



NEWS RELEASE

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Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature Awarded to the Revolutionary Creativity of the Egyptian People

December 11, 2011, Cairo, Egypt – The American University in Cairo Press announced today the award of the 2011 Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature to the revolutionary literary creativity of the Egyptian people during the popular uprising that began on 25 January 2011.

Presented by Mark Linz, Director of the American University in Cairo Press, which sponsors the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature, the award was decided unanimously by the members of the Award Committee: Samia Mehrez, Hoda Wasfy, Fakhri Saleh, Gaber Asfour, Mohamed Berrada, and Mark Linz. The award was given at a special Naguib Mahfouz Centennial Celebration held at the River Hall of the El-Sawy Cultural Wheel in Zamalek, attended by many writers and other distinguished personalities of Egyptian cultural life, including members of the Mahfouz family.

In their citation for the award, the judges stated: “On the occasion of the centenary of the birth of Naguib Mahfouz, which coincides with the historic revolutionary movements in Egypt and the Arab World, and in recognition of the remarkable and inspiring creative cultural energy and production of the Egyptian people who, since January 2011, have taken to the streets to re-map not only their future but that of the entire region and beyond, the 2011 Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature is awarded to the Revolutionary Literary Creativity of the Egyptian People. In recognition of the newfound freedom of cultural expression that has characterized the popular uprising in Egypt, the American University in Cairo will erect a memorial engraving at the entrance of its Tahrir Square Campus as a permanent record of this historic celebration.”

The award of the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature this year was followed by a Round Table Discussion with leading Egyptian writers on the topic of “Naguib Mahfouz and Revolutionary Literature,” and by a performance of songs from the films of Naguib Mahfouz. Naguib Mahfouz films were also shown throughout the day at the El-Sawy Culture Wheel, where visitors were also able to enjoy a visit to a Mahfouz alley and a Mahfouz café.

At the award ceremony, the AUC Press also proudly announced the publication of the *Naguib Mahfouz Centennial Library*, a special limited edition of 20 hardbound volumes of all the Nobel laureate’s works to have been translated into English, including all his novels, three collections of short stories, his *Dreams*, and his autobiographical writings. Also published now is a new translation by Humphrey Davies of *Midaq Alley*, and *The Wisdom of Naguib Mahfouz*, a collection of aphorisms from his works edited by Aleya Serour. A set of the Centennial Library housed in a special hand-crafted wooden display shelf was presented to Mrs. Mahfouz and her daughters Umm Kulthum and Fatma.

The AUC Press, which established the Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature in 1996, has been the primary publisher of Naguib Mahfouz’s English-language editions for more than twenty-five years, and has also been responsible for the publication of some 600 foreign-language editions of the Nobel laureate’s works in more than 40 languages around the world since the author won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1988. With up to 100 new publications annually and some 1,500 titles in print, the AUC Press is recognized as the region’s leading English-language publisher.