Arab-American Literature:
A small sampling including many self-published chapbooks.

NOTE: Only a few items are illustrated here, but all are photographed on our website.

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The publisher, Shakir Sulayman, was a Syrian immigrant. He spelled his name variously in English, in this case rendering it more familiar to an American audience.

2. Abi-Karam, Andrea. it is a tight little world that we live in and i am [trapped here]. Oakland: Mess Editions, 2014. 46p. in black illustrated wraps bound with red string, in fine condition. (#319164) $30.00
Chapbook by the trans Arab-American poet on themes of radical politics, patriarchy, and life in Oakland.

Collection of poems by a Lebanon-born engineer.

Palestinian American author and activist.

Etel Adnan was a celebrated Lebanese-American poet, artist and journalist born in Beirut of a Christian Greek mother and a Muslim Syrian father.

Adonis was the pen-name of modernist Syrian poet Ali Ahmad Said Esber, who was a founder of the Majallat Shi'r and Mawaqif journals. Hazo, the Pittsburgh-born son of Lebanese and Syrian immigrants, was the first Pennsylvania poet laureate.

The author, son of the Syrian-American artist Abe Ajay, attended the University of Michigan and went on to teach English at the California College of Arts and Craft.


Translated title: "Palestinian Poetry from Exile." Poems on the experience of Palestinian refugees and a call to mobilize towards return. Al-Jishi was born in exile to a family who fled from the village of Al-Kabri near Akka in 1948.

11. Alaoui, Youssef. La nature exquise des seins du Tara, and other poems. n.p.: the author, 2001. 15p. staplebound chapbook, covers partly sun-faded, otherwise very good. (#319062) $25.00
The poet, son of a Moroccan father and a Columbian mother, has worked as an editor and archivist.

The Iraqi-American poet was the editor of Wayne State University's Wayne Literary Review.

Chapbook from the Palestinian-American poet and movement worker in Miami, Florida.

Poems taken from the M.A. dissertation at McGill in creative writing of the Lebanese-Canadian poet, blinded as a teenager in the 1958 Lebanon crisis. (NB: back cover biography refers to his "Syrian upbringing.") "Nisan" is the first month of spring in the Babylonian calendar, reflected in themes of flowering love and loss.

15. Awad, Joseph; Grace Cavalieri, introduction. Leaning to Hear the Music. Painter, VA: ROAD Publishers,
1997. ISBN: 1880016249. 81p. slim black softcover, in fine condition. (#319195) $17.00
Poems driven by themes of family by Arab-American author who would become poet laureate of Virginia.

Poems by the US Army veteran of Lebanese and Syrian heritage.

Lebanese-Canadian poet with a satirical edge.


Palestinian poet born in Nazareth and now living outside Washington, D.C. also known as Maryam Qasim Al-Sa'd or Sa'd. Poems with themes of love and diaspora originally written in Arabic and translated by the author to English.

20. Elkhatib, Rami Mohen. Rook leir. n.p.: n.p., 201[?]. 76 pg. No copies in OCLC as of November 2021. Inside rear cover, "Confidential," "Void," and "November 05 2011" have all been stamped; otherwise very good. (#274926) $22.00
From the back cover, "-a slightly booze-induced poetry interspersed throughout a small story of major transitions and continual stabs at the mutating philosophy of the human condition-.

Pittsburgh poet of Lebanese and Italian descent.

Prose and poetry by the Syrian immigrant author whose photographic studio in Miami was House of Haddad.

Palestinian-American poet, playwright, and actor who was an original cast member in Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry Jam on Broadway.

Debut collection by French-American poet of Palestinian descent.

Memories and verses collected at the International Poetry Forum (modeled after the ancient Greek agora) by its founder and director. Hazo, the Pittsburgh-born son of Lebanese and Syrian immigrants, was the first Pennsylvania poet laureate.

The fifth book of poetry by the author. Includes a section with 'transpositions' from Arabic of poems by Adonis, a.k.a. Ali Ahmad Said Esber.

The author's first book of poetry.

Essays reflecting on poetry, Greek mythology, and more.


First book of poems by the Lebanese-American author.

Collection of poetry by the Egyptian-Canadian writer and activist living in Montreal.

Arab-American poet of Syrian and Lebanese descent from Brooklyn presents a collection of poems as elegy for her mother Georgette Deyratani, of whom a fragment of poetry written on the back of a postcard is included at the end.

37. Miller, Josephine Anne. The Stirrings of My Soul. [Springfield, MA]: Self-published by the author, 1994. 119p. slim red softcover, tiny mark on top right corner of front cover, light edgewear, else very good condition. Inscribed by author on front free endpaper. (#319033) $15.00
Christian poems by Lebanese-American author from Massachusetts.

Mohammad was born in Modesto, and is considered one of the Flarf poets. Flarf, an avant-garde poetry movement in the early twenty-first century, often uses techniques such as Googling strange search terms and drawing from there.

The devils had to go somewhere. In this case they have gone into the poems." - blurb from Nada Gordon.

40. Naimy, Jerry A. One is a number. New York: Vantage Press, 1967. 42p., very good hardcover in a dust jacket with some edge chips. (#318522) $20.00
Collection of poems by the Lebanese-American author.

Lebanese-American poet and professor at Utica College. Prose poems entitled "East Utica" and "Disputation with Kahlil Gibran."

42. Nassar, Eugene Paul; Robert Cimbalo, illustrator. Selections from a Prose Poem: East Utica [signed and inscribed]. [Utica]: Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, 1970. 44p. in gray cloth boards with deckled edges and slip case, illustrated with numerous original woodcuts by Cimbalo, very good condition. Signed and inscribed by Nassar and Cimbalo twice, first to "Jerry" on front free endpaper, and again on colophon numbering this copy 189/300. (#319190) $25.00

Poems from Lebanese-American author and long-time resident of Hawai‘i including reflections on diaspora and the meaning of home between the Middle East and the Pacific Islands.


46. Orfalea, Gregory and Sharif Elmusa, editors. Grape Leaves; A Century of Arab American Poetry. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1988. ISBN: 0874803284. xxix, 300p., illustrated with b&w portrait photography, hardbound first edition in 9x6 inch maroon cloth boards titled in copperfoil, with dust jacket. The casing very slightly yawns and has a touch of edgewear, the dust jacket is edgeworn with tiny losses at extremities and a short creased tear, an otherwise good copy: sound, clean and unmarked. (#247239) $20.00

47. Orow, Mikhail H. Queen of the Twin Rivers. New York: Vantage Press, 1982. 165p. hardcover, very good, in an edgeworn dustjacket. (#319224) $40.00 Historical novel by an Iraqi immigrant living in Detroit, based on the ancient legends of the Assyrian Queen Shamiram.


50. Saadah, Hanna A. Vast Awakenings. [Oklahoma]: the author, 1990. 159p. hardcover, very good in lightly shelfworn dust jacket; inscribed by the author. (#318914) $17.00 Collection of poetry self-published by the Lebanese immigrant author, a longtime Oklahoma resident.

51. Saleh, Dennis. This is Not Surrealism. Troutdale, Oregon: Willamette River Books, 1993. 29p. staplebound booklet, minor sticker shadow on front cover. (#319064) $25.00 Saleh, of Egyptian and Armenian background, was the editor and publisher of COMMA books, and taught at UC Riverside, UC Santa Cruz, and CSU Fresno.
52. Sheban, Joseph. Pride and destiny. Boston: The Christopher Publishing House, 1945. 108p. hardcover, very good, in a torn dust jacket that is missing part of the rear panel. Inscribed to "Helen" on the front endpaper, and signed again on the author's portrait. Not found in OCLC as of February 2024. (#316484) $250.00
Novel by a Lebanese immigrant author, featuring an Arab-American lawyer as its protagonist.

53. Sheban, Robert Nasif. A jewel of the desert. Cleveland: Central Pub. House, 1932. 75p. hardcover, signed by author on dedication page, owner's inscription on front free endpaper. Front cover and several pages mildly creased by the printer, otherwise very good with minor shelfwear. Illustrations by John H. Delaney. (#316568) $100.00
A novel set in an Arabian desert, featuring a woman who wishes to marry for love rather than for her father's alliances.

Poems rooted in Gaza by the Palestinian-American poet and vice-president of the Radius of Arab-American Writers.

55. Zaher, Maged. The Wholesale Approach. Seattle: Spankstra Press, 2004. [48p.] in wraps, 5.5x5.5 inches, previous bookseller's sticker on back cover, review copy stamp on title page, else very good condition. Second printing of 100 copies. (#319194) $35.00
Verses by poet born in Cairo with some elements of concrete poetry.

56. Zouzounis, Lorene Zarou. Inquire within: selected poems. San Francisco: University of Mars, 1987. 50p. staplebound chapbook, very good, 5.5x8.5 inches. Inscribed by the author to a teacher. (#319063) $25.00