Reconstructing the Eastern Sector of Old Saida Based on the 1864 Map by Ernest Renan

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Abstract
This work attempts to reconstruct the eastern sector of old Saida, based on an a map in "Mission to Phoenicia" written by Ernest Renan in 1864. The eastern sector went under dramatic changes of shape and function and the eastern borders had dissolved by the end of 19th century and turned into an open market that played an important role in the city's economic and social life. Renan's map showed features that were investigated by comparison with the current site, together with a field survey and the works of various historians and orientalists. It was possible to identify some urban features in Renan's map and we concluded that it is reliable. We verified the 1864 map using the data collected for the buildings, the street network and the city limits, and for those parts that had changed we relied on Renan's map.

Keywords: Eastern sector of old Saida; Ernest Renan; city's borders; dramatic changes; reconstruct mid 19th century map

1. Introduction
In the introduction to his book "Mission to Phoenicia, 1864", the French philosopher and historian Ernest Renan wrote: "In the end of May 1860 his excellence the Emperor (Napoleon III) proposed me a mission to explore the ancient Phoenicia. Since a longtime I saw a mission of this kind is strongly necessary since the old civilization is maltreated in its monuments of art and literature, it seems to me very urgent to catch the few left of the pioneers". Assisted by Dr. Gaillardot, an expert on the region and a physician in the French army, Renan had led a mission in the Phoenician cities in four major campaigns. One of these was Saida (Saidoon), a city that he described in his book as well renewed and organized. In addition he published a detailed navigational map of Saida (Fig.1.). At the end of 19th and early 20th century, Saida experienced its first urban extension, when the city's defenses melted into an open market. Renan's map is the only clue to what the city looked like in the mid 19th century. Based on Renan's map and comparison with the current city, the present work aims to reconstruct the eastern sector of old Saida where the city was first sited. Ernest Renan's works and motivation have always been subject to debate, and Old Saida and its conservation has become a rich field for scholars and researchers. Hopefully this research will provide further information about the city and underpin further plans for development

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3) A selected portion of Renan's map representing the eastern sector was evaluated in order to determine its reliability. The map's grid, scale and distortion were checked. In addition, buildings marked on the map's legend, the street networks and the city limits and surroundings were compared in detail, all with the current city. 4) As guidelines for verifying the 1864 map, existing buildings that date before and after 1864 were checked. Second where buildings had been replaced by new ones borders between properties were checked. Third we relied on Renan's map to draw the surroundings of the city and other elements for which there was no other evidence.

3. Overview of the Eastern Sector of Saida

The eastern sector of old Saida\(^5\) (Fig.2.), is the sector chosen and named for present research. It represents an area that was once the city's eastern border. In the literature and the art of 18\(^{th}\) and 19\(^{th}\) century travelers and orientalists\(^5\), the eastern facade of Saida was depicted as a romantic image of an oriental city. On Renan's map this facade belonged to a chain of buildings edging the city and replacing the medieval walls. This chain stretched between the two crusade fortresses; the Castle of the Sea\(^8\) to the north and the Castle of Saint Louis\(^6\) to the south. Two of three gates of Saida were located on that facade, the Beirut Gate\(^9\) to the north and the Akka Gate\(^10\) to the south. Both are close to the crusade fortresses. In the mid 19\(^{th}\) century, Saida had not yet extended its borders. Within the borders, the narrow street that stretched parallel to the eastern borders was called Shareh al Jadid (the new street in Arabic). The neighborhood through which that street ran was called Hay al shareeh al Jadid\(^1\) (the neighborhood of the new street in Arabic). It was a well-maintained and organized residential neighborhood. It was originally built and inhabited by the Hammoud family\(^12\) who were the rulers of Saida in the early 18\(^{th}\) century. Later it was inhabited by a majority of Christian families.

Outside the city borders was Al Saki (the plantation fields in Arabic). Parallel to the borders was a muddy road cutting through the orange fields and used by peasants for selling goods\(^13\). To the north a few structures existed around the Beirut Gate, a 17\(^{th}\) century Barrany mosque and a Dabbagha Caravanserai, while to the south the Musliman cemetery occupied a large area. In 1875 the ruler of Saida, Shaker Beik\(^14\) opened a new gate to the east between the two main gates. This gate was later named after him (the shakerieh gate). Saida thereby became more open to its surroundings and a chain of buildings began toward the outside of the city limits, which changed the form, and the function of this sector over 50 years. The Hay al shareh al jadid was named hay al shareh and the shareh al jadid was named Sahreh el shakeieh, and many ground level spaces were transformed into small shops, creating the Shakerieh souk\(^15\). The exterior street was named Shareh el Mutran (Mutran street) after the archbishop\(^16\) who built the first stores outside the city limits and helped to pave that street in 1895. The area around the Beirut gate was named mahalet bawabet tahta (neighborhood of lower gate in Arabic) while the area surrounding the Akka gate was named mahalet bawabet fawqa (neighborhood of higher gate, in Arabic). Buildings and shops on both sides replaced the landscape and dissolved the city limits. By 1935 the Mutran Street became the main connection between Southern Lebanon and the capital Beirut, and the traditional market remains a commercial and social center of attraction.

4. The Field Survey

Two important features were noticed on Renan’s map. First is a collection of darkly hatched blocks with references. These blocks represented a set of important buildings. Secondly, his map didn’t distinguish between covered alleys and uncovered ones, suggesting that Renan's map was a navigating map that shows the ground floor layer only. In the view of the lack of official documentations and records, a hearing survey was conducted in April 2004 in the eastern sector of old Saida with two aims. The first aim is to investigate and locate the darkly hatched blocks and the streets and alleys on Renan's map. The second is to detect on the ground floor level the construction date of every building so as to group those built before 1860 and those after.

Building owners, residents and some neighborhood officials were consulted. We relied also on the records of local non-governmental and charity organizations\(^18\) and the map we used is a CAD map of Saida. It was generated from aerial photography by MAPS.
company in the year 2000, and was provided to us by the Hariri Foundation. Important; this map gives us accurate locations and dimensions for measurements, with lots numbers and borders. It also contains the year 1956 map that contains certain buildings demolished later for archaeological purposes. The official Lots coding was done during the French colonization after the First World War, and had not been updated. The Lots are large and shared between various properties. To simplify our survey it was necessary to recode Lots. We grouped properties of similar date built in each Lot and we added a slash and a number (1, 2, 3, etc...) to the original Lot code. The results of the survey were presented first as a map showing the traces of alleys and the location of the darkly hatched blocks in Renan's map all on the year 2000 map (Fig.3.). Second, a table contains the list of all Lots with their new codes referring to the date of construction (Fig.4.). Third, a map shows two groups of blocks; those built before 1860 were hatched in black, and those built after 1860 were hatched in gray (Fig.4.).

5. The Mission to Phoenicia

The mission to Phoenicia started in October 20th 1860 when Renan arrived in Beirut. The nature of the mission was archaeological, but Renan was also interested in the origins of Christianity and the Holy-Land. The mission was divided into four Campaigns: first to Ruad (Aradus), Tortose (Antaradus) and Emerith (Marathus), the important centers of Phoenician Civilization located nowadays in Syria; second to Gebeil (Byblos); third to Saïda (Sidon); and fourth to Sour (Tyre), the ancient Phoenician Ports located on the Lebanese coast. The Third Campaign stopped in Saïda under the command of Dr. Gaillardot, a physician in the French army for 20 years in Syria and expert in the Local language. Renan had little interest in the city itself, since he found it as a modern city built from antique debris, though he was interested in the city gardens where valuable archaeological sites were founded. Dr. Gaillardot drew the detailed navigating map of the city later in 1864 as the map shows.

6. Renan's Map, General evaluation

A scanned copy of the rare original map was provided by the Hariri foundation. The scale of the map is 1/2000 and contains a 100 m grid. The map also has a long legend referring to important buildings. Buildings were drawn as a large. The exterior surroundings of the city, the gardens, the paths and a few unknown structures were all shown with care. We selected the area needed for our work and adjusted its scale in a CAD drawing. Distortion and measurement variations were checked. We found that the measurements varied plus or minus around 2 % horizontally and around 3 % vertically on each square of the grid, but the overall measurement gave us less than 1 % discrepancies in both directions. We also tried to match Renan's map with the current one, but they didn't match. Further analysis was needed.

6.1 Comparison with the currant situation

The different urban fabric components of the eastern sector were analyzed. Buildings, the street network, and the city borders and surroundings were compared with the same features in the 2000 map.

6.1.1 Building shapes

Renan's map did mark a few buildings. These were located and marked on the CAD map. We can identify three types. 1) Buildings with strong resemblance to Renan's by size, location and orientation. BSJS and BDE are located beside Akka Gate. BBM located in front of Beirut gate matched exactly in size, but is slightly shifted to the west, though as a mosque its orientation was accurate. BHJ and BH matched by location, but a small difference in shape and size. 2) Buildings replaced by totally new buildings BDC, BF, BKM and BWT; are all located to the north outside the city in front of Beirut gate. BDC is a caravanserai that was demolished between 1923 and 1935; two pictures refer to these dates the first showing BDC in its exact location on Renan's map, but in the other it had been replaced by new structures. BWT is a water tank that has its private lot number (448). For the others, nothing related was found. 3) Buildings matched by location but with different shapes and orientation, such as BKC and BRC. Both are 18th-century caravanserais, easy
to identify on site, and have undergone no structural modification. BKC has almost a square shape (34m x 31 m), while on Renan's map it is rectangular (32m x 21m). On the other hand BRC has a rectangular shape (72m x 46m) but on Renan's map is (70m x 62m).

6.1.2 The Street network

We marked all crossings and connections on the street network on both maps according to the central axis of each street. We used the letter P such a point. Then lines (L) connected the points. We can identify four different groups on this network: 1) the two main parallel streets MS and SS; we calculated the length and orientation. The line P1-P2 on Renan's map is around 2.5% shorter and the line is almost straight whereas on the CAD map it makes a small angle with P8. The line P5-P6 is 5% longer on Renan's map. The crossing points on both streets matched by location, but some are a little shifted. 2) We consider the network around BBM and the connection between MS and BS. The curve behind BBM is similar in both maps. The line P5-P3 is rotated 20° more to the west on Renan's map. BS on the CAD map appears straight, but it makes an angle to the south on Renan's map. 3) We consider the network between BKC and BRC. It was mentioned earlier that those buildings show some deformation. We notice here that the distance between them is shorter; P6 is connected to P2 in Renan's map but in the CAD map it is connected to P2' five meters west of P2. This network looks longer and thinner on Renan's map. 4) SG, MG, ABG and SSG; four Perpendicular connections between the two streets SS and MS are recognized on the CAD map but not Renan's. From our survey we know that they represent entrances to the old city added after 1875.

6.1.3 The city limits line

The city limits was shown on Renan's map as a line that takes the shape of the edges of the chain of
Fig. 5. Comparison: Renan’s Map and the Current City
buildings. Based on our field survey, only 391m out of 518m, which is the total length of the eastern facade, could be identified. a) 26% of the 391m are 17th and 18th century buildings, located at the extreme north and south; these are not attached to any others and were considered accurate. b) The line that extends between Lot 333/1 and 225/2 has length 253 meter, representing almost 50% of the total facade. By comparing it with the corresponding area of Renan's map we find strong similarities, especially in Lots 333/1 and 230/2, though not in Lot 226/2. The thickness of Lot 233/2 is almost 20 meter on the CAD map, and almost 21.7 m on Renan's map. Lot 230/2 has 20 meter on the CAD map and 21 meter on Renan's. Lot 333/1 shows some variation: one side is 14 m on the CAD map and 13 on Renan's, and the other side it is 11 m on the CAD map and 8 m on Renan's.

6.1.4 The city surroundings

Outside the city limits Renan's map shows additional features. 1) The city's Muslim cemetery belongs to the Wakf and has not changed. On Renan's map it is unfenced but on the CAD map its borders are determined. 2) We have no clue to the small structures located in front of the Beirut Gate. One of them is blocking the main entrance of the city. 3) The old water pipe line was mentioned in the diaries of Mutran in 1895. He stated that they were dismantled and reconstructed. Comparison with the CAD map reveals that they ran along the borders of the Lots of no. 446, no.448, no. 1121/1, and no. 441/1, 2). 4) The fences of what appear private gardens. They are located on Renan's map in front of BSJS and BHJ. We can place the fences of BSJS easily in the area that covers the Lots of no. 336 and no.334, and the fence of BHJ can be placed between Lots of no. 232/1 and no. 167/1 leaving the area in the middle open.

7. Reconstructing the Eastern Sector

From the results of the field survey, the historical study and the analysis of Renan's map, we used the CAD map to reconstruct a map representing the eastern sector in 1864. The guidelines followed are: 1) For the list of buildings built before 1864 we considered the map accurate. In addition, by excluding SG, MG, ABG and SSG the street network was also sustained. 2) For the area located between Lot no. 225/2 and no. 29/1, we traced the line passing between Lot no. 166/4, no.166/6 and no. 166/7 excluding Lot no. 167/1, creating a V shape similar to the one in Renan's map. For the other area located between Lot no. 335/1 and no.333/1 we cut threw Lot no.335/2 and no. 334/1, taking the same distance as measured in Renan's map. This procedure is logical but has uncertainty. 3) For the other features such as the different blocks located in front of Beirut gate, the water tank and the cemetery, we relied on Renan's map shapes and dimensions to locate and redraw in view of the lack of evidence. (Fig.6.).

8. Conclusion

It has been possible to identify some buildings, street networks and city limits shown by Ernest Renan, and create the image of the original state in the mid 19th century by relying upon some guidelines based on his map. By adding information based on site observation and interview, we can reconstruct the eastern sector of Old Saida around 1864 when Renan published his book. Thus, the map of Old Saida presented by Ernest Renan is a strong clue to what the city looked like in that period, although the map has some deformation and distortion especially around the Beirut Gate. The final conclusion is that Renan's map is a reliable document, which can be used to reconstruct the entire map of old Saida. It contains unknown elements yet to be analyzed, reconstruction from it will generate further studies of Saida's urban extension and development beyond this important sector.
Notes
1 Ernest Renan, French author, philologist, archaeologist, and founder of comparative religion, Ernest Renan (1823-1892) influenced European thought in the second half of the 19th century through his numerous writings. The French Text in his introduction: Vers la fin de mai 1860, S.M. l'empereur daina me proposer une mission d'exploration dans l'ancienne Phenicie. Depuis longtemps je regardais une mission de ce genre comme fort necessaire. Quoique la vieil Cvilization phenicienne ait est presque aussi maltraitee en ses monuments d'arts qu'en ses monument litteraires, il me semblait urgent de recueillir le peu qui reste des premiers.
2 Dr. Gaillardot, French army physician, lived in Syria for more then 20 years. Assisted Renan in his work and was responsible for the on site inspections, all the maps published within the mission to Phoenicia had its name.
3 Saidoon, the largest Phoenician city. Old Saida is the traditional 16th century city in Saida City. Located 45 Km to the south from the capital Beirut.
4 Ernest Renan's work was criticized by his colleagues in France for his philosophy and beliefs according to his biographers, and his mission was planned to send him away from the French society, in the other hand, the intension of his mission was criticized by the city historians.
5 eastern sector of old Saida, officially, the title doesn't exist, It is a title that we choose to our study sector. Also eastern sector of Saida, indicates to the eastern suburbs of the Saida the current city.
6 the orientalists paintings investigated in this research are: Perelly (1737), Turner (1836), Bartlet (1836), Porter (1848) Radcliffe (1860).
7 The crusades built two fortresses in Saida as part of the city fortifications, (1227) one on a small island in front of old Saida called as Castle of Sea and the other is large built on a hill south of Saida called Castle of Saint Louis.
8 Beirut Gate, located to the north east side of old Saida, also locally known as Bawabet Tahta which means (the lower gate) is the main gate of the city for ages connecting the city with the Capital Beirut.
9 Akka Gate, located to the south east of old Saida, also known as Bawabet Fawka (the upper Gate), it is the second main gate of the city connecting it with the the Palestinin city Akka to the south.
10 alshareh aljadid, was named in the early 19th century to indicate the rich neighborhood, locally known by many names especially El Shareh.
11 Hammoud Family, is a strong family that ruled Saida in the 18th century, they inhabited the Jadid Street and building many monument.
12 the exterior streets was unpopular and rarely used, it was mentioned only for being used for countrywomen and street merchant by the city historians.
13 the shakerieh souk was developed early 20th century, when parts of existing buildings was turned into small shops, it is a popular market for gold and cloths, and was named after the Shakerieh Gate which is related to Shaker Beik.
14 the Mutran (Archbishop) Hakim the leader of the Roman orthodox church, a powerful Christian figure in Saida between 1871 and 1876, was popular and played a great roll in developing the city.
15 the shakerieh souk was developed early 20th century, when parts of existing buildings was turned into small shops, it is a popular market for gold and cloths, and was named after the Shakerieh Gate which is related to Shaker Beik.
16 the Mutran (Archbishop) Hakim the leader of the Roman orthodox church, a powerful Christian figure in Saida, played a great roll developing the city, he was the first to built a cathedral and stores out side the city limits and supported the municipality to pave the exterior street which later called after him.
17 the non official organizations mentioned in this research are, Audi Foundation, Debbaneh Foundation, Islamic Awkaf, Makased School, American School, the Roman orthodox Church, and Hariri Foundation.
18 MAPS Company is a GIS company hired by the government to create digital maps for the main cities of Lebanon.
19 Hariri Foundation, named after its establisher the late Prime minister Rafik Hariri, is considered the strongest association concerning the historical and social work in Saida, and worked closely with the UNESCO in Various projects in the city.
20 the map of 1956 is an important document that contained the buildings demolished by the earthquake and by archaeological excavations.
21 French Colonization, after the first world war, the French succeeded the Ottomans and ruled Lebanon between 1918 and 1946.

References
2) Renan E. (1864) Mission de Phenicie.