



Archives and Special Collections Department,  
American University of Beirut  
Beirut, Lebanon  
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## **Nikula Shahin Collection, 1920-1984**

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the University Libraries, AUB  
Prepared by Dalya Nouh

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## **Descriptive Summary**

**Call No.:** AA:6.2.19.2

**Bib record:** b146211944

**Record Creator:** Shāhīn, Niqūlā Jirjis, 1897-1984.

**Collection Title:** Nikula Shahin Collection, 1920-1984.

**Collection Dates:** 1920-1984 (Bulk dates: 1948-1984)

**Physical Description:** Approximately 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

**Abstract:** AUB Alumnus (BA 1918, MA 1920); Nikula Shahin occupied several positions at AUB from Instructor of Arabic in 1918 to Instructor of Physics in 1919. He rejoined the Department of Physics as adjunct Professor of Physics in 1945 and later became Assistant Professor of Physics until his retirement in the summer of 1966. During his work at AUB, he also served as the Assistant to the Director of University Observatory which was later known as the Lee-Shahin Observatory: it operated almost non-stop for more than 100 years (1874-1979) until teaching of astronomy was discontinued. This small collection comprises Nikula's biographical information, interviews, obituary, articles, and publications authored by Shahin or compiled by him in addition to four photos. This collection is an invaluable source for meteorologists, scientists, and scholars interested in climate change, rainfall, and geographic studies.

**Language(s):** English and Arabic.

## **Administrative Information**

**Source:** The collection was obtained in two installments the archival collection in February 2006 and while the photos in December 2013 as a donation by Leila Shahin DaCruz daughter of Nikula Shahin to the AUB Libraries.

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

**Photocopying Restriction:** No photocopying restriction except for fragile material.

**Preferred Citation:** Nikula Shahin Collection, 1897-1984, AA:6.2.19.2, Box no., File no., American University of Beirut/Library Archives.

## **Scope and Content**

This small collection compromises Nikula's biographical information, interviews, obituary, articles/publications by Shahin, or compiled by him in addition to five photos.

This collection is an invaluable source for meteorologists, scientists, and scholars interested in climate change, water, and geographic studies.

## **Arrangement**

The Collection is arranged in three series:

**Series I:** Biographical Information, Interviews, Honoring, Obituary, etc.

**Series II:** Articles and publications compiled by Nikula Shahin

**Series III:** Photos 1920s-1970s

## Biographical Sketch

Niqūlā Shāhīn (Nikula Shahin) was born in Bishmzine El-Koura, North Lebanon in the year 1897. When he was 17 years old, he applied to the freshman class at the Syrian Protestant College (now the American University of Beirut) and was accepted for the 1914/1915 academic year. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in physics and astronomy on 15 May 1918. In October 1918, Nikula took on his teaching duties at SPC and started working towards his master's degree under Professor Mansour Jurdak and Professor Arthur Brown. As a graduate student, he was selected by Professor Mansour Jurdak as Fellow Assistant, to live in the observatory, check the instruments and record important observations and meteorological manifestations. During all those years, he was on and off in charge of the Observatory and after he retired from the Department of Physics in 1962 he gave it all his time and the Station became known as the Lee-Shahin Observatory. When the AUB Observatory was closed at the end of 1978, he set up instruments on the roof of his house so that the meteorological observations started in 1875 would not be interrupted. When he died in 1984, As- Safir daily wrote, "The Observatory is Dead." The equipment was then moved to the residence of Mona and Fadlo Boulos Khauli, his daughter and son in law, who have assumed the responsibility of keeping up the work, and the readings of the "Nikula Shahin Observatory" that are still published in An-Nahar daily in the weather report.

## Subject Headings

Shāhīn, Niqūlā Jirjis, 1897-1984.  
Shāhīn, Niqūlā Jirjis -- Portraits.  
Dodge, Bayard, 1888-1972.  
American University of Beirut -- Alumni and alumnae.  
American University of Beirut -- Faculty.  
American University of Beirut -- Observatories.  
Meteorology -- Lebanon -- Beirut -- Observations.

شاهين، نقولا جرجس، ١٨٩٧-١٩٨٤.  
شاهين، نقولا جرجس -- صور شخصية.  
دودج، بيارد، ١٨٨٨-١٩٧٢.  
جمعية متخرجي الجامعة الاميركية في بيروت.  
الجامعة الاميركية في بيروت -- الأساتذة.  
الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت -- المرصد.  
الارصاد الجوية -- لبنان -- بيروت -- المراقبة.

## Container List

### Series I: Biographical Information, Interviews, Honoring, Obituary, etc.

#### Box 1: Personal Information

File 1: Biography, General.  
File 2: Honoring of Nikula Shahin, ١٩٨٣، يوم نقولا شاهين، للمهرجان اللبناني للكتاب  
File 3: Obituary and press clippings, 1965-1984  
File 4: مرصد الجامعة، ١٩٦٤  
File 5: حوار علمي للإذاعة، ١٩٥٥-١٩٨١

File 6: Interviews with him, 1973-1979

File 7: Annual Report of the Board of Managers of SPC with dedication from President Norman Burns to Nikula Shahin

## **Series II: Articles and publications compiled by Nikula Shahin**

### **Box 1 (cont.): Personal Information**

File 1: الذرة في خدمة الانسان للأغراض السلمية، ٦ آذار ١٩٧٧-مراقب جديد ذو الأعين الست، ٢٤ أيلول ١٩٨٣

File 2: Articles by him: handwritten materials, 1949-1950

File 3: الجديد في عالم أشعة اللايزر، شباط ١٩٦٧، أشعة لايزر ١٧ كانون الأول ١٩٨٣

File 4: Articles by him: handwritten materials, 1970-1976

File 5: الطاقة من إنشطار الذرة، ١٩٧٥

File 6: البراكين وأسبابها وما يتولد منها، ٥ كانون الأول ١٩٨١

File 7: Handwritten papers, undated.

File 8: مقال بقلم شاهين "القدرة والانتاج"

File 9: مقال بقلم شاهين "الطاقة والقدرة"

### **Box 2: Articles by and compiled by Shahin**

File 10: مقال بقلمه عن علم الفيزياء، نيسان ١٩٥٧؛ مقال بقلمه عن مآثر العرب في العلوم الرياضية

File 11: مقالات بقلمه في "المجلة العلمية"، أبريل ١٩٥٧

File 12: Articles compiled by him

File 13: Publications compiled by him (Undated)

## **Series III: Photos 1920s-1970s**

[Nikula Shahin Collection, 1920-1970s]: [SC Ph:SPC-AUB:1920-1970s:1-4:33](#)

(5 photographs: black & white; Sizes of photos range between 28 x 21.5 and 17.5 x 12 cm)

[Portrait of Shahin at Lee Observatory](#)

[Portraits of Shahin](#)

[Photo with President Bayard Dodge](#)

[Graduation photo in 1920](#)

[Photo of Nikula Shahin with other faculty members at commencement 1948](#)

[Photo of commencement 1948 shows from L-R: Front row: William Shanklin (Histology), Stanley Kerr (Biochemistry), Roger Soltau (History and Political Science), Harold Close (Chemistry), Mansour Jurdak (Mathematics), Bayard Dodge (President), Constantine Zurayk (History), George B. Stewart (Secretary of University), Said Himadeh (Economics), Hovsep Yenikomishian (Internal Medicine), Byron Porter Smith (English), second row; John Mirhij (Biology), Philippe Ashkar (Gynecology-Obstetrics), Karam Karam (Assistant Treasurer), Nabih Faris (History), Musa Ghantus (Anatomy), Elisabeth Ann Moser (Nursing), ... , Habib Kurani (Registrar), Alfred Diab (Eyes and ENT), Jibrail Jabbur (Arabic), Hrant Chaglassian (Dermatology), Rudolph Pauly (Pharmacy), third row; Anis Frayha (Arabic), William West (Chemistry), Archie Crawford (Administration), ... , Curtis Baylor (Medicine), Alexandre Wuthier (French), Leslie Leavitt (Preparatory School), Yervant Jidejian (Surgery), ... , fourth row; Abed Tarabulsi (Athletics), ... , Afif Mufarrij (Anatomy), Salim Wadi Macksoud (Engineering), Nikula Shahin (Physics-Observatory), Farid Hanania (History), Ivan Rubinsky (Engineering), Fadil

Antippa (Physics), Wilfridus F.H.M. Mommaerts (Biochemistry), ... , ... , Gregoire Dragatsi (Internal Medicine), Charles Abou Chaar (Pharmacy - Biology), fifth row; ..., ....., Khosrof Khachador Yeramian (Engineering), Henry Badeer (Physiology), Aziz Nahhas (Physical Plant), Munib Shahid (Internal Medicine), ... , Fuad Abu-Izzedin (not faculty), Zeine Zeine (History), Henry Nachman (Pediatrics), ... , Nicolas Manasseh (Engineering), Hassan Idriss (Pediatrics), ... , George Saleeby (X-ray)].

## Related Material at AUB

### Archival Material

- Minutes of Senate Meetings of the American University of Beirut, January 25, 1985, "Minutes on the Late Dr. Nikula J. Shahin".
- [Lee Observatory Collection, 1874-1979](#)
- [Mansur Hanna Jurdak Collection, 1901-1964](#)

### Articles

- Haffar, N. S. (1988). The Observatory of the Stars. *Al-Kulliyah*, Autumn/Winter Issue 1988, p. 8-13.
- Former professor of physics decorated. *AUB Bulletin*, February 28, 1974, v.17, no. 9, p. 3.

### Books

- Haffar, N. S. (2009). *We once were like that: a memoir*. Seattle: Ameera Publishing. [CA 818.995:H138w:c.1](#)
- Haffar, N. S. (2012). *And then-- : memoirs continued*. Seattle: Ameera Publishing LCC. [CA 818.995:H138a:c.1](#)
- Khalīfah, ‘Iṣām Kamāl. (2014-2015). *A ‘lām al-Thaqāfah fī Lubnān wa al-‘ālam al-‘Arabī*. Anṭilyās, Lubnān: al-Ḥarakah al-Thaqāfīyah. [RLEB 306.409:A111haA:v.1](#)
- Shāhīn, N. J. (1948). *Al-Nazarīyah al-dharrīyah, al-tāqah al-dharrīyah, al-qunbulah al-dharrīyah*. Bayrūt, Lubnān: Maṭābi‘ Ṣādir Rīḥānī. [CA 539.76:Sh52nA:c.1](#)
- سيف، أنطوان، خليفة، عصام. (١٩٨٣). *الأعلام شيوخ الفكر والأدب في لبنان*. انطلياس، لبنان: الحركة الثقافية. [RLEB 306.409:A111haA:c.1](#)

### Book Reviews

- On understanding science تفهم العلوم [Al-Abhath: v.2 \(1949\). v.2, pt.3 \(September 1949\), p.346-350.](#)
- Arabian oil النفط العربي [Al-Abhath: v.3 \(1950\). v.3, pt.2 \(June 1950\), p.242-244.](#)
  - الطاقة الذرية؛ الأبحاث: مجلد ١ (١٩٤٨). [مجلة الاول الجزء الثالث \(ايلول ١٩٤٨\). ص. ٨٣-٨٨](#)
  - الطاقة الذرية؛ الأبحاث: مجلد ١ (١٩٥٠). [مجلة الاول الجزء الثالث \(اذار ١٩٥٠\). ص. ٨١-١٠١](#)
  - سركيس، أديب جبور. (١٩٥٠). [النظرية الذرية، الطاقة الذرية، القنبلة الذرية. الأبحاث: مجلد ٣ \(١٩٥٠\). مجلد الثالث الجزء الاول \(اذار ١٩٥٠\) ص. ١٠٢-١٠٤](#)

## Digital Material

- [Niḡulā Shāhīn Weather Station](#)

## Photos

- Nikula Shahin Collection, 1920-1970s. [Ph:SPC-AUB:1920-1970s:1-4:33](#)
- Portrait of Nikula Shahin, 1980. [Ph:AUB:1980\(06\):01:55](#)
- Honoring of Nikula Shahin, 1974. [Ph:AUB:1974/02:1-3:54](#)
- Faculty at Commencement, 1948. [Ph:AUB:1948\(03\):01:43](#)
- Dr. Klink and his research on Fycrete Fibrites, 1950s. [Ph:AUB:1950s\(19\):1-8:44](#)

## Periodicals

- [Monthly Bulletin of the Observatory Beirut: American University of Beirut, 1912-1975.](#)

## Theses

- Haddad, G. (2005).Precipitation trends and modeling: case study Beirut region. [ST:4578:c.1](#)
- Thomas, R. (1971).Rainfall-duration-frequency curves for the coastal strip of Lebanon. [ET:1602:c.1](#)