

Notes from
Ahmad Sohrab
about the Diary

VERSION 1 – 28 OCTOBER 2021

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

ABOUT

This document was prepared and formatted by Violetta Zein, who also wrote the introductory sections.

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

This document gathers all of Ahmad Sohrab's notes about His 11-volume to-be-published Diary, which is available on this page as a single, partially-transcribed document, or as the full manuscript (handwritten, typed, or mimeographed, then scanned.)

There is first an introduction from Ahmad Sohrab describing in detail the various parts of the manuscript by time period, but also detailing which sections were mailed to the United States, and which were kept in the Holy Land, which were copied and distributed or published, and which were kept in English or Persian.

Ahmad Sohrab also goes into meticulous details about which sections of the manuscript were lost and are missing. He is in fact so meticulous that all the letters he mentions were lost correspond to the only date gaps we have in manuscripts. The only question mark remaining is whether Ahmad Sohrab wrote in his diary between June 13 and June 16, 1913, aboard the ship from Marseille to Port Said.

The remainder of this document is comprised of two items:

- A summary of the dates covered by Volumes 1-11, as intended for publication by Ahmad Sohrab
- Miscellaneous notes by Ahmad Sohrab about lost manuscript diaries. Sohrab kept a running number of his diaries and some original diaries were lost, but fortunately their contents were not, as they had been transcribed.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE DIARY

Found at date: 10 October 1914

INTRODUCTION

In this Series there are eleven Volumes.

The first nine Volumes, containing the original letters Written by Mirza Ahmad Sohrab recording the daily account of the life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, begins with December 5, 1912 and ends June 25, 1915. These are the daily records of what was going on around 'Abdu'l-Bahá, His talks, remarks and description of the life of the Bahá'ís in Europe and in the Near East.

1. The letters covering the first seven months were mailed day by day to Miss Harriet Magee in New York City. These were read in the Bahá'í Assembly and copies were made and distributed among the Bahá'ís of the United States and Canada.
2. The second portion of the diary letters up to the beginning of the first World War were mailed to Mr. Joseph Hannen of Washington, D. C. Mr. and Mrs. Hannen and other volunteer workers made extensive copies of these diary letters and shared them with the Bahá'í Assemblies in the United States and Canada.
3. The last portion of these diary letters, which covered the early stages of the first World War, were kept in Palestine and have neither been copied nor published. From June 25, 1916 to the end of the first World War the diary letters were kept in the Persian language and can be found in another series of volumes of manuscripts.

These letters were very generally and widely distributed among the Bahá'ís in the East and West. Some of the Bahá'ís made collections of them in typewritten and mimeographed forms; extracts of these diary letters were published in the "*Star of the West*;" a Bahá'í, Mrs. Mary Rabb., of California made a collection of extracts which were published serially in the "*Star of the West*" and later in a book under the title "*The Divina Art of Living*." These diary letters exerted an influence on the thoughts and lives of the early Bahais and they form an inestimable document portraying the thoughts and the life of Bahá'u'lláh toward the end of His life.

It is unavoidable that, in this vast collection of documents and in mailing them from Palestine to the United States and in having carried them from one place to another in the past many, many years, some copies have been lost.

(a) 8 pages of the letter of Jan. 21, 1913 are missing;

(b) letters from Sept. 14th to Oct. 9, 1914 are missing;

(c) letters from Jan. 17th to Jan. 27 1915 are missing;

(d) the letter of June 14, 1915 is incomplete;

(e) from June 5th to June 21, 1915 the letters are missing;

(f) the last letter dated June 25, 1916 starts with one line and then stops

Volume X contains samples of the typewritten and mimeographed copies of these diary letters as they were distributed in the early days. In the same volume there is a miscellaneous collection of various Bahá'í documents from 1901 to 1927.

Volume XI is a continuation of Volume X, giving more examples of typewritten and mimeographed copies of the diary letters.

Compiled October, 1940

M. A. Sohrab

DMAS VOLUMES I THROUGH XI

This is a reference section to safeguard Ahmad Sohrab's intended serialization of what he abbreviated as the "DMAS" or "the Diary of Mirza Ahmad Sohrab". This list was compiled from the various cover pages he inserted between letters to indicate a new volume. Locations in brackets were added by me. There are discrepancies between dates, and many volume date ranges are missing, and will be completed as they surface. [VZ]

ENGLISH DIARY

5 DECEMBER 1912 – 24 JUNE 1915

Volume I: 5 December 1912 –

Volume II:

Volume III:

Volume IV:

Volume V:

Volume VI: 1 December 1913 – 25 April 1914

Volume VII: 26 April 1914 – 13 September 1914 (*discrepancy between volumes*)

Volume VIII: 10 October 1914 – 31 January 1915

Volume IX : 1 February 1915 – 24 June 1915

Volume X: Samples of early diary letters as they were distributed & collection of Bahá'í documents from 1901-1927

Volume XI: Same content as Volume X

PERSIAN DIARY

25 JUNE 1915 – NOVEMBER 1918 (THE END OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR)

Ahmad Sohrab left the Holy Land shortly after the end of the first World War and went first to Egypt, then to the United States. He was present in New York in April 1919 during the unveiling of the Tablets of the Divine Plan.

NOTES ABOUT MISSING LETTERS

Found at date: 1 December 1913

[Note: Ahmad Sohrab numbered his handwritten diaries. He is here speaking about losing two diary of letters, numbers 13 and 14] VZ.

The Diary Volumes Nos. 13 and 14 have been either lost or misplaced for I cannot find them at the present time. Fortunately, they were copied before they disappeared. The letters contained in the above two volumes were from December 3rd to December 30th, 1913, and these in typewritten form are placed herein in place of the two volumes lost.

M.A.S.

Found at date: 14 June 1914

[Note: Ahmad Sohrab numbered his handwritten diaries. He is here speaking about losing an entire diary of letters, number 26] VZ.

Vol. 26 has been either lost or misplaced. It contained letters from June 14th to June 29th, 1914. However, like the previous volumes that were lost, here also typewritten copies were made from the originals and are placed herein instead of Vol. 26 which was like others in my own handwriting.

M.A.S.

Found at date: 9 September 1914

The Diary Letter of September 13, 1914 is merely a short paragraph.

Then from Sept. 14th to October 9th the letters are missing.

Found at date: 01 June 1915

Letter of June 4, 1915 is uncompleted.

From June 5th to June 21st the letters are missing.

Then there are two letters from June 22nd to June 24th. June 25th starts with one line and stops. From this date, on account of the war and because the diary letters could not be mailed, I stopped writing them in English but kept my diary in Persian, which is found in the other bound volumes with blue covers.