

Informant Mrs. Adeby Coury Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code II/17
Religious Sect Orthodox-R. Catholic Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 12
Interviewer Richard Coury City Cairo, Illinois Date May 24, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/1

Informant know of no famous writers from her village.

When asked about wise people, she replied "They were all wise people, but nothing that you could write in history... but I'll tell you one thing, my father and his brothers were excellent musicians as well and singers, and also sang in the church for the liturgy (Quddas)". "They played the clarinet" both her father and her uncles, and the trumpet. They played Arabic music; they never heard of western music, but they played the western clarinet, not the mijwiz which was bled al-^carab. They used to play the oud, too.

Informant remembers, jst before WWI started, her paternal grandmother and her friend, Im Mikhail, talking about "Qissat Sabila" which predicted that the world would not last after the year 2,000. Informant didn't know what "Qissat Sabila" and was too young to ask.

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Informant's mother's maternal uncles were educated, and village leaders. Most of the old people never knew how to read or write.

Her parents absolutely could read or write; she doesn't know where her father went to school, probably the same schools her mother attended.

There were English schools; her mother went there for some time. Later her mother attended a Melkite (Kwaitli) school, run by nuns in the nearby village of al-Khonchara, which had mostly Melkite inhabitants. Informant imagines that other Orthodox people went to that school. Her mother wanted to go there because at that time there wasn't any Russian (Orthodox) school. There were missionary schools, not sure whether American or English.

There were two schools in Bteghrine when the informant was growing up, one for the boys and one for the girls, Russian supported, the Czarist government; they supplied the schools, the books and paid the local teachers; the school was free. The informant attended this school; she learned how to read and write and count in Arabic, prayed every morning in Arabic and studied Russian and Russian prayers orally. There were plays given at the boys' school, where the stage was, like Hamlet and Shakespearean plays, in Arabic. She compares them to programs in U.S. schools. "Well, it's the same thing. They were educated people. Don't think because we're from a little village, we didn't know anything".

Informant Ellis Khouri Sex M Age 80 Interview Schedule Code II/17
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Elaine & Chuck Audy City Grand Rapids, Mich. Date Nov. 30, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

Had good number of writers, professors and teachers in the village. His brother was one of the most respected writers.

Informant Mr. Alex Ecie Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code II/12
Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15-17*
Interviewer Grant Farr City Dearborn, Michigan Date June 2, 1980
* Informant provides conflicting data.

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1 Informant read some books and journals in Arabic.

Informant Mr. Eli Busada Sex M Age 87½ Interview Schedule Code II/17
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13
Interviewer Alix Naff City Washington, D.C. Date April 22, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

II/A

Poetry very important--made it up as they go along. Get together in an evening over mazza (hors d'oeuvres) and drink. Poets challenged each other in praise or condemnation of an issue or person.

No musicians or instruments, except manjayra (just blow through bamboo reed).

No intellectuals in village; just people who could compose letters or speeches or eulogies.

Informant Mr. Mahmoud Sadak Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code II/17
Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Grant Farr City Washington, D.C. Date April 24, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/58

Weddings last only one day.

This is short; dancing, food, music, and poetry competitions at the wedding.

100-125

Describes the poetry competition.

Philosophers in village? Just one, his teacher. (Describes an old-fashioned Islamic (?) scholar.

Informant Mrs. Mary Schervish Sex F Age 88 Interview Schedule Code II/17
Religious Sect Maronite* Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Grosspointe Park, Michigan Date May 14, 1980
* Maronite mother, Orthodox father; attends Roman Catholic church

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

No poets in village.

Informant Msgr. Aghabius Riashi Sex M Age 86 Interview Schedule Code II/17
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 26
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date May 15, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

(first 5 minutes contains pre-interview information)

1-15

Came from Khonchara, Lebanon; village of builders and landowners; came from large family, one of 4 major families of village: Kasoof, Kfury; Samaha; Riashi.

Has large monastery of large Melkite order with large library and original Arabic printing press (explains religious order and history of monastery).

Entered religious order at 17 years of age; became Msgr. at 33 (in U.S.); studied at Eastern College (Oriental Seminary), (Order of al-Hanawiyi al-Shwayriyyi), Zahle.

Explains how he helped raise money to build Tarshiha Hospital in Zahle while he was a priest in Akron, Ohio.

Informant Mrs. Rahmy Francis Sex F Age 77 Interview Schedule Code II/7
Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Grant Farr City Detroit, Michigan Date May 15, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

Village is small, North Lebanon--Bayat 'Akour.

They owned a piece of land, too small.

Occupation: subsistence agriculture

Crops: all kinds

Animals: Their family no, other villagers had cows and sheep.

Sects: A maronite village surrounded by Shi'i Moslems.

A common shepherd

One church, no school. There was a school in the Monastery just for boys.

Her husband went and learned French.

Informant Mrs. Rahmy Francis Sex F Age 77 Interview Schedule Code II/17
Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Grant Farr City Detroit, Michigan Date May 15, 1980

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I/B/1

She was not really aware of intellectual life.