

The 2017 London Hellenic Prize

awarded to
KAMILA SHAMSIE
for
Home Fire
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Monday, 26 November 2018 at 18:30

The Great Hall
King's College London

Sponsors
The A. G. Leventis Foundation
'Fear Michael and Atalanti Moquette
Keith Allen

LONGLISTED FOR THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE 2017



The London Hellenic Prize

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The London Hellenic Prize

Anglo-Hellenic cultural exchange may have received its first major boost with Stuart & Revett's tours of the ancient Greek sites and monuments in the 1750s. They influenced Georgian art and architecture, fashion and taste for almost a century. It all began with the adventurous journey of two young men into the classical past which inspired and created new standards and ways of living for generations of English men and women. In many instances, and for long periods of time, it nourished and inspired the artistic imagination.

From the 1850s onwards, following the establishment of the modern Greek nation, generations of Greek tradesmen and entrepreneurs settled in England. Prosperous Hellenic communities flourished in London, Manchester, Liverpool and Cardiff from the mid-19th and throughout the 20th centuries. The Ralli brothers grew their shipping-based merchant bank into Queen Victoria's major international financier. Executive Dimitris Vikelas conceived and organised the first Olympic Games, successfully held in Athens in 1896, from his home in Bloomsbury. Until very recently, Greek shipping held a prominent role in the City with 130 active offices representing the largest commercial fleet in the world.

The London Hellenic Prize was conceived as an international award committed to the promotion of Anglo-Hellenic cultural exchange. Since its inception in 1996, it was administered by the London Hellenic Society. It has now been registered as an independent company with charitable objects pending registration by the Charities Commission and will continue to recognize and reward original works in the English language inspired by Hellenic civilization (ancient, Hellenistic, Byzantine or modern). Areas of interest are not restricted and the Committee's general criteria have always been excellence, originality and appeal to the general reader. The prize has been awarded to date to works on archaeology, architecture, art, classics, history, literary criticism, science, social studies, as well as to works of fiction.

Submissions each year meet the deadline of 31st January of the year following the date of publication and arrive from publishers and authors worldwide, from Los Angeles to London, from Athens to Sydney. The Committee adjudicates from February to June and co-opts readers and specialists in all required fields. The London Hellenic Prize is a truly international award in scope and substance. Its value has remained unchanged at £10,000.

A VOTE OF THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

The major sponsor and initiator of the Prize has been **John D. Criticos**, shipowner and entrepreneur, and his wife **Elizabeth Criticos-Fotinelli**, from 1996-2013. **John A. Hadjipateras OBE**, president of the Greek Shipping Co-operation Committee and of the London Hellenic Society, supported and inspired from inception until his passing away in 1999. **The London Hellenic Society** and its members also sponsored the Prize throughout twenty years of its life, up to the Society's dissolution in 2017.

Tryphon Kedros and Alexandros Kedros of Southern Shipping & Finance Co. Ltd. have been generous, long-standing supporters since the Prize's early years. **The Hellenic Foundation** offered a welcome donation in 2014. **Peter and Kara Georgiopoulos of Gener8 Inc., New York** generously sponsored to the Prize's activities from 2015-17. **Michael and Atalanti Moquette's** contributions since 2015 have been received with great appreciation. **Keith Allen of St. James's Place Wealth Management** supports and encourages the Prize's cultural objectives since 2015. **John Souglides** offered a most welcome contribution in 2017.

The Prize, now registered as a company with charitable objects, welcomes the **A. G. Leventis Foundation** as its new major sponsor and wishes to express its appreciation and thanks.

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The London Hellenic Prize

awarded for the twenty-first consecutive year.

Welcome by

Prof. Gonda Van Steen

Koraes Chair and Director, Centre for Hellenic Studies

Dr Jennifer Wallace

Chair of the Adjudicating Committee

The 2017 Prize Adjudication

Gillian Slovo

introduces the winner

Kamila Shamsie

Mrs Atalanti Moquette

awards the 2017 London Hellenic Prize

Michael Moschos

Concluding remarks

Reception

Short-listed for the 2017 London Hellenic Prize Josephine Balmer, *The Paths of Survival* (Shearsman Books). Daniel Mendelsohn, *An Odyssey: a Father, a Son and an Epic* (William Collins). Yopie Prins, *Ladies' Greek: Victorian Translations of Tragedy* (Princeton University Press). Colm Tóibín, *House of Names* (Viking). David Vann, *Bright Air Black* (Windmill Books). Emily Wilson (trans.), *The Odyssey* (W. W. Norton).

Adjudicating Committee for the 2017 Prize Dr Jennifer Wallace (Peterhouse, Cambridge) – Chair, author and literary critic. Dr Felix Budelmann (Magdalen College, Oxford) – classicist. Robin Lane Fox (New College, Oxford) – classicist, historian, gardener, *FT* columnist. Dr Nick Lowe (Royal Holloway, London) – classics and literature. Prof. Stephanos Pasmazoglou (Panteion University, Athens) – political theory and public policy. Elizabeth Speller – poet and author. Readers Prof. Liz James (University of Sussex) – art historian and Byzantinist. Fani Papageorgiou – poet and critic.

The Prize is co-ordinated by Michael Moschos, assisted by Jason Leech.

Past Winners

- 1997 **Christian Habicht**, *Athens from Alexander to Antony* (Harvard)
- 1998 **Sir Michael Llewellyn Smith**, *Ionian Vision: Greece in Asia Minor 1919-1922* (Hurst & Co.)
jointly with
Paul Cartledge, *The Cambridge Illustrated History of Ancient Greece* (CUP)
- 1999 **Edmund Keeley**, *Inventing Paradise: The Greek Journey 1937-47* (Farrar Strauss & Giroux)
- 2000 **Eleni Bastea**, *The Creation of Modern Athens: Planning the Myth* (CUP)
jointly with
Gonda Van Steen, *Venom in Verse: Aristophanes in Modern Greece* (Princeton)
- 2001 **John Gould**, *Myth, Ritual, Memory and Exchange: Essays in Greek Literature and Culture* (OUP)
- 2002 **Graham Speake**, *Mount Athos: Renewal in Paradise* (Yale)
- 2003 **Susan Woodford**, *Images of Myths in Classical Antiquity* (CUP)
- 2004 **Mark Mazower**, *Salonica, City of Ghosts: Christians, Muslims & Jews 1430-1950* (Harper/Knopf)
- 2005 **Robert Parker**, *Polytheism and Society at Athens* (OUP)
- 2006 **Averil Cameron**, *The Byzantines* (Blackwell)
- 2007 **Peter Parsons**, *City of the Sharp-Nosed Fish: Greek Lives in Roman Egypt* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson)
- 2008 **Stephen Halliwell**, *Greek Laughter* (CUP)
- 2009 **David Malouf**, *Ransom* (Chatto & Windus)
- 2010 **Zachary Mason**, *The Lost Books of the Odyssey* (Jonathan Cape)
- 2011 **Ann Wroe**, *Orpheus: The Song of Life* (Jonathan Cape)
- 2012 **Anne Carson**, *Antigonick* (Bloodaxe Books/ New Directions)
- 2013 **Sir Peter Stothard**, *Alexandria: The Last Nights of Cleopatra* (Granta Books)
- 2014 **Armand Marie Leroi**, *The Lagoon: How Aristotle Invented Science* (Bloomsbury)
- 2015 **Jens M. Daehner** and **Kenneth Lapatin**, *Power and Pathos: Bronze Sculpture of the Hellenistic World* (Getty/Strozzi/Giunti Editore)
- 2016 **Karen Van Dyck** (ed.), *Austerity Measures: The New Greek Poetry* (Penguin Books)

From top to bottom, left to right: Elizabeth Criticos-Fotinelli (Long-standing former sponsor), Tryphon Kedros (Hon. Chairman, London Hellenic Society, sponsor) | Ann Wroe (2011 Winner) | Ian Blatchford (Director, Science Museum), Prof. Armand Marie Leroi (2014 Winner) | Prof. Paul Cartledge (1998 Winner), Dr J. Lesley Fitton (Keeper, British Museum) | Colm Tóibín (novelist), Elizabeth Speller (former Ctte Chair), Michael Moschos (Vice-President, LHS) | Sir Peter Stothard (Editor, Times Literary Supplement, Winner 2013), Prof. Robin Osborne (former Ctte Chair) | Marina Warner (author), Zachary Mason (2010 Winner) | Anne Carson (2012 Winner), Neil Astley (Editor, Bloodaxe Books) | Dr Jens M. Daehner (2015 Winner), James Cuno (President and CEO, J. Paul Getty Trust), Dr Kenneth Lapatin (2015 Winner) | Elizabeth Criticos-Fotinelli, Prof. Stephen Halliwell (2008 Winner) | John D. Criticos (founding sponsor) | Elizabeth Criticos-Fotinelli, David Malouf (2009 Winner) | William St.Clair, Dr Nick Lowe (Ctte), Dr Susan Woodford (2003 Winner)