

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

Nicholas Heer

1961

(updated 2013)

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found in the Middle East Collection in the Library of the Hoover Institution in Stanford, California is a collection of unpublished papers and manuscripts pertaining to al-Muntadā al-Adabī, a literary club or forum, founded by Arab students in Istanbul in 1909.¹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-ı Harb-ı Örfisinde Tatkik 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 *İdāḥah 'an al-masā'il al-siyāsiyah allatī jarā tadqīquhā bi-Diwān al-Ḥarb al-'Urfī al-mutashakkil bi-Ālayh*, İstanbul, Maṭba'at 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

1. Daftar al-Muswaddah. Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee (Hay'at al-Idārah) held during the period extending from 5 Muḥarram 1329 (6 January 1911) through 6 Dhū al-Ḥijjah 1329 (28 November 1911). Several pages, covering those meetings held between 8 Muḥarram and 9 Rabī' al-Awwal, are missing. Among the members of the Executive Committee mentioned in the minutes are: 'Abd al-Karīm al-Qāsim al-Khalīl, first president; Sayf al-Dīn al-Khaṭīb, second president; Yūsuf [Mukhaybir] Sulaymān [Ḥaydar], Najīb al-Ḥakīm, Faḍl Allāh al-Mufīd, Ibrāhīm Adham al-Wā'iz, 'Afif al-Ṣulḥ, Najdat al-Sukūnī, Jamīl al-Ḥusaynī, Bahjat Mardum, Rāshid al-Mar'ashī, and 'Alī Nājī.
2. Hectograph master of the bylaws of the club containing articles 21-101. The articles are given under various chapter headings as follows:
 - a) al-Faṣl al-Thālith: Idārat Jam'iyat al-Muntadā al-Adabī (articles 26-47).
 - b) A'dā' al-'Umdah (articles 48-70).
 - c) al-Faṣl al-Rābi': al-Hay'ah al-'Umūmiyah (articles 75-101).
3. Draft of bylaws containing 22 articles listed under the following headings:
 - a) Ṣundūq al-Taṣarruf wa-Ghāyatuh (articles 1-3).
 - b) al-Ashum (articles 4-9).
 - c) al-Aqrāḍ (articles 10-15).
 - d) al-'Umdah al-Idāriyah (articles 16-19).
 - e) al-Hay'ah al-'Umūmiyah (articles 20-22).
4. Bylaws of al-Nādī al-Adabī al-Filasṭīnī in Jerusalem, containing 30 articles.
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.
6. A list of the original members of the club (in Turkish). Included in the list are: 'Abd al-Karīm al-Qāsim al-Khalīl, Sayf al-Dīn al-Khaṭīb, Jamīl al-Ḥusaynī, Yūsuf Sulaymān, Rafīq Rizq Sallūm, 'Ārif 'Ārif, and Jawdat al-Qandūsī.
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 Ṭāhir and undated, the other to Mu‘īn [al-Māḍī] and dated 4 Sha‘bān 1330 (?).
2. A letter from Yūsuf Sulaymān to ‘Abd al-Karīm [al-Qāsim al-Khalīl] dated 11 Māyis 1328 and written from Beirut. At the end of the letter is a note to ‘Abd al-Karīm from Mu‘īn al-Māḍī.
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.

§ § §