



**Collection Shuhdi `Atiyya al- Shafi`i
1945, 1955-1958**

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Collection Shuhdi `Atiyya al- Shafi`i

Period 1945, 1955-1958

Total size 0.36 m.

Consultation Not restricted

Biography

Born in 1912, died in Cairo 1960; Egyptian communist and publicist; studied literature; took his masters degree at Cambridge University; returned to Egypt during the Second World War; one of the founders of the Dar al-Abhath al-cllmiyya (Scientific Research Council), which attracted many left-wing intellectuals; within the Egyptian communist movement Shuhdi 'Atiyya belonged to the Iskra Group and was one of the authors of its programme; involved in the student and workers' revolt against the British domination of Egypt in 1946; editor of the communist newspaper al-Jamahir (The Masses) from 1947; in 1948 sentenced to a seven years prison term; in the 1950s he supported a rapprochement with the regime of the Free Officers of Gamal Abdel Nasser because of its policy of land reform, nationalizations and anti-imperialism, which reached its summit during the Suez crisis in 1956; in 1958 however, the unification of Egypt with Syria strained the cooperation with the Nasserist regime; with hundreds of other communists Shuhdi 'Atiyya was arrested in 1959 and sentenced in 1960; he died under torture in the Abu Zabal prison in the same year; his publications include `Amrika wa-l-Sharq al-Awsat' ('America and the Middle East') 1955 and `Tatawwur al-Haraka al Wataniyya al-Misriyya 1882-1956' ('The Development of the Egyptian Nationalist Movement, 1882-1956') 1957, which is one of the most penetrating Marxist interpretations of Egyptian history.

Content

Parts of the manuscript of `Tatawwur al-Haraka al Wataniyya al-Misriyya 1882-1956'; manuscripts of short stories; typewritten notes and printed source material used for different books; copy of the Iskra Group programme `Ahdafuna al-Wataniyya' ('Our National Goals') 1945.

INTRODUCTION

History

Shuhdi 'Atiyya al-Shafici (born in 1912) became involved as a student in the student movement of the 1930s which inaugurated a more radical phase of the Egyptian nationalist movement. He graduated in English at the Faculty of Arts and taught for a while at a secondary school. At the end of the 1930s he won a prize for his short stories and acquired a grant from the Ministry of Education to study at Oxford University. When he returned to Egypt in 1940 he took up his former profession as teacher and obtained the rank of overseer of the Ministry of Education in 1947. In this period he joined Iskra and became one of the two Egyptian members of its Central Committee. He assigned responsibility for running Dar al-Abhath al-cllmiyya (The House of Scientific Learning), the cultural platform of Iskra, which attracted many young Egyptian left-wing intellectuals to the communist movement.

In addition, Shuhdi 'Atiyya, together with Muhammad cAbd al-Macbud al-Jubayli, drew up the nationalist programme of the Iskra group within the Communist movement, called Ahdafuna al-Wataniyya (Our National Goals), which was printed in 1945. He also participated in establishing the National Committee for the Students and Workers which led the student and workers' revolt of February-March 1946 against negotiations of the Egyptian minority government with Great Britain. When Iskra merged with the Egyptian Movement for the National Liberation (EMNL) to found the Democratic Movement for National Liberation (DMNL) in 1947, Shuhdi 'Atiyya became editor of its famous newspaper al-Jamahir (The Masses). At the same time he also became a member of its Central Committee.

He immediately clashed with Henri Curiel over his line to unite all nationalist and progressive forces in one front. In protest, he wrote several articles in al-Jamahir, calling for the founding of a Communist Party that should be revolutionary and represented only the working class. When the Central Comittee refused to discuss his report that expounded his revolutionary ideas, he left

DMNL to establish DMNL - Revolutionary Wing (Haditu--al-Tayyar al-Thawri). This organisation, that never acquired much support, rejoined DMNL again in 1955. During the repression of the communist movement in 1948 Shuhdi 'Atiyya was sentenced to seven years in prison. By the time he was released the communist movement was in conflict with the military regime which had taken over power in July 1952.

In spite of his revolutionary episode in the DMNL-Revolutionary Wing, Shuhdi Atiyya became one of the most outspoken supporters within the communist movement of the Free Officers, whom he regarded as a progressive movement on account of their anti-imperialist and reformist stance. He explained his ideas in his book *Amrika wa-l-Sharq al-Awsat* (America and the Middle East), published during Gamal Abd al-Nasir's resistance against the Baghdad Pact in 1955. Because of his sympathetic attitude towards the regime, Shuhdi 'Atiyya's was allowed to expound his ideas in the newly founded *al-Masa'* newspaper. After the nationalisation of the Suez Canal Company in July 1956 and the following Suez crisis, he wrote his famous historical analysis of the Egyptian nationalist movement *Tatawwur al-Haraka al-Wataniyya al-Misriyya 1882-1956* (The Development of the Egyptian Nationalist Movement, 1882-1956), which contains one of the most remarkable Marxist/nationalist interpretations of Egyptian history. He also published a collection of short stories, *Hara Umm al-Husayni*, which was serialised in the newspaper *al-Masa'*.

Relations with the military deteriorated dramatically, however, after communist opposition in Syria and Iraq against the unification of Syria and Egypt in February 1958 under the leadership of Nasser. On the the first of January 1959 Shuhdi 'Atiyya was arrested for the second time and imprisoned, together with hundreds of other communists. Despite his arrest and the repression of the Communist movement, he continued to support the internal reforms and the neutralist foreign policy of the regime. During his trial in March 1960 he stated that every true nationalist citizen should support the government. On 15 June 1960 Shuhdi 'Atiyya died under torture in Abu Zabal prison.

The collection

The collection of Shuhdi 'Atiyya al-Shafici was donated in 1997 to the IISH by dr. Rifcat al-Sacid. A large part of the collection consists of preliminary and final drafts of the historical work that Shuhdi 'Atiyya al-Shafici wrote in 1956, *Tatawwur al-Haraka al-Wataniyya al-Misriyya, 1882-1956*. Much effort has gone into trying to systematise and organise the numerous drafts of this historical work, with the aim to enable researchers to trace the development and shifts of Shuhdi Atiyya's political thought in the different drafts of the manuscript and compare them with the final version of the book. A distinction has been made between preliminary and the final draft, although the final draft has also been heavily edited. The different drafts of the manuscript, preliminary and final, were in complete disarray when they arrived at the IISH. Ninety percent of the received manuscript has been traced and put together according to the numbers of the pages, the style of handwriting and different hues of ink. This does not mean that the manuscript is now complete; although the final draft of the manuscript is almost recovered, large sections of the preliminary drafts are either missing or include several versions. Some parts were, for example, unretrievable, while other sections, such as chapter X, and especially some specific paragraphs of this chapter, have been rewritten several times and are therefore available in different versions. The collection also contains a small part of the edited print proofs.

In addition to his manuscripts and proof prints, the second part of the collection consists of notes and documentation Shuhdi 'Atiyya presumably used for writing his historical work. This part consists of economic statistics, reports of banks, magazine cuttings and other material.

The third part of the collection consists of drafts of the manuscripts of his collection of short stories *Hara Umm al-Husayni* and *'Aziza* and his more philosophical work *Mawkib al-Bishriyya*. These manuscripts are complete and are in their final form. Also a manuscript of a pamphlet of Shuhdi 'Atiyya on Nasser has been found among the collection and was added to this part.

INVENTORY

Publications

Tatawwur al-Haraka al-Wataniyya al-Misriyya, 1882-1956

- 1-21 Preliminary drafts of the manuscript of Tatawwur al-Haraka al-Wataniyya al-Misriyya, 1882-1956. 1955-1956. 20 covers and 1 folder
- 1 Pages 19-24 of the preliminary draft of paragraph 4, entitled `al-Thawra al-Wataniyya wa-l-Tabaqa al-cAmila'. N.B. This draft exists only in manuscript form.
 - 2 Pages 1-20 of preliminary draft of the paragraphs entitled `al-Tabaqa al-cAmila al-Misriyya' and `Hala al-Iqtisadiyya'. N.B. This draft exists only in manuscript form.
 - 3 Notes to chapter III.
 - 4 Preliminary draft of chapter III (no page numbers), section `Inbcath al-Haraka al-Wataniyya', pages 14-21 in book.
 - 5 Preliminary drafts of chapter IV (no page numbers).
 - 6 Notes and rough draft of chapter IV (not clear exactly which pages in the book).
 - 7 Pages 97-128 of a preliminary draft of chapter VI, pages 87-109 in the book. N.B. contains important differences with the final chapter in the book.
 - 8 Pages 22-24 of a preliminary draft of chapter VII, paragraph `al-Tatawwur al-Iqtisad', pages 88- (?) in the book.
 - 9 Pages 160-161 of a preliminary draft of chapter VII, paragraph `Awjaha Quwwa, Awjaha Dacf', pages 108-109 in the book.
 - 10 Pages 130-133 of a preliminary draft of chapter VIII, paragraph `al-Zuruf al-Dakhiliyya', pages 110-112 in the book.
 - 11 Pages 36-49 of a preliminary draft of chapter IX, paragraph `al-Iqtac', pages 141 to (?) in the book.
 - 12 Pages 37-48 of a preliminary draft of chapter X, paragraph `Kashaf al-Isticmar' and `Bandung', pages 149-163 in the book.
 - 13 Pages 257-260 of a preliminary draft of chapter X, paragraph `Kashaf al-Isticmar', pages 149-153 in the book.
 - 14 Pages 257-259 of a preliminary draft of chapter X, paragraph `Kashaf al-Isticmar', pages 149-153 in the book.
 - 15 Pages 261-278 of a preliminary draft of chapter X, paragraphs `Inhad al-Iqtisad' to (?), pages 155 to (?) in the book.
 - 16 Pages 51-57 of a preliminary draft of chapter X, paragraph `Safqa al-Asliha al-Sufyatiyya al-Tshakiyya', pages 166-168 in the book.
 - 17 Pages 46-62 of a preliminary draft of chapter X, paragraphs `Rafd Hilf Baghdad' and `Safqa al-Asliha al-Sufyatiyya al-Tshakiyya', pages 156-168 in the book.
 - 18 Pages 326-328 and 335-336 of a preliminary draft of chapter XII, paragraphs `Siyasa al-Dara'ib', `Arbah wa-l-Ujur,' and `al-Wataniyya', pages 235-238 in the book.
 - 19 Pages 65-95 of a preliminary draft of the the conclusion `Hatam', pages 215-241 in the book.
 - 20 Pages 1-14 of an unidentified manuscript.

- 21 of unidentified pages of several different manuscripts, both preliminary and final, of Tatawwur al-Haraka. (folder) Collection
- 22-28 Final draft of Tatawwur al-Haraka al-Wataniyya al-Misriyya, 1882-1956. 1956. 7 covers
- 22 Pages 14-53 of the final draft of chapters III and IV, pages 18-49 in the book.
- 23 Pages 54-94 of the final draft of chapters V and VI, paragraphs `Nahda Ijtimaciyya wa Adabiyya' to `al-Haraka al-cUmmaliyya,' pages 58-84 in the book.
- 24 Pages 144-169 of the final draft of chapter VII, pages 97-109 in the book.
- 25 Pages 144-155 of preliminary draft of chapter VII, paragraphs `Awamil Dacf' and `Hariq al-Qahira', pages 116-123 in the book.
- 26 Pages 186-219 of the final draft of chapter VIII, pages 114-128 of the book.
NB. Final version is heavily edited, with the result that many paragraphs have been scrapped.
- 27 Pages 220-244 of the final draft of chapter IX, pages 132-142 of the book.
- 28 Pages 1-27 of the final draft of chapter IX, pages 129-148 in the book.

Proofs

- 29 Printer's proofs of Tatawwur al-Haraka al-Wataniyya al-Misriyya, 1882-1956. Pages 225-235. 1 cover

Notes and documentation

- 30-53 Notes and documentation used for the writing of Tatawwur al-Haraka al-Wataniyya al-Misriyya, 1882-1956. 1956. 21 covers and 3 folders
- 30 Excerpts from the article entitled `Two Conferences, Two Papers.' November 1958. N.B. Handwritten excerpts by Shuhdi Atiyya. 5 pages.
- 31 Article in manuscript form entitled `On the Soviet Union': Hawl al-Ittihad al-Sufyati. 1957. 6 pages.
- 32 Untitled incomplete typescript. N.d.
- 33 Report written by the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce, with comment of Shuhdi Atiyya. N.d.
- 34 Untitled incomplete typescripts in Arabic and English. Nd.
- 35 Different parts of historical works on 19th century Egypt and European history, written in Arabic by unknown authors. N.d.
- 36 Manuscripts with notes concerning the Russian Revolution. N.d.
- 37 Photocopy of identity card of Shuhdi 'Atiyya al-Shafici. 1952.
- 38 Typewritten article/report on communism and pan-Arabism. 1953.
- 39 Bi-weekly report of the Industrial Bank, No. 16. November 1956.
- 40 Typescript on the the economic history of the July revolution between 1952-1957: al-Qism al-Thalith. Thawra Yulyu 1952-1957. 1957.

- 41 Draft for a law on housing initiated by Milad Hanna. 1 January 1957.
- 42 Part of a report written by Henry G. Abrey, Small Industry in Economic Development, Social Research vol. 18 No. 31, page 16 to 21. September 1951.
- 43 Report on foreign trade in Arabic. 7 pages.
- 44 Report on the economy of France. 3 pages.
- 45 Pamphlet issued by the Algerian Communist Party, Libert , Organe clandestin du Parti Communiste Alg.erien, No. 21. December 1957.
- 46 Documentary material collected for the writing of Tatawwur al-Haraka al-Wataniyya al-Misriyya, 1882-1956.
- 47 Notes for chapter V of Tatawwur al-Haraka al-Wataniyya al-Misriyya, 1882-1956.
- 48 Notes and statistics collected for the writing of Tatawwur al-Haraka al-Wataniyya al-Misriyya, 1882-1956.
- 49 Notes and rough draft on weakness of production in Egypt.
- 50 Notes and economic statistics.
- 51 Documentary material. (folder)
- 52 Documentary material. (folder)
- 53 Notes, drafts and documentary material. (folder)

Other publications

- 54-59 Notes and various drafts of the manuscript of Mawkib al-Bishriyya (Triumph of Humanity). N.d. 4 covers and 2 folders
 - 54 Draft of the manuscript. 64 pages.
 - 55 Notes made for Mawkib al-Bishriyya.
 - 56 Draft of the manuscript. 115 pages. (folder)
 - 57 Draft of the manuscript.
 - 58 Draft of the manuscript. 54 pages. N.d.
 - 59 Final and complete draft of Mawkib al-Bishriyya. (folder)
- 60-64 Different drafts of the manuscript of the collection of short stories Hara Umm al-Husaini. With other documents concerning the manuscript. N.d. 5 covers
 - 65 Draft of the manuscript of short story 'Aziza. N.d. 1 cover
 - 66 Manuscript of Awwal Thawra Fikriyya fi al-cAlam. N.d. 1 cover
NB. Second chapter heavily damaged and incomplete. 37 pages.
 - 67 Pamphlet written by Shuhdi 'Atiyya al-Shafici on Nasser: Sa-tabqa hadha al-rajul, hadha al-rajul bi-dhati. 1956. 1 cover
 - 68 Copy of Ahdafuna al-Wataniyya (Our National Goals), published by Shuhdi 'Atiyya al-Shafici and Muhammad cAbd al-Macbud al-Jubayli. 1945. 1 copy.

Trial

- 69 Documents on the trial against Shuhdi 'Atiyya al-Shafici, published by Rifcat al-Sacid under the title: al-Jarima. Wathaciq cilmiyya ighthiyal Shuhdi 'Atiyya (Crime. Scientific Documents on the murder of Shuhdi 'Atiyya). 1984. 1 copy.