**Peter Mackenzie Smith Book Prize 2021**

This first PMS Book Prize attracted entries from 13 publishers (we had approached many more), a total of 26 books. These were:-

**Publisher Title Author**

**Palgrave Macmillan** Leaving the Muslim Brotherhood Mustafa Menshawy

**Palgrave** Barra and Zaman: Reading Egyptian Modernity in Shadi Abdel Salam’s

“The Mummy” Youssef Rakha

**American University in Cairo** Cairo Since 1900: An Architectural Guide Mohamed Elshshed

Egypt Inside Out Trevor Naylor

The Pyramids Miroslav Verner

**Saqi Books**  The Sultan’s Feast: A Fifteenth Century Egyptian Cookbook Daniel Newman

**Routledge, Taylor and Francis** Sufism in Ottoman Egypt: Circulation, Renewal and Authority in the

17th and 18th Centuries Rachida Chih

**Edinburgh University Press** Egypt 1919: The Revolution in Literature and Film Dina Heshmat

How Information Warfare Shaped the Arab Spring Nathaniel Greenberg

Religion in the Egyptian Novel Christina Phillips

**Pen & Sword Books Ltd** Egyptomaniacs Nicky Nielsen

How to Survive in Ancient Egypt Charlotte Booth

**Haus Publishing**  The Dictatorship Syndrome Alaa Al Aswany

**Cambridge University Press** The Archaeology of Egypt in the Third Intermediate Perion James Edward Bennett

The Great Oasis of Egypt Roger S. Bagnall. Gaelle Tallet

Anticolonial Afterlives in Egypt Sara Salem

**Princeton University Press** Rediscovering the Islamic Classics: How Editors and Print Culture

Transformed an Intellectual Tradition Ahmed El Shamsy

The Lost Archive: Traces of a Caliphate in a Cairo Synagogue Marina Rustow

**Ginko Library** After the Nobel Prize 19189-1994; The Non Fiction Writing of

Naguib Mahfouz Volume lV Naguib Mahfouz

The Early Mubarak Years 1982-1988: The Non Fiction Writing of

Naguib Mahfouz Volume lll Naguib Mahfouz

Off Limits: New Writings on Fear and Sin Nawal El Saadawi

**Thames and Hudson** Egyptologists’ Notebooks Dr. Chris Naunton

**Bloomsbury Publishing** Modern Art in Egypt: Identity and Independence 1850 – 1936 Fatenn Mostafa Kanafani

Britain in Egypt: Egyptian Nationalism and Imperial Strategy 1919-1931 Jayne Gifford

The Egyptian Coffee House: Culture, Politics and Urban Space Dalia Mostafa. Amina Elbendary

**Yale University Press London** Building the Caliphate Jennifer A Pruitt

**Profile Books**  The Buried; An Archaeology of the Egyptian Revolution Peter Hessler

The Judges were: Chairman Dr Noel Brehony

Dr. Omniya Abdel Barr

Professor Doris Abou Seif Behrens

Mr Anthony Sattin

Dr. Claire Spencer

Secretary Nr. Noel Rands

The rules of the Prize were: A book that best improves understanding of the history, economy Culture, arts, music, literature religions, beliefs and practices of Egypt, Particular consideration will be given to books attracting a wide readership in the English speaking world. Books must be published in the first edition in the UK. Translated books published for the first time in English in the UK will also be eligible. Edited Collections will not be considered.

For the first round, books were split between the judges. Publishers were asked to submit a pdf version. After a zoom meeting, a long list was agreed (the books in Red) and these again were split between the judges with copies of all the books going to the Chairman. After another meeting, more copies were distributed and at a meeting on 21st September, held in the Athenaeum with Dr Abdel Barr and Noel Rands joining by Zoom, a short list was agreed and, in alphabetical order, these are;

**The Buried**

An excellent book that describes/analyses Egypt since the Arab Spring (and its causes) linked to the impact on individuals. It illustrates the historical continuity and the way that apparently seismic political events have limited impact at local level. Witten by a skilled journalist with an eye for the appropriate anecdote It brilliantly illustrates life in Egypt. He captures some of the essence of Egypt than few others have been able to do.

**Cairo since 1900**

This is an excellent book that looks at the architecture of Cairo since 1900 with a brief explanation of the styles used and how these changed over time followed by a detailed description with photographs and plans of the most important buildings or examples of certain styles. It is all very clearly laid out and easy to understand. it does appear to fill an important gap and does show to the world some of the jewels ( and otherwise and some now lost) of Cairo.

**Egyptologist Notebooks**

A well-illustrated and excellent book that in effect presents the contributions of leading Egyptologists to knowledge of Egypt. To be read, I think, as a book of reference, perhaps a sort of Who’s Who ( with quite lengthy entries). Well written, accessible ( and at a low price for such a well-illustrated volume) and authoritative without being particularly original.This reviewer summed it up well:

He offers an illuminating series of brief biographies, covering five centuries, based on travellers’ diaries, letters, and notes. Some, such as Giovanni Belzoni, Howard Carter, and Amelia Edwards, are names familiar beyond Egyptology, but many, such as Jean-Jacques Rifaud, are known only to the cognoscenti. Each is intriguingly illustrated with portraits and evocative sketches – often in full-page colour reproductions – ranging from pyramids, temples, statues, paintings, and mummies to period maps, technical drawings, and hieroglyphic writings, drawn either by the travellers or their contemporaries.

**How to survive in Ancient Egypt**

This is written as a guidebook for a new arrival planning to settle in Thebes in 1360 BCE by a well-known Egyptologist, a bit like other How to Survive guides covering matters such as basic facts, history as seen at the time, food, drink, religious practices, housing etc. It is well written in the straightforward style of a guidebook with plenty of boxes to illustrate , explain and elaborate on significant facts. It is readable as one might expect from a practiced author.

**Modern Art in Egypt**

An excellent book that examines the history of fine arts in Egypt before dealing in detail with the modern art movements from the mid nineteenth century through following the various trends that emerged, the patronage provided by wealthy individuals and later the state and the role of external, especially French, influences. It then discusses and analyses some of the most influential and successful Egyptian artists and the schools and trends of the 20th century. There are good illustrations of the work of the artists, most of which appear to be drawn from an archive held by the author. Whilst a familiarity with the Egyptian art scene on the 20th century would be helpful there is sufficient in the writing and content to provide the reader with the information needed.

**Sufism in Ottoman Egypt**

This is first class piece of research that looks at the emergence, development and influence of Sufism in Ottoman Egypt and at the reaction that later developed against Sufism ( Wahhabism) and the enduring influence of Sufism. In particular it brings out the influence of individual Sufis , mostly those connected with Khalwattiya. It is very much a book for specialists, but it is difficult to ignore its evident command of the sources, academic excellence and fluidity of the writing.

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One reviewer said:

This book is a much-needed contribution not only to the field of Sufi studies, but to the field of modern Egyptian history generally. I would recommend the book in its entirety to any scholar of Sufism in the modern era and scholars of modern Egypt. Further, I think Chapter 1 in particular is clear, comprehensive and accessible to non-experts, and I would recommend it for undergraduate and graduate seminars in these fields as well.

The Judges agreed to hold a further meeting in the Athenaeum on Tuesday 14th December 2021 when the winner will be chosen. The Announcement and Presentation will take place in early January 2022.

Noel Rands

23.9.21