

The American Library in Paris

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The 2018 American Library in Paris Book Award goes to *A Certain Idea of France: The Life of Charles de Gaulle* by Julian Jackson

For immediate release

8 November 2018

PARIS - *A Certain Idea of France: The Life of Charles de Gaulle*, by Julian Jackson, is the winner of the sixth annual American Library in Paris Book Award.

In its citation, the prize jury called the book a "magnificent biography of the strangest and most significant figure to mark French history in the twentieth century. Jackson's *A Certain Idea of France* is a masterpiece of historical writing that provides an intimate portrait of an unusual man, a profound reflection on the history of France, and a gripping, stylish narrative at the same time."

David Bellos, a professor at Princeton and the winner of last year's award for *The Novel of the Century*, chaired the 2018 jury, which also included Diane Johnson and Pierre Assouline.

The four other books on the 2018 shortlist were:

- *Caesar's Footprints: A Cultural Excursion to Ancient France: Journeys Through Roman Gaul* by Bijan Omrani
- *The Great Nadar: The Man Behind the Camera* by Adam Begley
- *Never Anyone But You* by Rupert Thomson
- *Proust's Duchess: How Three Celebrated Women Captured the Imagination of Fin-de-Siècle Paris* by Caroline Weber

Jackson, Professor of Modern French History and Head of the School of History at Queen Mary University of London, is the author of other books on France during the interwar years and the Nazi Occupation. The jury said *A Certain Idea of France* confirms Jackson's "already important place in the



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great Anglo-American tradition of French historiography, alongside Richard Cobb, Theodore Zeldin and Philip Nord, among others.”

The ceremony announcing the prize took place this evening at the George C. Marshall Center in Paris. Jackson received a \$5,000 cash award and a leather-bound copy of his book. The annual award is supported by a grant from the Florence Gould Foundation.

This year's award was for books originally published in English between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018. Seventy-six books were received for consideration by a panel of screeners in Paris, who announced a longlist of ten titles in July and a shortlist of five in September. All the books are in the Library's circulating collection.

The American Library in Paris was founded in 1920 with books sent by American libraries to United States personnel serving in World War I. It has since grown to more than 100,000 volumes, making it the largest English-language library on the European continent, and perhaps in any non-English-speaking country in the world.

Past winners of the award are Frederic Logevall's *Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam*; Robert Harris's *An Officer and a Spy*; Laura Auricchio's *The Marquis: Lafayette Reconsidered*; Ethan B. Katz's *The Burdens of Brotherhood: Jews and Muslims from North Africa to France*; and Bellos's *The Novel of the Century: The Extraordinary Adventure of Les Misérables*.

Submissions for the 2019 American Library in Paris Book Award are welcome immediately. Details about the award and submission guidance are available on the Library's website, at <https://americanlibraryinparis.org/book-award/>.

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