Edwin Lewis Affair- 1882

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the University Libraries, AUB

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http://web.aub.edu.lb/libraries/asc/Pages/index.aspx
Descriptive Summary:

Call No: AA: 6.1
Topic: Edwin Lewis Affair
Abstract: Edwin Lewis was a professor of chemistry, geology and physics at the Syrian Protestant College (1870-1882). In July 1882, Dr. Lewis delivered a Commencement speech in which he praised Darwin's scientific method and his theory of evolution; the speech sparked heated debates on campus regarding the theory of evolution, its relation to religion, Creationism, and the place of science in society. Eventually, and under pressure, Lewis resigned from his post. Many students protested and signed a petition in support of Lewis: as a result, the College expelled thirteen students, while several professors and members of the Board of Managers submitted their resignations in solidarity with Lewis and the expelled students.
Language: English and Arabic

Administrative Information

Access Restriction: The Collection can be used within the premises of the Archives and Special Collections Department, Jafet Memorial Library, American University of Beirut.
Photocopying Restriction: No photocopying restriction except for fragile material.
Preferred Citation: AA:- Box no. – File no.-: title-, American University of Beirut/Library Archives.

Scope and Content

This collection contains materials that document the Edwin Lewis-Darwin Affair at the Syrian Protestant College in 1882, and the wave of protests and intense debates that followed between various groups at the University, including students, Faculty and Administration... The controversy, and the subsequent debate, were the first of their kind at an academic institution in the Arab region; Edwin Lewis’ commencement speech, in which he praised Darwin’s methods, sparked a serious discussion over the role of religion and science in modern societies in general, and in education in the Arab World in particular. The crisis also affected the choice of the language of instruction at the University. This collection includes documents related to biographical information about Lewis, articles authored by and about him, petitions, reports and photos compiled from different archival materials available at the Archives department at the American University of Beirut.

Arrangement

The documents related to the Edwin Lewis affair are arranged in the following series:

Series I: Edwin Lewis: Biography, Articles and printed materials about the Edwin Lewis affair
Series II: The administration’s reaction regarding the Edwin Lewis affair
Series III: The Faculty and Board of Manager’s reaction to the Edwin Lewis affair
Series IV: Students’ reaction to the Edwin Lewis affair
Subject Headings

Syrian Protestant College -- history
Evolution -- Study and teaching -- Lebanon
Student movements -- Lebanon
Religion and science -- Lebanon
Student strikes -- Lebanon -- Beirut -- History
American University of Beirut -- Students -- History
Student strikes -- Lebanon -- Beirut -- History
Petitions -- Lebanon
Religion and Science

Container List

Series I: Edwin Lewis: Biography and General Information.

AUBites Section AA: 6.1.Folder: Edwin Lewis.

File1: Biography and articles about Edwin Lewis
- Folder 1:
  o Biography and Addresses
- Folder 2:
  o Chemistry Textbook in Arabic Written by Dr. Lewis One Hundred Years Ago, AUB Bulletin v.23, n.7, Monday January 12, 1981. (Two copies)
  o الزيباوي، محمود، مئوية شفيق جحا في الجامعة الأميريكية: التدوين الموسيقي وتطريز الآذان في صناعة الألحان، جريدة النهار. April 24, 2012
- Folder 3:
  o Haddad, Farid, Wages, Prices and Coinage of 100 Years Ago, Al-Kulliyah, no.4, 1994, p.29.

File2: Address, Reports, Articles
- Folder 1:
  o Knowledge, Science and Wisdom, address by Dr. Edwin Lewis, Commencement July 19, 1992.
- Folder 2:
- Folder 3:
  o جرداق، منصور، أول ثورة مدرسية في العالم العربي، أوراق لبنانية. 1956
  o يزبك، يوسف إبراهيم، معركة ال الكفر بين المبشرين في الكلية الأميريكية، 1956.
- Folder 4:
  o Dr. Lewis’ resignation as reported by Dr. Daniel Bliss in “Annual Reports of the Board of Managers of the Syrian Protestant College,” 1883, pp.69-76; and as it appears in the “Minutes of General Faculty, 1867-1887.”
- Folder 5:
  o Dr. Lewis’ address, Al-Muqtataf, July 18, 1882 (Arabic copy).
Responses to Dr. Lewis’ address, Al-Muqtatf, 1882-1883 (In Arabic).

File 3: Books and articles on the Edwin Lewis Affair, Correspondence

- Folder 1:
- Folder 2:
  - Haddad, Farid. “Darwin et la crise de 1882 dans l’enseignement au Liban.” (Source and date unknown)
- Folder 3:
- Folder 4:
  - الخطيب، أحمد شفيق، “تأثير أزمة الأستاذ لويس في اختيار لغة التدريس،” ألمعاجم المتعددة الثنائية، 1992
- Folder 5:
  - Duplicate articles from File 2
- Folder 6:
  - The Issue of Edwin Lewis, an article translated by Olga Hajjar. (Provenance and date unknown)
- Folder 7:
  - Miscellaneous duplicates

Series II: Administration’s Reaction

Daniel Bliss Section: AA: 2.3.1

- Box 9: File 4: Correspondence with various coordinates, 1882-1888; Correspondence with Richard W. Brigstocke concerning his resignation as a consequence of Darwin Issue, 3 March 1883.
- Box 11: File 13: رسائل إلى دانيال بلس من الدكتور بشارة زلزل
- Box 12: Diaries and Autographs, 1852-1913 -- Diaries: 1882 (Wednesday July 18, 1882)
Series III: Faculty and Board of Managers Reaction

Minutes Section: AA: 2.1.1; AA: 2.1.2; AA: 3.4.2
- Minutes of the Board of Trustees: AA: 2.1.0, Box3: Book II 1875-1895, P. 52, Dr. Lewis’ Letter to the Board, December 1882.
- Minutes of the Board of Managers: AA: 2.1.2: Box 1, Record of the Board of Managers of the Syrian Protestant College:
  - P. 156: Resignation of Dr. Lewis, Acceptance.
- Minutes of the Faculty: AA: 3.4.2: Box1: File: 1867-1887; P. 415 (Resignation of Dr. Lewis); Pp. 420-422 (Communication from the board of Managers, Resignation of Dr. Cornelius Van Dyck, 40 students suspended).

Annual Reports Section: CAP
- Annual Report 1866/67-1901/02 p. 69. A Statement by the President of the Board of Managers 1883; P. 247: Knowledge, Science and Wisdom Dr. Edwin Lewis Address.
- Correspondence of Syrian Protestant College Section: AA: 2.2
  - Box1: File2: Letters from Dr. Cornelius Van Dyck 1869, 1880-1882 (Resignation Letter, December 18th 1882).

Series IV: Students’ Reaction.
- Faculty Minutes Section: AA: 3.4.2:
  - Box1: 1867-1887, pp. 424-425 (Petition of Medical students, Apology of the suspended students to the Board of.
- Students 1880s-1890s Section: AA: 4.3.1
  - Box1: File3: Dr. Edwin Lewis case: Several student petitions sent to the board of managers including their apology (1882).
  - Box2: An oversize student petition to the Board of Managers explaining the reason for their actions and protests in light of the Lewis affair, and an apology by some students on verso.

Related Material

Articles:

المقتطف: الجزء الثاني-الجزء التاسع السنة السابعة
- أوراق لبنانية- يوسف إبراهيم بريك المجلد 2 الجزء الحادي عشر – تشرين الثاني 1965
• Azama al-sani 1882 وخطاب أدوين لويس في الكلية السورية


Books:


• خوري dây خطب الأحتفالات السنوية للمدرسة الكلية السورية الأنجيلية. الجامعة الأميركية في بيروت. 1992.

Photos:

• Original faculty of the Syrian Protestant College, 1870-1874], Ph-AUB: 1870(2):1-4:31
• Faculty and staff, 1901-1902, Ph: SPC-AUB: 1901-1902(1):1-7:32
• Faculty and staff, 1901-1902, Ph: SPC-AUB: 1901-1902(2):1-4:32
• SPC American Staff, 1903, Ph: SPC-AUB: 1903(4):1-2:33
• The stereoscopic views include Preparatory students, College Hall, Daniel Bliss at Marquand House, Dodge Hall and Medical Building, ph:SPC-AUB:1882(01):1-9:31