

نقش كتابي بصهرنج يعقوب شاه المهمندار بالقاهرة،  
يسجل مآثر السلطان قايتباي المعمارية والحربية  
(٩٥٠١هـ / ٩٥-١٤٩٦م)

Mamluk inscription in the Cistern of Ya<sup>q</sup>ūb Shāh al-Mihmandār in Cairo,  
Records the Architectural and Military Exploits of Sultan Qāyt Bāy

(901 AH / 95-1496 CE)

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## Abstract

This is an extensive study about the inscription of the cistern of Ya<sup>q</sup>ūb Shāh al-Mihmandār in Cairo (901/1495-96). This Cistern is small building existing at the foot of the citadel; however it is very important building, not only for its function but also for the content of its inscription. In spite of there are previous studies of the inscription, but it is abbreviated studies. Therefore, it should re-study again in comprehensive form.

The inscription showed that the building at the time of construction was a double cisterns with two domes, established by Ya<sup>q</sup>ūb Shāh al-Mihmandār (one of amirs during the reign of the Sultan Qāyt Bāy, and he is one of loyal friends of this sultan). Although the inscription is a construction text, but it is considered a documentary and ceremonial text. Because it recorded the religious and knighthood achievements of Sultan Qāyt Bāy, which made him surpassing from his peers of kings and sultans, and recorded the military and architectural accomplishments of the same Sultan. For example, in Makkah Sultan Qāyt Bāy reconstructed Masjid al-Khayf (Al-Khayef) in the south of Mina (873/1467), also he restarted and flowing the aqueduct of Arafā (Ain Zubaidah). In Medina, he reconstructed the Prophet's Mosque. In Jerusalem he restarted and flowing aqueduct of el-Sabīl. Afterwards the inscription finished by epic report about victory of the Mamluk army against Ottoman army in battle of Adana (891/1486), and capturing the commander of Ottoman (Hersekzāde Ahmed) and bringing him to Cairo in a humiliating way.