



GUEST OF HONOUR EGYPT

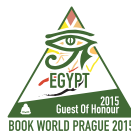
EGYPTIAN CULTURE AFTER TWO REVOLUTIONS

Never in its history has “Egypt” been merely the name of a country and its people. It is the birthplace of the ancient civilization that gave the world the fundamentals of tolerance and peaceful co-existence. It is the home of people whose national identity derives from the co-existence of diverse cultures, religions and civilizations.

Today’s Egypt continues to evolve in this direction. It is a country that has asserted itself on the map of Arab and world culture by its blend of cultures, religions and civilizations. This explains how Egypt has become a veritable beacon of enlightenment, progress and education in the Arab world and beyond. These characteristics have supported Egypt and the Egyptian people in their struggle against oppression and injustice and their battle for freedom, giving inspiration to many countries of the world along the way. There have been two great moments of change; the revolutions of January 2011 and June 2013 are key episodes in the life of a country whose people have succeeded in reformulating their history and reshaping their outlook on life. Culture, a celebration of human thought and the achievements of modern humanity, stands at the forefront of their newly perceived values.

Egypt presents itself to the world in the form of culture above all. Its literature and art are created by a myriad of writers young and old, representatives of all fields of art and intellectuals. The cultural values formed in the process line a path to freedom, knowledge and learning that is all Egypt’s own. After all, Egypt is a country that seeks to learn from its past, and it is keen to share its experience with the rest of the world.

It is indeed a great honour for Egypt to be invited as guest of honour to the book fair in Prague, an occasion it regards as a valuable opportunity to present its new view of the world. It will do so by a variety of cultural activities whose purpose is to show the new Egypt of the sun of hope, a symbol that emerged from the revolutions mentioned above.



After two revolutions that have opened up new opportunities and expectations, Egyptian society is striving to establish freedom and tolerance as foundations for human existence that are generally valid. At the same time it is aware that education and hard work are essential instruments in the prosperity of any nation. Free thinking must act on Egypt’s young people and lead them to the creation of the world of which they dream. Freedom and tolerance may be Egypt’s bulwark against oppression, violence and terrorism. Works of literature and art will always be the most powerful weapons in resisting these forces and the best means of achieving these aims. Irrespective of all obstacles and difficulties, Egyptians are deeply convinced that culture is an indispensable tool for the preservation and dissemination of the successes by which Egypt has come to the attention of the whole world. All of us believe that after two revolutions Egypt can expect a better future.

Dr. Ahmed Megahed

Head of the General Egyptian Book Organization (GEBU)



Guest of honour

Daily programmes

✖ Thursday 14 May

11.00 am

LARGE THEATRE - CENTRAL HALL



Egypt – official opening of the stand

In the presence of official representatives of Egypt.

Interpreted: English, Arabic

[GEBO]

12.00 noon–1.00 pm

S 201 - CENTRAL HALL



Hala Lotffy – film presentation

Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[GEBO]

1.00 pm–1.50 pm

LARGE THEATRE - CENTRAL HALL



Egypt's literary press and how it reflects cultural life

A look at Egypt's literary press and its influence on cultural life with writer, journalist and translator Ahmad Abdul Latif, who will consider the extent to which the media is involved in the development of cultural awareness in Egypt against a background of modern change. – Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[GEBO]

2.00 pm–2.50 pm

LITERARY THEATRE - RIGHT WING



The Egyptian writer and social initiatives

Writer and journalist Mai Khaled discusses the engagement of the Egyptian writer in social issues and his cultural involvement to the development of society. Mai Khaled bears witness to initiatives of the younger generation of writers.

Interpreted: Czech, English

[GEBO]

2.00 pm–2.50 pm

LECTURE ROOM - RIGHT WING (BALCONY, LEFT)

Khalid El Biltagi: Havel and Egypt

An opportunity to meet Czech scholar Khalid El Biltagi, whose work includes a translation of *The Power of the Powerless* (2012). He will talk about Václav Havel and Czech literature and also about the (un)intelligibility of European thought for the Arab world. Moderated by Lucie Němečková.

[Václav Havel Library]

3.00 pm–3.50 pm

LITERARY CAFÉ - RIGHT WING (BALCONY, LEFT)

A literary atlas of Cairo and Alexandria

Intended not only for those with an interest in modern Arabic literature but also supporters and admirers of these two Egyptian cities. Since the mid 19th century the literary works of Egyptian writers have presented the *genius loci* of Cairo streets and the phenomenon of cosmopolitan Alexandria. Although the two cities are very different, to an observer of their daily lives they have many features in common. The lives of the streets and their buildings are intertwined with the lives of all of classes of Egyptian society, as depicted in the writings of tireless observers such as Muhammad al-Muwaylihi, Naguib Mahfouz, Yahya Haqqi, Radwa Ashour, Ibrahim Abdel Meguid and Edwar al-Kharrat. Your guide will be Assoc. Prof. František Ondráš.

[Book World Ltd., Institute of Near Eastern and African Studies (Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague)]

4.00 pm–4.50 pm

LITERARY THEATRE - RIGHT WING



Arabic poetry in Egypt at a turning point in history

Mohamed Farid Abu Seeda, poet and literary editor, puts the cultural role of Arabic poetry in historical perspective and discusses the influence of the generation of poets of the 1970s, to which he belongs, on the development of poetry in the context of social and historical change. With readings from the poet's work.

Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[GEBO]

4.00 pm–4.50 pm

GROWING WITH THE BOOK THEATRE - RIGHT WING



Literature and revolution

The Egyptian Revolution of 25 January 2011 and the Velvet Revolution of 17 November 1989 as sources of literary inspiration. What do they have in common? In which ways are they different? How are they reflected in literature? With guests Mansoura Ez-Eldin, Khalid El Biltagi and Eda Kriseová. Moderated by Shádí Shanaáh.

Interpreted: Czech, English

[Book World Ltd.]



5.00 pm

S 201 – CENTRAL HALL

**Hala Lotfý – film presentation**

Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[GEBO]

✕ Friday 15 May**11.00 am–11.50 am**

LITERARY THEATRE – RIGHT WING

Archaeological expedition to Wad ban Naqa

Since 2009 an archaeological expedition from the National Museum has been active in the area of Wad ban Naqa, about 130 km north-east of Khartoum, the capital city of Sudan. At the time of the Kingdom of Meroë (c. 300 BC – c. AD 350) this was the site of a royal town whose buildings wed local traditions with influences from the Egypt of the pharaohs and the ancient world. Pavel Onderka, leader of the archaeological expedition to Wan ban Naqa, will talk about results of the tenth season of excavation. This talk will include the presentation of *Wad ban Naqa: 1821–2013*, a book by a team of authors led by Pavel Onderka and Vlastimil Vrtil.

[*Book World Ltd., National Museum, Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures*]

11.00 am–12.00 noon

S 201 – CENTRAL HALL

**Mansoura Ez-Eldin – reading**

Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[GEBO]

12.00 noon–12.50 pm

LITERARY THEATRE – RIGHT WING

**Egyptian culture and new perspectives**

Cultural and political changes in Egyptian society. Egyptian academic and political scientist Sherif Younis will address matters of sociopolitical transformation that may lead to a better future founded on historical positives.

Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[GEBO]

1.00 pm–1.50 pm

LITERARY CAFÉ – RIGHT WING (BALCONY, LEFT)

Modern Egyptian short stories

A collection of Egyptian short stories representing one hundred years of the form. Having originated at the beginning of the 20th century, the Egyptian short story has exerted a great influence on this form of literature throughout the Arab world. This volume comprises works that stand out in the century-long history of the Egyptian short story for their remarka-

ble themes, fine language and/or unusual narrative structure, allowing readers to form a comprehensive picture of how both giants of Egyptian prose (e.g. Naguib Mahfouz, Yusuf Idris, Bahaa Taher) and young, 21st-century authors (e.g. Belal Fadl, Hasan Kemal) have treated the form. The translations are the work of teachers and students of Arabic at the Institute of Near Eastern and African Studies, who, together with Egyptian writers who are guests of the fair and publisher Mr Sharif Bahbouh, will take part in a launch ceremony at which extracts from several of the translated stories will be read.

[*Book World Ltd., Dar Ibn Rushd Publishers, Institute of Near Eastern and African Studies (Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague)*]

1.00 pm–2.00 pm

S 201 – CENTRAL HALL

**Ahmad Abdul Latif – reading**

Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[GEBO]

3.00 pm–3.50 pm

LARGE THEATRE – CENTRAL HALL

**The Egyptian novel – signs of revolution and their reflection in literature**

Writer Ibrahim Abdel Meguid will talk about the extent to which Egyptian prose writing expressed changes in Egyptian society that preceded the revolution of January 2011. The cultural tradition of the Egyptian nation ensured that the Egyptian novel had a role to play even in an age of widespread information technology.

Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[GEBO]

3.00 pm–3.50 pm

GROWING WITH THE BOOK THEATRE – RIGHT WING

Egyptian mummies in the Czech lands

In the Czech lands the long tradition of interest in the history of Ancient Egypt goes back to the 16th century, when the first Egyptian antiques, including mummies, appeared in this part of the world. Around two dozen mummies found a last resting place in a Czech castle, palace or museum. These have become a subject of research for a team of scientists from the Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures (National Museum) and the Mediscan Diagnostic Centre. Dr Pavel Onderka will introduce a forthcoming book on Egyptian mummies in the Czech lands.

[*Book World Ltd., National Museum, Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures*]

4.00 pm–5.00 pm

S 201 – CENTRAL HALL

**Fatima Qandeel – reading**

Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[GEBO]

**5.00 pm–5.50 pm**

LITERARY THEATRE – RIGHT WING

**Young cinematographers in Egypt – reality and ambition**

Film director and producer Hala Lotfy will introduce the film industry in Egypt from the point of view of young film-makers. She will cast light on their goals, the challenges they face and their attempts to anticipate reality.

Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[GEBO]

✕ Saturday 16 May**11.00 am–11.50 am**

LARGE THEATRE – CENTRAL HALL

**The women's novel in Egypt – mutual understanding and reflecting reality**

Young writer and journalist Mansoura Ez-Eldin will speak about the role of the women's novel in Egypt and consider the extent to which it reflects reality from a specifically female perspective. She will report on the involvement of the women's novel in reaching beyond the commonplace and enhancing mutual understanding in the effort to establish a new vision of Egypt.

Interpreted: Czech, English

[GEBO]

12.00 noon–1.00 pm S 201 – CENTRAL HALL**Mohamed Farid Abu Seeda – reading**

Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[GEBO]

1.00 pm–1.50 pm

LARGE THEATRE – CENTRAL HALL

**The new Egyptian novel and its prospects**

Young Egyptian writer and journalist Hamdi el-Gazzar has established himself on the Arabic literary scene. Here he will present his vision, which combines historical reality with fantasy and an attempt to develop new creative means for the art of the Arabic novel.

Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[GEBO]

2.00 pm–2.50 pm

BOOK CHAMPIONS' CLUB – RIGHT WING

Don't be afraid of Arabic – workshop with students from the Institute of Near Eastern and African Studies

Arabic is spoken on a vast territory that stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf. At this workshop students from the Faculty of Arts of Charles Univer-

sity will teach you many helpful words for use on your travels in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Dubai. You will also learn the basics of the Arabic alphabet and have a chance to write your name or address in Arabic script.

[*Book World Ltd., Institute of Near Eastern and African Studies (Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague)*]

2.00 pm–3.00 pm

S 201 – CENTRAL HALL

**Hamdy El Gazzar – reading**

Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[GEBO]

3.00 pm–3.50 pm LITERARY THEATRE – RIGHT WING**In the footsteps of Egyptologists at the Czech concession in Abusir**

Discussion on the practical challenges faced by the Czech Institute of Egyptology's expedition in Abusir, with reference to responsibilities to the Egyptians, solutions to situations arising and work with discoveries. Moderated by Jiřina Růžová, with guests Lucie Vendelová, Veronika Dulíková and Mohamed Megahed.

[*Book World Ltd., Czech Institute of Egyptology (Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague)*]

3.00 pm–4.00 pm

S 201 – CENTRAL HALL

**Mai Khaled – reading**

Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[GEBO]

4.00 pm–4.50 pm

LITERARY CAFÉ – RIGHT WING (BALCONY, LEFT)

Arabic in the Czech Republic and Czech in Egypt
Ain Shams University, the second largest university in Cairo, is the only place in the Arab world where Czech has been taught at tertiary level since the 1960s. It is also a destination for Czech scholars of Arabic in search of deeper knowledge of Arabic and Arab culture. Arabic scholar and interpreter Emřia Klementová will be in conversation with scholar of Arabic and Hebrew Jaroslav Oliverius (one of the first visiting students to attend university in Cairo) and Egyptian scholar of Czech Khalid El Biltagi about the ups and downs of teaching Czech in Egypt and Arabic in the Czech Republic.

[*Book World Ltd., Institute of Near Eastern and African Studies (Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague)*]

5.00 pm

S 201 – CENTRAL HALL

**Hala Lotfy – film presentation**

Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[GEBO]

**5.00 pm–5.50 pm**

LARGE THEATRE – CENTRAL HALL

**Egyptian visual arts – finding a way**

Visual arts in Egypt and their evolution and successes as viewed from past and present. To what extent do the visual arts draw on historical sources in the attempt to find common ground with artists throughout the world? Presented by artist and academic Khaled Sorour.

Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[GEBO

6.00 pm–7.00 pm

LARGE THEATRE – CENTRAL HALL

**Naguib Mahfouz: A Scandal in Cairo ...
“and all hell broke loose”**

Theatre performance by the Arabic Non-theatre of students of Arabic at the Institute of Near Eastern and African Studies.

A thrilling plot with elements of the detective story set in 1920s Cairo, although it could be played out today, anywhere in the world. This play is based on a novel by Egyptian Nobel Prize winner Naguib Mahfouz in the Czech translation of Jaroslav Oliverius. A poor student desirous of a better position discards all his values and principles, so plunging his life towards a catastrophe that culminates in scandal.

In Arabic with captions in Czech.

Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[*Book World Ltd. and Institute of Near Eastern and African Studies (Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague)***✕ Sunday 17 May****11.00 am–11.50 am**

LARGE THEATRE – CENTRAL HALL

**Egyptian society as reflected in poetry**

Poet Fatima Qandeel will talk about the role played by Egyptian women's poetry in support of human aesthetic values. To what extent has poetry been able to create a new vision for the modern world, and what impact has it had on today's Egyptian society as it strives for a new future?

Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[GEBO

12.00 noon–12.50 pm

LITERARY THEATRE – RIGHT WING

The magic of Egyptian cuisine – workshop with students of Arabic from the Institute of Near Eastern and African Studies

Arab culture is renowned for the exquisiteness of its culinary art, which is based on a harmony of flavours, aromas and colours. The gastronomy of Egypt testifies to a highly diverse blend of cultural influences from the Arab world, Turkey, Persia and Italy that have enriched the culinary traditions of Egypt and use copious amounts of fresh vegetables, fruit, pulses, spices, dairy produce and other products besides. Visitors to this event will have the chance to make several cold dishes from Egypt and sample the many variations of taste they contain.

[*Book World Ltd.***12.00 noon–1.00 pm**

S 201 – CENTRAL HALL

**Ibrahim Abdel Maguid – čtení**

Interpreted: Czech, Arabic

[GEBO