



TRANSLATION PRIZES

THE SOCIETY OF AUTHORS' TRANSLATION PRIZES 2025

**BRITISH LIBRARY & ONLINE
TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2026**



2025 TRANSLATION PRIZES

The TA First Translation Prize
for a debut translation from any language

The Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize
for translation from Arabic

The Scott Moncrieff Prize
for translation from French

The Goethe-Institut Award
for translation of an extract from German

The Schlegel-Tieck Prize
for translation from German

The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation Translation Prize
for translation from Japanese

The Premio Valle Inclán
for translation from Spanish

The Bernard Shaw Prize
for translation from Swedish

The John Calder Translation Prize
for translation from any language

Tuesday 10 February 2026
British Library & online
Presented by Fiona Sze-Lorrain

Fiona Sze-Lorrain is a writer, poet, translator, musician, and editor. One of the few English-language woman writers who works across genres, cultures, and artistic expressions, she writes and translates in English, French, and Chinese. She lives in Paris where she serves as an editor at Vif Éditions. She currently serves on the committee of the SoA's Translators Association.



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

Hawthornden Foundation is a private charitable foundation supporting contemporary writers and the literary arts. Established by Drue Heinz, the noted philanthropist and patron of the arts, the Foundation is named after Hawthornden Castle in Midlothian, Scotland, where an international residential residency programme provides month-long retreats for creative writers from all disciplines to work in peaceful surroundings.



We thank the **British Library** for their continued support of the Translation Prizes and hosting the event. The British Library, a Grade I listed building, is the national library of the United Kingdom and the second largest library in the world by number of items catalogued.



Find out more about the prizes:
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#TranslationPrizes

THE TA FIRST PRIZE FOR A DEBUT TRANSLATION FROM ANY LANGUAGE

Winner

Antonella Lettieri and editor **Richard Village** for a translation from Italian of *Your Little Matter* by Maria Grazia Calandrone (Foundry Editions)

'Antonella Lettieri's [...] thoughtful word choices capture the ambiguity and weight of Maria Grazia Calandrone's poetic choices, and she navigates the tonal shifts between investigative journalism and personal revelation with the fluidity and confidence of an experienced translator. We are grateful to her, and to her editor Richard Village, for this remarkable work.'
– Stella Sabin

Antonella Lettieri is a London-based translator. She was the 2023 National Centre for Writing Emerging Translator Mentee for Italian and won first prize in the 2023 John Dryden Translation Competition. Her translation of *Your Little Matter* has been awarded the 2024 PEN Grant for English Translation of Italian Literature.

Richard Village is the founder and editor-in-chief at Foundry Editions, an independent press based in London that publishes fiction in translation from the Mediterranean region.

Runner-up

Gwendolyn Harper and editors **John Siciliano** and **Rory Williamson** for a translation from Spanish of *A Last Supper of Queer Apostles* by Pedro Lemebel (Pushkin Press)

'Pedro Lemebel dances with language in a way I have never seen, and Gwendolyn Harper recreates the delicious wordplay and phenomenally striking imagery with such flair. Gwendolyn and her editor have painstakingly selected, arranged and contextually framed the collection. Every aspect of this project is bursting with ingenuity and care.'
– Anam Zafar

Shortlisted

Rijula Das and editor **Sunandini Banerjee** for a translation from Bengali of *Beggars' Bedlam* by Nabarun Bhattacharya (Seagull Books)

Yana Ellis and editor **Dženana Vucic** for a translation from Bulgarian of *The Wolves of Staro Selo* by Zdravka Evtimova (Héloïse Press)

Sheela Mahadevan and editor **Christine Dunbar** for a translation from French of *Lakshmi's Secret Diary* by Ari Gautier (Columbia University Press)

Maggie Zebracka and editors **Mark Tardi** and **Aina Marti-Balcells** for a translation from Polish of *Queenless* by Mira Marcinów (Héloïse Press)

Judges

Anthony McGowan
Stella Sabin
Anam Zafar

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Daniel Hahn is a writer, editor and translator. He founded the TA First Translation Prize in 2017 with his share of the winnings from the International Dublin Literary Award.

Jo Heinrich translates from German and French. Her translation of Katja Oskamp's *Marzahn, Mon Amour* won the 2023 Dublin Literary Award; other recent publications include *Half Swimmer*, also by Oskamp, *The Invention of Good and Evil* by Hanno Sauer and *How Wars End* by Jan van Aken.

'The range of nominated books was vast, and I found myself bounced from continent to continent, from Eastern European peasant life, to sexual mores in 1930s Indochina. It was joyful, but also dizzying. Each was beautifully translated, and felt like it was bringing something new into the English language from the original. Each one engrossing, gripping, alive. Together, these stories demonstrate the power and the glory of world literature, and the importance of translation in reenergising English prose writing. It was an honour to be involved in the prize.'

– Anthony McGowan



THE SAIF GHOBASH BANIPAL PRIZE FOR A TRANSLATION FROM ARABIC

Winner

Marilyn Booth for a translation of *Honey Hunger: A Novel* by Zahran Alqasmi (Hoopoe, American University in Cairo Press)

‘Honey Hunger takes us to the remote highland landscapes of Oman and the story of Azzan, a beekeeper who retreats into the mountains to rebuild his life and hives. This novel is exceptional not only for its beautiful evocative prose but for its exploration of the taboo topic of addiction in rural Oman and its vital ecological theme.’

– The Banipal Prize judges

Marilyn Booth is professor emerita, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and Magdalen College, Oxford University. She has translated many works of Arabic fiction into English. Her translations include *Bitter Orange Tree* and *Celestial Bodies*, which was awarded the International Booker Prize. She has also translated Hoda Barakat, Hassan

Daoud, Elias Khoury, Latifa al-Zayyat, and Nawal al-Saadawi. Her research publications focus on Arabophone women’s writing and the ideology of gender debates in the nineteenth century.

Runner-up

Kay Heikkinen for a translation of *Granada: The Complete Trilogy* by Radwa Ashour (Hoopoe, American University in Cairo Press)

‘Granada is a monument of Arabic historical fiction and with its size, scope and multiple registers and quotations represents a difficult task for any translator. Kay Heikkinen handles the plurilingual trilogy brilliantly, reproducing the textual variety and historical colour of the original with enviable skill and accuracy.’

– The Banipal Prize judges

Shortlisted

Ranya Abdelrahman and Sawad Hussain for a translation of *The Guardian of Surfaces* by Bothayna Al-Essa (Selkies House Limited)

Katharine Halls for a translation of *On the Greenwich Line* by Shady Lewis (Peirene Press)

Luke Leafgren for a translation of *The Tale of a Wall: Reflections on Hope and Freedom* by Nasser Abu Srouf (Penguin Press)

Barbara Romaine for a translation of *Sand-Catcher* by Omar Khalifah (Coffee House Press)

Judges

Professor Christina Phillips (Chair)
Dr Susan Frenk
Nashwa Nasreldin
Boyd Tonkin Hon. FRSL

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The Banipal Trust for Arab Literature was founded in 2004 by the publisher of Banipal Magazine. It supports and promotes cultural dialogue between the Arab world and the West, the translation into English and publication of works by contemporary Arab authors, and the production of live literature events with Arab authors in the UK. The prize is sponsored by the **Saif Ghobash family** in memory of their husband and father, the late Saif Ghobash, who was a passionate bibliophile.

‘The shortlisted novels include two comic works, a historical epic, a dystopian fiction, a prison memoir, and an eco-novel from the Gulf. Memory, identity, freedom and repression are common themes (among many more) whereas style-wise each work is unique, creating its own special literary aesthetic. It is worth noting that 5 of the 6 translators are women, a gender imbalance evident in the wider 2025 submission, and, it would appear, more widely in modern Arabic literary translation.’

– The Banipal Prize judges



THE SCOTT MONCRIEFF PRIZE FOR A TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH

Winner

Ruth Diver for a translation of *The Convoy* by Beata Umubyeyi Mairesse (Open Borders Press)

‘Beata Umubyeyi Mairesse achieves what could seem impossible: writing from her own personal experience on Genocide of Tutsis in Rwanda, which was also a colonial crime. Brilliantly, humbly yet with all her survival force, she refers to Primo Levi, to the survivors and authors of the Holocaust, and explores her people’s collective memory, interrogates the very definition of personal memory and writing. Delicate, dashing and heart-wrenching. A must-read.’
– Shumona Sinha

Ruth Diver is a former academic who translates from French, German and Russian. She won two 2018 French Voices awards for her translations of *Marx and the Doll* by Maryam Madjidi and *Titus Did Not Love Berenice* by Nathalie Azoulai and the 2016

Asymptote Close Approximations Fiction Prize for *Street Rounds in Paris* by Sophie Pujas. She lives in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Runner-up

Frank Wynne for a translation of *Sleeping Children* by Anthony Passeron (Pan Macmillan, Picador)

‘Frank Wynne has a gift not just for translation, for which he has established himself as one of the great talents of his generation, but also for selecting works destined to become French classics. Anthony Passeron’s Les Enfants Endormis is an outstanding example. Whether it be the technical vocabulary of virology, or else ‘shooting up’ or ‘getting wasted’, Wynne reaches for the definitive word with ease and poise every time.’
– Clare Finburgh Delijani

Shortlisted

Chris Andrews for a translation of *I Don’t Care* by Ágota Kristóf (New Directions Publishing)

Karen Fleetwood and **Laëtitia Saint-Loubert** for a translation of *There’s a Monster Behind the Door* by Gaëlle Bélem (Bullaun Press)

Mark Polizzotti for a translation of *Command Performance* by Jean Echenoz (New York Review Books Classics)

Judges

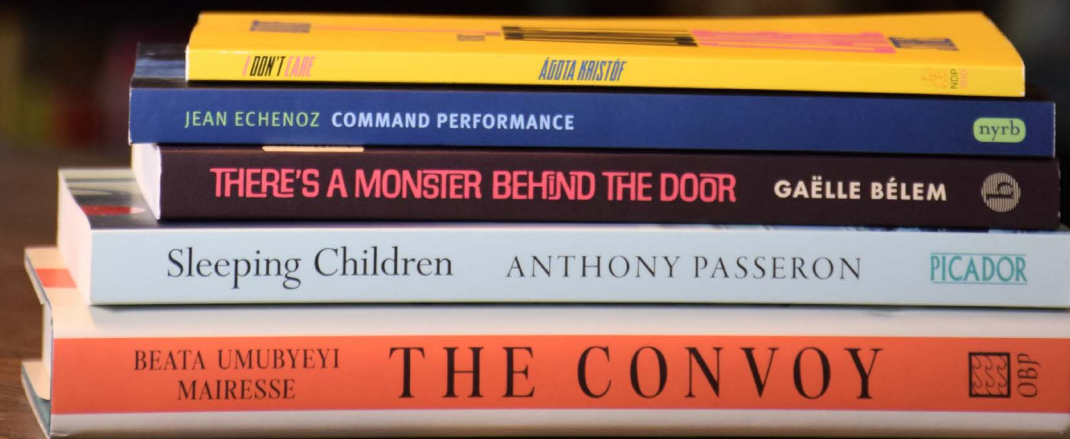
Clare Finburgh Delijani
Adam Hamdy
Shumona Sinha

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The Book Office, a department of the **Institut Français** in the UK, promotes French literature by supporting translations from French into English via its different programmes (Burgess, Institut Français, Centre National du Livre). It organises and supports authors tours in connection with recent French publications.

‘This year’s Scott Moncrieff Prize shortlist showcases the extraordinary range and vitality of contemporary French writing in translation. The Convoy by Beata Umubyeyi Mairesse, translated with exquisite sensitivity by Ruth Diver, bears witness to trauma and endurance with poetic grace. Sleeping Children by Anthony Passeron, in Frank Wynne’s compassionate rendering, confronts silence and grief with unflinching honesty. Command Performance by Jean Echenoz, translated by Mark Polizzotti, dazzles with its elegance and precision, I Don’t Care by Ágota Kristóf and translated by Chris Andrews brims with fierce irony and moral clarity, while There’s a Monster Behind the Door by Gaëlle Bélem, brought vividly into English by Karen Fleetwood and Laëtitia Saint-Loubert, bristles with humour and originality. Together, these books remind us of translation’s power to renew the human spirit by connecting imaginations across the barrier of different languages.’

– Adam Hamdy



THE GOETHE-INSTITUT AWARD

FOR TRANSLATION OF AN EXTRACT FROM GERMAN

For a translation of an extract from *Der Beste Tag Seit Langem* by Jana Volkmann, kindly provided by publisher Residenz Verlag.

Winner
Nick Browne

'Among many excellent renderings, the winning translation stood out for its elegance and accuracy. It dealt creatively with the text's challenges, and contained just the right touches of wit and the vernacular, keeping it both modern and crisp. A most engaging piece of work.'
– The Goethe-Institut Award judges

Nick Browne grew up in Sydney, Australia, before moving to Oxford to read for a BA in Philosophy and German at Wadham College, graduating in 2025 with first-class honours. It was during his time in Oxford that he first developed an interest in both the theory and practice of literary translation. In

2022, he was awarded the Rex Warner Literary Prize for his translation of Thomas Mann's short story 'Das Eisenbahnunglück', and in 2023 he was shortlisted for the Society of Authors' Goethe-Institut Award for New Translation.

Runner-up
Sarah Escritt

'This accomplished translation caught the actions and reactions very clearly, and brought the narrator's voice to life with a great rendering of tone. It also picked up on allusions within the text to the book's theme, and retained key cultural elements. Lively and balanced, the sentence flow was very well considered; it came a very close second indeed.'
– The Goethe-Institut Award judges

Shortlisted
John Macmillan

Amanda Oliver

Sarah Rimmington

'This atmospheric text by the Austrian writer Jana Volkmann, complete with unreliable narrator and errant horse, attracted a very high standard of submissions. Inevitably, fifty-four translators produced fifty-four very different texts. Our sometimes-converging, sometimes-unified perspectives proved invaluable as we trawled through to create our shortlist. We also realised this: even if you have a checklist of what you want to see in a winning rendition, it's often the intangibles that make one in particular stand out.'
– The Goethe-Institut Award judges

Judges

Monique Charlesworth
Jamie Lee Searle

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The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach. We promote knowledge of the German language abroad, foster international cultural cooperation and convey a comprehensive image of Germany with 159 locations in 98 countries.

The Goethe-Institut London attracts a public interested in culture and education and is located on Exhibition Road with nearby access to world-class institutions.



THE SCHLEGEL-TIECK PRIZE FOR A TRANSLATION FROM GERMAN

Winner

Jon Cho-Polizzi for a translation of *Djinns* by Fatma Aydemir (Peirene Press)

'An epic, polyphonic family portrait, dealing with the complications of loyalty, language, cultural adaptation, love and sexual identity. A family of very different individuals brought together by the death of a parent. Fatma Aydemir explores the layers revealed by emotional trauma, probing the minds of her characters and creating a beautifully well-rounded group portrait. Beautifully translated by Jon Cho-Polizzi.'

– Shaun Whiteside

Jon Cho-Polizzi is a freelance literary translator and Assistant Professor of German at the University of Michigan. His work focuses on the polyphony of the contemporary German literary scene. Cho-Polizzi received his PhD in German and Medieval Studies from UC Berkeley after studying

Translation, History, and Literature in Heidelberg and Santa Cruz. He lives and works between Ann Arbor, Northern California, and Berlin.

Runner-up

Alexandra Roesch for a translation of *Boy With a Black Rooster* by Stefanie vor Schulte (The Indigo Press)

'Boy with a Black Rooster, translated by Alexandra Roesch, is a fairytale for our times. At once bleak and redemptive, the book interrogates the worst and best of what it means to be human. The words sing, with Roesch's translation bringing out with tenderness and care the story's fantastical elements, weaving them expertly together with the book's immersive world-building.'

– Kerri Andrews

Shortlisted

Charlotte Collins for a translation of *Darkenbloom* by Eva Menasse (Scribe Publications)

Charlotte Collins for a translation of *The Granddaughter* by Bernhard Schlink (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, The Orion Publishing Group)

Gesche Ipsen for a translation of *The Green Ages: Medieval Innovations in Sustainability* by Annette Kehnel (Profile Books)

Rachel Ward for a translation of *One Grand Summer* by Ewald Arenz (Orenda Books)

Judges

Kerri Andrews
Anju Okhandiar
Shaun Whiteside

'This year's shortlist introduces us to ingeniously compelling authors, who in the artistry of their storytelling deal with wide ranging themes of good vs evil, hope and despair, personal freedom, human connections, social cataclysm, scientific inventions, and a futuristic greener world. Aside from this, the translations are originally uplifting in their style, creatively written in multilayered settings that urge the reader to sit up and take notice of the changes happening in the world around us.'

– Anju Okhandiar



THE GREAT BRITAIN SASAKAWA FOUNDATION PRIZE FOR A TRANSLATION FROM JAPANESE

Winner

Ginny Tapley Takemori for a translation of *Mornings With My Cat Mii* by Mayumi Inaba (Harvill Secker, Vintage, Penguin Random House)

'In Mornings With My Cat Mii, the surprise lay in how the translation appeared to mirror the melancholic beauty of the original Japanese so effortlessly, presenting in the guise of a personal memoir a poignant reflection upon the nature of relationships, loss, and care amid the changing landscape of Tokyo's suburbs since the late 1970s.'

— Dr Victoria Young

Ginny Tapley Takemori is a freelance literary translator and, with Allison Markin Powell and Lucy North, a member of the collective Strong Women Soft Power which aims to promote Japanese women writers and their translators. Her translation of *Convenience Store Woman* was awarded the 2020-2021 Lindsey and

Masao Miyoshi Prize as well as being shortlisted for numerous other prizes including the 2019 Indies Choice and Best Translated Book Awards. She lives in rural Japan with her husband and three cats.

Runner-up

Bryan Karetnyk for a translation of *The Little Sparrow Murders* by Seishi Yokomizo (Pushkin Press)

'A suspension of disbelief is key both to detective fiction and to translation, which is to say that to deal in both at once compounds the difficulty. Bryan Karetnyk has made the complex seem easy in translating Yokomizo's famous sleuth and cast of supporting characters, with their detailed setting and vivid intrigue, for our sheer reading pleasure.'

— Asa Yoneda

Shortlisted

David Boyd and **Stephen Snyder** for a translation of *Mina's Matchbox* by Yoko Ogawa (Harvill Secker, Vintage, Penguin Random House)

Polly Barton for a translation of *Hunchback* by Saou Ichikawa (Viking, Penguin Random House)

Judges

Lila Matsumoto

Asa Yoneda

Dr Victoria Young

Sponsors

The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation has developed mutual understanding and co-operation between the UK and Japan for over 40 years. It supports initiatives and grassroots activity across hundreds of projects in the arts, sport, education, science, social issues, medicine and other fields, providing over £1m in grant funding every year.

'As judges, we are pleased to have arrived at this diverse shortlist, in which a contemporary debut novel sits alongside a novel by a seasoned writer, a memoir originally published in the 90s, and a work by a celebrated crime fiction writer. The shortlist is a snapshot of the compelling books being written in Japan and the accomplished and imaginative translation work currently taking place. Translator Mireille Gansel writes that translation is a 'risk-taking and continual re-examination', and the works on the shortlist do exactly those things: the translator has taken a risk to bring, in their own idiom and vision, a work to new audiences, so that we can encounter, and re-encounter, Japanese literature afresh.'

— Lila Matsumoto



THE PREMIO VALLE INCLÁN FOR A TRANSLATION FROM SPANISH

Winner

Richard Gwyn for a translation of *Invisible Dog* by Fabio Morábito (Carcanet Press)

'Richard Gwyn's translations of Fabio Morábito's verse, often musing on his status as an immigrant not just to another country but also to a language other than his mother tongue, beautifully recreate the poet's voice and vision with an assured and deft choice of both vocabulary and syntax that make these versions sing in English as sweetly as in the originals.'

– Lawrence Schimel

Richard Gwyn grew up in South Wales, and lived for many years in Greece and Spain. His travels in Latin America form the subject of a chronicle, *Ambassador of Nowhere*. He is the author of four collections of poetry and three novels, and his memoir, *The Vagabond's Breakfast*, won Wales Book of the Year for

nonfiction in 2012. His translation of *Impossible Loves* was shortlisted for the Premio Valle-Inclán in 2020.

Runner-up

Frank Wynne for a translation of *The Last Dream* by Pedro Almodóvar (Harvill Secker, Vintage, Penguin Random House)

'The Last Dream reveals a deep vulnerability behind words that feel both cinematic and dreamlike, yet remain grounded in reality. The translation moves with the same effortless rhythm as the flow of his most beloved film scenes. We perceive Almodóvar's life through a bilingual, slightly old-fashioned lens—familiar to those who know his work—yet also through a completely new perspective. The result is a balanced, fresh, and faithful translation, almost photographic in its precision and translucent heartbeat.'

– Gaby Sambuccetti

Shortlisted

Katie Brown for a translation of *From Savagery* by Alejandra Banca (Selkies House Limited)

Megan McDowell for a translation of *Childish Literature* by Alejandro Zambra (Fitzcarraldo Editions)

Megan McDowell for a translation of *The Mysterious Disappearance of the Marquise of Loria* by José Donoso (New Directions Publishing)

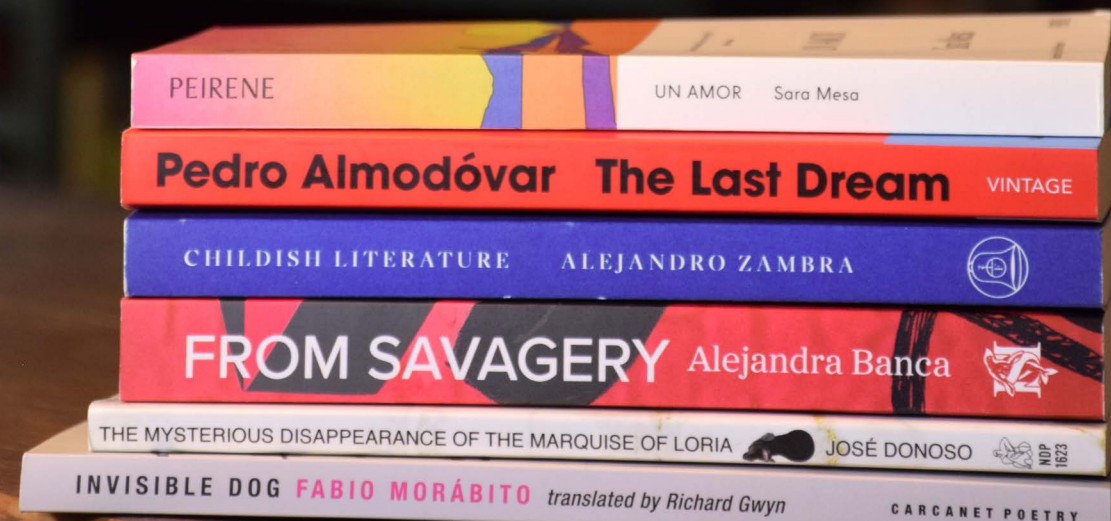
Katie Whittemore for a translation of *Un Amor* by Sara Mesa (Peirene Press)

Judges

Gaby Sambuccetti
Luiza Sauma
Lawrence Schimel

'The shortlist captures the range and vitality of contemporary literature from the Spanish-speaking world – from poetry and erotic fiction, to genre-defying collections – while showcasing the remarkable skill of the translators who have brought these books to international readers. Both emerging and established translators are represented, alongside independent and traditional publishers. Each book honours its source, while offering a lively and imaginative interpretation in English.'

– Luiza Sauma



THE BERNARD SHAW PRIZE FOR A TRANSLATION FROM SWEDISH

Winner

Agnes Broomé for a translation of *Collected Works: A Novel* by Lydia Sandgren (Pushkin Press)

'As a first time judge, I was in awe of the role of the translator in this incredible work. Translating is the strangest of jobs, as the more the reader notices you, the less good your work is. Invisibility is your aim. I quickly forgot this was a translated work, and skipped through different voices, eras and perspectives all conveyed with ease and authenticity. I hope this award makes the translator visible again.'
– Dea Birkett

Agnes Broomé works as a literary translator and Preceptor in Scandinavian Studies at Harvard University. With a PhD in Translation Studies, her translations include several winners of the August Prize as well as 2022 Petrona Award recipient *Fatal Isles* by Maria Adolfsson and *Butterfly Heart* by Moa Backe Åstot,

which earned a place on the shortlist for the 2025 Kirkus Prize.

Runner-up

Saskia Vogel for a translation of *Caesaria* by Hanna Nordenhök (Héloïse Press)

'Saskia Vogel's translation of Caesaria skilfully evokes the innocent, detached, unsettling voice of the narrator and superbly describes her sheltered yet oppressive surroundings in this unusual gothic tale.'
– Kate Lambert

Shortlisted

Elizabeth Clark Wessel for a translation of *The Eighth House: a mother, a murder, an obsession* by Linda Segtnan (Ithaka Press, Bonnier Books UK)

Fiona Graham for a translation of *The Rocks Will Echo Our Sorrow: The Forced Displacement of the Northern Sámi* by Elin Anna Labba (University of Minnesota Press)

Nichola Smalley for a translation of *Purity* by Andrzej Tichý (And Other Stories)

Saskia Vogel for a translation of *The Singularity* by Balsam Karam (Fitzcarraldo Editions)

Judges

Dea Birkett
Tom Geddes
Kate Lambert

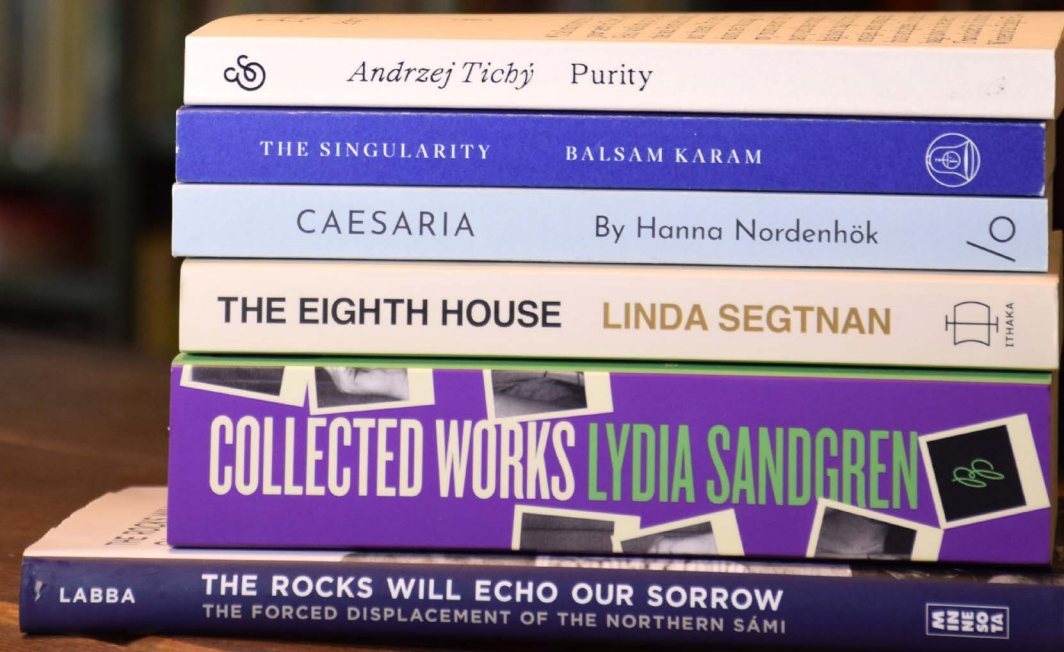
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The Embassy of Sweden in London is led by Ambassador Stefan Gullgren and represents Sweden and the Swedish government in the United Kingdom.

The Embassy's Cultural Affairs Department promotes Swedish arts and culture in the United Kingdom, including literature, visual arts, music, film, performing arts and the creative industries, as well as works to establish cultural links and bilateral collaboration between the countries.

'All the translators on the shortlist successfully and smoothly brought the individual, and sometimes idiosyncratic, voice, or voices, of their storytellers to a new audience. The shortlist spanned a range of genres and themes but the translations are united by their translators' skill in translating not only the words but the experience of reading the original.'

– Kate Lambert



THE JOHN CALDER TRANSLATION PRIZE FOR A TRANSLATION FROM ANY LANGUAGE

Winner

Alexandra Roesch for a translation from German of *Boy With a Black Rooster* by Stefanie vor Schulte (The Indigo Press)

'We are privileged to have Stefanie vor Schulte's breathtaking novel, Boy with a Black Rooster, elegantly rendered into English by Alexandra Roesch. The prose is crystalline, the story fabular yet so seemingly relevant and real. This book is such a refreshing read—and a surprise: A sparse yet enchanting fairy tale of a young boy with a "Buddha's heart," protected by his friend and guide, a talking black rooster, as he embarks on a journey through impossible landscapes and worlds.'

— Fiona Sze-Lorrain

Alexandra Roesch studied languages and business before beginning her career in banking. She later earned an MA in Translation from the University of Bristol and went on to become a

literary translator. In 2018, she was nominated for the Goethe Institute's Helen & Kurt Wolff Prize. Her work includes translations of Hans Fallada, Seraina Kobler, Merle Kröger and Elena Fischer.

Runner-up

Tess Lewis for a translation from French of *Nevermore* by Cécile Wajsbrot (Seagull Books)

'Cécile Wajsbrot's Nevermore bears potent, intriguing witness to encounters at physical, psychological and existential crossroads- amorphous exchanges that would ordinarily elude record. Tess Lewis's translation is remarkable in the agility with which it summons and refines lexicons of loss.'

— Helen Oyeyemi

Shortlisted

Lizzie Davis for a translation from Spanish of *The Abandoners* by Begoña Gómez Urzaiz (The Borough Press)

Katy Derbyshire for a translation from German of *Mountainish* by Zsuzsanna Gahse (Prototype)

Megan McDowell for a translation from Spanish of *A Sunny Place for Shady People* by Mariana Enriquez (Granta)

Saskia Vogel for a translation from Swedish of *Bread and Milk* by Karolina Ramqvist (Manilla Press, Bonnier Books UK)

Judges

Jon McGregor
Helen Oyeyemi
Fiona Sze-Lorrain

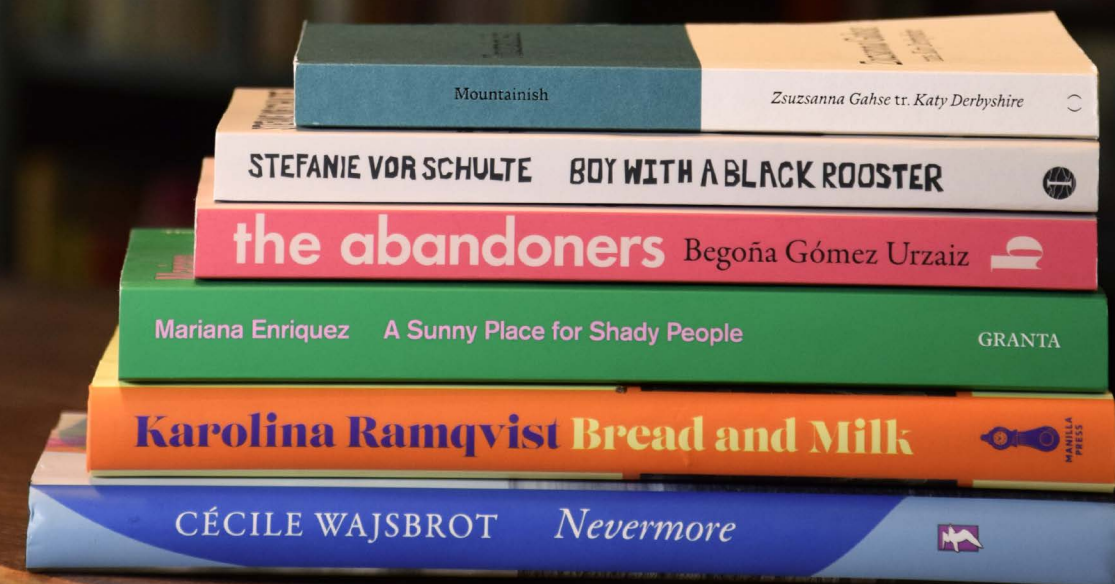
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Alma Books was set up in 2005 by Alessandro Gallenzi and Elisabetta Minervini, the founders of Hesperus Press. Following its takeover of the Oneworld Classics list in 2012, it now publishes around forty new titles a year, mainly in the field of classics.

Sheila Colvin-Calder has spent most of her working life in the arts. She worked at the Edinburgh International Festival, becoming its first Associate Director. She acted as General Manager of Aldeburgh Foundation and was a founder member of the Traverse Theatre.

'It's been an absolute joy to read so much excellent work in translation, across a variety of forms and from a range of original languages. The work of the translator – as correspondent, as mediator, and most importantly as writer – is more important than ever, and that has been made brilliantly clear in the process of bringing this shortlist together. Essays, memoir, short stories, novels: this shortlist, taken together, should serve as an excellent – if inevitably partial and limited – snapshot of contemporary literature, and of the very fine work being done by some of our finest translators.'

— Jon McGregor



SOCIETY OF AUTHORS

JOIN US TODAY

Lend us your voice; your membership helps us to campaign and lobby on the issues that matter to authors.

The Society of Authors (SoA) promotes and supports eleven translation prizes, eight of which are presented tonight. It is the UK trade union for more than 12,400 writers, illustrators and literary translators, at all stages of their careers, and has been advising individuals and speaking out for the profession since 1884. It administers many other prizes including the Society of Authors' Awards, the ALCS Educational Writers' Award, the Ilse Schwepcke Prize, and the Sunday Times Charlotte Aitken Trust Young Writer of the Year Award.

We offer:

- Individual advice on contracts and professional issues
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- Membership of the Translators Association and other Special Interest Groups
- Community and networking
- Professional development events
- Practical discounts – books, hotels and more
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'Thank you for your hard and invaluable work. It is so nice to feel - as a freelance literary translator - that there is someone backing you up!' – Mark Baczoni, 2025

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The Translators Association (TA)

advocates for the rights and interests of the SoA's 900+ literary translators and represents all genres and stages of professional development. The TA co-programmes the Literary Translation Centre at the London Book Fair and actively engages with the wider translation community. Current initiatives include a focus on protecting translators against AI, readers reports and making the sector more inclusive and transparent.

Above: Katharine Halls, winner of the 2024 Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize.

Below: Jenny McPhee, winner of the 2024 John Florio Prize.







‘Translation [...] is a form of meditation, but it is also a form of activism and resistance. It dissolves borders both real and imagined, offering us a more profound, more nuanced, more inclusive and diverse understanding of what it means to be human.’

– Jenny McPhee, 2024 John Florio Prize winner

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