

**A DICTIONARY
OF MODERN TECHNICAL
TERMS**

ARABIC - ENGLISH

BY

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INTRODUCTION

One of the main problems which face foreign students in their quest of the Arabic language is the dearth of dictionaries, whether Arabic-English or English-Arabic. Available dictionaries are either out-of-date or completely inadequate. The good ones are the product of the nineteenth and early twentieth century, and contain nothing of the hundreds and even thousands of new terms and expressions which have come into the language, either by coining or by arabization, as a result of the tremendous development which has overtaken the Arab world in almost every field of intellectual endeavour and scientific and industrial development. Of the better and available Arabic-English dictionaries, Lane's 1 was published in 1863, Steingass' 2 in 1884, Wortabet's 3 in 1888, Kassab's 4 in 1888, Salmone's 5 in 1890, and Hava's 6 in 1899. Of the English-Arabic, Badger's 7 was published in 1881, Wortabet's 8 in 1883, Saadeh's 9 in 1911, Elias' 10 in 1913, the American Press **Centennial English-Arabic Dictionary** 11 in 1926, and Mazhar's 12 in the early fifties

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1. Edward William Lane, **An Arabic-English Lexicon**, Part 1 — Part 5, London 1863-1874; Part 6 — Part 8 by Stanley Lane Poole, London 1877-1893.
 2. Francis Joseph Steingass, **The Student's Arabic-English Dictionary**, London 1884.
 3. William Thomson Wortabet, **Arabic-English Dictionary**, Cairo 1888.
 4. Salim Kassab, **Arabic and English Dictionary**, Beirut 1888.
 5. Habib Anthony Salmoné, **An Arabic-English Dictionary on a New System** 2 vols., London 1890.
 6. Rev. Fr. J.G. Hava, **Arabic-English Dictionary**, Beirut 1899.
 7. George Percy Badger, **An English-Arabic Lexicon**, London 1881.
 8. John Wortabet & H. Porter, **English-Arabic & Arabic-English Dictionary**, Cairo 1883.
 9. Khalil Saadeh, **Saadeh's Dictionary**, 2 vols., Cairo 1911.
 10. Elias Antoon Elias, **Elias' Modern Dictionary: English-Arabic**, Cairo 1913.
 11. Khalil Saad, Paul Erdman, Asa'ad Kheirallah, **Centennial English-Arabic Dictionary**, Beirut 1926.
 12. Ismail Mazhar, comp., **al-Nahda Dictionary: English-Arabic**, 2 vols., Cairo.

of the present century. Specialized glossaries and dictionaries tried to fill the obvious gaps. Penrice's glossary of the Koran 13 appeared in 1873, Sharaf's medical dictionary 14 in 1926, Malouf's zoological dictionary 15 in 1932, and his astronomical glossary 16 in 1935, Lewis' handbook of diplomatic and political Arabic 17 in 1947, Hamau'i's diplomatic terms 18 in 1949, and Abdulla's sociological vocabulary 19 in 1953.

These valiant attempts, however, have not solved the problem. Students are still searching for an adequate lexical aid, and scholars are still endeavouring to meet the crying need. A good lexicon, based not only on medieval Arabic works but also on more recent usage, is perhaps the most important single work which should claim the attention of Arabic scholars, whether native or foreign.

Obviously the undertaking cannot be successfully carried out by one individual. It must be a cooperative effort, enlisting the talents of the largest possible number of specialists. **Webster's New International Dictionary**, for example, represents not only the experience of a century of lexicography, but also the labours of no less than two hundred and six special editors, not to mention the batteries of secretaries and readers who are constantly on the job of collecting and filing new usages and new words.

The present work represents a courageous individual effort by one who has confronted the difficulty during a period extending over one decade spent in the teaching of Arabic to foreign students. While the work does not take the place of a dictionary, it does offer the student a collection of words, technical terms, and idioms which have gained currency during the last forty odd years. It consists of fifteen chapters covering Koranic verses, Prophetic traditions, proverbs, maxims and wise sayings both in verse and prose, and what is more important and needed, political and diplomatic terms, terms dealing with the petroleum industry, military, naval, and aeronautical terms, educational and psychological terms, scien-

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13. John Penrice, **A Dictionary & Glossary of the Koran**, London 1873.
 14. Mohanīmad Sharaf, **An English-Arabic Dictionary of Medicine**, Cairo 1926.
 15. Amin Malouf, **Mu'jam al-Hayawan**, Cairo 1935.
 16. Amin Malouf, **al-Mu'jam al-Falaki**, Cairo 1935.
 17. Bernard Lewis, **A Handbook of Diplomatic & Political Arabic**, London 1947.
 18. Mamun al-Hamaui **Diplomatic Term: English-Arabic**, Damascus 1949.
 19. Abdelwahab W. Abdulla, **Sociological Vocablary**, Khartoum 1953.

tific terms used in physics, chemistry, geology, medicine, electricity, mathematics, biology, and a complete list of military ranks in use in the various Arab states.

Specialists may find some of the lists incomplete, others perhaps superfluous and unnecessary. By and large, however, the work is a definite service to all foreign students of Arabic as well as foreign students of English. Its best parts appear in chapters V-XII and XIV-XV.

The author deserves the gratitude of all interested persons, scholars and laymen alike, not only for the tremendous efforts he had spent in the collection and translation of his material but also for emphasizing in a concrete manner the great need for a modern dictionary, whether Arabic-English or English-Arabic, worthy of the name. His attempt, limited as it may be, is that of a pioneer, aware of the problems and the risks, who has the courage to confront them in a practical way. Many shall be helped by this contribution, learning both from his accomplishments and shortcomings. In the second and succeeding editions, it is hoped that the author would explain the bases on which he made his selections, concentrate more on the technical than on the literary, and improve the arrangement of the entire collection. But it is easier to criticise than to produce. The Arabs have expressed the idea superbly in the verse:

لا يعرف الشوقَ إلا من يكابدهُ ولا الصبابةَ إلا من يعانيتها

No one knows what longing means except he who has felt its pangs,
Nor what love entails save the love-lorn.

As one who has himself experienced the difficulties, I wish to congratulate Mr. Constantine Theodory on his courageous undertaking and urge him to proceed immediately with his plans for a revised and improved edition of the work.

Nabih Amin Faris

American University of Beirut,
October 31, 1959

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احمد السعدي

الفريد

في المصطلحات الحديثة

عربي - انكليزي



تأليف

سطنطين ثوروري

مؤلف كتاب « بين مصر وفلسطين »
« بين الأسماء والحريه » الخ

قدم لك بالعربي: الاستاذ اسماعيل مظهر
قدم لك بالانكليزية: الدكتور نبيه أمين فارس

الطبعة الأولى

بيروت ١٩٥٩

مطبعة دار الكتب - بيروت

الفريد

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