

## **MUHAMMAD RAMZI (1871-1945)**

Egyptian scholar. He was born and educated at the town of al-Mansurah in the [Delta](#) and later at the [School](#) of Law in Cairo. In 1892 he joined the Ministry of Finance as a clerical employee, and by 1930 he had been promoted to the position of inspector general of land taxation. During his long career, he visited every region of the country, making [extensive](#) surveys of every town, village, hamlet, and farm.

He was keenly interested in the names, history, and background of every area, which he checked and revised in the light of information given mainly by al-Maqrizi's *Kitab al-Khitat* (Land Survey) and Al Mubarak's *Al-Khitat al-Tawfiqiyyah*, as well as many medieval and modern geographers, including such [French](#) geographers as Emile Amélineau, Jean Maspero, E.-M. Quatremère, and G. Daressy. He thus became the [leading](#) authority on Egyptian toponymy.

In 1941 he published *Al-Dalil al-Jughrafi* (Geographical Guide), but his most valuable work, *Al-Qamus al-Jughrafi lil-Bilad al-Misryyah* (Geographical Dictionary, 2 vols.), was posthumously published. Its importance lies in the fact that it is fully comprehensive, covering Egyptian toponymy from ancient times to the present.

**FUAD MEGALLY**

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