Some Papers Pertaining to al-Muntadā al-Adabī in the Library of the Hoover Institution

Nicholas Heer

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Among the documents to be found in the Middle East Collection in the Library of the Hoover Institution in Stanford, California is a collection of unpublished papers and manuscripts pertaining to al-Muntadā al-Adabī, a literary club or forum, founded by Arab students in Istanbul in 1909.1 Although these papers are a primary source for the study of the origins of Arab nationalism, their existence in an American library is generally unknown. With the purpose, therefore, of bringing these papers to the attention of students of modern Arab history, I have prepared the following list of the most important items to be found among them.

1Information on this club and other Arab nationalist clubs and associations of the same period can be found in George Antonius, The Arab Awakening, G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1938, pp. 101-121; and in Ālayh Divan-i Harb-i ʿOrfisinde Tatkık olunan mesele-i siyasiye hakkında izahat, published by the Dördüncü Ordu-yi Humayun, İstanbul, Tanin Matbaası, 1332. French and Arabic versions of the latter work were also published under the titles La Vérité sur la question Syrienne, Stamboul, Imprimerie Tanine, 1916; and Īdāhah ‘an al-masāʾil al-siyasiyyah allātī jārā tadqiqūhā bi-Dīvān al-Ḥarb al-ʿUrfī al-mutashakkīl bi-Ālayh, İstanbul, Maṭba’a’t al-Ṭanīn, 1334. For information on the Middle East Collection at the Hoover Institution see African and Middle East Collections: a Survey of Holdings at The Hoover Institution on War Revolution and Peace, by Peter Duignan, Karen Fung, George Rentz, and Michel Nabti, Stanford, Calif., 1971. More recent information on the Middle East Collection may be found online at http://www.hoover.org/library-and-archives/collections/middle-east.
I. Official Documents of the Club


2. Hectograph master of the bylaws of the club containing articles 21-101. The articles are given under various chapter headings as follows:
   b) Aḍā‘ al-‘Umdah (articles 48-70).
   c) al-Fāṣl al-Rā‘bī‘: al-Hay’ah al-‘Umūmiyyah (articles 75-101).

3. Draft of bylaws containing 22 articles listed under the following headings:
   a) Şundūq al-Taşarruf wa-Ghāyatuh (articles 1-3).
   b) al-Ashum (articles 4-9).
   c) al-Aqrāḍ (articles 10-15).
   d) al-‘Umdah al-Idāriyyah (articles 16-19).
   e) al-Hay’ah al-‘Umūmiyyah (articles 20-22).


5. A roster of the students living in the Istanbul hostel of the club for the year 1329. Among the names listed are: Tawfīq Abū al-Hudā, ‘Ārif ‘Ārif, and Rushdī Malḥas.


7. Seven letters or drafts of letters pertaining to club affairs.

II. Drafts of Speeches, Articles and Letters
Twenty-four items on political, social, and patriotic subjects.
III. Personal Letters
Forty-seven items among which are the following:

1. Two letters from ‘Abd al-Karīm al-Qāsim al-Khalīl, one written to a certain Tāhir and undated, the other to Mu‘īn [al-Mādī] and dated 4 Sha‘bān 1330 (?)


3. Thirteen letters from ‘Īsā al-Qandūsī in Jerusalem to his brother Jawdat al-Qandūsī in Istanbul, The earliest letter is dated 10 Shubāṭ 1327, the last 24 Mārt 1329.

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