



# Selected Studies in Modern Arabic Narrative

History, Genre,  
Translation

By Roger Allen

SELECTED STUDIES IN  
MODERN ARABIC NARRATIVE:  
HISTORY, GENRE, TRANSLATION

# RESOURCES IN ARABIC AND ISLAMIC STUDIES

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Roger Allen

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## Series Editors' Preface

No Western scholar has contributed as much to the study of modern Arabic narrative as has Roger Allen. His doctoral dissertation was the very first Oxford D.Phil. in modern Arabic literature, completed in 1968 under the supervision of Mustafa Badawi. That same year, he took a position in Arabic language and literature at the University of Pennsylvania.

Roger Allen has been phenomenally prolific since: fifty books and translations, and two hundred articles, and counting, on Arabic language pedagogy, on translation, and on Arabic literary history, criticism and literature. He is one of the most decorated and acclaimed translators of Arabic literature. His most recent accolade is his selection as translator of a collection of eighteen of Naguib Mahfouz's "lost" stories.

This volume brings together sixteen of Roger Allen's articles on modern Arabic narrative—from 1986 to 2011—with a special focus on genre, on translation, and on literary history, featuring analyses of the works of Rachid Boudjedra, Bensalem Himmich, Yusuf Idris, Naguib Mahfouz, and Tayeb Salih. In reprinting the material, we have corrected typos; made small changes or updates; included a bibliography of Roger Allen's articles on modern Arabic narrative; and supplied a simple index.

It is our distinct pleasure to include in this series a collection of articles by our very own teacher.

We would like to thank Daniel Kaylor and Parvine Toorawa for typing up several chapters, and to express our continuing gratitude to three friends with whom it is always a pleasure to work: our cover designer Susanne Wilhelm, our publisher Billie Jean Collins, and our distributor Ian Stevens.

Joseph E. Lowry  
Devin J. Stewart  
Shawkat M. Toorawa





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