

Anhang: Quelle B-2

Ahmed Gjamil V. Mazhara: Biographical notes of Essad-Bey

This is a transcript of a shortened version of the so-called Mazhara- (or Mazzara-) Paper. It has not been verified (I do not rely on it, don't believe in it). Here are written only the points of importance to the vita of Essad-Bey and his oeuvre. (WF)

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Fuhrmann, Wilfried (Hrsg.), Gesellschaftliche, ökonomische und politische Aspekte im Werk von Essad-Bey; Potsdam 2008, forthcoming, Anhang: Quelle B-2
(im Internet unter: www.essadbey.de)

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The transcript was made from two circulating copies; the copies of both letters are not complete – often there is the remark “...[page cut off]”.

The Mazhara-Paper has been translated into Russian by Nourida Ateshi and was published in Azerbaijan, in: *zerkalo.az* on 15th of September 2007. To me, this was the first time the letters have been published at all.

The mentioned

Omar (Umar Rolf von Ehrenfels) lived 1901 to 1980,

Alice Schulte, geb. Dette lived from 1868-7-15 to 1954-5-7.

WF.

A.

A letter from

Ahmed Gjamil V. Mazhara

Dar Khanoglu – Lido , Bordj-Kifan (Alger) on 30th of June 1975

to

Hutchinson Publishing Group, London

Att.: Mr. Anthony Whittome and Ms. Jenia Graman

B.

A letter from

A. Gjamil-Mazhara

Dar Khanoglu – Lido Bordj-Kifan Alger, June 20 1975

to

Omar Beg

A.

Dear Friends,

.... I am 60 years old and my energies have been exhausted in my travel-filled life , but nevertheless I owe you some important information.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

"Ali und Nino",, is filled with enormous historical-political-religious errors, linguistic misunderstandings, incongruities ...! The fault traces back to the first edition in 1937, fault of the final revision that I was supposed to make and that a trifling quarrel between Essad and me prevented. E.B. gave the manuscript to the editor Tal in Vienna as it was. All this in good time on his part. But Tal went on without any revision or correction. The original manuscript arrived to me in 1943 to give back to Ms. Pirna Andreae for an Italian edition.

- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

.... E.B...His cast of mind, influenced by a tormented childhood, directed him towards kindness, tolerance, generosity. Unhappy marriage, youth broken by the "morbus de Renold" and deadened by the isolation from the world Essad Bey died at the age of 37!

- 9.

To have led a dissolute life until selling the Copyright of a book for .. three gold watches...! It's the absolute limit of all lies. This book, either "Das Mädchen vom Goldenen Horn" or "Ali und Nino," I will add that this fable could have been imagined only through a vulgar sensational search toward a base, commercial end, so much that only certain unscrupulous Publishing houses could have agreed to it.

- 10.

.... "Ali & Nino" is entirely due to the magisterial pen of Essad, and the novel pivots on real facts (provided by myself in 1936) and relates to the heroic death of Ali Khan, son of Mazhar, son of Cemil Beg, son of Cagataf, son of Hudayar Khan-oglu, ancestor of the Ocak of my original family. A second fact, that inspired Essad, was the tragic history of love of my own parents, of which E.B. had been aware since his first trip to Libya. ...The two novels are at the base of a little quarrel.

- 11.

The Italian edition appeared under the original title of the manuscript: "Ali Khan" and under the real name of the author: Mohammed Essad Bey. The Italian edition of "Das Mädchen ..." appeared under the title "Asiadeh" (homonym of the author novel of the Frenchman Pierre Loti!) and under the Pseudonym Kurban Said. Both by Itlo, Rome 1944.

- 12.

The original title of "Ali Khan" is followed by a subtitle "The Lion of Shirvan" (Shirvan-Shir = Sirvan-Sir). He died in Shirvan and not in Gandja.

- 13.

Ali Khan was also the maternal uncle of Essad: two Sluzky sisters married, one an Arslan-oglu and one a Mazhar Khan-oglu. This in Baku 1905.

- 14.

15.

16

17.

Critical historian, Essad Bey is the author of 12 monographs and two novels... The unedited materials remaining in my possession concern the "Islamic Series", that we had planned and which must be understood:

"Mohammed" (Revision of the 1933 edition)

"Allah Is Great!" (Revision of the 1936 edition)

"Holy War" - Military apology for Islam (Authors: Mr. Essad-Bey & Kurban-Said Khanoglu)

"Jewish Action in Dar al-Islam"

"The Kologlan: from Samarkand to Tangiers" (E.B. & K.S.Kh.)

18.

In an ulterior "Social-ethnographic series" was produced my work "Sikhism, a hindu-muslim compromise" (the first edition of which appeared in 1944 in Rome).

19.

Many stories and anecdotes of E. B. are published in the reviews: "Al-Mustaquil", "Orient Press Record", "Al-Mihradjan".

20.

Essad Bey was Founding Member of the Union/Federation of Oriental Press in 1939, which became F.I.P.O. in 1946 in Geneva. In the context of F.I.P.O., the idea of the Essad Bey Foundation was born

21.

22.

.. here is the origin of the pseudonym ..:

23.

Istanbul 1936..... meeting in the hall of Kutuphane (The National Library).....

Essad had just returned from his trip to New York...

Essad conversed with a foreign visitor ... On this day, the vigil of the Muslim feast of the Sacrifice (=Kurban) I approached ...embraced Essad .., addressing myself to the stranger .. I wished him - "Kurban-Said" (=Happy Feast!).

The man ... a tourist ...dismissed himself from us .. ." ... to have met you, Mr. Kurban Said." he said to me. And it was thus that ... this became my joke-surname ...

B.

Dearest and most honorable Omar Beg,

...

....Essad died for a lack of medicine and of food! It`s terrible, but it`s the truth: he died of ... hunger!

...

[2] The Senator Amedeo Giannini, father of my first Italian wife, in saving him from extradition in 1941, did nothing but delay by only one year his terrible destiny.

...

...

As for the original plan/draft [project] for the novel, drawn up in cooperation in 1936 at the Kutuphane of Istanbul, it is still in Turkey.

....

Independent of the parental liaison that wanted the two Sluzky sisters to be married, one by an Arslan (Essad`s family), and the other by a Khanoglu (Mazhar), I met Essad for the first time in 1932 in Berlin, the day after his marriage, when I had to help in the representation of my adopted father Juoseph Efendi, friend of the Arslans.

...

...

.. that I am the only inheritor of the D.A. that are due to the fire of Essad-Beyand I possess the manuscripts and letters from Essad during the four last years of his life the notary Abderrahman Bunkheyla and the lawyer De Augostinis, the doctor Mohammed Husseini, etc. All these people knew Essad and were aware of our relations. Essad left no other inheritance than this D.A. apart from his honor, la droiture and the nobility of a true Muslim!20 years ago I had decided to create the "Essad Bey Foundation" in Positano as a Center of Physical Education for Children of Political Refugees.

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