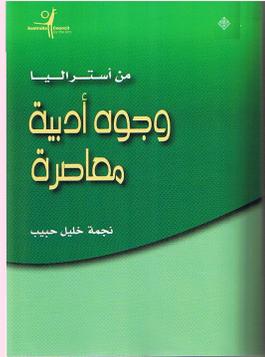


From Australia: Contemporary Literary Figures

By NejmeH Khalil-Habib

Beirut: Arab Scientific
Publishers, 2006.
17x24, 430 pages.
ISBN: 995329240X



This book

Provides a comprehensive overview of classic and contemporary Australian Literature. It is entitled *From Australia, Contemporary Literary Figures/ Min Australia*, and consists of 5 parts: “Prelude,” “Introduction,” “Earlier Figures who established Australian Literature,” “A study in Aboriginal Myth” and “Ten literary figures from contemporary Australia.”

- **The Prelude** introduces the work to the reader and explains its technicalities.
- **The Introduction** gives an outline of the development of creative writings in Australia. It also provides a brief history of Australian literature, elucidating in particular the development of fiction (novel, drama, short story) after WW2; the development of poetry and the influence of modernism and postmodernism on Australian poets.
- **Earlier figures in Australian literature** consists of three essays that introduce three prominent figures who established the tradition of Australian literature. There is an essay featuring *The Bulletin*, another on Henry Lawson and the final one on the influence and works of Banjo Paterson.
- **A study in Aboriginal myth** consists of two essays on The Dreamtime and The Creation Myth, respectively.
- **Literary faces from Australia** consists of ten essays about the following ten contemporary literary figures: A. D. Hope, Patrick White, Judith Wright, Kath Walker, Dorothy Hewett, Thea Astley, David Malouf, Les Murray, Kate Grenville and Eva Sallis

Praise for Min Australia: Wujooḥ Adabiya Mu'asirah

Nejmeh Khalil is an ambassador of amity and harmony between people of humanity, and a nun of scientific research devoted to the true word. This book canonizes her a saint of creative knowledge and an apostle of beautiful human relations between Arabic readers and Australian literature.

- Dr Wajih Fanous, Head of Arabic,
Lebanese University, Beirut, Lebanon.

This is a pioneering book. It builds a bridge between the Arabic reader and Australian culture, of which we once knew very little. Khalil-Habib's work increases our knowledge and makes distances nearer and opens a door to humanist Australian-Arab relations, which we are in urgent need of in face of the destructive theory that believes in cultural conflict. I enjoyed this study; it taught me about creative writers and poets of Australia and raised my curiosity to learn more.

- Rashd Abu Shower.
Palestinian writer, novelist and journalist.

Arabs learned of Australia many years ago; they adopted many of its features and they came to consider it their beloved homeland, but the literary face of this continent stayed unrevealed to the Arabic reader. What Nejmeh Khalil-Habib does in this study is complete what the first Arab migrants started, but this time she does not introduce the place in its geographical features alone, she also introduces the most vital and humanist features of modern Australian literature.

Nejmeh Khalil-Habib who is always searching for links between writers from different countries and continents, and who works on developing an account of the unlimited humanist interaction among universal cultures, introduces this book in a highly distinguished style, exposing through it the themes and aesthetics of Australian literature. What Khalil-Habib shows is that inevitably, the Arabic reader will sometimes read their own worries and concerns as an Arab through the titles and the lines of Australian literature.

- Ali AlMokri.
Published Yemeni poet and scholar.

To be capable of shortening the distances and keeping the essence of literature across languages is no an ordinary task, but when human truth is the holder of this literature and the carrier of its vital code, the results are always amazing. From what we read of Nejmeh Khalil-Habib's work on this level proves that she has the capability of providing the amazing and compels us to read her selections with enjoyment as if they were written especially for us.

- Ayman Alabdi.
Renowned Arab poet.