

Translations of Master Buṭrus Al-Bustānī

Books

(Chronological Thematical Order)

➤ History

1. *The History of Napoleon the First*, from French into Arabic, History, Published, In three volumes, Beirut, The American Press, 1868. It is mentioned in: *The Arab Christian Writers*, Vol. 2, p.107; *The Impact of Master Buṭrus Al-Bustānī in the Renaissance in Lebanon*, Al-Qays, pp. 133 and 279, where he mentioned that the publishing date is 1869).

On the cover page printed by Al-Qays, as shown in Appendix No. 8, p. 297, the author is Elias Ṭannūs Al-Huwayyik, and the inside titles are handwritten by the scribe Najīb Al-Hawāwīnī, printed by Būlaq in 1830; (The name of the press and the date are handwritten). Al-Qays adds, on page 133, “that Buṭrus Al-Bustānī translated and corrected this book However Eliās Ṭannūs Al-Huwayyik has attributed it to himself”.

➤ Literature

2. *The Al-Bustānī Masterpiece in the Robinson Crusoe Travels¹ or the Travel of Robinson Crusoe* by the English writer Daniel Defoe, (1660-1731), from English into Arabic, Travel Literature, Published, In two Volumes, published in 1861. Yūsuf Quzmā al-Khūrī mentions that this book is published by the American Press, (refer to: *A Pioneer Man: Master Buṭrus Al-Bustānī 1819-1883*, p. 38, footnote 6), while Al-Qays mentions that it is published by Al-Ma‘ārif Press, (refer to: *The Impact of Master Buṭrus Al-Bustānī in the Renaissance in Lebanon*, 1st Edition, Beirut, Al-Fārābī Press, 2005). This book was mentioned in Ar-

¹ This book “was translated into Arabic in 1835 by the American Missionaries who believed that fiction is the unique educational reference in the country”. (Al-Khūrī, Yūsuf Quzmā, *A Pioneer Man: Master Buṭrus Al-Bustānī 1819-1883*, p. 38, footnote No. 6).

Rawā'i, No. 22, p. 81; *The Arab Christian Writers*, Vol. 2, p. 107; *A Pioneer Man: Master Buṭrus Al-Bustānī*, p. 221; *The Impact of Master Buṭrus Al-Bustānī in the Renaissance in Lebanon*, p. 129, 279.

3. *The Open Door to the Work of the Soul*, from English into Arabic, Literary Discourse, Published,

This book contains series of articles explaining the Protestant Fide, written by Eli Smith, Beirut, 1843, (refer to: *A Pioneer Man: Master Buṭrus Al-Bustānī 1819-1883*, p. 15; *The Arab Christian Writers, From Before Islam till the end of the 20th Century*, p. 108, where the word “work” is used in the plural “works”).

➤ Religion

4. *The Holy Bible* (co-published), from Hebrew (the Old Testament language) and Greek (the New Testament language) and Latin and Syriac together with some old Arabic translation, into (modern) Arabic, Holy Bibles, Published,

Al-Bustānī launched the translation with Eli Smith in 1848 and carried on with it till 1857 (when Smith passed away). Completed and published by Van Dyck in 1865.

It became known as: the “Van Dyck Translation” by Kamal Youssef Al-Hage, in *The Complete Works of Kamal Youssef Al-Hage*, 11/Mujaz/917; and The “American Translation” by Fu’ād Afrām Al-Būstānī, in *Ar-Rawā'i*, No. 22, p. 78; and “Beirut Protestantism” by Ameen Albert Rihani, in *The Arab Translations of the Holy Bible and its Impact on the Renaissance Movement*, p. 16.

5. *History of Redemption*, supposedly from English into Arabic, Church History, Published, This translation is mentioned in *The Encyclopedia of Dā'irat Al-Ma'ārif*, Vol. 7, p. 591; and *History of Arab Journalism*, Vol. 1, p. 90. No other information was mentioned in these two references.

However, Al-Qays notes, in his book on Al-Bustānī, p. 131, footnote No. 1, and within his short introduction to Merle D'Aubigné (1794-1872), a Swiss Protestant, that Al-Bustānī is the author of this book. He doesn't add anything to this information, in spite

the fact that the *History of Redemption* is not included in his list of Al-Bustani translations (pp. 129-133).

6. *The History of Reform in the XVI Century*, by Merle D'Aubigné, from English into Arabic, Church History, Published,

This book is in two Volumes, exceeding 1500 pages, Beirut, 1878 (mentioned in: *The Encyclopedia of Dā'irat Al-Ma'ārif*, Vol. 7, p. 591, H; *History of Arab Journalism*, Vol. 1, p. 90; *The Impact of Master Buṭrus Al-Bustānī in the Renaissance in Lebanon*, p. 131, 296).

Al-Qays mentions in his book, p. 132, based on what he found in “the Archives of Japheth Library at AUB, through his research on the computer, that the translator of the book is Cornelius Van Dyck”. Most probably, both writers had worked on this translation in spite the fact that the name of the translator(s) is not mentioned in this book.

7. *A Pilgrim Path*, by the Austrian writer John Bunyan, from English into Arabic, Spiritualities, Published,

American Press, Beirut, 1921, (mentioned in *The Encyclopedia of Dā'irat Al-Ma'ārif*, Vol. 7, p. 591; *History of Arab Journalism*, Vol. 1, p. 90; *Arab Christian Writers*, Vol. 2, p. 107; *The Impact of Master Buṭrus Al-Bustānī in the Renaissance in Lebanon*, p. 130, 279).