

Maronite Archbishop of the Holy Land visits LERC

Dalia Atallah, Akiki Grant Recipient

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Archbishop of the Maronites in Haifa and the Holy Land and Patriarchal Exarch of Jerusalem, Palestine and Jordan Monsignor Moussa el-Hage visited on November 10, 2014, the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) accompanied by Antonine Father of the St. John Convent in Keserwan's Ajaltoun Fr. Antoine Daou.

The Archbishop sought the Center to request information and documents on the migration of Christians from Lebanon since the beginning of the Civil War in 1975 for a conference entitled: "New Trends of Research: Palestinian Christian Identity in Israel."



Ms. Haddad with Monsignor el-Hage, and Fr. Daou at LERC (Dec, 2014)

Following an introduction to the Center by Mrs. Liliane Haddad, Chief Indexer and Archivist at the LERC, both the Archbishop and the Fr. Daou were impressed by the Center's research infrastructure and its extensive database.

LERC Director Dr. Guita Hourani who offered to prepare a paper on the topic for the Archbishop to use for the conference warmly welcomed both Monsignor El-Hage and Fr. Daou. The Archbishop thanked Dr. Hourani for her offer and thanked her for her invaluable help. Dr. Hourani began preparing the report with the help of her Research Assistant, Ms. Jasmin Lilian Diab. Akiki Internship Grant Recipient Ms. Dalia Atallah will translate the paper into Arabic, and both the English and the Arabic versions will be published as part of the conference proceedings.

Following their conversation with Dr. Hourani, Mrs. Haddad gave the Archbishop and Fr. Daou a guided tour of the LERC Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum. Both men admired the rich collection of artworks, personal belongings, documents, and several objects donated to the Center by a vast number of Lebanese migrants from around the world.

The Archbishop wrote in the LERC *Golden Book* that he was “delighted to see the center’s work.” He also voiced his readiness to contribute to the LERC database within the circle of the Maronite Parish of Haifa and the Lebanese Diaspora in the Holy Land.

Monsignor El-Hage was born in 1954 in Antoura, Metn. After receiving his Baccalaureate degree in Philosophy and Theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, he graduated in Biblical Theology from the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum of Jerusalem. He then pursued a doctorate in Oriental Studies and Liturgy at the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome. He speaks Arabic, English, French, and Italian and has a good grasp of Syriac, Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic.