Middle East Microform Project (MEMP)

al-Samir

Brooklyn, New York
1936-1957

The Middle East Microform Project (MEMP) of the Center for Research Libraries is pleased to announce the availability of ***al-Samir*** ("as-Sameer : the Entertainer") on microfilm for the period November 1936-June 1957.

al-Samir was once the largest circulating Arabic daily publication in the United States. It was founded and edited by Lebanese writer, journalist and poet Elia Daher Abu Madi (1889-1957).

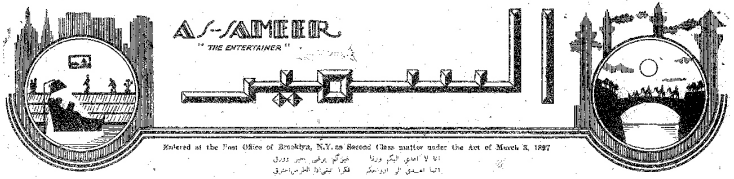
Born in Muhaydathah, Lebanon, Abu Madi moved to Alexandria, Egypt in 1910 where he originally sold cigarettes in his uncle's store by day and studied Arabic grammar by night. It was there that he published his first volume of poetry entitled *Tadhkar al-Madi* ("A souvenir of the past") in 1911. He began working for various Arabic newspapers before the age of 20.

Abu Madi immigrated to the US in 1912 and originally settled in Cincinnati with his brother Mourad. He moved to New York in 1916 and originally wrote for Arab-American newspapers such as *al-Fatat* and *Mir'at al-Arab*. He established *al-Samir* in 1929, which appeared as a fortnightly publication until November 1936 when it became a daily paper, and continued publishing until his death in 1957.

The newspaper was published in Brooklyn, a center of Arab immigrant population in the early 20th century, and contained news and articles concerning the Arabic community in America along with international news. All of the editorials were written by Abu Madi.

MEMP has preserved on microfilm the daily edition of the title from November 2, 1936 – June 28, 1957 [gaps]. This run is on 29 microfilm reels and can be acquired through MEMP for $2900 plus shipping. MEMP members receive discounted pricing at member rates.

The mission of MEMP is to cooperatively acquire and preserve unique and valuable research material pertaining to the field of Middle Eastern studies. MEMP was established in 1987 by the Middle East Librarians Association and is administered by the Center for Research Libraries.



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