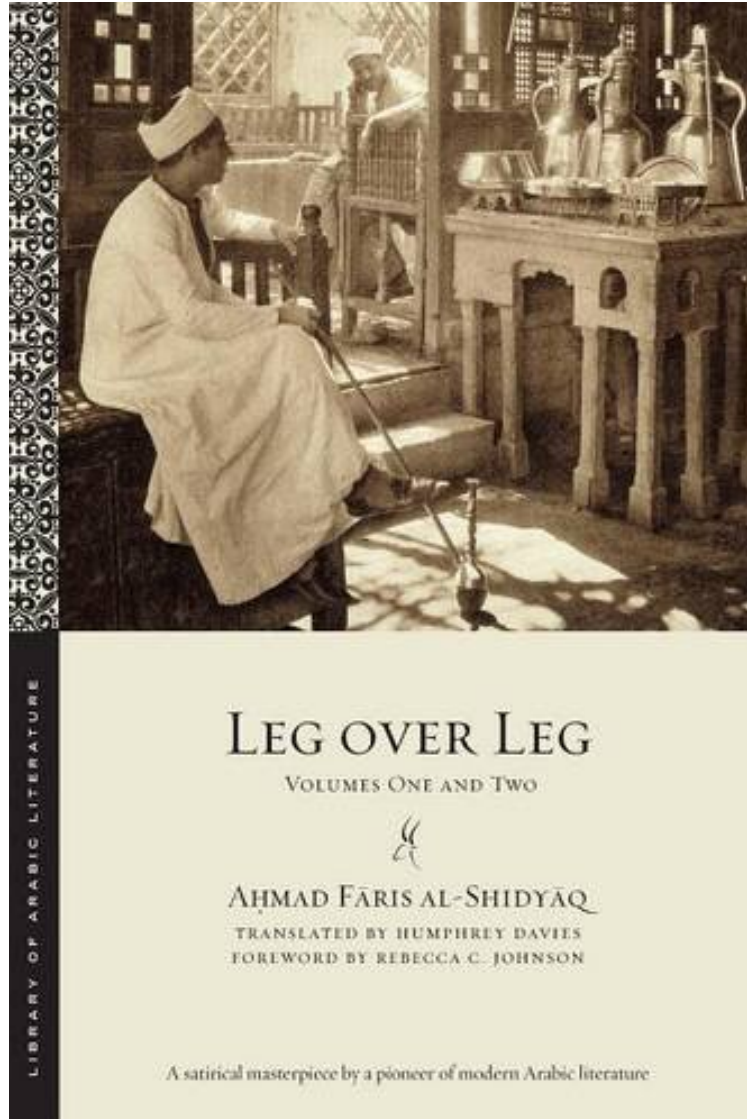


(Library ebook) Leg over Leg: Volumes One and Two (Library of Arabic Literature)

Leg over Leg: Volumes One and Two (Library of Arabic Literature)

Ahmad Faris al-Shidyaq

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#427848 in Books al Shidyaq Ahmad Faris 2015-10-15 2015-10-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.25 x 1.35 x 5.50l, 1.34 #File Name: 1479800724528 pages Leg over Leg Volumes One and Two Library of Arabic Literature | File size: 20.Mb

Ahmad Faris al-Shidyaq : Leg over Leg: Volumes One and Two (Library of Arabic Literature) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Leg over Leg: Volumes One and Two (Library of Arabic Literature):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Satirical Masterpiece from the Arabic World By Paul Drexler For those who love language, this nineteenth-century masterpiece of Arabic literature is a must. Its a rambunctious,

rollicking, rhyming, linguistic farce, a mixture of Rabelais and Tristram Shandy, a whimsical and poetical satire. Full of interruptions and digressions, exegetical jokes, interminable lists of archaic vocabulary, citations, elaborations and not least, sheer raunchiness. The title refers to love-making, or to a traveler putting one foot in front of the other, or even to the relaxed posture of the armchair lexicographer. The author, Ahmad Faris al-Shidyq, was a Lebanese Maronite who had lived in the East and the West, and was ideally suited to introduce modernism, while simultaneously paying homage to the grammatical texts and authors of classical Arabic literature. The translation is nothing less than heroic.

Leg over Leg recounts the life, from birth to middle age, of the Fariyaq, alter ego of Ahmad Faris al-Shidyaq, a pivotal figure in the intellectual and literary history of the modern Arab world. The always edifying and often hilarious adventures of the Fariyaq, as he moves from his native Lebanon to Egypt, Malta, Tunis, England, and France, provide the author with grist for wide-ranging discussions of the intellectual and social issues of his time, including the ignorance and corruption of the Lebanese religious and secular establishments, freedom of conscience, women's rights, sexual relationships between men and women, the manners and customs of Europeans and Middle Easterners, and the differences between contemporary European and Arabic literatures, all the while celebrating the genius and beauty of the classical Arabic language. Volumes One and Two follow the hapless Fariyaq through his youth and early education, his misadventures among the monks of Mount Lebanon, his flight to the Egypt of Muhammad 'Ali, and his subsequent employment with the first Arabic daily newspaper during which time he suffers a number of diseases that parallel his progress in the sciences of Arabic grammar, and engages in amusing digressions on the table manners of the Druze, young love, snow, and the scandals of the early papacy. This first book also sees the list of locations in Hell, types of medieval glue, instruments of torture, stars and pre-Islamic idols come into its own as a signature device of the work. Akin to Sterne and Rabelais in his satirical outlook and technical inventiveness, al-Shidyaq produced in Leg Over Leg a work that is unique and unclassifiable. It was initially widely condemned for its attacks on authority, its religious skepticism, and its obscenity, and later editions were often abridged. This is the first complete English translation of this groundbreaking work.

"Its contemporaneity is astonishing... It would be doing Leg Over Leg a massive disservice to not make it clear how funny it is. This is a book that for all its challenges, all its insight into humanity, all its place in history, had me regularly laughing out loud." -Music and Literature "We're having a particularly good season for literary discoveries from the past, with recent publications of Volumes 1 and 2 of Ahmad Faris al-Shidyaq's 'Leg Over Leg' (1855)..." -Martin Riker, New York Times Book "...Leg Over Leg by the Lebanese intellectual Ahmad Faris al-Shidyaq, [has] long been held to be untranslatable and so [is] appearing, in [its] entirety, in English for the first time." -Lydia Wilson, Times Literary Supplement "Al-Shidyaq, born in Lebanon in the early years of the nineteenth century, was a Zelig of the Arabic literary world, and his Leg Over Leg is a bawdy, hilarious, epically word-obsessed, and unclassifiable book, which has never been translated into English before" -Sal Robinson, Moby Lives "It is not too early to state that the publication of this work, in this edition, is a game-changer. This is a foundational work of modern Arabic literature and its publication in English is long overdue but given how it is presented here, it was perhaps worth the wait. This edition, with helpful endnotes, the original Arabic text, and in a translation that both reads well and appears to closely mirror the original, seems, in almost every way, ideal I don't think I'm exaggerating when I say that this is the most important literary publication of a translation into English, in terms of literary history and our understanding of it, in years." -The Complete "Humphrey Davies' masterful translation makes accessible this unique and fascinating work, deserving of wider recognition and study [] The translation adroitly and sympathetically captures the linguistic exuberance and literary inventiveness of the original." -Banipal Magazine "Humphrey Davies' translation, published in four dual-language volumes, is a triumph. He skillfully renders punning, rhyming prose without breaking the spell Leg Over Leg stands out for both its stylistic brazenness and the excellence of the translation. With this bilingual edition, the Library of Arabic Literature helps fill a large cultural gap and alters our view of Arabic literature and the formal trajectory of the novel outside the West. Any reader for whom the term world literature is more than an empty platitude must read Humphrey Davies' translation." -John Yargo, Los Angeles of Books "The heroic achievement of award-winning translator Humphrey Davies marks the first ever English translation of this pivotal work. An accessible, informative, and highly entertaining read." -Banipal Magazine

About the Author: Ahmad Faris al-Shidyaq (1805 or 1806-1887) was a foundational figure in modern Arabic literature. Born to a prominent Maronite family in Lebanon, al-Shidyaq was a pioneering publisher, poet, essayist, lexicographer and translator. Known as "the father of Arabic journalism," al-Shidyaq played a major role in reviving and modernizing the Arabic language. Humphrey Davies is an award-winning translator of some twenty works of modern Arabic literature, among them Alaa Al-Aswany's *The Yacoubian Building*, four novels by Elias Khoury, including *Gate of the Sun*, and Ahmad Faris al-Shidyaq's *Leg over Leg*. He has also made a critical edition, translation, and lexicon of the Ottoman-period Hazz al-quhuf bi-sharh qasid Abi Shaduf (*Brains Confounded by the Ode of Abu Shaduf Expounded*) by Yusuf al-Shirbini and compiled with a colleague an anthology entitled *Al-ammiyyah al-misriyyah al-maktubah: mukhtar*

min 1400 ila 2009 (Egyptian Colloquial Writing: selections from 1400 to 2009). He read Arabic at the University of Cambridge, received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley, and, previous to undertaking his first translation in 2003, worked for social development and research organizations in Egypt, Tunisia, Palestine, and Sudan. He is affiliated with the American University in Cairo, where he lives.