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Wonderful Things
A History of Egyptology
1: From Antiquity to 1881
Jason Thompson

(Dec 2014 | Hardbound | 352 pp. | 15 x 23 cm)

The first part of a comprehensive history of the study and understanding of ancient Egypt, from ancient times to the twenty-first century

The discovery of ancient Egypt and the development of Egyptology are momentous events in intellectual and cultural history. The history of Egyptology is the story of the people, famous and obscure, who constructed the picture of ancient Egypt that we have today, recovered the Egyptian past while inventing it anew, and made a lost civilization comprehensible to generations of enchanted readers and viewers thousands of years later. This, the first of a three-volume survey of the history of Egyptology, follows the fascination with ancient Egypt from antiquity until 1881, tracing the recovery of ancient Egypt and its impact on the human imagination in a saga filled with intriguing mysteries, great discoveries, and scholarly creativity. Wonderful Things affirms that the history of ancient Egypt has proved continually fascinating, but it also demonstrates that the history of Egyptology is no less so. Only by understanding how Egyptology has developed can we truly understand the Egyptian past.

Jason Thompson is currently a visiting associate professor at Bates College. He is the editor of Edward William Lane’s Description of Egypt (AUC Press, 2000) and An Account of the Manners and Customs of the Modern Egyptians (AUC Press, 2003), and the author of Sir Gardiner Wilkinson and His Circle, A History of Egypt: From Earliest Times to the Present (AUC Press, 2008), and Edward William Lane, 1801–1876 (AUC Press, 2010).

Forthcoming:
A History of Egyptology/2: The Golden Age: 1881-1914
A History of Egyptology/3: From 1914 to the Twenty-first Century

Rights: all languages, world
Revolution Is My Name
An Egyptian Woman’s Diary from Eighteen Days in Tahrir
Mona Prince
Translated by Samia Mehrez

(Sep 2014 | Paperback | 200 pp. | 15 x 23 cm)

What it was like to be an Egyptian woman revolutionary during the 18 days that changed Egypt forever

“Remarkable . . . a literary memoir in the best sense of the word.”—Jadaliyya

A writer, a university professor, a woman: this is the insightful and humorous description of one hesitant revolutionary’s experiences through the eighteen days of the Egyptian uprising that led to the fall of President Hosni Mubarak in January/February 2011.

Juggling humor and horror, hope and fear, certitude and anxiety, Prince immerses us in each day’s unexpected and inconclusive details, as she meets other writers and intellectuals involved in the demonstrations. Mixing the political and the personal, the public and the private, she exposes both her family’s conservative politics and her own classist prejudices against other sectors of Egyptian society, all of whom teach her lasting transformative lessons. Revolution Is My Name is a testimony not only of women’s participation in the Egyptian uprising and their courage in confronting constrictive gender divides at home and on the street but equally of the important contribution of women writers as chroniclers of the momentous events of January and February 2011.

Mona Prince was born in Cairo in 1970. She is associate professor of English Literature at Suez Canal University in Egypt. She has published novels (including So You May See, AUC Press, 2011) and short stories in Arabic, and has translated both poetry and short stories. In 2012, she nominated herself for the Egyptian presidency in the run-up to the country’s first ever democratic presidential elections.

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. She is the author of The Literary Atlas of Cairo (AUC Press, 2010) and The Literary Life of Cairo (AUC Press, 2011), and editor of Translating Egypt’s Revolution: The Language of Tahrir (AUC Press, 2012).

Rights: all languages except Arabic, world
Grand Hotels of Egypt
in the Golden Age of Travel
Andrew Humphreys
(Feb 2012 | Hardbound | 216 pp. | 19 x 24 cm | 274 illus. 110 in color)

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).

Rights: all languages, world
On the Nile in the Golden Age of Travel
Andrew Humphreys

(Mar 2015 | Hardbound | 216 pp. | 19 x 24 cm | 274 illus. 110 in color)

Since Antony and Cleopatra honeymooned on the Nile on a gilded barge, visitors to Egypt have taken to the river as the best way to experience the country’s wonders. Early travelers took a dahabiya, an elegant triangular-sailed houseboat, and leisurely meandered from riverside site to site, for three months or more. Then from the late 19th century, Thomas Cook of Leicester, England, revolutionized the journey with a fleet of specially built paddle steamers. For the next sixty years these ‘floating palaces’, with their private cabins, and dining, smoking and viewing salons, red-uniformed dragoman guides, and organized donkey excursions, carried the aristocratic, moneyed, and adventurous of international society of the time.

Using period photography, and colorful vintage posters and advertizing material, this book tells the story of the people, places, and boats, from pioneering Nile travelers like Amelia Edwards and Lucie Duff Gordon, through to famed later passengers, such as Rudyard Kipling, Arthur Conan Doyle and, of course, Agatha Christie, whose staging of a death on the Nile only added to the allure.

Andrew Humphreys is the author of National Geographic Traveler Egypt (AUC Press, 2009) and Grand Hotels of Egypt in the Golden Age of Travel (AUC Press, 2012).

Rights: all languages, world
The Mosques of Egypt
Bernard O’Kane

(Spring 2016 | Hardbound | 400 pp. | 25 x 30.5 cm | 300 color photographs and plans)

A magnificent fully color-illustrated celebration of Egypt’s Islamic architectural heritage

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 641. 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 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).

Rights: all languages, world

E-Blad available
Silver Treasure from the Land of Sheba
Regional Yemeni Jewelry
Marjorie Ransom

(June 2014 | Hardbound | 264 pp. | 24 x 21 cm | 320 color photographs)

The first illustrated study of ethnic silver jewelry in Yemen, by an expert researcher and collector

“Here is a long-awaited treasure trove. Marjorie Ransom’s love of the country, her knowledge of its highways and byways, and her anecdotes about those she meets in her journeyings add a rare and warm dimension to our understanding of this beautiful country and its silver.”—Sarah Searight, author of Yemen: Land and People

Silver Treasures from the Land of Sheba documents a disappearing artistic and cultural tradition with over three hundred photographs showing individual pieces, rare images of women wearing their jewelry with traditional dress, and the various regions in Yemen where the author did her field research. Ransom’s descriptions of the people she met and befriended, and her exploration of the significance of a woman’s handmade jewelry with its attributes of power, protection, beauty, and personal identity, will appeal to ethnic jewelry fans, ethnographers, jewelry designers, and art historians.

Amulet cases, hair ornaments, bridal headdresses, earrings, necklaces, ankle and wrist bracelets are all beautifully photographed in intricate detail, interspersed with the author’s own photographs of the women who shared their stories and their hospitality with her. A chapter on the history of silversmithing in Yemen tells the surprising story of the famed Jewish Yemeni silversmiths, many of whom left Yemen in the late 1940s. This is the first in-depth study of Yemeni silver, uniquely illustrated with photographs of a world that is transforming before our eyes, and animated with the portraits of a precious legacy.

Marjorie Ransom is a Middle East specialist who has lived and worked throughout the Arab world, where she began researching and collecting traditional silver jewelry, particularly from Yemen. Her renowned collection of Middle Eastern jewelry has been exhibited at American museums.

Rights: all languages, world
A Roving Eye
Head to Toe in Egyptian Arabic Expressions
Mona Ateek, Mona Kamel Hassan, Trevor Naylor, and Marian Sarofim
Photographs by Doriana MacMullen

(Hardbound | 96 pp. | 15 x 17 cm | 90 b&w photographs)

Put a summer watermelon in your stomach: with a tongue that drips honey, and fans on its heart, this light-blooded book throws its ear at the sayings that color everyday talk in Egypt.

No matter where we come from, we all have our unique local expressions and proverbs that raise confused eyebrows when translated literally. These phrases usually carry humor and wisdom at their core, but are only fully understood in their native language. A Roving Eye explores some of these phrases and sayings from one of the world’s most expressive tongues, Egyptian Arabic, the most widely spoken form of Arabic. Including some one hundred popular phrases and proverbs, all linked to parts of the body and features of the face, A Roving Eye uses striking black-and-white photography to bring these expressions to life. The result is a book that will delight both learners and native speakers of Arabic, as well as lovers of Egypt who have little knowledge of the language. The whole book makes a perfect gift or a fun read for family and friends.

Mona Ateek has been teaching in the English Language Institute of the American University in Cairo (AUC) since 1987. Mona Kamel Hassan is a senior Arabic language instructor in the Department of Arabic Language Instruction (ALI) at the AUC. Trevor Naylor is the author of Living Normally: Where Life Comes Before Style. Marian Sarofim has been teaching English at the AUC since 1972. Doriana MacMullen is a Bulgarian photographer who lives and works in Cairo.

Rights: All languages, world
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.
Cats of Egypt
An AUC Press Nature Foldout
Dominique Navarro and Richard Hoath

(October 2014 | 8 pp. | 58.5 x 21.5 cm | illustrated in color)

Cats were just as favored in ancient Egypt as they are today. Egyptian paintings of domesticated cats date back 3,600 years, and animal cults included worship to the cat goddess Bastet. This AUC Press Nature Foldout explores wild and domestic cats of Egypt: large cats like the Cheetah, the Leopard, and the Caracal, which are all extremely threatened or near extinction within Egypt; and smaller cats including the African Wild Cat, Swamp Cat, Sand Cat, and Egyptian Mau. Whether wild or household pets, cats have long been beloved by people.

- Each species described and illustrated, alongside examples of their natural prey in the wild
- Map of Egypt describing the various habitats of wild cats, as well as locations of ancient Egyptian sites where the cat was worshiped and mummified
- Noted appearances of felines in hieroglyphs and reliefs
- Conservation efforts for threatened cat species

**Dominique Navarro** is a natural history artist and writer. She has also done archaeological illustrations and sculptural reconstructions of unidentified persons and ancient archaeological remains.


**Other AUC Press Nature Foldouts:**
- Egypt’s Flora and Fauna
- Birds of the Nile Valley
- Ancient Egypt’s Wildlife
- Egypt’s Prehistoric Fauna
- Wildlife of the Holy Land

**Rights:** all languages, world
Siwa

Jewelry, Costume, and Life in an Egyptian Oasis
Margaret Vale

(Spring 2015 | Paperback | 272 pp. | 15 x 23 cm | 139 illus., 40 in color)

Siwa is a remote oasis deep in the heart of the Egyptian desert near the border with Libya. Until an asphalt road was built to the Mediterranean coast in the 1980s, its only links to the outside world were by arduous camel tracks. As a result of this isolation, Siwa developed a unique culture manifested in its crafts of basketry, pottery, and embroidery and in its styles of costume and silverwork. The most visible and celebrated example of this was the silver jewelry that was worn by women in abundance at weddings and other ceremonies.

Based on conversations with women and men in the oasis and with reference to old texts, this book describes the jewelry and costume at this highpoint of Siwan culture against the backdrop of its date gardens and springs, social life, and dramatic history. It places the women’s jewelry, costume, and embroidery into social perspective, and describes how they were used in ceremonies and everyday life and how they were related to their beliefs and attitudes to the world.

The book also describes how, in the second half of the twentieth century, the arrival of the road and of television brought drastic change, and the oasis was exposed to the styles and fashions of the outside world and how the traditional silver ornaments were gradually replaced by gold.

Margaret Vale has an MA in social anthropology from the University of London. She has traveled extensively and lived for long periods in the Middle East, where she studied and collected desert jewelry and textiles. In Egypt she developed an interest in Siwan life and culture and has lived in the oasis and visited it regularly.

Rights: all languages, world
An Egyptian in the Swinging Sixties
The Diaries of Waguih Ghali
Edited by May Hawas
Foreword by Ahdaf Soueif

(Fall 2016 | Hardbound | 480 pp. | 15 x 23 cm)

The captivating diaries of an Egyptian political exile, novelist, and libertine intellectual in sixties Europe

Waguih Ghali (1930–69), author of the acclaimed novel Beer in the Snooker Club, was a libertine, sponger, and manic depressive, but also an extraordinary writer, a pacifist, and a savvy political commentator. Covering the last four years of his life, Ghali’s Diaries offer an exciting glimpse into London’s swinging sixties. Moving from West Germany to London and Israel, and back in memory to Egypt and Paris, the entries boast of endless drinking, countless love affairs, and of mingling with the dazzling intellectuals of London, but the Diaries also critique the sinister political circles of Jerusalem and Cairo, describe Ghali’s trepidation at being the first Egyptian allowed into Israel after the 1967 War, and confess in detail the pain and difficulties of writing and exile.

Including two interviews conducted by Deborah Starr, with celebrated literary editor Diana Athill, OBE, and with Ghali’s cousin, former director of UNICEF-Geneva, Samir Basta, the Diaries bring together those most familiar with Ghali’s life and work, and offer a fresh take on a distinctive author and a vibrant decade.

May Hawas received her PhD in literature from Leuven University in 2014. Some of her short stories have been published in Mizna Journal, Yellow Medicine, and African Writing. She currently teaches English literature at the University of Alexandria.

Ahdaf Soueif is an Egyptian novelist and political and cultural commentator. Her second novel The Map of Love (1999) was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, and she is the translator of I Saw Ramallah by Mourid Barghouti (AUC Press, 2004).

Rights: all languages, world
From Akhenaten to Moses
Ancient Egypt and Religious Change
Jan Assmann

(Mar 2014 | Hardbound | 192 pp. | 15 x 23 cm)

A critical examination of the origins and development of monotheism

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.

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 (1998), and The Price of Monotheism (2009).

Rights: all languages except German, world
Sinai
Landscape and Nature in Egypt’s Wilderness
Omar Attum

(Oct 2014 | Hardbound | 192 pp. | 25 x 25 cm | 150 color photographs)

A uniquely spectacular visual journey through the wildlife and landscapes of the Sinai peninsula

Sinai’s allure is legendary. Its spectacular landscapes, thriving flora and fauna, and unique history, the store of centuries, have long held sway in the imagination of millions. The high mountains and wadis of the peninsula’s south provide the fertile soil that feeds some of Egypt’s highest diversity of plants, while foxes, vipers, lizards, and tortoises are just some of the animals that make their home in the north, which is characterized by lagoons and vast dunes of soft sand. Sinai: Landscape and Nature in Egypt’s Wilderness transports us to the haunting grandeur of this peninsula with 150 breathtaking full-color photographs. Omar Attum’s discerning eye shows us blood-red mountains, animals in natural repose and habitat, solitary trees and flowers, and fugitive strips of water, conveying stark beauty and enormous vulnerability, an abundance of life yet utter, devastating peace. The photographs are accompanied by an evocative introduction by Attum to Sinai’s wildlife and landscape.

Omar Attum is a wildlife biologist and professor at Indiana University Southeast who fell in love with Sinai at the age of sixteen. He has been conducting wildlife research and surveys in the peninsula since 1998. A self-taught photographer, his credits include National Geographic magazine, The Courier Journal, Outdoor Photographer, Popular Photography, Shutterbug, Egypt Today, and The Jordan Times. He is the recipient of a Blue Earth Alliance Photography fellowship.

Rights: all languages, world

E-Blad available
Ibn Tulun
His Lost City and Great Mosque
Tarek Swelim

(March 2015 | Hardbound | 240 pp.| 19 x 24 cm | 120 illus.; color, computer drawings, archival prints)

A fully illustrated history of the man, the mosque, and the city by a leading scholar

Ahmad ibn Tulun (835–84), the son of a Turkic slave in the Abbasid court of Baghdad, became the founder of the first independent state in Egypt since antiquity, and builder of Egypt’s short-lived third capital of the Islamic era, al-Qata‘ī’ and its great congregational mosque. After recounting the story of Ibn Tulun and his successors, architectural historian Tarek Swelim presents a topographic survey of al-Qata‘ī’, a city lost since its complete destruction in 905. He then provides a detailed architectural analysis of the Mosque of Ibn Tulun, which was spared the destruction and is now the oldest surviving mosque in Egypt and Africa, from the time of its completion until today. Rare archival illustrations and early photographs document the changing appearance and uses of the mosque in modern times, while extraordinary 3D computer renderings take us back in time to recreate its architectural development through its early centuries. Plans, drawings, and maps complement the history, while striking modern color photographs showcase the elegant simplicity of the building’s architecture and decoration.

This definitive and generously illustrated book will appeal to scholars and students of Islamic art history, as well as to anyone interested in or inspired by the beauty of early mosque architecture.

Tarek Swelim obtained his Ph.D. in Islamic art and architecture from Harvard in 1994. He leads and lectures to American tour groups from prestigious institutions throughout Egypt, the Middle East, and North Africa, and he is the author or co-author of a number of publications on Cairo’s Islamic and Roman architecture. He has taught at the American University in Cairo and Ain Shams University and is currently associate professor of Islamic art and architecture at the Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies of the Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Doha, Qatar.

Rights: all languages, world
Women of Karantina
A Novel
Nael Eltoukhy
Translated by Robin Moger

(Oct 2014 | Paperback | 308 pp. | 15 x 23 cm)

A baroque novel of crime and excess in a future Alexandria, from a young Egyptian writer of promise

“A new twist in the evolution of the form of the Egyptian novel itself.”—Abram Online

“With an epic tone that laughs at everything, an unusual lightness of spirit, and a surprisingly fresh treatment of old motifs, such as violence or succession, Eltoukhy creates something unprecedented in the history of the Arabic novel.”—Arabic Literature in English

“There is no doubt that you will encounter much hilarity here, in Nael Eltoukhy’s Karantina: it is as enjoyable as a cold drink when thirsty . . . [and uses] humor that is critical, sarcastic, and extremely clever.”—al-Tabrir

Back in the dog days of the early twenty-first century a pair of lovebirds fleeing a murder charge in Cairo pull in to Alexandria’s main train station. Fugitives, friendless, their young lives blighted at the root, Ali and Injy set about rebuilding, and from the coastal city’s arid soil forge a legend, a kingdom of crime, a revolution: Karantina.

Nael Eltoukhy is an Egyptian writer and journalist, born in Kuwait in 1978. He graduated from the Hebrew Department in Ain Shams University, Cairo in 2000. His first collection of short stories was published in 2003, and he is the author of four novels. He has also translated two books from Hebrew into Arabic.

Robin Moger studied Egyptology and Arabic at Oxford before working as a journalist in Cairo for six years. He is the translator of A Dog with No Tail by Hamdi Abu Golayyel (AUC Press, 2009).

Rights: all languages except Arabic, world
Butterfly Wings
Mohamed Salmawy
An Egyptian Novel
Translated by Raphael Cohen

(May 2014 | Paperback | 144 pp. | 15 x 23 cm)

The prescient Egyptian novel that described the January 2011 Revolution before it happened

A chance encounter on a plane throws together Doha, a fashion designer unhappily married to a leading figure in the Mubarak regime, and Ashraf, an academic and leading dissident. The story of their relationship and Doha’s self-discovery runs alongside a young Egyptian’s search for the mother he never knew, and these intersecting narratives unfold against the background of political protests that culminate in the overthrow of the regime.

A moving and at times humorous story, Butterfly Wings is an extended allegory of Egypt’s modern experience of authoritarian rule and explores the fractures and challenges of a society at the moment of revolutionary transformation.

Mohamed Salmawy’s almost prophetic novel was first published in Arabic immediately prior to the events of 25 January 2011, and has been celebrated as ‘the novel that predicted the Revolution.’

Mohamed Salmawy is an Egyptian poet, playwright, and novelist. He is president of the Writers’ Union of Egypt, secretary general of the General Union of Arab Writers, editor in chief of the weekly French-language al-Ahram Hebdo, and spokesman for the “Committee of Fifty,” currently responsible for redrafting Egypt’s constitution.

Raphael Cohen is the translator of So You May See by Mona Prince (AUC Press, 2011) and Status: Emo by Eslam Mosbah (AUC Press, 2013).

Rights: all languages except Arabic and Italian, world
House of the Wolf
Ezzat El Kamhawi
An Egyptian Novel
Translated by Nancy Roberts

(Feb 2014 | Paperback | 288 pp. | 15 x 23 cm)

A sweeping saga of generations of a rural Egyptian family

“Ezzat El Kamhawi provides a haunting glimpse into complex, tangled lives silenced by official histories. . . . [His] prose is lean, understated and often poetic. . . . His mode of address is often mythic, sometimes magical.”—Times Literary Supplement

Winner of the 2012 Naguib Mahfouz Medal, this novel is set in an idyllic Egyptian village from the time it was discovered by Muhammad Ali’s mission in the early nineteenth century to the 2003 US invasion of Iraq, movingly intertwining events on the world scene with the life dramas of its protagonists. The story opens with the pivotal character, Mubarka Badr, now a grandmother and matriarch, wanting to dictate a letter to God for her grandson to send to the Almighty by email. We are then ushered back in time to Mubarka’s fiery adolescence and her painfully aborted romance with Muntasir, son of the village’s deceased but legendary strongman. The shifting fortunes of the Deeb clan affect every aspect of its members’ lives, from their sexual vulnerabilities to the grief of loss, the uncertainties of a changing world, and the heartaches borne of betrayal and love unfulfilled.

Ezzat El Kamhawi was born in 1961 and studied journalism at Cairo University. He is the editor-in-chief of al-Doha Cultural Magazine. He is the author of ten books, including four novels and two collections of short stories. House of the Wolf was awarded the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature in 2012.

Nancy Roberts is the translator of Salwa Bakr’s The Man from Bashmour (AUC Press, 2007), for which she received a commendation in the Saif Ghobash–Banipal Prize for Translation.

Rights: all languages except Arabic, world
Rain over Baghdad
Hala El Badry
An Egyptian Novel
Translated by Farouk Abdel Wahab

(Feb 2014 | Paperback | 512 pp. | 15 x 23 cm)

A new novel from the award-winning Egyptian author of A Certain Woman and Muntaha

What was it like to live in Iraq before the earth-shaking events of the end of the twentieth century? The mid-seventies to the late eighties witnessed Saddam Hussein’s rise to power, the establishment of Kurdish autonomy in the north, and the Iraq-Iran war. It also brought an influx of oil wealth, following the 1973 war and the spike in oil prices, and a parallel influx of Arab talent, including many Egyptians, as the Egyptian left became disenchanted with Sadat. The massive migration also extended to workers and peasants, some of whom created an entire Egyptian village just outside Baghdad.

We witness all of this and more through the eyes of an Egyptian woman married to an engineer working in Iraq. The narrator, who works for an Egyptian magazine’s bureau in the Iraqi capital, has a behind-the-scenes view of what was really happening at a critical juncture in the history of the region. Moreover, she has a mystery to solve: an Iraqi woman from the marshes in the south of Iraq, who is also a communist journalist, has disappeared, and as the mystery unfolds we learn of her love for an older Egyptian Marxist journalist. This is Iraq before and beyond Saddam, Iraq as the Arabs knew it, in the lives of interesting people living in a vibrant country before the attempted annexation of Kuwait and the American invasion. This is the Iraq that was…

Hala El Badry is deputy editor-in-chief of Egypt’s radio and television magazine. She is the author of four novels, including A Certain Woman (AUC Press, 2003) and Muntaha (AUC Press, 2006).

Farouk Abdel Wahab was Ibn Rushd Professorial Lecturer in Arabic at the University of Chicago. His most recent translation is Gamal al-Ghitani’s The Book of Epiphanies (AUC Press, 2012).

Rights: all languages except Arabic, world
candygirl
M.M. Tawfik
A Modern Egyptian Novel
Translated by the author
(Paperback | 226 pp. | 15 x 23 cm)

From the author of Murder in the Tower of Happiness

Trying to evade intelligence agencies out to assassinate him, the Cerebellum, an Egyptian scientist with a past association with the Iraqi nuclear program, rents a room on the roof of a brothel in a Cairo slum. His interaction with the other residents is limited; instead he spends most of his time in the virtual world, where he has a love affair with candygirl, a gorgeous avatar. On the other side of the planet, an ex-NSA agent has joined a secret organization whose mission is to assassinate Iraqi scientists. He does not allow his doubts about the legality—or the ethics—of his mission to interfere with his work. He chases his victim relentlessly, but when his top-of-the-line equipment fails to locate the Cerebellum in Cairo’s slums, he takes the chase to the virtual world.

M.M. Tawfik, born in Cairo, is the author of three volumes of short stories in Arabic, from which a selection was made and published in English in Cairo in 1997 under the title The Day the Moon Fell, and three novels, including Murder in the Tower of Happiness (AUC Press, 2008).

Rights: all languages except Arabic and German, world
Mawlana
Ibrahim Essa
An Egyptian Novel
Translated by Jonathan Wright

(Paperback | 432 pp. | 15 x 23 cm)

The bestselling satirical novel of religious hypocrisy from one of Egypt’s most outspoken journalists

In his Arabic Booker shortlisted novel, renowned Egyptian journalist, broadcaster, and political activist Ibrahim Eissa introduces us to Hatem el-Shenawi, a Muslim televangelist who has won fame and fortune through his regular television program explaining Islam to a mass audience. Affable, sharp-witted, open-minded, and now well-connected with the government and business elite of Cairo, Shenawi seems at the top of his game. But when the president’s son contacts him to carry out a very delicate assignment, his personal and political skills will be tested to the limit. Mawlana takes us on a journey into the corrupt nexus of power, business, media, and religious performance that dominated the last years of President Mubarak’s rule. Along the way, besides the action, the intrigue, and the surprise denouement, the book challenges many Muslims’ conventional conceptions about their own religion and airs an alternative world view based soundly on reason and common sense.

Ibrahim Essa is an Egyptian journalist, TV personality, and political commentator best known for co-founding the popular Egyptian weekly al-Dustur. He is currently editor-in-chief of the daily al-Tahrir, which he co-founded in July 2011.

Jonathan Wright is the translator of a number of Arabic novels including Rasha Al Ameer’s Judgment Day (AUC Press, 2011), Fahd al-Atiq’s Life on Hold (AUC Press, 2012), and Bahaa Abdelmegid’s Temple Bar (AUC Press, 2014). He was awarded the 2013 Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation for his translation of Azazel by Youssef Ziedan.

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