

The Banipal Trust for Arab Literature

P O B O X 22300 LONDON W13 8ZQ UK
Tel: 00 44 (0) 20 8568 9747 Email: info@banipaltrust.org.uk

Honorary President Dr Peter Clark OBE
Chair Dr Paul Starkey



THE SAIF GHOBASH – BANIPAL PRIZE FOR ARABIC LITERARY TRANSLATION

The Banipal Trust for Arab Literature is very pleased to announce that following a first successful year in 2006, the Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation is now sponsored by Omar Saif Ghobash in memory of his father. The prize will therefore be known as The Saif Ghobash – Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation. Omar Saif Ghobash, with his family, is generously sponsoring the prize for the next five years.

The prize was awarded for the first time last October. This new sponsorship is an important development, and the Trust looks forward to working keenly with both publishers and translators in the English-speaking world to both encourage and promote the wider translation of contemporary works of literature by Arab authors.

The late Saif Ghobash, from the United Arab Emirates, was passionate about the literature of the Arab world and the literatures of other countries. He loved the world of books, and had his own collection in many different languages which his family has inherited. “A Prize for people who are so dedicated to the power of literature and the power of translation seems so clearly something my father would have supported himself,” said Omar Saif Ghobash. “When I spoke with the other members of our family, they supported the idea immediately – before I could finish my sentence! It is a small but fitting tribute to my father’s memory.”

The Prize is administered by the Society of Authors in the UK, together with a number of well-established UK prizes for literary translation into English from European languages, such as the prestigious Scott Moncrieff Prize for translation from French, all being awarded at an annual translation prizes ceremony in London hosted by the British Centre for Literary Translation.

The annual prize of £2,000 is awarded to the translator of a published translation in English of a full-length imaginative and creative Arabic work of literary merit published in the thirty-five years prior to submission of the translation, and first published in English translation in the year prior to the award. Entries can have been published anywhere in the world but must be available for purchase in the United Kingdom. The prize is the first specifically for a published work of literary translation from Arabic in the English-speaking world. The deadline for entries for 2007 is 31 January 2007.

The judges for 2007 are the same expert team as the first year, all well known in their fields: author Moris Farhi, literary journalist Maya Jaggi, and academic and literary translator from Arabic Roger Allen.

The Prize was established by *Banipal*, the magazine of modern Arab literature in English translation, and the Banipal Trust for Arab Literature, which was founded in 2004 to support and celebrate the publication of Arab authors in English translation and the production of live literature events in the UK with Arab authors.