SIDI YUSUF ADAMI HOUSE
Room for the Wet-nurse

Plate CXL
Mosaic of al-Sa'ida Zenab. Shamsahl or Stained Glass Window with Pierced Plaster (Pl. CXLIV).—We have indicated elsewhere how perforated plaster is garnished with bits of coloured glass to create ravishing windows of Oriental simplicity. The Arabs call them Shamsahl or Shamsahl, and we have adopted the term to distinguish them from glassware per se.

The Mosque of al-Sa'da Zenab where we copied this attractive shamsahl dates back to ancient times and was greatly venerated by the women of Cairo. Restored and embellished several times throughout the ages, the small room containing this lovely stained glass was recently redone.

From the style alone, we had no hesitation in dating this fragment of architecture back to the 14th century. 

Mosque of al-Ashrafieh. Shamsahl or Stained Glass Window with Pierced Plaster (Pl. CXLV).—We know neither the exact origin or date of this shamsahl we drew in Paris. Shipped from Egypt for the 1867 Great Exhibition, it and several other stained glass windows from the same edifice arrived in pieces.

After estimating the damage for insurance purposes, the sender was about to throw the fragments away as rubble when we acquired them. Long hours of meticulous endeavour later, we were able to reassemble completely two of the six shamsahls too similar, alas, for both to be reproduced here. The seller, Mr Maynard, assured us that he had taken the stained glass from a mosque called al-Ashrafieh but could furnish no other details.

Several Mameluke sultans have been known under the name of ‘Melek al-Ashraf, the very noble king’ amongst whom must be counted al-Melek al-Ashraf Schaban III and Barsabay, whose edifices are called: al-Ashrafieh.

In conformance with information received, we have attributed this shamsahl to the Mosque of al-Ashrafieh, built by Barsabay in the 15th century.

Vessel with Enamelled Decorations (Pl. CXLVI)—This vessel is part of the superb collection of Mr Schefer, director of the School of Modern Oriental Language Studies. The colouring is smooth and harmonious; made in Egypt, it quite justifies the lasting passion over the years of the true amateur.
MOSQUE OF SULTAN BARQUQ
Lamp with Enamelled Decoration (14th century)

Plate CXLIII

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Shafieh, Schefer, made in