



INFORMATION
INTERNATIONAL sal

The Monthly

issue number 172 | July 2018

www.monthlymagazine.com

Published by Information International



LEBANESE

PARLIAMENTARY

ELECTIONS RESULTS

2018

Parliamentary appeals (1996-2018)

Salaries and wages of ministerial and government staff
LBP 5.15 trillion

Index

172 | July 2018

Leader

5 Lebanese Parliamentary Elections Results 2018

Public Sector

21 Parliamentary Appeals (1996-2018)

25 Salaries and Wages of Ministerial and Government staff
LBP 5.15 trillion

36 High Cost for Useless Public Institutions

43 The Municipal Elections: By Dr. Hanna Saadah

40 Discover Lebanon
Ain Al-Assad and Chamiss:
People from the Al-Kazzi Family

51 Lebanon Families
Salj families are "Catholic"



43



21



25

Published by Information International, *The Monthly* deals with research, economic, financial, social and cultural issues that concern Lebanese citizens and officials. It also publishes periodic public opinion polls on the topics in question. You can subscribe to "*The Monthly*" magazine by calling: 01-983008



All rights © reserved
License No. 180/2003

Information International S.A.L
Al-Borj Building, 4th Floor Martyr's Square, Commercial Center
Beirut - Lebanon, P.O.BOX: 11-4353 Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: (961-1) 983008/9 Fax: (961-1) 980630
E-mail: infointl@information-international.com
Web: www.information-international.com
Web: www.monthlymagazine.com



Editorial

Between Fakhreddine's millions and the Medicis

By Jawad N. Adra

This article was first written and published in July 2016 (*The Monthly*, issue No. 164) and we are republishing it today as the economic crisis is worsening and the Lebanese millionaires are growing their wealth immensely from the Lebanese economy.

For us, the Lebanese, Tuscany assumes particular significance not only for having ushered the Renaissance era in Europe, but because it was the chosen destination of the exiled Prince Fakhreddine II, from where he borrowed architectural features that remain evident in Lebanon today.

Researchers are still studying the origins of the Etruscans who settled before Christianity between the Arno and Tiber Rivers in an area that was later named after them, Tuscany.

Herodotus suggested that the Etruscans came from our homeland, north of Syria- modern day Turkey- a claim that was substantiated by the DNA results of 2007. This account becomes increasingly convincing when one checks the Etruscan carvings and artworks, which date back to that epoch. However, there is also a possibility that the Etruscans did not emigrate from any region but were actually a population indigenous to Tuscany, which adopted Florence as its capital city.

Like some of his modern day counterparts, Fakhreddine wanted to win foreign forces round to his cause. To that end, he attempted to persuade the Grand Duchy of Tuscany into "liberating" the lands from Ottoman domination, so he spent five years in exile in Tuscany and deposited in Monte Di Pietà bank an amount worth billions of dollars by today's market rates. Fakhreddine thought his money would eternalize him so he sent it off to the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, which somehow managed to confiscate the funds.

The Medicis who ruled Florence from 1434 till 1737 were neither known for their justice nor for their democratic rule or empathy towards the poor. Nevertheless, they left both a cultural and artistic legacy that has afforded them and Tuscany an everlasting reputation.

Notwithstanding their importance, the credit does not go entirely to the Medicis, for Tuscany was also home to Dante (1265-1321) who laid the cornerstone for the Italian language and standardized it as a language for all; prior to which Latin had been considered a language reserved for the elite. Part of the credit goes equally to Francesco Petrarca (1304-1374) who rediscovered Cicero's letters, left

the monkhood, fell in love with Laura and wrote her letters that were all the rage across Europe. Before becoming the miserable spot it is today, our homeland had once exported through the Franks (Crusaders) art and science to the outer world, which contributed to the birth of humanism. In that land, modern-day Italy, the people witnessed the glory and power of Rome, its democracy and the republics that arose under the city-states.

Humanism, a movement of which Petrarca was a founding father and which resurrected the non-theistic, non-totalitarian traditions that the Church had tried to erase, planted the seeds of Renaissance in Florence. Following the Black Death epidemic, there arose several demographic changes and trade opportunities that opened conducive economic, social and humanist horizons that granted the Medici's the nurturing environment they needed.

Apparently, the Medicis had something that the Zua'ama and the affluent of Lebanon, starting with Fakhreddine, lacked. Fakhreddine fled to Florence taking the money of his people with him (the Lebanon, Syria and Palestine today) but none of his successors could recover it. Today, the rich of Lebanon seem to be walking down the same road. This man was rendered a symbol. But a symbol of what? What is his legacy? The Medicis embraced art, science and architecture. What did Fakhreddine and the rich of Lebanon embrace?

Despite their alliance with the Pope, the Medicis granted Galileo (1564-1642) refuge when he had angered the Church. It was in Florence that Michelangelo, Botticelli and Leonardo da Vinci made their enduring innovations and the works of Filippo Brunelleschi (1377-1446) who built the Dome of the Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral, launching a magnificent style of architecture that brought back the glory of Rome, can be found. What did Fakhreddine and the rich of Lebanon launch?

The Medicis, in their early days, bore resemblance to some of Lebanon's bankers and politicians. They descended from somehow modest families and worked in business and trade. They were originally bankers and then decided to go to politics. They bought consciences and engaged in the