

## PREFACE

The unique Arabic text, "Revelation of Secrets of the Operations in the Egyptian Mint" is of the thirteenth century. Although much of it is still difficult to understand, nevertheless, it has been deemed worthy of translation into English to make a knowledge of some of its chemistry and technology available to Western historians of science. The translation is not always a strictly literal one in order that it would better be understood by technological readers. The Arabic text with a commentary by 'Abd al-Rahmān Fahmy was published in Cairo in 1966 while the present author's work was near completion. The two works complement each other in the material discussed although there are a number of differences in understanding of the technical terminology.

This monograph is a first attempt to understand chemical technology as found in Arabic minting, especially in its silver and gold metallurgy. It is, therefore, humbly hoped that this work will be accepted as such so that others may build upon it as further manuscript evidence is discovered.

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