

NOTES ON TRANSLATION

A work such as this, which transcribes both Arabic and Turkish technical words and names and which deals with an Arab province of the Ottoman Empire always poses serious problems of transliteration. Turkish names and technical terms are spelled and/or pronounced differently by Egyptians, making a single system of transliteration virtually impossible to construct. We have used standard, well-recognized systems for both Turkish and Arabic. Generally, Turkish spellings have been used for purely Turkish names or technical terms, unless these are popularly used in Egypt, such as the term *jawish* (for the Turkish *çavuş*). In some cases two spellings are used, one when the reference is clearly Turkish, another when the usage is clearly Egyptian. An example is the term *celebi*, which the Egyptians write and pronounce as *shalabi*. Thus one of the major references contemporary with Ahmad al-Damurdashi is rendered as Ahmad Shalabi ibn ‘Abd al-Ghani. Another example is the Turkish military rank of *çorbaji*. When used as part of a name, Egyptians write and pronounce this as Shurbaji. We have resorted to both spellings, depending on whether the reference is to the Ottoman military rank or to a person. Diacritical marks, except for the ‘*ayn* and the *hamza*, have not been used.

Rounded brackets () have been used in the translation to indicate material that is explanatory in nature. Squared brackets [] indicate material that the translators have added to the actual text to make the translation more comprehensible. We have also supplied proper names, placed in squared brackets, in place of the pronouns used throughout the text to lessen the confusion of who said or did what to whom. We have also helped to break up the text by supplying, once more in squared brackets, the names of the Ottoman *pashas* around whom al-Damurdashi builds his chronicle.