

Guide to the "Alī Kassār Papers

MS 1875



compiled by Zenia Alhendi Alattar

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1875

CREATOR: Kassār, 'Alī, 1887-1957

TITLE: 'Alī Kassār papers

DATES: 1918-2004

BULK DATES: 1918-1938

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 7 linear feet

LANGUAGE: The entire collection is in Arabic.

SUMMARY: The papers are primarily comprised of text and scores from Egyptian comedy theater productions and correspondence regarding Kassār's professional career.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1875>

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased by the Near East curator from Leila Bookshop, Cairo, Egypt, 2005.

Conditions Governing Access

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Preferred Citation

'Alī Kassār Papers (MS 1875). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

'Ali Kassār was born on June 13, 1887, in Cairo's old traditional neighborhood of al Sayyidah Zaynab. His original name was 'Ali Khalil Salim Ibrahim. At the beginning of his career in 1908, he worked for al-Zaynabi Acting Company. In 1916 he founded his first troupe under his own name at the Casino de Paris theater located in 'Imad al Din street. He played his very famous character "Uthman al-Barbari" for the first time in 1916 in the play entitled, "Hasan Abu 'Ali Sarak al-Mi'zah." He used this character in many of his plays to criticize the political situation in Egypt. He also worked with famous composers, including Sayyid Darwish, from 1919 until the latter's death in 1923. After that he worked with Zakariya Ahmad from 1924 to 1929. In 1950 he dismissed his band and started working for the public theater that was founded and managed by the government of Egypt.

'Ali Kassār is considered the founder of comedy theater not only in Egypt, but in the Arab world. He worked in the theater for about fifty years and performed in about thirty movies. He passed away on January 15, 1957, at al-Qasr al-'Ayni Hospital in Cairo.

Scope and Contents

The Papers are primarily comprised of text and scores from Egyptian comedy theater productions and correspondence regarding Kassār's professional career.

Arrangement

Arranged in five series: I. Plays: Scores and text, 1918-1938. II. Plays: Scores only, 1937, n.d. III. Plays: Text only, n.d. IV. Professional and personal, 1930-2003, n.d. V. Videos, 2004, n.d.

Collection Contents

Series I: Plays: Scores and Text, 1918-1938

The series is arranged chronologically and within year alphabetically by author/translator, and within author/translator alphabetically by title. Authors/translators who are unknown are placed at the end of files for specific years. Plays with no dates are arranged at the end of the series alphabetically by author/translator. The series includes plays in which Kassār acted but did not write, and plays he both wrote and in which he acted. Folder titles include the name of the author/translator and the title of the play in quotation marks. Each file is comprised of text and a musical score.

1918

Sidqi, Amin

b. 1, f. 1 "Ism allah 'alayh"

b. 1, f. 2 "Mafish kidah"

1919

Sidqi, Amin

b. 1, f. 3 "Filfil"

b. 1, f. 4 "Marhab"

b. 1, f. 5 "Wilissa"

1920

Sidqi, Amin

b. 1, f. 6 "Ahlalum"

b. 1, f. 7 "Fihmuh"

b. 1, f. 8 "Rahit 'alayk"

1921

b. 1, f. 9 Sidqi, Amin, "Sit al-kul"

1922

b. 2, f. 10 Kamil, 'abd al-hamid, "Alhilal"

b. 2, f. 11 Sidqi, Amin, "Um arba'a wa ba'in"

1923

b. 2, f. 12 Sidqi, Amin, "Al-intikhabat"

1924

Sidqi, Amin

b. 2, f. 13 "Dawlah al-haz"

1924 > Sidqi, Amin (continued)

b. 2, f. 14	"Idini 'aqlak"
1925	
b. 2, f. 15	Khayri, badi', "Al-ghul"
b. 2, f. 16	al-Sayyid, Hamid, "Al-tanburah"
b. 2, f. 17	Sidqi, Amin, "Uthman haykhush dunyah"
b. 2, f. 18	Author/translator unknown, "Ayna al-raja"
1926	
b. 3, f. 19	al-Babili, Ahmad, "28 yawm"
b. 3, f. 20	Hamid, Badi', "Abu zu'ayzi"
	al-Sayyid, Hamid
b. 3, f. 21	"Al-karnaval"
b. 3, f. 22	"Nadi al-samar"
1927	
b. 3, f. 23	Hamid, Badi', "Malikat al-jamal"
b. 3, f. 24	Ibrahim, Zaki, "Ibn far'un"
b. 3, f. 25	Kassār, 'Alī, "Al-matami"
b. 3, f. 26	Khayri, Badi', "Hilm wala 'ilm"
	al-Sayyid, Hamid
b. 4, f. 27	"Al-sufur"
b. 4, f. 28	"Qafashtak"
b. 4, f. 29	Author/translator unknown, "Al-prins al-saghir"
1928	
	Hamid, Badi'
b. 4, f. 30	"Nasiha 'ala al-hamish"
b. 4, f. 31	"Al-sikritayr"
	Khayri, Badi'
b. 4, f. 32	"Ghayat al-muna"
b. 4, f. 33	"Al-kunuz"
b. 4, f. 34	"Qadi al-garam"
	al-Sayyid, Hamid

1928 > al-Sayyid, Hamid (continued)

- b. 5, f. 35 "Al-sahir abu fasadah"
 b. 5, f. 36 "Taqiyat al-ikhfah"
 b. 5, f. 37 Wali, Sayyid, "Ana 'arif wa inta 'arif"

1929

- b. 5, f. 38 Khayri, Badi', "Mafish minha"
 al-Sayyid, Hamid
 b. 5, f. 39 "Ibn al-umbashi"
 b. 5, f. 40 "Tahunit al-hawa"
 b. 5, f. 41 Author/translator unknown, "Min fihum"

1930

- b. 5, f. 42 Fawzi, Ibrahim, "Al-amirah al-majhulah"
 al-Sayyid, Hamid
 b. 5, f. 43 "Ana wa ibn 'ammi"
 b. 5, f. 44 "Fatih baghdad"
 b. 5, f. 45 Sidqi, Amin, "Al-dam yihin"
 b. 5, f. 46 Author/translator unknown, "Bint far'un"

1931

- b. 6, f. 47 Ibrahim, Zaki and Zaki al-sayyid, Ahmad, "Amer ibn al 'as"
 Shikri, muhammad
 b. 6, f. 48 "Habayib"
 b. 6, f. 49 "Saraq al-sunduq ya muhammad"
 Sidqi, Amin
 b. 6, f. 50 "Al-gharjariyah"
 b. 6, f. 51 "Hamatak tihibak"
 b. 6, f. 52 Zaki al-sayyid, Ahammad, "Al-madinah al-mashurah"

1932

- b. 6, f. 53 Kassār, 'Alī, "Al-halawani"
 b. 6, f. 54 Khayri, Badi', "Kalam al-umara' tamam"
 b. 6, f. 55 Shikri, muhammad, "Al-shayatin"
 b. 6, f. 56 Sidqi, Amin, "Ana lak wa inta liya"

1932 (continued)

b. 6, f. 57 Author/translator unknown, "Itla' fiha"

1933

b. 6, f. 58 Hadad, Al-farid, "Barghut afandi"

b. 6, f. 59 al-Sayyid, Hamid, "Fuq linafsak"

b. 7, f. 60 Shikri, muhammad, "Zaqin al-basha"

Author/translator unknown

b. 7, f. 61 "Al-barbari al tayih"

b. 7, f. 62 "Bis bis"

b. 7, f. 63 "Al-janayni"

1934

b. 7, f. 64 Ibrahim, Zaki, "Fawanis al gharam"

Khayri, Badi'

b. 7, f. 65 "Hanit"

b. 7, f. 66 "Ya bint al- ayh"

b. 7, f. 67 Shikri, muhammad, "Bint al-shahat"

b. 7, f. 68 Author/translator unknown, "Halak bumbay"

1935

b. 7, f. 69 Ibrahim, Zaki, "Kalimah fi widnak"

b. 7, f. 70 Ibrahim, Zaki & Al-sayyid, Hamid, "Al-dunya bikhayr"

b. 7, f. 71 Kassār, 'Alī, "Al-dar aman"

1936

b. 7, f. 72 Shikri, muhammad, "Hayat al-barbari"

1938

b. 7, f. 73 Shikri, muhammad, "Al-birima dunuh"

n.d.

Kassār, 'Alī

b. 8, f. 74 "Al-zawja al-salihah"

b. 8, f. 75 "Ila al-amam"

b. 8, f. 76 "Kan ya makan"

b. 8, f. 77 Mursi, 'Abd al-halim, "'Aja'b al-zaman"

Mursi, 'Abd al-halim, "'Aja'b al-zaman" (continued)

Sidqi, Amin

b. 8, f. 78 "Bariah min al-rigalah"

b. 8, f. 79 "Sirano"

Author/translator unknown

b. 9, f. 80 "Abu nawas"

b. 9, f. 81 "Al-amirah al-hindiyah"

b. 9, f. 82 "'Aris al-hana"

b. 9, f. 83 "Bita' al-zayt"

b. 9, f. 84 "Huwa inta"

b. 9, f. 85 "'lu'a tibasbas"

b. 9, f. 86 "Khatam al-malayk"

b. 9, f. 87 "Misir al-hay"

b. 9, f. 88 "Sah al-nawm"

b. 9, f. 89 "Al-sayyad"

b. 9, f. 90 "Shaykh al-balad"

b. 9, f. 91 "Al-sindibad al-bahri"

b. 9, f. 92 "Al-ustadh halambuhah"

b. 9, f. 93 "Ya walid al-ayh"

b. 9, f. 94 "Zal al-shar"

Series II: Plays: Scores Only, 1937, undated

The series is arranged alphabetically by composer/translator, and within composer/translator, alphabetically by title. Scores for which the composer/translator are unknown are arranged at the end of the series, alphabetically by title. The files consist of scores only.

Ahmad, Zakariya		
b. 10, f. 1	"Abu shaduf"	undated
b. 10, f. 2	"Bawabit juha"	undated
b. 10, f. 3	"Imbratur zifti"	undated
b. 10, f. 4	"Malikat al-ghabah	undated
b. 10, f. 5	Darwish, sayyid, "Al-barbari fi al-jaysh"	undated
Muhammad zaki ibrahim, Tamsir		
b. 10, f. 6	"Al-bakashah"	1937
b. 10, f. 7	"Kulina fi al-hawa"	1937
b. 10, f. 8	Sidqi, Amin, "Ifrit al-niswan"	undated
Composer/translator unknown		
b. 10, f. 9	"Bayt al-natash"	undated
b. 10, f. 10	"Khayr inshallah"	undated
b. 10, f. 11	"Shahir al-'asal"	undated
b. 10, f. 12	"Al-shaykh 'uthman"	undated
b. 10, f. 13	"Zabayin jahannam"	undated

Series III: Plays: Text Only

The series is arranged alphabetically by title. Authors/translators and years of creation are unknown. The files consist only of text.

b. 11, f. 1	"Abu al-nawm"	undated
b. 11, f. 2	"Alfu layla"	undated
b. 11, f. 3	"Ajayib"	undated
b. 11, f. 4	"Badir al-budur"	undated
b. 11, f. 5	"Al-barbari fi al-hind"	undated
b. 11, f. 6	"Bashayir al-sa'd"	undated
b. 11, f. 7	"Al-bata al-'ajibah"	undated
b. 11, f. 8	"Fi al-mishmish"	undated
b. 11, f. 9	"Halal 'alayk"	undated
b. 11, f. 10	"Al-hamshari"	undated
b. 11, f. 11	"Haris al-qasir"	undated
b. 12, f. 12	"Isti'rad al-amir kharub"	undated
b. 12, f. 13	"Isti'rad : jawz umi,al-sayatin,qatir al-nada"	undated
b. 12, f. 14	"Kaptin hul"	undated
b. 12, f. 15	"Khalli balak"	undated
b. 12, f. 16	"Al-misamih karim"	undated
b. 12, f. 17	"Musta'jil jidan"	undated
b. 12, f. 18	"Sahih ya tayzah"	undated
b. 12, f. 19	"Shindi bindi"	undated
b. 12, f. 20	"42 sit"	undated
b. 12, f. 21	"Su' tafahum"	undated
b. 12, f. 22	"Tab fawwat"	undated
b. 12, f. 23	"Al-warith"	undated
b. 12, f. 24	"Ya sidi ya sidi"	undated
b. 12, f. 25	"Zahrit al khabazah"	undated

Series IV: Professional and Personal, 1930-2003

b. 13, f. 1	Correspondence [mostly re: fundraising]	1943-1989, undated
b. 13, f. 2	Contracts [re: hiring actors, renting theaters, etc.]	1934-1948
b. 13, f. 3	Copyright [correspondence from translators]	1930-1938
b. 13, f. 4	Photographs	undated
	Books about Kassār	
b. 13, f. 5	Ali al-kassar fi zaman 'imad al-din [by Majid al-kassar]	2003
b. 13, f. 6	Barbari masir al-wahid [by Majid al-kassar]	undated

Series V: Videos, 2004, undated

The series is comprised of videos of films in which 'Alī Kassār acted. They are arranged alphabetically by title.

Original audiovisual materials, as well as preservation and duplicating masters, may not be played. Researchers must consult use copies, or if none exist must pay for a use copy, which is retained by the repository. Researchers wishing to obtain an additional copy for their personal use should consult Copying Services information on the Manuscripts and Archives web site.

Copies of commercially produced audiovisual materials in this series cannot be made for researcher use outside of the repository.

b. 14, f. 1	'Ala qad lihafak [PAL]	undated
b. 14, f. 2	Alfi laylah wa laylah [PAL]	2004
b. 14, f. 3	Nur al -din wa al-baharah al thalathah [PAL]	2004
b. 14, f. 4	Sallifni 3 junayh [PAL]	2004

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Actors -- Egypt

Names

Kassār, 'Alī, 1887-1957