

***Brazilian Philosopher and Theologian Philippe Gebara calls upon LERC***

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Reported by Elie Nabhan

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center at Notre Dame University was delighted to receive on its premises a third generation Lebanese-Brazilian, Mr. Philippe Alcantara Gebara Tavares, accompanied by LERC's Latin America Liaison Officer, Mr. Roberto Khatlab.

Only 22 years old and yet a philosopher from the Université Fédéral de la Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Mr. Gebara is now in Lebanon as a seminarian studying at the Greek Catholic (Melkite) seminary in Raboueh.

Mr. Gebara was shown around the LERC offices, the archives and the library, and then given a presentation of all the materials collected by LERC in its electronic database.



Mr. P. Gebara (right) listens intently to a presentation of LERC's electronic archives by Mrs. L. Haddad (Apr 2011).

Inspired by a sense of history Mr. Philippe Gebara went on to recall his family's ancestry.

His grandmother, he said, was born in Zahle as Thérèse (Yunes) Maalouf, now Gebara. His grandfather Roland Gebara was born in Syria but Philippe's great-grandfather on his father's side, Khalil Michel Gebara also hailed from Zahle and married there taking his cousin, Héléne Gebara, as his wife.

Thrilled at being back in Lebanon, Mr. Philippe Gebara expressed his love for the country, the beauty of its nature, and the human and religious beauty of its people, as living witnesses to their past.

Mr. Philippe Gebara had already contributed through Mr. Roberto Khatlab his own collection to LERC's archives under the name of Philippe Gebara Collection.

Both visitors were then taken on a tour of the Lebanon Migration Museum at NDU to see first-hand the original items displayed.



At the museum: (from left to right) Mrs. L. Haddad, Mr. P. Gebara, Mr. E. Nabhan, Mr. R. Khatlab (Apr 2011).