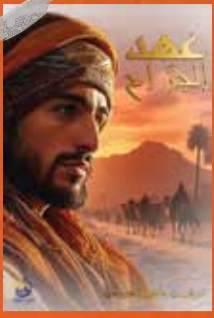


Sharjah International Book Fair 2024 (The Prize Winners for the 43rd Edition)



Best Emirati Book (Novel)

The Age of Al Jarrah

This is a historical epic set in the era of Al Andalus, weaving together prose and poetry while exploring themes of society, emotion, and life's challenges. The story follows the journey of Al Jarrah, allowing readers to experience the obstacles he faced, and the emotions he encountered at each stage of his life.

Author: Awad bin Hassoum Al Darmaki - UAE
Publisher: Awraq Publishing and Distribution



Best Emirati Book (Study)

Book: The Songs of the Emirates:
Early Development and Historical Sources

This book explores the ancient influences that shaped the music and performance of Emirati songs. Investigating the early development of professional solo singing among the first Emirati artists, the book traces the evolution of what we now identify as Emirati music, emphasising the unique characteristics that define these songs. This study addresses various anthropological questions regarding the musical development of the Emirates during the twentieth century, a topic that has received little prior attention. I am increasingly concerned that time may pass without proper recognition of their significance. Thus, this book aims to ensure we appreciate our Emirati artists as they truly deserve, and that we preserve their cultural contributions.

Author: Ali Al Abdan - UAE
Publisher: The Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre

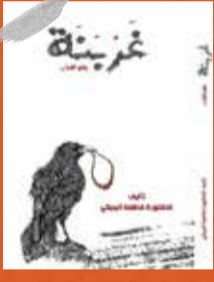


Best Emirati Book (Originality)

Book: Poems from Wadi Abqar

This is a collection of poems that reflects the rich heritage of Arab poetry, inspired by Wadi Abqar, a well-known symbol of Arabic poetic inspiration. It features a diverse array of poems that explore themes such as love, separation, and beauty, presented in a unique style that blends classical Arabic with traditional poetic forms. The collection celebrates Arab cultural identity and poetic heritage, serving as a valuable resource for enthusiasts of Arabic literature and poetry. Due to its diversity and depth, 'Poems from Wadi Abqar' is an essential reference for readers looking to explore Arab poetic aesthetics and gain a deeper understanding of both classical and contemporary Arabic poetry.

Poet: Kareem Matouq - UAE
Publisher: Kareem Matouq Publications



Best Emirati Book (First Novel)

Westernisation as Written by a Crow

This literary work explores themes of identity and culture within the context of globalisation, providing valuable insights into the social changes occurring in Arab societies. The book is written in an engaging narrative style that blends personal storytelling with cultural analysis, showcasing the diverse experiences of various characters. The work explores the challenges individuals encounter as they strive to adapt to environmental and cultural shifts, underscoring the need to balance openness to other cultures with preserving one's own identity. Through 'Westernisation as Written by a Crow', Fatima Al-Buraiki encourages readers to reflect on the concept of identity in the modern era, making this book a crucial resource for understanding contemporary, social, and cultural changes.

Author: Dr Fatima Al-Buraiki - UAE
Publisher: Sama Publishing, Production and Distribution

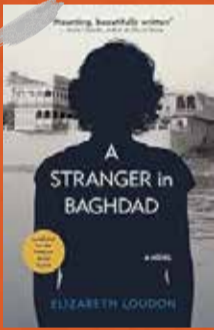


Best Arabic Book Award (Novel)

The Mosaicist

Inspired by the art of the mosaic, 'The Mosaicist' is set in the Moroccan town of Oualili, the site of the ancient Roman city of Volubilis. It is a novel conceived as three manuscripts: two novels, and a memoir. The events of the first section, 'The Young Moor', take place in the second century AD during the Roman occupation of Morocco, inspired by mosaics depicting the protest of the Moors – the original inhabitants of the region – against the Roman invasion. In the second part, set from 1994 to 1996, American author Ariadna Noel embarks on a search for a missing piece of mosaic. She is directed from afar by a fellow Moroccan, Lina, the widow of a Moroccan husband, in whose house the missing piece rests. Ariadna meets Jawad, author of 'The Young Moor', and they begin a romantic relationship whilst she writes her own novel, 'Nights of Oualili', telling the story of her research and their love. The third manuscript contains the memoirs of psychologist Nawal al-Hinnawi, who writes about two of her patients: Tihami al-Ismaïli and Ayash al-Hafyan. The latter was falsely accused of stealing the valuable statue of Bacchus from the Oualili archaeological site and spent 10 years in prison. The three manuscripts connect the distant past with the present and like mosaic pieces, fit together to create a novel that is simultaneously historical, fantastical, and psychological, posing questions about freedom, memory, writing, and love.

Author: Eissa Nasiri - Morocco
Publisher: Meskiliani Publishing (Tunisia - UAE)



Best Foreign Book Award (Fiction)

A Stranger in Baghdad

A beautifully written intergenerational drama, this story explores the struggles of a mother and daughter as they navigate life as outsiders in Baghdad and London, set against a backdrop of political tension and intrigue.

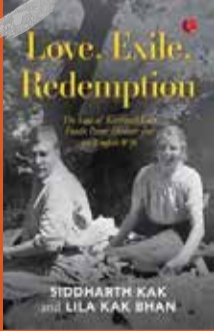
'Who would be charmed by tales of life in the beautiful old house on the banks of the Tigris—looted now no doubt, its shutters torn, and the courtyard strewn with mattresses?'

One night in 2003, Anglo-Iraqi psychiatrist Mona Haddad has a surprise visitor to her London office, an old acquaintance Duncan Claybourne. But why has he come? Will his confession finally lay bare what happened to her family before they escaped Iraq?

Their stories begin in 1937, when Mona's mother Diane, a lively Englishwoman newly married to Ibrahim, an ambitious Iraqi doctor, meets Duncan by chance. Diane is working as a nanny for the Iraqi royal family. Duncan is a young British Embassy officer in Baghdad. When the king dies in a mysterious accident, Ibrahim and his family suspect Diane of colluding with Duncan and the British.

Summoning up the vanished world of mid-twentieth-century Baghdad, Elizabeth Loudon's richly evocative story of one family calls into question British attitudes and policies in Iraq and offers up a penetrating reflection on cross-cultural marriage and the lives of women caught between different worlds.

Author: Elizabeth Loudon - USA
Publisher: AUC Press - Egypt



Best Foreign Book Award (Non-Fiction)

Love, Exile, Redemption:
The Saga of Kashmir's Last Pandit
Prime Minister and His English Wife

Ram Chandra Kak, the Kashmiri Pandit prime minister of Jammu and Kashmir, was ousted by Maharaja Hari Singh, and put behind bars on the eve of India and Pakistan's independence. Over the decades, the blame for Maharaja Hari Singh's indecision regarding Kashmir's position is laid at the feet of the previous Prime Minister.

For the first time in history, witness the truth of Ram Chandra Kak's career and life. Consisting of letters and diary entries by his wife Margaret Kak, as well as sections from Kak's unpublished memoir that looks at his career in state administration, this book reveals a side of the family and Kashmir that has never been seen before. Written by their grandson Siddhartha Kak and their daughter Lila Kak Bhan, this book is a glimpse of a couple that was present at the precipice of history, facing all obstacles thrown their way with grace and courage.

Authors: Siddharth Kak and Lila Kak Bhan - India
Publisher: Rupa Publications - India

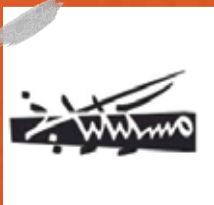


Sharjah Award for Publishing Houses:

Best Local Publishing House: Ashjar for Publishing and Distribution - UAE

Ashjar for Publishing and Distribution, formerly known as The Arab World, is an Arab publishing house based in Dubai. Its mission extends beyond the UAE, aiming to encompass the entire Arab world and beyond, as culture is fundamentally a universal human endeavour. Ashjar is dedicated to promoting Arab culture, making it its primary objective, along with inspiring every Arab citizen who seeks knowledge, and each individual committed to advancing Arab culture. To this end, its target audience includes adults and children of all interests and ages. Ashjar is making steady progress toward its goal, founded on two main pillars: professionalism and excellence in the book industry.

Ashjar was established in Dubai in 2003.
It is one of the leading children's publishing houses in the UAE and the GCC.



Best Arab Publishing House: Meskiliani Publishing (Tunisia)

Meskiliani is a Tunisian publishing house with its headquarters in the Emirates. Founded in 2006, it focuses on serious works in language, civilisation, and literature. The house is dedicated to translating creative works and actively contributing to the book industry. Meskiliani has published numerous novels that have won prestigious awards, including the Sharjah International Book Fair Award, the Sheikh Zayed Book Award, and the International Prize for Arabic Fiction. The name 'Meskiliani' carries a romantic symbolism, referencing 'Paradise Lost', and in Romanian, it translates to 'a fertile place'. This name is inspired by the village of Meskeliani, which is located in central Tunisia and is known for its natural water springs and beautiful scenery.



Best Foreign Publisher: DC Books

DC Books, founded in 1974 by Dominic Chacko Kizhakemuri, is one of the top five publishers in India. It is the first ISO-certified publisher in the country and boasts the largest portfolio of intellectual content for the Indian market. The company publishes approximately 1,500 books annually, with 790 of these works by local authors. DC Books also leads the largest translation programme in India and organises the DC International Book Fair, which is one of the largest in the region, featuring over 300 global publishers and attracting more than 2 million visitors. Additionally, the publisher has expanded into e-books through its division, EC Media, and was recognised in The Week magazine's '30 Life Changers' from 1982 to 2012.