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Sommario/riassunto	Man of letters and self-taught editor, polygraph with an encyclopedic culture, willingly moralist, ur Zaydn (Beirut, 1861 - Cairo, 1914) was also the bearer of a coherent educational and social project: that of guiding his readers in a changing world, by giving them both a reform of their individual and collective behaviour and a new look at their time and their history through the concept of "rebirth". His work took on its full dimension at the turn of 1908: the Young Turkish Revolution led him to question Arab and Ottoman politics while the new Egyptian university brought him a potential academic consecration. He was then exposed to controversies having for stake the place of Islam in Arab societies and the nations in the making. The biography of ur Zaydn offered here does not separate his life from his work. It can be read on two levels: what he lived and how he lived it. Because he was able to translate for the "general public" the tension he personally felt between openness to others and the quest for his own identity, he was a successful writer for a long time, and remains until today Today is a tremendous witness to the dynamics of Westernisation, of the way cultures of foreign origin have been received in Arab culture.

