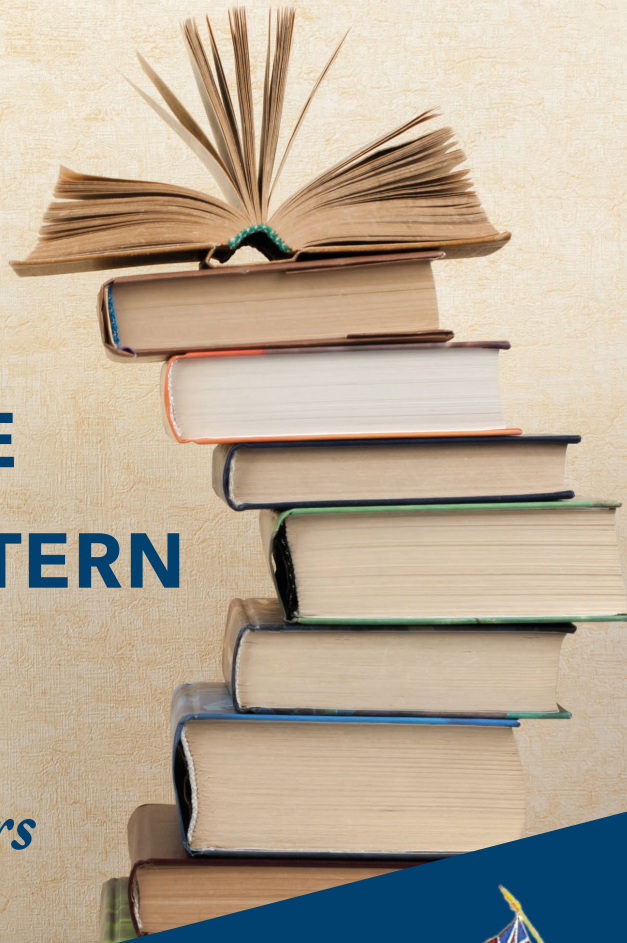


*British-Kuwait  
Friendship  
Society*

**BOOK PRIZE  
IN MIDDLE EASTERN  
STUDIES**

*Celebrating 20 years*



In 1996 the first meeting was held of the British-Kuwait Friendship Society, founded on the initiative of HE Khalid Duwaisan, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait. Co-Patrons of the Society are HRH the Prince of Wales and Dr Sheikha Sou'ad Al Sabah. At that first meeting the proposal was made to establish an Academic Book Prize, named for the Society, and Sheikha Sou'ad undertook to fund this from the family Foundation named for her late husband, Sheikh Abdulla al Mubarak Al Sabah. The value of the Prize, originally £5000, is now £10,000 annually.

## An Introduction by H.E. Khaled Abdulaziz Al-Duwaisan, GCVO

*Ambassador of The State of Kuwait  
Dean of the Diplomatic Corps  
& Chairman of the British Kuwait  
Friendship Society*



*It gives me great pleasure to take the occasion of the twentieth anniversary year of the British-Kuwait Friendship Society Book Prize to congratulate all those who have contributed to its success. The Prize is awarded for books of academic excellence with special consideration for those which serve to increase understanding of Islam and the Middle East among a wider English speaking readership.*

*The need for that understanding has never been greater than in today's troubled times, in which both Kuwait and the United Kingdom have vital interests in securing peace in the region and an end to extremist ideologies that have destroyed so many lives in the region and beyond. Our two countries share a history of cooperation, especially in the economic and security fields which bind us close; Kuwait's independence today owes much to British support over more than a century.*

*That is not the full story. The State of Kuwait also takes pride in the support it has given to*

*academic work in the UK including to Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at Durham and Oxford and Mathematics at Cambridge. With the Book Prize I see the BKFS and the Kuwait Private Sector through the Sheikh Abdullah Mubarak Al-Sabah Foundation continuing this valuable work, just as the Foundation has also supported Postgraduate work through BRISMES and Junior Research Fellowships at Sheikh Mubarak's Pembroke College, Cambridge.*

*As Ambassador of the State of Kuwait I wish continuing success for the Prize and its contribution to mutual understanding and Scholarship.*

**Khaled Abdulaziz Al-Duwaisan, GCVO**

Ambassador of Kuwait  
Dean of the Diplomatic Corps  
& Chairman of The British Kuwait  
Friendship Society.

Sheikh Abdulla was the son of Sheikh Mubarak “The Great”, the Ruler of Kuwait who in 1899 put Kuwait under British Protection against Ottoman encroachment. Sheikh Abdulla was himself a major figure in the development of the institutions of the modern State of Kuwait in the 1950s in the build- up to complete independence in 1961. The family has particularly close links to Britain and the Foundation has given generous support to academic study in this country, most notably through funding a series of Research Fellowships at Pembroke College, Cambridge and BRISMES prizes for Postgraduate excellence. The engagement of the Foundation is overseen by Sheikh Mubarak Abdulla Al Sabah, who was himself a graduate student at Pembroke.

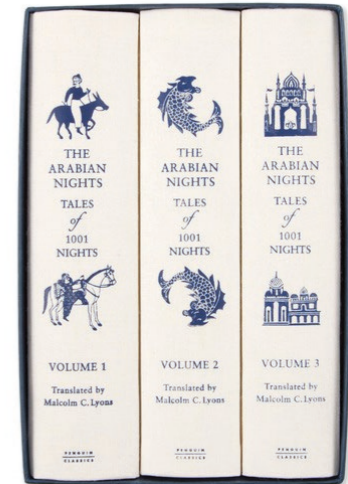
The Prize is awarded annually to scholarly monographs published in the UK in English as a first edition in the preceding year on Middle Eastern or Islamic subjects across the whole spectrum of academic disciplines. Special consideration is given to work which will enhance understanding of the region and of Islam among a wider English speaking readership. The Prize has frequently been divided, with more than one winner. The academic nature of the books submitted has been interpreted with some flexibility: winning titles have generally been in recognisably academic format but books aimed more at a general readership are eligible provided they stand rigorous scrutiny.

The BKFS, through the constant generous support of HE the Kuwaiti Ambassador, has sponsored the Award Ceremonies and facilitated the management of the Prize. At the outset BRISMES was responsible for its administration, now shared between Cambridge and Durham, and the link with BRISMES has remained strong. Successive Presidents of BRISMES have always been on the Panel of Judges and often served as Chairmen. These include Noel Brehony, Sir Harold Walker, Alastair Newton and Frances Guy.

## Winning Titles

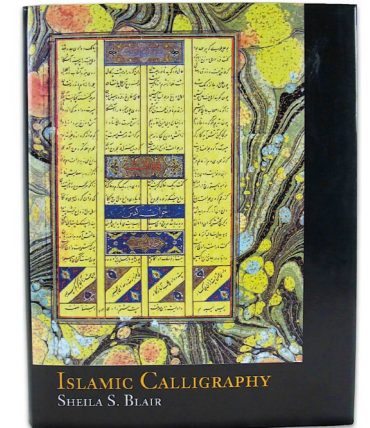
- 2017** *Intellectual networks in Timurid Iran. Sharaf al-Din Ali Yazdi and the Islamic Republic of letters*  
Ilker Evrim Binbaş (Cambridge University Press)
- Salafism in Jordan: Political Islam in a Quietist Community*  
Joas Wagemakers (Cambridge University Press)
- 2016** *Paradise and Hell in Islamic Traditions*  
Christian Lange (Cambridge University Press)
- 2015** *Joyriding in Riyadh: Oil, Urbanism, and Road Revolt*  
Pascal Menoret (Cambridge University Press)
- 2014** *Leisurely Islam: Negotiating Geography and Morality in Shi'ite South Beirut*  
Lara Deeb & Mona Harb (Princeton University Press)
- 2013** *Saddam Hussein's Ba'ath Party: Inside an Authoritarian Regime*  
Joseph Sassoon (Cambridge University Press)
- Modern Islamic Thought in a Radical Age*  
Mohammad Qasim Zaman (Cambridge University Press)
- 2012** *Persia in Crisis: Safavid Decline and the Fall of Isfahan*  
Rudi Matthee (IB Tauris)

- The Climate of Rebellion in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire*  
Sam White (Cambridge University Press)
- 2011** *Witnesses to a World Crisis: Historians and Histories of the Middle East in the Seventh Century*  
James Howard-Johnston (Oxford University Press)
- Mamluk History through Architecture, Monuments, Culture and Politics in Medieval Egypt and Syria*  
Nasser Rabbat (IB Tauris)
- 2010** *Sexual Politics in Modern Iran*  
Janet Afary (Cambridge University Press)
- Sasanian Persia*  
Touraj Dayae (I B Tauris)
- The Enlightenment Qur'an*  
Ziad Elmarsafy (Oneworld)
- 2009** *The Arabian Nights: Tales of 1001 Nights*  
Translated by Malcolm Lyons (Penguin)



- 2008** *A Tribal Order: Politics and Law in the Mountains of Yemen*  
Shelagh Weir (The British Museum Company)
- Medieval Islamic Medicine*  
Peter E Pormann and Emilie Savage-Smith (Edinburgh University Press)
- 2007** *Islamic Calligraphy*  
Sheila Blair (Edinburgh University Press)
- Islam and the Moral Economy: The Challenge of Capitalism*  
Charles Tripp (Cambridge University Press)
- 2006** *Seafaring in the Arabian Gulf and Oman: The People of the Dhow*  
Dionisius Agius (Kegan Paul)
- 2005** *Medieval Islamic Political Thought*  
Patricia Crone (Edinburgh University Press)
- 2004** *Making Music in the Arab World*  
A.J. Racy (Cambridge University Press)
- 2003** *Satellite Realms: Transnational Television, Globalisation and the Middle East*  
Naomi Sakr (I B Tauris)

- 2002** *Commanding Right and Forbidding Wrong in Islamic Thought*  
Michael Cook (Cambridge University Press)
- 2001** *Rumi: Past and Present, East and West - The Life, Teachings and Poetry of Jalal al-Din Rumi*  
Franklin D. Lewis (Allen Lane - Oneworld)
- 2000** *The Epic of Gilgamesh: A New Translation*  
Andrew George, (Allen Lane - The Penguin Press)
- Persian Historiography to the End of the Twelfth Century*  
Julie Scott Meisami (Edinburgh University Press)
- 1999** *Islamic Inscriptions*  
Sheila S. Blair (Edinburgh University Press)
- 1998** *The Vagaries of the Qasidah: The Tradition and Practice of Early Arabic Poetry*  
James Montgomery (Aris & Phillips)
- Armed Struggle and the Search for State: The Palestinian National Movement, 1949-1993*  
Yazid Sayigh, (Oxford University Press)



The judging process begins with a call to publishers to submit books for consideration. On occasion this has been supplemented by suggesting that a work should be submitted. The entries, usually around fifty in number, are then sent out for review by experts to assess them for originality, clarity of expression and importance for the field before the Panel of Judges meet to reach their decisions.

This year, for the first time, a short list will be made public at the BRISMES Conference with the final result to be announced at the Award Ceremony, normally in the autumn.

**Professor Yasir Suleiman**

University of Cambridge (Chairman)

**Sir Roger Tomkys**

Former Chairman, Arab British Chamber of Commerce, and former Master, Pembroke College, Cambridge

**Professor Carole Hillenbrand**

Professor Emerita of Islamic History,  
University of Edinburgh

**Professor Charles Tripp**

Professor of Politics with reference  
to the Middle East, SOAS

**Frances Guy**

UNDP, Regional Bureau for Arab States

**Sheikh Mubarak al-Abdullah  
al-Mubarak Al Sabah**

(on behalf of the Abdullah Mubarak  
Charitable Foundation)

The winning titles have included many examples of traditional weighty scholarship but also a number of works of wider public interest. The Judges have faced difficult issues, trying to assess the merits of different works in very different genres, one against the other. They have not sought to strike a balance over time between one discipline or another, but rather to make each year's decision on merit, always with the emphasis on academic quality, coupled with the aim of increasing and widening understanding. Looking back at the winning titles, the Judges believe this approach has delivered an outcome which reflects the high quality of this academic field.

In the past two decades worldwide awareness of the importance of the Middle East and its issues has grown dramatically and often in circumstances of great human suffering. There has never been greater need of understanding to counter the destructive stereotypes which have underpinned misjudged external interventions in the region. Understanding Islam is essential for the non-Islamic World; the Islamic community also needs to find its ways forward in a globalised environment. These priorities seem likely to grow in the future. We hope the BKFS Book Prize can play a modest part in the essential work of promoting the academic work that can advance this process as well as encouraging scholarship and scholarly values for their own sake.



A TRIBAL ORDER  
*Politics and Law in the Mountains of Yemen*  
SHELAGH WEIR



Rumi

PAST AND PRESENT,  
EAST AND WEST

LEISURELY ISLAM

*Negotiating Geography and Morality in Shi'ite South Beirut*

LARA DEEB & MONA HARB

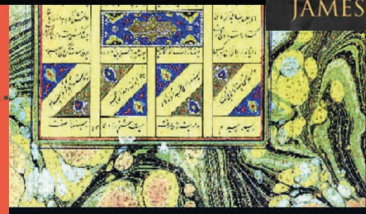


MEDIEVAL ISLAMIC MEDICINE



PETER E. PORMANN AND EMILIE SAVAGE-SMITH

THE NEW EDINBURGH ISLAMIC SURVEYS  
SERIES EDITOR: CAROLE HILLENBRAND

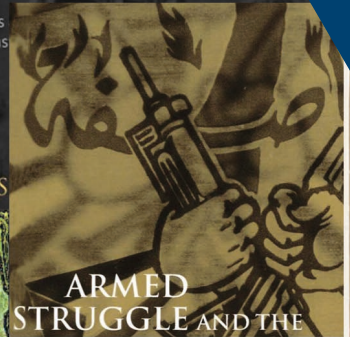


ISLAMIC CALLIGRAPHY  
SHEILA S. BLAIR



WITNESSES TO A WORLD CRISIS

Historians  
Middle East



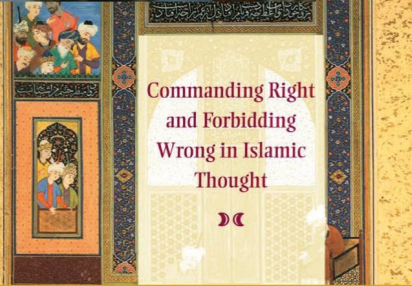
ARMED STRUGGLE AND THE SEARCH FOR STATE

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THE CRUSADES ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVES

Carole Hillenbrand



JOYRIDING IN RIYADH



Oil, Urbanism, and Road Revolt  
PASCAL MEMORET

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