Arabic Literature in Translation
Archaeology and Ancient Egypt • Architecture and the Arts
History and Biography • Language Studies
Politics, Economics, and Social Issues • Religious Studies
Travel Literature and Guidebooks
The American University in Cairo Press, recognized as the leading English-language publisher in the region, currently offers a backlist of more than 1200 publications including e-books and publishes annually up to 100 wide-ranging academic texts and general interest books on ancient and modern Egypt and the Middle East, as well as Arabic literature in translation, most notably the works of Egypt's Nobel laureate Naguib Mahfouz.

“The American University in Cairo Press is the Arab world’s top foreign-language publishing house. It has transformed itself into one of the leading players in the dialog between East and West, and has produced a canon of Arabic literature in translation unmatched in depth and quality by any publishing house in the world.”

—Egypt Today

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Arab Spring in Egypt
Revolution and Beyond
Edited by Bahgat Korany and Rabab El-Mahdi

One of the first books on Egypt’s uprising from prominent scholars in the field

Beginning in Tunisia, and spreading to as many as seventeen Arab countries, the street protests of the ‘Arab Spring’ in 2011 empowered citizens and banished their fear of speaking out against governments. The Arab Spring belied Arab exceptionalism, widely assumed to be the natural state of stagnation in the Arab world amid global change and progress. The collapse in February 2011 of the regime in the region’s most populous country, Egypt, led to key questions of why, how, and with what consequences did this occur?

Inspired by the “contentious politics” school and Social Movement Theory, The Arab Spring in Egypt addresses these issues, examining the reasons behind the collapse of Egypt’s authoritarian regime; analyzing the group dynamics in Tahrir Square of various factions: labor, youth, Islamists, and women; describing economic and external issues and comparing Egypt’s transition with that of Indonesia; and reflecting on the challenges of transition.

Bahgat Korany is professor of international relations and political economy at the American University in Cairo. He is the editor (with Ali E. Hillal Dessouki) of The Foreign Policies of Arab States (AUC Press, 2008). Rabab El-Mahdi is a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at the American University in Cairo, and the co-editor of Egypt Moment of Change (AUC Press, 2009).

384pp. Hbd.

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Bahgat Korany
Messages from Tahrir
24 Postcards

Two dozen images of determination and resistance

Selected from the bestselling *Messages from Tahrir: Signs from Egypt’s Revolution*, edited by Karima Khalil (AUC Press, 2011), these 24 postcards in a presentation box reproduce some of the iconic images by various photographers from the heady days of the January 2011 uprising, when the Egyptian people brought down the thirty-year regime of Hosni Mubarak. All royalties from the sale of the book and these postcards are donated to the Nadim Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence.

February. 978-121-312-161-4. £60 / $12.95. World.

Liberation Square
Inside the Egyptian Revolution and the Rebirth of a Nation
Ashraf Khalil

A dramatic eye-witness account of the events of early 2011 in Cairo

The Egyptian Revolution of 2011 was more than a spontaneous uprising. It was the end result of years of mounting tension, brought on by a state that shamelessly abused its authority, rigging elections, silencing opposition, and violently attacking its citizens. When revolution bloomed in the region in January 2011, Egypt was a country whose patience had expired—with a people primed for liberation.

As a journalist based in Cairo, Ashraf Khalil was an eyewitness to the storm that brought down the Mubarak regime. He was subjected to tear gas alongside protesters in Tahrir Square, barely escaped an enraged mob, and watched the day-to-day developments from the frontlines. From the halls of power to the back alleys of Cairo, he offers a one-of-a-kind look at a nation in the throes of an uprising.

*Liberation Square* is a revealing and dramatic look at the revolution that transformed Egypt’s modern history.

Ashraf Khalil is a Middle East correspondent based in Cairo for most of the last fifteen years.

March. 978-977-416-558-0. £150 / $24.95. Middle East.
The Struggle for Egypt
From Nasser to Tahrir Square
Steven A. Cook
A sharp insight into Egypt’s last 60 years and its current revolution

The recent revolution in Egypt has shaken the Arab world to its roots. This is not the first time that the world turns its gaze to Egypt, however. A half century ago, Egypt under Nasser became the putative leader of the Arab world and a beacon for all developing nations. Yet during the decades prior to the 2011 revolution, it was ruled by a sclerotic regime plagued by nepotism and corruption, and its economy declined into near shambles. Here, Steven Cook explains how this parlous state of affairs came to be, why the revolution occurred, and where Egypt might be headed next. In a sweeping account of Egypt in the modern era, he incisively chronicles all of the nation’s central historical episodes: the decline of British rule, the rise of Nasser, Egypt’s decision to make peace with Israel, the assassination of Sadat, the emergence of the Muslim Brotherhood, and—finally—the demonstrations that convulsed Tahrir Square and overthrew an entrenched regime.

Steven A. Cook is the Hasib J. Sabbagh Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Translating Egypt’s Revolution
The Language of Tahrir
Edited by Samia Mehrez
An interpretation of Egypt’s revolution through its written, sung, and spoken word

This unique interdisciplinary collective project is the culmination of research and translation work conducted by AUC students of different cultural and linguistic backgrounds who continue to witness Egypt’s ongoing revolution. This historic event has produced an unprecedented proliferation of political and cultural documents and materials, whether written, oral, or visual. Given their range, different linguistic registers, and referential worlds, these documents present a great challenge to any translator.

The contributors to this volume have selectively translated chants, banners, jokes, poems, and interviews, as well as presidential speeches and military communiqués. Their practical translation work is informed by the cultural turn in translation studies and the nuanced role of the translator as negotiator between texts and cultures. The chapters focus on the relationship between translation and semiotics, issues of fidelity and equivalence, creative transformation and rewriting, and the issue of target readership. This mature collective project is in many ways a reenactment of the new infectious revolutionary spirit in Egypt today.

Samia Mehrez is professor of Arabic literature in the Department of Arab and Islamic Civilization and director of the Center for Translation Studies at the American University in Cairo.

424pp. Pbk.

340pp. Pbk. 80 illus.
Adaptable Autocrats
Regime Power in Egypt and Syria
Joshua Stacher

A revealing examination of the ongoing control of old regimes in the Middle East

Notwithstanding the 2011 Arab Spring, autocratic continuity—not wide-ranging political change—remains the hallmark of the region’s upheaval. Contrasting Egypt and Syria, Joshua Stacher examines how executive power is structured in each country to show how these preexisting power configurations shaped the uprisings and, in turn, the outcomes.

Even as Mubarak was forced to relinquish the Egyptian presidency, military generals from the regime were charged with leading the transition. The course of the Syrian uprising reveals a key difference: the decentralized character of Syrian politics.

Political structures, elite alliances, state institutions, and governing practices are seldom swept away entirely—even following successful revolutions—so it is vital to examine the various contexts for regime survival. Elections, protests, and political struggles will continue to define the region in the coming years. Examining the lead-up to the Egyptian and Syrian uprisings helps us unlock the complexity behind the protests and transitions.

Joshua Stacher is assistant professor of political science at Kent State University.


The Large Landowning Class and the Peasantry in Egypt, 1837–1952

Raouf Abbas and Assem El-Dessouky

Edited by Peter Gran

A comprehensive analysis of landownership and its effects on Egyptian society

In Egypt, the landowning class first arose in the early part of the nineteenth century from land grants given to extended family members and friends of the ruler Muhammad ‘Ali. From the subsequent development of capitalism, a class of large landowners emerged and began to defend their interests, both economic and political.

In two seminal Arabic works published in the 1970s, Raouf Abbas and Assem El–Dessouky traced the formation of this class, exploring the multiple factors that influenced the rise and power of landowners. Combined into one volume and translated into English for the first time, this book offers a comprehensive analysis of landownership and its effects on Egyptian society. The authors draw from extensive archival sources, successfully integrating in their work the competing forces of the state, the landlords, and the peasants. By moving beyond much of the familiar scholarship on landholders, this book presents a new interpretation of Egyptian politics and society.

Raouf Abbas was professor of modern history at Cairo University. He coedited (with Nelly Hanna) Society and Economy in Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean 1600–1900 (AUC Press, 2005). Assem El–Dessouky is professor emeritus of modern history at Helwan University.

Understanding Cairo
The Logic of a City Out of Control
David Sims

New paperback edition, with a post-revolution afterword

This book moves beyond superficial generalizations about Cairo as a chaotic metropolis in the developing world into an analysis of the ways the city's eighteen million inhabitants have, in the face of a largely neglectful government, built and shaped their own city. Using a wealth of recent studies on Greater Cairo and a deep reading of informal urban processes, the city and its recent history are portrayed and mapped: the huge, spontaneous neighborhoods; housing; traffic and transport; city government; and its people and their enterprises. The book argues that understanding a city such as Cairo is not a daunting task as long as pre-conceived notions are discarded and care is taken to apprehend available information and to assess it with a critical eye. In the case of Cairo, this approach leads to a conclusion that the city can be considered a kind of success story, in spite of everything.

"[Sims] is one of Cairo’s sharpest observers."
— Los Angeles Review of Books

David Sims is an American economist and urban planner who has led a number of studies about Cairo’s urban development and housing.

304pp. Pbk. 66 b/w illus, 20 maps

Popular Housing and Urban Land Tenure in the Middle East
Case Studies from Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey

Edited by Myriam Ababsa, Baudouin Dupret, and Eric Denis

When governments fail them, how citizens organize and build their own communities

Irregular or illegal housing constitutes the ordinary condition of popular urban housing in the Middle East. Considering the conditions of daily practices related to land and tenure mobilization and of housing, neighborhood shaping, transactions, and conflict resolution, this book offers a new reading of government action in the cities of Amman, Beirut, Damascus, Istanbul, and Cairo, focusing on the participation of ordinary citizens and their interactions with state apparatus specifically located within the urban space. The book adopts a praxeological approach to law that describes how inhabitants define and exercise their legality in practice and daily routines. The ambition of the volume is to restore the continuum in the consolidation, building after building, of the popular neighborhoods of the cities under study, while demonstrating the closely-knit social relationships and other forms of community bonding.

Myriam Ababsa is a research fellow in social geography at the French Institute for the Near East in Amman. Baudouin Dupret is a research fellow at the French National Center for Scientific Research, based in Paris. Eric Denis is a senior research fellow affiliated with the French National Center for Scientific Research.

352pp. Hbd. 57 b/w illus.
The Imaginary and the Documentary
Cultural Studies in Literature, History, and the Arts
Edited by Ferial Ghazoul

This issue of Alif: Journal of Comparative Poetics is devoted to the intersection of the imaginary and the documentary, the fictional and the cultural in literature, history, film, photography, plastic arts, and architecture. Subjectivity and ideology of the artist and scholar might be couched in a flight of fantasy or in a rational argument, but in both cases they are joined to a specific worldview that is analyzed and discussed. Alif: Journal of Comparative Poetics 32

Ferial Ghazoul is professor of English and comparative literature at the American University in Cairo.

Planning Egypt’s New Settlements
The Politics of Spatial Inequities
Dalia Wahdan

This study critically analyzes the paradigms and practices of planning in Egypt since 1952. It interrogates the politics of national and physical planning while tracing the ideas that informed the establishment of new settlements in the country across the regimes of Nasser, Sadat, and Mubarak. Based on primary and secondary data, the study reveals the divergence of plans from their blueprints under Nasser. Exclusion of planners from decision-making apparatuses under Sadat and the resource and privilege concentration in the hands of a few under Mubarak. Cairo Papers in Social Science 32/1

Dalia Wahdan is assistant professor at the School of Liberal Education, Foundation for Liberal and Management Education, in Pune, India.

The Cairo Review of Global Affairs
Journal of the AUC School of Global Affairs and Public Policy
Edited by Scott MacLeod

Topical perspectives on global affairs with a Middle Eastern eye on the world

This quarterly forum for the discussion of subjects in Middle East and American studies, law, migration, communications, and gender features a wide range of international contributors. The Cairo Review does not restrict itself to Middle East issues, but also provides commentary and analysis from within the region on a variety of topics. Issue 4 focuses on Turkey, issue 5 on science.

Scott MacLeod is professor of practice in the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism at the American University in Cairo.

LE75 / $14.95. World.

LE75 / $14.95. World.
Grand Hotels of Egypt in the Golden Age of Travel

Andrew Humphreys

A colorfully illustrated celebration of Egypt’s classic era of touring

From the earliest resthouses serving travelers on the Overland Route between Britain and Bombay to the grand Edwardian palaces on the Nile that made Egypt the exotic alternative to wintering on the Riviera, the hotels of Alexandria, Cairo, Luxor, and Aswan were always about far more than just bed and board. As bridgeheads for African exploration, neutral territories for conducting diplomacy, headquarters for armies, providers of home comforts for writers, painters, scholars, and archaeologists in the field, and social hubs for an international elite, more of importance happened in Egypt’s hotels than in any other setting. It was through the hotels that visitors from the west—the earliest adventurers, then the travelers and, finally, the tourists—experienced the Orient. This book tells the stories of Egypt’s historic hotels (including the Cecil, Shepheard’s, the Mena House, Gezira Palace, Semiramis, Winter Palace, and Cataract) and some of the people who stayed in them, from Amelia Edwards, Lucie Duff Gordon, and Florence Nightingale to Agatha Christie, Conan Doyle, Winston Churchill, and TE Lawrence.

Andrew Humphreys is the author of National Geographic Traveler Egypt (AUC Press, 2009).

The Red Sea from Byzantium to the Caliphate
AD 500–1000
Timothy Power

A new perspective on a vital period of history

The historic process traditionally referred to as the fall of Rome and rise of Islam is viewed from the perspective of the Red Sea, a strategic waterway linking the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean and a distinct region incorporating Africa with Arabia. The transition from Byzantium to the Caliphate is contextualized in the contestation of regional hegemony between Aksumite Ethiopia, Sasanian Iran, and the Islamic Hijaz. The economic stimulus associated with Arab colonization is then considered, including the foundation of ports and roads linking new metropolises and facilitating commercial expansion, particularly gold mining and the slave trade. Finally, the economic inheritance of the Fatimids and the formation of the commercial networks glimpsed in the Cairo Geniza are contextualized in the diffusion of the Abbasid ‘bourgeois revolution’ and resumption of the ‘India trade’ under the Tulunids and Ziyadids.

Timothy Power is the lecturer in Islamic archaeology at the University College London, Qatar.

A Muslim Manual of War
being Tafrīj al-kurūb fi ṭadbīr al-hurūb by ‘Umār ibn Ibrāhīm al- Awsī al-Ansārī

Edited and translated by George T. Scanlon
With a new Introduction by the author and a Foreword by Carole Hillenbrand

Free online facsimile anniversary edition

One of the first three books published by the AUC Press after its founding in 1960 was A Muslim Manual of War, an annotated editing and translation of a hitherto little-known fifteenth-century Arabic manuscript on the art of war, prepared by George Scanlon, then embarking on his career to become one of the most respected scholars in the field of Islamic art, architecture, archaeology, and history. Now, in celebration of 50 years of the AUC Press, and in honor of Professor Scanlon’s recent retirement after an illustrious career, most recently as professor of Islamic art and architecture in the Department of Arab and Islamic Civilizations at the American University in Cairo, the AUC Press is proud to make available once again this long out-of-print book, as a freely accessible scanned facsimile with a new Introduction by the author and a Foreword by eminent scholar Carole Hillenbrand, a former student of Professor Scanlon.

George T. Scanlon is professor emeritus of Islamic art and architecture in the Department of Arab and Islamic Civilizations at the American University in Cairo.
Carole Hillenbrand, OBE is professor of Islamic history at the University of Edinburgh.
The Turks in Egypt and Their Cultural Legacy
Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu
Translated by Humphrey Davies

An analysis of the cultural role played by the printed word in Turkish-ruled Egypt

Though Egypt was ruled by Turkish-speakers through most of the period from the ninth century until 1952, the impact of Turkish culture in the country remains under-studied. This book deals with the period from 1805 to 1952, during which Turkish cultural patterns, spread through reforms based on those of Istanbul, may have touched more Egyptians than ever before.

An examination of the books, newspapers, and other written materials produced in Turkish, including translations, and of the presses involved, reveals the rise and decline of Turkish culture in government, the military, education, literature, music, and everyday life. The author also describes the upsurge in Turkish writing generated by Young Turk exiles from 1895 to 1909.

Included is a CD containing appendices of extensive bibliographic information concerning books and periodicals printed in Egypt during this period.

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu is the secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.
Humphrey Davies is the translator of The Yacoubian Building by Alaa Al Aswany (AUC Press, 2004).

Original Arabic title: al-Atrak fi Misr wa-turathhum al-thaqafi
448pp. Hbd + CD. 40 illus.

Nature and Empire in Ottoman Egypt
Alan Mikhail
An Environmental History

A look at relations between a rich empire and its most lucrative province

Based on both the local records of various towns and villages in rural Egypt and the imperial orders of the Ottoman state, this book charts how changes in the control of natural resources fundamentally altered the nature of Ottoman imperial sovereignty in Egypt and throughout the empire. In revealing how Egyptian peasants were able to use their knowledge and experience of local environments to force the hand of the imperial state, Nature and Empire in Ottoman Egypt tells a story of the connections of the empire stretching from canals in the Egyptian countryside to the palace in Istanbul, from the Anatolian forest to the shores of the Red Sea, and from a plague flea’s bite to the fortunes of one of the most powerful states of the early modern world.

Alan Mikhail is assistant professor of history at Yale University. Nature and Empire in Ottoman Egypt won the 2009–11 Roger Owen Book Award from the Middle East Studies Association.

378pp. Pbk.
Egyptian Magic
The Quest for Thoth’s Book of Secrets

Maarten J. Raven

An illustrated exploration of ancient Egyptian magic, sorcery, superstitious beliefs, and the occult

The ancient Egyptians were firmly convinced of the importance of magic, which was both a source of supernatural wisdom and a means of affecting one’s own fate. The gods themselves used it for creating the world, granting mankind magical powers as an aid to the struggle for existence. Magic formed a link between human beings, gods, and the dead. Magicians were the indispensable guardians of the god-given cosmic order, learned scholars who were always searching for the Magic Book of Thoth, which could explain the wonders of nature.

Egyptian Magic, illustrated with wonderful and mysterious objects from European museum collections, describes how Egyptian sorcerers used their craft to protect the weakest members of society, to support the gods in their fight against evil, and to imbue the dead with immortality, and explores the arcane systems and traditions of the occult that governed this well-organized universe of ancient Egypt.

Maarten J. Raven is curator of the Egyptian Department of the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden.

Paleopathology of the Ancient Egyptians
An Annotated Bibliography 1998–2011

Lisa Sabbahy

A comprehensive listing of sources for books and articles about disease and pathology in ancient Egypt

This annotated bibliography presents and describes over 800 books, dissertations, excavation reports, and articles relevant to the paleopathology of the ancient Egyptians from the fields of Egyptology, physical anthropology, archaeology, and medicine, making it possible for scholars in these different fields to keep current with the latest finds and results. Each source has a short annotation, explaining its relevant pathological information. In particular, this bibliography will be an immense help to scholars outside the field of Egyptology who want to know about the newest excavations with human remains. This updated bibliography is indispensable for scholars as well as non-specialists who are intrigued with this area of study, particularly forensic pathologists, medical researchers, historians of medicine, and mummy enthusiasts.

Lisa Sabbahy is an assistant professor of Egyptology at the American University in Cairo.

208pp. Hbd. 260 color illus.

e (e-book only)
March. 978-1-61797-110-5. $90. World.
Afterglow of Empire
Egypt from the Fall of the New Kingdom to the Saite Renaissance

Aidan Dodson

A valuable study of a little-known and turbulent period of Egyptian history

During the half-millennium from the eleventh through the sixth centuries BC, the power and the glory of the imperial pharaohs of the New Kingdom crumbled in the face of internal crises and external pressures, ultimately reversed by invaders from Nubia and consolidated by natives of the Nile Delta following a series of Assyrian invasions.

Much of this era remains obscure, with little consensus among Egyptologists. Against this background, Aidan Dodson reconsiders the evidence and proposes a number of new solutions to the problems of the period. He also considers the art, architecture, and archaeology of the period, including the royal tombs of Tanis, one of which yielded the intact burials of no fewer than five pharaohs.

The book is extensively illustrated with images of this material, much of which is little known to non-specialists of the period.

Aidan Dodson is a senior research fellow in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Bristol, where he teaches Egyptology. He is the author of Amarna Sunset (AUC Press, 2009) and Poisoned Legacy (AUC Press, 2010).

Also available:

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

Poisoned Legacy
The Fall of the Nineteenth Egyptian Dynasty

351pp. Hbd.
Ancient Nubia
African Kingdoms on the Nile

Edited by Marjorie M. Fisher, Peter Lacovara, Salima Ikram, and Sue D’Auria
Photographs by Chester Higgins Jr

A lushly illustrated gazetteer of the archaeological sites of southern Egypt and northern Sudan

For most of the modern world, ancient Nubia seems an unknown and enigmatic land. Only a handful of archaeologists have studied its history or unearthed the Nubian cities, temples, and cemeteries that once dotted the landscape of southern Egypt and northern Sudan. Nubia’s remote setting in the midst of an inhospitable desert, with access by river blocked by impassable rapids, has lent it not only an air of mystery, but also isolated it from exploration. Over the past century, particularly during this last generation, scholars have begun to focus more attention on the fascinating cultures of ancient Nubia, ironically prompted by the construction of large dams that have flooded vast tracts of the ancient land.

This book attempts to document some of what has recently been discovered about ancient Nubia, with its remarkable history, architecture, and culture, and thereby to give us a picture of this rich, but unfamiliar, African legacy.

Marjorie M. Fisher is adjunct professor of Egyptology at the University of Michigan. Peter Lacovara is senior curator of ancient Egyptian, Nubian, and Near Eastern art at the Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University. Salima Ikram is professor of Egyptology at the American University in Cairo. Sue D’Auria is a former assistant curator at the Huntington Museum of Art.

456pp. Hbd. 23 x 30cm. 200 color illus.
The History and Religious Heritage of Old Cairo
Its Fortress, Churches, Synagogue, and Mosque

Edited by Carolyn Ludwig and Morris Jackson
Photographs by Sherif Sonbol

A celebration of the history of religious life in the early Egyptian capital, in text and pictures

Just to the south of modern Cairo stands the historic enclave known as Old Cairo, which grew up in and around the Roman fortress of Babylon, and which today hosts a unique collection of monuments that attest to the shared cultural heritage of ancient Egyptians, Christians, Jews, and Muslims.

In this lavishly illustrated celebration of a very special place, renowned photographer Sherif Sonbol’s remarkable images of the fortress, churches, synagogue, and mosque illuminate the living fabric of the ancient and medieval stones, while the text describes the history of Old Cairo from the time of the ancient Egyptians and the Romans to the founding of the first Muslim city of al-Fustat, focusing on the Jewish history of the area (exploring the famous Genizah documents found in the Ben Ezra Synagogue that tell so much about everyday life in medieval Egypt), the early Coptic Christian churches, some of the oldest in the world, and the arrival of the Muslims in the seventh century, their establishment of al-Fustat on the edge of Old Cairo, and the building of the oldest mosque in Africa.

Contributors: Gawdat Gabra, Gertrud J.M. van Loon, Stefan Reif, Tarek Swelim.

250pp. Hbd. 25.5x30.5 cm. 250 color illus.
May. 978-977-416-459-0. £300 / $59.95. World.
The Illustrated Guide to the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo

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 aesthetic 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.

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).


The Illustrated Guide to the Luxor Museum of Ancient Art and the Nubia Museum of Aswan

Janice Kamrin

Foreword by Zahi Hawass

A full-color guide to the most spectacular museums of Upper Egypt

Through its beautifully designed display of carefully selected masterpieces found in the area of ancient Thebes, the Luxor Museum of Ancient Art illuminates the golden age of pharaonic Egypt. The Nubia Museum in Aswan houses artifacts illustrating the rich heritage and history of Nubia, from the prehistoric era to modern times.

Richly illustrated with spectacular color photographs, this book informs the reader about the cultures that created the objects on display in both museums, with detailed descriptions of selected pieces. Also included are brief overviews of two other museums in the south of Egypt, the Mummification Museum in Luxor and the Crocodile Museum in Kom Ombo.


The Bazaar in the Islamic City
Design, Culture, and History
Edited by Mohammad Gharipour

A comprehensive study of the fascinating Middle Eastern and Arab bazaar

The Middle Eastern bazaar is much more than a context for commerce: the studies in this book illustrate that markets, regardless of their location, scale, and permanency, have also played important cultural roles within their societies, reflecting historical evolution, industrial development, social and political conditions, urban morphology, and architectural functions. This interdisciplinary volume explores the dynamics of the bazaar with a number of case studies from Cairo, Damascus, Aleppo, Nablus, Bursa, Istanbul, Sana’a, Kabul, Tehran, and Yazd. Although they share some contextual and functional characteristics, each bazaar has its own unique and fascinating history, traditions, cultural practices, and structure. One of the most intriguing aspects revealed in this volume is the thread of continuity from past to present exhibited by the bazaar as a forum where a society meets and intermingles in the practice of goods exchange—a social and cultural ritual that is as old as human history.


Mohammad Gharipour teaches at the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at Morgan State University.

320pp. Hbd. 65 color illus.

The Cairo of Naguib Mahfouz
Photographs by Britta Le Va
Text by Gamal al-Ghitani
Foreword by Naguib Mahfouz

Around the old city in the footsteps of the Nobel laureate

For Nobel laureate Naguib Mahfouz (1911–2006), Cairo was always a place of special resonance. As the place in which he was born and lived his whole life, it is a city he loved passionately and visited and revisited in his writing. It is the setting for nearly all his novels and short stories, not merely as a backdrop but as an integral part of his fiction, playing its own role in the dramas.

In this special new and expanded edition of the bestselling book first published in 1999, photographer Britta Le Va guides us through his pages, and treads his streets and alleys, to produce a collection of outstanding visual images of the historic city, while novelist Gamal al-Ghitani describes a walking tour with the great man around the streets of Gamaliya, that historic heart of the old city where both of them—more than thirty years apart—were born and grew up.


112pp. Hbd. 80 color illus.
Of Noble Origins
Sahar Khalifeh
A Palestinian Novel
Translated by Aida Bamia
From the award-winning author of The Image, the Icon, and the Covenant

The Qahtan are a Palestinian family that claims to have originated in the Arabian Peninsula, descended from the family of the Prophet Muhammad. This connection has given its members a certain ascendency in their society, and has influenced their cultural and political choices.

The true test occurs when the Qahtanis, like other Palestinians, confront two enemies after the First World War: the British Mandate and the Zionist movement. Observing the gradual and increasing illegal Jewish immigration and land appropriation, the Palestinians come to realize they have been betrayed by a power that “fulfilled their promises to the Jews and reneged on their promises to the Arabs.”

Sahar Khalifeh brings to the forefront the inner conflicts of Palestinian society as it struggles to affirm its cultural and national identity, save its threatened homeland, and maintain a semblance of normalcy in otherwise abnormal circumstances.

Sahar Khalifeh is the author of The Inheritance (AUC Press, 2005) and The Image, the Icon, and the Covenant (AUC Press, 2007) for which she won the Naguib Mahfouz 2003 Medal for Literature, and End of Spring (AUC Press, 2007).

Aida Bamia is the translator of The Inheritance (AUC Press, 2005) and The Image, the Icon, and the Covenant (AUC Press, 2007).

Original Arabic title: Aslun wa fāsūl
304pp. Pbk.

Days in the Diaspora
Kamal Ruhayyim
An Egyptian Novel
Translated by Sarah Enany
The quest for identity of a Muslim Jewish Egyptian immigrant in 1960s Paris

“How could a good Muslim boy like you be born into a Jewish family!” For Galal, forced to leave Egypt in the 1960s Jewish exodus with his family, the Diaspora has none of the beauty of a rich tapestry of history; it is a day-to-day struggle to fit into his new life in Paris, reconcile the conflicting demands of family and friends, and come to terms with who he is.

The quest for belonging and identity is at the heart of this sensitive and tender narrative. Earthy, rambunctious supporting characters burst from the page, spontaneous, emotional, yet, for all their façade of confidence, no less adrift than Galal himself. Ruhayyim’s Paris of the 1960s is startlingly relevant: then, as now, religion offers an illusory source of community and identity for migrants to the west, not fitting in, yet cut off from their roots. Deeply personal, this unusual, uplifting coming-of-age novel takes us into the heart of an ordinary young man in the grip of an unforgiving historical moment.

Kamal Ruhayyim is the author of a collection of short stories and two novels, as well as several books on law. Sarah Enany is a lecturer in the English Department of Cairo University.

Original Arabic title: Ayyam al-shatat
352pp. Pbk.
April. 978-977-416-537-5. LE100 / $17.95. World.
The World through the Eyes of Angels

Mahmoud Saeed

An Iraqi Novel
Translated by Samuel Salter, Zahra Jishi, and Rafah Abuinnab

A richly textured portrayal of Iraqi society before the upheavals of the late 20th century

Mosul, Iraq, in the 1940s is a teeming, multiethnic city where Arabs, Kurds, Assyrians, Jews, Aramaeans, Turkmens, Yazidis, and Syriacs mingle in the ancient souks and alleyways. In these crowded streets, among rich and poor, educated and illiterate, pious and unbelieving, a boy is growing up. Burdened with chores from an early age, and afflicted with an older brother who persecutes him with mindless sadism, the child finds happiness only in stolen moments with his beloved older sister and with friends in the streets. Closest to his heart are three girls, encountered by chance: a Muslim, a Christian, and a Jew. After enriching the boy’s life immensely, all three meet tragic fates, leaving a wound in his heart that will not heal. Sometimes defeated but never surrendering, he is sustained by his city and its people.

Mahmoud Saeed has written more than twenty novels and short story collections. He was imprisoned several times and left Iraq in 1985.

Samuel Salter has published ten novels under the pseudonyms Sam Reaves and Dominic Martell. Zahra Jishi is a Lebanese public health practitioner who currently resides in Cleveland, Ohio. Rafah Abuinnab teaches Arabic at DePaul University.

Writing Love

Khalil Sweileh

A Syrian Novel
Translated by Alexa Firat

Winner of the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature

Then, she looked at me assiduously, “What is it that you do exactly?”

I replied, savoring my last sip of coffee, with all the sass of a gypsy, “A novelist.”

How to write a novel? Where to find inspiration? What is it that novels do for us? What is the nature of love? And most importantly, how and where to find it? Embarking on a literary and romantic journey, an aspiring novelist guides the reader through the streets of Damascus to bookstores, libraries, historical landmarks, cafés, and neighborhoods that carry the traces of history and the possibilities of the future. Mining the rich and divergent histories, narratives, texts, memories, and people that occupy the narrator’s mind and everyday life, Writing Love casts a critical eye on contemporary society and offers a playful testament to the tangential nature of writing and the many ways to fall in love.

Khalil Sweileh is the author of three collections of poetry and four novels.

Alexa Firat is assistant professor of Arabic in the Department of Critical Languages at Temple University.

Original Arabic title: al-Dunya fi a’in al-mala’ika

Original Arabic title: Warraq al-hubb
Kalaam Gamiil
An Intensive Course in Egyptian Colloquial Arabic. Volume 2
Abbas Al-Tonsi, Laila Al-Sawi, and Suzanne Massoud

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

Kalaam Gamiil Volume 2 further develops learners’ skills in Egyptian Colloquial Arabic, along parallel tracks of vocabulary and grammar. Structured around more sophisticated topics that go beyond those of daily life conversations to cover social and cultural issues and concepts, each lesson includes two situations (often dialogues), a vocabulary list, preparatory sentences using the new vocabulary items and grammatical structures, explanations of the grammar in English, relevant cultural information, and a variety of mechanical drills and communicative exercises.

This second part of a two-part series focuses on the speaking and listening skills that will enable high intermediate to advanced students to handle a variety of more complicated communicative tasks successfully.

Abbas Al-Tonsi is a senior lecturer in Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service in Qatar. Laila Al-Sawi and Suzanne Massoud are both senior instructors at the Arabic Language Institute of the American University in Cairo.

256pp. Pbk + CD.

Also available:

Kalaam Gamiil
Volume 1
Uktub al-‘arabiya
Writing Skills in Modern Standard Arabic for the Advanced Learner
Azza Hassanein, Dalal Abo El Seoud, and Hala Yehia
A new textbook series for Arabic language students

Introducing the Uktub al-‘arabiya series with the advanced level volume, the authors of this new textbook aim to develop the writing skills of students learning Modern Standard Arabic, enabling them to move from forming correct words, phrases, sentences, and simple texts, to writing simple paragraphs and ultimately producing texts with the competency of a native speaker. These books, with the beginner and intermediate level volumes forthcoming, can accompany any other Arabic textbooks. The Advanced level volume introduces students to authentic Arabic written texts; strengthens and enhances their grammar; includes more sophisticated key words, collocations, expressions, and idioms; reinforces linguistic accuracy; and trains them to use handwriting script. Practical skills such as how to write letters are included.

Developed and piloted in the classrooms of the Arabic Language Institute at the American University in Cairo, this series has benefited from the expertise and knowledge of leading teachers of Arabic.

Azza Hassanein, Dalal Abo El Seoud, and Hala Yehia all teach Arabic in the Arabic Language Institute at the American University in Cairo.


al-Murshid
Laila Al-Sawi and Iman Saad
The essential rules of grammar for Modern Standard Arabic, with exercises for the dedicated student

This grammar book is intended for intermediate learners of Modern Standard Arabic. It covers the main points that they need to master at this level to prepare them for the next level of proficiency. Each lesson in the book begins with a brief statement and explanation of a grammar rule followed by exercises including mechanical drills for practice of the grammar point of the lesson and writing exercises that enable learners to produce the language freely while still requiring them to use the lesson’s grammar.

The book is accompanied by a CD with PowerPoint presentations illustrating the grammar rules explained in the lessons, and interactive drills. This very practical textbook provides a fine, flexible tool for a grammar-based approach to teaching MSA.

Laila Al-Sawi is a senior instructor at the Arabic Language Institute of the American University in Cairo, and co-author of Kalaam Gamiil 1 & 2 (AUC Press, 2010, 2012).
Iman Saad is an Arabic language instructor at the Arabic Language Institute of the American University in Cairo.

Complete Backlist

Arabic Literature

New publications:

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Of Noble Origins, page 16
Writing Love, page 17


* Brooklyn Heights. Miral al-Tahawy. 192pp. Hbd: 978 977 416 488 0. LE120 / $22.95. Middle East and North America.


* Recent and bestselling titles

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