

Supplementary ReadMe to

HANDBLIST OF STATIONS OF THE AYYUBID AND MAMLUK  
COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

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in *Egypt and Syria under Mamluk Rule: Political, Social and Cultural Aspects*,  
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including notes on these files:

1. *Franz\_Handlist\_Tables.xls* = spreadsheets
2. *Franz\_Handlist\_View.kml* = earth browser data

**1. *Franz\_Handlist\_Tables.xls***

This file provides the tables of the “Handlist” plus three additional tables in XLS (Excel Spreadsheet) format. It can be displayed in Excel or another spreadsheet application.

**Contents**

- Table 1: Stations of the Ayyubid and Mamluk governmental communication systems (Table 12.1 in the article)
- Table 2: Possible additional stations (Table 12.2 in the article)
- Table S1: Routes and minimum distances covered by the pigeon post (*hamām*)
- Table S2: Ditto, optical signalling system (*manāwir*)
- Table S3: Ditto, horse-back courier mail (*barīd*), state-run route sections, including:
  - Annex 1: Routes and minimum distances of obscure sections of the *barīd*
  - Annex 2: Route sections covered beyond the official *barīd* with no state-run infrastructure

**Tables 1 and 2**

For abbreviations and symbols used, see the ‘Stations’ section of the “Handlist.”

**Tables S1 to S3**

Distance values are taken from the connecting lines in *Franz\_Handlist\_View.kml* and rounded. They quantify distances as the pigeon flies. Historically, effective distances between *barīd* stations on the ground were longer. The total length of each communication system also includes those route sections that were replaced by others.

## 2. *Franz\_Handlist\_View.kml*

This file allows visualization of the geographic positions of the stations listed in Tables 1 and 2, and also, in a schematic way, the network of routes that connected them.

### File properties

- KML (Keyhole Markup Language) files can be displayed with various earth browsers and other geographical information software. The following notes refer to the use of Google Earth. After that programme has been installed on a local computer or network, a double click on the KML file's symbol will run the application and display stations and routes automatically.
- Contents can be customized, enhanced, or otherwise changed with Google Earth, an XML editor, or a text editor.
- The file can be compressed by saving it in KMZ format. KMZ files also open directly in Google Earth and other earth browsers when clicked.

### Legend overlay

- The legend is being displayed by default. Uncheck its sidebar box to hide it.

### Stations folder

- This folder contains the stations of the Ayyubid and Mamluk governmental communication systems as listed in Table 1 of the XLS file (Table 12.1 in the article), and moreover the possible additional stations P1–13 of Table 2 of the XLS file (Table 12.2 in the article). In Google Earth, stations can be browsed geographically in the main window, and also systematically in the sidebar.
- The Google Earth sidebar shows three subfolders, which pertain to the *ḥamām*, *manāwir*, or *barīd* system, respectively. Places that held stations of two or three communication systems are included in each relevant subfolder. E.g., the station at 350530N, 395000E (no. 176 of the “Handlist”) shows as Qubāqib in the *ḥamām* and *barīd* systems and as *manẓarat Qubāqib* in the *manāwir* system.
- Stations not specified by a historical place-name are either entered under the descriptive statement given in the principal textual source, or, in square brackets, under the modern name used in research literature. As the tables list such clauses or names in inverted form, e.g. “*Bayrūt, ẓāhir*,” these are entered in the sidebar, too, under the initial letter of the proper name, so in this instance between “*manẓarat al-Bayḍā*” and “*al-Bīra*.” The viewer's main frame shows the original form “*ẓāhir Bayrūt*.”
- Localities which are presumed to have held a station are entered in the respective subfolder with an additional note, e.g. “*Ḥalab (manāra?)*”.
- The Arabic article *al-* is always retained.
- Possible Additional Stations P1–P13 are included in the respective subfolders.
- Miscellaneous Other Localities M1–M20 are not included.

### Routes folder

- This folder contains the route networks which linked, according to Table 1 of the XMS file (Table 12.1 of the article), the stations of the individual communication systems. These include again Possible Additional Stations P1–P13, but not Miscellaneous Other Localities M1–M20.
- Routes are schematically represented by straight lines between neighbouring stations. They do not adapt to the terrain as here no claim is made to reconstruct the routing on the ground. It is only for technical reasons that lines are pre-adjusted to run on the surface (Google Earth option “clamped to the ground” in the Altitude tab of the items’ Properties dialog box) since other display modes would result in partially hiding the lines.
- Colour key:
 

light blue lines	<i>ḥamām</i>
yellow lines	<i>manāwir</i>
red lines	<i>barīd</i>
- Like the stations, routes are arranged in the Google Earth sidebar in three subfolders specific to the *ḥamām*, *manāwir*, and *barīd* systems. Again, route sections that pertain to more than one communication system show in all relevant subfolders.
- The routes of each communication system are sorted in the Google Earth sidebar in rough geographic order, radiating from Cairo to the provincial terminuses. They are numbered accordingly. Shifted, alternative, or presumably replaced original route sections as well as branch lines are inserted next to the pertinent trunk line. These are specified alphanumerically.
- The Arabic article *al-* is always retained.
- Regarding the possible additional stations of Table 2 of the XLS file (Table 12.2 of the article), their individual discussion in the “Handlist” causes [Khān al-‘Asal] (P5) and \*Mudawwarat Jamīl? (P7) to be connected to the neighbouring stations, whereas *jibāl Ibzīq* (P4) is not.

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