

Maryana Marrash



1848–1919 Maryana Marrash was born in Aleppo, Syria. By providing their daughter with an education, at a time when Eastern Mediterranean women received none, Maryana's parents challenged the then widespread belief that a girl should not be educated. Maryana became the first Syrian woman to publish a collection of poetry. She may have been the first woman to write in the Arabic-language daily newspapers.

Although she had many suitors, she initially wished to remain single. However, she was persuaded to marry after her mother's death, and chose for husband Habib Ghadban, a scion of a local Christian family. They had one son and two daughters.



Upon her return in Aleppo, after her travels to Europe, Maryana Marrash turned her house – which she shared with her husband - into a gathering place for a group of celebrated writers who met there on a regular basis to cultivate each other's friendship and discuss literature, music, and political and social issues. This became the notorious “Marrash’s salon” for which Maryana was famous for.