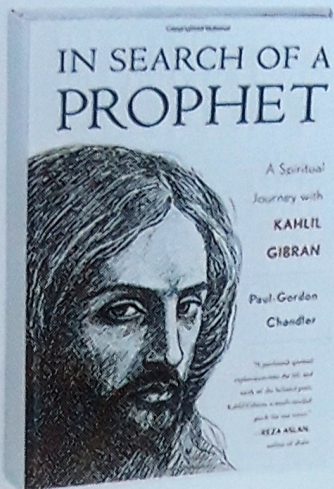


JANUARY FEBRUARY 2019

# AramcoWorld





**In Search of a Prophet: A Spiritual Journey with Kahlil Gibran**

Paul-Gordon Chandler. 2017, Rowman & Littlefield, 978-1-53810-427-9, \$19.95 hb.

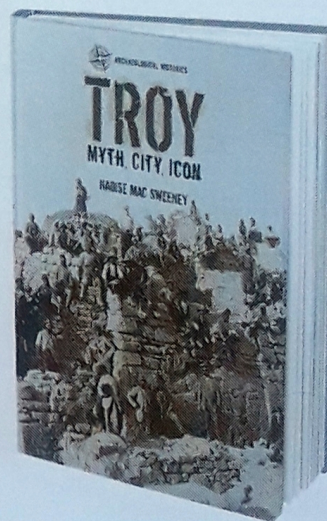
Paul-Gordon Chandler takes

readers on a fascinating journey across three continents as he explores the life, works and spirituality of Kahlil Gibran (1883–1931), the elusive author of *The Prophet*. Published in 1923, Gibran’s most famous work has been translated into 40 languages, sold more than 100 million copies and inspired millions of readers around the globe. Yet Gibran, who once explained, “My life is a life interior,” is far less known. Chandler exposes that interior life as he retraces Gibran’s footprints from his birthplace in the mountains of Bsharri, Lebanon, to the tenements of Boston where he, his mother and three siblings lived after immigrating to the us in 1895, to Paris and New York, where he emerged as an influential author, artist and poet. Full of contemporary links to Gibran (who knew that Elvis Presley could recite *The Prophet* by heart?), *In Search of a Prophet* underscores the timelessness of Gibran’s vision of a shared humanity that crosses all cultural and religious divides.

—PINEY KESTING

modern enterprise blending nationalism with globalism. The cover illustration highlights the 1985 space-shuttle flight of Saudi Prince Sultan bin Salman—the first Arab and Muslim space traveler. But there is much more, with the region’s first modern astronomers, including Syrians Yakub Sarruf and Faris Nimr, emerging in the 19th century. Links between us East Coast universities and newer Mideast institutions led to the expansion of astronomical science in the Arab world, and knowledge sharing aided growth of Arab space science. By the 20th century, Arab astronomers were once again contributing to world knowledge. Shadia Habbal of Damascus University became a recognized expert on solar wind. Farouk El-Baz of Egypt trained Apollo 11 astronauts for their historic moon landing, and more.

—ROBERT W. LEBLING



**Troy: Myth, City, Icon**

Naoise Mac Sweeney. 2018, Bloomsbury Academic, 978-1-47252-937-4, £19.99 pb.

No one, not even Homer, has ever tried to tell the whole story of Troy, but this slim

volume comes incredibly close. The author guides us briskly through 5,000 years of fact, fiction and folklore. We walk the ruins of the city at the southeastern end of the Dardanelles in today’s Turkey in each of its physical iterations; we witness layer by layer the excavations of Heinrich Schliemann and others; we wade