White Paper Report

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Project Director: Walter Andrews (walter@uw.edu)

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WHITE PAPER

Grant Number: HD-51488-11

Project Title: The Svoboda Diaries Project: From Digital Text to "New Book"

Director: Walter G. Andrews

Institution: University of Washington

Date: 11/27/2012

1. **Project objectives:**

The funded activities of the Svoboda Diaries "New Book" digital start-up project began with the following stated objectives:

Based on its work with a large corpus of personal diaries from 19th century Iraq, the project will develop and test a process for the simultaneous web and print-on-demand publication of texts and transcriptions of original manuscripts with annotation, indexing, translation, images, etc. in complex scripts [l-r and r-l, English and Arabic, in our case]. This process, involves a re-thinking of "the book" that will use digital and new-media resources to combine the functions of traditional print publication, including editing, book design, printing, advertising, and distribution with web-based publication and produce, in house, a low-cost printed book supported by a wide array of web-based materials. Moreover, the "book" (both web and print) will flow directly from a richly tagged TEI-compatible XML text prepared for scholarly investigation, and be capable of continuous regeneration from up-dated and enriched versions.

Although the new and experimental aspects of the project required us to explore unanticipated methods and tools, we are satisfied that we have managed to achieve our objectives in such a way that our "newbook" technologies and procedures are functional and ready to be tested by application to the dissemination of a broad range of original source materials.

2. **Project Activities: Problems and Solutions**

2:1 The XML Text:

The base text for all of our applications (the side-by-side English and Arabic web text, the automatically generated print-on-demand text, indexes of names, places, and times) is a plain text or, in our test case *(The Alexander Svoboda Travel Journal)*, Arabic and English plain texts marked up with Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) compatible XML tags.

    2:1:1 PROBLEMS:

        2:1:1:1 Initially, undergraduate student assistants received unmarked text files of the diary to which they added TEI-XML tags. The taggers used a variety of editors on Mac and PC platforms, which produced (1) inconsistently tagged, not well-formed XML and (2) invalid XML where different taggers had adopted idiosyncratic solutions to tagging document features, and (3) problems in the encoding of Arabic script and certain accented characters in Latin script because some text editors used plain ASCII while others employed utf-8 (Unicode).

2:1:1:2 At the beginning we had trouble generating information about the status of the TEI-XML text at any time to see that it was a valid, well-formed TEI-XML document and to enable us to inspect the kind and number of XML elements and attributes, which is important to the generation of our multiple desired outputs: web-view, print-on-demand, and ePub.

2:1:2 SOLUTIONS:

2:1:2:1 The adoption by the Project of the Exchanger XML editor, a freely available, JavaScript-based editor for Mac, PC, and Linux platforms, enforced the creation of well-formed XML documents. It also solved our character encoding issues because it is capable of employing the XML utf-8 standard.

2:1:2:2 A further refinement adopted by the Project for future work on diary projects involves asking student interns to transcribe only the text with specified utf-8 compliant editors and relying on PERL scripts to insert TEI-XML tags in a programmatically consistent fashion, which ensures that all XML documents are both well-formed and valid.

2:1:2:3 We also determined that the best solution for producing multiple outputs efficiently was to mark up the base text from a very limited library of structural and content tags. This means that the "richly marked up" text we originally envisioned as our base turned out to be counter-productive to our primary goal of making original texts available and should be thought of as a secondary product of the base text, which can be prepared for scholarly analysis.

2:2 The Print-On-Demand Text:

Our approach to the print-on-demand text originally envisioned a programmer and book designer/typesetter working together to produce an auto-generated and up-datable text. Although this is still the preferred procedure, as the project progressed multiple people were involved in tackling the technical aspects of the project using multiple strategies. In the first phase, Jon Crump worked on a procedure using the python programming language to output LaTeX markup for the ConTeXt/Lua processor. But this procedure, promising as it is, could not be finalized. In the second phase, Joshua Crowgey developed a set of XSLT stylesheets to transform the TEI-XML source into LaTeX markup for the XeLaTeX processor. This second method was successful in producing a family of auto-generated PDFs which soon will be publically available on the website.

2:2:1 PROBLEMS:

2:2:1:1 [**ConteXt/Lua –Oriental TeX Programming**] At the inception of the granting period, the project identified a programmer familiar with the project, who adopted an

approach to processing the TEI-XML data that relied upon PYTHON to convert the text to a document markup language and preparation system for output of the Arabic script as printable PDF called ConTeXt/Lua , which is based on "Oriental TeX", now in development by Idris Hamid for "Authentic Typesetting of the Quran". Although our programmer worked with the collaborative group developing Oriental TeX,the system was not sufficiently well developed and he was not able to implement it fully for our project by the end of December. At this point our programmer received offers of full-time employment, and could no longer afford to continue with our project. This left us without a programmer familiar with the project and with an incomplete Arabic TEI-XML text with broken characters and other formatting deficiencies.

2:2:1:2 [Reconciling the Standard Reference Version] Because the loss of our programmer made it impossible to complete work on the Arabic text, we were forced to begin by expending increased effort on the typeset "reference version" of our text. The resulting creation of a separate text to serve as a model for the auto-generated text presented the problem of reconciling the base TEI-XML text with the traditionally produced typeset text. This problem was especially acute for us because the typesetting process and subsequent consultations with our Iraqi researcher uncovered numerous errors that, when corrected in the reference text, caused it to diverge significantly with the base TEI-XML text. This kind of problem should be avoided when at all possible and would have been avoided in our case had we been able to implement our original plan which called for making any changes in a single text only.

2:2:1:3 Generating print-on-demand output from the most recent TEI-XML document was hampered by the need to run the xsltproc invoking the XSLT stylesheet that generates the LaTeX source file for the XeLaTeX PDF output. This required manual intervention: logging into the Project account and running the stylesheets, which limited accessibility of the most recent data to project technical staff.

2:2:2 SOLUTIONS:

2:2:2:1 [XSLT =>XeLaTeX via CGI programming] The loss of our programmer in the midst of our work was a severe blow because we did not have sufficient time in the grant period to find a new programmer and introduce him or her to the complexities of the project and especially to the complexities of dealing with the Arabic and Latin scripts together. Fortunately, Joshua Crowgey, a graduate student in computational linguistics, who had worked with us more than a year ago, became available during the summer of 2012. We were able to extend the Start-up grant period to cover the summer and, with additional support from the University of Washington Dean of Humanities Office and the Simpson Center for the Humanities, were able to restructure our project to complete the typeset reference text first and work on the print-on-demand bi-lingual Arabic and English text over the summer. Using direct mapping of utf-8 (Unicode)

encoded TEI-XML converted with XSLT stylesheets for processing with XeLaTeX, he was able to produce direct output of the TEI-XML encoded text via the medium of other XSLT stylesheets to write out LaTeX files which XeLaTeX could then process and output as formatted PDf. XeLaTeX uses well-tested utf-8 ArabTeX typsetting functionality for its output.

2:2:2:2 [Reconciling the Standard Reference Version] Reconciliation of the traditionally typeset standard reference version of our text with the TEI-XML sources was accomplished by using "Vimdiff", a freely available linux tool which highlights differences between two texts and speeds up the process of harmonizing textual variants.

2:2:2:3 The TeX Users Group (TUG) provides executable UNIX installer which supports highly customizable local installation of Tex Live without requiring root privileges. PDF generation happens via UNIX shell, with up-dated output periodically posted to the website.

2:3 The Web Text:

At the beginning of the grant period, the Travel Journal web text was already functional in a side-by-side Arabic transcription and English translation version with one-click access to images of the original document. Our grant-supported activities in this area consisted of refining the display functions of the text and adapting it to multiple platforms.

2:3:1 PROBLEMS:

2:3:1:1 The code for the large XSLT stylesheet that generates the HTML text was difficult to read and maintain. The clickable links to chapters were not functional and were unavailable in the Arabic text. And there was no linking between the base XML text and the HTML which required manual updating using the UNIX shell.

2:3:1:2 The text of the Travel Journal needs to be available not only as a print-on-demand document, but also to website visitors on PC and MAC platforms, smart phones, and tablet-like devices.

2:3:2 SOLUTIONS:

2:3:2:1 A side-by-side, HTML based view of the text was produced by an overall streamlining of both the TEI-XML input and the XSLT stylesheets which generate the HTML. The stylesheets are now able to handle chapter links and chapter titles. Month by month links to sections of the text appear both in Arabic and in English. There is also

updating available from the website via a web interface using CGI (the Common Gateway Interface).   In addition, we have tested and modified the display so that the side-by-side HTML text is now available to website visitors on any browser.

2:3:2:2 An ePub version of the English translation is now provided by converting the TEI-XML to XHTML-strict individual chapter files. An XML manifest and wrapper are added to these individual XHTML chapter files, and, finally, these materials are compressed to create the ePub version, which is readable on tablet devices or on browsers with ePub ADD-ON readers.

2:4 Annotation: the Svobodapedia and Other Materials:

The web and print-on-demand texts of our test publication (The Travel Journal) contain limited annotation in the form of brief end notes in the case of the print version and hyperlink accessible notes in the case of the web text. The corpus of texts we are working with is, however, very large and each text contains information that bears in some way on every other text.

2:4:1 PROBLEMS:

2:4:1:1 Two features of our corpus of diaries (The Svoboda Diaries) contribute to the inadequacy of traditional annotation for our publication program: (1) the diaries are from a single family and so each diary provides additional information to the vast majority of topics; (2) the detail bearing on most topics will grow over the entire length of the publication project (now including texts and transcriptions from at least 41 diaries) and likely beyond, as new information is developed.

2:4:1:2 In the course of working with the Svoboda Diaries we have also acquired copies of rare books dealing with Iraq and Syria in the early 20th century, articles appearing in late 19th and 20th century newspapers and journals, unpublished accounts, Svoboda family memorabilia, and images of paintings, postcards, and out-of-print book illustrations touching on the Svoboda diaries and their context.

2:4:2 SOLUTIONS:

2:4:2:1 As an open-ended repository for information specifically related to the Svoboda Diaries, we set up an instance of MediaWiki with a MySQL backend which we call the Svobodapedia (the name being a gesture toward the most famous "wiki", the Wikipedia, which it resembles in some essential ways). Our wiki provides us with an easy to use site for depositing information as we acquire it, which we control by requiring editorial permission for any additions or alterations, thereby restricting those who are allowed to submit material.

2:4:2:2 In addition to the Svobodapedia, we are in the process of creating indexed archives of images and textual materials acquired by the project.   While we maintain archives of such material for our own purposes, we are just in the first stages of organizing our materials for public display.

2:5 The Project Website (Distribution/Publication):

The project website will be our primary public portal to the project materials. We have continued to make information about the project available through the Svoboda Diary Home Page at http://courses.washington.edu/otap/svoboda/svoboda.html but soon (we hope early in December 2011) we will be making public a new website which will provide direct access to our multi-media publications.

2:5:1 PROBLEMS:

2:5:1:1 We must provide 24/7 public access to project deliverables and materials via the website.

2:5:1:2 Longevity and accessibility of project materials beyond the life of project needs to be assured.

2:5:1:3 Creating a clean, user-friendly, accessible web interface for the Project could not be delegated to student interns or other project staff without design expertise.

2:5:1:4 The website needs to be ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible and HTML5 compliant for access over multiple platforms and browsers (MAC, PC, Android, IE, Firefox, Safari, Chrome).

2:5:2 SOLUTIONS:

2:5:2:1 Our institution (the University of Washington) provides Linux-based web service with 24/7 support for the Svoboda Newbook Project website and 1GB storage. The website was maintained for the duration of the funded project (9/2011-9/2012) and will be continued for the duration of the PI's affiliation.

2:5:2:2 Daily tape back-up is part of the web-hosting service. In addition back-ups are made by project technical staff to external hard drives and DVD. Project products will be archived in Research Works, the archival facility provided by UW Libraries. We are also negotiating with Central European University for the creation of a site that will continue the project indefinitely beyond the lives of present project personnel (see

below #5:3).

2:5:2:3 A design professional was brought on board to lay out a website which was implemented by student interns using HTML5, JavaScript, and PHP.

2:5:2:4 The website was tested for ADA accessibility using the CLI-based Lynx browser in order to simulate the experience of a voice reader. A protocol of website testing on major platforms and browsers was implemented.

2:6 Other Distribution Media:

One of the Project's primary goals is to advertise and distribute our publications as widely as possible to a broad range of potential audiences.

2:6:1PROBLEM:

2:6:1:1 As a low or no cost publication project, we do not generate income which would allow us to advertise or distribute our products through commercial media.

2:6:2 SOLUTION:

2:6:2:2 We will, of course, advertise our publications on relevant academic listserv resources for culture, literature, history, and social sciences. However, we also intend to make use of social media resources to expand our audiences beyond academics and have set up a Facebook page and Twitter newsfeed, which will announce our products as soon as they are ready (sometime prior to the December holidays in 2012). A bound print-on-demand book will be available at cost in stores with PoD equipment such as the Expresso Book Machine and the PDF will be printable in a loose-leaf version at no cost by any printer.

3. Some Lessons Learned:

We are happy to share our experience, our procedures, and our digital tools with other projects. However, there are a few important things we learned that may be instructive to scholars and others starting on similar activities.

- RESIST THE URGE TO MARK-UP TOO MUCH: automated options for display and printing require an absolutely clean XML text easily accessible to XSLT stylesheets, which is difficult to achieve in direct proportion to the variety of tags in the text. If you want to mark-up for analysis, do that as a secondary project but keep your base text tagging clean and simple.

- DO A CAREFUL DOCUMENT ANALYSIS AND MATCH EXISTING FEATURES TO AN EXISTING (TEI) DTD BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING ELSE: this seems obvious but it was not obvious to us in part because our text was a diary which is, by its nature, idiosyncratic. Accounting for the structure of your document(s) is a critical part of creating your library of tags and extremely difficult and time-consuming to do retroactively.
- AVOID TEXT VARIANTS LIKE THE PLAGUE: another obvious warning but not so easy to avoid. It is important to employ some set method and/or software for managing your documents to avoid creating variants and this is more difficult to implement than it might seem. When our programmer quit and we needed to let the XML text diverge from the text used to create the designed and typeset standard reference version, we ended up with two texts and had to spend a large amount of time and effort to reconcile the two. This happened because we could do nothing else and it was the best of several worse solutions.

4. Summary of Accomplishments:

4:1 Text

The creation of a clean, well-formed XML text in both English and Arabic from which the following can be generated:
- A programmatically generated up-datable print-on-demand book in Arabic and English.
- A side-by-side web version of an Arabic transcription and English translation with notes and one-click access to the original text, capable of being regenerated on demand.
- Index lists of names, places, dates.
- An ePub version.

4:2 Supporting Material

The project enhanced and organized a growing array of supporting material including:
- The project wiki (the Svobodapedia).
- A collection of copies of rare or unique documents and books.
- A collection of images from 19th and early 20th century books, paintings, postcards, and the like.

4:3 Stylesheets and Tools

The Project has developed a number of XSLT stylesheets which convert our XML text for various uses including: web display, ePub, print-on-demand text typeset with TeX (both Latin letter and Arabic).   While we do not now have the resources to produce instructional material for the use of our technical materials, we are willing to share our work with other similar projects.   See below #5:1

5. **Continuation of the Project:**

Our project is already embarking on its second phase, the publication of the Joseph Mathia Svoboda diaries for which we have images of 10 of the original diaries and unpublished transcriptions of 31 more. Because these diaries are in English (with some Arabic inclusions), we will be able to apply our basic digital tools with some modifications intended to make the tools more generally applicable.

5:1 Digital Texts in the Humanities

One of the primary goals of the next phase in our project is to assist in applying our techniques and tools to other primary texts publication projects. Accordingly we are initiating a collaborative project with Egyptologist Sarah Ketchley, who is working on a collection of diaries by an American woman who observed early excavations in the Valley of the Kings, and Georgian literature scholar Mary Childs, who is engaged in a collaborative project of publishing original texts and translations of Georgian literature. We see this as the first step in a broader collaborative project we now call "Digital Texts in the Humanities", in which we will welcome participation by scholars world-wide who are interested in publishing original texts. We will be seeking funding sources, including a Digital Follow-up Grant from NEH, for this more extensive project.

5:2 Other Collaborations [CEU]

The Svoboda Diaries Project is presently in fruitful discussions with Nadia al-Baghdadi, chair of the History Department at Central European University in Budapest about collaborative work on the Svoboda diaries. Our project primarily involves the development of tools and methods for publishing original sources. We are not historians and do not intend to use the diaries in our own work. CEU has a mission to study the participation of Central Europe and Central Europeans in the Eastern Mediterranean including the Central Middle East. The Svoboda family being Central Europeans transplanted to Iraq, our project is of great interest to CEU and we are contemplating exchanges of students and faculty with the goal of increasing use of our materials and spreading our technology.

5:3 The Open Society Archive

Central European University now collaborates with the "Open Society Archives (OSA)", which is funded by the Soros Foundation. Originally a repository for 20th century materials related to the quest for free and open societies in Central Europe, OSA is considering expanding its materials to include a broader range of documents related to Central European history in modern times. As part of our discussions with CEU, we are exploring the possibility that OSA may be willing to serve as a permanent host for the materials being produced by the Svoboda Diaries Project.

6. **Appendices:**

6:1 The Standard Reference Edition

6:1:1 The Cover
This image is of one of the sample covers we have produced. It will not be the final cover, which is under construction at the moment. There will also be an exactly similar cover with the text in Arabic (at the English back cover, where the Arabic text will begin).
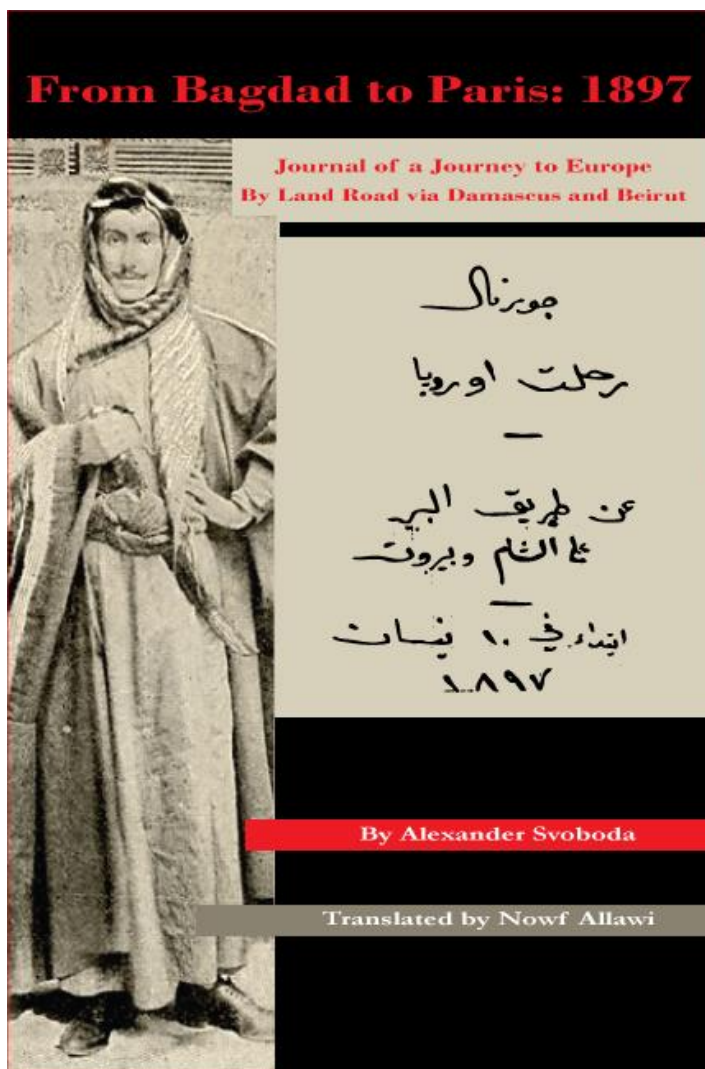
6:1:2 First Contents Page

Contents

6:1:3 Front Matter:

Translator's Preface

by Nowf Abdul-Majid Allawi

I WAS FIRST INTRODUCED to the diaries of Joseph Mathia Svoboda in 1985 when the late Professor Henry Louis Alexander Svoboda showed me a manuscript from his collection. At first glance, I was fascinated by Joseph Mathia's work and was very curious to read more of the diaries that he had written during the second half of the nineteenth century. 1985 marks the beginning of my work with Professor Svoboda on the diaries. His wish was to focus on material in the diaries dealing with the history of Iraq and to assemble it for publishing. Joseph Mathia's diaries number some 61 books but Professor Svoboda's collection contained only 39 documents most of them transcriptions made by Mrs. Margaret Makiya, an Iraqi researcher. Only a few of them were photocopies of the original diaries. This means that Professor Svoboda did not possess either transcriptions or photocopies of about 22 of the original diaries. Moreover, some of Margaret Makiya's transcribed diaries in his collection were incomplete and had many missing pages.

The difficult situation in Iraq during the last decades of the twentieth century combined with the large amount of material in the diaries and gaps in Professor Svoboda's collection did not allow us to finish our work. In the first months of 2005, Professor Henry Louis Svoboda showed me Alexander's travel journal. Upon the first reading, I found Alexander's text interesting and his colorful language, rich with English, French, Turkish and Persian words, was familiar to me from my schooling and my mother's Turkish origins. In the 1950's, a great number of words in Alexander's vocabulary still existed in the local dialect of Baghdad. So, together with Professor Svoboda, I embarked on a new project on the travel journal. We planned to transcribe the Arabic text of the Journal to prepare it for publication

6:1:4 Chapter 2, Page 7: The English Translation

La seule ligne de tramway à Bagdad.

97941 Alex. J. Svoboda, cartophile, import.-export., commission en général à Bagdad (Turquie).
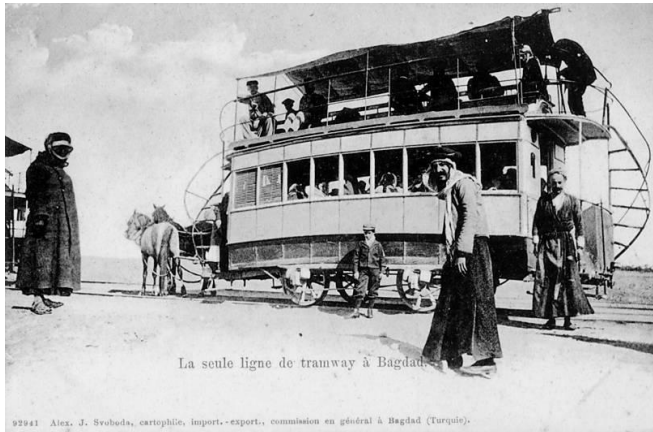
Chapter 2

Departure from the Homeland and the Journey from al-Khirr

page 007

————————

April 16th

WE WERE UP at dawn today, all of us awoke because of this dreadful night. After we drank tea we heard that the Khalifa steamship will pass by our camp and we saw its smoke from a distance. We hurried off at once and went towards the river. We saw the steamship coming and just then we also caught sight of Aunt Eliza's son, Artin, who came from Baghdad to see us. When the steamship passed Uncle Henry was standing on deck waving to us and so did we until he was out of sight. At 8:00 Western time we packed the tents and they tied on the loads and prepared the caravan. They lifted our mule litter as we must sit in it now and they put up the wooden ladder at its door. Mother and I got in and sat inside. That was the first time in my life that I sat in a mule litter. The entire caravan was ready and we were prepared to set off. We put our trust in God. The mule litter set out with us in it, the

6:1:5 Chapter 2, Page 7: The Arabic Transcription

page 007

Chapter 2

تركان البلد و السفر من الخر.
_____

1.

2. _____

3. **نيسان ١٦**   اليوم قمنا من الفجر و جميعنا سهرانين من هده الليلة الملعونة

4. فبعد ان شربنا الجاي سمعنا بان مركب خليفه سيفوت من

5. علينا و شفنا دخانه من بعد فحالاً سرعنا نحو الشط و شفنا المركب

6. اتي و في الحال رأينا ارتين ابن العمة اليزة ايضاً قد جاء من بغداد

7. الينا فلما فات المركب العم هندري كان واقف و يسلم علينا

8. و نحن كذلك الى ان غاب النظر فلما صارت ساعه ٨ فرنكيه

9. نزلنا الجوادر و شدوا الحمال و هيئوا الكروان فشالوا تخترواننا

10. و لازم الآن نقعد به فوضعوا الدرج من خشب على بابه و طلعت

11. الوالدة و كذلك انا و قعدنا به و هده اول مره من عمري و زماني

12. قعدت في التختروان فجميع الكروان صار حاضر و تهيئنا على المشي

13. و اتكلنا على الله و مشي بنا التخت و الكروان ورائنا يجي و جاني

14. و ارتين و الخال ايضاً مصحبينا فبعد مشي نصف ساعه اتى الخال نحونا و وقفنا

15. التخت و نزل من على الدابه و اتى يتوادع معنا لأن لازم يرجع للبلد

16. سريعاً فبعد ما توادعنا جرت عيونا دموعاً على الفرقة و سقنا البغال

17. و الجول هنا جميعه يابس و لازمه مطر فبعد ما فتنا مقدار ساعة ٢,_

18. كانت بغداد بعد تليء لنا و مناير الكاظم [1] ايضاً تبان من بعد فتوادعت اخيراً

19. من بعد مع البلد الى ان غاب نظرنا من كل علامة بغداد ية فلما صار ساعه ١١ فرنكيه

20. جاني مع ارتين ايضاً توادعوا معنا و هولأ كانوا الاخرين الذي اصحبونا

21. الى هنا فعطيت ٣ مكاتيب الى ارتين واحد الى الويز و واحد الى العزيز

22. الصديق جاني بهلوان [2] والآخر الى الصديق انطوان جوليتي [3]

23. و بينت لهم عظم كدري على فرقتهم فمشينا وحدنا و قطعنا اراضي

6:1:6 End Notes: from Chapter 1

NOTES

Chapter 1

page 002

1. **"Thirteenth of the month"** Alexander is mistaken about the date, Wednesday was the 14th of the month.

2. **Mule litter:** [*taḥterewān*] From the Persian *taḥt-e revān* (*taḥt* meaning seat or throne, *revān* meaning moving). It was commonly used in Iraq, sometimes in the abbreviated form *taḥt*. In the English diary of the return journal, Alexander used the term *tehtersin*, for which we have been unable to find any references.

3. **Balioz:** The word *Balioz* was originally the Turkish form of the title of the *Baglio*, the Venetian representative to the Ottoman court. In later years the word 'Balioz' became a vulgar term for any foreign consul. The British Consulate or Residency in Baghdad was commonly known among the inhabitants there as "the house of the Balioz". Here the term refers to the British Consul-General.

4. **Colonel Edward Mockler:** The British Consul General in Baghdad from 1892 to 1897, when he was replaced by Colonel William Loch and journeyed overland to Cairo with Alexander Richard Svoboda and his parents. Born in 1839, he served in several positions in the British Army in India and the Middle East. He was also a scholar and linguist. For more information see: (http://courses.washington.edu/otap/svobodapedia/index.php?title=Edward_Mockler) the Edward Mockler page in the Svobodapedia.

5. **al-Dayr:** An abbreviation commonly used by the diarist for the town Dayr al-Zawr.

6. **Kasperkhan:** Fathallah [*Fettohi*] Kasperkhan was born around 1819 and married some time before 1862 to Sophie-Elizabeth Svoboda (Alexander's Aunt Eliza). He was an Armenian who seems to have worked both for the Ottoman government and in the construction business. He was the relative of Tanton Kasperkhan whose daughter was married to Selman b. Berbin, who worked for Seyyid

6:2 The Web View

6:2:1 The Side-by-Side Display
[with note evoked by cursor hover]

6:2:2 Showing the Original Text
(Evoked by a click on the page number [002] in the transcription)

Iceweasel ▾ | Alexander Svoboda's Journal of a J...

Close

...oda's Journal of a Journey

...w features)

نيسان | ايار | حزيران | تموز
Chapters:

April

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Figure_1A_01-01

جورنال 01

رحلت أوربا 02

03

عن طريق البر 04

على الشام و بيروت 05

06

أبتداء في ١٠ نيسان 07

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اسكندر ازفوبودا 09

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السفر من بغدا والمودعة 01

١٨٩٧ 02

03

السفر من بغداد والمودعة

١٨٩٧

نيسان ١٠

نيسان ١١

http://depts.washington.edu/newbook/data/AS/svoboda_diary.html < [1/2] Top

6:3 The Auto-Generated Text

6:3:1 Arabic Transcription

Chapter 1

<div dir="rtl">

١٨٩٧
نيسان ١٠

فقد صممنا على السفر الى اوربا و ممشانا من هنا سيكون نهار الاربعاء صباحاً اعني في ١٣ من هدا الشهر و تختروان ورتبنا كل شيء و ما بقي سوى ان نضع بغداد ورائنا من الايام الثلاثة الفاتت الى الآن جملة خطار عمال يجون يودعونا و بالاخص الاهل جملة امرار يجون عندنا فنسافر صحبة كرنل مكلر باليوز الانكليزي الذي معتمد يروح الى لندرة فنأخذ درب البر اعني الى الدير و الشام و بيروت و من هناك الى القاهرة اذا سهل المولى

نيسان ١١

اليوم بما هو نهار الاحد الآخيرلنا في بغداد فبعد ان سمعنا القداس بدينا ندور و نتواد ع مع الاصدقاء و عملنا زيارات لتقريب ٢٠ بيت و عندنا ايضا اتوا جملة اناس يتوادعون معنا و يهنونا بسفر هني و الغروب كنا مجتمعين في بيت كسبرخان عند عمة اليزة و رجعنا ساعة ٣ تركيه مع كافه الانشراح و اليوم الغروب سمعت من تيلكراف اتي من البصرة الى بيت النج يخبرون عن موتت اسكندر وكيل في البصرة عن وجع الدق الدي به البارحة ساعه ١٠ فرنكيه اتى من البصرة قنصلالجديد الانكليزي الى بغداد مع امرأته و جاء معه قنصل بصرة ميجر فيكن و قنصل الجديد لبغداد اسمه كرنل لوك و بما نحن متمدين نسافر مع كرنل مكلر الذي رائح من بغداد الى لندرة لياخذ التقاعد و كان كل هذه المدة منتظر مجي كرنل لوك فالآن تحقق ازود ممشانا سيكون نهار الاربعاء

نيسان ١٢

بعد لكن مظلم و تخين غيم كذلك شرقي هوا مع ممطرة و مغيمة صبحت اليوم شهادتنامه مكلر كرنل من طلبت و الاوفيس الى رحت الظهر بعد الجو صفي ساعة كم فزيته عملنا الغروب اياه يعطيني غداً بأن فوعدني سنتين مدة القنصلخانه في خدمتي عن بيروت الى معنا يرسلوه ان مزمع ابنهم جوري بأن لنا قالوا و انطون خالي بيت الى الاخيرة

</div>

1

Chapter 3

Arrival at Dayr al-Zawr

May 2 Dayr al-Zawr Dayr al-Zawr A COLD MORNING with a strong west- May 2
erly wind blowing. The night was extremely cold and wet. We were up at
5:30 and after drinking tea we gathered the ropes, tents, and everything else
and loaded them onto the animals. At 7:15 we rode toward Dayr al-Zawr
leaving al-Mayadin behind us in a half hour. We marched on even, flat ter-
rain, resembling the wilds around Baghdad, always keeping the chain of hills
on our right. We found the ground wet after yesterday's rainfall but after two
hours' march the desert appeared dry. The rain had only been in our vicin-
ity. Thus we traveled on, sometimes through cultivated lands and sometimes Dayr al-Zawr
over arid lands. At 9:30 we passed through the region of the Khabur River ,
but we could not see it in the distance. At last, at one in the afternoon, we
came to a sandy region and here we were hit by a strong gust of wind mixed
with sand and dust that nearly blinded us. We passed through it in just half
an hour. At 2:00 in the afternoon the town of Dayr al-Zawr came into view
in the distance. We continued to march between small hills behind which
the town would sometimes vanish and then reappear. Truly, I was overcome
by joy when we approached a half hour's distance because 17 days of travel
through the desert, always among the nomads, and never seeing any of our
own kind had saddened my heart. Then, when we were one quarter of an
hour away, the town came into full view, resembling the entrance to Baghdad
from Bab al-Mo'adhdham . In this moment I remembered my homeland and
everything there. Because Colonel Mockler was at the head of the caravan,
he was received by the zaptiye battalion commandant and the chief of the
municipality along with ten zaptiye who led us to the edge of town. A large
crowd, a great number of men and boys, were at the town gate watching

6:4 Website (still under construction)

6:4:1 The Home Page
(This page is still under construction until mid-December.)

6:4:2 Download Page for Project Publications

SITE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION
SITE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS   SVOBODAPEDIA

SVOBODA *diary project*

Print

Home   Travel Journal   JMS Diaries   Images   Project Documentation   Print

Alexander's Travel Journal downloads:

Epub

Printable PDF

Automated Text

W UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

6:4:3 Joseph Mathia Svoboda Diary Sample [unedited draft text]

JMS

Home   Travel Journal   JMS Diaries   Images   Project Documentation   Print

Electronic version of Joesph Svoboda's Diary 47
OTAP Tagging Team Encoding
Joseph Svoboda's Journal number 47 as photographed and transcribed by OTAP

Page 03

1892
[01] 1894 Nov Light N.W. & fine weather
[02] at 8am I came on board the
[03] steamer, finished Alexander's
[04] letter to be posted today ;
[05] I sent it to the Post Office and
[06] had it registered, also wrote one
[07] to Pezooki Korkis London
[08] of yesterday's date. At 10 1/2
[09] went home & had my breakfast
[10] & returned at 12 1/2.
[11] We shipped a good deal of local
[12] cargo & finished at 4 pm
[13] All the cabins are engaged.
[14] The river is slomdelite[illegible].
[15] At 5 pm I went to my house
[16] the carpenter had finished
[17] his works I paid him for
[18] 4 days.
[19] I went over to Sister Medula
[20] to dine with her; & while
[21] there I received a letter from
[22] my son Alexander by
[23] the Damascus Post which

6:5 The Svobodapedia

6:5:1 Home Page

page | discussion | view source | history | Log in

SVOBODA _pedia

Main Page

Welcome to the Svobodapedia

navigation
- Main Page
- Community portal
- Current events
- Recent changes
- Random page
- Help

search

[Go] [Search]

toolbox
- What links here
- Related changes
- Special pages
- Printable version
- Permanent link

This wiki is a part of the Svoboda Diary Project 's effort to collect historical information about the Svoboda Family. The Svoboda Diary Project is a part of the Ottoman Text Archive Project , a joint venture of the University of Washington in Seattle and Bilkent University in Ankara.

Getting started

You might want to view the Recent Changes page, to see what's been happening as of late. Alternatively, start by reading one of these recommended pages:

- Alexander Richard Svoboda
- Joseph Mathia Svoboda
- Antone Svoboda

All of Our Pages

Alexander Richard Svoboda	Alexander Sandor Svoboda	Alexander Svoboda
Antone Svoboda	Colonel Edward Mockler	Colonel William Loch
Edward Mockler	Eliza Jebra Marine	Eliza Marine Sayegh
Eliza Marine Svoboda	Euphemie Joseph Muradjian	Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company
Gabriel Asfar	Joseph Mathia Svoboda	Joseph Svoboda
Lynch Brothers Trading Company	Main Page	Major Charles George Forbes Fagan
Major Fagan	Marie Josephine Derisbourg	Svoboda Family
William Loch		

6:5:2 Sample Entry

page | discussion | view source | history | Log in

SVOBODA _pedia

Alexander Richard Svoboda

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Alexander Richard Svoboda, born on July 7, 1878, was the son of Joseph Mathia Svoboda and Eliza Marine Svoboda.

The whole story of Alexander's life must wait on the study of Joseph Svoboda's 60 diaries, a project that is now only in its infancy. In a fragment from 1888-1889 that we have explored, there is some information about Alexander at the age of 10-11 years, which will give an idea of the life of a boy in late 19th century Baghdad.

In December of 1888, it is recorded that Alexander was often ill, especially with the Basrah fever and was attended to by one Dr. Bowman, who treated him with his own special concoction. There continue to be mentions of his illnesses throughout the next year. His youthful bouts of illness seem to have affected Alexander's self-perception, for in the travel journal, we will also observe that even at 19 he shows an extraordinary concern for his own health. In January of 1889, Joseph, still traveling with the Lynch Company steamers, received Alexander's first letter written in Arabic and subsequently took him to the school run by French fathers at the Latin (Roman Catholic) Church where the head teacher is Father Policarp. February sees Alexander still in school from 9 am to 2 each day, attending church regularly, and still beset by fevers treated with Dr. Bowman's elixir. At one point, Joseph even takes him on a steamer-ride downriver to Basrah for his health. His mother's daughter Medula (his half-sister) is very pregnant and about to give birth. Meanwhile, he writes to his uncle Alexander Sandor Svoboda, the painter who is, at the time, in London.

In March he was still in Basrah and on his return he entered Baghdad riding on a donkey. By April it was spring and the time for outdoor activities. He went out with a servant to ride a donkey in the Manimgar (mun'imkar = Pers. "beneficence granting"???) Garden and with his father to ride on the river in a goffa. On another occasion, the whole family—Joseph, Eliza, her daughter Tookyeh, and Alexander—took a goffa to the Farhat Garden where his aunt Medula and Grezeski, her husband, were camping. Alexander then returned from the gardens on a donkey.In May, Alexander wrote a letter to his cousin Cecile (Uncle Alexander's little daughter). A family group consisting of Alexander, Tookyeh, Roofa'iil, Eliza, Joseph, and Artin, his uncle on his mother's side, made an excursion by goffa to an island across from Kher to spend the day. The men shot doves; they roasted a fish, and sat beneath the poplar trees. They walked home along the Kerradah because the donkeys they had arranged for did not show up. Alexander felt unwell and became feverish because of the heat. Sometime later, Eliza made plans to go with Alexander, Tookyeh, and Rūfā'īl to the Shifteh Garden in Baquba, which was owned by the Marine family. Accompanied by Razooki Sayegh, Roofa'iil and Tookyeh's uncle, Fetoohi Kasperkhan and the garden agent they all traveled to the garden. Razooki sent a telegram to Joseph aboard ship telling him that they were enjoying themselves in Baquba, but they suffered from mosquitoes and sun flies and on their return Alexander grew feverish from the heat. During this period,