

Tributes to Ash-Sheikh Ibrāhīm Al-Yāzījī

(Chronological Order)

Ash-Sheikh Ibrāhīm Al-Yāzījī was very well known for his eloquent and stylish Arabic language. He was fluent in English and French and studied Hebrew and Syriac. Besides, he wrote and published scientific articles. The Astronomy Associations in France and El-Salvador appointed him as a member in their ranks.

Philip De Tarazi,

The History of Arab Journalism, Al-Maṭba‘ah Al-Adabiyyah, Beirut, 1913, Vol. II, pp. 89-90.

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I don't think any other Arab writer, after Ibn Al-Mūqaffa' and Badī' Az-Zamān Al-Hamadhānī, had ever reached the level of discovering the role of vocabulary within a sentence, and the impact of the sentence within a paragraph, and the relationship between the paragraph and the article...

Fū'ād Afrām Al-Būstānī,

Ash-Sheikh Ibrāhīm Al-Yāzījī, (Ar-Rawā'ī Series, Beirut, 1952), Dār Al-Mashriq, 1967, pp. 138-139.

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Ash-Sheikh Ibrāhīm Al-Yāzījī was a dignified man, a distinguished linguist, and a severe critic. He was a refined writer and poet. His talent was extended to science research, the art of

calligraphy and engraving together with drawing and painting. He has designed the modern Arabic font, known as the Beirut font, that we still use till today in the printing press for books and newspapers.

Marūn Abbūd,

From the Preface of M. Abbūd to Al-Yāzījī collection of poetry entitled *The Neckless (Al-ʿIqd)*, New edition, Marūn Abbūd Publishing House, Beirut, 1983, pp. 18-22.

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Al-Yāzījī is distinguished in his Arabic style where his peculiar words fall in their very proper places. In that sense he resembles the great Arab poet Al-Būḥtūrī who's poetry was called the "golden chains" of Arabic verse. He writes like the painter who keeps dealing with the details until you can hardly know whether there is any difference between the original subject and its copy. This is how his writings are very transparent with a solid language structure. Rare are those writers who reach this level of perfect writing. Ash-Sheikh Ibrāhīm, in that sense, resembles Al-Aṣḥabānī in *Al-Aghānī*, Ibn Al-Mūqaffa' in *Kalīlah wa Dūmnah*, Al-Khawārizmī in his letters, Ibn Khaldūn in his *Introduction*, Al-Būḥtūrī in his poetry, and his father in his poetry.

ʿIsā Iskandar Al-Maʿlūf,

"Ash-Sheikh Ibrāhīm Al-Yāzījī Al-Lūbnānī", *Al-Mūqtataf* Magazine, Cairo, Issue 22, 1908; extracted from *A ʿlām An-Nahḍah Al-Ḥadīthah*, First Edition, Al-Ḥamrah Publishing House, 1991, Beirut, Vol. II, pp. 269-270.

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His contribution to Arabic literature and linguistics is clear. He played a major role like that of his father. But his major contribution was the designing of the modern Arabic font which was known in his name and used in Beirut, Cairo, and American printing presses in the East...

Shiblī Ash-Shūmayyil,

Fatāt Ash-Sharq magazine, Cairo, December 15, 1912, extracted from Michel Jihā's book entitled *Ibrāhīm Al-Yāzījī*, London, Riyāḍ Ar-Rayyis Books, 1992, pp. 20-21.

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One of the leading writers of his age, Ibrāhīm Al-Yāzījī selected [or forged] new words in Arabic to cope with the latest inventions of the time. He was distinguished in painting, drawing, engraving, and designing the modern Arabic fonts. He managed to live out of his writings with a great heart and a dignified personality.

Khayr Ad-Dīn Az-Zirkilī,

Al-A 'lām, Dictionary of Major Arab Figures and Arabists, Dār Al-‘ilm lilmalāyīn, Beirut, 10th edition, 1992, Vol. I, pp. 77.