



MIKHAIL NAIMY

### Mikhail Naimy, 98

Was Lebanese literary figure

Associated Press

BEIRUT - Poet and philosopher Mikhail Naimy, one of Lebanon's major literary figures, died in Christian east Beirut shortly after developing pneumonia, relatives said. He was 98.

Mr. Naimy, who lived in the United States for 21 years and served in the US Army during World War I, died at his home in the Zalka district on Sunday, his family reported.

Mr. Naimy, biographer and longtime associate of Lebanese writer Khalil Gibran, was born in Baskinta, a mountaintop village 10 miles northeast of Beirut.

He was educated at a Russian missionary school in Jerusalem and attended high school in Moscow. He went to the United States in 1911 and earned a law degree from Washington State University in Seattle.

He was drafted May 25, 1918, and sent to the front in France.

Mr. Naimy's career as a writer began after his 1919 return to Walla Walla, Wash., to live with his two elder brothers.

He returned to live in Lebanon in 1932, a few months after Gibran's death.

Mr. Naimy was fluent in English, Russian and Arabic. His English language "Book of Mirdad, a Lighthouse and a Haven" has been translated into several languages. His biography of Gibran was first published in Arabic in 1934 and then reprinted in English in New York in 1950.

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