

Brazilian Couples of Lebanese Descent, Ary and Chammas, Visit LERC

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Reported by Adriana Bou Diwan, LERC Intern

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center at NDU welcomed to its premises two Brazilian couples of Lebanese descent, Mr. Samir Ary with his wife Mrs. Maria Elizabeth Jereissati Ary, and Mr. Valter Antonio Chammas with his wife Vania Juliano Chammas.

The two couples were accompanied to the Center by Mr. Roberto Khatlab, LERC's Latin America Liaison Officer.

Mr. Ary is an award-winning lawyer born in Brazil whose father had emigrated from Zahle, in Lebanon's Bekaa. As for Mr. Chammas, he is a third generation Lebanese-Brazilian from Hasbaya who owns a company in the construction field. Both men are prominent in Brazil with many connections to Brazilians of Lebanese descent.

Following a warm welcome by LERC's Director Guita Hourani, both couples were introduced to LERC'S electronic archives and database, particularly the material collected on the Lebanese in Brazil. The trip concluded with a tour of the Lebanese Migration Nucleus Museum at NDU.



Brazilians viewing original LERC collections at the Museum: (from left to right) Mr. R. Khatlab, Mrs. V.J. Chammas, Mr. V.A. Chammas, Mrs. M.E. Jereissati Ary, Mr. S. Ary (Oct 2011).

After the visit the couples congratulated the Center and NDU. “Magnificent work,” they said “and for NDU too, helping people around the world in search of their Lebanese heritage.” For them the experience was “incredible and totally revealing”. With this in mind, Mr. Ary told LERC that last year he had organized a huge family reunion in Brazil and promised to send back to LERC photos and other related materials.



A souvenir picture at NDU: (from left to right) Mr. V.A. Chammas, Mrs. V.J. Chammas, Mr. R. Khatlab. Mr. S. Ary, Mrs. M.E. Jereissati Ary, Mr. E. Nabhan (Oct 2011).