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“Vizier, Counter of the Grain of Amun, Overseer of All the King’s Work, Child of the Nursery—who were the people behind these grand titles and what duties did they perform? The lives of the elite are revealed to us in large part through the detailed scenes adorning their tombs, and they also tell the history of the age of power and glory that was New Kingdom Egypt.”

— from the Introduction of Life in Paradise

Life in Paradise
The Noble Tombs of Thebes

Zahi Hawass

Photographs by Sandro Vannini

The extraordinary tombs of the people who served the pharaohs revealed in full color

Not far from the Valley of the Kings lie hundreds of unique and wonderfully decorated tombs from the New Kingdom belonging to courtiers and high officials, along with the artisans who worked on the royal tombs. Life in Paradise, illustrated with spectacular new photographs, gives the reader unprecedented and privileged access to a selection of these extraordinary monuments. The beautiful scenes and texts that adorn their walls include some of the most exquisite examples of Egyptian art, reflecting the aristocratic status of the tomb owners.

Combining scholarship with superb photography, including numerous foldouts, this magnificent volume illuminates the mysterious world of ancient Thebes and the nobles who lived and died there in Egypt’s Golden Age.

Zahi Hawass is the secretary general of Egypt’s Supreme Council of Antiquities. He is the author of many books on ancient Egypt, including The Royal Tombs of Egypt (AUC Press, 2007) and King Tutankhamun: The Treasures of the Tomb (AUC Press, 2007).

Sandro Vannini is an acclaimed photographer who has worked closely with Zahi Hawass over many years. He contributed the photographs for The Royal Tombs of Egypt and King Tutankhamun: The Treasures of the Tomb.

288pp. Hbd. 25.5x34cm. 208 illus. incl. 201 color and 20 foldouts.
October. 978-977-416-319-7. LE350 / $69.95. Middle East.
The Timeline History of Ancient Egypt
Shereen Ratnagar

A fascinating view of the pageant of pharaonic history

With spectacular monuments such as the Pyramids and the Sphinx, and a view of the afterlife that produced thousands of mummies, relics, and myths, ancient Egypt has fascinated everyone from Herodotus to Napoleon Bonaparte to schoolchildren around the world. The Timeline History of Ancient Egypt explores the lives of the pharaohs and other historical figures, but also looks in detail at the daily lives of ordinary people—scribes, priests, and villagers—who maintained the machinery of the state. The book explains the intricacies of the culture’s religious beliefs; examines ancient Egypt’s art, relics, temples, monuments, and language; and follows the rhythm of an agricultural society.

A comprehensive, up-to-date review of more than three thousand years of ancient history, this is a book that no aspiring Egyptologist should be without.

Shereen Ratnagar was a professor of ancient history and archaeology at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. The author of six books, she lectures at various universities and institutes.


The Monuments of Egypt
An A–Z Companion to Ancient Egyptian Architecture
Dieter Arnold

A guide to the architectural wonders of the Nile Valley

The ancient Egyptians’ greatest monuments, ranging from Abu Simbel in the south to Cleopatra’s palaces in Alexandria, were built over a period of three millennia, and yet a common architectural tradition links them all. Dieter Arnold here provides a single-volume guide to one of the most remarkable architectures of the ancient world. Entries are presented for each of the most important ancient sites, covering monuments as diverse as the Step Pyramid of Djoser, the tombs of the Valley of the Kings, and the great Ptolemaic temples that line the Upper Nile. Key aspects of design and construction are also considered in separate entries, covering aspects such as building and construction techniques. With more than 600 illustrations, this guide provides a comprehensive introduction to ancient Egyptian monuments.

“A splendidly produced and illustrated edition.”
—Peter Clayton, Minerva magazine

“This edition is very much to be welcomed.”
—T. G. H. James, formerly Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities, The British Museum

Dieter Arnold is curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. He is the author of numerous books on Egyptian architecture.

Ancient Egyptian Art
Visual Encyclopedia

Alice Cartocci

Four thousand years of art in full color

From the earliest clay figures and ivory combs of Predynastic times, through the masterful statuary of the Old Kingdom and the exquisite tomb paintings of the New Kingdom, to the astonishingly modern painted portraits of the Greco-Roman era, the artistic achievements of Egypt span over four thousand years. In this unique new visual reference work, the finest examples of Egyptian art from museum collections around the world are illustrated to advantage in more than 360 beautiful full-color photographs. Not only a feast for the eyes, this book is informative too, with introductions to each historical period, graphic summaries of Egyptian history and great archaeological discoveries, and a chronology and glossary. This celebration and pageant of ancient Egyptian creative expression deserves a place on the shelves of Egyptologists and art lovers alike.

Alice Cartocci, born in Arezzo in 1977, is an independent writer and researcher on ancient Egyptian mathematics and art.

Amarna Sunset
Nefertiti, Tutankhamun, Ay, Horemheb, and the Egyptian Counter-Reformation
Aidan Dodson

A new account of the return to orthodoxy after Akhenaten’s revolution

This new study, drawing on the latest research, tells the story of the decline and fall of the pharaoh Akhenaten’s religious revolution in the fourteenth century BC. Beginning at the regime’s high-point in his Year 12, it traces the subsequent collapse that saw the deaths of many of the king’s loved ones, his attempts to guarantee the revolution through co-rulers, and the last frenzied assault on the god Amun.

The book then outlines the events of the subsequent five decades that saw the extinction of the royal line, an attempt to place a foreigner on Egypt’s throne, and the accession of three army officers in turn. Among its conclusions are that the mother of Tutankhamun was none other than Nefertiti, and that the queen was joint-pharaoh in turn with both her husband Akhenaten and her son. As such, she was herself instrumental in beginning the return to orthodoxy, undoing her erstwhile husband’s life-work before her own mysterious disappearance.

Aidan Dodson is a research fellow in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Bristol, UK, where he teaches Egyptology. He is the author of eleven books and over 200 reviews and articles.

192pp. Hbd. 100 illus.

Babylon of Egypt
The Archaeology of Old Cairo and the Origins of the City
ARCE Conservation Series 4
Peter Sheehan

An archaeological investigation into the ancient nucleus of medieval and modern Cairo

This book presents a history of Old Cairo based on new archaeological evidence gathered between 2000 and 2006 during a major project to lower the groundwater level affecting the churches and monuments of this area of Cairo known by the Romans as Babylon. Examination of the material and structural remains revealed a sequence of continuous occupation extending from the sixth century BC to the present day. These include the massive stone walls of the canal linking the Nile to the Red Sea, and the harbor constructed by Trajan at its entrance around 110 AD. The Emperor Diocletian built the fortress of Babylon around the harbor and the canal in 300 AD, and much new information has come to light concerning the construction and internal layout of the fortress, which continues to enclose and define the enclave of Old Cairo. Important evidence for the early medieval transformation of the area into the nucleus of the Arab city of al-Fustat and its later medieval development is also presented.

Peter Sheehan directed the Old Cairo Archaeological Monitoring Project from 2000 to 2006 and has published a number of articles on the archaeology of the area. He is currently historic buildings manager for the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage.

312pp. Hbd. 25x30cm. 125 illus. incl. 50 color.
Annales du Service des Antiquités de l’Egypte

Cahier No. 37: The Realm of the Pharaohs Essays in Honor of Tohfa Handoussa

Edited by Zahi Hawass, Khaled A. Daoud, and Sawsan Abd El-Fattah

A tribute to one of Egypt’s preeminent Egyptologists

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Mohamed I. Bakr

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An SCA publication
300pp. Phbk. 2-volume set. 17x24cm. Illustrated.
September. 978-977-437-842-3. ISSN 1687-4951.
£300 / $49.50. World.

Annales du Service des Antiquités de l’Egypte

Volume 81

The definitive journal of Egyptian archaeology

This publication provides an up-to-date account of archaeology in Egypt, including new discoveries and recent studies. For more than a hundred years, the Annales du Service has been studied by Egyptologists, students, and laypersons alike. Published under the auspices of Egypt’s Supreme Council of Antiquities, its contributors include some of the most well-known Egyptologists in the world covering a broad range of archaeological disciplines and spectrums.

An SCA publication
286pp. Phbk. 21x29cm. 200 illus.
September. 978-977-437-668-9. ISSN 1687-1510.
£120 / $34.50. World.
Artists in the Old Kingdom
Techniques and Achievements

Naguib Kanawati and Alexandra Woods

Exploring the role of the artists who created the magnificent tomb paintings of Egypt's Old Kingdom

Challenging the idea that the artists of ancient Egypt were anonymous craftsmen who labored in obscurity to create masterpieces of funerary art, the authors of this volume have produced a thorough study, well illustrated with detailed photographs and line drawings, that gives definition to these skilled and valued members of society. This monograph provides an accessible reference on Egyptian art as it appears in wall scenes, and addresses the intriguing question of the artists' identity and individual style.

Preserving Egypt's Cultural Heritage

Edited by Randi Danforth

With a Foreword by Zahi Hawass

Treasures of Egypt's cultural heritage conserved under the direction of the American Research Center in Egypt

Under the directorship of the late Robert K. Vincent, Jr., conservation projects funded by USAID in collaboration with Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities ranged widely in their scope. Projects involving prehistoric sites in Sinai, the shattered sarcophagus of Ramesses VI, exquisite Greco-Roman mosaics, fine Coptic wall paintings, and numerous training programs were all part of the work described in this volume.


Randi Danforth has a degree in archaeology from Yale University. She lives and works in Egypt.

An SCA publication

An ARCE publication
Bringing together a distinguished interdisciplinary group of scholars, this volume explores what happens when new forms of privatization meet collectivist pasts, public space is sold off to satisfy investor needs and tourist gazes, and the state plans for Egypt’s future in desert cities while stigmatizing and neglecting Cairo’s popular neighborhoods.

The original publication of this volume launched the Cairo School of Urban Studies, committed to fusing political-economy and ethnographic methods and sensitive to ambivalence and contingency, to reveal the new contours and patterns of modern power emerging in the urban frame.


Diane Singerman is associate professor in the Department of Government at the School of Public Affairs of American University. She is the editor of Cairo Contested (AUC Press, 2009).

Paul Amar is assistant professor of law and society at the University of California, Santa Barbara.


Diane Singerman is co-editor of Cairo Cosmopolitan: Politics, Culture, and Urban Space in the New Globalized Middle East (AUC Press, 2006).
The University and Its Discontents
Egyptian and Global Perspectives
Edited by Robert Switzer
An examination of the place of the university in the modern world
Original articles addressing the place of universities in today’s globalized world are included in this volume, illuminating higher education concerns in Egypt and elsewhere.
Alif: Journal of Comparative Poetics 29
Robert Switzer is associate professor of philosophy at the American University in Cairo.

The Urban Social History of the Middle East, 1750–1950
Edited by Peter Sluglett
New ways of looking at the history of Middle Eastern cities
With the discovery and wider use over the last few decades of the Islamic court records and Ottoman administrative documents, our knowledge of Middle Eastern cities between the seventeenth and early twentieth centuries has vastly expanded. Drawing upon a treasure trove of documents and using a variety of methodologies, the contributors succeed in providing a significant overview of the ways in which Middle Eastern cities can be studied, as well as an excellent introduction to current literature in the field.
Contributors: Edmund Burke III, Leila Fawaz, Bernard Hourcade, Robert Ilbert, Dina Rizk Khoury, Gudrun Krämer, Abdul-Karim Rafeq, Sarah D. Shields, Peter Sluglett, Sami Zubaida.
Peter Sluglett is professor of Middle Eastern history at the University of Utah.

Women, Water, and Memory
Recasting Lives in Palestine
Nefissa Naguib
An unusual and intimate celebration of Palestinian women’s lives
Against the backdrop of the end of the Ottoman Empire to the Palestinian uprisings, old Palestinian women recount life before and after piped water. While talking about fetching and managing household water, women also talked about being women.
Women, Water, and Memory speaks of many different lives. We learn about the joy women feel each time they dance at a wedding, the sheer satisfaction of lighting a cigarette, the loyalty and shared despair toward families with members in prison, and about the tears of sorrow at each death and the delight at each birth.
Nefissa Naguib is associate professor of anthropology and development studies at Oslo University College.
Egypt
Moment of Change
Edited by Philip Marfleet and Rabab El Mahdi
A comprehensive and accessible examination of contemporary issues in Egypt

There have been few attempts to understand contemporary Egyptian society, in particular growing internal pressures for change and their implications for the Middle East and the wider world.

This book presents a series of analyses of politics, culture, and society, addressing the turmoil created by imposition of neo-liberal economic policies, the increasingly fragile nature of an authoritarian regime, the influence of movements for democratic opening and popular participation, and the impacts of Islamism.

The authors argue that Egypt has entered a period of instability and assess the ability of the state to resist the new movements and the latters’ capacity to fulfill their aims.


Philip Marfleet is reader in social sciences at the University of East London.
Rabab El Mahdi is assistant professor of political science at the American University in Cairo.


Life as Politics
How Ordinary People Change the Middle East
Asef Bayat
A Middle Eastern perspective on the dynamics of social change

In this eye-opening book, Asef Bayat reveals how under the shadow of the authoritarian rule, religious moral authorities, and economic elites, ordinary people can make meaningful change through the practices of everyday life.

Though not as visible on the world-stage as a mass protest or a full-scale revolution, millions of people across the Middle East are discovering or creating new social spaces within which to make their claims heard, challenging the state’s control and implicitly questioning the established public order through their daily activities. Though not coordinated in their activities, these “non-movements” offer a political response, not of protest but of practice and direct daily action.

“In this pioneering book, Bayat forces us to see things from the ground up.”
—Kamran Asdar Ali, University of Texas at Austin

“Truly one of the most important contributions to the field in the past decade.”
—Ted Swedenburg, University of Arkansas

Asef Bayat is professor of sociology and Middle Eastern studies at Leiden University. He is the author of Street Politics: Poor People’s Movements in Iran (AUC Press, 1998).

Islam and Modernity
Key Issues and Debates
Edited by Muhammad Khalid Masud, Armando Salvatore, and Martin van Bruinessen
An introduction to emerging debates and questions
As a major strand of western public discourse has it, Islam appears resistant to internal development and remains inherently pre-modern. However, Muslim societies have experienced most of the same structural changes that have impacted upon all societies, developments accompanied by a wide range of social movements and by complex and varied religious and ideological debates.

Key topics are selected here to give readers an understanding of the complexity of the issues from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, including social change and the transformation of political and religious institutions, gender politics, changing legal regimes, and modern developments in Muslim religious thought.

Contributors: Martin van Bruinessen, Deniz Kandiyoti, Muhammad Khalid Masud, Ebrahim Moosa, Armando Salvatore, Abdulkader Tayob, Muhammad Qasim Zaman, Sami Zubaida.

Muhammad Khalid Masud is chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology in Islamabad. Armando Salvatore is associate professor of sociology of culture and communication at the Oriental Studies University, Naples. Martin van Bruinessen is professor of the comparative study of contemporary Muslim societies at Utrecht University.

320pp. Pbk.
October. 978-977-416-332-6. LE100 / $22.95. Middle East.

The Arab State and Neo-Liberal Globalization
The Restructuring of State Power in the Middle East
Edited by Laura Guazzone and Daniela Pioppi
An alternative approach to the study of today's Arab states
This collection of essays by leading academics focuses on the participation of Arab states in neo-liberal globalization.

The effects of the restructuring of traditional state power engendered by globalization are analyzed separately, through updated empirical research in the political, economic, and security processes of each country considered. Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia are the case studies selected to represent different paths toward a shared model of “new” Arab state which, far from representing an exceptional case of resilience against global trends, may be seen in many instances as typifying their effects.


Laura Guazzone is professor of the contemporary history of the Arab countries at La Sapienza University of Rome. Daniela Pioppi is senior research fellow at the Italian Institute of International Affairs.

300pp. Pbk.
What Drives Prices in Egypt?
An Analysis in Light of International Experience
Edited by Hanaa Kheir-El-Din

A careful examination of pricing in Egypt from the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies
Since 2004, economic reforms in Egypt have led to robust expansion, a healthy external position, and enhanced investor confidence. But despite these positive macroeconomic developments, inflation has been steadily rising. Does fiscal policy threaten price stability? Does wage growth in the Egyptian economy lead price inflation, or is it the reverse? In this volume, these and other questions are examined by contributors who participated in a conference held in Cairo in late 2007.

Here is a coherent and comprehensive analysis of the factors driving prices in Egypt, in an attempt to find a satisfactory balance between prices and economic growth. While Egypt is the focus of the analysis, the papers draw upon the relevant literature, and international experience, and the findings can be applied to other middle-income economies. This timely study helps to explain the complex issues facing economists and policymakers, with proposals for reform.


Hanaa Kheir-El-Din is the executive director and director of research of the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES), a research fellow at the Economic Research Forum (ERF), and a professor of economics at Cairo University.

256pp. Pbk. 66 illus.

Voices in Refuge
Stories from Sudanese Refugees in Cairo
Edited by Nora Eltahawy, Brooke Comer, and Amani Elshimi

Personal stories of terror, escape, displacement, and resilience from a prominent refugee group in Egypt
Current estimates indicate the presence of anywhere between 20,000 and 250,000 Sudanese refugees in Egypt. The great discrepancy in figures, a result of contradictory new reports, is an important demonstration of the way the refugee situation in Cairo is perceived by various interest groups, many of whom continue to underestimate the problems faced by the Sudanese community in Egypt.

This collection of oral narratives gives voice to the everyday lives and unique struggles of a small group of refugees displaced to Egypt, in an attempt to identify their problems frequently overlooked by the media. Compiled through a series of interviews conducted by students at the American University in Cairo, the narratives are complemented by a short history of Sudanese refugees in Egypt and a theoretical study of racism against the Sudanese in the country.

Nora Eltahawy is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Comparative Literature at the University of Texas at Austin. Brooke Comer is a fiction writer and journalist who teaches writing at the American University in Cairo. Amani Elshimi is director of community-based learning and senior lecturer in the Department of Rhetoric and Composition at the American University in Cairo.

160pp. Pbk.
October. 978-977-416-305-0. LE80 / $22.95. World.
Caliph of Cairo
Al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah, 996–1021
Paul E. Walker

The most authoritative biography to date of the controversial Fatimid ruler

One night in the year 411/1021, the powerful ruler of Fatimid Cairo, al-Hakim bi-Amr Allah, rode out of the southern gates of his city and was never seen again. Was the caliph murdered, or could he have decided to abandon his royal life, wandering off to live alone and anonymous? Whatever the truth, the fact was that al-Hakim had literally vanished into the desert.

Yet al-Hakim, though shrouded in mystery, has never been forgotten. To the Druze, he was (and is) God, and his disappearance merely indicated his reversion to non-human form. For Ismailis, al-Hakim was the sixteenth imam, descended from the Prophet, and infallible. Jews and Christians, by contrast, long remembered him as their persecutor, who ordered the destruction of many of their synagogues and churches.

Using all the tools of modern scholarship, Paul Walker offers the most balanced and engaging biography yet to be published of this endlessly fascinating individual.

Paul E. Walker is a visiting scholar with the University of Chicago’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies and an historian of ideas specializing in medieval Islamic history.

Muhammad Abduh
A Biography
Mark Sedgwick

A new biography of the influential Islamic thinker

In Egypt, Muhammad Abduh (1849–1905) is now generally remembered as a great scholar and a patriot, a great renewer of Islam, one of those who awakened the nation—though the details of this greatness have grown somewhat fuzzy with time. Among scholars, in the Muslim world and the west, he is known as Islam’s leading modernist. For some, his modernism consisted of creating a synthesis of Islam and modern thought; for others, it consisted of the bridge he built between the old world and the new. Some see him as having revived true Islam, some as having proposed an alternative to true Islam.

One question that this new biography addresses, then, is quite what his modernism consisted of. Another question is where his modernism came from. And a final question is what happened to it after his death.

Mark Sedgwick is associate professor of Arab history, culture, and society at Aarhus University, and previously taught for many years at The American University in Cairo. His other books include Sufism: The Essentials (AUC Press, 2003).
A Concise History of the Middle East

New Revised Edition

Arthur Goldschmidt Jr.
and Lawrence Davidson

Fully updated edition of the classic text

The ninth edition of this widely acclaimed text by Arthur Goldschmidt Jr. and Lawrence Davidson has been extensively revised to reflect the latest scholarship and the most recent events in the Middle East. As an introduction to the history of this turbulent region from the beginnings of Islam to the present day, the book is distinguished by its clear style, broad scope, and balanced treatment.

“This is a text that breathes life into the history it presents.”
—Joel Gordon, University of Arkansas

“Well organized. . . . Straightforward and easy to follow. . . . Designed to help the student acquire a basic understanding of Middle East history from the 7th century until the present.”
—Choice

“An invaluable introduction and a useful reference book for the nonspecialist.”
—Journal of Palestine Studies

Arthur Goldschmidt Jr. is professor emeritus of Middle East history at Pennsylvania State University. Lawrence Davidson is professor of history at West Chester University.

576pp. Pbk. 9 maps.

Life Is More Beautiful than Paradise

A Jihadist’s Own Story

Khaled al-Berry

Translated by Humphrey Davies

An autobiographical account of a journey into extremism

In 1986, when this autobiography opens, the author is a typical fourteen-year-old boy in Asyut in Upper Egypt. Attracted at first by the image of a radical Islamist group as “strong Muslims,” his involvement develops until he finds himself deeply committed to its beliefs and implicated in its activities. This ends when, as he leaves the university following a demonstration, he is arrested. Prison, a return to life on the outside, and attending Cairo University all lead to Khaled al-Berry’s eventual alienation from radical Islam.

Fluently written, intellectually gripping, exciting, and often funny, Life Is More Beautiful than Paradise opens a window onto the mind of an extremist who turns out to be disarmingly like many other clever adolescents, and bears witness to a history with whose reverberations we continue to live.

Khaled al-Berry was born in Sohag, Egypt in 1972. He has a degree in medicine from Cairo University, and currently works as a journalist and writer in London, where he has been living since 1999.

Humphrey Davies is the translator of The Yacoubian Building by Alaa Al Aswany (AUC Press, 2004) and Gate of the Sun by Elias Khoury, for which he was awarded the Banipal Prize for Literary Translation.

192pp. Hbd.
Edward William Lane, 1801–1876
The Life of the Pioneering Egyptologist and Orientalist
Jason Thompson
The first full-length biography of the eminent Victorian scholar

Few Western scholars of the Middle East have exerted such profound influence as Edward William Lane. Lane's *Account of the Manners and Customs of the Modern Egyptians* (1836), which has never gone out of print, remains as a highly authoritative study of Middle Eastern society. His annotated translation of the *Arabian Nights* (1839–41) retains a devoted readership. Lane's recently recovered and published *Description of Egypt* (2000) shows that he was a pioneering Egyptologist as well as orientalist. The capstone of his career, the definitive *Arabic–English Lexicon* (1863–93), is an indispensable reference tool.

Yet, despite his extraordinary influence, little was known about Lane and virtually nothing about how he did his work. Now, in the first full-length biography, Lane’s life and accomplishments are examined in full, including his crucial years of field work in Egypt, revealing the life of a great Victorian scholar and presenting a fascinating episode in east–west encounter, interaction, and representation.

*Jason Thompson* is the editor of Edward William Lane’s *Description of Egypt* (AUC Press, 2000) and *An Account of the Manners and Customs of the Modern Egyptians* (AUC Press, 2003), and the author of *Sir Gardiner Wilkinson and His Circle* and *A History of Egypt: From Earliest Times to the Present* (AUC Press, 2008).

The Hashemites
The Dream of Arabia
Robert McNamara
The story of the one dynasty and the struggle for Arab independence

The story of the Arab Revolt during the First World War and the Hashemite princes who led it is one of wartime expediency, double-dealing, and dynastic ambition, coming to a head at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, which shaped the modern Middle East. The story of the Hashemite dynasty at the Conference is the story of the birth of the modern history of a region that is now more than ever at the center of world affairs.

Here Robert McNamara argues that the British cultivated the Hashemite Sheriffs of Mecca more as an alternative focus for Muslim loyalty away from the Ottoman sultan than as leaders of truly independent nations. At the same time, the Sykes–Picot Agreement divided up the Middle East between Britain and France. The sense of betrayal that this caused has colored Arab nationalists’ views of the west ever since.

*Robert McNamara* is a lecturer in International History at the University of Ulster at Coleraine.
Writing Arabic
From Script to Type
Stefan Moginet

A history of the formation of Arabic letters from the earliest styles to modern computer fonts

This book, abundantly illustrated with examples of Arabic handwriting, calligraphy, and typography, clearly presents the development of Arabic writing styles, from the beginning with reed pens to twenty-first century computerized typesetting. The author explains the importance of writing instruments and the surfaces onto which letters are inscribed, including the particular challenges introduced with the innovation of the printing press, and later the computer. Writing Arabic will interest not only those interested in the extraordinary history of writing, but also graphic designers, calligraphers, and visual artists, enabling an understanding of the development of existing styles, and providing a foundation from which new logotypes and character fonts can be designed.

Stefan Moginet, a graphic and type designer, has worked for over fifteen years in Morocco and Tunisia in the printing, publishing, and advertising industries.

112pp. Hbd. 17x24cm. 100 illus.

The Grove Encyclopedia of Islamic Art and Architecture
Edited by Jonathan M. Bloom and Sheila S. Blair

The indispensable reference resource

Richly illustrated and accessible, this is the most current, comprehensive, and reliable reference work on the topic. The unparalleled scope and depth of these three volumes include wide-ranging subject areas such as: artists, rulers, writers, dynasties, architecture, ceramics, sculpture, metalwork, painting, calligraphy, textiles, and more.

• Covers Islamic art throughout the world including East, Central, and South Asia, Africa, and Europe. Prominent scholars provide new research and bibliographies for thorough and up-to-date coverage of this important field.
• Over 1,600 entries on an enormous range of Islamic art topics.
• More than 500 illustrations—120 in color—provide essential visual support for unparalleled textual content.

Jonathan M. Bloom and Sheila S. Blair share the Norma Jean Calderwood University Professorship of Islamic and Asian Art at Boston College and the Hamad bin Khalifa Endowed Chair of Islamic Art at Virginia Commonwealth University. Jonathan M. Bloom is the author of Arts of the City Victorious: Islamic Art and Architecture in the Fatimid North Africa and Egypt (AUC Press, 2009). Sheila S. Blair is the author of Islamic Calligraphy (AUC Press, 2006).

An Oxford University Press publication
2124pp. Hbd. Three-volume set. 21x27.5 cm.
Over 500 illus. incl. 120 in color.
September. 978-0-19-530991-1. LE999 / $290. Middle East.
Re:viewing Egypt
Image and Echo

Photographs by Xavier Roy
Text by Gamal al-Ghitani

A unique and surprising photographic presentation that invites us to look twice

Xavier Roy’s breathtaking photographs of Egypt offer us a haunting vision of a country and its people. They are also a lesson in the art of photography itself, inviting us to experience images as metaphor, to extend our notions of reality. We observe the correspondences of shape and texture, perspective and repetition, light and shadow, and the vitality in the mundane and commonplace. A photograph of an acacia tree is juxtaposed with one of birds in flight, their formation and movement echoing the outline and feather-like aspect of the tree. Each photograph is at once an offer of tranquility and a call to interpret.

Gamal al-Ghitani’s profoundly contemplative introduction is both inspiring and inspired by Roy’s gallery of images, compelling us to observe Egypt’s riches not as passive onlookers, but as engaged, reflective beings.

Xavier Roy’s photographs have been exhibited in France, New York, and Brazil, and his books include The Soul of Cuba and All Our Children. Gamal al-Ghitani is the author of The Mahfouz Dialogs (AUC Press, 2007), and The Zafarani Files (AUC Press, 2009).

144pp. Hbd. 21x24cm. 117 duotone photographs.
Gaza Graffiti
Messages of Love and Politics

Mia Gröndahl

A photographic exploration of Gaza's writing on the wall

Graffiti began in Gaza in 1987, during the first Intifada, when there was no Palestinian television or radio in the Gaza Strip, and no newspapers: the messages that spread along the walls became an important means of communication. Over the years, all political groups have had their own graffiti artists. Scrawl is not tolerated—it has to look good. Hamas even offers evening classes in graffiti.

Documenting the writings on the walls of Gaza over a period of seven years, celebrated Swedish photojournalist Mia Gröndahl lays before us the many roles that they perform, the colorful and surprising range of their artistic expression, and their reflection of the changing political situation. And apart from political slogans, the walls bear witness too to joy and sadness: the wedding celebrations, the many victims of the conflict, and the ever present hope of peace and freedom. For us on the outside, Mia Gröndahl's photographs offer an exciting and unexpected view of life in Gaza.

Mia Gröndahl was born in 1951 and lives in Cairo and southern Sweden. She is the photographer of In Hope and Despair: Life in the Palestinian Refugee Camps (AUC Press, 2003).

152pp. Pbk. 24x21cm. 150 color photographs.
Music and Media in the Arab World
Edited by Michael Frishkopf

Key issues of contemporary Arab society addressed through the culture of music

Since the turn of the twentieth century the dramatic rise of mass media has profoundly transformed music practices in the Arab world. Music has adapted to successive forms of media dissemination—from phonograph cylinders to MP3s—each subjected to the political and economic forces of its particular era and region. Carried by mass media, the broader culture of Arab music has been thoroughly transformed as well. Simultaneously, mass mediated music has become a powerful social force.

This provocative volume features sixteen new essays examining the key issues of contemporary Arab society—gender and sexuality, Islam, class, economy, power, and nation—as refracted through the culture of mediated music. Interconnected by a web of recurrent concepts, this collection transcends music to become an important resource for the study of contemporary Arab society and culture.


Michael Frishkopf is professor of music and associate director of the Canadian Centre for Ethnomusicology at the University of Alberta, Canada.

304pp. Hbd. 27 b/w illustrations
November. 978-977-416-293-0. LE150 / $29.95. World.

Photography and Egypt
Maria Golia

A close look at the work of Egyptian and foreign photographers over 150 years

While Egypt and its monuments have been regularly photographed over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries by foreigners, little is known about Egyptian photographers themselves. This book examines both, considering images from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day, taking in studio portraits, landscapes, photo-journalism, and the work of contemporary Egyptian photo artists.

Maria Golia looks closely at the work of early Egyptian photographers such as Colonel Mohammad Sadiq, Mohammad Badr, and Atiyya Gaddis, many previously unknown to a western audience. She discusses court photography, photography for propaganda purposes, and studio-based photography, used to depict the growing Egyptian middle class.

Today’s young photographic artists use the medium both to celebrate ‘ordinary lives’ and to indict the political and social conditions that contribute to their hardship.

Illustrated with a rich, surprising variety of images, many previously unknown in the west, Photography and Egypt is the first book to relate the story of Egypt’s rapport with photography into one concise and highly readable account.

Maria Golia is a long-time resident of Cairo and the author of Cairo: City of Sand (AUC Press, 2004).

144pp. Pbk. 80 illus. incl. 30 in color.
November. 978-977-416-335-7. LE120 / $24.95. Middle East.
Spiral Guide Egypt
New Revised Edition

Sylvie Franquet and Anthony Sattin

A fully updated edition of this popular guide for 2010

Combining a bright modern design with the most up-to-date facts, this stylish guide, completely revised and updated for 2010, is a must-have for anyone visiting Egypt—from first-time tourists to veteran independent travelers. From the Luxor temples to Red Sea diving sites, from downtown Alexandria to the western Oases, Spiral Guide Egypt is packed with information on Egypt’s history, museums, temples, restaurants, and accommodations. For tourists on a tight schedule, it highlights “Don’t Miss Sights” in each section, with additional listings of places to visit for travelers with more time on their hands. “Inside Info” boxes help you make the most of your time and beat the crowds, along with “Taking A Break” sections for those times when sightseeing gets to be too much. Best of all, its compact size and unique fold-back-flat spiral binding make it convenient for carrying anywhere.

Sylvie Franquet, who lived in Cairo for six years, writes for the Belgian newspaper De Morgen. Anthony Sattin is the editor of Florence Nightingale’s previously unpublished Letters from Egypt, 1849–50 and a regular contributor to the Sunday Times.


National Geographic Traveler
Egypt

Andrew Humphreys

“Delightfully sumptuous.”—The Observer

This fully illustrated, comprehensive travel guide with more than 175 color photographs and 20 detailed, full color maps, brings you the best of Egypt. Among its other features are:

- Charting Your Trip, a rich overview that helps tailor your visit to the time you have and your specific interests.
- Experiences, unique and hands-on, including sailing on a Nile felucca at Luxor and touring Sinai with Bedouins.
- Insider Tips on favorite hot spots, practicalities, and more.
- Walking Tours, with maps color-coded to site descriptions, including Islamic and Coptic Cairo and the Valley of the Kings.
- Excursions off the beaten path, including deep desert safaris and trips to little-visited but well-preserved ancient temples.

“Sensational photos, superb maps, and prose that’s authoritative.”

—San Francisco Chronicle

“Rich with photography, maps, and historical context.”

—Los Angeles Times

Andrew Humphreys has worked for a variety of publications including The Wall Street Journal and National Geographic.

The Illustrated Guide to the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo
with the Museums of Islamic Ceramics and Islamic Textiles
Bernard O’Kane
With contributions by Muhammad Abbas and Iman Abdulfattah
A full-color guide to one of Egypt’s leading museums
Cairo’s Museum of Islamic Art houses one of the richest collections of artifacts from all periods of Islamic history and all parts of the Islamic world.

Structured as a guide, but fully illustrated with superb color photographs, this book suggests a simple but comprehensive itinerary through one of Egypt’s most fascinating museums. Taking readers through the various exhibits, this useful guidebook explains and illuminates the esthetic and historic importance of the museum’s main works on display, including metalwork, textiles, woodwork, glass, carved stone and ivory, and the art of the book. Also included are sections on two other small but important Cairo museums: the Islamic Ceramics Museum and the Islamic Textiles Museum.

Written by one of the leading authorities on Islamic art and architecture, and lavishly illustrated throughout with specially commissioned color photographs, this is the definitive guide to Egypt’s great collections of Islamic art.

Bernard O’Kane is professor of Islamic art and architecture at the American University in Cairo. He is the editor of Treasures of Islamic Art (AUC Press, 2006) and Creswell Photographs Re-examined (AUC Press, 2009).


Luxor Illustrated
With Aswan, Abu Simbel, and the Nile
Michael Haag
A full-color celebration of the monuments and landscape of Upper Egypt
Luxor stands on the site of ancient Thebes, Egypt’s opulent New Kingdom capital. It encompasses the spectacular temples of Luxor and Karnak on the east bank of the Nile, and on the west bank the vast necropolis, which includes the Colossi of Memnon, the famed Ramesseum, Queen Hatshepsut’s magnificent funerary temple, and the Valley of the Kings, riddled with royal tombs, among them the fabled resting place of Tutankhamun. The splendor and profusion of pharaonic monuments at Luxor justifies its reputation as the greatest outdoor museum in the world.

Reaching beyond Luxor, this book also covers all the major sites of Upper Egypt, including Abydos, Dendera, Esna, Edfu, and Kom Ombo. Special attention is given to Aswan, one of the most beautiful places in Egypt, with its nearby island temple of Isis at Philae. The climax of this informed and richly illustrated book comes with the remarkable temples at Abu Simbel, with their colossal figures of Ramesses II and his lovely wife Nefertari cut from the living rock.

Michael Haag is a writer and photographer based in London. He has photographed and written Alexandria Illustrated (AUC Press, 2004) and Cairo Illustrated (AUC Press, 2006), and he is the author of Alexandria: City of Memory and Vintage Alexandria: Photographs of the City, 1860–1960 (AUC Press, 2008).

Wonders of Karnak
The Sound and Light of Thebes
Introduced by Zahi Hawass
The perfect souvenir of the Karnak Sound & Light Show

One of the highlights of a visit to the historic monuments of Luxor, ancient Thebes, is the famed Sound & Light Show in the great temple complex of Karnak. As visitors arrive after sunset at the first pylon and walk through the magnificent hypostyle hall, they are treated to the first part of this spectacular show of music, historical narration, and lights and images played on the ancient walls. The experience continues as they reach their seats and view the culmination of the spectacle on the ancient stones across the sacred lake.

This new, full-color presentation serves as the ideal record—or foretaste—of the Karnak Sound & Light experience, with a historical introduction to the area and the temples by internationally renowned Egyptologist Zahi Hawass, and the complete script of the show, accompanied by over 60 beautiful photographs of the light show and of Karnak Temple and other sights of Luxor.

Zahi Hawass is the secretary general of Egypt’s Supreme Council of Antiquities and the author of many books on ancient Egypt.

The Nile Cruise
An Illustrated Journey
Photographs by Sherif Sonbol
Text by Jenny Jobbins
The perfect companion to one of the world’s great travel experiences

Since Cleopatra treated Caesar to a magnificent progress upriver on her royal barge, a cruise on the Nile has been an essential component of many visitors’ trips to Egypt. Today, thousands take this unforgettable journey of a lifetime on one of the many luxury cruise ships that sail the Nile between Luxor and Aswan.

With 150 superb color photographs by veteran photographer Sherif Sonbol, and vivid descriptions by travel writer Jenny Jobbins, this fully illustrated celebration of the classic river journey is the ideal foretaste of, companion to, or souvenir from a modern Nile cruise. From the great temples, mysterious royal sepulchers, and intimate private tombs of Luxor, via the smaller temples and bustling towns along the river, to the serene beauty of Aswan and to the world-famous attractions of Philae and Abu Simbel beyond, this exquisitely designed book covers all the main sites on the Nile cruise itinerary.

Sherif Sonbol is the photographer of The Churches of Egypt (AUC Press, 2008).
Traveling through the Deserts of Egypt
From 450 B.C. to the Twentieth Century
Edited by Sahar Abdel-Hakim and Deborah Manley
A selection of early and modern writings on the Egyptian desert

For generations, travelers have been lured by the beauty and mesmerizing stillness of Egypt’s deserts, leaving behind the comfort of what is familiar in a quest for adventure, knowledge, and escape, and for others still, a taste of eternity. Traveling through the Deserts of Egypt is a compilation of some of the most fascinating and beautiful writings to come out of the experiences of desert travelers through the ages. Seen through their eyes, the desert emerges as possessed of a multitude of identities, a source of majesty and life-giving natural beauty, barrenness and yet incalculable mystery. By reading in the footsteps of those who crossed the desert’s valleys, slept in its caves, and rode its camels, we discover that the desert in its boundlessness and utter unpredictability shatters all our notions of time and holds out the offer of an intensity of meaning and renewed self-awareness that is as irresistible as it is rewarding. The collection includes extracts from the writings of Herodotus, Ibn Khaldun, Ferdinand Lepsius, Leo Tregenza, Harriet Martineau, Ahmed Fakhry, and Ahmed Hassanein, among many others.

Sahar Abdel-Hakim and Deborah Manley are the editors of Traveling through Egypt (AUC Press, 2004) and Traveling through Sinai (AUC Press, 2006).


Wonders of Egypt
Text by Giorgio Ferrero
Foreword by Zahi Hawass
A full-color visual celebration of Egypt’s splendors

Egypt is a country of a thousand facets and striking contrasts, which has now become one of the most popular international tourist destinations, thanks to the marvels of its archaeological treasures, the warm waters and sunny beaches of its Red Sea coast, and the “exotic” attractions of its souks and city streets. Meanwhile, Egypt is also a modern country pursuing its own model of development, one that attempts to incorporate both tradition and innovation.

From the pyramids to the Red Sea coral reefs, from the desert oases to the rocky mountains of Sinai, from the cultivated fields of the Delta to the modern megalopolis of Cairo, this book uses pictures to illustrate and evoke the many stunning attractions of the land of the pharaohs. More than 500 spectacular color photographs celebrate Egypt’s natural, cultural, and historic splendors from Alexandria to Nubia and from Siwa to Sinai, revealing the many wonders of this extraordinary country.

Giorgio Ferrero was born in Milan in 1978. He graduated in Egyptology from the Università degli Studi of Milan. Zahi Hawass is the secretary general of Egypt’s Supreme Council of Antiquities. He is the author of many books on ancient Egypt, including Life in Paradise: The Noble Tombs of Thebes (AUC Press, 2009), The Royal Tombs of Egypt (AUC Press, 2007), and King Tutankhamun: The Treasures of the Tomb (AUC Press, 2007).

Cairo City Map
and complete street index
The most extensive, accurate, and up-to-date map of the Mother of the World

This all-new, fold-out map is the most detailed and most accurate map of Cairo ever published, and the first in recent years to be generated directly from satellite imagery rather than being based on existing inaccurate maps. In a handy double-pocketed case, the map is accompanied by a separate booklet containing the 12,000-name street index. Folding out to 70 x 100 cm, and printed on both sides, the map covers most of Greater Cairo within the Ring Road.

- More than 12,000 named streets and landmarks
- Satellite-generated for pinpoint accuracy
- Covers Greater Cairo from the Pyramids to the Airport, from Imbaba to Nasr City
- An essential tool for visitors, residents, and researchers

Color fold-out map + 42 page-booklet. 11.5x20cm folded. 70x100cm open.

The Pharaoh’s Kitchen
Recipes from Ancient Egypt’s Enduring Food Traditions
Magda Mehdawy and Amr Hussein
How to cook and eat like the ancient Egyptians, from the author of My Egyptian Grandmother’s Kitchen

Judging from the evidence available from depictions of daily life on tombs and in historical texts, the ancient Egyptians were just as enthusiastic about good food and generous hospitality as are their descendants today. Magda Mehdawy and Amr Hussein have done extensive research on the cultivation, gathering, preparation, and presentation of food in ancient Egypt and have developed nearly a hundred recipes that will be perfectly recognizable to anyone familiar with modern Egyptian food.

Beautifully illustrated with scenes from tomb reliefs, objects and artifacts in museum exhibits, and modern photographs, the recipes are accompanied by explanatory material that describes the ancient home and kitchen, cooking vessels and methods, table manners and etiquette, banquets, beverages, and ingredients. Traditional feasts and religious occasions with their own culinary traditions are described, including some that are still celebrated today. A glossary of ingredients and place names provides a useful guide to unfamiliar terms.

Magda Mehdawy is the author of My Egyptian Grandmother’s Kitchen (AUC Press, 2006), which received the Al-Ahram Appreciation Prize for the original Arabic edition in 2004. She lives in Alexandria.

Amr Hussein graduated from Cairo University in 1979 with a degree in archaeology.

240pp. Pbk. 50 color photographs.
A Photographer on the Hajj
The Travels of Muhammad ‘Ali Effendi Sa’udi (1904/1908)

Farid Kioumgi and Robert Graham

One of the earliest visual records of the Hajj and the holy cities of Mecca and Medina

The diaries of Muhammad ‘Ali Effendi Sa’udi, a civil servant and accomplished photographer, offer a rare glimpse of the Hajj through Egyptian eyes at the beginning of the twentieth century when the Ottoman Empire was on the wane and the advance of the Hijaz railway threatened to upset vested interests in the old pattern of pilgrimage.

Sa’udi twice accompanied the Amir al-Hajj, Ibrahim Ri’at Pasha, attached to the official Egyptian caravan. His story of these journeys combines the thoughts of a devout Muslim with fine detail on the hardships and health hazards facing pilgrims, the high-level intrigues, and the ever-present dangers of taking photographs.

The authors have compressed the diaries into a highly readable narrative with selected quotations, lavishly illustrated with Sa’udi’s remarkable photographs.

Farid Kioumgi is a specialist on literature and travel to the Middle East, including historical documents, lithographs, and nineteenth-century photographs.

Robert Graham is currently a freelance writer living in Paris and southern Spain. In 2004 he was awarded the OBE for services to journalism.

144pp. Hbd. 25x25cm. 80 b/w photographs
Hajj
Reem Al Faisal
With text by Seyyed Hossein Nasr

The great pilgrimage portrayed in black and white photography

The great Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca is one of the five ‘pillars’ of Islam, required of every Muslim who is fit and able to undertake it. Every year in the month of Dhu al-Hijja, millions of Muslims converge on this desert city on the Arabian Peninsula from all corners of the globe, in one of the world’s greatest and most spiritual human gatherings.

Saudi princess and photographer Reem Al Faisal here brings together a portrait of the Hajj in an extraordinary collection of black-and-white photographs that reveal not just the vast scale of the pilgrimage, not just the range of rituals involved, but also the human dimension: the sheer variety of humanity that comes here, the private moments of piety and devotion, the intimate moments of relaxation, and the joy (and sometimes anxiety) of being a part of such an immense community of people in a common purpose.

Reem Al Faisal is a granddaughter of the Saudi king Feisal. Her photographs have been exhibited in France, Egypt, China, and Korea, and Palestine.

Seyyed Hossein Nasr is professor of Islamic studies at George Washington University, and the author of more than thirty books on philosophy and religion.

192pp. Hbd. 21x28cm. 175 b/w photographs. September. 978-977-416-318-0. LE200 / $39.95. Middle East.

Christianity and Monasticism in Upper Egypt
Volume 2: Nag Hammadi–Esna
Edited by Gawdat Gabra and Hany N. Takla

New studies in the development and spread of early Christianity in southern Egypt

Christianity and monasticism have flourished in Upper (southern) Egypt from as early as the fourth century until the present day. The contributors to this volume, international specialists in Coptology from around the world, examine various aspects of Coptic civilization along the Nile Valley from Nag Hammadi (associated with the famous discovery of Gnostic papyri) through Luxor and Coptos and south to Esna over the past seventeen hundred years, looking at Coptic religious history, tradition, language, heritage, and material culture in the region through texts, art, architecture, and archaeology.


Gawdat Gabra and Hany N. Takla are the editors of Christianity and Monasticism in Upper Egypt, Volume 1: Sohag and Akhmim (AUC Press, 2008).

How to Write in Arabic

El Mustapha Lahlali

A new guide to writing style in Modern Standard Arabic

Designed to help learners of Arabic at all levels develop and refine their writing skills, this book focuses on the structure of Arabic sentences and paragraphs, and the cohesive links between them. It places emphasis on writing in different genres, including literary and media texts, and introduces learners to the cultural aspects of writing, such as writing and responding to different types of letters. A chapter on creative writing in Arabic encourages learners to utilize their vocabulary and grammar skills, while another chapter focuses on learners’ errors.

- Includes a broad range of writing genres: letters, summaries, articles, etc.
- Provides a theoretical and practical guide on how to use connectors and cohesive devices
- Helps the learner accumulate a wide range of vocabulary in context
- Challenges the learner with a variety of Arabic writing exercises

El Mustapha Lahlali is a lecturer in the Department of Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Leeds.

192pp. Pbk.
October. 978-977-416-337-1. LE120 / $27.95. Middle East.

Kalaam Gamiil

An Intensive Course in Egyptian Colloquial Arabic Volume 1

Abbas Al-Tonsi, Laila Al-Sawi, Suzanne Massoud

A new intermediate course that introduces students of Modern Standard Arabic to the most widely spoken and understood spoken dialect

Based on the cumulative experience of three leading teachers of Arabic as a foreign language, Kalaam Gamiil builds and develops communicative skills in Egyptian Colloquial Arabic, along parallel tracks of vocabulary and grammar. It is designed for students who have reached the lower intermediate level of Modern Standard Arabic and are now ready to branch out into their first experience of a major spoken dialect. Lessons each include a situation, a vocabulary list, preparatory sentences using the new vocabulary items, explanations of grammar in English, cultural information, and a variety of drills and communicative exercises.

This first volume of a two-part series focuses on the speaking and listening skills that will enable intermediate students to handle a variety of uncomplicated communicative tasks with native speakers of Egyptian Arabic. Volume two is scheduled to be published in 2010.

Abbas Al-Tonsi is a senior lecturer in Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service in Qatar. He is the author or co-author of a number of Arabic coursebooks, including the Al-Kitaab series. Laila Al-Sawi and Suzanne Massoud are both senior instructors at the Arabic Language Institute of the American University in Cairo.

256pp. Pbk+CD.
Before the Throne

Naguib Mahfouz

A Modern Arabic Novel
Translated by Raymond Stock

The Nobel laureate puts Egypt’s leaders on trial

In this extraordinary drama-in-dialog, Naguib Mahfouz reveals his love for all of Egypt’s extensive history—and his deep knowledge of it. In Before the Throne, he summons nearly sixty of Egypt’s rulers to the afterlife Court of Osiris, from a king who unified Egypt for the first time, around 3000 BC, to a president assassinated by religious extremists in 1981.

He includes names as familiar as the pharaoh Ramesses II and as obscure as the medieval vizier Qaraqush. Defending their behavior before the divine tribunal, those who acted for the nation’s good are honored with immortality, but those who failed to protect it leave the gilded hall of eternal justice with a very different verdict.

Full of Mahfouz’s unique insight into his country’s timeless qualities, this controversial work skillfully traces five thousand years of Egypt’s past as it flows into the present, through the mind of its most acclaimed author.

Naguib Mahfouz (1911–2006), born in the crowded Cairo district of Gamaliya, wrote nearly forty novel-length works, plus hundreds of short stories and numerous screenplays. He was awarded the Nobel prize for literature in 1988.

Raymond Stock is writing a biography of Naguib Mahfouz. He is the translator of numerous works by Mahfouz, most recently Dreams of Departure (AUC Press, 2007).

Original Arabic title: Amam al-‘arsh

Also by Naguib Mahfouz:
The Mirage
Khan al-Khalili
Cairo Modern
Karnak Café

128pp. Hbd.
A Dog with No Tail
Hamdi Abu Golayyel
A Modern Arabic Novel
Translated by Robin Moger
Winner of the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature, 2008

In a world with no meaning, meaning is an act . . .

This is a story about building things up and knocking them down. Here are the campfire tales of Egypt’s dispossessed and disillusioned, the anti-Arabian Nights.

Our narrator, a rural immigrant from the Bedouin villages of the Fayoum, an aspiring novelist and construction laborer of the lowest order, leads us down a fractured path of reminiscence in his quest for purpose and identity in a world where the old orders and traditions are powerless to help.

Bawdy and wistful, tragicomic and bitter, his stories loop and repeat, crackling with the frictive energy of colliding worlds. These are the tales of Cairo’s new Bedouin, men not settled by the state but permanently uprooted by it. Like their lives, their stories are dislocated and unplotted, mapping out their quest for meaning in the very act of placing brick on brick and word on word.

Hamdi Abu Golayyel was born in the Fayoum, Egypt, in 1967. He is the author of Thieves in Retirement (AUC Press, 2007). A Dog with No Tail was awarded the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature in 2008.

Robin Moger studied Egyptology and Arabic at Oxford and worked as a journalist in Cairo for six years. He currently lives in Cape Town, South Africa.

Original Arabic title: al-Fa’il
160pp. Hbd.

Recent winners of the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature:

Sahar Khalifeh
The Image, the Icon, and the Covenant

Yusuf Abu Rayya
Wedding Night

Alia Mamdouh
The Loved Ones

Khairy Shalaby
The Lodging House
Cairo Swan Song

Mekkawi Said

A Modern Arabic Novel
Translated by Adam Talib

Shortlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction (the 'Arabic Booker')

Cairo, Mother of the World, embraces millions—but some of her children make their home in the streets, junked up and living in the shadows of wealth and among the monuments that the tourists flock to see. Mustafa, a former student radical who never believed in the slogans, sets out to tell their story, but he has to rely on the help of his American girlfriend, Marcia, who he is not sure he can trust. Meanwhile, his former leftist friends are now all either capitalists or Islamists. Alienated from a corrupt and corrupting society, Mustafa watches as the Cairo he cherishes crumbles around him. The men and women of the city struggle to find lovers worthy of their love and causes worthy of their sacrifice in a country that no longer deserves their loyalty. The children of the streets wait for the adults to take notice. And the foreigners can always leave.

Mekkawi Said was born in Cairo in 1955. His first collection of short stories appeared in 1981, and since then he has produced four more. His first novel won the Suad Sabbah Arab Creativity Prize in 1991. Cairo Swan Song, his second novel, was shortlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction (the ‘Arabic Booker’) in 2008.

Adam Talib, an alumnus of the University of California, Los Angeles and the American University in Cairo, is pursuing a doctorate in Arabic literature at Oxford.

Original Arabic title: Taghridat al-bag’a
304pp. Hbd.

Papa Sartre

Ali Bader

A Modern Arabic Novel
Translated by Aida Bamia

An ironic view of Iraqi intellectual life in the sixties

After a failed study mission in France, Abd al-Rahman returns home to Iraq to launch an existentialist movement akin to that of his hero. Convinced that it falls upon him to introduce his country’s intellectuals to Sartre’s thought, he feels especially qualified by his physical resemblance to the philosopher and by his marriage to Germaine, who he claims is the great man’s cousin. Meanwhile, his wealth and family prestige guarantee him an idle life spent in drinking, debauchery, and frequenting a well-known nightclub. But is his suicide an act of philosophical despair, or a reaction to his friend’s affair with Germaine? A biographer chosen by his presumed friends narrates the story of a somewhat bewildered young man who—like other members of his generation—was searching for a meaning to his life.

This parody of the abuses and extravagances of pseudo-philosophers in the Baghdad of the sixties throws into relief the Iraqi intellectual and cultural life of the time.

Ali Bader, born in Baghdad in 1964, is the author of nine novels. He now lives in Amman, Jordan.

Aida Bamia is professor of Arabic language and literature at the University of Florida in Gainesville. She is the translator of The Image, the Icon, and the Covenant by Sahar Khalifeh (AUC Press, 2007).

Original Arabic title: Baba Sartre
192pp. Hbd.
East Winds, West Winds

Mahdi Issa al-Saqr

A Modern Arabic Novel
Translated by Paul Starkey

A novel of life in the British-run oilfields of Iraq in the middle of the twentieth century

Set among the oil wells of the Basra region of southern Iraq, where the writer spent much of his working life, this carefully crafted novel draws on the author’s own experiences to paint a picture at once subtle and vivid of relations between the British and their local employees in the 1950s.

Much of the action is seen through the eyes of the young, bookish narrator, who is clearly modeled on the author himself. It soon becomes clear that a world of difference separates the lives of Abu Jabbar, Hussein, Istifan, and the rest from that of their European bosses with their company dances and other strange social customs.

Although the novel has a strongly nationalistic flavor, it is also suffused with a lingering sense of nostalgia for a gentler age, which will inevitably prompt reflections on the more recent British and US involvement in that unhappy country.

Mahdi Issa al-Saqr, born in Basra in 1930, is the author of seven novels. He died in Baghdad in 2006.

Paul Starkey is head of the Arabic Department at the University of Durham, England. He is the translator of Mansoura Ez Eldin’s Maryam’s Maze (AUC Press, 2007).

Contemporary Iraqi Fiction

An Anthology

Edited and Translated by Shakir Mustafa

A literary reflection of Iraqi diversity

This first anthology of its kind gathers work from sixteen Iraqi writers. Shedding a bright light on the rich diversity of Iraqi experience, Shakir Mustafa has included selections by Iraqi women and men from a variety of backgrounds.

While each voice is distinct, they are united in writing about a homeland that has suffered under repression, censorship, war, and occupation. Many of the selections mirror these grim realities, forcing the writers to open up new narrative terrains and experiment with traditional forms. Themes range from childhood and family to war, political oppression, and interfaith relationships. Mustafa provides biographical sketches of the writers and an enlightening introduction chronicling the evolution of Iraqi literature.


Shakir Mustafa is assistant professor of Arabic in the Department of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature at Boston University.

Original Arabic title: Riyah sharqiya, riyah gharbiya
512pp. Hbd.

Being Abbas el Abd
Ahmed Alaidy
A Modern Arabic Novel
Translated by Humphrey Davies

A new paperback edition of the eye-opening and refreshingly original debut novel from an emerging Egyptian writer

“The millennial generation’s most celebrated literary achievement.” —Al-Ahram Weekly

“What is madness?” asks the narrator of Ahmed Alaidy’s jittery, funny, and angry novel. Assuring readers that they are about to find out, the narrator takes us on a journey through the insanity of present-day Cairo—in and out of minibuses, malls, and crash pads, navigating the city’s pinball machine of social life with tolerable efficiency.

But lurking under the rocks in his grouchy, chain-smoking, pharmaceutically-oriented, twenty-something life are characters like his elusive psychiatrist uncle with a disturbing interest in phobias. And with friends like Abbas, what paranoiac needs enemies?

Ahmed Alaidy, born in 1974, has written satirical stories for young people and currently writes a political comic strip for an Egyptian weekly.

Humphrey Davies is the translator of The Yacoubian Building by Alaa Al Aswany (AUC Press, 2004) and Gate of the Sun by Elias Khoury, for which he was awarded the Banipal Prize for Literary Translation.

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The Heron
Ibrahim Aslan
A Modern Arabic Novel
Translated by Elliott Colla

A new paperback edition of the novel set against the Cairo ‘bread riots’ of 1977 from the author of Nile Sparrows

One long winter night and the Cairo neighborhood of Kit Kat stands at a crossroads. Poised like herons fishing on the banks of the Nile, the characters of this novel wait and watch as opportunities swim by past their reach. Some gaze on as their local café is stolen before their eyes. One studies how the nouveaux riches of the Open Door Policy make their money, while others try their own hand at swindle. Still others read the empty rhetoric of state-run newspapers and wonder what it all means.

Since it first appeared in 1984, The Heron has been a classic of modern Arabic literature. It has been translated into a number of European languages and adapted as the successful film Kit Kat.

Ibrahim Aslan was born in Tanta in Egypt’s Nile Delta in 1937 and is culture editor in the Cairo bureau of the London-based daily newspaper al-Hayat. He is the author of Nile Sparrows (AUC Press, 2004).


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Maryam’s Maze
Mansoura Ez Eldin
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A new paperback edition of the story of a young woman lost in a chaotic world

Set in the house of Yusuf el Tagi, Maryam’s Maze relates the story of a woman struggling to find her way through the confusion of the world around her. The inner maze of dreams and memories in which the young Maryam finds herself stirs greater resonance in issues of modern Egyptian life, in a haunting allegorical tale that reveals its real meaning to the reader only at the end of the novel.

Mansoura Ez Eldin has published a collection of short stories, and presently runs the book review section of the literary magazine Akhbar al-adab. Maryam’s Maze is her first novel.

Paul Starkey is head of the Arabic Department at the University of Durham, England. He is the translator of Mahdi Isa al-Saqr’s East Winds, West Winds (AUC Press, 2009).

The Theocrat
Bensalem Himmich
A Modern Arabic Novel
Translated by Roger Allen

New paperback edition

The Theocrat takes as its subject one of Arab and Islamic history’s most perplexing figures, al-Hakim bi-Amr Illah (“the ruler by order of God”), the Fatimid caliph who ruled Egypt during the tenth century and whose career was a direct reflection of both the tensions within the Islamic dominions as a whole and of the conflicts within his own mind. In this remarkable novel Bensalem Himmich explores these tensions and conflicts and their disastrous consequences on an individual ruler and on his people. Himmich does not spare his readers the full horror and tragedy of al-Hakim’s reign, but in employing a variety of textual styles he succeeds brilliantly in painting a portrait of a character whose sheer unpredictability throws into relief the qualities of those who find themselves forced to cajole, confront, or oppose him.

Bensalem Himmich has written several novels and collections of poems. His novel The Polymath received the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature in Cairo and was published by the AUC Press in 2004.

Roger Allen is professor of Arabic language and literature at the University of Pennsylvania. He has translated numerous works of Arabic literature including Bensalem Himmich’s The Polymath (AUC Press, 2004) and, most recently, Naguib Mahfouz’s Khan al-Khalili (AUC Press, 2008).
The Nile Portfolio
Ten Fine Art Prints

David Roberts, R.A.

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David Roberts (1796-1864) was one of the most acclaimed landscape painters of his time. He made an extended trip to Egypt and the Holy Land in 1838–39, during which he made the series of drawings that brought him lasting fame.

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New publications:

Cairo City Map, page 23
The Illustrated Guide to the Museum of Islamic Art, page 20
Luxor Illustrated, page 20
National Geographic Traveler: Egypt, page 19
The Nile Cruise, page 21


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