The American University in Cairo Press has been connecting the Middle East to the world for more than 50 years through its publishing program. Our acclaimed Arabic fiction in translation has been the springboard to international recognition for many authors, and this season we introduce our new fiction imprint, Hoopoe, to the world of literature. Featuring novels that would grace any library or fireside, these books place the Middle Eastern writers firmly in the mainstream. The AUC Press non-fiction program represents the single best range of publications on ancient Egypt and the modern Middle East. Now publishing in print, digital, and online forms, the AUC Press future program is more accessible than ever before. In this exciting Spring collection readers can engage with the much loved area of The Traditional Crafts of Egypt and their history and techniques, while the much awaited Mosques of Egypt is a major milestone in the field of Islamic architecture and The Taste of Egypt promises to be the most modern cookbook yet showcasing the family favorites and street cuisine of Cairo and beyond. With all this plus the return of some handsome classic titles on ancient Egypt, the AUC Press catalog once again delivers something for everyone with an interest in Egypt and its surrounding area.
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Prices and publication dates subject to change without notice

Cover: the funerary complex of Amir Sayf al-Din Sarghatmish, Cairo (1356); see The Mosques of Egypt, page 14.
Letter from the Director

Since the arrival of the Muslims in Egypt in the seventh century, mosques have been built in all periods and in many styles, in cities, villages, and oases from north to south. *The Mosques of Egypt* (page 14), by renowned historian of Islamic art and architecture Bernard O’Kane, showcases in large format and full color more than eighty of the country’s religious buildings of outstanding architectural, decorative, historical, or cultural importance. This magnificent publication will undoubtedly remain the definitive work for scholars and lay readers alike for decades to come.

This season we are proud to launch our new fiction imprint, Hoopoe (pages 2–12), which will carry our translations of Arabic novels to a much wider global audience in search of a good read. Great writing will be the hallmark of our Hoopoe books, beginning with a biting satire of social mores and religious hypocrisy in Egypt (Ibrahim Essa, *The Televangelist*, page 4), a chilling journey into Morocco’s heart of darkness (Youssef Fadel, *A Rare Blue Bird Flies with Me*, page 6), a murder mystery set in the world of illegal migrants trying to reach Europe from North Africa (Abdelilah Hamdouchi, *Whitefly*, page 8), and an epic generational saga of life and struggle in a Palestinian village (Ibrahim Nasrallah, *Time of White Horses*, page 10).

Anthropologist Hager El Hadidi has spent many years studying Egypt’s unique and dying traditions of zar, a set of rituals for the appeasement of spirits involving music, song, dance, and trance, performed mostly by and for women. Her fascinating account, *Zar: Spirit Possession, Music, and Healing Rituals in Egypt* (page 43), is one of the very few publications on the subject. And for another angle on women in Egyptian society, Cairo University professor Sherreen Abouelnaga considers the representations, voices, and identities of women before, during, and after Egypt’s Revolution of 2011, in *Women in Revolutionary Egypt: Gender and the New Geographics of Identity* (page 42).

For fans of Egyptian food, our latest mouthwatering cookbook out of the oven is *The Taste of Egypt: Home Cooking from the Middle East* (page 30), by Egyptian-Australian chef Dyna Eldaief. And for fans of Egyptian handicrafts, Menha el-Batraoui has brought together a range of experts on glass, wood, fabric, and other media to present a trove of information and a colorful kaleidoscope of images in *The Traditional Crafts of Egypt* (page 34).

A new book from our Nature Foldout illustrator/author, Dominique Navarro, *Egypt’s Wildlife Past and Present*, is available in both Arabic and English editions (page 40), while her beautifully designed *Ancient Egypt: An Artist’s Coloring Book* (page 38) is there to help Egyptologists and other Egypt enthusiasts to de-stress and relax, or just have fun.

Dr. Nigel Fletcher-Jones
nigel@aucegypt.edu
New fiction from the Middle East

Hoopoe is an imprint for engaged, open-minded readers hungry for outstanding fiction that challenges headlines, re-imagines histories, and celebrates original storytelling.

Through elegant paperback and digital editions, Hoopoe will champion bold, contemporary writing from across the Middle East alongside some of the finest, groundbreaking authors of earlier generations.

This Spring, we proudly publish remarkable writing from Egypt, Morocco, and Palestine: the satirical tale of a TV preacher embroiled in a scandal bigger than his celebrity; a compelling story of despair and lost liberty from Morocco; a fast-paced murder investigation from the North African coast; and the powerful saga of a Palestinian family crushed by occupation.

Enjoy.
Meet Egypt’s top TV preacher Hatem el-Shenawi: a national celebrity revered by housewives and politicians alike for delivering Islam to the masses. Charismatic and quick-witted, he has friends in high places.

But when he is entrusted with a secret that threatens to wreak havoc across the country, he is drawn into a web of political intrigue at the very heart of government.

Can Hatem’s fame and fortune save him from this unspeakable scandal?

**Shortlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction**

Bestselling Egyptian author **Ibrahim Essa** is a renowned journalist, TV personality, and political commentator. He lives in Cairo, Egypt.

Translator of the winning novel in the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize and winner of the Saif Ghobash–Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation, **Jonathan Wright** was formerly the Reuters bureau chief in Cairo. He has translated Alaa Al-Aswany, Youssef Ziedan, Hassan Blassim. He lives in London, UK.

The bestselling political thriller from one of Egypt’s most outspoken journalists

“A master of the Arabic language . . . [Essa] delivers a double dose of wit, humor, and political satire, combined with painstaking knowledge of religion and the media world . . . Fascinating.” — *Egypt Independent*

“We’re in the presence of masterful storytelling . . . [Essa] tells the story of Egypt, its society and state, culture and superstition, virtues and sins, love and intolerance . . . with skilful plotting, surgical social and psychological analysis.” — Saad Eddin Ibrahim, *El Watan*

“The novel of the season . . . a compelling testimony about this era.” — *The Egyptian Daily*
A Rare Blue Bird Flies with Me
A Novel

A masterful history of love, loss, and modern Morocco

Spring, 1990. After years of searching in vain, a stranger passes a scrap of paper to Zina. It’s from Aziz: the man who vanished the day after their wedding almost two decades ago.

It propels Zina on a final quest for a secret desert jail in southern Morocco, where her husband crouches in despair, dreaming of his former life.

Fadel pays powerful testament to a terrible period in Morocco’s history, known as ‘the years of cinders and lead,’ and masterfully evokes the suffering inflicted on those who supported the failed coup against King Hassan II in 1972.

Shortlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction

Award-winning Moroccan novelist and screenwriter Youssef Fadel was born in Casablanca in 1949. During Morocco’s ‘Years of Lead’ he was imprisoned in the notorious Moulay Cherif prison (1974–75). A Rare Blue Bird Flies with Me is his ninth novel. He lives in Casablanca, Morocco.


Original Arabic title: Ta’ir nadir yuhalliq ma’i
272pp. Pbk. April
978-977-416-754-6. LE120. World
Youssef Fadel

A RARE BLUE BIRD FLIES WITH ME

A Novel

Translated by Jonathan Smolin
When a fourth corpse in three days washes up in Tangier with a bullet in the chest, Detective Laafrit knows this isn’t just another illegal immigrant who didn’t make it to the Spanish coast.

The traffickers. The drug dealers. The smugglers. They know what it takes to get a gun into Morocco, and so does Laafrit. As his team hunts for the gun, Laafrit follows a hunch and reveals an international conspiracy to unlock the case.

Whitefly is a fast-paced crime thriller from the Arab west.
Abdelilah Hamdouchi
Translated by Jonathan Smolin

Whitefly
A NOVEL

“I WANT THAT GUN EVEN IF IT’S IN A FISH’S STOMACH”
Time of White Horses
A Novel

Ibrahim Nasrallah
Translated by Nancy Roberts

“Truly the novel that the Palestinian catastrophe has awaited”—Salma Khadra Jayyusi

Nasrallah’s intensely eloquent voice gives Western audiences an insight into the lives of the marginalized without rattling off numbers.”
—Tam Hussein, New Statesman

Men are murdered or executed, demolitions and collective punishment meted out, ancestral lands taken at a stroke. One learns the lesson that the behavior of any oppressor is the same, regardless of time or circumstance.”—Norbert Hirschhorn, Banipal

The measure of the greatness of this book is its humility in approaching a people’s vast experiences . . . Nasrallah’s writing evokes this epic grandeur in discrete, alluring, lyric chapters.”—Benjamin Hollander, Warscapes

Spanning the collapse of Ottoman rule and the British Mandate in Palestine, Time of White Horses is the story of three generations of a defiant family from the Palestinian village of Hadiya before 1948.

Through the lives of Hajj Mahmud, elder of Hadiya, his son Khaled, and Khaled’s grandson Naji, we enter the life of a tribe whose fate is decided by one colonizer after another. Khaled’s remarkable white mare, Hamama, and her descendants feel and share the family’s struggles and as a siege grips Hadiya, it falls to Khaled to save his people from a descending tyranny.

Shortlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction

Ibrahim Nasrallah is considered one of the most influential voices of his generation. Raised in a refugee camp to Palestinian parents, he became a journalist before turning to creative writing. His work includes fourteen novels. He lives in Amman, Jordan.

An award-winning translator of Naguib Mahfouz, Ghada Samman, and Mohamed El-Bisatie, Nancy Roberts lives in Amman, Jordan.

Original Arabic title: Zaman al-khuyul al-bayda’
664pp. Pbk. March
978-977-416-757-7. LE140. World €
IBRAHIM NASRALLAH

TIME OF WHITE HORSES

“Truly the novel that the Palestinian catastrophe has awaited”—Salma Khadra Jayyusi

Translated by NANCY ROBERTS
Forthcoming from Hoopoe

Mohamed Rabie, *Otared*
A gritty dystopian tale that is the darkest of meditations on Egypt’s future

Khaled Khalifa, *No Knives in the Kitchens of This City*
Winner of the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature

Hammour Ziada, *The Longing of the Dervish*
Winner of the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature

Youssef Fadel, *A Beautiful White Cat Walks with Me*
A modern Moroccan tale of power, love, and loss

Abdelilah Hamdouchi, *The Final Bet*
The first Arabic detective novel to be translated into English

Khairy Shalaby, *The Time-Travels of the Man Who Sold Pickles and Sweets*
The misadventures of a modern time traveler through Egypt’s recent and medieval past

Kamal Ruhayyim, *Menorahs and Minarets*
From the author of *Diary of a Jewish Muslim* and *Days in the Diaspora*

Ezzedine Shukri Fishere, *Embrace on Brooklyn Bridge*
Shortlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction

Yasser Abd al-Hafez, *The Book of Safety*
“Would you like to know your end then arrange your life accordingly?”

Hassan Daoud, *No Road to Paradise*
Winner of the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature

Latifa al-Zayyat, *The Open Door*
“Arguably the best modern [Egyptian] novel not written by Nobel laureate Mahfouz.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

www.hoopoefiction.com
Naguib Mahfouz, the first and only writer of Arabic to be awarded the Nobel prize for literature, wrote prolifically from the 1930s until shortly before his death in 2006, in a variety of genres: novels, short stories, plays, screenplays, a regular weekly newspaper column, and in later life his intensely brief and evocative *Dreams*. His *Cairo Trilogy* achieved the status of a world classic, and the Swedish Academy of Letters in awarding him the 1988 Nobel prize for literature noted that Mahfouz “through works rich in nuance—now clear-sightedly realistic, now evocatively ambiguous—has formed an Arabic narrative art that applies to all mankind.”

Here Denys Johnson-Davies, described by Edward Said as “the leading Arabic–English translator of our time,” makes an essential selection of short stories and extracts from novels and other writings, to present a cross-section through time of the very best of the work of Egypt’s Nobel literature laureate.
Less than ten years after the death of the Prophet Muhammad, the new religion of Islam arrived in Egypt with the army of Amr ibn al-As in AD 639. Amr immediately established his capital at al-Fustat, just south of modern Cairo, and there he built Africa’s first mosque, one still in regular use today. Since then, governors, caliphs, sultans, amirs, beys, pashas, among others, have built mosques, madrasas, and mausoleums throughout Egypt in a changing sequence of Fatimid, Ayyubid, Mamluk, Ottoman, and modern styles.

In this fully color-illustrated, large-format volume, a leading historian of Islamic art and culture celebrates the great variety of Egypt's mosques and related religious buildings, from the early congregational mosques, through the medieval mausoleum–madrasas, to the neighborhood mosques of the Ottoman and modern periods. With outstanding architectural photography and authoritative descriptive texts, this book will be valued as the finest on the subject by scholars and general readers alike.

Covers more than 80 of the country’s most historic mosques, with more than 300 color photographs, in 400 pages.

Bernard O’Kane is professor of Islamic art and architecture at the American University in Cairo. He is the editor of The Treasures of Islamic Art (AUC Press, 2006) and Creswell Photographs Re-examined (AUC Press, 2009), and author of The Illustrated Guide to the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo (AUC Press, 2012).
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.
Christianity and monasticism have flourished along the Nile Valley in the Aswan region of Upper Egypt and in what was once Nubia, 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 in Aswan and Nubia over the past centuries. The complexity of Christian identity in Nubia, as distinct from Egypt, is examined in the context of church ritual and architecture. Many of the studies explore Coptic material culture: inscriptions, art, architecture, and archaeology; and language and literature. The archaeological and artistic heritage of monastic sites in Edfu, Aswan, Makuria, and Kom Ombo are highlighted, attesting to their important legacies in the region.

**New in paperback**

**The legacies of the Coptic Christian presence in Aswan and Nubia from the fourth century to the present day**

**Also available:**

- [Christianity and Monasticism in Aswan and Nubia](#) (Edited by Gawdat Gabra and Hany N. Takla)

**Gawdat Gabra** is the former director of the Coptic Museum and the author, coauthor, or editor of numerous books on the history and culture of Egyptian Christianity, including *The History and Religious Heritage of Old Cairo* (AUC Press, 2013). He is currently visiting professor of Coptic studies at Claremont Graduate University, California.

**Hany N. Takla** is the founding president of the Saint Shenouda the Archimandrite Coptic Society.
Coptic contributions to the formative theological debates of Christianity have long been recognized. Less well known are other, equally valuable, Coptic contributions to the transmission and preservation of technical and scientific knowledge, and a full understanding of how Egypt's Copts survived and interacted with the country's majority population over the centuries. Studies in Coptic Culture attempts to examine these issues from divergent perspectives.

Through the careful examination of select case studies that range in date from the earliest phases of Coptic culture to the present day, twelve international scholars address issues of cultural transmission, cross-cultural perception, representation, and inter-faith interaction. Their approaches are as varied as their individual disciplines, covering literary criticism, textual studies, and comparative literature as well as art historical, archaeo-botanical, and historical research methods.

The divergent perspectives and methods presented in this volume will provide a fuller picture of what it meant to be Coptic in centuries past and prompt further research and scholarship into these subjects.

**Contributors:** Renate Dekker, Mennat-Allah El Dorry, Carol Downer, Laila Farid, Lucy-Anne Hunt, Michael Jones, Magdalena Kuhn, Helene Moussa, Richard Price, Tonio Sebastian Richter, Daniele Salvoldi, Asuka Tsuji

**Mariam Ayad** is an associate professor of Egyptology at the American University in Cairo, and has previously taught at the University of Memphis. She has worked in the field at Wadi al-Natrun, Giza, Mendes, and Medinat Habu. She is the author of God's Wife, God's Servant and the editor of Coptic Culture: Past, Present, and Future.
The Travels of Ibn Battuta
A Guided Arabic Reader

The Travels of Ibn Battuta: A Guided Reader is a unique Arabic literature and history textbook for students at the High Intermediate to Advanced level. Ibn Battuta was the greatest traveler of the medieval period, and his narrative provides an unmatched view of medieval civilization from Spain to China, and from Russia to Mali. Students will read the authentic descriptions of Ibn Battuta’s encounters with cannibals, desert bandits, Mongol chieftains, and his impressions of wonders from Timbuktu to Constantinople to Quanzhou. This book provides a guided and scaffolded survey of Ibn Battuta’s greatest travels through twenty lessons, each with extensive preparatory, explanatory, and application exercises, enabling students to read the actual words of the original text without undue difficulty.

While telling a fascinating narrative as a whole, each of the twenty lessons is designed to stand alone for classroom or individual study. Individual sections focus on classical grammar and stylistics, historical and cultural background and critical evaluation of the texts. The book also provides teachers with a wide range of comprehension, composition, interpretation, and research activities.

David DiMeo received his PhD from Harvard University, specializing in Arabic Literature and MA from Princeton University in Near Eastern Studies. He is an assistant professor and coordinator of the Arabic program at Western Kentucky University.

Inas Hassan has a PhD and MA in Arabic linguistics from Alexandria University in Egypt and is currently visiting assistant professor of Arabic at Loyola University Maryland.

Captain Murad is busy planning for the Afterlife. He dreams of a grand, sunlit mausoleum on the banks of the Nile.

To realize his pharaonic folly, the retired captain kindles an unlikely romance between Hazem, a feckless architect longing for immortality, and Asma, an impoverished single mother who strives for a better life for her children. As Murad’s tomb rises on the riverbank, so Hazem and Asma fall in love.

A contemporary Egyptian romance of rare grace and wit, played out by characters trapped in their attitudes toward class and gender.
One of the recurrent daydreams of those fascinated by the past is to be able to unlock the doors of history and gaze at the faces of men and women who lived two thousand years ago, to look into their eyes and catch their expressions, their personalities, their presence. It is just this extraordinary experience that the Fayum portraits provide. These remarkable paintings take their name from the oasis in which they were found, whose people in the first three centuries A.D. included Greeks, Egyptians, Romans, Syrians, Libyans, Nubians, and Jews. In the old Egyptian tradition, they and their contemporaries in other parts of the Nile Valley embalmed the bodies of their dead; but they then placed over the mummy a painted portrait, to preserve the memory of each individual.

The Fayum portraits are by far the largest body of ancient easel-painting to have survived. Over 1,000 portraits have so far been discovered—men, women, and children, young and old, plain and beautiful, painted in perfect realism or in vivid stylization. A few have become familiar, but most of the portraits have been neglected by art historians and are unknown to the general public.

Illustrating almost 200 of the portraits, this book combines arresting beauty with up-to-date scholarship. Selecting the most interesting of the paintings, the author has, for the first time, grouped them according to the places where they were found, allowing us to recreate communities and relationships. Many new photographs were commissioned for this book, which reproduces some portraits in color for the first time, and shows others since cleaning.

An explanatory text sets the people and paintings in their social, artistic, and geographical context, describes the painting techniques used, and shows how the Fayum portraits relate to Byzantine icon-painting.
Contents

I. Graeco-Roman Egypt
   The Social Context
   The Religious Context

II. The Portraits
   The Pictorial Tradition, from Apelles to Icons
   Methods: Scale, Materials and Colours

III. The Find-Sites
   Memphis and Saqqara
   The Fayum or Arsinoite Nome
   The Necropolises of Philadelphia
   The Necropolis of Arsinoe
   The Necropolises of Antinoopolis
   Other Sites

Commentaries on the Portraits
   Maps of the Fayum and the Nile Valley
   Problems in the Dating of the Mummy Portraits
   Costume, Hairstyles and Jewelry
From Akhenaten to Moses
Ancient Egypt and Religious Change

The shift from polytheism to monotheism changed the world radically. Akhenaten and Moses—a figure of history and a figure of tradition—symbolize this shift in its incipient, revolutionary stages and represent two civilizations that were brought into the closest connection as early as the Book of Exodus, where Egypt stands for the old world to be rejected and abandoned in order to enter the new one.

The seven chapters of this seminal study shed light on the great transformation from different angles. Between Egypt in the first chapter and monotheism in the last, five chapters deal in various ways with the transition from one to the other, analyzing the Exodus myth, understanding the shift in terms of evolution and revolution, confronting Akhenaten and Moses in a new way, discussing Karl Jaspers’ theory of the Axial Age, and dealing with the eighteenth-century view of the Egyptian mysteries as a cultural model.

[From Akhenaten to Moses] will appeal to readers who enjoy exploring the world of ideas and the ways in which such ideas have shaped societies for both good and ill.”—Ancient Egypt

Contents

1. Structure and Change in Ancient Egyptian Religion
2. Myth and History of the Exodus: Triumph and Trauma
3. From Poly- to Monotheism: Evolution or Revolution
4. Moses and Akhenaten: Memory and History
5. Ancient Egypt and the Theory of the Axial Age
6. Egyptian Mysteries and Secret Societies in the Age of Enlightenment
7. Total Religion: Politics, Monotheism, and Violence

Jan Assmann is a German Egyptologist widely known for his work on the origins of monotheism. Formerly professor of Egyptology at the University of Heidelberg, he is now honorary professor of cultural studies at the University of Constance. He is the author of Moses the Egyptian: The Memory of Egypt in Western Monotheism and The Price of Monotheism.
After the death of Rameses II, the Nineteenth Dynasty soon fell into decline and familial conflict, culminating in a final civil war that ended with the accession of a new dynasty. Sethy I and Rameses II’s promotion of a concept of a wider ‘royal family’ may have sown the seeds for the conflicts among their descendants.

Aidan Dodson explores the mysteries of the origins of the usurper-king Amenmeses and the career of the ‘king-maker’ of the period, the chancellor Bay. Having helped to install at least one pharaoh on the throne, Bay’s life was ended by his abrupt execution, ordered by the woman with whom he had shared the regency of Egypt for the young and disabled King Siptah. Finally, the author considers how that woman—Tawosret—became the last true female pharaoh, and how she finally lost her throne to the founder of the Twentieth Dynasty, Sethnakhte.

The first book to examine the turbulent period from the death of Rameses II to the accession of Rameses III.

Highly Recommended.” — Choice

“With copious illustrations, this book supplies intriguing insights into pharaonic politics, arrived at through meticulous, knowledgeable research.” — Book News

By the same author:

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 Monarchs of the Nile (AUC Press, rev. ed. 2015), Amarna Sunrise (AUC Press, 2014), Afterglow of Empire (AUC Press, 2012), and Amarna Sunset (AUC Press, 2009).
Gods and Myths of Ancient Egypt

The revised edition of a classic text, introducing the lively characters of Egyptian mythology

Robert Armour's classic text, long cherished by a generation of readers, is now complemented with more than 50 new photographs and line drawings that show the gods and goddesses in their characteristic forms. Armour maintains a strong narrative thread with illuminating commentary in his lively, vigorous retelling of stories from Egyptian mythology, including those of the sun god Ra, the tragic death and rebirth of Osiris with the help of Isis, the near-burlesque of Horus’ battle with the evil Seth, and the “gods of the intellect” Thoth and Maat. Now with an updated bibliography and glossary as well as new charts showing the gods at a glance and ancient Egyptian chronology in brief, this book is sure to inform and enchant a new generation of readers.

Contents

1. Mythological Stories
2. The Great Ennead of Heliopolis
3. The Adventures of Ra
4. The Adventures of Osiris and Isis
5. Horus
6. Horus’ Battle with Seth
7. Hathor
8. The Triad of Memphis
9. The Triad of Thebes
10. Thoth and Maat
11. Anubis
12. Three Fertility Gods
13. Postscript

Robert A. Armour is professor emeritus of English at Virginia Commonwealth University. During 1981–82 he was Fulbright Professor at the universities of al-Azhar and ‘Ain Shams in Cairo, and he has also taught at the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland and at Tennessee Technological University. He has written or edited six books.
Little is known of the everyday lives of ordinary people in ancient Egypt, but excavations at the village of Deir el-Medina have provided a unique opportunity to reconstruct the daily life of one particular group—the workmen who built the tombs of the pharaohs in the nearby Valley of the Kings.

The Tomb-Builders of the Pharaohs brings to life the people who lived and died at Deir el-Medina over three thousand years ago: their loves and hates, disputes and scandals, work and leisure. The author carried out extensive research on the tomb-builders and draws on the thousands of documents, letters, literary texts, and drawings found at Deir el-Medina to give a fascinating and intimate glimpse of life in the village.

### Contents

1. The Royal Tombs  
2. The Men of the Gang  
3. Building the Tombs  
4. Village Life at Deir el-Medina  
5. Religion  
6. Justice  
7. Deir el-Medina Rediscovered

**Morris Bierbrier** was Assistant Keeper in the Department of Egyptian Antiquities, British Museum, London for twenty-five years before his retirement and chairman of the London Centre for the Ancient Near East. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.
Tombs of the South Asasif Necropolis
New Discoveries and Research 2012–2014

Edited by Elena Pischikova

This volume is the second joint publication of the members of the American–Egyptian archaeological team South Asasif Conservation Project, working under the auspices of the Ministry of State for Antiquities and directed by the editor. The Project is dedicated to the clearing, restoration, and reconstruction of the tombs of Karabasken (TT 391) and Karakhamun (TT 223) of the Twenty-fifth Dynasty, and the tomb of Irtieru (TT 390) of the Twenty-sixth Dynasty, on the West Bank of Luxor. This volume covers three seasons of the work of the Project from 2012 to 2014.

Essays by the experts involved in the work of the Project concentrate on new archaeological finds, reconstruction of the tombs’ decoration and introduction of the high officials who usurped the tombs of Karakhamun and Karabasken in the Twenty-sixth Dynasty. The volume focuses particularly on the reconstruction of the ritual of the Hours of the Day and Night and BD 125 and 32 in the tomb of Karakhamun, the textual program of the tomb of Karabasken, as well as Coptic ostraca, faience objects, pottery, and animal bones found in the necropolis.

Contributors: Julia Budka, Mansour Bureik, Diethelm Eigner, Erhart Graefe, Kenneth Griffin, Salima Ikram, Matthias Müller, Paul Nicholson, Elena Pischikova, Miguel Molinero Polo

Elena Pischikova is the director of the American–Egyptian South Asasif Conservation Project. She is currently a research scholar at the American University in Cairo, and teaches at Fairfield University in Connecticut. She is the editor of Tombs of the South Asasif Necropolis: Thebes, Karakhamun (TT 223), and Karabasken (TT 391) in the Twenty-fifth Dynasty (AUC Press, 2013).
Record your thoughts and experiences of Egypt in this elegant journal

As much as we spend our time reading online and looking at our telephones and devices, we also seem to be returning to a love of pen and paper to record our thoughts and experiences.

This beautifully designed and exciting new notebook is the perfect such book for anyone visiting or living in Egypt. The ideal combination of Egypt—ancient and modern.

The magnificent cover showing the famous mask of Tutankhamun, combining high-quality production with stunning fine art, is printed in five colors, embossed, and foil stamped. The notebook is also extremely practical, with a pocket at the back for receipts and scraps, two bookmarks, and a solid magnetic closing flap.

The Tutankhamun Notebook

978-161-797-715-2. LE100. Egypt only.
Combining mouthwatering recipes with a fresh, contemporary design, *The Taste of Egypt* brings the sophisticated colors and flavors of Egyptian and Middle Eastern cuisine to the modern home kitchen in unpretentious, down-to-earth style. Impress your dinner guests with sublime appetizers such as stuffed vine leaves and roast eggplant dip. Cook up a storm with silky cumin-infused lentil soup, sensational spiced meatballs, and delicious artichokes cooked in red pepper sauce. There are summery salads to fill a picnic hamper and hearty slow-cooked beans and basterma (fenugreek-spiced cured beef) to evoke the bustling warmth of a Middle Eastern food market. And the recipes for sweet delights are designed to satisfy even the most persistent sweet tooth. Presented in a vibrant, accessible style, *The Taste of Egypt* is a celebration of a great culinary tradition and an exciting addition to the repertoire of the modern home cook.
Mahshi | Mixed Stuffed Vegetables in Rich Tomato Sauce

Mahshi, which can be used to refer to any kind of stuffed vegetables, is loved by families all over the Mediterranean. It is always one of the most important dishes in dinner gatherings. The stuffing for this recipe can be used with zucchini, Lebanese eggplant, and capsicum (bell peppers).

Serves: 4

1½–2 kg (3–4½ lb) mixed vegetables such as zucchini, eggplant, and capsicum (bell peppers)
3 cups (720 ml) tomato sauce or passata
4 cups (1 liter) beef stock

STUFFING
500 g (1 lb) minced or ground beef
1 teaspoon mixed spice powder
2 teaspoons oil, ghee, or melted butter (optional)
300 g (10½ oz) white short-grain rice
½ cup (125 ml) tomato sauce or passata
1 teaspoon mixed spice powder
½ teaspoon allspice powder
1½ teaspoon sea salt
½ teaspoon ground black pepper
2 medium onions, finely chopped or minced
1 bunch flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped

• Combine all the stuffing ingredients together in a bowl and mix well.
• Halve the eggplant and zucchini and use a vegetable corer (this is known as a ma’wara in Arabic) to remove and discard the flesh, leaving a 1 cm (½ inch) border. Do not puncture the ends. Cut the tops off any bell peppers and clean out the inside.
• Stuff the vegetables with the meat mixture, making sure it is firmly packed, but be careful not to push the stuffing through the vegetable ends. Pack the vegetables into a large pan with the open ends facing upward.
• Pour the tomato sauce and stock over the vegetables. Add warm water to the pan until it comes up to the height of the vegetables. Bring to the boil over a high heat, then reduce to a medium heat and cook for 75–90 minutes or until the vegetables are tender and the rice is well cooked. Add boiling water to the pan during cooking if needed.
• Arrange the stuffed vegetables on a serving platter and serve while hot.

COOK’S TIP
If you are left with any extra mince after stuffing the vegetables, wrap it in foil and place it on top of the vegetables during the last stage of cooking.
Authentic Egyptian Cooking
From the Table of Abou El Sid

Nehal Leheta

Traditionally, Egyptian cooking has been best practiced and enjoyed at home, where generations of unrecorded family recipes have been the sustaining repertoire for daily meals as well as sumptuous holiday feasts. Abou El Sid, one of Cairo’s most famous restaurants, has become well known for its authentic Egyptian dishes, and now presents more than fifty of its most classic recipes in a cookbook for the enjoyment of home cooks all over the world.

Egyptians will recognize their favorites, from holiday dishes such as Fettah to the arrays of appetizers like aubergine with garlic, special lentils, and tahina; those new to Middle Eastern food will find the recipes simple and simply delicious, and enjoy the Egyptian table even if they don’t have the heritage of the pharaohs in their family backgrounds.

- 57 authentic Egyptian recipes from starters to main courses to desserts.
- Each recipe illustrated with gorgeous, full-color photographs.
- Beautifully designed and visually sumptuous boutique book.

Nehal Leheta is an interior designer in Cairo with a strong interest in cuisine. She has designed a number of restaurant interiors in Egypt, and is a co-founder of Design Point, an interior and architecture design and consulting firm.
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The Traditional Crafts of Egypt

Edited by Menha el-Batraoui

Many traditional crafts practiced in contemporary Egypt can be traced back hundreds, if not thousands, of years. Scenes inscribed on the walls of ancient temples and tombs depict the earliest Egyptians making pottery and papyrus and working with stone, wood, and other materials. The eleven chapters of this volume explore these and other crafts that continue to flourish in Egypt. From copper and glass works to jewelry, woodwork, and hand-woven carpets and fabric, each chapter offers an in-depth look at one material or craft and the artisans who keep its traditions alive.

The authors, drawing on historical sources and documentary research, sketch the evolution of each craft, looking into its origins, the development of tools and methods used in the craft, and the diverse influences that have shaped the form and function of craft items produced today, ranging widely through the pharaonic, Coptic, Islamic, and modern periods. This historical examination is complemented by extensive field research and interviews with craftsmen and women, which serve to set these crafts into a living cultural context and offer a window into the modern craft economy, the lives of craftspeople, and the local communities and traditions they express and sustain.

The volume is amply illustrated with vivid photographs of contemporary craft items and artisans at work, from the coastal town of Damietta to the far-flung deserts and the ancient alleyways of Cairo. It is a narrative and visual tour that provides valuable insight into contemporary Egypt as seen through its material culture and the legions of unsung artists who nourish and enrich it.

A colorful kaleidoscope of the handicrafts created by Egypt’s artisans today in glass, wood, fabric, stone, and other media
This large-format wall calendar presents twelve fascinating historical photographs from the golden age of the Nile cruise, in the days of grand steamers and elegant dahabeeyahs, of relaxing in wicker chairs on deck, and of visits to ancient temples on donkeyback. The illustrations are taken from the bestselling book *On the Nile in the Golden Age of Travel*, by Andrew Humphreys (AUC Press, 2015). The calendar is practically designed with plenty of space to write in special events and daily appointments throughout the year.
First published in 1844, these letters are the collected observations of Sophia Poole, who lived in Cairo from 1842 until 1849 with her brother, the well-known Orientalist Edward Lane, and her two children. During her residence, Poole learned Arabic and adopted Egyptian clothing that enabled her not only to observe day-to-day life in the streets and markets but also to enter hammams and harems and interact on an intimate level with Egyptian women of different classes. Poole ultimately had access, in fact, to the highest levels of society, including the family of the viceroy Mohamed Ali Pasha, and recorded her experiences there with the same eye for detail and understanding of underlying customs as she brought to bear in the marketplace. She moves effortlessly from situation to situation—the pasha's daughter smoking her jewel-encrusted pipe, the homesick slave-girl, the occupation of ladies of leisure—one scene after another is unfolded in her writing that reveals not only a mind that observes and records but a human being who attempts to feel and understand a different culture.

In contrast to her brother's dense works of research, Sophia Poole's was cast in the form of letters to a friend. These letters cover her arrival in Alexandria and trip up the Nile to Cairo, as well as her life in Cairo, with its visits to surrounding villages. Letters from an Englishwoman in Egypt is at once entertaining and informative. If Edward Lane kept alive for posterity a post-medieval Cairo that has since disappeared, then his sister in her work no doubt complemented that great achievement by presenting the same world from a feminine perspective that he as a man could not have access to.
Ancient Egypt
An Artist’s Coloring Book

**Become an ancient Egyptian coloring artist!**

Embark on a colorful journey to reveal a hidden Egypt! Explore Egyptian gods, animals, hieroglyphs, designs, and more as you color the elaborate artwork, revealing vibrant details while learning unusual Egyptology facts and coloring tips along the way.

Learn about ancient Egypt color theory, including the history of primary colors in the Egyptian palette, their meaning and symbolism, to inspire your own artistic coloring choices. Use your imagination to color, or follow the suggestions accompanying each art panel, including techniques for adding texture, shading, and depth to your artwork.

*Ancient Egypt: An Artist’s Coloring Book* is filled with beautifully detailed, inspiring artwork and designs to color, frame, and display in your home. Transform and personalize the black-and-white line drawings into your own unique and colorful art. Appealing to all ages, ideal for adults to unwind and relax, and fun to share with the whole family.

**Dominique Navarro** is an Emmy Award winning art director, natural history artist, and writer. In 2014, she won an Emmy for her work as art director on the History Channel (H2) series *Big History*. She is the author of six *AUC Press Nature Foldouts* and *Egypt’s Wildlife* (*AUC Press*, 2016).
Ancient Egypt’s temples and tombs encompass images of exotic animals, birds, and plants that are no longer found in the country today, while the fossils of dinosaurs and ancient whales reveal an extraordinary legacy from prehistoric times. Egypt’s environment has changed dramatically over millennia, and the species that have survived have made their homes in diverse terrain: deserts and mountains, the Nile Valley and sea coasts, temple ruins, and even city skies and streets.

Today, Egypt’s vibrant habitats host amazing cat, canine, and bird species, exotic residents like crocodiles and bats, numerous reptiles, butterflies, and insects, and domesticated animals like the camel. Tracing the history of Egypt’s extinct species reveals an unusual timeline of geological transformations and climate change. The natural history of Egypt is often overlooked, yet invaluable to understanding Egyptology, as well as the country’s future as the environment continues to drastically change.

This colorful book combines the artwork and text of four of the AUC Press Nature Foldouts: Egypt’s Flora & Fauna, Birds of the Nile Valley, Ancient Egypt’s Wildlife, and Egypt’s Prehistoric Fauna. Including striking full-color illustrations, photographs, diagrams and maps, and information from leading scientific experts, this book is a great introduction to Egypt’s unique natural history.
The glorious remnants of Egypt’s ancient civilization are some of the most awe-inspiring treasures we have on Earth. But the country also encompasses an exotic and mysterious abundance of wildlife, hiding in its temples and tombs, or persevering in its deserts, wadis, and oases.”

**Dominique Navarro** is an Emmy Award winning art director, natural history artist, and writer. In 2014, she won an Emmy for her work as art director on the History Channel (H2) series *Big History*. She is the author of six AUC Press Nature Foldouts and *Egypt’s Wildlife* (AUC Press, 2016).
Women in Revolutionary Egypt
Gender and the New Geographics of Identity
Shereen Abouelnaga

The 25 January 2011 uprising and the unprecedented dissent and discord to which it gave rise shattered the notion of homogeneity that had characterized state representations of Egypt and Egyptians since 1952. It allowed for the eruption of identities along multiple lines, including class, ideology, culture, and religion, long suppressed by state control. Concomitantly a profusion of women’s voices arose to further challenge the state-managed feminism that had sought to define and carefully circumscribe women’s social and civic roles in Egypt.

Women in Revolutionary Egypt takes the uprising as the point of departure for an exploration of how gender in post-Mubarak Egypt came to be rethought, reimagined, and contested. It examines key areas of tension between national and gender identities, including gender empowerment through art and literature, particularly graffiti and poetry, the disciplining of the body, and the politics of history and memory.

Shereen Abouelnaga argues that this new cartography of women’s struggle has to be read in a context that takes into consideration the micropolitics of everyday life as well as the larger processes that work to separate the personal from the political. She shows how a new generation of women is resisting, both discursively and visually, the notion of a fixed or ‘authentic’ notion of Egyptian womanhood in spite of prevailing social structures and in face of all gendered politics of imagined nation.
Zar
Spirit Possession, Music, and Healing Rituals in Egypt

Zar is both a possessing spirit and a set of reconciliation rites between the spirits and their human hosts: living in a parallel yet invisible world, the capricious spirits manifest their anger by causing ailments for their hosts, which require ritual reconciliation, a private sacrificial rite practiced routinely by the afflicted devotees. Originally spread from Ethiopia to the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf through the nineteenth-century slave trade, in Egypt zar has incorporated elements from popular Islamic Sufi practices, including devotion to Christian and Muslim saints. The ceremonies initiate devotees—the majority of whom are Muslim women—into a community centered on a cult leader, a membership that provides them with moral orientation, social support, and a sense of belonging. Practicing zar rituals, dancing to zar songs, and experiencing trance restore their well-being, which had been compromised by gender asymmetry and globalization.

This new ethnographic study of zar in Egypt is based on the author’s two years of multi-sited fieldwork and firsthand knowledge as a participant, and her collection and analysis of more than three hundred zar songs, allowing her to access levels of meaning that had previously been overlooked. The result is a comprehensive and accessible exposition of the history, culture, and waning practice of zar in a modernizing world.

Hager El Hadidi
Assistant Professor of Anthropology, California State University at Bakersfield. Her research interest in zar spirit possession spans over two decades, working with zar groups in Cairo, Alexandria, Fayoum, and Lower and Upper Egypt.
Salman Abu Sitta, who has single-handedly made available crucial mapping work on Palestine, was just ten years old when he left his home near Beersheba in 1948, but for many Palestinians of his generation, the profound effects of that traumatic loss would form the defining feature of his life from that moment on. In this rich and moving memoir, Abu Sitta draws on oral histories and personal recollections to vividly evoke the vanished world of his family and home from the late nineteenth century to the eve of the British withdrawal from Palestine and subsequent war. Alongside accounts of an idyllic childhood spent on his family’s farm estate Abu Sitta gives a personal and very human face to the dramatic events of 1930s and 1940s Palestine, conveying the acute sense of foreboding felt by Palestinians as Zionist ambitions and militarization expanded under the mandate.

Following his family’s flight to Gaza during the 1948 mass exodus of Palestinians from their homes, Abu Sitta continued his schooling and university education in Cairo, where he witnessed the heady rise of Arab nationalism after the overthrow of King Farouk in 1952 and the momentous events surrounding the Israeli invasion of Sinai and Gaza in 1956. With warmth and humor he chronicles his peripatetic exile’s existence, as an engineering student in Nasser’s Egypt, his crucial, formative years in 1960s London, his life as a family man and academic in Canada, and several sojourns in Kuwait, all against the backdrop of seismic political events in the region, including the 1967 and 1973 Arab–Israeli wars, the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and the 1991 Gulf War.
More than twenty years have passed since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization concluded the Oslo Accords, or Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements for Palestine. It was declared “a political breakthrough of immense importance.” Israel officially accepted the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the PLO recognized the right of Israel to exist. Critical views were voiced at the time about how the self-government established under the leadership of Yasser Arafat created a Palestinian-administered Israeli occupation, rather than paving the way towards an independent Palestinian state with substantial economic funding from the international community.

Through a number of essays written by renowned scholars and practitioners, the years since the Oslo Accords are scrutinized from a wide range of perspectives. Did the agreement have a reasonable chance of success? What went wrong, causing the treaty to derail and delay a real, workable solution? What are the recommendations today to show a way forward for the Israelis and the Palestinians?


**Petter Bauck** is a senior conflict adviser. He has published several books and articles on Eritrea and Afghanistan. He served as deputy head of the Norwegian Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority from 2000 to 2003, and currently works with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

**Mohammed Omer** is a Palestinian journalist, reporting for numerous newspapers and journals in the USA, Scandinavia, and Germany, including *The Nation*, *Al Jazeera*, *Aftonbladet*, *Junge Welt* and *The Electronic Intifada*. He is a recipient of the Martha Gellhorn Prize for Journalism.
Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Egypt

Entrepreneurship and innovation have emerged globally as significant drivers for inclusive economic growth, contributing to both job and wealth creation. Especially since Egypt’s 2011 revolution, the need has become pressing for novel models that capitalize on the country’s human resources. Half of the Egyptian population is less than 25 years old and almost one quarter is between 18 and 29 years old. More than any other time, an entrepreneurial spirit and innovative mindset need to be fostered and encouraged to best rebuild the country’s economy on solid and sustainable foundations.

This important book sheds new light on the promise of entrepreneurship and innovation in restructuring Egypt, and their potential for promoting economic development. It probes the relationship between innovation and economic growth, providing linkages between academic research and applied/industry needs. It also looks at how creativity and innovation can be embedded in the educational system, the challenges facing the entrepreneurial ecosystem, and considers ways to enhance social entrepreneurship.

Covering a lot of ground, the authors propose answers and solutions, as well as laying the groundwork for further research and deliberations—in this field in general and in Egypt, at this juncture of the country’s development, in particular.

NAGLA RIZK is professor of economics and founding director of the Access to Knowledge for Development Center (A2K4D) at the School of Business of the American University in Cairo. She is also a faculty associate at Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University and an affiliated fellow of the Information Society Project at Yale Law School.

HASSAN AZZAZY is professor of chemistry at the American University in Cairo and is the founder of the Novel Diagnostics and Therapeutics Research Group. He has worked with the European Training Foundation to promote the introduction of entrepreneurial learning in higher education in Egypt, and is the recipient of the Young Innovator Award from Burayda Colleges in Saudi Arabia and the Global Innovator Award from Texas Christian University.
Friendship, though esteemed, has not been central in critical studies. It has been overshadowed by other bonding relationships. However, it figures as a privileged theme in classical, medieval, renaissance, and modern philosophy. More recently, sociological, anthropological, and psychological studies have explored the varied dimensions of friendship. Different cultures view friendship in various perspectives that intersect, contrast, and echo each other. In Middle Eastern, East Asian, European, and American thought, philosophers, jurists, and creative writers have explored the idea of friendship and their input is analyzed in this issue. *Alif* 36 foregrounds different ways of presenting friendship in diverse cultures and historical periods.

**A new set of studies on representations of friendship in the art and literature of the world**

Friendship, though esteemed, has not been central in critical studies. It has been overshadowed by other bonding relationships. However, it figures as a privileged theme in classical, medieval, renaissance, and modern philosophy. More recently, sociological, anthropological, and psychological studies have explored the varied dimensions of friendship. Different cultures view friendship in various perspectives that intersect, contrast, and echo each other. In Middle Eastern, East Asian, European, and American thought, philosophers, jurists, and creative writers have explored the idea of friendship and their input is analyzed in this issue. *Alif* 36 foregrounds different ways of presenting friendship in diverse cultures and historical periods.

**Ferial Ghazoul** is an Iraqi scholar, critic, and translator. She is professor of English and comparative literature at the American University in Cairo and has written extensively on gender issues in modern and medieval literature.

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Egyptian Hip-Hop

Expressions from the Underground

*Cairo Papers in Social Science* Vol. 34, No. 1

**Ellen R. Weis**

This ethnographic study of the Egyptian underground hip-hop scene examines the artists who collectively molded the scene and analyzes their practices and explores how these artists have interacted with and responded to political and social upheaval and change. It reveals how rappers approached and reformulated the genre in times of revolution and stasis to reveal how rap acts as a multi-layered form of expression. More specifically, it examines the location of the art form within the broader history of oppositional cultural expression in Egypt, outlining the artists’ oppositions to various hegemonic structures and critically deconstructing them to reveal that they often reflect dominant ideology.

**Ellen R. Weis** is a freelance researcher who has an MA in Middle East Studies from the American University in Cairo.
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