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Mansour Hanna Jurdak Collection, 1901-1964

A Finding Aid to the Collection at the University Libraries, AUB
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Descriptive Summary

Call No.: AA:6.2.10

Library Catalog ID: [b14621150](#)

Record Creator: Jurdāq, Mansūr Hanna, 1881-1964.

Collection Title: Mansour Hanna Jurdak Collection, 1901-1964.

Collection Dates: 1901-1964

Physical Description: 1 linear foot, (3 document boxes)

Abstract: At the turn of the 20th century, Mansour Hanna Jurdak, student of missionary William Carslaw in Choueir, joined the Syrian Protestant College (SPC) to graduate and teach at the American University of Beirut (AUB), and to author books on mathematics and astronomy for several years to come. Professor Jurdak and his children, Fuad and Salma, as well as his grandson Philip Khoury, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, they all served AUB for long years at different intervals between 1904 and the present).

Language: English, Arabic

Administrative Information

Source: Unidentified

Access Restrictions: The collection can be used within the premises of the Archives and Special Collections Department of the Jafet Memorial Library at the American University of Beirut.

Photocopying Restriction: No photocopying restriction except for fragile material.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to cite the collection as Mansour Hanna Jurdak Collection, 1901-1964, AA:6.2.10, Box no., File no., American University of Beirut/Library Archives.

Scope and Content

Mansour Jurdak Collection comprises a group of articles by him that document the history of different AUB departments, biographies of prominent AUB alumni, professors, etc.; as well as some articles that address issues related to astronomy and mathematics education at SPC at the turn of the twentieth century, and his memoirs. The collection is an important source of information for researchers interested in AUB history, history of astronomy in Lebanon, and mathematics education in Lebanon.

Arrangement

The Collection is arranged in three series:

- Series I: Biographical information, addresses, and correspondence.
- Series II: Works by Mansour Jurdak.
- Series III: Secondary sources.

Biographical Sketch

Born in Choueir in 1881, Mansour Hanna Jurdak studied at the school of the Scottish missionary of Dr. William Carslaw. His outstanding performance at the school won him a scholarship at the Syrian Protestant College, which he joined in 1896 and graduated from with a bachelor's degree in arts in 1901. Jurdak was an instructor of Mathematics at the Preparatory Department at the International College in Ras-Beirut. In 1904 he was appointed as Professor of mathematics and astronomy at SPC, while he continued his graduate studies and received a Master of Arts degree

in 1907. Jurdak was promoted to full professor and chairman of the Department of Mathematics at SPC in 1911. After receiving his training under Robert West and Julius Brown he became the chairman of the Department of Astronomy, he was trusted with the responsibility of running the Lee observatory during World War I. Under his leadership, the observatory won the confidence of the local community, to the point that even Dar al-Fatwa depended on his lunar recordings to determine the start and end of the month of Ramadan. Professor Jurdak is equally remembered for having been the first to observe a nova (an exploding star) and to discover the new star Hercule in 1918, which he named "Al-Kulliyah" because of his devotion to AUB. His achievements also include writing several textbooks in Mathematics and teaching Engineering courses before the School of Engineering was established, authoring an English-Arabic astronomical dictionary and an Arabic volume on classical astronomy, as well as serving as Chairman of the Lebanese Committee for Astronomy. Jurdak died in 1964; he had received the Lebanese Golden Order of Merit at his retirement in 1947 and the distinguished Order of Daniel Bliss in 1961.

Subject Headings

Jurdāq, Mansur Hanna, 1881-1964.

American University of Beirut -- Faculty.

American University of Beirut -- Faculty -- Awards.

American University of Beirut -- Correspondence.

American University of Beirut -- Faculty of Engineering and Architecture.

Astronomy.

Civil engineering -- History.

Intellectuals -- Lebanon -- Diaries.

Student Movements -- Lebanon.

Evolution -- Study and teaching -- Lebanon.

Religion and Science -- Lebanon.

جرداق، منصور حنا، ١٨٨١-١٩٦٤.
الجامعة الاميركية في بيروت -- الاساتذة.
الجامعة الاميركية في بيروت -- الاساتذة -- جوائز.
الجامعة الاميركية في بيروت -- رسائل.
الجامعة الاميركية في بيروت -- كلية الهندسة والعمارة.
علم الفلك.
الهندسة المدنية -- تاريخ.
مفكرون -- لبنان -- مذكرات.
الحركات الطلابية -- لبنان.
التطور -- الدرس والتدريس -- لبنان.
الدين والعلوم -- لبنان.

Container List

Series I: Biographical information, addresses, and correspondence (Box 1)

File 1: Biographical information on Professor Jurdak and honoring received.

File 2: Eulogy by Vice President Archie Crawford, 1964.

File 3: Obituary, April 7, 1964.

File 4: Addresses (handwritten in Arabic):

تكريم الدكتور الأسير والدكتور غصن؛ تقدم العمران وإزدحام السكان، ١٩٠١.
تكريم رئيس الجمهورية شارل دباس؛ مواهب الأستاذ نعمه يافت وأخلاقه.

File 5: Addresses on various occasions.

File 6: Correspondence I, 1912 - 1955

File 7: Correspondence II, 1933.

File 8: ١٩٥٢، مذكرات الأستاذ منصور جرداق في جريدة لسان الحال،
File 9: ١٩٥٨ - ١٩٥٧، مذكرات الأستاذ منصور جرداق في جريدة بيروت المساء،

Series II: Works by Mansour Jurdak (Boxes 2 & 3)

Box 2: Articles by him

File 1: (his own manuscript)

الحارس: الأفلاك؛ إقتراب النجوم من الأرض؛ دوران الكواكب في الأفلاك.

File 2:

مغارة تدمر؛ الدكتور عبد الله رزق صوايا؛ الدكتور يعقوب صروف كرياضي وفلكي؛ فارس مشرق: مواهبه العقلية؛ الدكتور عبد الرحمن شهبندر؛ ترجمة الكتاب المقدس: الطبعة الأميركية؛ ماشهدته في واشنطن؛ الإنكليز تحت حكم فكتوريا؛	أول ثورة مدرسية في العالم؛ الدكتور نجيب متري صليبي؛ بايرد دودج: رئيس الجامعة الأميركية؛ الدكتور دانيال بلس؛ فارس نمر كما عرفته؛ صغار الأشياء وكبارها؛ ما هو التهذيب؛ المرصد الفلكي؛ المنظمة.
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File 3:

المربعات السحرية؛ مناخ جبل لبنان؛ الكون والحياة؛ السكرتسكوب في علم الفلك؛ التقدم وواجبات الفرد؛ الزلازل؛ إصطلاحات فلكية تتعلق بالوقت؛	المذنبات؛ تكوّن العلم؛ نشوء الأجرام السماوية؛ الكون المتغير؛ الشاهد الخامس؛ ألوان النجوم؛ حقائق وإحصاءات فلكية؛ نبوءة دمار الأرض وإنقراض.
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File 4:

منفيو لبنان الى القدس في الحرب العظمى؛ نشوء الأجرام السماوية؛ الأستاذ روبرت وست؛ عوالم لا عد لها.	أصول علم الفلك الحديث؛ المذنبات؛ إقتراح؛ فارس نمر كما عرفته؛
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File 5: Articles by him in Arabic published in “بيروت المساء”

المذنبات؛ المرصد الفلكي بالجامعة الأميركية؛ الدكتور عبد الله صوايا: طبيب عبقرى من بلادي؛ نعيم صوايا كما عرفته؛ عاشرت الشهبندر عشر سنوات؛ يعقوب صروف؛ ستورت كروفرد الطيب الذكر؛ الدكتور دافد أوجين سميث.	الطيب الذكر ستورت كروفرد؛ الإنسان والكون للدكتور فؤاد صروف؛ المتعبدون؛ باقات زهور على ضريح فرنكلين مور؛ الدكتور شهبندر كما عرفته؛ كيف إغتالوا الشهبندر؛ روبرت وست كما عرفته؛ أول ثورة مدرسية في العالم؛
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Box 3: Bibliography and articles by him in English

File 1: Bibliography and some of his work.

File 2: Articles by him (handwritten in English):

Reveal the Differences in Mental Ability between and among Pupils;
The First Twenty-five Years of the Department of Civil Engineering, 1914 -
1939;
Thirty-one Years in the Department of Engineering, 1912 - 1943;

The Development of Mathematics during the last Twenty Years, 1901 - 1921;
Educational Value of Mathematics.

File 3: Articles by him (English):

The New Star in Aquilae;
Educational Value of Mathematics, 1914.

File 4: Articles by him (French):

Quelques Faits Astronomiques Dignes d'Intérêt;
Le Climat du Liban.

File 5: Introduction to Calculus: Problem Solving and other Copybooks.

File 6: Material used by him: Tribute to the Memory of Franklin Moore, 1915;

Arabic Index;
Meteorological Lists;
Tables of Fixed Stars.

Series III: Secondary Sources

Box 4: Photos, Dictionary and Atlas

File 1: Copies of Photos.

File 2: Miscellaneous.

File 3: Dictionary of Scientific Terms: Arabic/ English, 1963.

File 4: Atlas of Astronomy by A. Keith Johnston.

Related Material at AUB

Publications

- American University of Beirut. (1952). *Directory of alumni, 1870-1952*. Beirut: American University of Beirut, Alumni Association. [CARAUB: 378.5692:A512w:1870-1952:c.1](#), p: 41, 63
- Abunnasr, Maria. (2017). *46 Streets: AUB's imprints of streets of Beirut*. Retrieved from: <https://www.aub.edu.lb/Neighborhood/Pages/46streets.aspx>
- داغر، يوسف أسعد. (٢٠٠٠). *مصادر الدراسات الادبية*. بيروت: مكتبة لبنان.

Articles by Mansour Jurdak in Al-Kulliyah

- Jurdak, M. (1914, April). The educational value of mathematics (Part i). *Al-Kulliyeh*, 5(6), 163 – 166.
- Jurdak, M. (1914, May). The educational value of mathematics (Part ii). *Al-Kulliyeh*, 5(7), 213 – 216.
- Jurdak, M. (1934, February). Vocational guidance in engineering lines. *Al-Kulliyeh*, 20, 85.
- Jurdak, M. (1948, January). Two A.U.B. professors honored by the Lebanese government. *Al-Kulliyeh*, 23, 10.
- Jurdak, M. (1961, summer). Jurdak and Bustani receive Bliss award and grant praise from former president. *Al-Kulliyeh*, 37, 7.
- Jurdak, M. (1964, spring). Professor Emeritus Mansour Jurdak dies; University holds funeral service. *Al-Kulliyeh*, 40, 22.

Books by Mansour Jurdak

- Jurdaq, M. (1916). *An advanced arithmetic*. Beirut: American Mission Press.
[CA 511:J95a:c.1](#)
- Jurdaq, M. (1928). *School arithmetic*. Beirut: American Mission Press.
[CA 511:J95s:v.2:c.1](#)
- Jurdaq, M. (1955). *School arithmetic (book two)*. Beirut, Lebanon: American Press.
[CA 511:J958s6](#)
- جرداق، منصور. (١٩٢٢). *مبدأ الحساب الحديث*. بيروت: المطبعة الأدبية. [J 511:J95mA:c.1](#)
- جرداق، منصور. (١٩٢٢). *النظام الشمسي والشمس والقمر وأحدث الآراء الفلكية فيها*. بيروت: المطبعة الأدبية. [J 523:J95nA:c.1](#)
- جرداق، منصور. (١٩٢٥). *الجبر الحديث*. بيروت: المطبعة الأميركية. [CA 512:J95jA:v.1:c.1](#)
- جرداق، منصور. (١٩٣٠). *اصول علم الفلك الحديث*. بيروت: المطبعة الأميركية. [J 520:J95uA:c.1](#)
- جرداق، منصور. (١٩٣٧). *مآثر العرب في الرياضيات والفلك*. بيروت: المطبعة الأميركية. [CA 510.953:J95mA:c.1](#)
- جرداق، منصور. (١٩٣٩). *آراء فلكية حديثة*. بيروت: المطبعة الأميركية. [CA 520:J95aA:c.1](#)
- جرداق، منصور. (١٩٤٦). *درجات الحساب الحديث للمدارس الابتدائية*. بيروت: المطبعة الأميركية. [J 511:J95dA:v.1:c.1](#)
- جرداق، منصور. (١٩٤٧). *الحساب الحديث*. بيروت: المطبعة الأميركية. [CA 511:J95h9A:v.2](#)
- جرداق، منصور. (١٩٤٨). *الكون العجيب وظواهره*. بيروت: المطبعة الأميركية. [CA 523.1:J95kA:c.1](#)
- جرداق، منصور. (١٩٤٩). *كتاب عجائب السماء والفلك والظواهر الجوية امجادها ومحاسنها*. بيروت: المطبعة الأميركية. [CA 520:J95ajA:c.1](#)
- جرداق، منصور. (١٩٥٠). *القاموس الفلكي والابراج وصور النجوم أو كوكباتها وأسماؤها العربية*. بيروت: المطبعة الاميركانية. [CA:R 520.3:J95qA:c.1](#)
- جرداق، منصور. (١٩٥١). *حلقات الحساب الحديث وفقاً للمنهج الجديد المقرر من وزارة التربية الوطنية اللبنانية*. بيروت: المطبعة الاميركانية. [CA 511:J95haA:v.4-5:c.1](#)

Archival Material

- Archie S. Crawford Collection, ARCHIVE [AA:2.3.8](#)
- Edwin Lewis AUBite file, [AA:6.1](#)
- Numah Jafet AUBite file, AA:6.1
- Lee Observatory Collection, ARCHIVE [AA:1.8](#)
- Nikula Jurjus Shahin Collection, ARCHIVE [AA:6.2.19.2](#)

Photographs

Series I: Jurdak with Faculty and Students

- Faculty and staff, 1901-1902, Ph:SPC-AUB:1901-1902:(1):1-7:32, Ph:SPC-AUB:1901-1902:(2):1-4:32
- Faculty and staff, 1904-1905, Ph:SPC-AUB:1905(5):1-5:34
- Wartime faculty, 1917, Ph:SPC-AUB:1917(5):1-7:38
- Arts and Sciences Faculty members, 1926, Ph:AUB:1926/06:1-2:40
- Faculty at Commencement, 1948, Ph:AUB:1948(3):1:43

Series II: Jurdak with visitors

- Visit of President Camille Chamoun to Lee Observatory, 1957,
Ph:AUB:1957/05/13:1- 6:47

Series III: Jurdak's honoring

- Award distribution to faculty for their years of service, 1950s,
Ph:AUB:1950s(21):1- 4:44