libri AL*" reached galley-proofs probably in 1930 E.V. and was finally published in 1936 E.V. in *The Equinox of the Gods*. (*Vol. III. No. III*) • For this, see: Magick.I-IV., p. 741; p. 790, Note 381 (on p. 708.) • See also note[3788] below. • The text comprising "*Genesis Libri AL*" published in *EG* in 1936 E.V. and its notes were evidently written from 1920 E.V. to around the time of the book's publication. In the end of its first chapter a note tells that the text to which the note belongs was written in 1920 E.V. (EG, p. 47, Note 1) In Chapter VI a note refers to Captain J. F. C. Fuller and Crowley has in parentheses added "(*now Major-General*)". (EG, p. 61, Note 1) This promotion took place on September 14th, 1930 E.V. and Fuller retired in December 1933 E.V. (Crowley makes no note of Fuller's retirement.) A note to Chapter VII states that the whole chapter "*was written, independently of any idea of its present place in this book, by The Beast 666 Himself, in the Abbey of Thelema in Cefalù, Sicily.*" (EG, p. 94, Note 1) • For the two dates on Fuller, see: *Anthony John Trythall*. "Boney" Fuller: Soldier, Strategist, and Writer, 1878-1966. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1977, p. 161. (*7. A Vision of the Future of War – 1927-33*, pp. [145]-79.) • John Frederick Charles Fuller (1878-1966). 'Bonaparte or Boney' to his friends. British army officer (major-general), armored theorist, war historian, and writer. One of the founders of modern armoured warfare. • For Fuller, see also note[939], note[2018] and note[4031] below.

[436] "Isaac Zukerman Dentist"

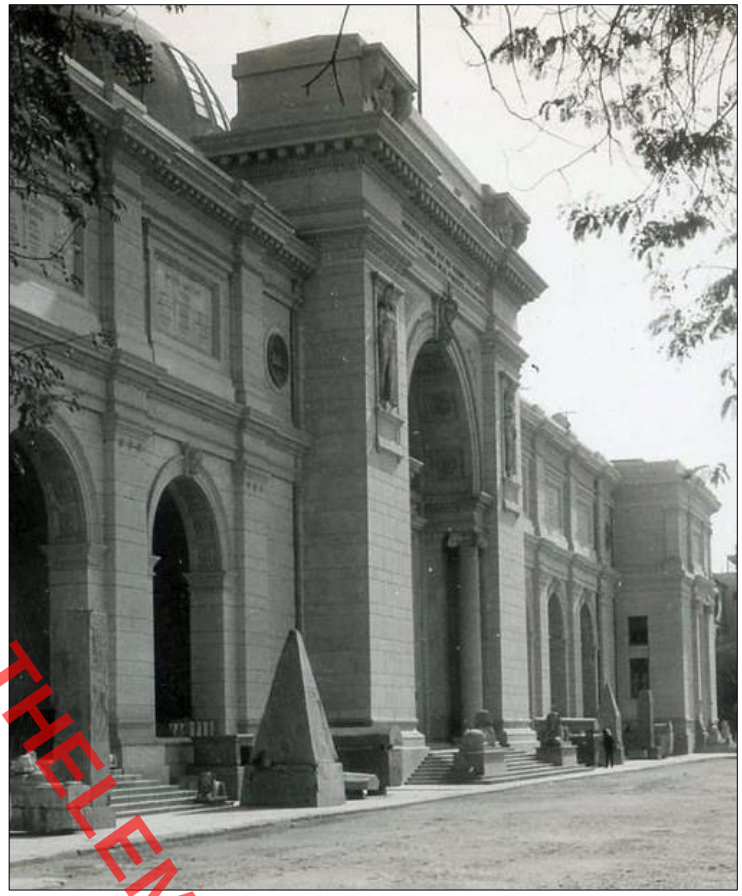
[437] The Art Deco *Baehler Building* replaced the Savoy Hotel. It was built between 1927 E.V. and 1929 E.V. and owned by the Swiss-born hotel owner, art collector and sportsman, Charles Albert Baehler (1868-1937). • On the history of the midan and its buildings, see: *Samir W. Raafat*. Cairo, the glory years. Who built what, when, why and for whom… Alexandria: Harpocrates Publishing, 2003.

[438] For the buildings name, see note[468] below.

[439] *Sir William Schooling*. The Standard Life Assurance Company, 1825-1925. Edinburgh: William Blackwood and Sons, 1925, pp. 75-6. (*Chapter VIII. The Standard Overseas. Egypt*, pp. 75-6.) • The firm was named The Life Assurance Company of Scotland and it still has its headquarters in Edinburgh. They withdraw from Egypt in the 1930s. • For Al Chark Insurance Company who took over the building, see note[468] below.

[440] Ibid., p. 75.

Today's Chark Building (former Standard Life Insurance Building) on Midan Talaat Harb, the renaming of Midan Soliman Pasha, which took place in 1964 E.V.



1900s photograph of a newly built Cairo Museum at Kasr-en-Nil.

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FIGURE 22. ***Soliman Pasha's Monument and the Standard Life Insurance Building circa early 1903***

Photograph probably from early 1903 of Soliman Pasha's Monument on Midan Soliman Pasha in Cairo's European quarter. To the left is seen a part of an unfinished Standard Life Insurance Building, which was owned by the Scottish Standard Life Assurance Company. What appears to be workmen are seen on the building's unfinished first floor deck, which probably became a large roof terrace facing northeast and overlooking the midan. Several things suggest that the apartment, which the Crowleys took possession of in Cairo after having arrived from Helwan and where the writing of *The Book of the Law* took place was located in this new building. To the right on the picture bordering Sharia Kasr en-Nil is seen a part of Ali Pacha Moubarek's property where the building housing Groppi Café was built in the 1920s. Black and white postcard marked *Max H. Rudmann, Le Caire*. © From the author's collection.

1825-1925, states that they in 1904 put up their building on Midan Soliman Pasha.[441] I also notice that the British medical journal *The Lancet* mentioned the building of the Standard Building in a notice about "*Sanitary Improvements in Cairo*", January 23, 1904 E.V.:

> […] *the Standard Life Insurance Company, which is about to build a large block of buildings quite close to the Savoy Hotel,*[442]

However, the new building in Cairo was as seen on photograps probably in used already in the second half of 1903, and very interestingly, I discover that the British weekly journal *The Statist*; *A Journal of Practical Finance and Trade*, August 15, 1903, wrote about the Standard Life Assurance Company:

> *A branch office has recently been opened in Cairo and with the view of investigating business in Egypt a deputation of directors, with the manager, has lately visited that progressive country.*[443]

And the London *Times* had, May 14, 1903, a large advertisement for "*The Standard Life Assurance Company*", where it for the first time was stated that they had a branch office in Cairo, Egypt.[444] The building complex was probably finally completed and officially inaugurated in the beginning of 1904 E.V., but I think that a greater part of the large building already was rented out and in use in the second half of 1903. The company had advertisements in *The Egyptian Gazette* and, for instance, in the issue of the paper where the Crowleys for the first time appear on a Visitor List is found an advertisement stating that the company's head office of Egypt is located in "*Sharia Kasr-el-Nil*".[445] At that time the street's name is given both as *Sharia Kasr en-Nil* and *Sharia Kasr el-Nil*. However, maps and guides mostly have the former. The house was built on a corner where a small 19th century police station, a so-called *Caracol*, had been located (see Figure 6). *Caracol*, or, *Karakol*, is a Turkish loanword meaning 'police station'; 'main-guard', and the square's original name was Midan al-Caracol, 'square of the Caracol'.[446] On old 1900's photographs the style of the Standard Life Insurance Building is Art Nouveau. Facing the midan is a corner turret topped by what probably was a kind of belvedere, a large, very handsome, circular, crown-shaped structure with

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[441] Ibid, p. 76.

[442] The Lancet; A Journal of British and Foreign Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics, Physiology, Chemistry, Pharmacology, Public Health, and News. In Two Volumes Annually. London, UK: The Office of "The Lancet". ◆ Eighty-Second Year, Vol. I. for 1904. Saturday, January 23, 1904, p. 265. (*EGYPT. (From Our Own Correspondent.); Sanitary Improvements in Cairo*, p. 265.)

[443] The Statist; A Journal of Practical Finance and Trade. London, UK: Published at "The Statist" Office. ◆ Saturday, August 15, 1903, p. 327. (*Insurance Notes; Standard Life Assurance Company*, p. 327.)

[444] The Times. London, UK: Published by George Edward Wright at the Times Office. ◆ Thursday, May 14, 1903, p. 13. (Advertisement for "*THE STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY*", p. 13.)

[445] The Egyptian Gazette. Alexandria: The Egyptian Gazette. ◆ Thursday, February 11, 1904, p. 5. • For the various addresses of the building, see note[452] below.

[446] *Donald Andreas Cameron*. An Arabic-English Vocabulary for the use of English Students of Modern Egyptian Arabic. London, UK: Bernard Quaritch, 1892, p. 218. • The square is called « *Rond-Point de Caracol de Kasr en-Nil* » on a *Wagner & Debes* map in Baedeker's *Handbook for Travellers*, 1885. ◆ Egypt. Handbook for Travellers. Edited by K. Baedeker. Part First: Lower Egypt, with the Fayûm and the Peninsula of Sinai. Second Edition. Revised and augmented. Leipsic: Karl Baedeker, Publisher, 1885, p. 228. (*Cairo (Masr el-Kahira)*) • See note[414] and note[425] above.

round windows that could open[447], and with a dome-shaped roof. The belvedere, which in Italian literally means 'a beautiful sight', was likely accessible by a stair and gave the opportunity to look out at the city. Seen on a photograph from the 1920s of Soliman Pacha Square in my collection (Figure 26), is on top of the belvedere's dome-shaped roof the vague outline of what looks like a stooping figure standing on another dome-shaped structure in company with what could be a dragon, the stooping figure carrying with both hands a huge globe on its shoulders, a figure which thus could be either Atlas or Heracles holding up the heavens. According to one legend Atlas, 'the Bearer', was a king of Mauretania, son of the Titan Iapetus by Clymene, daughter of Oceanus. He was changed into Mt Atlas by Perseus, son of Zeus by Danaë, daughter of Acrisius, after having refused hospitality to him. Perseus who had cut of Medusa's head with Hermes sickle, showed him the head, and condemned him bear the heavens on his shoulders and hands. During the eleventh of Heracles twelve labours, Fetching the golden apples of the Hesperides, Heracles, the son of Zeus by Alcmene, succeeded in getting Atlas to fetch the immortality-giving golden apples, which the goddess Hera had received at her wedding with Zeus from Gē, the Earth, and which she had entrusted to the keeping of the Hesperides (Atlas's daughters), and the dragon Ladon on Mt Atlas. In the meantime Heracles bore the weight of heaven for him. Atlas returned with the apples, but declined to resume the burden. Heracles, however, contrived by a stratagem to get the apples, which he then dedicated to Athena, who restored them to their former place. As mentioned, it is a celestial globe and not the celestial sphere that the figure upholds. The image of Atlas or Heracles upholding the vault of heaven was not easy to make into a statue, and therefore the celestial sphere was shown as a celestial globe instead, as seen on the Farnese Atlas at Naples, a 2nd century Roman marble copy of a Hellenistic sculpture of Atlas kneeling with a huge globe on his shoulders showing the zodiac, equator, and the Arctic and Antarctic circles – a presentation of the constellations not seen from the Earth but from "the outside".[448] But it could be done as a sculptural decoration on a metope, as seen on one from the Temple of Zeus at Olympia from c. 460 BCE where a naked Heracles using his folded garment, the lion skin, as cushion is supporting the heavens with the help of Athena.[449] I notice that Crowley knew the statue in Naples, which he in his 1923 E.V. diary mentions as "*the Farnese Hercules*".[450] A statue connected with the legend of Atlas and Heracles fits perfectly a building housing a life assurance company, since this legend deals with the finding of the immortality-giving golden apples, which Hera had entrusted to the keeping of the Hesperides and the dragon Ladon on Mt Atlas. And if the statue crowning the roof, as I suppose, is either Heracles or Atlas, then it is synonymous with the god Shu, the god of life in Heliopolitan cosmology, who provided the space for life to develop on earth by lifting up the sky goddess Nut, or Nuit, separating her from her husband Geb, the God of earth. Shu was pictured kneeling and lifting up the goddess. But the Greek in fact equaled Heracles, whom the Roman called Hercules, with Khonsu, the moon god of Thebes. A most peculiar and interesting building.

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[447] As seen on a photograph in my collection (see Figure 26) showing the building before its rebuilding.

[448] The statue belonges to the collection of the Italian cardinal Alessandro Farnese (1520-1589), currently in Museo Nazionale Archeologico in Naples.

[449] A metope is a marble slab either plan or sculptured filling the space between two triglyphs (ornaments) in a Doric frieze. • The metope, which is at Archaeological Museum of Olympia, Greece, shows Atlas bringing Heracles the golden Apples of the Hesperides while Heracles, assisted by Athena, holds up the sky. The eleventh of Heracles twelve labours.

[450] *Aleister Crowley*. The Magical Diaries of Aleister Crowley 1923. Ed. Stephen Skinner. Jersey, Channel Islands: Neville Spearman Ltd., 1979, p. 60. (*10 June Die Sol* [1923 E.V]) • For a visit to Naples in 1920 E.V., see note[1376] below.

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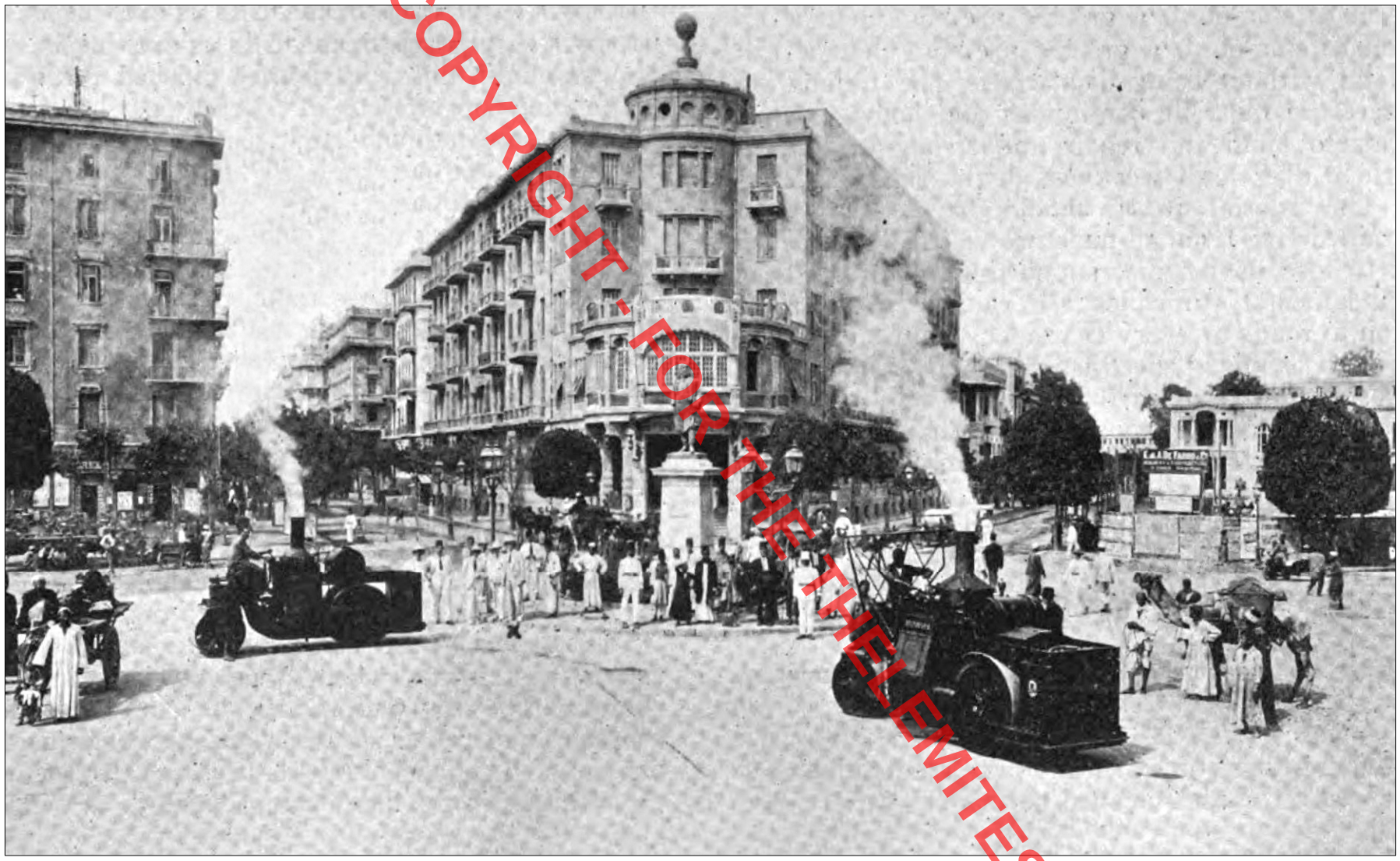
FIGURE 26. ***Standard Life Insurance Building – Belvedere and Crowning Figure***

Section of a photograph from the 1920s of the Standard Life Insurance Building showing what probably was a belvedere with round windows that could open and which gave the opportunity to look out at the city. It is crowned by the vague outlines of a stooping figure which appears to be either Atlas or Heracles carrying with both hands a huge globe on the shoulders, and next to this stooping figure what appears to be the Dragon Ladon. It appears to be a scene from the eleventh Labour of Heracles that deals with the finding of the immortality-giving golden apples, which Hera had entrusted to the safe keeping of the Hesperides and the Dragon Ladon on Mt Atlas where Atlas upheld the vault of heaven – a Greek legend that perfectly fitted a building housing a life assurance company. © From the author's collection.



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Standard Life Insurance Building on Midan Soliman Pasha in July 1923 E.V.

Perhaps its crowning decoration was the inspiration for the great, illuminated glass globe, carried by four Herculean statues, which crowns the Tiring Building on Midan al-Ataba – which contained the Tiring Department Store – another of Cairo's well-known buildings, built 1911-13 E.V., designed by the Czech architect Oscar Horowitz (1881-?1927), and situated next to the Place de l'Opéra.[451]

Today's '*Chark Building*' is unfortunately heavily rebuilt, and the handsome belvedere and its statue, and most of the other architectural niceties have not survived.[452] It was rebuilt in Art Deco style sometimes in the late 1930s, and modernized probably in the 1950s. I have in my possession a rare French real-photograph postcard showing "*Place Soleiman Pacha*"[453] circa 1903 (Figure 25). I will describe it in detail, since it gives a good impression of how the midan and its buildings were when the Crowleys visited Cairo. The skilful photographer has managed to capture all buildings on the midan on a single picture. The picture is taken outside the neo-Renaissance Savoy Hotel, and a small part of the building's stately corner tower at the midan, crowned by dome and cupola, is seen to the uttermost right. The Savoy Hotel had a look-out basement and four floors, and its main entrance was at Sharia Kasr en-Nil. The photographer is standing on Sharia Kasr en-Nil, and is facing west. To the uttermost left on the picture is a part of a low building called "*Magasins du Louvre*" – a clothing store.[454] Behind it was a four or five floored building, which apparently was connected to the shop and probably also contained living quarters, and opposite it was the Savoy's main entrance. A few years later Magasins du Louvre was replaced by an oriental carpet store. The corner plot was bordering to a large garden belonging to the palace of Moussa Cattaui Pasha, № 23 on Sharia Kasr en-Nil, and had formerly been a part of the garden.[455] The buildings were in the 1920s replaced by Giuseppe Mazza's art deco Immeuble Sednaoui (Sednaoui Department Store), which occupies the corner today.[456] To the left of Magasins du Louvre was Sharia Gamia esh-Sherkes, and between this street and the south-west part of Sharia Soliman Pasha was a large garden surrounded by a wall, and belonging to the garden palace of Prince Mohamed Ali.[457] The

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[451] For the Tiring building, see: *Samir W. Raafat*. Cairo, the glory years. Who built what, when, why and for whom… Alexandria: Harpocrates Publishing: 2003, pp. 51-3; [117] (*Photo*).

[452] Its address today is (El-Sharq Insurance Co. Building) *15 Qasr el-Nil st*. (Also: *2 Talaat Harb sq*.) • A Insurance Directory for 1938-39 E.V. has the following address (the firm that bought the company in Egypt was called "*Egypt*"): "*Egypt. 22, Sharia Kasr-el-Nil (Midan Soliman Pasha), Cairo.*" ◆ Insurance Directory and Year Book (Post Magazine Almanack) Containing Statistic and Facts of Ordinary life, Industrial Life, Fire, Accident and Marine Insurance; 1938-39. London, UK: Buckley Press Limited, [1939], p. 147. • A directory published in 1955 gives the following addresses: "*Al Chark Insurance Company, S.A.E.: Cairo: 15 Sharia Kasr el-Nil; 14 Sharia Soliman Pasha; 2 Midan Soliman Pasha;*" ◆ The Middle East and North Africa. London: Europa Publications Ltd., 1955, p. 97. • In the 1950s the building also housed the offices of Air France and Air Liban. See, Ibid., p. 101.

[453] "*4. LE CAIRE – PLACE SOLEIMAN PACHA.*" Published c. 1903 by S. I. P., Société Industrielle de Photographie, Paris. • For the dating of the photograph, see also the website: http://www.egyptedantan.com/egypt.htm ◆ Quartier Ismailieh (actuel centre du Caire modern), Chapitre I, p. 7. ("["*4. LE CAIRE – PLACE SOLEIMAN PACHA.*"] *Midan Soliman Pasha et Rue Kasr el Nil | Le nouveau décor de la place Soliman pacha en place. Cependant la villa d'Ali pacha Moubarek est toujours en place. Circa 1903.*") [The above website ('Egypt in bygone days') is not working anymore, and its large collection of images is now housed in Bibliothèque national de France, Paris.] • For another photograph (Figure 22) showing the Standard Life Insurance Building probably early in 1903, see note[463] below.

[454] For Magasins du Louvre, see: *Gabriel Charmes*. Five Months at Cairo and in Lower Egypt. Translated from the French by William Conn. London, UK: Richard Bentley & Son, 1883, p. 153. (*Chapter XI. Life in Cairo …*, pp. 147-58.)

[455] See also note[420] above.

[456] Like the Groppi Building designed by the Italian architect Giuseppe Mazza. • See: *Samir W. Raafat*. Cairo, the glory years. Who built what, when, why and for whom… Alexandria: Harpocrates Publishing: 2003, pp. 21; 304. (*Witness to history*, pp. 18-22.)

[457] Prince Mohamed Ali Tewfik (1875-1955).

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FIGURE 25. ***Place Soleiman Pacha circa mid-1903***

A French photograph from circa mid-1903 showing "*Place Soleiman Pacha*", its statue and buildings. Seen in the background to the left is what appears to be an almost finished Standard Life Insurance Building, however, a few details on the building are still missing. B&W real-photo postcard published by Société Industrielle de Photographie, Paris. © From the author's collection.

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The Savoy Hotel's main entrance at Sharia Kasr en-Nil. In the background to the left is seen a part of the front of the Standard Life Insurance Building. 1900s photograph.

part of the garden bordering Sharia Soliman Pasha was overlooked by the south-east part of the Standard Life Insurance Building. The garden palace itself was located at Sharia el-Cheikh Hamza, south of the midan. A. B. de Guerville writes in his book *New Egypt* from 1906 E.V. about a visit to the young Prince Mohamed Ali, who was the younger brother of Khedive Abbas II:

> *In the garden of his huge Palace in the Place Soliman, the Prince awaited us one Sunday afternoon, when he had invited the United States Minister and myself to visit him. Coming towards us with outstretched hands, he said, smiling: "So sorry to receive you in such chaos, but I am leaving, I have sold my Palace. The whole charm of the place consisted to me in this delicious garden, with its high walls protecting one from prying eyes, at a time, it seems only yesterday, when this quarter was free from these huge buildings. But to-day, – look!" And the Prince pointed to the immense blocks of modern flats overlooking his garden.*[458]

A signed photograph of Prince Mohamed Ali reproduced in the book shows that the visit took place in April, 1905 E.V.[459], and the mentioned blocks of modern flats overlooking his garden were, of course, the large Standard Life Insurance Building, the tall building connected to Magasins du Louvre, and Immeuble Michel Ayoub Pasha! Prince Mohamed Ali moved in 1906 E.V. to his new neo-Islamic palace built in a large garden on the island of Manyal al-Roda, today a part of the garden housing the Manyal Palace Museum. In 1914 E.V. came the famous Café Riche and its garden in the former garden of Prince Mohamed Ali, and later also Café Riche Theatre.[460] The piece of land fronting the midan where the garden theatre was saw in the 1920s the semi-circular, neo-baroque building standing today, № 1 Midan Talaat Harb, and next to it another taller, semi-circular building, № 3 Midan Talaat Harb. Both buildings are residential as well as commercial buildings. Back to the photograph and the description of the midan. To the right on the picture behind the front of the Savoy is a corner of Immeuble Michel Ayoub Pasha with its characteristic corner turret and belvedere. In the space between this building and the Standard Life Insurance Building to the left is the Villa of Ali Pacha Moubarek[461] and its garden. Moubarek's plot was bordering Sharia el-Antikkhaneh el-Masriyeh and Immeuble Michel Ayoub Pasha to the right, and Sharia Kasr en-Nil and the Standard Life Insurance Building to the left. The Neo-Baroque Groppi Building standing on this corner plot today was built in 1925 E.V., and houses another of Cairo's famous cafés, the Groppi Café[462] The picture shows no motor-cars, only a couple of horse carriages. It seems most likely that the photograph was taken in mid-1903, and the construction of the Standard Life Insurance Building was probably nearly completed. Another postcard in my collection has a photograph of "*Soliman Pasha's Monument*"[463] (Figure 22), which probably was

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[458] *A. B. de Guerville*. New Egypt. New York, NY: E. P. Dutton & Company and London, UK: William Heinemann, 1906, p. 132. (*Chapter IX. The Khedivial Family*, pp. 132-43.) • See note[473] below.

[459] Ibid., facing p. 135: Photograph of the prince, signed "*Mohamed Ali* [Sunday] *2/4 1905*".

[460] See: Ibid., p. 310.

[461] Ali Pasha Moubarek was Minister of Public Works. He presided over the ceremony of opening the Suez Canal on 15 August, 1869.

[462] Designed by the Italian architect Guissepe Mazza. For this together with a photo showing both the Groppi Building and the Standard Life Insurance Building, see: *Samir W. Raafat*. Cairo, the glory years. Who built what, when, why and for whom… Alexandria: Harpocrates Publishing: 2003, pp. 21; [111] (*Photo*); 304. • The building's address today is *21 Mahmoud Bassiouny St.*

[463] "*Cairo, Soliman Pasha's Monument.*" Black and white postcard marked *Max H. Rudmann, Le Caire*. • See also note[453] above.

taken in early 1903, since seen also is a part of a Standard Life Insurance Building where what appears to be workmen are standing on a part of an unfinished first floor deck – a deck, that apparently became a large roof terrace overlooking the midan.

The European quarter was characterized by the progress of technology. In 1898, the year that saw the opening of the Savoy Hotel, the streets in the European quarter were lit by gas, but the chief shops and all the large hotels were lit by electricity.[464] Cairo was the largest city in Africa, as well as in the Arabian regions, and had in 1905 E.V. a population of around 615.000, including the suburb of Helwan.[465] Electric tram-cars were present, but believe it or not, there were presumably no private motor-cars on the streets of Cairo in 1904 E.V.!

As seen from the above description, the Standard Life Insurance Building was situated on the corner of Sharia Soliman Pasha and Sharia Kasr en-Nil, and the building's main entrance was probably at the corner, and thus at the midan, although the buildings address in 1904 E.V., to all appearances, like the Savoy Hotel was Sharia Kasr en-Nil. The entrance, which was on the ground floor above the look-out basement was approached by a flight of nine steps. There were two other entrances, one at Sharia Soliman Pasha, and another at Sharia Kasr en-Nil. As mentioned above, Sharia Kasr en-Nil lead directly down to the new Cairo Museum, and there was only half a kilometre between the Standard Building's entrance at the midan and the museum. The entrance faced north-east, and the parts of the building which had views over the midan had windows facing north-west and south-east. When I first noticed the house I at once felt that there was something familiar, something well-known and powerful in its design. Later, I examined it on old photographs, and besides that it originally was a remarkable and handsome house it was hiding something which escaped me. I recalled that Art Nouveau is characterized by the use of curves, flowing natural shapes, and the absence of geometrical lines, but it was deeper than that. Then after some time I knew what I subconscious had felt all the time, namely that the building's corner at the midan, when seen in bird's-eye view resembles the shape of the ancient hieroglyph for '*Horizon*', 𓇳, *akhet*, or, as found in the words of Aiwass in *Liber L vel Legis*, or, in the translation of the Stélé of Revealing obtained by Crowley in Cairo, '*khut*'! Now this hieroglyph is a combination of the sign for mountain, 𓈎 (*djew*), twin peaks, and the sign for Ra, 𓇳, the round solar disc. Thus the solar disc appears between the two peaks on the horizon found between them.[466] This hieroglyph is also found in Egyptian temples (Figure 27), where the pylons' form has this shape, and the sun comes between them on the sky.[467] I am almost sure that the architect has seen this

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[464] See: *E. A. Reynolds-Ball*. Cairo of To-Day: A practical Guide to Cairo and its Environs. London, UK: Adam and Charles Black, 1898, p. 36.

[465] See: *Karl Baedeker*. Egypt and the Sudân. Handbook for Travellers. Leipzig: Karl Baedeker, Publisher, 1908, p. 39.

[466] In fact this sign for horizon 𓇳, *3ḫt*, was first known from the fifth dynasty and thus not found in the texts written inside the pyramids and known as the *Pyramid Texts*. In the *pyramid texts* was used for horizon the hieroglyph of a sandy island, 𓈎, also pronounced *3ḫt* or *akhet*. On this and other hieroglyphs, see, e.g.: *Maria Carmela Betrò*. Hieroglyphics. The Writings of Ancient Egypt. New York: Abbeville Press, 1996. (Eng. transl. from Italian 1st ed., 1995.), or: *Richard H. Wilkinson*. Reading Egyptian Art. A Hieroglyphic Guide to Ancient Egyptian Painting and Sculpture. London: Thames and Hudson Ltd., 1992. • See also note[4492] below.

[467] See, e.g., the pylon of the Khonsu Temple at Karnak or the pylon fronting the Temple of Horus at Edfu. A pylon is the massive portals of Egyptian temples, normally seen as the entrance to the temple. The pylon normally consisted of two large towers with sloping sides, connected at about mid-height by a large doorway. On pylons and temples see: The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Egypt. 3 vols. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. ◆ Vol. 3, pp. 86-87. • Also: *Gay Robins*. The Art of Ancient Egypt. London: British Museum Press, 1997, p. 17, for a picture (5) of the Temple of Horus at Edfu.

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FIGURE 27. ***'Pylones du temple d'Edfou' c. 1902***

A French glass plate positive showing the pylon of the Horus temple at Edfu c. 1902. The temple, situated some 100 kilometres south of Thebes on the western bank of the River Nile, was built between 237 and 57 BCE, and is the largest temple still standing in Egypt. In the Old Kingdom the site was called Behdet (*Bḥdt*) and from remote antiquity the city was focused on the cult of Horus of Behdet, and a shrine had existed there even in prehistoric times. On the Horus temple's pylon, falcon-headed Horus and Hathor are seen depicted as rulers of Egypt, the divine royal couple, and before them, the Ptolemaic king Ptolemy XII Neos Dionysos (r. 80-51 BCE) slays his enemies. The pylon's two towers probably symbolize the twin mountains with the horizon between them from which the sun rises (called Window of Appearance) as found in the hieroglyph for horizon *ꜣḫt*, akhet, the combination of the sign for mountain and the sun ⊙. Greenish blue glass plate positive by unknown French photographer. © From the author's collection.

dual hieroglyph, and maybe known that the ancient architects had used it, together with other hieroglyphs, when they 'wrote' in stone their pylons and other temple designs! In fact, there are in the Cairo Museum some amulets in shape of this hieroglyph, some made of jasper, which reproduce the form found on the original Standard Building almost completely. To me this building shows an inherent idea of a horizontal pylon embracing in its centre the rising or the setting sun (i.e. the turret). In Arabic horizon is *ofq*, and I later discovered the peculiar coincidence that the Arabic word *sharq* or *chark* means 'sunrise'; 'the rising sun' or 'the east' – the building's name today, '*Chark Building*' or '*Sharq Building*'![468] In my mind the building's inspired architect(s) – still unknown to me[469] – must have visited some temples, and either the Boulak Museum or the Gizeh Museum, or, maybe even the Cairo Museum, and there found inspiration '*to paraphrase*', I am tempted to say, a very old idea[470] in a most splendid way! There was, in fact, a building built a little later in Alexandria, which had much in common with the Standard Life Insurance Building. It was the head Office of the Land Bank of Egypt (in Rue Toussoun Pacha[471]), whose foundation as a bank had been authorised by Khedival decree in January, 1905 E.V.[472] The two buildings perhaps had the same architect.

That there were rented flats in the Standard Building we are also told by author and travel writer Douglas Sladen when he in his book *Queer Things about Egypt* from 1911 E.V. discusses flat rates in Cairo with a female tenant:

As she was the only visitor I knew who took a house in Cairo, I ventured to ask her something about prices. "Rents are enormous," she said. "This house is rated at £750 a year, and quite a small flat in a good position costs £250 — a friend of mine in the Standard Life Insurance Building pays £750 a year for his flat.[473]

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[468] For *ofq* and *sharq*, see: *Donald Andreas Cameron*. An Arabic-English Vocabulary for the use of English Students of Modern Egyptian Arabic. London, UK: Bernard Quaritch, 1892, pp. 7; 140. • The two words are sometimes also transliterated in English as *ofgh* and *shargh* • After the Standard Life Assurance Company's withdrawing from Egypt in the 1930s the building was taken over by another insurance company, Al Chark Insurance Company (L'ORIENT). • For *Chark* as *Sharq*, see note[452] above. • For the Standard Life Assurance Company's withdraw, see note[439] above.

[469] Samir W. Raafat does not give any information on the architect behind the Standard Life Insurance Building in *Cairo, the glory years* – a book that focus on buildings and architects – and I have searched a great many sources without success. The Standard Life Assurance Company's office in Edinburgh was in 1901 replaced by a new building in neo-Palladian style designed by the Scottish architects Peddie, Dick & Walter Todd. • For the Standard Life Insurance Building in Raafat's book, see: *Samir W. Raafat*. Cairo, the glory years. Who built what, when, why and for whom… Alexandria: Harpocrates Publishing, 2003, pp. 21; 111 (*Photo*). (*Witness to history*, pp. 18-22.) • For the architects mentioned above, see: *Sir William Schooling*. The Standard Life Assurance Company, 1825-1925. Edinburgh, Scotland: William Blackwood and Sons, 1925, pp. 81-2.

[470] Pylons are known at least as early as the Middle Kingdom but best known from later temples.

[471] Now renamed Sharia Mahmoud Azmi.

[472] See: Ports & Cities of the World. One of a Series of Standard Commercial Encyclopedias on the Actual and Potential Markets of the World. Comprising Africa, Egypt, India, Ceylon. London, UK: Globe Encyclopedia Company, 1927. ◆ EGYPT; Finance and Banking; Insurance, p. 36; Picture of "*THE LAND BANK OF EGYPT; HEAD OFFICE AT ALEXANDRIA.*", p. 36. (*EGYPT; FINANCE AND BANKING; INSURANCE*, pp. 25-37.)

[473] *Douglas Sladen*. Queer Things About Egypt. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company and London: Hurst & Blackett, Limited, 1911, p. 47. • See also note[458] above.

One might wonder if this "*friend*" should happen to be one "*Lieut.-Col. Somebody, beginning* […] *with a B*"![474] Regarding the mentioned rent so was £750 in 1911 E.V. more than £65000 in today's money.[475] Surprisingly, my research revealed that in 1904 E.V. there was in fact a Colonel George Mackworth Bullock, C.B., (1851-1926), who was Chief Staff Officer in Egypt[476], so perhaps he is Crowley's "*Lieut.-Col. Somebody, beginning, I think, with a B, married, middle-aged, with manners like the Rules of a Prison.*"[477] – personally, I believe he was since none of the other Colonels and Lieutenant-Colonels stationed in Egypt at that time had a surname beginning with a "*B*"![478] Colonel G. M. Bullock had come to Cairo in 1903 as Assistant Adjutant General (probably with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel).[479] But why would he rent out an apartment in Cairo in 1904 E.V.? Because he that year became Colonel on the staff at the Garrison of Alexandria and therefore moved to Alexandria, and later the same year he became new commander of the garrison![480] It is obvious that Bullock and his wife would be living in a 'British' house like the Standard Life Insurance Building, and not in an 'Egyptian' house, like, for instance, the Immeuble Michel Ayoub Pasha – Bullock was British, and furthermore he belonged to the Army of Occupation! The British in Egypt was not always popular and, for instance, J. W. Congdon was the year after the Crowleys visit attacked maliciously by a journalist in the Egyptian newspaper the *Egyptian Graphic*, owned by the Constantinoplean Armenian journalist and editor Diran Kelegian (1862-1915):

Caricature of Lt.-Colonel G. M. Bullock, *The Sketch*, 1900

I desire to hold to public hatred and contempt a person named Congdon, said to be Auctioneer to the Army of Occupation, agent for several British firms of manufacturers and, in short, fully provided with the means of earning an honest competence, and yet who has taken to building houses for mosquitoes, or, at least [in] his advertisement in the 'Egyptian Gazette', – selling them. 'For sale'…this conscience-less Congdon…announces, a 'Mosquito house, apply Congdon, Cairo'…His Britannic Majesty's Consul should see whether or not he is a registered British subject and warn him that between such reprehensible ways of money-making and expulsion there is but a short step.[481]

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[474] Said by Crowley trying to remember the name of the man who sublet the apartment to him. See: EG, p. 114.

[475] According to House of Commons Library, London. • Note that the rent is given in British money and not in Egyptian pounds which would have been written as "£E".

[476] Hart's Annual Army List; Militia List, and Imperial Yeomanry List, For 1904. Volume LXV. London, UK: John Murray, p. 33. (*Colonels*, pp. 16-39.) ◆ Ibid., p. 105. (*Staff Abroad – Force in Egypt*, p. 105.) • C.B. means Companion of the Order of the Bath.

[477] EG, p. 114.

[478] Hart's Annual Army List; Militia List, and Imperial Yeomanry List, For 1904. Volume LXV. London, UK: John Murray, p. 105. (*Staff Abroad – Force in Egypt*, p. 105.) • Hart's Annual Army List; Militia List, and Imperial Yeomanry List, For 1905. Volume LXVI. London, UK: John Murray, p. 105. (*Staff Abroad – Force in Egypt*, p. 105.)

[479] Hart's Annual Army List; Militia List, and Imperial Yeomanry List, For 1904. Volume LXV. London, UK: John Murray, p. 105. (*Staff Abroad – Force in Egypt*, p. 105.)

[480] Hart's Annual Army List; Militia List, and Imperial Yeomanry List, For 1905. Volume LXVI. London, UK: John Murray, p. 105. (*Staff Abroad – Force in Egypt; Garrison of Alexandria*, p. 105.) • Bournemouth Daily Echo. Hampshire, England: Bournemouth Daily Echo. ◆ Saturday, August 27, 1904, p. 4. (*NOTABLE MEN AND WOMEN*, p. 4.)

[481] *Lanver Mak*. The British in Egypt; Community, Crime, and Crises 1822-1922. (International Library of Historical

Bullock was fifty-two years of age in 1904 E.V. and married – he married in 1884 Amy Isabel (Isabella) Thomson (1861-1952), daughter of Colonel James Thomson, Tower Hamlet's Volunteers. Bullock served as Lieutenant-Colonel (2nd Devonshire Regiment) in the South African War in 1899-1901, but was shortly after the outbreak of the war in October 1899, captured at the Tugela in December 1899. While searching for wounded British soldiers Bullock and a group of his men were taken prisoners despite that they carried a flag of truce.[482] The soldiers surrendered, but Bullock would not submit to the inevitable and threatened the superior force with his revolver. However, one of the Boers succeeded in striking him in the head with the butt of his riffle and knocked him down.[483] In March 1905 E.V., as temporary Brigadier-General, he took over command of the British forces in Egypt (until September, 1908 E.V.). In June 1911 E.V. he was made Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath (K.C.B.), and Major-General, and in May 1912 E.V. Sir G. M. Bullock was as Lieutenant-General appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bermudas or Somers Islands (1912-1917 E.V.).[484] The Army of Occupation (the British Army) had their barracks at Kasr el-Nil, the 'English Quarters', whose lands extended to the water's edge between the Kasr el-Nil Bridge and the Egyptian Museum. The Army of Occupation – whose commanding General had nothing to do with the Egyptian Army, which was under the command of the Sidar – had its headquarters at Sharia Kasr-el-Nil, close to the Opera House on Place de l'Opéra.[485] When G. M. Bullock became the commanding General he probably lived at the headquarters of the Army of Occupation.[486] Finally, G. M. Bullock and Major-General Dickson must of course have known each other, and perhaps that the Crowleys' meeting with General Dickson led to the finding of the apartment.

As regards Congdon & Co., sometimes called J. W. Congdon & Co., whom Crowley writes let the apartment, they seem to have set up in business in Egypt around the same time as the Standard Life Assurance Company.[487] Being, among other things, house agents they had likely been appointed to manage the rental portion of the new building. The British merchant John William Congdon (1864-1914), had as a young soldier been in Egypt during the 1882 Anglo-Egyptian War, and had served as Conductor of Stores, Ordnance Store Department.[488] He died in

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Studies, Vol. 74.) London, UK: I. B. Tauris, 2011, p. 160. (*5. Crime and Misconduct*, pp. 145-76.)

[482] The Advertiser. Adelaide, SA, Australia: The Advertiser. ◆ Saturday, December 23, 1899, p. 7. (*British Soldiers Captured; Flag of Truce Disregarded*, p. 7.)

[483] The New York Times. New York, NY: New York Times. ◆ Sunday, February 25, 1900, front page. (*British Wounded in Pretoria,* front page)

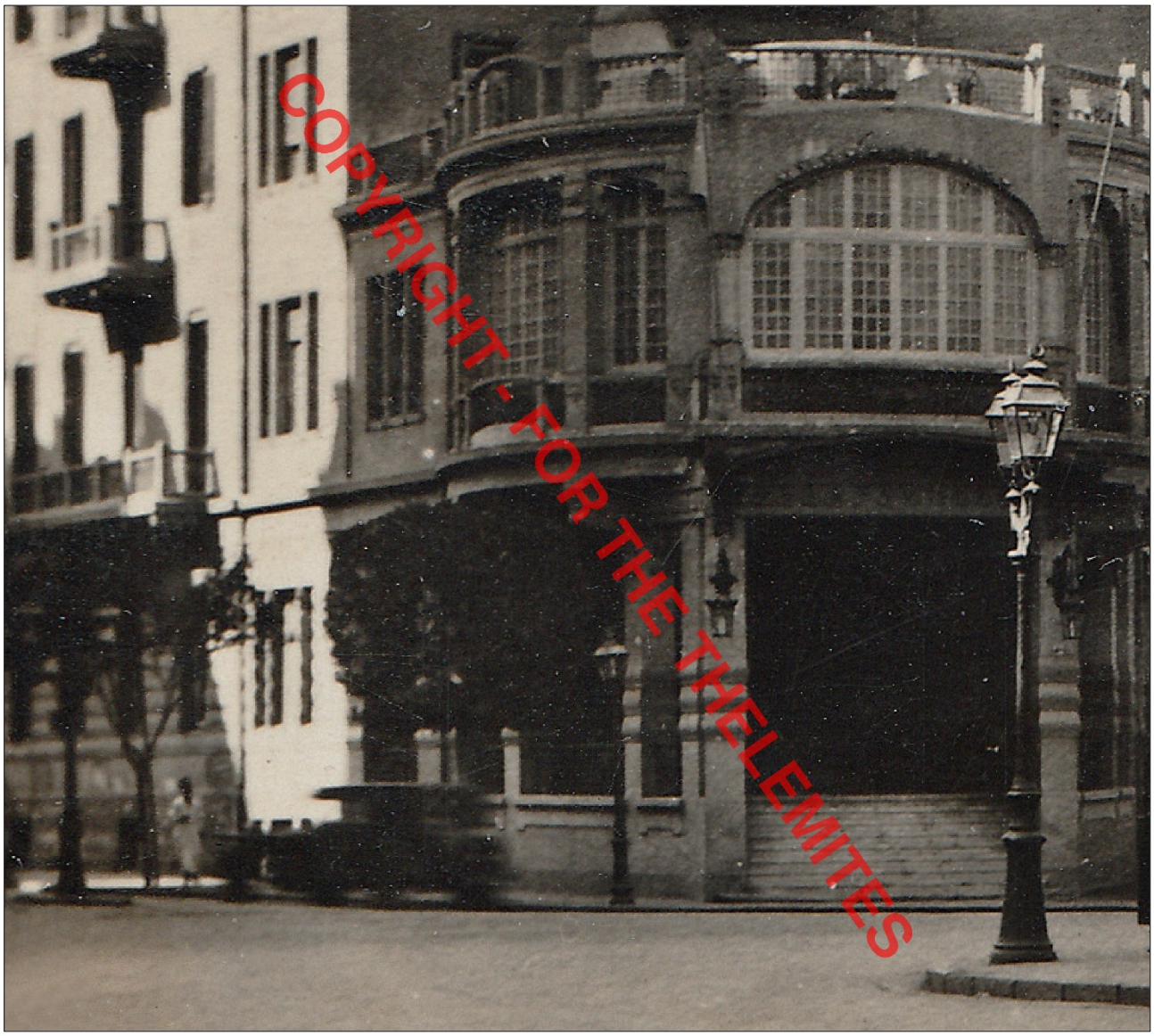
[484] See: The London Gazette. London, UK: The London Gazette. ◆ 3 May, 1912, p. 3176. (*Lieutenant-General Sir George Mackworth Bullock, K.C.B.*, p. 3176.)

[485] *Douglas Sladen*. Egypt and the English; Showing British Public Opinion in Egypt Upon the Egyptian Question: With Chapters on the Success of the Sudan and the Delights of Travel in Egypt and the Sudan. London, UK: Hurst and Blackett, Limited, 1908, pp. 163-4. (*PART I. – THE YELLOW PERIL IN EGYPT. THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION*, pp. 157-70.)

[486] *Eustace Alfred Reynolds-Ball*. Mediterranean Winter Resort; A Complete And Practical Handbook To The Principal Health And Pleasure Resorts On The Shores Of The Mediterranean. 6th Edition. (Rewritten and Enlarged) London & Aylesbury, UK: Hazell, Watson & Viney, Ld., 1908, p. 474. ("*General Commanding Army of Occupation, General G. M. Bullock, C.B., Sharia Kasr-el-Nil.*")(*Part VII. Egypt*, pp. 452-510.)

[487] As stated above, the Standard Life Assurance Company did business in Egypt from 1898. As stated in note[418] above, Congdon and Co. is found in Reynolds-Ball's Cairo of To-Day: A practical Guide to Cairo and its Environs from 1898. See also note[416] above stating that the firm not is found in *Karl Baedeker's* 1898 edition of *Egypt. Handbook for Travellers* but appears in the book's 1902 edition whose information was collected in 1900. • For the letting and subletting of the apartment, see: EG, pp. 109; 114. • For Congdon & Co. in 1914 E.V., see note[626] below.

[488] The Times. London, UK: Printed and published by Francis Goodlake. ◆ Tuesday, October 17, 1882, p. 5. (*The*



Section from another 1920s photograph of the Standard Life Insurance Building. Seen here are the entrance at Midan Soliman Pasha, and some of the building's ground floor windows facing the Midan, or Place, and Sharia Soliman Pasha. Aleister Crowley wrote in *The Equinox of the Gods*, in 1936 E.V., about the room where the writing of *Liber L vel Legis* took place: *"The room was a drawing-room cleared of fragile obstacles, but not otherwise prepared to serve as a temple. It had double doors, opening on to the corridor to the North and a door to the East leading to another room, the dining-room, I think. It had two windows opening on the Place, to the South, and a writing table against the wall between them."* The windows overlooking the Midan on the ground floor at Sharia Soliman Pasha, seen on the photograph, are facing south-east, and the ground floor windows overlooking the Midan on the building's other side at Sharia Kasr en-Nil had windows facing north-west. As to the windows facing the Midan, the photographer is standing on the Midan and has captured the windows seen on the photograph, therefore one can say that these windows must have been the only ones that could 'face' the Midan. Regarding the windows seen in front of the figure on the street then we can see what appears to be the same type of windows on the photograph on Figure 26 – one big window with two smaller ones on each side. When looking at the photograph of the building it seems clear that the entrance to the house contained a large hall with a staircase that gave access to the other floors of the building. When standing in the hall there were probably entrance doors to the two ground floor apartments at the Midan, together with a long corridor leading to the other apartments on the ground floor, and a large stairway to the other floors, and the hall probably also gave the persons living in the building, together with visitors, the opportunity to sit down – I believe that there probably also was a janitor in the hall. There was probably also a signboard showing the names of the people living in the various apartments, together with information on the business premises in the large house. The first three windows on the ground floor (after the hall and the tree that hides a part of it), one big window with two smaller ones on each side, were probably either windows in the dining-room, mentioned by Crowley, or, in the entrance-hall of the apartment, likely the former, I think. The next four windows seen on the photography probably all belonged to the apartment, and the drawing-room, mentioned by Crowley, had two of these windows. The space between these windows is clearly big enough to house a writing table – the angle used by the photographer creates the impression that the distance between the windows etc. is much smaller than it actually was. It is, of course, impossible to know for sure which two of the four windows Crowley are talking about in *EG*, but the four windows together with the three others are clearly the only ones 'opening on the Place'. Today all has been changed in the building, and as seen (very faint) on the photograph of the building found today, printed above, there is above the entrance written "Air France." © From the author's collection.

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'Major-General J. B. B. Dickson, C.B., Commanding Fourth Cavalry Brigade, South African Field Force.' A photograph of Major-General John Baillie Ballantyne Dickson, C.B, C.M.G. (1842-1925), dating from 1900. J. B. B. Dickson retired in 1901 after forty-two years of service in, among other places, India, Egypt and South Africa. J. B. B. Dickson who was married to Australian-born Kathleen Frances Dickson, née Browne (1861-1953), is clearly the "General Dickson" whom Aleister Crowley writes that he and his wife "*occasionally hobnobbed with*" in Cairo. According to *The Egyptian Gazette* "*General and Mrs. Dickson*" were staying at the Savoy Hotel in Cairo in March/April 1904 E.V.

Crowley wrote in *The Equinox of the Gods* in 1936 E.V. **(p. 154): "*Otherwise we knew nobody in Cairo except natives, occasionally hobnobbed with a General Dickson, who had accepted Islam*" – J. B. B. Dickson converted to Islam in 1905** E.V.**, taking the name "*J. B. B. Muhammad Dickson.*"**

In *The Egyptian Gazette*, Saturday, March 5, 1904, p. 7, is found the following:

> ***Our Visitors. – General and Mrs. Dickson* [...]*, are still staying at the Savoy.***

Again, Monday, March 14, 1904, p. 3, is found the following note:

Personal. – Amongst the many distinguished people at present staying at the Savoy Hotel are* [...]*, General and Mrs Dickson.

And again, Tuesday, April 5, 1904 E.V.**, p. 5:**

Personal. – Mrs. Charles and Miss Cochrane entertained a party to dinner at the Savoy Restaurant yesterday evening, the guests including General and Mrs. Dickson.

British Force in Egypt.

HEAD QUARTERS STAFF.

23, sharia Kasr-el-Nil (Ismaïlieh).

Major-Gen. Comm. in Egypt.	Major General J. R. Slade, C. B.
Aide-de-Camp	Lieut. R. B. Brassey.
Chief Staff Officer	Colonel G. M. Bullock, C. B.
Dep. Assist. Quar. Mas. Gen.	Major A. H. C. Kenney Herbert.
Staff Captain	Captain H. B. Protheroe Smith.
Comm. Royal Artillery	Lieut.-Col. G. F. W. St.-John.
Comm. Royal Engineer	Lieut.-Col. J. L. Irvine.
O. C. Army Service Corps	Lieut.-Col. C. Rawnsley, D.S.O.
Princ. Medical Officer	Colonel W. A. May, C.B.
Senior Chaplains — *Church of Engl.,*	Rev. H. Little.
Senior Chaplains — *Roman Catholic,*	Rev. E. Ryan.
Senior Chaplains — *Presbyterian,*	Rev. W.S. Jaffray.
Chief Ordnance Officer	Lieut.-Col. G. R. Atkinson.
District Paymaster	Colonel T. S. Coppinger.
Senior Veterinary Officer	Vety. Major E. J. Lawson.
Chief Interpreter	Shakir El-Khoury bey.

The British Force in Egypt had their Head Quarters at 23, Sharia Kasr-el-Nil, where Colonel G. M. Bullock in January 1904 appeared on the 'Head Quarters Staff' as "*Chief Staff Officer*". From the French '*1904 Indicateur égyptien administratif et commercial*' (Alexandrie: Générale A. Mourés, 1er Janvier 1904, p. 61.), which was published January 1st, 1904.

Congdon & Cº, army agents, government contractors, tea importers, shipping, forwarding and commission agents, auctioneers & house agents, cigarette & tobacco factors, &c., Cairo : sharia Kasr-el-Nil (opposite British Head Quarters), — Alexandria :

Congdon & Co. had, in fact, their business just opposite the British Head Quarters on Sharia Kasr-el-Nil. (1904 Indicateur égyptien administratif et commercial (Alexandrie: Générale A. Mourés, 1er Janvier 1904, p. 159.)

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CY.

FONDÉE EN 1825.

Fonds accumulés.....	**Lstg.**	**10.600.000**
Revenu annuel.....	»	**1.340.000**

Direction Générale pour l'Egypte:

SHARIA KASR-EL-NIL, LE CAIRE.

Directeur Général: A. V. THOMSON.

January 1904 advertisement for the 'Standard Life Assurance Co.' at Sharia Kasr-el-Nil. (1904 *Indicateur égyptien administratif et commercial* (Alexandrie: Générale A. Mourés, 1er Janvier 1904, p. 87.)

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August 1914 E.V., but the firm continued its business in Cairo and is found mentioned as late as in 1922 E.V.[489]

As mentioned so gave advertisements in *The Egyptian Gazette* the address of the head office of the Standard Life Insurance Company as Sharia Kasr-el-Nil, and not as Soliman Pasha Square or Midan Soliman Pasha.[490] The company's office premises were therefore likely not at the midan. They probably only used at minor part of the large building in 1904 E.V., and the best parts of the building were probably rented out – as mentioned so was the renting out of apartments in Cairo at that time a very lucrative business.

We now have a picture of how this place must have been when W. & Fra. P. were in Cairo. But did this new-built building give shelter to the Crowleys in an apartment on the ground floor, was it in a rented apartment in this building that the writing of *Liber L vel Legis* took place? When everything is taken into consideration there seem only to have been two buildings present on this square or '*rond-point*'[491], as it also could be termed, at the time of the Crowleys visit that could house apartments. Of these two we know for a fact that one had rented apartments. In the light of Fra. P.'s description, and the facts given above, the odds are that it was the 'British' Standard Life Insurance Building! And, as mentioned, the Crowleys likely stayed for a day or two at the Savoy Hotel during their search for an apartment, the Savoy just on the corner opposite the Standard Building, and the hotel where General Dickson and his wife according to *The Egyptian Gazette* stayed, the general who is one of the very few people that Crowley mentions in *EG*.[492] It was perhaps through the meeting with the general and his wife that they found the apartment. The Crowleys probably continued occasionally to meet with the Dicksons after moving into the apartment. The Savoy Hotel was known for its good restaurant, and I find it highly probable that the Crowleys have visited the restaurant now and again if they stayed in an apartment just opposite, and it could well be the restaurant where they dined with Émile Brugsch Bey, the Keeper of the Cairo Museum, in order to arrange for the replica of the Stélé of Revealing.

I will conclude now by saying that the writing of *Liber L vel Legis* in all likelihood took place in an apartment in the Standard Life Insurance Building on the south-western corner of Midan Soliman Pasha on Friday, April 8; Saturday, April 9; & Sunday, April 10, 1904 E.V. We have Fra. P.'s description of this writing in *TSK1912*:

It must have been on the 7th of April that W. commanded P. (now somewhat cowed) to enter the "temple" exactly at 12 o'clock noon on three successive days, and to write down what he should hear, rising exactly at 1 o'clock.

This he did. Immediately on his taking his seat the Voice began its Utterance, and ended exactly at the expiration of the hour. These are the three chapters of Liber Legis, and we have nothing to add to the

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Egyptian Expedition, p. 5.)

[489] "*JOHN WILLIAM CONGDON, Deceased. Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the Law of Property Amendment Act, 1859, that all persons having any claims or demands upon or against the estate of John William Congdon, late of 21, Sharia Kasr-el-Nil, Cairo, Egypt, deceased (who died on the 18th day of August, 1914,* [...]" • The London Gazette. London, UK: The London Gazette. ◆ 1 June, 1915, p. 5266. (*JOHN WILLIAM CONGDON, DECEASED*, p. 5266.) • The Journal of the Palestine Oriental Society. Jerusalem: Published by the Palestine Oriental Society. ◆ Vol. II, 1922, p. 297. ("*Members of the Palestine Oriental Society;* [...] *Mr. Ashton Sanborn, c/o Messrs. Congdon & Co., Cairo.*")

[490] See note[445] above.

[491] See note[414] and note[446] above.

[492] See my notes to Fra. P.'s diary entry, *March 16.* [1904] above.

comment prepared by Fra. P. himself while the Sun was in the sign of the Virgin, Anno V [1909 E.V.] *from this first revelation.*[493]

In the early 1920s in the Abbey of Thelema in Cefalù, To Mega Therion wrote what in my opinion are some of the most fascinating words ever written by him when he looked back on his meeting with Aiwass[494] in April 1904 E.V., and this meeting's outcome, *Liber L vel Legis*:

The actual writing.

The three days were precisely similar, save that on the last day I became nervous lest I should fail to hear the Voice of Aiwass. They may then be described all together.

I went into the "temple" a minute early, so as to shut the door and sit down on the stroke of Noon.

On my table were my pen — a Swan Fountain — and supplies of Quarto typewriting paper, 8'' × 10''.

I never looked round in the room at any time.

The Voice of Aiwass came apparently from over my left shoulder, from the furthest corner of the room. It seemed to echo itself in my physical heart in a very strange manner, hard to describe. I have noticed a similar phenomenon when I have been waiting for a message fraught with great hope or dread. The Voice was passionately poured, as if Aiwass were alert about the time-limit. I wrote 65 pages of this present essay (at about my usual rate of composition) in about 10½ hours as against the 3 hours of the 65 pages of the Book of the Law. I was pushed hard to keep the pace; the MS. shows it clearly enough.

The voice was deep timbre, musical and expressive, its tones solemn, voluptuous, tender, fierce or aught else as suited the moods of the message. Not bass — perhaps a rich tenor or baritone.

The English was free of either native or foreign accent, perfectly pure of local or caste mannerisms, thus startling and even uncanny at first hearing. [A note to the latter says: "*The effect was thus as if the language were "English-in-itself," without any background, such as exists when one hears any one human speak it, and enables one to assign all sorts of attributes to the speaker.*"]

I had a strong impression that the speaker was actually in the corner where he seemed to be, in a body of "fine matter," transparent as a veil of gauze, or a cloud of incense-smoke. [A note says about the strong impression mentioned that: "*This impression seems to have been a sort of visualization in the imagination. It is not uncommon for me to receive intimations in this matter.*"] *He seemed to be a tall, dark man in his thirties, well-knit, active and strong, with the face of a savage king, and eyes veiled lest their gaze should destroy what they saw. The dress was not Arab; it suggested Assyria or Persia, but very vaguely. I took little note of it, for to me at that time Aiwass was an "angle" such as I had often seen in visions, a being purely astral.*

I now incline to believe that Aiwass is not only the God or Demon or Devil once held holy in Sumer, and mine own Guardian Angel, but also a man as I am, insofar as He uses a human body to make His magical link with Mankind, whom He loves, and that He is thus an Ipsissimus, the Head of the A∴A∴ Even I can do, in a much feebler way, this work of being a God and a Beast, &c., &c., all at the same time, with equal fullness of life. [A note to this says: "*I do not necessarily mean that he is a member of human society in quite the normal way. He might rather be able to form for Himself a human body as circumstances*

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[493] TSK1912, p. 386. • The mentioned "*comment*" is the so-called 'Old Comment' to *The Book of the Law*, which Fra. P. published together with *TSK1912* in: The Equinox. Vol. I., No. VII. (*Liber Legis. The Comment*, pp. 387-400a.) • See also note[1185] and note[3992] below.

[494] For the various spellings of his name and their numerical values, see note[2193] below.

indicate, from the appropriate Elements, and dissolve it when the occasion for its use is past. I say this because I have been permitted to see Him in recent years in a variety of physical appearances, all equally "material" in the sense in which my own body is so."][495]

I make an interesting discovery. Actually, there was an astronomical event occurring in al-Qahirah[496] on April 8, 1904 E.V., just a few minutes before the writing of the first chapter started. On this day the sun rose at 5.37 a.m., local time, and set at 18.17 a.m., local time. The so-called solar noon when the sun passes through the meridian (longitude), i.e. appears the highest in the sky, took place at 11.57 a.m., local time. On this day the moon rose in the east-southeast at 00.57 a.m., local time, and set in the west-southwest at 11.57 a.m., local time, just at the very moment of the solar noon!

Before ending this chapter we must not forget that there was a silent witness to the Cairo Working, namely Ouarda, Rose. When she and her brother Gerald F. Kelly at the divorce case in November 1909 E.V. spoke about Crowley's eccentricity there were no mention of what took place in Gizeh, and later in Cairo, during their honey-moon, and there was no mention of 'Prince and Princess Chioa Khan', although Crowley's use of 'Lord Boleskine' was stated, and that 'he invented a new kind of religion' (as stated by Gerald F. Kelly).[497] Rose must, of course, also from time to time have witnessed her husband talking with friends and disciples about what took place in Cairo in the spring of 1904 E.V.; the Equinox of the Gods; the incident at the museum where she herself discovered the Stélé of Revealing; and the subsequent writing of *The Book of the Law*, but she is silent about these events, as seen in the various papers's coverage of the trial. Why is she silence about what took place on their honey-moon in Egypt in the spring of 1904? As I shall discuss later so were the Equinox of the Gods and the Law of Thelema at the time of the trial still secrets that only had been revealed to the initiated, something she probably knew!

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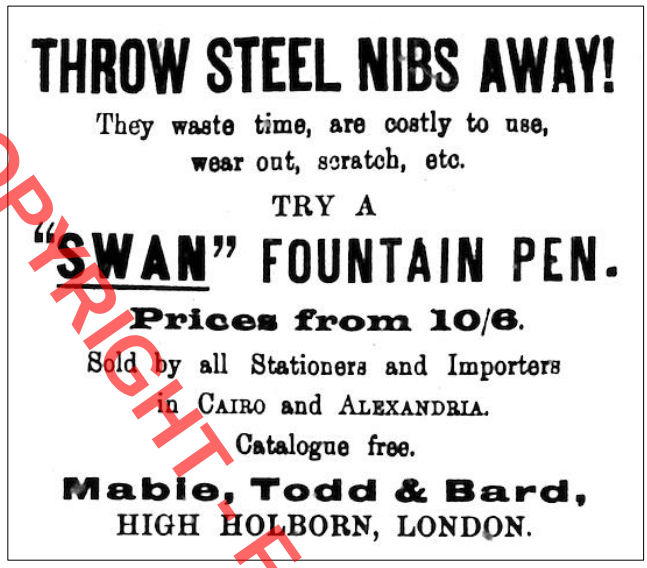
[495] EG, pp. 117-8. (*Chapter VII. Remarks on the method of receiving Liber Legis, on the Conditions prevailing at the time of the writing, and on certain technical difficulties connected with the Literary form of the Book*, pp. 94-133.) • As stated in a note to the chapter's title the paper constituting this chapter was not originally written for the use in *EG* but composed in the early 1920s in Cefalù, Sicily. • Crowley's pen was a "Swan" Fountain Pen made by the firm of Mabie Todd & Co. Ltd., London. In 1915 E.V. the "Swan" fountain pens were advertised as "*the pen of the British Empire*". ◆ See: *Stuart Schneider, George Fischler*. The Book of Fountain Pens and Pencils. West Chester, PA: Schiffer Publishing Ltd, 1992. • As stated in *Magick.I-IV.*, *Editor's Notes*, p. 743 (note to p. 319) the size of the paper was not 8'' × 10'' but approximately 8 $^{5}/_{16}$'' × 10 $^{1}/_{2}$'' [8.3125'' × 10.5'']. The paper watermarked "*Alex*[ander] *Pirie & Sons, London. Standard Typewriting*" with a crest was sold in Great Britain but apparently not exported to America or to Australia. • See also note[1185] below for a discussion on the idea of the Paraphrase and its use in *Liber L vel Legis*. • For the facsimile MS. published in *EG*, see note[965] and note[3934] below.

[496] القاهِرة, al-Qāhirah or 'The Victorious' is the native name of Cairo named after the planet Mars, which is al-Qahir or 'The Conqueror'. The city was named after Mars since when it was founded by the Fatimids in 358 A.H./969 A.D. the planet was in the ascendant. Nowadays the Egyptians also sometimes refer to the city as *Misr*, which is the Arabic name for Egypt itself. Misr means 'garrison city' and this 'garrison city' was what the Arabs called Al-Fustat or 'tent' which was the first Islamic capital of Egypt located on the east bank of the River Nile and south of modern Cairo. The name Cairo is an anglicized version of al-Qahirah. • See also note[146] above. • For *Al-Fustat*, see also note[145] above.

[497] For Arnold Bennett's diary, see note[835] below. • For Chioa Khan in *The Egyptian Gazette*, see note[246], note[247], note[248], note[249], and note[250] above. • For that 'he invented a new kind of religion', see: The Western Times. Exeter, Devon, UK: The Western Times. ◆ Thursday, November 25, 1909, p. 4. (*MADE A NEW RELIGION; Strange History Related in a Scottish Court*, p. 4.) • See also note[164] above.

'Ouarda' – Rose Edith Crowley, née Kelly (1874-1932)



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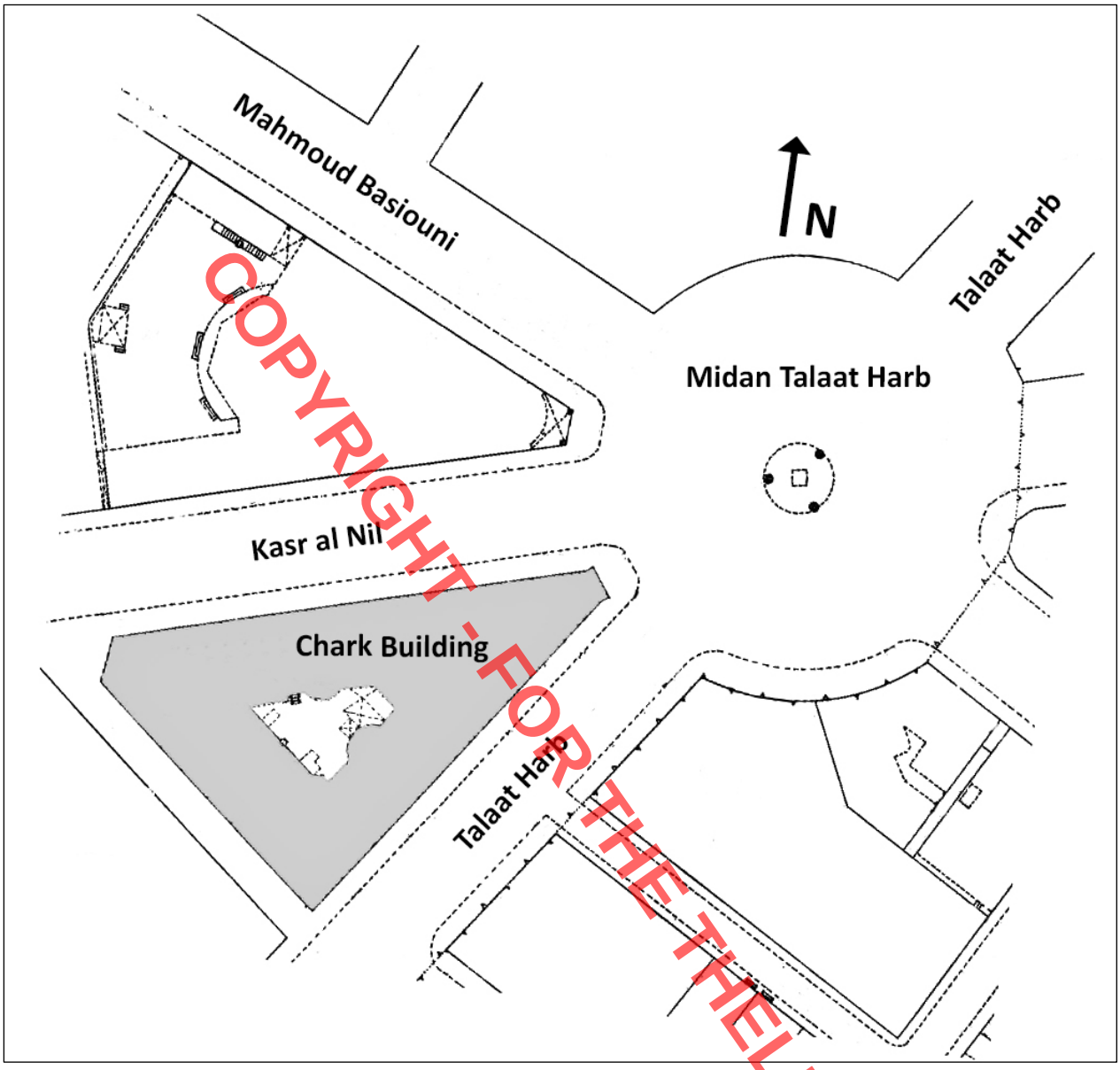
Two advertisements for "Swan" Fountain Pens from *The Egyptian Gazette*. As Crowley later stated so was the MS. of *Liber L vel Legis* written using this pen.



Map showing the 'Chark Building' on today's Midan Talaat Harb

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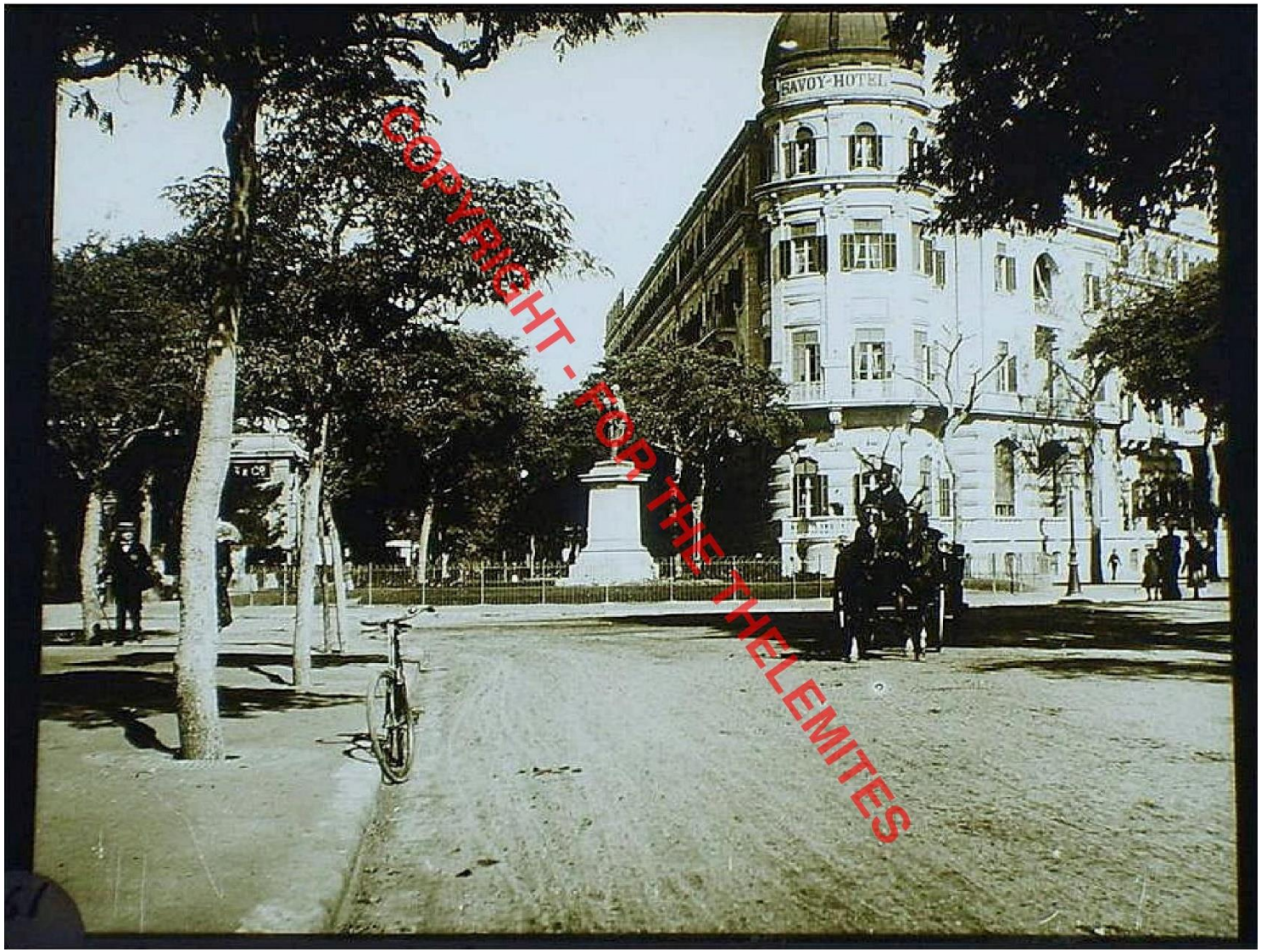
Another thing happened on April 8, 1904 E.V. – an Anglo-French Agreement was signed in London, and a part of it was a declaration recognising Great Britain's predominant position in Egypt.[498]

[498] See, for example: The Daily News. London, UK: Daily News. ◆ Saturday, April 9, 1904, p. 7. ("*ANGLO-FRENCH ENTENTE; AGREEMENTS SIGNED; IMPORTANT CONCESSIONS; FULL DETAILS*", p. 7.)



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'Le rond point Soliman Pasha' c. 1901. In the background the Savoy Hotel where the British General Dickson and his wife stayed in March and April 1904 E.V., and where they most probably met Rose and Aleister Crowley in March 1904, after the Crowleys return from Helwan to Cairo. Greenish blue glass plate positive by unknown French photographer. © From the author's collection.