



Khalil Mutran's Life...

Documents and Pictures

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Foreword

Images sometimes speak louder than words and a single picture may explain a thousand words. In this regard, the Foundation has issued publications such as *Abi Al-Qassem Al-Shabi*, *Al-Akhtal Al-Saghir*, *Ahmad Shawqi* and *Prince Abdulqader Al-Jazaeri*. In this book, we have included a selection of unique and rare pictures of the great poet *Khalil Mutran* covering different stages of his life, as well as of his fans, connoisseurs of his poems, and other friends, who were men of letters and thought and sweet words. There are also pictures of those who participated in his honorary celebrations in various places or sites and participated in joint poetry evenings or literary meetings. The book also includes pictures of people who came from all over the world to witness the honorary celebrations held especially for him or who came to hear him chant his new poems.

Dear Reader...

This book presents a selection of important pictures that appeared during various moments of *Mutran's* life. Thanks and appreciation goes to *Mr. Omar Hazeq*, who compiled, arranged and narrated this book and everyone else who contributed to its production.

The pictures and documents have been accordingly organized in different sections, to monitor the different stages of this pioneering poet's life. The Foundation of *Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's* Prize for Poetic Creativity is pleased to hold its 12th Session, entitled "Khalil Mutran and Muhammad Ali / Mak Dizdar Session" in the city of Sarajevo in October 2010. We leave this book in your hands and we hope it will be useful.

Praise be to God from hereon after.

Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain

Kuwait – 9th Shaban 1431 H

21st July 2010 A.D.

Introduction

Khalil Mutran...The Poet of the Two Countries educated us and our teachers. We seek his famous poem “Al-Masaa” (The Evening), as well as his other marvelous poems. This individual poet was a shy man with no interest in being in the limelight and lofty when pursuing other influential journalists. Mutran, the brilliant journalist, was also a brave man and, during his youth, he opposed the policies of Sultan Abdulhamid. He criticized him in his earlier poems, and as a result he was interrogated. His family feared for his life and they sent him to Paris.

He devoted himself to poetry, answering its call, and he did not marry at all and left behind only its seekers and his young students who read and learned from poetry.

Mutran was the most important revivalist of Arabic poetry, but it is unfortunate that this person did not leave us much of his photos and documents. These limited documents and photos were also not preserved or taken care of well. However, he did leave us his love and his great poems, so, I was given the task of collecting his photos and documents, which was a great honor for me, but it was also very exhausting work. It required deep research into his biography and thorough searching in newspapers and periodicals throughout his life and after his death. Despite this hard work, there were some parts of his life unknown, like his childhood in Baalbek, or his youth in Paris, or the homes that he lived in. I chose to arrange these photos according to their meaning of Mutran and his life.

In this regard, I would like to thank the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain’s Prize for Poetic Creativity for giving me this opportunity to become closer to Mutran and investigate and analyze all aspects of his life; when he ran from Damascus to Paris and following his work in the world of press, the continuous celebrations honoring him, his compassion to pain and the noble way in which he invincibly took on the hardships of life and his disease.

I am also grateful to my teachers and friends, who spared no efforts in helping me accomplish this work with great advice and guidance. Some also provided me with some of Mutran’s pictures and rare letters that he wrote and that are not listed in magazine and newspaper archives. My thanks especially goes out to Dr. Mohammad Mustafa Abu Shawareb, Mr. Abdulaziz Juma, Dr. Mohammad Zakariya Anani, Mr. Emad Ghazali, Mr. Ezzat Saadelddin, Mr. Mohammad Radwan, Miss. Reem Maarouf, Mr. Hamza Aboud and my friends from the Alexandria Library, of which I am honored of being a member of. Among my friends that I want to thank are Dr. Khaled Azeb and my friends in the Information Department at the Library.

Finally, I hope that this book will satisfy Mutran’s fans and adorers and they will be able to connect with Mutran’s soul and discover his inner feelings and his struggles with joy, pain and sickness, as both a human and a poet.

The Poet Omar Al-Hazeq