

Algerian Publishing House (1940–1952)

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The spread of the Adventist message in Algeria before its independence from the French in 1962 in part occurred through literature evangelism work and distribution of Bibles and Adventist magazines such as the *Revue Adventiste*.¹

In 1908 Joseph Abella, at the age of 16, went to Algeria, North Africa, as the first official colporteur.² Others followed, and by 1929 12 colporteurs were selling of literature under a Brother Bard, leader of the local field.³ In 1930 Jules Rey (superintendent of the North Africa Union Mission NAUM) began publishing Arabic literature for the indigenous population, enrolling several young people in the colporteur program.⁴

No official publishing entity existed in Algeria, however, until 1940 when the NAUM began operating the Algerian Publishing House in Algiers. It began without facilities and functioned as a depository only from 1933 to 1939. After 1935 it reported both book and periodical sales, and in 1940 the church designated it as a publishing house. However, no new reports on the house's activity appeared until 1948, when the sales from books and one periodical title totalled \$25,000. The volume of sales reached its highest peak in 1950 at nearly \$40,000. However, sales declined, and after 1952 the publishing house closed.⁵

SOURCES

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NOTES

1. Doru Pleniceanu, "L'implantation du mouvement adventiste en Algérie: 1905-1962" (M.A. thesis, Salève Adventist University, 2002), 68.
2. Ibid., 61.
3. G. W. Schubert, "Successful Colporteurs," *ARH*, August 15, 1929, 29.
4. "From our Correspondents," *ARH*, January 2, 1930, 2.
5. *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia* (1996), s.v. "Algerian Publishing House"; "Annual Statistical Reports," Office of Archives, Statistics and Research, 1932-1952, accessed January 27, 2022, <https://documents.adventistarchives.org/Search/Pages/results.aspx?k=algerian&u=https://documents.adventistarchives.org/Statistics/ASR&s=Entire%20Online>

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