CHAPTER 4

Farmer’s “Itinerary of Visit to Cairo”

4.1 Introduction

It appears that only two of the Congress’s delegates—Farmer and Alexis Chottin—maintained handwritten journals during their respective Egyptian sojourns in 1932. Farmer’s, entitled “Itinerary of Visit to Cairo,” was included in the first of two scrapbooks relating to the Congress (FC 503 and 504, resp.). In the preface to the first, he wrote that the contents of both were compiled from original documents and [from his] diary... for the purpose of reference and also [as] a work of interest, perhaps as entertainment for other people. With the exception of the Report of the Commission of History & Manuscripts, nothing in these volumes has been published in the *Recueil des Travaux du Congrès*, Cairo 1934, and even the French, as well as the Arabic translations of this Report, is not strictly correct.

The first scrapbook comprises the following sections:

1. Rules and Committees of the Congress [*i.e.*, *Regulations*]........................... i
2. Letters of Invitation from the Egyptian Government................................. 1
3. Minutes of the Commission of History and Manuscripts [*i.e.*, *Minutes*] ........ 15
4. Report of the Commission of History and Manuscripts [*i.e.*, *Report*].......... 49
5. Valedictory address of Dr. Farmer at the Closing of the Congress [*i.e.*, *Valedictory*] .... 64

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1 Farmer’s typewritten ms. can be found in FC 503, 83–114. In a letter to Farmer (dated Apr. 11, 1933) from the Baron Carra de Vaux (in Paris), the Baron mentioned that “au Maroc, M. Chottin a publié un intéressant compte-rendu du Congrès, en arabe, principalement destiné aux musiciens et amateurs marocaines” (FC 306). The Arabic version of Chottin’s (“Relation”) undertaken by ‘Abd el-Dirm Bouallou and published as *Errihla-tu-fiya ila-diari-l-micriya*, Rabat 1932, appears to have preceded the publication of the original report in French.

2 To facilitate their perusal, he presented the material in two well-organized scrapbooks, replete with official documents (both original and retyped), correspondence, photographs, calling cards, invitations, and news clippings.

3 For the complete text of the Regulations, see App. 5.

4 See Chap. 5.2.

5 See Chap. 5.3.

6 See App. 11.
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6. Shorthand report by Fu’ād Eff. Mughabghab of the Congratulatory Meeting held in Honour of Dr. Farmer at the Close of the Congress

7. Correspondence between the High Commissioner & Dr. Farmer on the question of the delegates to the Congress from Europe

8. Itinerary of Visit to Cairo

9. Newspaper Cuttings

The second scrapbook concerns the history of the Arabian scale, with bibliographical lists and other reports:

1. Short History of the Arabian musical scale

2. Note on Andalusian music as [still] practised in Morocco

3. Bibliography of books & Manuscripts in the Egyptian National Library List supplied by the Egyptian National Library. For the Arabic list see p. 42

4. List of European Printed Books in the Egyptian National Library

5. List of manuscripts drawn up by the Commission of History and Manuscripts, but I drew up a separate list of those suitable for editing and publishing for the Congress, which is given in my Report (vol. 1) [but] not printed in the Recueil des Travaux

6. List supplied by Col. Pisenti [i.e., Pesenti]

7. Arabic original of no. 3

8. Arabic version of no. 4

9. List supplied by Dr. George Saman

10. Lectures offered by Members of the Institut de Phonétique of the University of Paris

Upon closer scrutiny, we shall see that “Itinerary," together with “Minutes of the Commission on History and Manuscripts", from Farmer’s first scrapbook, are both extraordinary personal documents, not only for their revelations concerning the inner workings of the Congress, but also for his candid observations about the people with whom he came in contact, including certain situations which he found disturbing. It is particularly obvious from “Itinerary. . ." that he relished the respect and constant attention lavished upon him during his weeks in Cairo—borne out quite unabashedly both here and in

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7 A description of the meeting can be found in App. 10.
8 See App. 13.
9 For its full text, see App. 9.