



مشروع التاريخ الشفهي لهضبة الجرنه (Qurna Hillside Oral History Project)

You are invited you to take part in a project to record the memories of the people who lived on the Qurna hillside, to preserve the stories of their way of life, beliefs, and traditions. This project seeks to make a voice recording “oral history interview” with you about your everyday life experiences before leaving the hillside, because as a former resident of Old Qurna your memories of that place are important to save. Our effort is a collaboration between the Qurna History Project, led by Mrs. Caroline Simpson, and the Rare Books and Special Collections Library of the American University in Cairo. The questions and answers below provide more information about our project and why we would like you to participate.

Who is organising the project and how?

Mrs. Caroline Simpson has been documenting the history of Qurna’s people and buildings for over 20 years through the Qurna History Project, and she will be at Qurna from April 14 to 26 to arrange for people to be interviewed. She will be working with local residents Abdu Daramalli and Ahmed elTayib. Interviewers will be trained graduate students and library staff at the American University in Cairo.

What will the interviews be like?

Abdu Daramalli or Ahmed elTayib will accompany an interviewer (a woman if you are a woman, a man if you are a man) to visit with you at your home or some other quiet, comfortable place, at a time convenient for you. The interviewer, will make an interview with you, asking you about your earlier life in Qurna (speaking in Arabic). They will record the interview with a voice recorder. Before starting the recording, the interviewer will ask you to sign a form to get your permission to do the interview. At the end of the interview you will be asked to sign an agreement for the library to use the interview. You can decide to have your name on the interview or not. We would also appreciate taking a photograph of you, to go along with the interview, if you agree. The interview will last between one and three hours, and a second visit might be arranged to enable you to remember more or clarify something in the first recorded interview. Interviews will take place from April 23 to May 5.

What happens to the interviews?

After the interview, a project staff member in Cairo will make a transcript of what you said, and a copy of the transcript and the recording will be sent to you for you to review. The recorded interview and the transcript will be stored at the Rare Books and Special Collections Library at the American University in Cairo, in an online library, where it may be used by researchers and historians and others interested in Qurna, including you and your descendants to explore your own heritage.

We hope that you agree to take part in this project, and that you will enjoy the chance to think and talk about an earlier time in your life and the lives of your family. With your help, the lives of you, your family and your community on the hillside will be remembered for ever.

How you can contact people involved in the project

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