



THE SOCIETY OF AUTHORS TRANSLATION PRIZES 2022

WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2023
BRITISH LIBRARY
LONDON
& ONLINE





THE SOCIETY OF AUTHORS TRANSLATION PRIZES 2022

WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2023
BRITISH LIBRARY
LONDON
& ONLINE

The TA First Translation Prize
for debut translation from any language

The John Florio Prize
for translation from Italian

The Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize
for translation from Arabic

The Schlegel-Tieck Prize
for translation from German

The Scott Moncrieff Prize
for translation from French

The Premio Valle Inclán
for translation from Spanish

TLS Risa-Domb Porjes Prize
for translation from Hebrew

Introducing the Great British Sasakawa Foundation Prize
for translation from Japanese

THE TA FIRST TRANSLATION PRIZE FOR A DEBUT TRANSLATION FROM ANY LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH

Winner:

Marta Dziurosz for a translation of *Things I Didn't Throw Out* by Marcin Wicha, (Polish) and edited by **Željka Marošević** and **Sophie Missing** (Daunt Books Publishing)

'An extremely measured translation that is to be admired as much for its stubborn refusal to translate as its impressive deftness and uncanny comic timing and control. A joy to read' Saba Ahmed

Runners up:

Jo Heinrich for a translation of *Marzahn, Mon Amour* by Katja Oskamp (German) and edited by **Gesche Ipsen** (Peirene Press)

'Combining sweetness, archness and a measured, honest sort of joy, Marzahn, Mon Amour is a wholly immersive pleasure. The translation had a superb creative feel for voice and a sparkling sense of showmanship. A characterful, colourful and kaleidoscopic achievement.' Ka Bradley

Abigail Wender for a translation of *The Bureau of Past Management* by Iris Hanika (German) and edited by **Katy Derbyshire** (V&Q Books)

'A dazzling and poetic work. The translation is sensitive to the shape and weight of syntax, attuned emotionally to the smallest nuances, whether in tackling transcripts of tender phone calls between friends, or contemplative passages fuelled by an icy-cool fury or sense of comic absurdity.' Saba Ahmed

Shortlisted:

Bethlehem Attfeld for a translation of *The Lost Spell* by Yismake Worku (Amharic) and edited by **David Henningham** (Henningham Family Press)

Elena Pala for a translation of *The Hummingbird* by Sandro Veronesi (Italian) and edited by **Federico Andornino** (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, Orion Publishing Group)

Kat Storage for a translation of *what will it take for me to leave* by Lorraine Vella (Maltese) and edited by **Jen Calleja** (Praspar Press)

'The vast palette of emotion, style and story in this year's shortlist is testament to some fantastically courageous publishing and a rich range of new talent. Spiky, sensual short stories sit alongside a magisterial family saga and a raucous, witty novel; translation styles varied from the forensically clean to the dazzlingly playful. All these books were remarkable for their emotional veracity and committed considerations of community, personal and societal responsibility, and family.'
Ka Bradley

Sponsors:
Daniel Hahn
British Council

Judges:
Saba Ahmed
Ka Bradley
Daniel Hahn

Marta Dziurosz translates across Polish and English, negotiates publishing contracts and writes. She lives in the UK.

Željka Marošević is the Editorial Director at Jonathan Cape. Her authors include Amy Key, Ore Agbaje-Williams, Jacqueline Crooks, Brandon Taylor and Momtaza Mehri. Prior to this she was Publisher at Daunt Books where she published authors including Mary Gaitskill, Amina Cain and Hernan Diaz, and authors in translation such as Scholastique Mukasonga, Marcin Wicha, and Elisa Shua-Dusapin, winner of the National Book Award for Translated Literature 2021.

Sophie Missing is the Publishing Director of Scribner, Simon & Schuster UK's literary imprint. Prior to joining S&S she worked at Daunt Books Publishing, as Editor then Publisher. She

has also worked at Fig Tree (PRH), Hodder & Stoughton, and as a freelance editor and writer, and is the co-author of three cookbooks published by Square Peg.

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.

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. They create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. They do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries they work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust (britishcouncil.org).

THE JOHN FLORIO PRIZE FOR TRANSLATION FROM ITALIAN

Winner:

Nicholas Benson
and **Elena Coda** for a
translation of *My Karst*
and *My City* by Scipio
Slataper (University of
Toronto Press)

‘My Karst and My City stands out for the complexity of the Italian text and the challenges it poses to the translator. I have appreciated the painstaking research of historical and cultural references that enrich the English text, and the ability to reproduce the highly poetic tones of the original text.’
Elena Minelli

Runner Up:

J Ockenden for a
translation of *Snow*,
Dog, Foot by Claudio
Morandini (Peirene
Press)

‘The Italian of Snow, Dog Foot is direct, spare, with a sweep and drive to it; Ockenden’s English is correspondingly brisk and confident, the visualisations vivid, the diction effective in that difficult task in translation of recapturing humour or a distinctive sense of place. One of a kind.’
Mario Petrucci

Tim Parks for
translations of *The House on the Hill* and
The Moon and the Bonfires by Cesare
Pavese (Penguin
Classics, Penguin
Random House)

‘The House on the Hill and The Moon and the Bonfires are excellent retranslations of classical novels. Like J Ockenden, Tim Parks is very accurate and demonstrates excellent understanding of the historical and sociocultural elements emerging from the Italian novels.’ Elena Minelli

Shortlisted:

Stash Luczkiw for a
translation of *Without Ever Reaching the Summit* by Paolo
Cognetti (Harvill
Secker, Penguin
Random House UK)

Elena Pala for a
translation of *The Hummingbird* by
Sandro Veronesi
(Weidenfeld &
Nicolson, Orion
Publishing Group)

Stephen Twilley for a
translation of *Diary of a Foreigner in Paris* by
Curzio Malaparte (New
York Review Books)

‘The seven books shortlisted are excellent samples of different literary genres: fiction, classic literature and academic books. They all present significant challenges in terms of grammar, lexis and style. All the translators were able to transfer beautifully and accurately the poetic tones, while retaining the content of the original texts.’

Elena Minelli

Sponsors:
Italian Cultural Institute
The Society of Authors

Judges:
Elena Minelli
Mario Petrucci

Elena Coda is professor of Italian at Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA. Her research interests include Triestine literature, modernism, modern and postmodern landscapes in literature, and essayistic narrative. Her publications include the edited volume *My Karst and My City and Other Writings* by Scipio Slataper, co-translated with Nicholas Benson (2020); *Scipio Slataper* (2007).

Nicholas Benson is the translator of volumes by Attilio Bertolucci and Aldo Palazzeschi and the recipient of an NEA Translation Fellowship.

The Italian Cultural Institute is the official governmental body for the promotion of the Italian culture and language. It organises lectures, exhibitions, concerts, films, symposia and other cultural events in collaboration with British and Italian universities and cultural institutions. The Institute houses an extensive library. For more information on the calendar of events and Italian courses visit www.icilondon.esteri.it.

THE SAIF GHOBASH BANIPAL PRIZE FOR TRANSLATION FROM ARABIC

Winners:

Humphrey Davies for a translation of *The Men Who Swallowed The Sun* by Hamdi Abu Golayyel (Hoopoe: An Imprint of AUC Press)

and

Robin Moger for a translation of *Slipping* by Mohamed Kheir (Two Lines Press)

'A joint award seemed the best way to honour two extremely strong novels which each distinguished themselves in different ways: Slipping for its elegance and flow, and The Men Who Swallowed the Sun for the impressive skill and creativity involved in tackling such a dense and complex text written in non-standard Arabic. Both published in Arabic in 2018, the novels represent exciting new directions in Arabic literature, both through their divergencies and their surprising synergies, unearthing forgotten, baffling, and painfully absurd histories, broaching the topic of illegal migration, and doing so through narrators who upset, challenge, and force their reader to see the world anew.' The Judges

Shortlisted:

Alexander E. Elinson for a translation of *Hot Maroc* by Yassin Adnan (Syracuse University Press)

'Yassin Adnan's Hot Maroc is a vivid, satirical, and compelling panorama of Marrakesh's changing landscape, its student movements, political intrigue, and move into internet culture, through the perspective of Rahhal, the "squirrel," who stumbles his way through society, before becoming an undercover digital sensation. Weaving vivid character portraits, and lively social worlds with black humour, the novel grips the reader from first to last. Alexander Elinson's deft translation is highly enjoyable, conveying the original's light tone, wit, and underlying darkness.' The Judges

'At its most powerful, literature should act as an imaginative passport into other worlds, a conduit to take us inside the lives of others, inviting us for a moment to stay and be part of an unknown world. Words transport as do good translations. At their best translations also take us elsewhere, offering readers stories in cultural landscapes they would not otherwise encounter. The Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation makes this journey possible.'

Professor Susheila Nasta

Sponsors:

Omar Saif Ghobash and family
The Banipal Trust for Arab Literature

Humphrey Davies (1947–2021) translated some thirty book-length works from Arabic, including *The Yacoubian Building* by Alaa Al Aswany, and was a two-time winner of the Banipal Prize for Arabic Literary Translation.

Robin Moger is a translator of Arabic to English currently based in Cape Town, South Africa. His translations of prose and poetry have appeared in *Blackbox Manifold*, *The White Review*, *Tentacular*, *Asymptote*, *Words Without Borders*, *Seedings*, *The Johannesburg Review of Books*, *The Washington Square Review* and others. He has translated several novels and prose works into English including Iman Mersal's *How To Mend* (Kayfa ta), Nael Eltoukhy's *The Women of Karantina* (AUC Press) and Youssef Rakha's *The Crocodiles* (7 Stories Press).

Judges:

Katharine Halls
Becki Maddock
Professor Susheila Nasta
Charis Olszok (Chair)

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.

Omar Saif Ghobash, who with his family sponsors the prize in memory of his late father, is from the United Arab Emirates. Saif Ghobash was a passionate man about Arabic literature as well as international works

THE SCHLEGEL-TIECK PRIZE FOR TRANSLATION FROM GERMAN

Winner:

Damion Searls for a translation of *Where You Come From* by Saša Stanišić (Jonathan Cape, Penguin Random House UK)

'In this astounding translation, Searls achieves the seemingly impossible: he captures the novel's remarkable breadth of tone – from gentle humour to profound sadness and righteous anger, sometimes in the same sentence. As Stanišić's narrator ponders the German and Bosnian languages, the migrant experience and the nature of memory, Searls somersaults his way through this playful book. His keen sense of rhythm and celebratory approach to the translator's task make Where You Come From as much a joy to read in English as it is in German.'
Katy Derbyshire

Runner Up:

Steph Morris for a translation of *It All Tastes of Farewell: Diaries, 1964–1970* by Brigitte Reimann (Seagull Books)

'What I loved most about Steph Morris' translation of It All Tastes of Farewell was his ability to lend Brigitte Reimann a voice in English that rings so perfectly true. His words put the flesh back on her bones and bring her to life, creating a voice rich with wit, frustration, and desire, and adding a trueness and intimacy to the text. Reading Morris' translation, you can't escape the sense that Reimann is muttering in your ear, talking scathingly about another writer, or lamenting a lost love.' Ayça Türkoğlu

Shortlisted:

Sharmila Cohen for a translation of *The High-Rise Diver* by Julia von Lucadou (World Editions)

Gitta Honegger for a translation of *Rein Gold* by Elfriede Jelinek (Fitzcarraldo Editions)

Simon Pare for a translation of *Troubled Water: A Journey Around the Black Sea* by Jens Mühling (Haus Publishing)

Roslyn Theobald for a translation of *just sitting around here GRUESOMELY now* by Friederike Mayröcker (Seagull Books)

'What a delight it was to submerge ourselves in our fellow translators' outstanding work. Full of admiration, we found it hard to whittle the list down to these six excellent titles, in which a range of translators have created books that genuinely sparkle in English. From travel writing to contemporary literature to a Nobel laureate and a private diary, each one presents unique challenges that the translators have tackled with obvious joy, ingenuity and aplomb.'

The Judges

Sponsor:

Embassy of the
Federal Republic of
Germany, London

Judges:

Katy Derbyshire
Ayça Türkoğlu

Damion Searls is a translator from German, Norwegian, French and Dutch, and a writer in English. He has translated many classic modern writers, including Proust, Rilke, Nietzsche, Walsler, Ingeborg Bachmann, Alfred Döblin, Jon Fosse, Elfriede Jelinek, Gide, Christa Wolf, Patrick Modiano, and Nescio, as well as writing criticism and poetry, editing a one-volume abridgment of Henry David Thoreau's *Journal*, and producing a lost work of Hermann Melville's.

The German Embassy London, the official representation of the Federal Republic of Germany in the United Kingdom, maintains and fosters the bilateral relationship between Germany and the United Kingdom. One of the three pillars of German foreign policy is cultural relations and education policy including the promotion of the German language, literature and translation, providing a broad foundation for strong bilateral and international relations between Germany and the UK as well as Germany and the world.

THE SCOTT MONCRIEFF PRIZE FOR TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH

Winner:

Sarah Ardizzone for a translation of *Men Don't Cry* by Faïza Guène (Cassava Republic Press)

'Men Don't Cry is an exceptional translation in so many ways. Sarah Ardizzone has a talent for translating challenging multi-heritage dialogue across different generations and making spoken word and its rhythms sound very natural and believable. Few translators could do this so effectively. The tone, register, and stylistic features of the text are all successfully rendered in English, especially the humour, which isn't always easy to capture in translation for a different cultural audience.'
Georgina Collins

Runner Up:

Lara Vergnaud for a translation of *The Ardent Swarm* by Yamen Manai (Amazon Crossing)

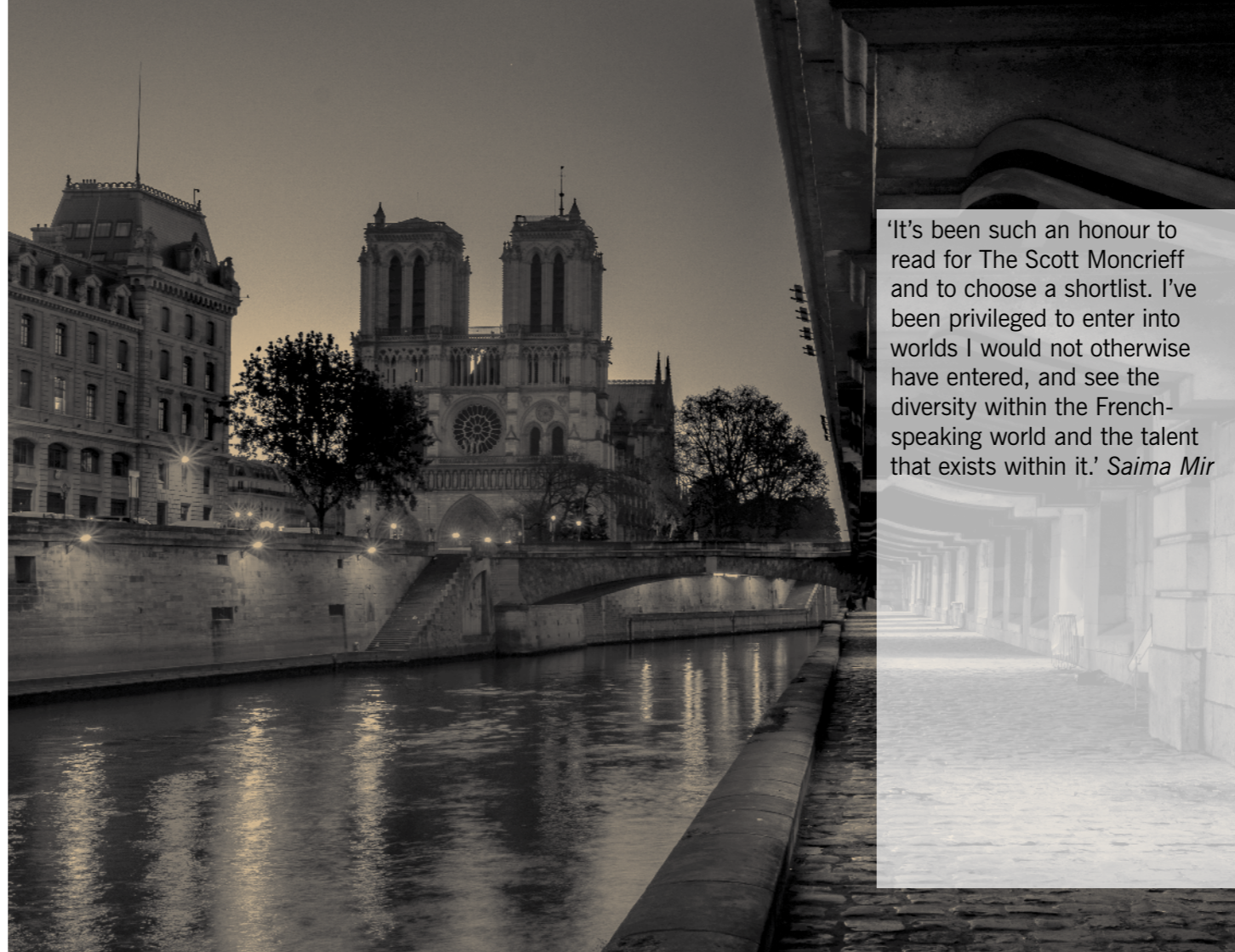
'This exceptional 'small' book set in contemporary Tunisia is at times gently humorous, at times poetic, and, ultimately, powerful. The two-way metaphor of the attacked and swarming beehive is perfectly sustained and the human message more complex and subtle than at first appears, the book constantly outdistancing what it seems to promise. The translation is fluent and idiomatic and, importantly, generally sensitive to the shifting tone of the original.'
Susan Wicks

Shortlisted:

Chris Andrews for a translation of *A Bookshop in Algiers* by Kaouther Adimi (Profile Books, Serpent's Tail)

Sheila Fischman for a translation of *Em* by Kim Thúy (Seven Stories Press)

Frank Wynne for a translation of *The Art of Losing* by Alice Zeniter (Picador, Pan Macmillan)



'It's been such an honour to read for The Scott Moncrieff and to choose a shortlist. I've been privileged to enter into worlds I would not otherwise have entered, and see the diversity within the French-speaking world and the talent that exists within it.' **Saima Mir**

Sponsors:

Institut français du
Royaume-Uni
The Society of Authors

Judges:

Georgina Collins
Saima Mir
Susan Wicks

Sarah Ardizzone is a translator from the French with forty-something titles to her name. Her work spans picture books, graphic novels and travel memoirs as well as children's, young adult and literary fiction. Notable authors include Alexandre Dumas (a fresh version of *The Nutcracker*), Faïza Guène, the outspoken young French-Algerian voice from the banlieue, and former 'dunce' Daniel Pennac, whose autobiographical polemics about education are illustrated by Quentin Blake. Twice recipient of the Marsh award, she has won the Scott Moncrieff prize and a New York Times notable book accolade.

The French Book Office, a department of the Institut français in London, promotes French literature in the UK by informing publishers, translators, and other potential readers of new publications in French as well as translations into English and rights sales. It also supports translation from French into English via its Burgess Program, and organises public events in connection with recent French publications.

THE PREMIO VALLE INCLÁN FOR TRANSLATION FROM SPANISH

Winner:

Annie McDermott for a translation of *Wars of the Interior* by Joseph Zárte (Granta)

'A powerful and incisive account of lives lived on the front line of environmental catastrophe. Joseph Zárte took considerable risks in order to bring these stories to us, and the work is executed with passion and attentiveness to the individuals whose struggle he chronicles. The translation by Annie McDermott is exceptional for its accuracy and pitch perfect tone.'
Richard Gwyn

Runner Up:

Julia Sanches for a translation of *Slash and Burn* by Claudia Hernández (And Other Stories)

'Claudia Hernández' big, tumultuous and troubling novel about women living with the legacy of war is a work that poses all kinds of problems for the translator, given the blurred landscape of multiple and overlapping stories, and the oral nature of its telling. Julia Sanches has pulled off an extremely challenging task diligently and with style.'
Karina Lickorish Quinn

Shortlisted:

Chris Andrews for a translation of *The Divorce* by César Aira (And Other Stories)

Hannah Kauders

for a translation of *Las Biuty Queens* by Iván Monalisa Ojeda (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, Orion Publishing Group)

Annie McDermott

for a translation of *Brickmakers* by Selva Almada (Charco Press)

Megan McDowell

for a translation of *The Dangers of Smoking in Bed* by Mariana Enriquez (Granta)



'The list as a whole offered a dizzying range of voices and predicaments and insights into the lives of characters – real and invented – from some very different worlds: the shortlisted works reflect that diversity of vision and demonstrate the inventiveness of the translators in responding to the challenges posed in some brilliant original works.'

Richard Gwyn

Sponsor:
The Society of Authors

Judges:
Richard Gwyn
Karina Lickorish Quinn

Annie McDermott is the translator of a dozen books from Spanish and Portuguese, among them *The Luminous Novel* and *Empty Words* by Mario Levrero, *Dead Girls* and *Brickmakers* by Selva Almada and *The Wind Whistling in the Cranes* by Lidia Jorge (co-translation with Margaret Jull Costa). She has previously lived in Mexico and Brazil, and is now based in Hastings, in the UK.

THE TLS-RISA DOMB / PORJES PRIZE FOR TRANSLATION FROM HEBREW

Winner:
Linda Yechiel for
a translation of *House
on Endless Waters*
by Emuna Elon
(Allen & Unwin,
Atlantic Books)

Sponsors:
The Edith and Ferdinand
Charitable Trust
Porjes

Judges:
Nicholas de Lange
Judith Olszowy-
Schlanger
Tsila Ratner

Linda Yechiel was born in Toronto, Canada and moved to Israel in 1982. She has been working as a translator and English editor for the past 12 years. She earned her certificate in English editing from Beit Berl College in 2010 and an MA (magna cum laude) in Literary Translation from Bar Ilan University in 2016. When she is not trying to find that 'perfect word', she may be engaging in her many hobbies such as painting, felting, crafting, sewing, gardening and (naturally!) reading. She is married with three grown children (and two grandchildren). She also shares her home with three rescued cats.

Anthony Berris was born in the United Kingdom and lived in Israel for most of his adult life. He was a translator and editor.

The prize is sponsored by the Edith and Ferdinand Porjes Charitable Trust, one of whose remits is funding the promotion of the arts both in the UK and Israel. It is administered by Jewish Book Week, whose main activity is an annual, international literary festival, held in London and online. Established in 1952 to 'stimulate and encourage the reading of books on every aspect of Jewish thought, life, literature and history and culture', the festival has run every year since its inception. Today, it brings together writers and speakers – from the most eminent to the first-time published – from the worlds of history, journalism, philosophy, science, art, music, poetry and fiction.

'After a careful deliberation of the merits of twelve different translations, the Porjes Prize committee decided to select Linda Yechiel's translation of the *House on Endless Waters* by Emuna Elon. This novel features a contemporary Israeli writer and his discovery of his roots through the moving story of his mother's tragic experience in Amsterdam during the Second World War. The committee felt that the translator captured very well not only the lyrical style of the narration but also the realia and mentality of the Dutch historical background.' *The Judges*



INTRODUCING

THE SASAKAWA FOUNDATION PRIZE FOR TRANSLATION FROM JAPANESE

The Society of Authors, in conjunction with the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, is delighted to announce the launch of The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation Translation Prize, celebrating translations into English from Japanese.

The prize will be awarded for a translation into English of a full-length Japanese-language work of literary merit and general interest. The winning translation will make for faultless reading or reading where there is no indication that the original language was not English.

'We are delighted to support this new prize for translation from Japanese, in collaboration with the Society of Authors. The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation has always sought to promote mutual knowledge and understanding between the UK and Japan, and there can be few better ways towards this than the creative art of translation, with its ability to open windows into other minds and cultures and to enable us to share different views of the world. We owe translators a debt of gratitude for their sometimes under-appreciated labours: we would be vastly impoverished without them.'

The Earl of St Andrews, Chairman

'A prize for translation from Japanese feels very overdue as we've seen the rise in readership of great Japanese literature in the UK and a celebration of the translators working on those books is in order. All our translation prizes celebrate the art of translation, an often overlooked art, and we can't wait to work with new judges to celebrate Japanese literature in translation. Our thanks go to the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation for their support of this important prize.'

Robyn Law, Head of Fundraising,
Grants and Prizes

Eligibility Criteria

Open for submissions from 1 January 2023, the prize will become part of the Society of Authors' stable of translation prizes. Winners of the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation Translation Prize will receive £3,000, with the runner-up receiving £1,000, at our annual Translation Prizes Ceremony in February 2024. The deadline for submissions to the inaugural prize will be 31 March.

For full details of how to submit to the prize, please check the prize's website in January.



The Translators Association (TA) advocates for the rights and interests of the SoA's 800+ 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 readers reports and making the sector more inclusive and transparent. <https://societyofauthors.org/Groups/Translators>



The British Library, a Grade 1 listed building, is the national library of the United Kingdom and the second largest library in the world by number of items catalogued.

The Terrace is a light and airy space perfect for award ceremonies. Floor-to-ceiling glass windows offer views across St Pancras and create a bright, open space for your event. The Terrace has a modern feel and opens up on to the adjacent outdoor rooftop area.



The Society of Authors promotes and supports 11 translation prizes, seven of which are presented tonight. It is the UK trade union for more than 12,000 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 and the Sunday Times Charlotte Aitken Trust Young Writer of the Year Award.



The Society of Authors Translation Prizes 2023
(to be presented in 2024)

The TA First Translation Prize
The Saif Ghobash Banipal Prize
The Goethe-Institut Award for New Translation
The Schlegel-Tieck Prize
The Scott Moncrieff Prize
The Premio Valle Inclán
The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation Prize
The Bernard Shaw Prize

For further information on the Translation Prizes:

Visit societyofauthors.org/Prizes/Translation-Prizes

Email: prizes@societyofauthors.org

Tel: 020 3880 2230

‘So few people are aware both of how things work, but also of the extraordinary work that has been done in the 20 years of translation.’ *Frank Wynne*

