

2015 Best Translated Book Award Longlists Announced

April 7, 2015—Elena Ferrante, Julio Cortázar, Tove Jansson, Kim Hyesoon, and Alejandra Pizarnik are just a handful of the internationally renowned authors with a book on the Best Translated Book Award longlists for fiction and poetry.

Announced this morning on the Three Percent website (www.rochester.edu/threepcent), these longlists represent the results of months of reading by fifteen judges tasked with deciding which were the “best” works of fiction and poetry in translation to be published in 2014. More books were eligible for this year’s award than any year in the past, with almost 500 works of fiction in translation being published for the first time ever, and almost 100 poetry collections. By contrast, there were only 360 books *total* that were eligible for the 2008 awards.

As first-time fiction judge James Crossley puts it, “Not only were there more eligible titles than ever, they came from more diverse sources. From different nations and languages, but also from different publishers around the world, many of them brand-new and dedicated exclusively to literature in translation. I can’t help think that the BTBA in some small way helped usher these publishers into existence.”

This year’s longlist selections are interesting for their mix of languages, publishers, places of origin, and time of writing. For example, this year’s longlist includes a “lost” Julio Cortázar book, *Fantomas Versus the Multi-national Vampires*, which mixes in bits of a comic book along with Cortázar’s prose, as well as *Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay*, the third book in media-avoidant author Elena Ferrante’s Neapolitan Quartet.

Fourteen different languages are represented across the two longlists, led by Spanish and French, each of which has eleven total books in the running. The authors hail from twenty-three different places of origin, and the books came out from thirty different publishers. There are also fifty translators in the running for this year’s award, including Margaret Jull Costa and Cole Swenson who both have two titles on the lists.

As in recent years, the Best Translated Book Awards are underwritten by Amazon.com’s giving programs, which allow both winning authors and winning translators to receive \$5,000 cash prizes.

“By helping English-language readers discover international works of fiction and poetry, the Best Translated Book Award has become a champion of the art and craft of literary translation,” said Neal Thompson,

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Amazon's senior manager for author and publishing relations. "Amazon is proud to support this award and the fine work of this year's winners, representing a diversity of languages and nations."

The finalists for both the fiction and poetry awards will be announced on Tuesday, May 5th, and the winners will be announced on Wednesday, May 27th as part of BookExpo America. Additionally, a celebration will take place that evening (details to come).

Past winners of the fiction award include: *Seiobo There Below* and *Satantango*, both by László Krasznahorkai, and translated from the Hungarian by Otilie Mulzet and George Szirtes respectively; *Stone Upon Stone* by Wiesław Myśliwski, translated from the Polish by Bill Johnston; and, *The True Deceiver* by Tove Jansson, translated from the Swedish by Thomas Teal. (Jansson and Teal are the only authors and translators on this year's fiction longlist who have previously won the award.)

In terms of the poetry award, past winners include: *The Guest in the Wood* by Elisa Biagini, translated from the Italian by Diana Thow, Sarah Stickney, and Eugene Ostashevsky; *Wheel with a Single Spoke* by Nichita Stănescu, translated from the Romanian by Sean Cotter; and *Spectacle & Pigsty* by Kiwao Nomura, translated from the Japanese by Kyoko Yoshida and Forrest Gander.

This year's fiction jury is made up of: George Carroll, North-North-West and Shelf Awareness; Monica Carter, Salonica; James Crossley, Island Books; Scott Esposito, Conversational Reading and Center for the Art of Translation; Jeremy Garber, Powell's Books; Katrine Øgaard Jensen, Asymptote; Madeleine LaRue, Music & Literature; Daniel Medin, American University of Paris, Cahiers Series, Quarterly Conversation, and the White Review; and Michael Orthofer, Complete Review.

The poetry jury includes: Biswamit Dwibedy, poet; Bill Martin, translator, critic, organizer of The Bridge; Dawn Lundy Martin, poet; Erica Mena, poet and translator; and Stefan Tobler, And Other Stories and translator.

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*For more information, visit the official Best Translated Book Award site (www.besttranslatedbook.org)
and the official BTBA Facebook page (www.facebook.com/besttranslatedbookaward),
and you can follow the award on Twitter (www.twitter.com/btba_).*

*Additionally, over the next month, leading up to the announcement of the shortlists,
Three Percent (www.rochester.edu/threepercen) will be featuring a different title each day
as part of the "Why This Book Should Win" series.*

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The 2015 BTBA Fiction Longlist (in alphabetical order by author):

Baboon by Naja Marie Aidt,
translated from the Danish by Denise Newman.
(Denmark, Two Lines Press)

The Author and Me by Éric Chevillard,
translated from the French by Jordan Stump.
(France, Dalkey Archive Press)

Fantomas Versus the Multinational Vampires
by Julio Cortázar,
translated from the Spanish by David Kurnick.
(Argentina, Semiotext(e))

Pushkin Hills by Sergei Dovlatov,
translated from the Russian by Katherine Dovlatov.
(Russia, Counterpoint Press)

1914 by Jean Echenoz,
translated from the French by Linda Coverdale.
(France, New Press)

Street of Thieves by Mathias Énard,
translated from the French by Charlotte Mandell.
(France, Open Letter Books)

Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay
by Elena Ferrante,
translated from the Italian by Ann Goldstein.
(Italy, Europa Editions)

Things Look Different in the Light
by Medardo Fraile,
translated from the Spanish by Margaret Jull Costa.
(Spain, Pushkin Press)

Monastery by Eduardo Halfon,
translated from the Spanish
by Lisa Dillman and Daniel Hahn.
(Guatemala, Bellevue Literary Press)

Letters from a Seducer by Hilda Hilst,
translated from the Portuguese by John Keene.
(Brazil, Nightboat Books)

Harlequin's Millions by Bohumil Hrabal,
translated from the Czech by Stacey Knecht.
(Czech Republic, Archipelago Books)

*Rambling On: An Apprentice's Guide
to the Gift of the Gab* by Bohumil Hrabal,
translated from the Czech by David Short.
(Czech Republic, Karolinum Press)

The Woman Who Borrowed Memories by Tove Jansson,
translated from the Swedish by Thomas Teal
and Silvester Mazzarella.
(Finland, NYRB)

Works by Edouard Levé,
translated from the French by Jan Steyn.
(France, Dalkey Archive Press)

Faces in the Crowd by Valeria Luiselli,
translated from the Spanish
by Christina MacSweeney.
(Mexico, Coffee House Press)

Adam Buenosayres by Leopoldo Marechal,
translated from the Spanish by
Norman Cheadle and Sheila Ethier.
(Argentina, McGill-Queen's University Press)

Last Words from Montmartre by Qiu Miaojin,
translated from the Chinese
by Ari Larissa Heinrich.
(Taiwan, NYRB)

Winter Mythologies and *Abbots* by Pierre Michon,
translated from the French by Ann Jefferson.
(France, Yale University Press)

Our Lady of the Nile by Scholastique Mukasonga,
translated from the French by Melanie Mauthner.
(Rwanda, Archipelago Books)

Talking to Ourselves by Andrés Neuman,
translated from the Spanish by
Nick Caistor and Lorenza Garcia.
(Argentina, FSG)

Granma Nineteen and the Soviet's Secret by Ondjaki,
translated from the Portuguese
by Stephen Henighan.
(Angola, Biblioasis)

La Grande by Juan José Saer,
translated from the Spanish by Steve Dolph.
(Argentina, Open Letter Books)

Paris by Marcos Giralt Torrente,
translated from the Spanish by Margaret Jull Costa.
(Spain, Hispabooks)

Snow and Shadow by Dorothy Tse,
translated from the Chinese by Nicky Harman.
(Hong Kong, East Slope Publishing)

The Last Lover by Can Xue,
translated from the Chinese
by Annelise Finegan Wasmoen.
(China, Yale University Press)

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The 2015 BTBA Poetry Longlist (in alphabetical order by author):

Collected Poems by Rainer Brambach,
translated from the German by Esther Kinsky.
(Switzerland, Seagull Books)

Diorama by Rocío Cerón,
translated from the Spanish by Anna Rosenwong.
(Mexico, Phoeneme)

Nothing More to Lose by Najwan Darwish,
translated from the Arabic
by Kareem James Abu-Zeid.
(Palestine, NYRB)

Lazy Suzie by Suzanne Doppelt,
translated from the French by Cole Swenson.
(France, Litmus Press)

Openwork by André du Bouchet,
translated from the French
by Paul Auster and Hoyt Rogers.
(France, Yale University Press)

The Posthumous Life of RW by Jean Frémon,
translated from the French by Cole Swensen.
(France, Omnidawn)

*I Am the Beggar of the World:
Landays from Contemporary Afghanistan*
by Elena Ferrante,
edited and translated from the Pashto
by Eliza Griswold.
(Afghanistan, FSG)

Sorrowtoothpaste Mirrorcream by Kim Hyesoon,
translated from the Korean by Don Mee Choi.
(South Korea, Action Books)

Where Are the Trees Going? by Venus Khoury-Ghata,
translated from the French by Marilyn Hacker.
(Lebanon, Curbstone)

Rain of the Future by Valerie Mejer,
translated from the Spanish by
A. S. Zelman-Doring, Forrest Gander,
and C.D. Wright.
(Mexico, Action Books)

Diana's Tree by Alejandra Pizarnik,
translated from the Spanish by Yvette Siegert.
(Argentina, Ugly Duckling)

Compleat Catalogue of Comedic Novelties
by Lev Rubinstein,
translated from the Russian
by Philip Metres and Tatiana Tulchinsky.
(Russia, Ugly Duckling)

In Praise of Poetry by Olga Sedakova,
translated from the Russian by
Caroline Clark, Ksenia Golubovich,
and Stephanie Sandler.
(Russia, Open Letter Books)

Soy Realidad by Tomaž Šalamun,
translated from the Slovenian
by Michael Thomas Taren.
(Slovenia, Dalkey Archive Press)

End of the City Map by Farhad Showghi,
translated from the German by Rosmarie Waldrop.
(Mexico, Germany, Burning Deck)

Guantanamo by Frank Smith,
translated from the French by Vanessa Place.
(France, Les Figues)

Salsa by Hsia Yü,
translated from the Chinese by Steve Bradbury.
(Taiwan, Zephyr Press)

For additional information about the awards, panelists, or event, please contact Chad W. Post at chad.post@rochester.edu or 585.319.0823