

***Arabic personal names of geographical origin, belonging to authors  
and copyists of manuscripts in Dār al-Kutub al-Miṣriyya<sup>1</sup>***

The purpose of this paper is to present results of a research on the origins of *nisba*<sup>t</sup> -type personal names (*laqab*) of geographical origin. The names of authors and copyists will be extracted from the recent catalogs of manuscripts in the collection of the Egyptian National Library (Dār al- Kutub al-Miṣriyya<sup>1</sup>). All revealed personal names of geographical origin will be identified as far as their origin is concerned: every source-toponym will be strictly localized (its historical and current political situation will be defined) and the name will be analyzed grammatically (as regards its phonetic and orthographic transformation and adaptation).

The paper will be accompanied by a cartographic presentation showing the localization of all concerned toponyms, what may possibly help to formulate some conclusions on the spatial-intellectual horizon of the book production and answering a question of how big proportion of identified places is actually in Egypt and how many of them are abroad; what kind of works are foreign products, and which are produced locally; how did the transfer of knowledge looked like in the past ages. This information may only have an approximate and indicative character, since:

- a) – only some concerned names of our concern bear geographical indications;
- b) – names of the owners and readers are not revealed, and:
- c) – recently published catalogs of manuscripts are lacking an important element of description, namely the place where a given copy was produced.

Therefore substitution of the missing evidence may only be fragmentary (full data extraction would require new examination of tens of thousands of manuscripts that were already searched in the last years; this may be considered the proof of a systemic error in the preparation of manuscript descriptions).