

LIBRARY OF THE WRITTEN WORD 3 *The Manuscript World 1*

# WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ANCIENT LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA?

Edited by Mostafa El-Abbadi  
and Omnia Mounir Fathallah  
With a Preface by Ismail Serageldin



BRILL

## CONTENTS

Preface .....	vii
Acknowledgements .....	xi
List of Illustrations .....	xiii
Abbreviations .....	xv
Contributors .....	xvii
The Alexandria Project .....	xxi
Introduction .....	1
À la Recherche de la Systématisation des Connaissances et du Passage du Concret à l'Abstrait dans l'Égypte Ancienne .....	9
<i>Mounir H. Megally</i>	
Private Collections and Temple Libraries in Ancient Egypt .....	39
<i>Fayza M. Haikal</i>	
Earth, Wind, and Fire: The Alexandrian Fire-storm of 48 B.C. ....	55
<i>William J. Cherf</i>	
The Destruction of the Library of Alexandria: An Archaeological Viewpoint .....	75
<i>Jean-Yves Empereur</i>	
Demise of the Daughter Library .....	89
<i>Mostafa A. El-Abbadi</i>	
Ce Que Construisent les Ruines .....	95
<i>Lucien X. Polastron</i>	
The Nag Hammadi 'Library' of Coptic Papyrus Codices .....	109
<i>Birger A. Pearson</i>	

Learned Women in the Alexandrian Scholarship and Society of Late Hellenism .....	129
<i>Maria Dzielska</i>	
Synesius of Cyrene and the Christian Neoplatonism: Patterns of Religious and Cultural Symbiosis .....	149
<i>Dimitar Y. Dimitrov</i>	
Damascius and the 'Collectio Philosophica': A Chapter in the History of Philosophical Schools and Libraries in the Neoplatonic Tradition .....	171
<i>Georges Leroux</i>	
Academic Life of Late Antique Alexandria: A View from the Field .....	191
<i>Grzegorz Majcherek</i>	
The Arab Story of the Destruction of the Ancient Library of Alexandria .....	207
<i>Qassem Abdou Qassem</i>	
The Arab Destruction of the Library of Alexandria: Anatomy of a Myth .....	213
<i>Bernard Lewis</i>	
Bibliography .....	219
I. Sources .....	219
II. Lexical Works .....	223
III. Modern Literature .....	224
General Index .....	241