
Khān al-Zāhir – bi-Zāhir al-Quds!

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Abstract

In Jumādā II 661/April 1263 the Mamlūk sultan al-Zāhir Baybars visited Jerusalem and undertook various pious works, including the erection of a public khān for lodging those visiting the Holy City. Unfortunately Baybars's khān has not survived and much speculation has been made regarding its location. The Arabic sources relating to Baybars's deeds provide a good deal of information relating to his khān, which, once combined with western sources and archaeological evidence, allows us to suggest its probable site, its architectural type, and even range of services.

“On Friday, 17 Jumādā II 661/28 April 1263, after riding from Mt Tabor, Sultan al-Zāhir Baybars arrived in Jerusalem, where he visited the holy places. He climbed the Dome of the Rock from the outside, accompanied by the *shaykh* (in charge) of the Ḥaram and saw for himself what repairs were needed, he walked around the noble places (*al-biqāʿ al-sharīfa*) and examined the pious endowments (*awqāf*) – their records, their income and expenses”.²

Amongst his deeds on this visit, one in particular is of special interest – the building of a charitable inn for travellers (*khān li'l-sabīl*), whose exact location and nature has so far been a puzzle for both historians and archaeologists.³

The first attempt to identify the *khān* with archaeological finds was made by the archaeologist F.M. Abel in 1913.⁴ Abel correlated his finds at the north-western corner

¹This article was first written in July 2000 during my year as a Visiting Student at Oxford University, UK, as part of my doctoral research on Mamluk *khāns* in Palestine (K. Cytryn-Silverman, *The Road Inns (Khāns) of Bilād al-Shām during the Mamluk Period (1260–1516): An Architectural and Historical Study*. Unpublished PhD thesis, 2 vols. (Jerusalem, 2004), forthcoming in *British Archaeological Reports*, International Series). I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Julian Raby, then of the Oriental Institute at Oxford (and today Director of the Freer/Sackler Gallery in Washington D.C.) for his help and guidance. I am most grateful to Professor Reuven Amitai and Professor Amikam Elad of the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, for reading various drafts, for making invaluable comments and contributions, as well as for their incessant support. My deep gratitude goes to my husband David Silverman, both for editing the text and for photographing the inscriptions found in this article, as well as the Lions' Gate in Jerusalem (illus. 4–6).

²Summarised from Ibn al-Furāt, *Tārīkh al-duwal wa'l-mulūk*, Vienna Nationalbibliothek MS Flügel 814, fol. 24v. See also note 15 below.

³For a general rendering of this episode, see Peter Thorau, *The Lion of Egypt, Sultan Baybars I and the Near East in the Thirteenth Century*, translated by P.M. Holt (London and New York, 1992), p. 137, fn. 22.

⁴Felix Marie Abel, “Jérusalem, Fouilles aux abords de la Tour Pséphina,” *Revue Biblique X* (1913), pp. 88–96. Summarised in Louis-Hughes Vincent and Felix Marie Abel, *Jérusalem, Recherches de Topographie, d'Archéologie et d'Histoire*, ii, “Jérusalem Nouvelle” (Paris, 1926), p. 977.

of Jerusalem's city wall, at the so-called "Tancred's Tower" (identified by some as Psephinus tower of the Second Temple period) with "Khān al-Zāhir".⁵ Since then, researchers have suggested alternative locations, from a spot immediately west of Notre Dame de France,⁶ to Jerusalem's Central Bus Station and even the neighbouring village of Liftā (ca. 4 km from Jaffa Gate).⁷ Unfortunately, none of these arguments has been sufficiently convincing. Recently, a further building has been identified as the inn erected by Baybars, this time at the City Hall Square (Kikkar Safra), excavated in 1989 by Aren M. Maeir and Dan Bahat.⁸

The objective of this paper is twofold: first, as the documentary data relating to its erection, function and decay is relatively extensive – and few were the *khāns* that provoked such a documentation in the Arabic sources – it is worthwhile collecting and re-examining the information in hand; second, it will bring forward all the relevant archaeological evidence which adds important information on the *khān*'s appearance, functioning and its proposed location.

Such a revision is of importance as the Arabic sources are not in full agreement. They vary both in the facts being transmitted and in the degree of details rendered. In addition, the differences in the accounts' linguistic choices reflect on different interpretations of certain events. To give an example, the choice of expressions such as *khārij al-balad* or *bi'l-Quds* to describe the location of the *khān* has led to different translations, as well as different interpretations. While the first expression is clearly translated as "outside the city", the second is more vague and can be translated as "in Jerusalem" (see below), but also as "at/near" and "by Jerusalem".⁹

Even though these nuances may seem insignificant, they should still be checked. Maybe after all, they do reflect information so far overlooked.

The following section will chronologically survey the main Arabic sources dealing with the erection of the *khān* by Baybars in thirteenth century Jerusalem. It will try to establish, where possible, the links between the different sources, looking for reasons for resemblance and divergence.

It is important to stress, nevertheless, that other scholars have in the past touched upon the historical evidence on Khān al-Zāhir. First and foremost, Max van Berchem, who in his *Matériaux pour un Corpus Inscriptionum Arabicarum* wrote on the *khān*, mainly relying on

⁵Khān al-Zāhir is the name used by the Jerusalemite historian Mujīr al-Dīn (d. 928/1522) to name the *khān* erected by the Mamluk sultan al-Malik al-Zāhir Rukn al-Dīn Baybars (r. 658–676/1260–1277) in Jerusalem. See Mujīr al-Dīn al-ʿUlaymī al-Ḥanbalī, *Al-Uns al-jalīl bi-ta'riḫ al-Quds wa'l-Khalīl* (Beirut, 1968), ii, p. 87. Translated into French in H. Sauvaire, *Histoire de Jérusalem et d'Hébron depuis Abraham jusqu'à la fin du Xve siècle de J.-C., Fragments de la Chronique de Moudjir-ed-dyn* (Paris, 1876), pp. 238–239.

⁶In the map of Jerusalem during the Mamluk period published by Dan Bahat (*The Illustrated Atlas of Jerusalem* (Jerusalem, 1996), p. 109), Khān al-Zāhir is placed at the site between Notre Dame de France and St Louis Hospital, facing the Old City's "New Gate". This location has also been associated with the Lepers' Hospital of the Order of St Lazarus of the Crusader Period (Bahat, *Atlas* p. 91). See recent discussion in Dan Bahat and Aren M. Maeir, "Excavations at Kikkar Safra (City Hall), Jerusalem 1989," *Atiqot* XLVII (2004), p. 187.

⁷The identification of the site of the *khān* at the Central Bus Station was suggested by ʿAli Saʿīd Khalaf (see below). The village of Liftā (Lat N 31,48/Long E 35,11), whose lands are listed as part of the *khān*'s endowment (see below), has also been suggested as the site of the inn's location. See report by Yasser al-ʿAqabī in the internet site: <http://www.arabs48.com/display.x?cid=38&sid=1718&cid=25193>, in which the text reads (in Arabic): "Khān al-Zāhir Baybars is located at the eastern portion of the lands of al-Shaykh Badr. . ."

⁸Maeir and Bahat, *Kikkar Safra*, pp. 188–189.

⁹William Wright, *A Grammar of the Arabic Language*, Third Edition (Cambridge, 1986), p. 279.

data from then unpublished manuscripts.¹⁰ In the early 1970s Muṣṭafā Murād al-Dabbāgh published a historical summary concerning the *khān* of Baybars in his *Bilādunā Filasṭīn*.¹¹ Others, like Kāmil Jamīl al-‘Asālī and Ḥamdān ‘Abd al-Rāziq Ḥusayn Maṣṣūr, used mainly historical sources which corroborated the material finds they presented.¹² Nevertheless, they all left out important bits of information, archaeological and documentary. It is my belief that, by looking more extensively at the full range of evidence, we can gain a new understanding of this early Mamlūk foundation.

The Primary Sources

Before embarking on a survey of the primary sources, a few points should be brought forward:

1. Six main subjects, directly or indirectly related to the foundation of the *khān* in the 1260s, appear in the different sources. They deal with a) Baybars’s visit to Jerusalem on 17th Jumādā II 661/April 28th 1263; b) the circumstances in which the *khān* was erected; c) the reading of its endowment charter; d) its related *awqāf*; e) its purpose and services; f) its location.
2. There is no homogeneity in the way the chroniclers transmitted the events above. Firstly, we do not find all six subjects in any one of the sources. While some chroniclers referred to only one of the subjects, others have related to two or more of them (see below). Secondly, the degree of detail among the sources varies.
3. The dates associated to the above events sometimes also vary.

Having these observations in mind, the following paragraphs will survey the sources relevant to the period of al-Zāhir Baybars’s reign. This type of presentation was preferred as it enables the reader to evaluate not only the degrees of transmission but importantly the surprising independence amongst the different accounts.

It seems natural then to start with Ibn ‘Abd al-Zāhir (620–692/1223–1293), head of Baybars’s chancery and his privy secretary. He writes that “in the month of Ṣafar [662/December 1263], the *waqf* document of the *khān* at Jerusalem (*bi’l-Quds al-Sharīf*) was read out [in Cairo, KCS] in the presence of the sultan and the chief *qāḍī* Tāj al-Dīn;¹³ its clauses were registered before him and several copies [of the document] were made. . .”¹⁴

¹⁰Max van Berchem, *Matériaux pour un Corpus Inscriptionum Arabicarum (CIA), Jérusalem I (“Ville”)* (Cairo, 1922), p. 446, note 1.

¹¹Muṣṭafā Murād al-Dabbāgh, *Bilādunā Filasṭīn* (new edition, Kafr Qara’, 2002), part 2, ix, pp. 258–260.

¹²Kāmil Jamīl al-‘Asālī, *Mīn Athārīnā fī Bayt al-Maqdis* (‘Ammān, 1982); Ḥamdān ‘Abd al-Rāziq Ḥusayn Maṣṣūr, *Dirāsa li’l-Nuqūsh al-‘Arabiyya fī al-Mathaf al-Islāmī bi’l-Quds*. Unpublished M.A. thesis (‘Ammān, 1995). See also Michael Meinecke, *Die Mamlukische Architektur in Ägypten und Syrien (648/1250 bis 923/1517)*, Abhandlungen des Deutschen Archaeologischen Instituts Kairo, Islamische Reihe, Band 5 (Glückstadt, 1992), i, p. 15.

¹³The *shāfi’ī qāḍī al-quḍāt* Tāj al-Dīn b. bint al-A‘azz (d. 27th Rajab 665/April 24th 1267), also known as Tāj al-Dīn ‘Abd al-Wahhāb b. Khalaf. See ‘Izz al-Dīn Muḥammad b. ‘Alī b. Ibrāhīm Ibn Shaddād, *Tārīkh al-malik al-Zāhir*, edited by Ahmad Hutait, Bibliotheca Islamica XXXI (Wiesbaden, 1983), p. 43, note 8.

¹⁴Muḥyī al-Dīn Ibn ‘Abd al-Zāhir, *al-Rawḍ al-Zāhir fī sīrat al-malik al-Zāhir*, edited by ‘Abd al-‘Azīz al-Khuwayṭir (Riyad, 1976), pp. 220–221; translation based on Syedah Fatima Sadeque’s *Baybars I of Egypt* (Dakka, 1956), pp. 235–236.

Unfortunately, Ibn ‘Abd al-Zāhir’s account is far from satisfactory. Not only does it not answer the “when, where and why” the *khān* was built, it does not even disclose the content of the endowment charter referred to. By going back to his narrative of Jumādā II 661/April 1263, we do find the account of Baybars’s visit to Jerusalem on the 17th of that month, but with no reference whatsoever to his intention of having a *khān* built there.¹⁵ Despite the fact that this will not be the only instance this event is omitted from the sources, it seems rather unclear why Baybars’s own biographer was silent about this charitable aspect of his patron’s visit to Jerusalem.

The sequence of events becomes even more puzzling when we read the biography of Baybars by the historian Shāfi‘ b. ‘Alī al-‘Asqalānī (649–730/1251–1330), nephew of Ibn ‘Abd al-Zāhir and also a clerk in the royal chancery in Cairo. Shāfi‘ b. ‘Alī writes that on Ṣafar 663/November 1264, not 662 as mentioned by his uncle, the *khān* in Jerusalem (*bi’l-Quds al-Sharīf*), “known nowadays by his [the sultan’s] name [al-Zāhir], was established as *waqf*. And he brought witnesses to sign the *waqf* deed”.¹⁶ Once more we are left with no clue as to the *khān*’s actual building conception. By going back to Shāfi‘ b. ‘Alī’s reference to Baybars’s visit to Jerusalem in 661, we do not learn more than a short sentence saying “*wa-rasama bi-‘imnāt mā yuhtāju ilayhi, wa-rahala ilā al-Karak*”, i.e., “he ordered for the construction of all that was needed, and set out for al-Karak”.¹⁷ Despite the hint to some kind of building – or rebuilding – activity following Baybars’s visit, no specific structure is referred to here.

‘Izz al-Dīn Muḥammad b. Shaddād al-Ḥalabī (613–684/1217–1285), an administrator under Baybars from 659/1261, adds considerable information regarding the *khān*’s erection and *waqf* in his geographical historical work *al-A‘lāq al-khaṭīra*. He writes: “and [Baybars] built outside the city (*wa-banā bi-khārij al-balad*) a *khān li’l-sabīl*, and had the gate which used to be at the palace’s *dihlīz* (entrance vestibule),¹⁸ from where one enters the *bīmāristān* (hospital for the sick)¹⁹ in Cairo, transferred there. And he built an oven and a mill. He had three *qīrāṭs*²⁰ [of the lands] of al-Ṭurra²¹ of the districts (*a‘māl*) of Damascus, a third

¹⁵Ibn ‘Abd al-Zāhir writes: “He and the Shaikh of the sanctuary [the Haram al-Sharīf in Jerusalem, KCS] climbed up to the dome which was on the Rock, by the outer side. He inspected those parts which needed repairs himself. He went and saw these sacred places, after which he performed the Friday prayer and gave alms. He looked into the affairs of the *waqfs* and the registration of their revenue and expenditure. He gave written orders for the protection of the *waqfs*, saying also that whatever he demanded from Syria for repairs should be sent quickly. By his orders it was proclaimed that no one should halt in a sown field, as a consequence of which the Atābek beat one of his mamlūks because of a little dry grass which he brought for feeding his horse. Then the sultan went towards Karak” (Ibn ‘Abd al-Zāhir, *Rawḍ*, p. 162; translation by Sadeque, *Baybars I of Egypt*, p. 178).

¹⁶Shāfi‘ b. ‘Alī al-‘Asqalānī, *Kitāb ḥusn al-manāqib al-sirriyya al-muntaza‘a min al-sīra al-Zāhiriyya*, edited by ‘Abd al-‘Aziz al-Khuwaytir (Riyad, 1976), pp. 86–87.

¹⁷Shāfi‘ b. ‘Alī, *Ḥusn*, p. 58.

¹⁸Edward William Lane, *Arabic-English Lexicon*, Book I – 8 parts (London and Edinburgh, 1863–1893), I/3, pp. 924–925; Reinhart P.A. Dozy, *Supplément Aux Dictionnaires Arabes*, 2nd ed., I, (Leiden, 1927), p. 467.

¹⁹For the term *māristān/bīmāristān* see Lane, *Lexicon*, I/7, p. 2708; Dozy, *Supplément*, II, p. 572.

²⁰*Qarārīt* (sing. *qīrāt*), is usually employed as a measure of length, meaning 1/24 of any unit. See William Popper, *Egypt and Syria under the Circassian Sultans – 1382–1468 A.D.: Systematic Notes to Ibn Taghri Birdī’s Chronicles of Egypt*, 2 vols. (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1955, 1957), ii, p. 36. Here the term is applied to lands endowed as *awqāf* to a charitable establishment, making it a measure of area, most probably to be equalled to 1/24 of a *faddān*, i.e., 265,3 m². For *faddān* (pl. *fadādīn*) and its various estimates, see *ibid.*, p. 37 and C.E. Bosworth, “*misāha*,” *The Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 2nd ed., vii, p. 138.

²¹Apparently Ṭurra in Jordan, Lat N 32,38,29/Long E 35,59,31.

and a quarter [?] of the village of al-Mushārifa,²² and half of a village of the district of Jerusalem,²³ endowed as *waqf* for that purpose. He stipulated that the [income] would be devoted to [the distribution of] bread, money and shoe repair (*zarābīl*, sing. *zarbūl*)²⁴ for those wayfarers spending the night at this *khān*, this was in the year 662”.²⁵ In his partly missing *Ta’rīkh al-malik al-Zāhir* (also known as *al-Rawḍ al-zāhir fī sīrat al-Malik al-Zāhir*), Ibn Shaddād adds further data: “he erected a *khān li’l-sabīl* and had the gate called Bāb al-‘Īd,²⁶ from the *dihlīz* that the Egyptians had in Cairo, transferred to the *khān*. He built in its properties (*fī huqūqihī*)²⁷ a large and high building (*dār*) in one of its sides, and had a mosque, a mill, an oven and a garden built in its premises. We have already been reminded what has been endowed as its *waqf* in the beginning of the biography [missing, KCS]. He arranged for the provision of three loaves of bread (*raghīf*) and paper (*qirṭās*) for those who frequented (*wārid wa-ṣādir*) the *khān* and for the poor living in Jerusalem; he placed there a cobbler (*kharrāz*) for repairing shoes, as well as a farrier (*bayṭār*),²⁸ and provided for their salary.”²⁹

Al-Yūnīnī (d. 726/1326) also mentions the erection of the *khān* for the “*ibn al-sabīl*” at Jerusalem in 662.³⁰ His description, nevertheless, adds only a few details absent in Ibn Shaddād’s accounts.³¹ First, he mentions the amir Jamāl al-Dīn Muḥammad b. Nahār being entrusted with the building of the *khān* and later to become its *nāzir*.³² Second, his list of

²²Text al-Mushārifa, read al-Mushayrifa [?] according to Quṭb al-Dīn Mūsā b. Muḥammad b. Aḥmad b. Quṭb al-Dīn al-Yūnīnī, al-Ba‘labakkī, *Dhayl Mir‘āt al-Zamān* (Hyderabad, 1954–1961), i XLVII, p. 554 and “*al-Mushayrifa min ‘amal balad al-Sawād*” according to Ibn al-Furāt. See discussion below.

²³In the text “*a‘mār al-Quds*” [sic!]. cf. al-Yūnīnī, *ibid*.

²⁴For this kind of footwear, see Dozy, *Supplément*, I, p. 584, who writes: “Chez les Arabes aussi, c’était, à ce qu’il semble, une espèce de pantoufle que portaient les esclaves. . .”

²⁵Ibn Shaddād, *al-A‘lāq al-khaṭira fī dhikr umara’ al-Shām wa’l-Jazīra: Ta’rīkh Lubnān wa’l-Urdunn wa-Filasṭīn*, edited by Sāmī al-Dahhān (Damascus, 1962), pp. 237–238. My translation.

²⁶On Bāb al-‘Īd, see Aḥmad b. ‘Alī al-Qalqashandī, *Kitāb Ṣubḥ al-A‘shā fī Ṣinā‘at al-Inshā’*, 14 vols. (Damascus, 1987), iii, p. 395; al-Maqrīzī, *Al-Mawā‘iz wa’l-I‘tibār fī Dhikr al-Khiṭā‘ wa’l-Āthār*, 2 vols. (Bulāq, 1853), i, p. 435.

²⁷See Lane, *Lexicon*, I/1, p. 608.

²⁸*Bayṭār* can also be translated as veterinary. Lane, *Lexicon*, I/1, p. 217.

²⁹Ibn Shaddād, *Ta’rīkh*, p. 351, my translation.

³⁰al-Yūnīnī, *Dhayl*, i, p. 554.

³¹Ibn Taghrī Birdī’s account presents a similar version to al-Yūnīnī’s, both being most probably based on a lost section of Ibn Shaddād’s accounts. See Jamāl al-Dīn Abū al-Maḥāsīn Yūsuf b. Taghrī Birdī al-Atābakī, *al-Nujūm al-Zāhira fī Mulūk Miṣr wa’l-Qāhira*, 16 vols. (Cairo, 1929–1972), vii, p. 121.

³²According to al-Kutubī (d. 764/1363) this same amir (Jamāl al-Dīn ibn Nahār) was also entrusted with the construction of a bridge over the Jordan (*Nahr al-Shar‘a*) in 664, between Dāmiya (Lat N 32,6/Long E 35,32,60) and Qarāwa. See Muḥammad b. Shākir al-Kutubī, *‘Uyūn al-Tawārīkh* (Baghdad, 1980), 20: 340. Ibn Kathīr, clarifies that the construction of this ‘famous bridge’ (*al-jisr al-mashhūr*) between Qarārā [sic] (read Qarāwā) and Dāmiya was entrusted to Jamāl al-Dīn Muḥammad b. Bahādar [!] and Badr al-Dīn b. Raḥḥāl, governor (*wālī*) of Nābulus and the valleys (*al-aḡhwār*, plural of *ghawr*, perhaps meaning the Jordan Valley?). See ‘Imād al-Dīn Ismā‘īl b. ‘Umar b. Kathīr, *al-Bidāya wa’l-Nihāya*, 15 vols. (Beirut, 1993), xiii, p. 287. See also Ibn Taghrī Birdī, *Nujūm*, vii, p. 141. The ‘famous bridge’ is no other than Jisr al-Dāmiya/Adam Bridge. Qarāwa should be identified with Qarāwā described by Yāqūt as “a village in the Ghawr in the territory of al-Urdunn, where excellent sugar [–cane] is cultivated” (Shihāb al-Dīn Yāqūt b. ‘Abdallāh al-Ḥamawī, *Mu‘jam al-Buldān*, edited by Farīd ‘Abd al-‘Azīz al-Jundī, 7 vols. (Beirut, 1990), iv, p. 319). Still with reference to Qarāwā and sugar production, Yāqūt quotes a ninth-century source (Aḥmad b. al-Ṭayyib al-Sarakhsī, d. 899), who writes: “[The Jordan River] waters the estates of the Ghawr – and most of the revenues of the Ghawr come from the sugar, which is exported to all the countries of the East from there; and there are many villages [in the Ghawr], among them Baysān, Qarāwā, Arīḥā (Jericho) and al-‘Awjā.” (Yāqūt, *Mu‘jam*, i, p. 147). See also Guy Le Strange, *Palestine under the Moslems* (London, 1890), pp. 53, 480. My thanks to Professor A. Elad for drawing my attention to the above passages by Yāqūt. For the identification of Qarāwā as *Coreae* mentioned by Josephus and also illustrated in the Madaba Map with Tell el-Mazār near the Jiflik

endowments is slightly different, al-Turra³³ having only one and a half *qirāṭs* of its lands mobilised as *waqf*, al-Mushayrifa, “of the province of Buṣrā”, a third and a quarter [?] as also mentioned by Ibn Shaddād, and Kayfā[=Liftā],³⁴ half of the village.

The remaining section of Baybars al-Manṣūrī’s (d. 725/1325) chronicle on the general history of Islam also relates to al-Zāhir’s visit to Jerusalem in Jumādā 661, mentioning his order to [re]build the *maṣjid al-Aqṣā (wa-rasama bi-‘imārat al-maṣjid al-Aqṣā)*.³⁵ Nevertheless, there is no reference to the *khān*.

Ibn Kathīr’s (d. 774/1373) *al-Bidāya wa’l-nihāya*, on the other hand, is most revealing in terms of the *khān*’s location: “he [Baybars] built in Jerusalem an enormous (*hā’il*) *khān* in Māmilla”.³⁶ This passage is followed by what seems to be the reproduction, with slight changes, of Ibn Shaddād’s passage from *al-A’lāq al-khaṭīra*: “He [Baybars] had the gate of the palace of the Fatimid caliphs in Cairo transferred there [to the *khān*]. And he had a mill, an oven and a garden built inside its premises, and stipulated [endowments] for expenses for the comers and the repair of their equipment” (*wa-ja’ala li’l-wāridīna ilayhi ashya’ tuṣrafu ilayhim fi nafaqa wa-islāh amti’atihim*).³⁷

Perhaps the best surviving documentation on the *khān* in Jerusalem is that of the Egyptian historian Ibn al-Furāt (735–807/1334–1405) in his *Tā’rikh al-Duwal wa’l-mulūk*. His account, clearly deriving from both Ibn ‘Abd al-Zāhir and Ibn Shaddād from whom he copied verbatim,³⁸ also served as the main source for al-Maqrīzī (see below). His first reference to

Station at Ghawr al-Fāri’a (Wādī al-Fāri’ah), see Warren J. Moulton, “A Visit to Qarn Sarṭabeh,” *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* LXII (1936), pp. 14–18.

³³See editor’s note, “*bi’l-maṭar*” in the Oxford manuscript. Al-Yūnīnī, *Dhayl*, i, p. 554, footnote 1.

³⁴The editor transcribed the village in question as Kayfā, according to MS. Istanbul, Aya Sofya nos. 3146 and 3199 from the Süleymaniye Library. He brought to attention, nevertheless, that the manuscript from Oxford (MS. Oxford, Bodleian Pockocke 132 (Uri 700) reads “Lifyyā” instead, while Ibn Taghrī Birdī’s *Nujūm* reads “Lubna” (al-Yūnīnī, *Dhayl*, i, p. 554, fn. 3), pointing out, nevertheless, that the version “Liftā” does appear in an addition to the margin of the *Nujūm*, which reads: “in ‘*Uyūn al-Tawārīkh* the village Liftā.” But by checking al-Kutubī, ‘*Uyūn al-Tawārīkh*, xx, p. 294, it reads Lifyā. In any case, it is clear that the abovementioned versions – Kayfā, Lifyā and Lubna – are all corruptions of the name Liftā.

³⁵Baybars al-Manṣūrī al-Dawādār, *Zubdat al-Fikra fi Tā’rikh al-Hijra, History of the Early Mamluk Period*, edited by D.S. Richards, Bibliotheca Islamica XLII (Berlin-Beirut, 1998), p. 81.

³⁶Māmilla is located to the west of Jerusalem’s Old City. During the Mamlūk period it served as the main cemetery of the city. Mujīr al-Dīn remarks that “Māmilla is outside Jerusalem on its western side, and it is the largest cemetery of the city. The notables (*al-a’yān*), the savants (*al-‘ulamā*), the pious (*al-ṣāliḥūn*) and the martyrs (*al-shuhadā*) are [buried] there. And regarding its name “Māmilla”, some say it derives from “*mā manna Allah*” (“that bestowed by Allah”), others from “*bāb Allah*” (“the gate of Allah”), and others “*zaytūn al-milla*” (“the olive tree of the faith”). It is told that al-Ḥasan said: “That who was buried in Jerusalem in Zaytūn al-Milla is as he was buried in the Lower Heaven”. Its name according to the Jews is ‘Bayt Malwā’ and to the Christians ‘Bābīlā’. It is commonly known by the people as ‘Māmilla’.” Mujīr al-Dīn, *al-Uns*, ii, p. 64; Sauvaire, *Histoire de Jérusalem et d’Hébron*, p. 198.

³⁷Ibn Kathīr, *al-Bidāya wa’l-Nihāya*, xiii, p. 323. My gratitude goes to Professor A. Elad and Dr Nimrod Luz for pointing out to this passage, of great topographical value. See also passage under year 662 (*ibid.*, xiii, p. 271) in which Ibn Kathīr brings a short note on the building of this *khān* and its related *awqāf*.

³⁸I would like to thank Professor R. Amitai for drawing my attention to this important aspect on Ibn al-Furāt’s work. It should be noted that these passages do not appear in the *Selections* edited and translated by U. and M.C. Lyons. See Muhammad ibn ‘Abd al-Rahim Ibn al-Furāt, *Ayyubids, Mamlukes and Crusaders, Selections from the Tā’rikh al-duwal wa-al-muluk*, translated by U. and M.C. Lyons (Cambridge, 1971), i, p. 78. Joseph Drory (“Mameluke Historiography and its Contributions to the History of Eretz Yisrael”, *Cathedra* I (1976), p. 125, in Hebrew) has already noted Ibn al-Furāt’s extensive use of Ibn ‘Abd al-Zāhir on the accounts of years 1274–1283. Note that Donald P. Little, following Eliyahu Ashtor, has mainly referred to Ibn al-Furāt’s extensive use of al-Nuwayrī’s *Nihāyat al-arab fi funūn al-adab* (Donald P. Little, *An Introduction to Mamlūk Historiography* (Wiesbaden, 1970), pp. 73–75). The passage on Baybar’s *khān*, nevertheless, is not present in al-Nuwayrī’s accounts of years 661 or 662, but appears as a short note in the beginning of his account on year 663: “*wa fi Ṣafar min al-sana, waqafa al-sultān al-khān*

the *khān*³⁹ reproduces Ibn Shaddād's passage from *al-A'lāq al-khaḫīra* describing the *khān*'s erection, but omits the detailed description of the lands endowed (see above). Further on, Ibn al-Furāt inserts Ibn 'Abd al-Zāhir's passage on the reading of the endowment charter.⁴⁰ Finally, Ibn al-Furāt goes back to Ibn Shaddād's *al-A'lāq* and copies, with slight differences, maybe deriving from al-Yūnīnī's account (see above), the list of endowments and services offered by the *khān*.⁴¹

The Cairene historian al-Maqrīzī (766–845/1364–1442) for the most part summarised from Ibn al-Furāt, did not add relevant details on Baybar's *khān* in Jerusalem. His first reference, based on Ibn al-Furāt's passage extracted from Ibn Shaddād, relates that in 661 Baybars ordered a *khān* to be built outside the city (*khārij al-balad*), had the palatial Bāb al-Īd transported from Cairo to the *khān* "and announced that no one would stop over (*yanzīlu*) at sown fields".⁴² Then he writes, again based on Ibn al-Furāt⁴³ that in 662 Baybars held an audience in the Citadel in Cairo in the presence of the chief *qādī* Tāj al-Dīn b. bint al-A'azz, in which the *khān* built at Jerusalem (*al-khān bi-madīnat al-Quds*) was made a *waqf* and several copies of the charter were prepared.⁴⁴ Still on the events of 662, al-Maqrīzī refers to the fact that "the sultan endowed a number of villages in Syria and in Jerusalem, assigning their income to the expenditure of bread and shoes (*ni'āl*)⁴⁵ for those coming to Jerusalem, as well as sums of money. He erected a *khān*, an oven and a mill in Jerusalem (*bi'l-Quds*) during that year, and appointed the amir Jamāl al-Dīn Muḥammad b. Nahār as its *nāzīr*."⁴⁶

The Jerusalemite historian Mujīr al-Dīn al-'Ulaymī (810–928/1456–1522), on the other hand, left us a fairly clear statement concerning the *khān*: "Baybars is associated with good deeds in Jerusalem: amongst them, he cared for the restoration of the mosque and the renewal of the mosaics of the Noble Ṣakhra which are located above the marble [dado] on the outside. He [also] erected the *khān* known as Khān al-Zāhir, outside the Noble Jerusalem, on its north-western side. Its construction took place in 662. And he had the

bi'l-Quds al-Sharīf, wa-qurī'a kitāb waqfihi bi-huḫūr al-sultān wa-qādī al-quḫāt Tāj al-Dīn". See Shihāb al-Dīn Aḥmad ibn 'Abd al-Wahhāb al-Nuwayrī, *Nihāyat al-arab fī funūn al-adab*, 33 vols. (Cairo, 1923–1998), xxx, pp. 81–82 (on year 661), pp. 93–110 (on year 662), p. 111 (on Ṣafar 663).

³⁹ Ibn al-Furāt, *Tārīkh al-duwal wa'l-mulūk*, Vienna Nationalbibliothek MS Flügel 814, fol. 24r.

⁴⁰ *ibid.*, fol. 38r.

⁴¹ *ibid.*, fol. 56r. "*wa-fihā amara al-sultān al-malik al-Zāhir bi-inshā' khān bi'l-Quds al-Sharīf wa-fawwāḫa amr binā'ihī li'l-amīr Jamāl al-Dīn Muḥammad b. Nahār. Wa-naqala ilayhi min al-Qāhira bāb min ba'd dīhlīz quṣūr al-khulafā' bi-Miṣr. Wa-awqafa awqāf, ḥasana minhā qirāt wa-niṣf min qaryat al-Ṭurra min a'māl Dimashq, wa-thulth wa-rub' qaryat al-Mushayrifa min 'amal balad al-Sawād wa-niṣf qaryat Lijā [sic!] min 'amal al-Quds. Yuṣrafu dhālika fī thaman khubz wa-iṣlāḥ ni'āl man yaridu ilayhi min al-musāfirīn al-mushāt wa-fulūs. Wa-banā bi'l-khān tāhūn wa-furn wa-ja'ala al-naẓar fīhi li'l-amīr Jamāl al-Dīn Muḥammad b. Nahār [the name here is garbled]."* Note that Ibn al-Furāt mentions the village of al-Mushayrifa as "*min 'amal balad al-Sawād,*" and writes "*Lijā*" or "*Layfā*" (the letter *fā* not clear as slightly smudged) instead of *Liftā*.

⁴² Taqī al-Dīn Aḥmad b. 'Alī al-Maqrīzī, *Kitāb al-Sulūk li-ma'rifaḫ duwal al-mulūk*, edited by Muḥammad M. Ziyāda, 2 vols. (i-ii) in 6 pts. (Cairo, 1934–1958), edited by S. 'Ashūr, 2 vols. (iii-iv) in 6 pts. (Cairo, 1970–1973), i/2: 491, translated into French by Étienne Quatremère, *Histoire des Sultans Mamelouks, écrite en Arabe par Taki-eddin-Ahmed-Makrizi*, 2 vols. (Paris, 1837–1844), I, p. 205; On Bāb al-Īd, see above, note 26.

⁴³ See above, note 40.

⁴⁴ al-Maqrīzī, *al-Sulūk*, i/2, p. 505; Quatremère, *Histoire*, i, p. 230.

⁴⁵ Theoretically *ni'āl* (sing. *na'āl*) can also refer to sandals, but given Ibn Shaddād's reference to *zarābil* (see above), 'shoes' seems a better translation.

⁴⁶ al-Maqrīzī, *al-Sulūk*, i/2, p. 521; Quatremère, *Histoire*, i, p. 248; see Ibn al-Furāt, Vienna MS Flügel 814, fol. 56.

gate of the Fatimid caliphs' palace transferred there. He endowed to its benefit half of the village of Liftā and, apart from it, villages of the province of Damascus. He placed an oven and a mill inside the *khān* (*bi'l-khān*) and an *imām* for the mosque in its premises. And he stipulated some charitable deeds such as distribution of bread at its gate, improvement of the visitors' conditions (*iṣlāḥ ḥāl al-nāzilīn*), their meals, and others. But the endowment, which was established in Syria, has long ceased, the conditions stipulated – from the bread to others – have been discontinued, due to decay of times and vanishing of the conditions".⁴⁷ It is clear that Mujīr al-Dīn drew his information from the previous sources, but his knowledge of the exact location of the structure is an important addition, no doubt resulting from his familiarity with that city. And in fact, further evidence brought forward by Mujīr al-Dīn supports Ibn Kathīr's report that Baybars' *khān* was located in Māmillā.⁴⁸

But despite the rich information brought forward by Mujīr al-Dīn, some questions remain. Considering the reports by which the *khān* was located at Māmillā, how far "outside" Jerusalem was the *khān*? How much to the north-west did Māmillā extend at the time of the *khān*'s erection?

We shall try to address the above questions in the following section, dealing with the archaeological finds related to Khān al-Zāhir. Beforehand, nevertheless, we should complete this section with a reference to the endowment charter (*waqfiya*) of 'Alā' al-Dīn al-Baṣīr (d. 693/1294)⁴⁹ dated to 741/1340–I, and to two so far unnoticed passages in two important western accounts – Mariano da Siena and Georges Lengherand, who visited the Holy Land in 1431 and 1486 respectively.

⁴⁷Mujīr al-Dīn, *al-Uns*, ii, p. 87; Sauvaire, *Histoire de Jérusalem et d'Hébron*, pp. 238–239. Sauvaire translated the portion on the charitable deeds as follows: "Il imposa pour conditions à cet établissement, entre autres bonnes oeuvres, qu'une distribution de pain serait faite aux pauvres, à sa porte, que les chaussures de ceux qui y descendraient seraient raccommodées, qu'on leur fournirait à manger, etc." (*ibid.*, p. 239). It is clear that when mistakenly translating "*iṣlāḥ ḥāl al-nāzilīn*" as "shoe repairing" Sauvaire had in mind the different versions of this passage by earlier Arab authors in which the expressions in use were either "*iṣlāḥ zarābīl*" (Ibn Shaddād, *al-A'laq al-khaṭīra*, 238) or "*iṣlāḥ ni'āl*" (Ibn al-Furāt, Vienna MS Flügel 814, fol. 56r).

⁴⁸Mujīr al-Dīn also provides indirect evidence regarding the location and later use of the *khān*. He mentions the location of the tomb of a renown *shaykh* – Shihāb al-Dīn Abū al-Khayr Bādr b. 'Abdallāh al-Qarnawī al-Baṣīr (d. Sha'ḥbān 780/December 1378) – as "in the vicinity of Khān al-Zāhir" (*bi'l-qurb min Khān al-Zāhir*), also stressing that this tomb was by the side of the road (*'alā jamīb al-tarīq*; Mujīr al-Dīn, *al-Uns*, ii, p. 160). Mujīr al-Dīn also refers to the fact that the mansion (*qaṣr*) erected by the *shaykh* Tāj al-Dīn Sa'd (d. 892/1487), son of the renown *ḥanafī* chief *qādī* Shams al-Dīn Abū 'Abdallāh Muḥammad b. al-Dayrī, was next (*'inda*) to the *khān* (*ibid.*, ii, pp. 232, 297). This mansion, erected outside the city (*bi-Zāhir al-Quds*) in the vineyards of Tāj al-Dīn Sa'd (*bi-arḍ karmihī*), is described as a building of enormous proportions (*'imāra ḥā'ila*), whose building was concluded in 866/1461–2 (*ibid.*, ii, p. 238). Mujīr al-Dīn also refers to sultan Qāyṭbāy's encampment by Khān al-Zāhir on Monday, Rajab 17th, 880/November 17th, 1475, after riding for a day from Hebron (*ibid.*, ii, p. 315). Later on, he reports on the amir Āqbirdī, the Grand Dawādār (on him, see L.A. Mayer, *Saracenic Heraldry*, Oxford, 1930 and 1999, p. 65) as spending two days at the *khān* in Dhū 'l-Ḥijja 895/October–November 1490, after which he entered the city and visited al-Aqṣā (*ibid.*, ii, p.355). In his renowned biographical dictionary, al-Sakhāwī (d. 902/1497) adds interesting information regarding the knowledgeable Muḥammad b. 'Alī b. Muḥammad b. 'Alī b. 'Alī b. Qāsim b. Mas'ūd Abū 'Abd Allāh al-Aṣḥāḥī (al-Ghranāṭī al-Mālaqī al-Mālikī, known as al-Azraq) who arrived in Jerusalem from Cairo as *qādī* in Shawwāl 17th, 895/September 3rd, 1490. He died on Dhū 'l-Ḥijja 17th/November 1st, soon after his arrival, and was buried outside the gate of Khān al-Zāhir (*wa-dufina khārij bāb Khān al-Zāhir*). See Shams al-Dīn Muḥammad 'Abd al-Raḥman al-Sakhāwī, *Al-Ḍaw' al-Lāmi' li-Ahl al-Qarn al-Tāsi'*, 12 vols. (Cairo, 1934–1936), ix, pp. 20–21. This *qādī* is also mentioned by Mujīr al-Dīn, who reports that he is buried at Māmillā, to the side of Ḥawsh al-Bistāmī, on the west (Mujīr al-Dīn, *al-Uns*, ii, pp. 255–256). On other burials in Ḥawsh al-Bistāmī/Bistāmiyya, see *ibid.*, ii, pp. 46, 132, 162, 173, 196, 221, 226, 227, 243, 246.

⁴⁹Superintendent (*nāzir*) of the two Ḥarams (Jerusalem and Hebron) both for Baybars and al-Manṣūr Qalāwūn. On him, see Michael Hamilton Burgoyne, *Mamluk Jerusalem, An Architectural Study* (London, 1987), p. 117.

The *waqfiya* of ‘Alā’ al-Dīn al-Baṣīr refers to the erection of the *ribāṭ* and *ḥammām* in 666/1267 in Jerusalem. Khān al-Zāhir is mentioned in one of its clauses, as follows: “the vault of the bath-house (*ḥammām*) with its fittings and the water pipes from the land of Khān al-Zāhir and from the lands of al-Qaymariyya in Jerusalem (*bi’l-Quds*)”.⁵⁰ This passage is mainly of geographical interest, as it is almost contemporary with Ibn Kathīr’s passage, who mentions the *khān*’s location as in Māmillā. Following, *bi’l-Quds*, should be once again interpreted as “by or near Jerusalem”. Unfortunately, the wording of the above document does not clarify the exact position of the land of the *khān*.

Turning to the western sources, Mariano da Siena described his party’s approach to Jerusalem as follows: “Then, in the third hour, we arrived at the Holy City; and before entering the city, we were placed inside a great palace called *David’s Old Palace* (*Palazzo vecchio di David*), one *balestrata* from the city, and [there] we unloaded”.⁵¹

Georges Lengherand, on the other hand, places “the totally ruined great palace of David” (“*le grand pallais de David tout dérompu*”) on the road between Emmaus⁵² and Jerusalem, definitely beyond the limits of da Siena’s “*balestrata*”. But on the next paragraph he adds: “And we got very close to Jerusalem, facing a fairly big hostelry (“*un bien grand hostel*”) to which each pilgrim descended by foot, and from there some were directed to lodging at the Church of the Sisters of Mount Syon, others were directed to lodging at the houses of a man called Calis, who calls himself a Turkman from Santa Catharina, and at the house of one called Gazelle, a Christian of the Girdle . . .”

There is no guarantee that either da Siena’s *Palazzo vecchio di David*, or Lengherand’s *grand hostel* is actually Khān al-Zāhir. But if to take into consideration both accounts predated that by Mujīr al-Dīn’s, in whose time the *khān* was still functioning, it seems quite possible that they are referring to Baybars’ foundation. In this case, we have learned two additional

⁵⁰ Mehmed İpşirli and Mohammed Da’oud al-Tamimi, *The Muslim Pious Foundations and Real Estates in Palestine* (Istanbul, 1982), pp. 21, 165; Burgoyne, *Mamluk Jerusalem*, pp. 117–119. D.S. Richards, in his translation of this *waqfiya* (Burgoyne, *Mamluk Jerusalem*, p. 119), proposes al-‘Umariyya instead of al-Qaymariyya, even though followed by a question mark to note its problematic reading. If İpşirli and al-Tamimi’s reading should be preferred, it could be suggested that “the lands of the Qaymariyya” were located in today’s west Jerusalem, to the north-west of the Old City. Such proposal could be based on the existence, until these days, of a domed building in Strauss St., not far from Jaffā Rd. in the city centre, in which the tombs of five members of that family have been documented. See Tawfiq Dea’dlee, *Al-Qaymariyya Mausoleum in Jerusalem* (Jerusalem, 2005), Unpublished Masters thesis (in Hebrew) and Mahmoud K. Hawari, *Ayyubid Jerusalem (1187–1250): An architectural and archaeological study*, BAR International Series 1628 (Oxford, 2007), pp. 178–182. Worth mentioning is the fact that until the end of the nineteenth century the mausoleum was identified as al-Qaymariyya (al-Qaymuriyya according to Hawari), but later on, when a mosque and a tomb were added to it, the complex became known as Nabī ‘Ukāsha. It seems that the Khālīdī family, at that time in charge of the administration of the *Awqāf* of Jerusalem, was responsible for this later addition. It has been even suggested that by building that mosque, the Khālīdīs intended to blur the original ownership of the lands – in 1936 evaluated as ca. 1.23 acres (5000 m²) – and eventually take over their control. Dea’dlee, *Al-Qaymariyya*, p. 13.

⁵¹ *Del viaggio in Terra Santa fatto e descritto da ser Mariano da Siena nel secolo xv.*, edited by D. Moreni (Firenze, 1822), p. 23. Considering that according to Mariano da Siena the distance between St Stephen’s Gate to the Golden Gate in the eastern side of the city wall is “*mezza balestrata*” (*ibid.*, p. 38), one “*balestrata*,” at least in this case, corresponds to ca. half a kilometer.

⁵² *Voyage de Georges Lenngherand, Mayeur de Mons en Haynaut, à Venise, Rome, Jérusalem, le Mont Sinay et le Kayre (1485–1486)* (Mons, 1861), p. 117. On Emmaus, the village where Jesus appeared to his disciples after Resurrection, and its identification with three different locations – ‘Imwas–Nicomolis (Lat N 31,49,60/Long E 35, Old Israeli grid 149.138), Abū Ghosh–Qaryat al-‘Inab (Lat N 31,48,20 /Long E 35,6,10, Old Israeli grid 160.135) and al-Qubayba (Lat N 31,49,60/Long E 35,7,60, Old Israeli Grid 162.138) – see Denys Pringle, *The Churches of the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem, A Corpus* (Cambridge, 1993), pp. 7–17, 52–59, 167–175 and Ronnie Ellenblum, *Frankish Rural Settlement in the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem* (Cambridge, 1998), pp. 112–114.

aspects of this *khān*: first, its use by Christian pilgrims,⁵³ second, that it might have been called “The Old Palace of David”.⁵⁴

If this supposition is right, we know at least one miniature which depicts the *Palazzo* [sic] *Antico* at the northwestern corner of the city: *The Comminelli Map* (ill. 1a).⁵⁵ This map appeared in a Latin version of Ptolomeus’ geographical treatise written in 1472 by Hugo Comminelli and illustrated by Petrus Massarius from Florence.

The *Palazzo Antico* (illus. 1b) is depicted in the map as contained inside the city, behind a surviving section of the destroyed walls. The building is portrayed in a similar way to that of the *Hospicium Peregrinorum* (illus. 1c), i.e., a single-storeyed quadrangular building consisting of an open courtyard enclosed by archways, accessed by a single gate facing south (in the case of the *Hospicium* at least by two). This schematic illustration leaves no doubt as to the architectural nature of the *Palazzo Antico*, suitable of the lodging functions mentioned by Mariano da Siena and Georges Lengherand. The main question raised by the illustration is the location of the building, clearly set inside the walls. But as we shall see, the wall track portrayed should be considered as representative, and merely schematic.⁵⁶

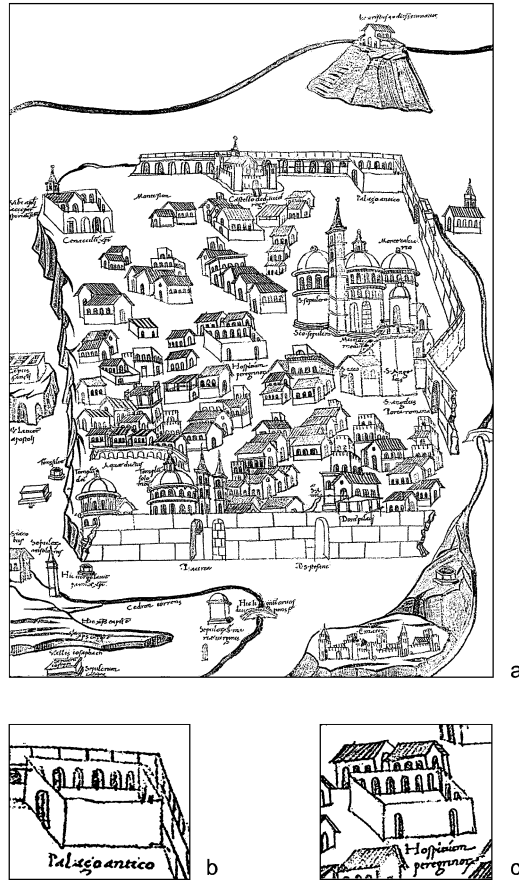
The following section will deal with archaeological and material evidence that, amongst others, might also help us in defining the *khān*’s geographical position.

⁵³The use of *khāns* by non-Muslims during the Ayyubid and Mamluk periods is clear both from the epigraphic evidence, and from the many passages found in western sources. Most instructive in this regard is the foundation inscription from Khān al-‘Aṭni in Syria, built in ca. 631/1233–1234. It reads: “. . .Rukn al-Dīn Mankuwirish, son of ‘Abd Allāh, al-Ḥurr (the freedman), al-Malikī, al-‘Ādilī al-Mu‘azzamī, may Allāh accept (this) from him, and he had it (the *khān*) assigned inalienably for (the benefit) of the Muslims and others, whatever they believe in. He assigned for that matter the shops inside its gate, (intended) for maintenance and whatever remains from their rental . . .” (J. Sauvaget, *Caravansérails Syriens du Moyen-Âge, I. Caravansérails Ayyūbides* (env. 1125–1260 A.D.),” *Ars Islamica* VI (1939), pp. 54–55; see Cytryn-Silverman, *Road Inns*, i, pp. 23–24). The foundation inscription from Khān al-Sabīl (Inqirātā), on the route between Homs and Aleppo, 773/1371–1372, is also of interest in the matter of non-Muslim usage. Its fourth line says (parts of inscription unclear): “. . .The endowment mobilised for this *khān* . . . the agricultural field of al- . . .next to . . . for the upkeep of the *khān* and the mats for the westerners . . .” (J. Sauvaget, “Caravansérails Syriens du Moyen-Âge, II. Caravansérails Mamelouks,” *Ars Islamica* VII (1940), pp. 11–12; in Cytryn-Silverman, *Road Inns*, i, pp. 34–35). As for the vast corpus of literary evidence drawn for the western sources, see Cytryn-Silverman, *Road Inns*, i, pp. 101 ff.; ii, *passim*. Amongst others, worthwhile mentioning the Italian traveller Niccolò Frescobaldi (1384), who wrote on the *cane* where his party stayed outside Gaza, as well as on that inside that town: “We reloaded our beasts and in the evening we reached a khan, a little outside Gaza, and we had taken ten days to come from St Catherine’s to Gaza . . . In that city we were put in a khan (cane), at the entrance to the town, where we were shut up for several days much to our discomfiture [sic]. . .” (*Viaggio di Lionardo di Niccolò Frescobaldi Fiorentino in Egitto e in Terra Santa. Con un discorso dell’editore Guglielmo Manzi, sopra il commercio degl’Italiani nel secolo xiv*, Roma, 1818, pp. 133–135; *Visit to the Holy Places of Egypt, Sinai, Palestine and Syria in 1384 by Frescobaldi, Gucci & Sigoli*, translated from the Italian by T. Bellorini and E. Hoade, Jerusalem, 1948, p. 66). The testimony of Bertrandon de La Broquière (1432–1433), who served at the Burgundian court of Philippe le Bon, is also of relevance to the present discussion: “And from there [the valley of Hebron], we traversed a great valley, near which, as they say, is the mountain whereon St John the Baptist performed his penitence. Thence we crossed a desert country, and lodged in one of those houses which they call *Kan*. This is a dwelling made through charity for lodging in shade the passers-by during their journey. From that place we came to Gaza. . .” (*Le Voyage d’Outremer de Bertrandon de la Broquière*, publié et annoté par Ch. Schefer, Paris, 1892, pp.18–19; *The Travels of Bertrandon de la Broquière, counsellor and first esquire-carver to Philippe le Bon, Duke of Burgundy, to Palestine, and his return from Jerusalem overland to France, during the years 1432 & 1433*. Translated by Th. Johnes, Hafod, 1807, pp. 98–99).

⁵⁴The “new one” being the Citadel next to Jaffa Gate.

⁵⁵Bibliothèque Nationale, Fonds latins 4802, fol. 133; Milka Levy, “Medieval Maps of Jerusalem,” in *The History of Jerusalem, Crusaders and Ayyubids (1099–1250)*, eds. Joshua Prawer and Haggai Ben-Shammai (Jerusalem, 1991), pp. 501–506.

⁵⁶See fn. 62 below.



Ill. 1: Fifteenth century Jerusalem according to the Comminelli Map (adapted by the author).

The Archaeological Evidence

“No trace of the caravanserai has been found except for an inscription, now in the Islamic Museum on the Ḥaram.”⁵⁷

In this way M. Burgoyne summarised the archaeological information related to Baybars’s *khān* in Jerusalem in the book *Mamlūk Jerusalem* which was published in 1987. Notwithstanding this short statement, the following paragraphs will discuss a wider range of direct and indirect evidence.

The first archaeological report to discuss the location of Khān al-Zāhir was that by F.M. Abel, excavating at the north-western corner of the walls of Jerusalem in 1912.⁵⁸ According to Abel, the excavations revealed a monumental gate with two building stages: the first being

⁵⁷ Burgoyne, *Mamlūk Jerusalem*, p. 86. On the inscription, see discussion below.

⁵⁸ Abel, *Tour Pséphina*, pp. 88–96.

dated to the twelfth century and attributed to the Franks, the second being identified as Khān al-Zāhir. To support his identification, Abel quoted from Mujīr al-Dīn: “la construction du khān situé en dehors de Qouds l’illustre, au flanc nord-ouest et connu sous le nom de khān ed-Dāher”.⁵⁹ Abel assumed that by writing “*min jihati al-gharbī ilā ‘l-shimālī*,” Mujīr al-Dīn was referring to a structure in the immediate proximity, or even abutting the north-western side of the city. Nevertheless, the term “*jihā*”, amongst others, also means “direction”: Mujīr al-Dīn himself used the term to refer both to the Monastery of the Cross, some 2 km south-west from the city, and to Birkat Māmillā, ca. 250 meters west of Jaffa Gate.⁶⁰ Thence Abel’s main premise for identifying the excavated gate as belonging to Khān al-Zāhir is weak.⁶¹ In addition, it has been shown that the gate under discussion was part of the Crusader/Ayyubid wall and functioned as its postern.⁶²

‘Ārif al-‘Ārif, in his *Al-Mufaṣṣal fī Ta’rīkh al-Quds* from 1961, stated that the *khān* still existed at the street-junction inside the Damascus Gate, some 100m to the south of it. According to ‘Ārif al-‘Ārif, the building had four domes, “built in the Mamluk architectural style”. According to his testimony, the families al-Khālīdī, al-‘Alamī, Qlaybū and others enjoyed from its [*waqf*] benefits. Such a proposition, nevertheless, lacks palpable evidence.⁶³

Al-‘Asalī’s book on Islamic sites in Jerusalem from 1982⁶⁴ also presents a summary on Baybars’ *khān*. Apart from ‘Ārif al-‘Ārif’s argument, al-‘Asalī also brings forward information drawn from ‘Alī Sa‘īd Khalaf’s book *Shay’ min Ta’rīkhinā*, published in 1979.⁶⁵ Khalaf located Khān al-Zāhir at the site of today’s Central Bus Station on Jaffa Road in west Jerusalem, stating, with a surprising conviction, that the *khān* was two or three km north-west of the current city-walls.⁶⁶ Al-‘Asalī also referred to the 1912 French excavations, but dismissed Abel’s conclusions on the basis of the archaeological evidence exposed by Bahat and Ben-Ari in 1971–1972 at “Tancred’s Tower” in Zāhal Square.⁶⁷

In 1989 Aren M. Maeir and Dan Bahat conducted salvage excavations at the City Hall Square in Jerusalem, south of the Russian Compound, to the north-west of the city wall’s corner (ill. 2a).⁶⁸ During their excavations, Maeir and Bahat uncovered a “large medieval building complex” (ill. 2b) in a poor state of preservation, apparently previously excavated by Wilson in the 1860s.⁶⁹ Of this building, whose dimensions could not be determined, two

⁵⁹ *ibid.*, p. 95.

⁶⁰ Mujīr al-Dīn, *al-Uns*, ii, pp. 51, 59; Sauvaire, *Histoire de Jérusalem et d’Hébron*, pp. 173, 190.

⁶¹ On the other hand, Abel’s proposal would match the location of the *Palazzo Antico* in *The Comminelli Map*, i.e., inside the north-western corner of the city.

⁶² Dan Bahat and M. Ben-Ari, “Excavations at Tancred’s Tower”, in *Jerusalem Revealed*, ed. Yigael Yadin (Jerusalem, 1975), illus. in p. 109; G.J. Wightman, *The Walls of Jerusalem, From the Canaanites to the Mamluks*. Mediterranean Archaeological Supplement IV, (Sydney, 1993), p. 276. Bahat’s and Ben-Ari’s excavations also made clear that the north-western corner of the city-walls remained destroyed until the Ottoman period, when the remains of the tower were levelled and built over (*ibid.*, p. 110). These results contradict the schematic depiction of the north-western corner of the city as represented in the *Comminelli Map*, discussed above.

⁶³ ‘Ārif al-‘Ārif, *Al-Mufaṣṣal fī Ta’rīkh al-Quds* (Jerusalem, 1961), i, pp. 198–199; also quoted in al-Dabbāgh, *Bilādunā*, part 2, ix, pp. 259–260; al-‘Asalī, *Min Āthārīnā fī Bayt al-Maqdis*, p. 93.

⁶⁴ Al-‘Asalī, *Min Āthārīnā fī Bayt al-Maqdis*, pp. 92–93.

⁶⁵ Not available to the author.

⁶⁶ Al-‘Asalī, *Min Āthārīnā fī Bayt al-Maqdis*, p. 92. It is unclear from al-‘Asalī’s summary where Khalaf drew his conclusion from. No published excavations at that area have revealed such a building.

⁶⁷ *ibid.*, p. 93.

⁶⁸ Map reference according to Old Israeli Grid 1713/1329. Maeir and Bahat, *Kikkar Safra*, p. 169.

⁶⁹ Charles William Wilson, *Ordnance Survey of Jerusalem* (London, 1865), p. 72, pl. XXIX (2, *Mr. Berghem’s House and Grounds*).



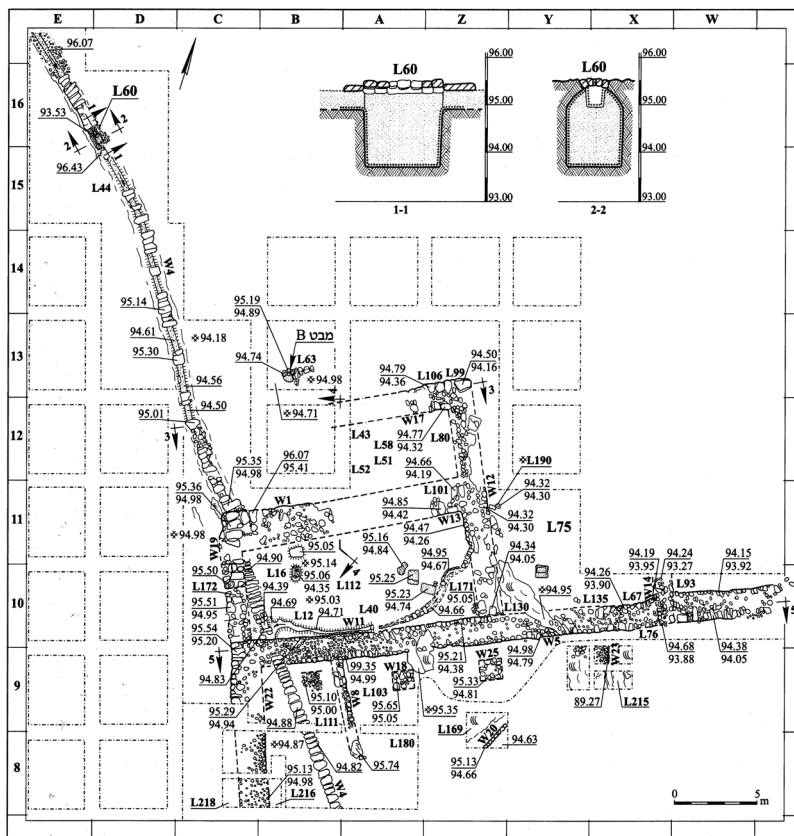
Ill. 2a: City Hall Square. From Maeir and Bahat, *Kikkar Safra*. Courtesy of Israel Antiquities Authority.

portions were revealed: the northwestern corner of a courtyard, and a northern extension comprising of two rooms.⁷⁰ In addition, a water channel, pre-dating or contemporary with the building, was also uncovered. This channel, unrelated to the Māmillā Channel, carried rainwater (or spring water?) to the north-western corner of the city, and seems to be related to the channel revealed during the excavations at Tancred's Tower in 1971–1972.⁷¹ As for the dating of the building, the evidence could not determine if it was erected during the Crusader period or later. The fragmentary architectural remains and stratified evidence, and mostly the few remains of floors, posed difficulties on interpreting the nature of the fills uncovered, mainly those containing Crusader–Ayyubid pottery. If contemporary with the building, it would imply a Crusader date for the structure, hence the preliminary identification of the site as the leper's hospital of the Order of St Lazarus.⁷² In their final

⁷⁰Maeir and Bahat, *Kikkar Safra*, pp. 170–175.

⁷¹*ibid.*, pp. 175–176; Bahat and Ben-Ari, *Tancred's Tower*, p. 110. It is tempting to identify the water-channel excavated by Maeir and Bahat as that mentioned in 'Alā' al-Dīn al-Baṣīr's *waqfiya* mentioned above.

⁷²Maeir and Bahat, *Kikkar Safra*, p. 186. See above, fn. 6.



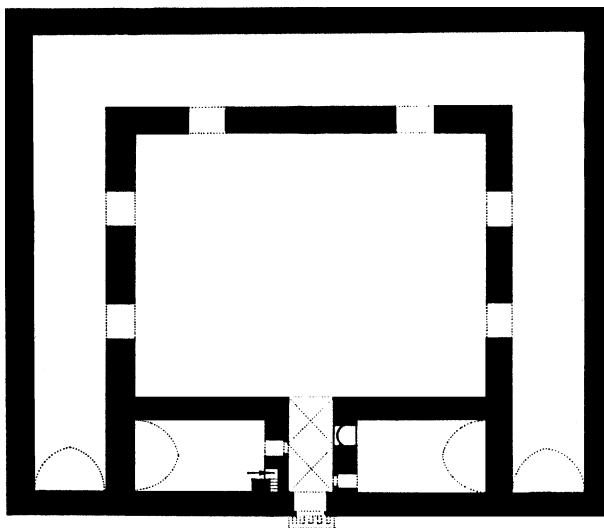
Ill. 2b: City Hall Square, plan of excavations. From Maier and Bahat, *Kikkar Safra*. Courtesy of Israel Antiquities Authority.

report this identification was revised, and a later Ayyubid-Mamluk date for the fill, and consequently for the building, was preferred.⁷³ Despite the vague evidence, and mostly influenced by the written information drawn from Mujir al-Dīn, al-Maqrīzī, as well as from Joannes Cotovicus (1598–1599),⁷⁴ Maier and Bahat concluded that the building in question should be identified as Khān al-Zāhir.⁷⁵

⁷³*ibid.*, p. 185.

⁷⁴J. Cotovicus, *Itinerarium Hierosolymitanum* (Antwerp, 1619), p. 150. It reads: “Ad laevam è regione fontis plurimae visuntur vineae, & horti arboribus varijs exculti: iuxta quas in ipsa viā Moschea cernitur recens extracta & muris cincta, Leonis simulachro contra Legem Turcarum supra ostium insculpto,” i.e. “To the left is a region of many springs [where] vineyards and gardens cultivated with various trees could be seen. Next to it, right on the road itself, a mosque could be noted, recently [re-]built and surrounded by walls, with the image of a lion carved above the entrance, against the law of the Turks”. See also in Maier and Bahat, *Kikkar Safra*, p. 188 for a different translation. Van Berchem (see below), as well as Vincent and Abel (*Jérusalem Nouvelle*, p. 977) had already related to this passage. The latter wrote: “Les réparations que les Turcs y [khān] apportèrent au xvi^e siècle respectèrent le lion héraldique du farouche conquérant qui figurait sur l’entrée”. On these carved felines and their proposed identification with those heralding St Stephen’s Gate (The Lions’ Gate), see below.

⁷⁵Maier and Bahat, *Kikkar Safra*, pp. 188–189.



Ill. 3: Ground plan of Khān ‘Ayyāsh, Syria. After Sauvaget, *Caravansérails Mamelouks*.

Unfortunately, little has remained of the excavated building to allow its reconstruction. Nevertheless, Khān al-Zāhir most probably followed the architectural example of the various Syrian *khāns* built during the Ayyubid and Early Mamluk periods.⁷⁶ Ibn Shaddād’s description of “elevated structures in each of its sides” suits the standard plan of barrel-vaulted halls enclosing an open courtyard, entered through a single gate, facing one of the cardinal points, as in Khān ‘Ayyāsh in Syria, for example (690/1291; ill. 3).⁷⁷ These inns were usually provided with a prayer room; Ibn Shaddād’s description, and Mujīr al-Dīn’s after him, leave no doubt that that was the case in Jerusalem as well.⁷⁸ To the mill, oven and garden described by Ibn Shaddād, we can add a nearby water source or reservoir, essential for the functioning of a public *khān*. And as we know that a keeper, a cobbler, a farrier, as well as an *imām*, were permanent figures at this foundation, we can also reconstruct at least one private cell for them to dwell and store their goods.

⁷⁶Sauvaget’s articles on Ayyubid and Mamluk road-inns (Sauvaget, *Caravansérails Ayyūbides*, pp. 48–55 and Sauvaget, *Caravansérails Mamelouks*, pp. 1–19, see above, fn. 53) are still an important reference to this issue. For further discussion, see also Cytryn-Silverman, *Road Inns*, i, pp. 178 ff.

⁷⁷Sauvaget, *Caravansérails Mamelouks*, pp. 1–2. Its foundation inscription is also of relevance for understanding the functioning of these *khāns*, in a way completing the information on Baybars’ *khān*, brought forward above. Its third and fourth lines read: “. . . He [the amir Ḥusām al-Dīn Lājīn] made it a perpetual charitable endowment (*waqf*), to [the profit] of all Muslims that come and go, for eternity, and it can not be sold and can not be taken into private possession. He constituted as *waqf* for its [the *khān*’s] benefit and upkeep and for the upkeep of the mosque and water installation inside [its premises], the totality of two shops that are inside [the *khān*], the totality of an eighth from the great *khān* located outside the Jābiya Gate [o] [in Damascus] and the shops around this *khān* and its neighbouring abattoir. [All that] intended for the upkeep of the *khān* and the mosque and for what is in need [in terms of] oil, mats, ropes and buckets for the [water] installation. For the *imām* to whom forty *dirhams* will be paid monthly, to the muezzin thirty *dirhams* and to the gate-keeper twenty *dirhams*, the remainder to be distributed to the poor arriving, and to the needy travellers”. My translation, Cytryn-Silverman, *Road Inns*, i, pp. 28–29.

⁷⁸The three domes seen in the illustration included in Zuallart’s itinerary might represent the mosque enclosed in the *khān*’s perimeter.

A further architectural feature of this *khān*, drawn exclusively from the sources, is its gate, the Cairene Bāb al-Īd. Unfortunately, the various passages do not specify if they refer to the gate's façade or part thereof (such as a decorative arch), or only to its doors.⁷⁹ When in the fifteenth century al-Maqrīzī described four of the gates of the Greater (eastern) Fāṭimid Palace in Cairo,⁸⁰ Bāb al-Īd was still extant. He also added that Baybars had this very gate transferred to his *khān* in Jerusalem (*wa-naqala ilayhi Bāb al-Īd hādihā*). But as al-Maqrīzī solely described its vaulted interior and its domed superstructure, we do not know if by his time this gate in Cairo was missing its original façade, its original doors (wooden doors?),⁸¹ or both.

As for the typical accompanying inscriptions and emblems found in Mamluk buildings, see the evidence brought forward in the next section.

The Epigraphic and Emblematic Evidence

In addition to the above attempts to locate the site of Baybars' *khān*, discussion has also focused on few finds likely to originate from this building: two fragmentary inscriptions and two pairs of carved lions.⁸²

Under the definition "XXV (Pl. XVIII B). Construction of a Khān (?) by Sultan Baybars" M. Burgoyne and A. Abul-Hajj⁸³ presented a fragmentary inscription, sectioned into two fragments (0.55 × 0.28 m and 0.53 × 0.31 m), found during the restoration of the Dome

⁷⁹For a discussion on the transfer of building material and architectural units such as gates, before and after Baybars's time, see J.M. Bloom, "The Mosque of Baybars al-Bunduqdārī in Cairo," *Annales Islamogiques* XVII (1982), pp. 71–73. For surviving tenth and early eleventh century-gates in Fāṭimid architecture, see the projecting portals at the mosques at Mahdiyya in Tunisia (308/921) and al-Hākīm in Cairo (380–403/990–1013) in J.M. Bloom, *Arts of the City Victorious – Islamic Art and Architecture in Fatimid North Africa and Egypt* (New Haven and London, 2007), figs. 13 and 46 respectively. Worthwhile mentioning that in his article on the Mosque of Baybars (see above), Bloom refers to the two gate styles which developed during the Fāṭimid period, the earlier represented by the projecting portal of al-Hākīm Mosque, the later by the flattened façade of al-Aqmar (519/1125) and al-Šāliḥ Ṭalā'ī' (555/1160) mosques which continued into the Ayyubid period (Bloom, *Mosque of Baybars*, pp. 52–53). He also assesses the historical context for the revival of al-Hākīm's projecting gate (and other architectural features drawn from this mosque) in the Mosque of Baybars (Bloom, *Mosque of Baybars*, pp. 55–61). His conclusions, of relevance to the local architecture, unfortunately do not shed light on the transference of Bāb al-Īd to Jerusalem.

⁸⁰Al-Maqrīzī, *Khiṭāṭ*, i, p. 435; Creswell, K.A.C. Creswell, *The Muslim Architecture of Egypt (MAE): I. Ikhshids and Fatimids (930–1171)* (Oxford, 1952), pp. 33–34.

⁸¹No wooden doors from the Greater (eastern) Fāṭimid palace, seem to survive. A few examples from the Lesser (western) palace (finished in 450/1058) remain, as they were reused in al-Nāṣir Muḥammad b. Qalāwun's madrasa-mausoleum (695–703/1295/6–1303/4). Nevertheless, we do not know if they originally stood at the gates. See Creswell, *MAE*, I, pp. 128–129, pl. 39. The pair of wooden doors (3.25 meters high by 1 meter wide each leaf) presented by the caliph al-Hākīm to al-Azhar mosque in 400/1009–1010, today at the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo (Bloom, *City Victorious*, pp. 63–65, Fig. 37), is chronologically closer to Bāb al-Īd. Even though its original position at the mosque is not clear, Bloom hints to its probable use at the mosque's main entrance.

⁸²Professor M. Sharon has recently proposed that an inscription found at the end of the nineteenth century in Abū Ghosh on the way to Jerusalem (for location, see fn. 52) could be probably related to the renovation of Khān al-Zāhir. This inscription commemorates the construction/renovation (*'imāra*) of a "blessed" building (*al-makān al-mubārak*) by order of sultan Qāyṭbāy and is dated to the beginning of Rabī' II 881/beginning of August 1476. Sharon implied that by being dated less than a year after Qāyṭbāy's visit to Jerusalem, when he stopped at that *khān* before entering the city (see above, fn. 48), the inscription could be related to its renovation either ahead of his visit (in which case the inscription was installed eight months later), or after he left, following his order. Moshe Sharon, *Corpus Inscriptionum Arabicarum Palaestinae, (CIAP) Addendum. Squeezes in the Max van Berchem Collection (Palestine, Trans-Jordan, Northern Syria) Squeezes 1–84* (Leiden, 2007), pp. 5–7. On the other hand, this inscription could be related to the renovation of the *khān* at Abū Ghosh itself, whose excavations in the 1940s attested to its renewal during the Mamluk period. See Roland de Vaux and A.-M. Stève, *Fouilles a Qaryet el-'Enab Abu Gosh, Palestine* (Paris, 1950); Cytryn-Silverman, *Road Inns*, ii, pp. 175–191.

⁸³M.H. Burgoyne and A. Abul-Hajj, "Twenty-four mediaeval Arabic inscriptions from Jerusalem," *Levant* XI (1979), pp. 125–127.



Ill. 4: Inscription no. 1. Photo by David Silverman.

of the Rock in the 1960s and today exhibited at the al-Ḥaram al-Sharīf Islamic Museum in Jerusalem (illus. 4).⁸⁴ The two fragments had been used in the cornice on the outer face of the drum, and both the molding and the remains of mortar attest to that kind of use. The inscription itself was a secondary use of a marble column base, making its “recycling” as a cornice a “tertiary use”. Its translation reads:⁸⁵

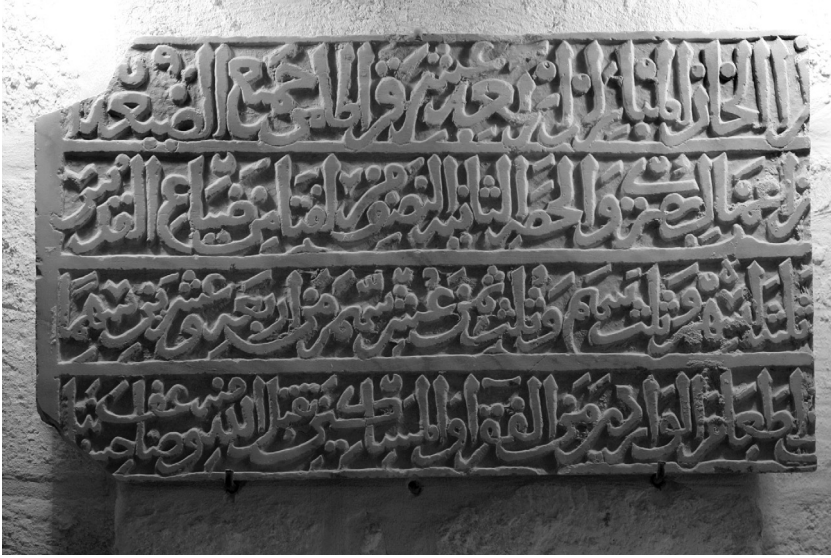
1. In the name of G[od, the Compassionate, the Merciful...] God bless our Lord Muḥammad and His family
2. [This is the blessed caravanserai] ordered to be founded by [----] and⁸⁶
3. His Majesty, the [August] Sul[tān ---- Sovereign of the Heads] of Nations, King
4. of the Arabs and the Persians [and the Turks ---- al-Ma]lik al-Zāhir
5. Rukn al-Dunyā wa'l-D[īn, Abū 'l-Faṭḥ Baybars al-Ṣāliḥī ---- Associ]ate of the Commander of the Faithful
6. May God double his p[ower ----] and may his victory be glorious.
7. Written at the end of [---- the year] 662 (1263/1264).
8. Praise be to God Alone [----] and [His] family and grant them salvation.

Three issues brought forward by the above inscription should be emphasised: first, its nature as a foundation inscription, made clear by the words “*amara bi-inshā'* . . .” in the second line; second, the naming of its patron as disclosed in lines three to five, and “*al-Zāhir*” in line four clarifying that this is a foundation by Baybars; finally, the dating of the

⁸⁴I would like to thank Mr. Khader Salameh, curator of the al-Ḥaram al-Sharīf Islamic Museum, Jerusalem, for allowing its photograph to be taken, together with that of the inscription seen in ill. 5 (see below).

⁸⁵Translation from Burgoyne and Abul-Hajj, *Inscriptions*, p. 126.

⁸⁶Burgoyne and Abul-Hajj's reading of the second line (and the resulting translation) is reproduced here with reservation.



Ill. 5: Inscription no. 2. Photo by David Silverman.

foundation to year 662, as it appears in line seven, which links the inscription to the several written sources previously mentioned.

So even though the inscription was found out of context, and despite the fact it does not clearly define the nature of the building involved, this is very palpable evidence. Of course we should not forget that various sources do refer to works done by Baybars at al-Aqṣā (see above). The finding of the two inscribed fragments at the Dome of the Rock could also hint to a nearby work. On the other hand, it is still very tempting to relate this epigraphic evidence to the *khān* under discussion.

The second inscription (illus. 5), unfortunately also fragmentary, was included by Ḥamdān ‘Abd al-Rāziq Ḥusayn Maṣṣūr, in his Masters thesis (*Dirāsa li’l-Nuqūsh al-‘Arabiyya fi al-Mathaf al-Islāmī bi’l-Quds*) dealing with the inscriptions found at the Islamic Museum at the Ḥaram al-Sharīf.⁸⁷ The inscription, registered as 14/M/S, can be found in the eastern wing of the museum and recorded as of unknown provenance. In fact, the inscription had been already published by van Berchem, in his section on the epigraphic material found at the al-Aqṣā mosque. Van Berchem did not identify it as belonging to Baybars’ *khān*, and even suggested an early fourteenth century date following its epigraphic style.⁸⁸

Both from its physical appearance and from its meaning, van Berchem, and later Maṣṣūr, concluded that the text consists of the second half (0.75×0.43 m) of a longer inscription, the beginning of which is on a missing slab. Its translation reads:⁸⁹

1. . . .this blessed *khān*, 14 *qīrāt* of the totality of the landed estate. . .

⁸⁷ Maṣṣūr, *Dirāsa li’l-Nuqūsh*, pp. 72–77.

⁸⁸ Max van Berchem, *Matériaux pour un Corpus Inscriptionum Arabicarum (CIA)*, II, *Syrie du Sud, Jérusalem, Ḥaram* (Cairo, 1927), pp. 436–437, no. 293. According to van Berchem, the inscribed slab was imbedded into the mosque’s southern wall of the transept, next to the paving.

⁸⁹ My translation.



Ill. 6: The Lions' Gate. Photo by David Silverman.

2. ...of the districts (*a'māl*) of Buṣra; and the second share: half of Liftā, one of Jerusalem's villages (*dayā*)...
3. ... three *ashum*, and a third of a *sahm*, and a third of the eighth of a tenth *sahm* of twenty four *sahm*...⁹⁰
4. ... in order to feed the comers, the poor and the miserable, may God accept it from him, and double his merits.

The above text is a portion of the *waqf* endowed to cover the expenses of a *khān*. Different from the previous inscription, it does not disclose the patron behind it, neither its date. Notwithstanding these blanks in information, the proximity in content to the data drawn from the sources (see above) on the lands endowed for the maintenance of Khān al-Zāhir, one concludes that we are clearly dealing with a remain from Baybars' *khān*.

Finally, we should consider the two pairs of carved felines heralding the façade of St Stephen's Gate (The Lions' Gate; illus. 6) on the eastern side of the city wall. Both van Berchem and Creswell believed that they are in secondary use at that place,⁹¹ following the Ottoman renovations of the city walls between 1537/38–1540/41. By identifying them as

⁹⁰Van Berchem (ibid.) has copied this section as “[*tha*]māniya *ashum wa-thulth sahm wa-thulth thumn 'ushr sahm min arba'a wa-'ishrīn sahm*...”, which he translated as: “huit parts et un tiers de part et un tiers de huitième de dixième de part sur vingt-quatre parts...” Note that van Berchem read *thamāniya* instead of *thalātha* in the beginning of the third line. For *sahm*, pl. *ashum*, meaning an allotted portion, see Mawil Izzi Dien, “al-sahm,” *EF*, viii, p. 842.

⁹¹*ibid.*, pp. 445–446; K.A.C. Creswell, (1926) “The Works of Sultan Bibars al-Bunduqdārī in Egypt,” *Bulletin de l'Institut Française d'Archéologie Orientale* XXVI (1926), p. 148. Van Berchem (*CIA, Jérusalem I*, p. 445) writes: “mais ces reliefs ne sont pas *in situ*. En effet, les fauves de Baibars, dans les exemples que j'ai cités, sont toujours disposés de l'une ou l'autre des deux manières que voici: tantôt ils sont processionnaires, c'est-à-dire rangés à la file, l'une derrière l'autre, et passant tout tous du même côté; tantôt ils sont affrontés deux par deux, aux deux extrémités d'un sujet central, tel qu'une inscription. Ici (pl. C) ils sont bien affrontés deux par deux, comme dans la seconde manière, mais au lieu d'encadrer un sujet, ils sont très rapprochés, comme dans la première, et se regardent surpris et honteux de leur posture; en deux mots ce sont des supports héraldiques, mais privés de leur fonction”.



Ill. 7: View of Jerusalem's walls and surroundings, as illustrated in J. Zuallart's *Il devotissimo viaggio di Gerusalemme* (1587). According to the key: A- *Piscina de Salomon*, B- *Mezquita de Turcos*, C- *Peregrinos*, D- *Sepulcros de Turcos*, E- *Monte Olivete*, F- *Silo*.

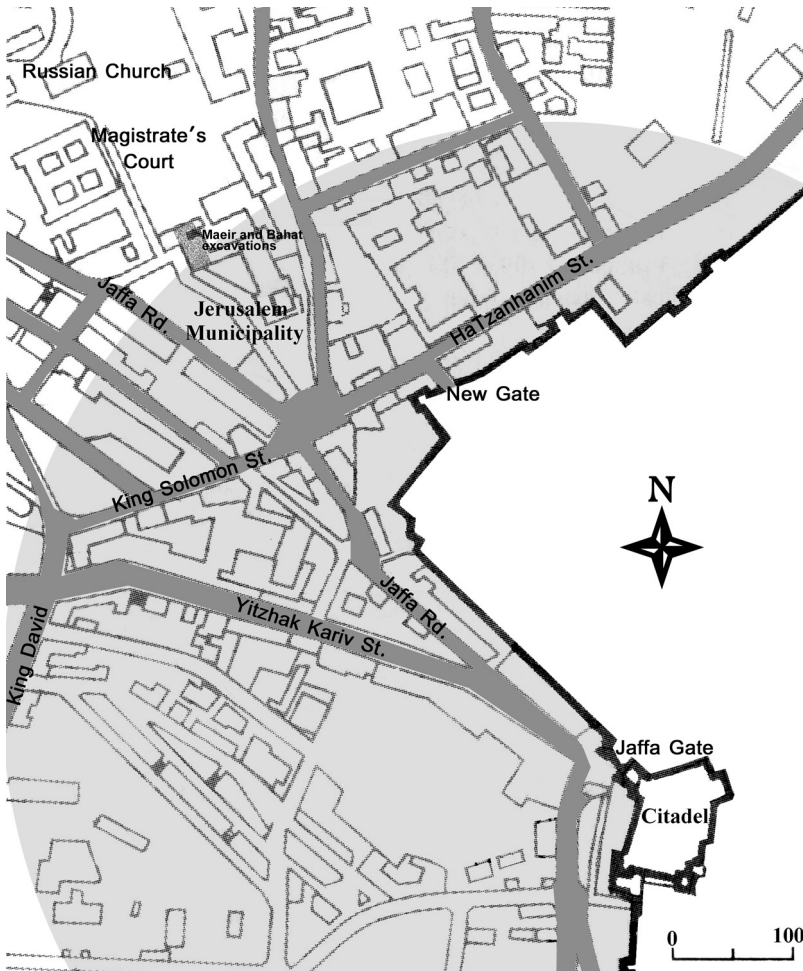
the heraldic symbol of Sultan Baybars, and considering that there is no knowledge of repairs being made to the city walls during his reign, it might be assumed that they belonged to his *khān*, the only building he erected in Jerusalem. In addition, van Berchem's opinion that the facing "fauves" most probably originally flanked an inscription (cf. *Jisr Jindās* at Lydda),⁹² is strengthened by the finding of the two inscriptions discussed above.

The study of these two sets of felines becomes even more relevant in the framework of the present discussion once we read a passage by the pilgrim Jean Zuallart from 1586: "...alle due bande della quale [porta di S. Stefano], contra la lege de Turchi, sono sculpiti duo lioni che si regardano l'un l'altro; & è il mede[si]mo sopra l'entrata d'una Moschea, dall'altra banda della Cittagrave, della quale e fatta mentione dove habbiamo parlato della nostra venuta".⁹³ Van Berchem suggested that the abovementioned mosque should be identified with the building marked B in one of the engravings illustrating the itinerary (illus. 7).⁹⁴ He writes: "C'est probablement celle qu'on voit en B dans sa gravure, au nord

⁹²Charles Clermont-Ganneau, *Archaeological Researches in Palestine during the Years 1873–1874* (London, 1896), ii, pp. 110–118; Creswell, *The Works of Sultan Bibars*, p. 149.

⁹³"... on both sides of which [of St Stephan/Lions gate], against the law of the Turks, [there are] two carved lions facing each other; and this is the same as on top of the entrance to a mosque, on the other side of the city, which was already mentioned where we have spoken of our arrival [to Jerusalem, p. 124]." Jean Zuallart, *Il devotissimo viaggio di Gerusalemme. Fatto & descritto in sei libri dal Sig. Giovanni Zuallardo, Cavaliere del Santiss. Sepolcro di N.S. l'anno 1586, Aggiuntoui i disegni di varij luoghi di Terra Santa & altri paefi. Intagliati da Natale Bonifacio Dalmata* (Roma, 1587), p. 160. Quoted by van Berchem, *CIA, Jérusalem I*, p. 446, fn. 2. Note similarity to the passage in Cotovicus' *Itinerarium Hierosolymitanum* (see above, fn. 74).

⁹⁴Zuallart, *Il devotissimo viaggio*, p. 123.



Ill. 8: Map of the north-western corner of the Old City of Jerusalem and surrounding area. Boundary of shaded area marks the ca. 500 m distance suggested in Mariano da Siena's account.

de la porte de Jaffa, et qui pourrait bien être ce même khān de Baibars, que le pèlerin flamand aurait pris pour une mosquée. . .”⁹⁵

Of course one wonders how could the builders of the ‘Lions’ Gate’ have used the carved felines from the abovementioned structure, if Zuallart saw them *in situ* almost fifty years later. Could Zuallart’s *lioni* have been additional carvings, left untouched by the builders? Or were they inserted at the Ottoman gate in a later date?⁹⁶

⁹⁵Van Berchem, *CIA, Jérusalem I*, p. 446, fn. 2. It should be noted that the set of wood-blocks used for Zuallart’s publication were reused in Cotovicus’ *Itinerarium Hierosolymitanum*, in George Sandys’ *A Relation of a Journey begun An. Dom. 1610*, *Four Books*. Containing a description of the Turkish Empire, of Egypt, of the Holy Land, of the remote parts of Italy, and Islands adjoining (London, 1627), in Alquilante Rocchetta’s *Peregrinatione di Terra Santa ed’ altre provincie* (Palermo, 1630), and others.

⁹⁶And Cotovicus sixty years later. See similar comment by Maier and Bahat, *Kikkar Safia*, p. 190, fn. 9.



Ill. 9: Aerial photograph of Jerusalem, April 21, 1918. Photo courtesy, Israel Government Press Office (adapted by the author).

Is it possible that by this “archaeological” approach to a sixteenth century western source, van Berchem had already solved the “location-enigma” of Baybars’ *khān* as early as in 1922?

Conclusion

The research on Khān al-Zāhir is a good example of the potential of an integrated archaeological-historical work. This is one of the few occasions in which so much is known about a building by Baybars in Palestine – the date of its foundation, its related *waqf*, the purpose of the building, the functions attached, etc. – while little archaeological evidence has so far been indisputably associated with this *khān*. On the other hand, the combination of the data available allows us to learn a fair amount of details, and even to attempt a reconstruction of its physical characteristics.

As for the unsettled question – “where was the *khān*?” – we should try to answer it by ruling certain areas out, mainly because they are not in Māmillā as clearly indicated by Ibn Kathīr and indirectly by Mujīr al-Dīn. While Tancred’s Tower has been already dismissed, the Central Bus Station is far Māmillā. The Damascus Gate should be also ruled out, at as it is at the northern side of the city, and not at the north-western as stated by Mujīr al-Dīn. On the other hand, and despite the vague material finds from Maeir and Bahat’s excavations, Kikkar Safra (illus. 2, 9) seems to fit all criteria: it is at the north-western side of the city, as well as in the main water line providing Jerusalem with water from Hebron. It is also near Birkat Māmillā, even though the excavations did not uncover any connections to this specific water source. Indirectly, it also defines some of the north-eastern extension of Māmillā during the Mamluk period. It corresponds to the region where Zuallart’s “mosque” is located, and could well suit Mariano da Siena’s estimation of one “*balestrata*” distance,⁹⁷ *bi-zāhir al-Quds!*

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⁹⁷If we consider the Citadel as his referential site. See above, fn. 51 and boundary of shaded area in Illus. 8.