

**The 2016 American Library in Paris Book Award
goes to *The Burdens of Brotherhood: Jews and
Muslims from North Africa to France***

For immediate release

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PARIS. *The Burdens of Brotherhood: Jews and Muslims from North Africa to France*, by historian Ethan B. Katz, is the winner of the fourth annual American Library in Paris Book Award.

"*The Burdens of Brotherhood* tells an important and timely story of how the sense of identity of Jews and Muslims of North African origin living in France became more fixed and hostile to each other between the Six Day War in 1967 and the early twenty-first century - a development that, Katz insists, was in no way inevitable or predetermined," the award jury said.

The annual prize honors the most distinguished book of the year about France or the French, and carries a cash award of \$5,000. Novelist Diane Johnson, chairman of the American Library's Writers Council, presented the award to the author at a ceremony November 3 at the George C. Marshall Center in Paris.

The other five books on the 2016 shortlist were:

- *A Country Road, A Tree*, by Jo Baker. (Knopf)
- *At the Existentialist Café: Freedom, Being, and Apricot Cocktails*, by Sarah Bakewell. (Other Press)
- *The Bonjour Effect: The Secret Codes of French Conversation Revealed*, by Julie Barlow and Jean-Benoît Nadeau. (St. Martin's Press)

- *Paris at War: 1939-1944*, by David Drake. (Harvard University Press)
- *The Other Paris*, by Luc Sante. (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

The choice of the winning book was made by the award jury, drawn from the Library's Writers Council, this year consisting of Laura Auricchio, the chair, whose biography *The Marquis: Lafayette Reconsidered*, won last year's prize; British novelist Robert Harris, whose *An Officer and a Spy*, about the Dreyfus affair, won the 2014 award; and Robert O. Paxton, the historian and leading American scholar Nazi Occupation in France.

The jury continued in its citation: "The book's highly original and fresh earlier chapters explore a common Maghrebi culture in which Jews and Muslims had good neighborly relations, and in which their identities were set not only by religion but also by profession, education, tastes in food and music, and many other characteristics. Katz's powerful analysis about how identities are shaped will surely prove to be influential far beyond the subject of Jews and Muslims in France."

Katz, 36, is an associate professor of history at the University of Cincinnati. *The Burdens of Brotherhood*, published in the fall of 2015 by Harvard University Press, was also the winner of a 2015 National Jewish Book Award given by the Jewish Book Council and of the 2016 David H. Pinkney Prize for the best book in French history awarded by the Society for French Historical Studies.

Katz's next book is provisionally entitled *Freeing the Empire: The Jewish Uprising That Helped the Allies Win the War*, about an uprising in Algiers from 1940 to 1943 that proved vital to the success of Operation Torch.

The annual award is supported by a grant from the Florence Gould Foundation. This fourth award was for books originally published between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

Book-length prose works originally written in English, including but not limited to fiction, history, biography, travel, politics, cooking, and art, were eligible for the award. Sixty submissions were received in 2016, and nominations are already open for the 2017 award. The website offers full details.

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 120,000 volumes, making

it the largest English-language library on the European continent, and perhaps in any non-English-speaking country in the world.

The Library's international membership enjoys reading rooms, research facilities, book groups, children's programming, art workshops, film screenings, community events, and the city's best-known stage for appearances by distinguished authors.

In addition to Auricchio, Harris, and Paxton, the Library's Writers Council consists of Pierre Assouline, Julian Barnes, Antony Beevor, Laurent de Brunhoff, Christopher Buckley, Michael Chabon, Sebastian Faulks, Laura Furman, Adam Gopnik, John Irving, Diane Johnson, Alice Kaplan, Philippe Labro, Fredrick Logevall, Joyce Carol Oates, Lily Tuck, Scott Turow, and Ayelet Waldman.

Details about the award are available on the Library's website, at <http://americanlibraryinparis.org/events-programs/american-library-in-paris-book-award.html>

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