

RASHĪD, ROSETTA¹
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF A LIVING HERITAGE

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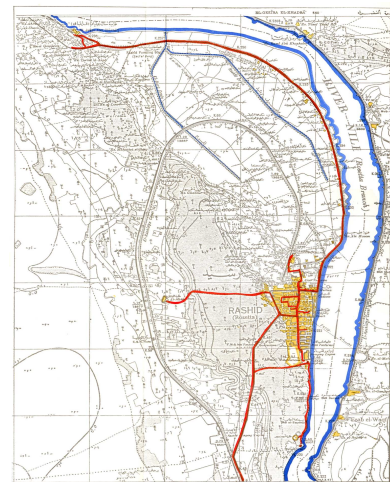
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Rosetta location:

Rosetta It situated in lat. 31°24` N., long. 30° 24` E., on the western bank of the western branch of the Nile at a distance of 65 km north east Aexandria. Its location had been of great strategic importance.

The town which is situated near the site of the ancient Bolbouthio (Greek Bolbitine²) seems not to have existed before the Arab conquest. Even at the beginning of the 8th century A.D. , the papyri mention only the name of Bolbittine as emporium for merchandise from Upper Egypt (Bell, The Aphrodite papyri , 1414 , 1. (59), 102, etc. Till the 9th century A.D. ,ships sailed direct to Fuwwa ; but owing to the excessive depositing of the silt in this region , Rashīd began to take its place .



Rosetta Location

Amelino mentioned it in his book , as the name was deriven from the old name *Rachit* found in coptic papyri³ Rashid is first mentioned in 132/750 when the Copts of the town revolted against the caliph Marwan II who had taken refuge in Egypt from the `Abbāsīds⁴. In 278/891-2, al-Ya`kūbī(Buldān,338) mentioned its port . When the Fāṭimīd heir-apparent (the future caliph al-Qā`im) tried to conquer Egypt in 307/920 , his fleet was prevented by an `Abbāsīd squadron from sailing into the mouth of the Rashīd branch of the Nile , and was then annihilated (al-Kindī, Wulat,276).

Rosetta is distinguished by its national history and unique decorative and architectural heritage. It is considered a large open museum for the Islamic architecture and that is clear in its religious and profane buildings (mosques and houses).

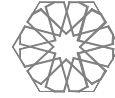
¹ Encyclopaedia Britanica: p438

² Encyclopaedia de L' Islam- p1246.

³ Amelineau .E: La Geographie de l' Egypte a l' époque Copte, Paris 1954 p 404-405.

⁴ Al-Kindi: Wulat, p96

**CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION & PRESERVATION
OF ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE**



Most of the monuments were neglected for several years , beside being surrounded by the modern building that almost deprived them of their distinguished monumental character and damaged the aesthetical view of its architectural features.

The study will take us through the history of the city development during the Fāṭimīd period, Mamlūk, Ottoman , the 19th and the 20th century as well as Its architectural and technical characteristics of its old houses.