

Jawdat Haydar's Eighth Memorial at the Library of Alexandria

In commemoration of Jawdat Haydar's eighth memorial the Friends of Jawdat Haydar in collaboration with the Library of Alexandria organized an international conference entitled "The Poetics of Imagination: Genre Dialectics in Haydar's Poetry". The conference which took place on the 4th of December 2014 in the world famous Bibliotheca Alexandrina with its award-winning architecture involved a number of prominent literary scholars from the University of Cairo including Dr Hasan Talib and the famous Egyptian poet Ahmad Abd al-Mu'ti Hijazi. Both of their papers praised the great artistic sophistication and intellectual depth of Haydar's poetry citing extensively from his rich repertoire of writings. From the Lebanese University Dr Diab Younes gave an effusive eulogy of the great poet with an abundance of flowing citations in beautifully written poetical prose. A musical interlude was an opportunity for the distinguished Egyptian audience of intellectuals, artists, diplomats and politicians to enjoy Haydar's poetry put to elevated music and sung by the gifted Lebanese singer and songwriter Sahar Tah whose exquisite voice enraptured the listeners. A second interlude was a chance for those present to appreciate an audio-visual masterpiece about the great poet prepared by the talented Lebanese film producer Dr Joseph Chemali. The conference was chaired by Dr Sahar Hamouda, the Deputy Director of the Alexandria & Mediterranean Research Center, Library of Alexandria. She also presented the conference's opening paper. The event proved to be a resounding success and received a great deal of local and international media coverage. It also represented the first successful attempt to bring the poetry of Jawdat Haydar to a transnational Arab audience.

Dr Mario Kozah

Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies
American University of Beirut
Bliss Street
Beirut, Lebanon