The American University in Cairo Press is the largest English-language publisher in the Middle East. Founded in 1960, the Press plays a vital role in the cultural and academic dialog between the Arab world and the West. From Arabic fiction in translation through Egyptology to scholarly and general works on all aspects of modern Egypt and its neighbors, including the recent Arab uprisings, the publications of the AUC Press remain a canon of fresh and relevant publishing from the region.

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Letter from the Director

Whatever Happened to the Egyptian Revolution? —a question on many people’s minds as the country seems more divided than ever, and one that economist and social critic Galal Amin addresses in his book of that name (page 6). Another commentator with strong opinions on the recent fate of Egypt, Adel Iskandar, gives his take in a collection of acerbic essays on Egypt in Flux (page 2). And looking at Copts at the Crossroads (page 12), political scientist Mariz Tadros brings us up to date on the dilemmas facing the country’s Christian community in a changing Egypt.

The change in social relations over generations is the subject of sociologist Mona Abaza’s contemplative look back at her own family’s history and their relation with the land and the people who worked it, in The Cotton Plantation Remembered (page 4), beautifully illustrated with her haunting photographs of the cotton fields and the old family house. Margo Veillon spent most of her long life traveling around Egypt sketching everyday life in town and village: 200 of her most outstanding sketches are included in Bruno Ronfard’s latest presentation of her work, Drawing Egypt (page 10).

For anyone managing an archaeological site, anywhere in the world, the challenge of protecting the remains while allowing visitors the access they seek is one of the most difficult they face. Renowned Egyptologist Kent Weeks and site preservation specialist Nigel Hetherington offer a comprehensive solution for one of the most visited sites in the world in The Valley of the Kings: A Site Management Handbook (page 21)—a solution that can be extended in principle to historical sites in other parts of the world.

In our ever-growing range of textbooks for the Arabic classroom, we have new volumes in two continuing series: Lughatuna al-Fuṣḥa: Book Four by Samia Louis (page 28) and Uktub al-‘arabiya: Beginners by Azza Hassanein et al. (page 27). And we are proud to launch the first in a new series of content-based language-learning: Mastering Arabic through Literature by Iman Soliman and Saeed Alwakeel (page 22), in which short stories by writers such as Tayeb Salih, Naguib Mahfouz, and Yusuf Idris are used as a medium to study both the language and literary style.

The new fiction (pages 30–31) this season includes the first Omani novel to be translated into English and an edgy new novel of Egypt’s Facebook generation. And there are new paperback editions of some old favorites (pages 32–37), including Naguib Mahfouz’s Karnak Café and The Dreams and novels from Iraq and Palestine.

Dr. Nigel Fletcher-Jones
nigel@aucegypt.edu
No chapter in Egypt's contemporary history has been more turbulent and unpredictable than the past three years. In a very short period of time, the Arab world's most populous country has seen a transition from rule by an iron-fisted dictatorship to a populist uprising to military omnipotence to Islamist electoral victory to constitutional turmoil to societal polarization. Egypt's iconic revolution has been neither victorious nor defeated.

*Egypt in Flux* is a collection of essays on the political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions of change in the country's ongoing revolutionary current. From the conditions that precipitated the uprising and the eruption of national dissent to the derailing of the revolution, the author reflects on the pressing topics of the day while being mindful of the counterrevolutionary movements and the continuation of the Revolution. From discussions about the illusion of fair and free elections, social inequities, and labor disparities to examinations of religion, sports, literature, and sexuality, the essays in this valuable and intellectually stimulating volume chart both the broad lines and the nuances of an unfinished revolution.
In one sense, this collection of essays reviews a story familiar to people all over the world: the sense of political despair in Egypt giving birth to a revolution that surprised its own organizers followed by a series of critical, exhilarating, disappointing, and vexatious moments in which contending groups sought to bend the revolutionary trajectory. But if the broad outlines of the story may seem familiar, Iskandar assembles here contemporary writings in which expert analysis is brought alive by a sense of history, a grounding in Egyptian society, and a depth of cultural understanding. This allows him to communicate critical facets of that period that eluded all but the closest observers.”

—Nathan J. Brown, professor of political science, George Washington University

Iskander’s work is very important because it gives an overview of the dynamics of change in Egypt in a manner that could only have been accessible to Egyptians, living in Egypt and well read in Arabic. In other words, he allows the outsider to see, understand and think about the struggle, the winners and the normal person as both a winner and loser as perceived and discussed by every Egyptian in Egypt.”

—Maye Kassem, professor of political science, American University in Cairo
The Cotton Plantation Remembered
An Egyptian Family Story

Cotton made the fortune of the Fuda family, Egyptian landed gentry with peasant origins, during the second part of the nineteenth century. This story, narrated and photographed by a family member who has researched and documented various aspects of her own history, goes well beyond the family photo album to become an attempt to convey how cotton, as the main catalyst and creator of wealth, produced by the beginning of the twentieth century two entirely separate worlds: one privileged and free, the other surviving at a level of bare subsistence, and indentured.

The construction of lavish mansions in the Nile Delta countryside and the landowners’ adoption of European lifestyles are juxtaposed visually with the former laborers’ camp of the permanent workers, which became a village (‘Izba), and then an urbanized settlement. The story is retold from the perspective of both the landowners and the former workers who were tied to the ‘Izba. The book includes family photo albums, photographs of political campaigns and of banquets in the countryside, documents and accounting books, modern portraits of the peasants, and pictures of daily life in the village today.

This is a story that fuses the personal and emotional with the scholar’s detached ethnographic reporting—a truly fascinating, informative, and colorful view of life on both sides of a uniquely Egyptian socio-economic institution, and a vanished world: the cotton estate.

Mona Abaza is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at the American University in Cairo. She is the author of The Changing Consumer Cultures of Modern Egypt (AUC Press, 2006) and Twentieth-Century Egyptian Art: The Private Collection of Sherwet Shafei (AUC Press, 2011).
Contents

1. Therapeutic Photography
2. In the Beginning There Was Cotton
3. A’yans, ‘Umdas: Getting Down to Wealth
4. The Organization of Labor
5. Violence and Banditry
6. The Vanished ‘Izba: An ‘Ashwa’iya Is Born

Postscript: After January 25, 2011

Also by Mona Abaza:
Whatever Happened to the Egyptian Revolution?

In his latest exploration of the Egyptian malaise, Galal Amin first looks at the events of the months preceding the Revolution of 25 January 2011, pointing out the most important factors behind popular discontent. He then follows the ups and downs (mainly the downs) of the Revolution: the causes of rising hopes and expectations, mingled with successive disappointments, sometimes verging on despair, not least in the case of the presidential elections, when the Egyptian people were invited to choose between a rock and a hard place. This is followed by an outline of a possible brighter future for Egypt, based on a more balanced and faster growing economy, and a more democratic and equitable society, within a truly independent, modern, and secular state.

The story of what happened to the 2011 Revolution may be a sad one, but if viewed within the larger context of Egypt’s economic and social developments of the last century, on which the author’s previous books threw very useful light, it can be regarded as one important step forward toward a much better future.

“...There is a real cause for concern that the January revolution will not result in any noticeable progress toward economic and social democracy, and hence toward real political freedom, but rather that it will bring us superficial political freedoms that look democratic but are really dictatorial.”

Original Arabic title: Madha hadatha li-l-thawra al-misriya
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1 Worse than Unemployment
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12 The Economy
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Conclusion: An Abortive Revolution?

Praise for *Egypt in the Era of Hosni Mubarak*:

“Perceptive and insightful . . . [A]s an economist and as a social commentator, [Amin] provides helpful perspective on the post-1952 revolution.”

—The Global Ministries

“Recommended.”—Choice

“[A] tremendous read.”—Al Ahram Weekly

Praise for *Whatever Happened to the Egyptians?* and *Whatever Else Happened to the Egyptians?:*

“Amin is an Egyptian economist, but these two short books give the reader a sense of the changes in Egypt in various fields, including religion, dress, economy, culture, technology, and more importantly, their impact on society. Amin is a serious, but entertaining writer who offers important insights on cultural shifts that, while reflecting on Egypt, offer a recognizable lament for readers in other places as well.”

—The Global Ministries

Also by Galal Amin:
Ancient Egypt’s Wildlife
An AUC Press Nature Foldout

Carved reverently in the walls of the temples and tombs of ancient Egypt, hieroglyphs and sculpted reliefs depict lions and jackals, hawks and owls, cobras and scarabs. This unique new guide explores the hieroglyphs and fauna of the ancient world—species that were idolized and mummified, and those that have since become extinct. From the date palm and the blue lotus to the griffon vulture and the hoopoe, the plants and animals on ancient Egyptian tomb walls spring to life in this lively and useful guide. Water-resistant and compact, filled with gorgeous illustrations and photographs, comprehensive text, diagrams, and maps, this foldout guide is the perfect travel companion.

- 55 species
- Depictions of hieroglyphs with their true animal counterparts
- Map of Egypt's most sacred animal temples


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.

Salima Ikram is associate professor of Egyptology at the American University in Cairo. She is the editor of Divine Creatures: Animal Mummies in Ancient Egypt (AUC Press, 2005) and co-editor of Ancient Nubia: African Kingdoms on the Nile (AUC Press, 2012).
At the World Heritage site of Wadi al-Hitan, or the Valley of the Whales, in Egypt’s Western Desert, an ecotour in the desert reveals a site of invaluable prehistoric fossils, from whales and rays to sea turtles and crocodiles. Forty million years ago, this region in Egypt was submerged under the ocean, with a coastline of mangrove swamps. Yet while this site reveals incredible steps in the evolution of some species, it also proves the extraordinary perfection of others: crocodiles, sea turtles, and even bats have changed very little over the course of millions of years! Today, their descendants can still be found in Egypt, struggling to survive a much greater challenge than they faced with the dinosaurs: people. Water-resistant and compact, filled with colorful illustrations and photographs, comprehensive text, diagrams, and maps, this foldout guide is the perfect travel companion through geological time.

- Chart of prehistoric animals and their Egyptian contemporaries, including whales, crocodiles, dugongs, sea turtles, fruit bats, and lizards
- Map of Egypt today with contrasting image of the continent 40 million years ago

Also available:

MATTHEW LAMANNA is assistant curator of vertebrate paleontology at Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, PA.
Margo Veillon
Drawing Egypt

More masterpieces from one of Egypt’s best known artists

Born in 1907, Margo Veillon was one of Egypt’s best-loved artists. Presented here is a sampling of her work spanning seventy-five years of her productive career, in a variety of graphic media—pen and ink, watercolor, pencil, and crayon, as represented in a legacy bequeathed to the American University in Cairo. Although she lived part of her life in Europe, it is clearly Egypt that held her imagination and inspired her artistic innovation. Possessed with an ability to capture the energy of a specific moment in time, Margo Veillon drew people and animals, landscapes and street scenes with her characteristic sly humor and gift for depicting a lively vignette or serene visual moment in just a few strokes. These threads and others no less individual and innovative make up the extraordinarily rich tapestry of Margo Veillon’s artistic career, brought together in the AUC Permanent Collection.

Margo Veillon was born in Cairo in 1907, the daughter of a Swiss businessman and his Austrian wife. She spent much of her artistic career capturing the verve and movement of daily life in Egypt. She died in 2003.

Bruno Ronfard lived in Cairo for a number of years and worked regularly with Margo Veillon on her collection from 1997 until her death. He is the editor of Margo Veillon: Witness of a Century (AUC Press, 2007).
Copts at the Crossroads
The Challenges of Building Inclusive Democracy in Egypt

In the light of the escalation of sectarian tensions during and after Mubarak’s reign, the predicament of the Arab world’s largest religious minority, the Copts, has come to the forefront. This book poses such questions as why there has been a mass exodus of Copts from Egypt, and how this relates to other religious minorities in the Arab region; why it is that sectarian violence increased during and after the Egyptian revolution, which epitomized the highest degree of national unity since 1919; and how the new configuration of power has influenced the extent to which a vision of a political order is being based on the principles of inclusive democracy.

The book examines the relations among the state, the church, Coptic citizenry, and civil and political societies against the backdrop of the increasing diversification of actors, the change of political leadership in the country, and the transformations occurring in the region. An informative historical background is provided, and new fieldwork and statistical data inform a thoughtful exploration of what it takes to build an inclusive democracy in post-Mubarak Egypt.

MARIZ TADROS is a research fellow at the Institute of Development Studies in the UK. She was formerly a professor of political science at the American University in Cairo. Her most recent publication is The Muslim Brotherhood in Contemporary Egypt: Democracy Redefined or Confin ed?
The Egyptian revolution further reshuffled the configuration of power within Coptic activist circles. First, Pope Shenouda III emerged as a highly unpopular figure in view of his earlier stances supporting Mubarak and Mubarak Junior and his directives to all bishops to instruct their parishes to tell Coptic youth not to join the 25 January uprisings. As a result, the Coptic Orthodox Church leadership in post-Mubarak Egypt entered a political cocoon—it chose to keep a low profile. In tandem, the withdrawal of the Church’s hegemonic power in political matters relating to Coptic citizenry and in mediating between the laity and the state led to the emergence of a number of politically important Coptic movements. They emerged out of several forces: first the general fervor of political activism; and second, the escalation of assaults on Coptic places of worship, citizens, and property which catalyzed a collectivization of efforts aimed at challenging increasingly sectarian levels of polarization.”
Coptic Civilization
Two Thousand Years of Christianity in Egypt

Egypt’s Copts make up one of the oldest and largest Christian communities in the Middle East. Yet despite the availability of a large number of books on aspects of Coptic culture, including art and architecture, monasticism, theology, and music, there is to date no single volume that provides a comprehensive cultural history of the Copts and their achievements. Coptic Civilization aims to fill this gap, by introducing the general reader, the interested non-specialist, to Coptic culture in all its variety and multi-faceted richness. With contributions by twenty scholars, Coptic Civilization includes chapters on monasticism, the Coptic language, Coptic literature, Christian Arabic literature, the objects and documents of daily life, magic, art and architecture, and textiles, as well as the history of Coptic Church, its liturgy, theology, and music.

CONTRIBUTORS: Dominique Bénazeth, Lois Farag, Cäcilia Fluck, Peter Grossmann, Gisèle Helmecke, Magdalena Kuhn, Marvin Meyer, Samuel Moawad, Elisabeth R. O’Connell, Monica René, Tonio Sebastian Richter, Saad Michael Saad, Mark Sheridan, Mark N. Swanson, Hany N. Takla, Jacques van der Vliet, Nelly van Doorn-Harder, Gertrud J.M. van Loon, Youhanna Nessim Youssef, Ewa D. Zakrzewska

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 Treasures of Coptic Art (AUC Press, 2006) and The History and Religious Heritage of Old Cairo (AUC Press, 2012). He is currently visiting professor of Coptic studies at Claremont Graduate University, California.
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   Coptic Civilization in the Diaspora
The History and Religious Heritage of Old Cairo
Its Fortress, Churches, Synagogue, and Mosque

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.

Gawdat Gabra, Gertrud J.M. van Loon, Stefan Reif, Tarek Swelim
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
Djekhy & Son
Doing Business in Ancient Egypt

Koenraad Donker van Heel

The story of a small family business revealed through ancient documents, in a new paperback edition

Djekhy & Son, two businessmen living 2,500 years ago in the densely populated neighborhoods built around the great temple of Amun at Karnak, worked as funerary service providers in the necropolis on the western bank of the Nile. They were also successful agricultural entrepreneurs, cultivating flax and grain. In 1885, the German Egyptologist August Eisenlohr acquired a unique collection of papyri that turned out to be Djekhy's archive of mainly legal documents. Using this rich trove of evidence, augmented by many other sources, the author has painted a vivid picture of life in ancient Egypt between 570 and 534 BCE, during the little-known Saite period. Approaching the subject from both business and personal aspects, he gives us a fresh look at some facets of ancient Egypt that have mostly been hidden from view—such as putting up one's children as security for a loan.

Step aside Tutankhamun and Akhenaten. Meet the real Egyptians. From the banks of the Nile in the middle of the 6th century BCE come Djekhy and his family, a group of funerary workers who prepared the dead for burial and looked after the mortuary cult. Informative and often hilarious, this book provides an insight into the lives of the Egyptians that cannot easily be found on temple walls or in museum collections."

—Cary J. Martin, Institute of Archaeology, University College London

From a few blobs of ink on papyrus, the author manages to conjure up a vision of everyday life in ancient Egypt.”

—Maarten Raven, Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, Leiden

Temple of the World
Sanctuaries, Cults, and Mysteries of Ancient Egypt

Miroslav Verner
Translated by Anna Bryson-Gustová

A thorough study of the Egyptian temple and its complex character from a prominent Egyptologist

Despite the prominence of ancient temples in the landscape of Egypt, books about them are surprisingly rare; this new and essential publication from a prominent Czech scholar answers the need for a study that goes beyond temple architecture to examine the spiritual, economic and political aspects of these specific institutions and the dominant roles they played.

Miroslav Verner presents a deeper and more complex study of major ancient Egyptian religious centers, their principle temples, their rise and decline, their religious doctrines, cults, rituals, feasts, and mysteries. Also discussed are the various categories of priests, the organization of the priesthood, and its daily services and customs. Each chapter offers the reader essential and up-to-date information about temple complexes and the history of their archaeological exploration, in the context of the spiritual dimension and cultural legacy of ancient Egypt.

Also by Miroslav Verner:

Abusir

624pp. Hbd. 120 illus. March.

Miroslav Verner is an Egyptologist, archaeologist and epigrapher, who has been working in archaeological excavation and research in Egypt since 1964. He has published thirteen academic monographs, mainly in foreign languages, and over a hundred and twenty academic articles. He is currently directing the Czech archaeological excavations in Abusir.

Anna Bryson-Gustová, who has a BA and DPhil in history from Oxford University, has lived in the Czech Republic for twenty years. She is a writer, editor, and translator in the field of history and culture.
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Write Your Own Egyptian Hieroglyphs
Names, Greetings, Insults, Sayings

Angela McDonald

A step-by-step guide to creating your own ancient Egyptian inscriptions

The Egyptian hieroglyphic script is one of the most beautiful, fascinating, and expressive writing systems ever invented. In ancient Egypt, only an elite few could read and write hieroglyphs, but now you too can recognize and write a selection of names, titles, descriptions, sayings, greetings—even insults!

For the ancient Egyptians, nothing could exist without a name—names held the spark of life. In this colorful illustrated guide, Angela McDonald explains how the Egyptians composed names for the elements of their world and along the way opens a fascinating window on their ancient culture—their gods, enemies, animals, and more. With practical guides and a lively, informative text, she shows how to create many charming and useful phrases in hieroglyphs for yourself, your friends, your pets—even your house. There are step-by-step tips on how to draw some of the trickier signs and a collection of genuine Egyptian phrases—greetings, laments, and insults—for use in your own compositions.

In the words of one Egyptian papyrus, “By day write with your fingers, recite by night. Befriend the scroll and the palette—it’s more fulfilling than wine!”
The Valley of the Kings
A Site Management Handbook

During the New Kingdom (c. 1570–1070 BCE), the Valley of the Kings was the burial place of Egypt’s pharaohs, including such powerful and famous rulers as Amenhotep III, Rameses II, and Tutankhamen. They were buried here in large and beautifully decorated tombs that have become among the country’s most visited archaeological sites. The tourists contribute millions of badly needed dollars to Egypt’s economy. But because of inadequate planning, these same visitors are destroying the very tombs they come to see. Crowding, pollution, changes in the tombs’ air quality, ever-growing tourist infrastructure—all pose serious threats to the Valley’s survival.

This volume, the result of twenty-five years of work by the Theban Mapping Project at the American University in Cairo, traces the history of the Valley of the Kings and offers specific proposals to manage the site and protect its fragile contents. At the same time, it recognizes the need to provide a positive experience for the thousands of visitors who flock here daily. This is the first major management plan developed for any Egyptian archaeological site, and as its proposals are implemented, they offer a replicable model for archaeologists, conservators, and site managers throughout Egypt and the region.

Published in both English and Arabic editions and supported by the World Monuments Fund, this critical study will help to ensure the survival of Egypt’s patrimony in a manner compatible with the country’s heavy reliance on tourism income.

English edition:
240pp. Hbd. 120 illus. May.

Arabic edition:
240pp. Pbk. 120 illus. February.
Mastering Arabic through Literature
The Short Story • al-Rubaa Volume 1

A new learning approach that brings together language study and literary appreciation

In an innovative concept in the teaching of Modern Standard Arabic, this new content-based book aims to bolster study for advanced students in both linguistic skills and literary appreciation through the reading of short stories in the original Arabic by four great but very different writers: Mahmoud Taher Lashin, Naguib Mahfouz, Yusuf Idris, and Tayeb Salih.

Creative reading tasks and exercises focus on the writing and literary styles of the four writers, while grammar is reinforced through text analysis and writing assignments, with an emphasis on building vocabulary and idiomatic expressions, as well as developing a deeper understanding of cultural issues. With an integrated skills approach, al-Rubaa contains not only reading but also writing, listening, and speaking activities.

The stories included in the book are:
- by Mahmoud Taher Lashin: “From the Diaries of Noah,” “That’s Right”
- by Naguib Mahfouz: Stories 26 and 29 from Tales of Our Alley, Dream 6 from Dreams of Convalescence
- by Yusuf Idris: “House of Flesh,” “In Passing”
- by Tayeb Salih: “A Song of Love,” “A Step Forward,” “Yours until Death”

FORTHCOMING:


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Azza Hassanein, Dalal Abo El Seoud, and Hala Yehia

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Forthcoming: Books Five–Seven

Samia Louis has taught Arabic for many years
with the International Language Institute (ILI)
in Cairo, an affiliate of International House,
and is the author of all the books in the

300pp. Pbk+DVD. June.
The Essential Tawfiq al-Hakim

A selection of the most important prose and stage works of the great Egyptian playwright, brought together by the leading translator of Arabic literature

The importance of Tawfiq al-Hakim (1898–1987) to the emergence of a modern Arabic literature is second only to that of Naguib Mahfouz. If the latter put the novel among the genres of writing that are an accepted part of literary production in the Arab world today, Tawfiq al-Hakim is recognized as the undisputed creator of a literature of the theater.

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Also by Tawfiq al-Hakim:

244pp. Pbk. February.

Tawfiq al-Hakim (1898–1987), Egypt’s best known playwright, did for the Arabic theater what Naguib Mahfouz did for the Arabic novel. He wrote over seventy plays, as well as a number of novels and short stories and an autobiography.

Denys Johnson-Davies, described by Edward Said as “the leading Arabic–English translator of our time,” began his career with the translation of a collection of short stories in 1947 and has since produced more than thirty volumes of translated modern Arabic literature, most recently Homecoming: Sixty Years of Egyptian Short Stories (AUC Press, 2012).
You are bored, bored, bored, stuck in a half-job, berated by your parents and unsure whether you should marry your cousin. You want to change. A chance encounter on Facebook leads you to Emmie and her underground world of strange fashion, drinking, dancing, sex, and drugs. You become an Emo and discover philosophical atheism and practical Satanism. Although Emmie’s rules include no sex and no love, you become addicted to her and the belief that she will be the one to change you. You fall in love. Your inability to disobey her leads you to embrace her creed. The efforts of your family to restore you to the fold fail, and your heroism leads her to succumb to you.

One final act of ‘degeneracy’ too far leads you into the arms of the state’s torturers and to reaffirm society’s values, if with a greater sense of freedom and adventure.

*Status: Emo* is a romp through the mind of the young Egypt. Written in 2010, it predicts revolt and hints at culture wars to come.

Original Arabic title: *Imoz*
144pp. Pbk. February

**Eslam Mosbah**
A Modern Egyptian Novel
Translated by Raphael Cohen

An edgy new novel of Egypt’s Facebook generation

You wear Emo clothes. Your eyes are ringed with the black of an oxidized potato. You draw a sad smile on your face. You talk tenderly. You love the feeling that you’re weak and breakable. You’re an Emo and you love it. You keep yellow, red, blue, and black pills in your pocket. You don’t know their names, but Mido taught you their benefits. A seeker after sex has to be equipped by either nature or pharmacology."

**Eslam Mosbah** was born in Egypt’s Nile Delta in 1984. He is the author of two novels, and has received the Egyptian Prize for Science Fiction. He works as a creative producer on documentary films and as a freelance journalist for several online magazines.

**Raphael Cohen** is the translator of *So You May See* by Mona Prince (AUC Press, 2011).
Earth Weeps, Saturn Laughs

A novel of traditional stagnation and Saturnine awakening from a rising Omani novelist

_Earth Weeps, Saturn Laughs_ opens with the return of Khalid Bakhit, a government employee, to his hometown in Oman after a time away in the big city, and concludes with his return to the city with a new maturity born of a series of wrenching encounters with reality. Khalid’s return home, sparked by his flight from a painful love affair, coincides with events that reveal the force of long-established traditions that have a stranglehold on the town: from racial prejudice, to religious bigotry, to ossified patterns of leadership. Khalid’s awakening and transformation are catalyzed by his encounters with a certain “Saturnine poet” who, in the course of chasing after an elusive ode, has stumbled upon this unnamed village. For a period of time “the Saturnine” becomes Khalid’s closest companion: listening to his woes, helping him see himself with new eyes, and imparting to him a wisdom from a world beyond, untainted by human smallness.

As the full moon listened in, Walad Sulaymi said, ‘Thirty years ago I heard my grandfather say to my father (God have mercy on them both), “If God allows a country to be chastised, He causes everyone who has left it to come back.” So here you are again, and with your return, that completes the number of those who left the village and have come back. Mark my words: the chastisement will descend soon.”

Original Arabic title: _Tabki al-ard yadhak zuhal_
978-977-416-590-0. LE90 / $17.95. World.

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_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. Her most recent translation is Ibrahim Nasrallah’s _Time of White Horses_ (AUC Press, 2012).

_ABDULAZIZ AL Farsi_, born in Shinas, Oman, in 1976, is a medical oncologist. He began writing in 1998 and is the author of six collections of short stories and two biographical works. _Earth Weeps, Saturn Laughs_ is his first novel.

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*Original Arabic title: Tabki al-ard yadhak zuhal*  
978-977-416-590-0. LE90 / $17.95. World.
At a Cairo café, a cross-section of Egyptian society, young and old, rich and poor, are drawn together by the quality of its coffee and the allure of its owner, legendary former dancer Qurunfúla. When three of the young patrons disappear for prolonged periods, the older customers display varying reactions to the news. On their return, they recount horrific stories of arrest and torture at the hands of the secret police, and the habitués of the café begin to withdraw from each other in fear, suspecting that there is an informer among them. With the nighttime arrests and the devastation of the country’s defeat in the 1967 War, the café is transformed from a haven of camaraderie and bright-eyed idealism to an atmosphere charged with mounting suspicion, betrayal, and crushing disillusionment.

Exposing the dark underbelly of ideology, and delving into the idea of the ‘necessary evils’ of social upheaval, Karnak Café remains one of the Nobel laureate’s most pointedly critical works, as relevant and incisive today as it was when it was first published in 1971.
In his shortest short stories, the Egyptian Nobel literature laureate reduced the fictional form to its most essential level, while retaining his justifiably famous mastery of the storytelling art. A man finds that all the streets in his neighborhood have turned into a circus—but his joy at the sight changes to anger when he sees he cannot escape it anywhere, even in his own home. A group of lifelong friends meet to trade jokes in a familiar alley—only to face a sudden, deadly flood that echoes the revenge taken by an ancient Egyptian queen upon the men who murdered her husband. A girl from the dreamer’s childhood flies with him from his native lane on a cart drawn by a winged horse, to become a star in the firmament above the Great Pyramid. Such is the stuff of Naguib Mahfouz’s *The Dreams*—his only major work after a knife attack by a religious fanatic in 1994 left him unable to write for several years. First serialized in a Cairo magazine, *The Dreams* are a unique and haunting mixture of the deceptively quotidian, the seductively lyrical, and the savagely nightmarish—the richly condensed sum of more than nine decades of artistic genius and everyday experience.

"From his unique vantage point [Mahfouz] looks back on a century of cultural and political ambitions, projects, and failures."
—*Cairo Review of Books*

"Fun and fascinating, and Mahfouz is a master of form, regardless the form."
—*Library Journal*

Original Arabic title: *Ahlam fatrat al-naqaha*
Basrayatha
portrait of a city

Mohammed Khudayyir
A Modern Iraqi Novel
Translated by William M. Hutchins

A new paperback edition of the multifaceted fictional recreation of the Iraqi city of Basra

Basrayatha is a literary tribute by author Mohammed Khudayyir to the city of his birth, Basra, on the Shatt al-Arab waterway in southern Iraq. Just as a city’s inhabitants differ from outsiders through their knowledge of its streets as well as its stories, so Khudayyir distinguishes between the real city of Basra and Basrayatha, the imagined city he has created through stories, experiences, and folklore. By turns a memoir, a travelogue, a love letter, and a meditation, Basrayatha summons up images of a city long gone. In loving detail, Khudayyir recounts his discovery of his city as a child, as well as past communal banquets, the public baths, the delights of the Muslim day of rest, the city’s flea markets and those who frequent them, a country bumpkin’s big day in the city, Hollywood films at the local cinema, daily life during the Iran-Iraq War, and the canals and rivers around Basra. Above all, however, the book illuminates the role of the storyteller in creating the cities we inhabit. Evoking the literary modernism of authors like Calvino and Borges, and tinged with nostalgia for a city now disappeared, Basrayatha is a masterful tribute to the power of memory and imagination.

Mohammed Khudayyir was born in Basra, Iraq, where he still lives. He is the author of several collections of short stories. He was awarded the Oweiss Prize in 2004.

William M. Hutchins, professor in the Philosophy and Religion Department at Appalachian State University, is the principal translator of Naguib Mahfouz’s Cairo Trilogy, and the translator of numerous other works of Arabic fiction.

Original Arabic title: Basrayatha
978-977-416-610-5. LE90 / $18.95. Middle East.
Documenting a historic struggle with fresh vision, Sahar Khalifeh has penned what is at once a re-casting of the story of the Holy Family, a lyrical ode to Arab Jerusalem, and a call for liberation, not just of a nation but of its individual women and men.

After abandoning his beloved Mariam when she falls pregnant, and escaping her brothers’ bullets, Ibrahim abandons his own ideals and dreams of becoming a fiction writer, opting instead to follow the path of wealth and commercial success abroad approved by his father. Thirty years later, lonely and disillusioned, an older Ibrahim returns to Ramallah to retrace the past he tried to leave behind. He sets out on a long and frustrating quest to track down Mariam, which takes him from the West Bank to Israel. Along the way he encounters his son, Michael, a young man with spiritual powers that enable him to see what is unknown and find what has gone missing.

The novel weaves religious and political symbolism into a story of love and loss. At its core is Ibrahim’s—the Palestinian’s—agonizing but unrelenting search for a home, a center, fulfillment that, despite material success, continues to be elusive.

“Her characters are so real you can actually relate to them by mistaking them for someone you know.”—The Daily Star

“Sahar Khalifeh is the Virginia Woolf of Palestinian literature.”—Börsenblatt

Original Arabic title: Sura wa ayquna wa ‘ahd qadim
Being plucked from a Baghdad café and deposited in a cell block for political prisoners is a wakeup call for Aziz, the novel’s hero and narrator, a young man who has been living on automatic pilot—as if he were a guest visiting his own life—and he is finally forced to come to terms with the flawed world we inhabit and shape. Although never charged with any offense, he must adjust to a lengthy stay in prison, where he is befriended by a motley group of imprisoned revolutionaries, who teach Aziz to dream that an ideal city with his name on it may lie just over the horizon. Meanwhile, the police supervisor encourages him to think of a simple crime to which he can confess so he can be charged and eventually released.

Based on the author’s own incarceration in Iraq, Cell Block Five is a clear-headed, good-humored tribute to the prison’s men—both the inmates and the guards—and an indictment of man’s gratuitous inhumanity to man, pointing out that the transition from abused to abuser, tortured to torturer, can be an easy one.

Fadhel al-Azzawi was born in Kirkuk, Iraq, in 1940. He holds a Ph.D. in cultural journalism from the University of Leipzig and is the author of several collections of poetry and novels, including The Last of the Angels (AUC Press, 2007). He has lived in Germany since 1977.

William M. Hutchins, professor in the Philosophy and Religion Department at Appalachian State University, is the principal translator of Naguib Mahfouz’s Cairo Trilogy, and the translator of numerous other works of Arabic fiction.
Absent tells the story of Dalal, a young Iraqi woman living with the childless aunt and uncle who raised her. Dalal and her neighbors try to maintain normal lives, despite the crippling effect of bombings and international sanctions resulting from the first Gulf War. By turns affectionate, wry, and darkly comic, Absent paints a moving portrait of people struggling to get by in impossible circumstances. Upstairs, the fortune-teller Umm Mazin offers her customers cures for their physical and romantic ailments; below, Saad the hairdresser attends to a dwindling number of female customers; and on the second floor, the nurse Ilham dreams of her long-lost French mother to escape the grim realities she sees in the children’s ward at the hospital.

With memories of happier times during the “Days of Plenty” of her childhood, Dalal falls in love for the first time against a background of surprise arrests, personal betrayals, and a crumbling social fabric that turns neighbors into informants.

The author’s candid style creates a cast of truthful characters that are almost tangible and, despite the bleak backdrop of their lives, Khedairi’s black sense of humor and her talented storytelling make Absent a pleasurable read.”—The Daily Star
The Desert
Human Geography and Symbolic Economy

Edited by Ferial Ghazoul

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

This interdisciplinary issue of the literary journal *Alif* is devoted to the desert—as a geographical locus and symbolic image—and to various texts related to it, drawn from literature and the arts, history and anthropology, film and environmental studies.

Scholars from the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and North America contribute articles in Arabic, English, and French related to the visual representation of the desert in medieval iconography and in contemporary cinema, in American poetry and in pre-Islamic poetics, in human geography and in sociological thought, in French novels and in Arabic novels, in religious traditions and in ecological approaches, in travel literature and in critical discourse.

*Alif: Journal of Comparative Poetics* 33.

*Includes contributions by* Saeed Alwakeel, Saad El Bazei, Sharif Elmusa, Jehan Farouk, Naglaa Hassan, Abdullah Ibrahim, Salma Mobarak, Senayon Olaoluwa, Yasmine Ramadan, Nathalie Roman, Randa Sabry.

600pp. Pbk. 57 illus. April.
978-977-416-587-0. LE30 / $24.95. World.

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.
Femininity and Dance in Egypt
Embodiment and Meaning in al-Raqs al-Baladi

Noha Roushdy

An examination of the cultural meanings of “belly dance” in Egypt

Considering the paradoxical position of al-raqs al-baladi or “belly dance” in Egyptian social life, as both a vibrant and a contested cultural form, this issue of Cairo Papers in Social Science considers the impact of wider socio-cultural and political forces on the marginalization of professional performers, on the one hand, and in defining the parameters for non-professional performances on the other hand. Through interviews with professional and non-professional female dancers in Egypt, it explores the relationship between al-raqs al-baladi and the dynamic cultural repertoire that produces notions of femininity and normative personhood in Egypt. As a dance that Egyptians learn in childhood, it exposes the cardinal relationship between culture and body movement. The study received the Magda al-Nowaihi Award for best graduate work on gender studies in 2010.

Cairo Papers in Social Science 32/3.

Also available:

Noha Roushdy holds an MA in anthropology from the American University in Cairo. She is currently involved in research and advocacy on issues of gender and sexuality with local NGOs in Egypt.
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