

THE 1994 NEUSTADT PRIZE JURY

JUROR: KOFI AWOONOR

Ghana. Poet, Novelist, Dramatist, Critic.

Kofi Nyidevu Awoonor was born in 1935 in Wheta, Volta Region, Ghana, as the son of a Sierra Leonean father and a Togolese mother. He was educated in Ghanaian schools and at the University College of Ghana, graduating in 1960. Following four years of work as a lecturer and research fellow at the school's Institute of African Studies, he served as Managing Director of the Ghana Film Industry Corporation (1964-67) and as editor of the Ghanaian literary review *Okyeame*. Studies at University College London (1967-68) and the State University of New York in Stony Brook (1969-72) culminated with a doctorate in linguistics and comparative literature. After three years as an associate professor at Stony Brook, he returned to Ghana as Chairman of the Department of English and Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Cape Coast (1975-83). In 1983 he was appointed Ghana's Ambassador to Brazil, was reassigned to Cuba in 1988, and since 1990 has served as his country's Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the United Nations.

Awoonor's first two collections of verse, *Rediscovery* (1964) and *Night of My Blood* (1971), show "a powerful progression from a fascination with his [Ewe] roots, through an uncertain poetic and cultural synthesis with the West, to a voice that is confidently his own." His novel *This Earth, My Brother* (1971) is a "highly lyrical re-creation of an Ewe funeral celebration" focused on the anguish of a young African lawyer "who ritually purifies his society, carrying the weight of its corruption with him into his own death." The poems of *Ride Me, Memory* (1973) look back on the author's sojourn in America; those of *The House by the Sea* evolve from his nine-month imprisonment in 1976 for allegedly abetting an officer who was planning a coup d'état. More recent verse collections include *Comes the Voyager at Last* (1991), *Latin American and Caribbean Notebook* (1992), and the collected edition *Until the Morning After* (1987). Two radio plays written during his student years in London, *Ancestral Power* and *Lament*, were published in 1972. His critical writings include *Guardians of the Sacred Word* (1974), a study and translation of three Ewe poets, and *The Breast of the Earth: A Survey of the Culture and Literature of Africa South of the Sahara* (1975). *Ghana: A Political History* appeared in 1990. Awoonor has been honored with the Columbia University Translation Award, a Rockefeller Fellowship, the Dillon's Commonwealth Award, Brazil's Cruzeiro do Sol, and the Ghana Association of Writers Distinguished Author Award.

JUROR: ZOYA BOGUSLAVSKAYA

Russia. Novelist, Playwright, Essayist.

Zoya Boguslavskaya was educated at the Institute of Art History at the Academy of Science in Moscow, where she graduated with a dissertation on contemporary drama. A member of the Russian Writers Union and the Russian PEN Center, she is currently General Director of the Triumph Fund, which administers the country's most prestigious and remunerative awards in the arts. She is the author of seven novels, beginning with *... i zaftra* (And Tomorrow; 1970) and including *Oborona* (The Defense; 1979), *Blizkie druz'ia* (Close Friends; 1979), and *Ostanovka* (A Stop; 1992), and has also written two plays: *Kontakt* (Contact; 1982) and *Obeshchanie* (The Promise; 1982). In addition, she has published some ninety stories and essays in various magazines and literary supplements, and her novels and plays have been translated widely. Among her nonfiction writings are the essays "Collages of Paris" (1989; recounting meetings with such cultural icons as Marc Chagall, Julio Cortázar, and Norman Mailer), "American Woman" (1991), and "At Nathalie Sarraute's Years Later" (1992).

BNI.2

JUROR: ALAN CHEUSE
USA. Novelist, Essayist, Critic.

Alan Cheuse received his doctorate from Rutgers University in 1974, is past director of the Bennington (Vermont) Summer Writing Workshops and has taught at the University of Virginia, the University of Michigan, Bennington College, the University of the South, and the University of Tennessee. He is the author of the novels *The Bohemians* (1982), *The Grandmothers' Club* (1986), and *The Light Possessed* (1991), the short-story collections *Candace and Other Stories* (1980) and *The Tennessee Waltz* (1990), and the nonfiction work *Fall Out of Heaven: An Autobiographical Journey* (1987). As a book commentator, he is a regular contributor to National Public Radio's "All Things Considered," and he serves as host and coproducer of NPR's syndicated short-story magazine for radio, "The Sound of Writing." With Caroline Marshall he has edited two volumes of short fiction, *The Sound of Writing* (1991) and *Listening to Ourselves* (forthcoming, 1994). His articles, magazine journalism, and reviews have appeared in such publications as the *New York Times Book Review*, the *Nation*, the *Los Angeles Times Book Review*, the *Antioch Review*, and *USA Today*.

JUROR: J. M. COETZEE
South Africa. Novelist, Critic, Translator.

John M. Coetzee was born in Cape Town in 1940 and studied in both South Africa and the United States. Currently Professor of General Literature at the University of Cape Town, he is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and an Honorary Fellow of the Modern Language Association and has held visiting positions at the State University of New York in Buffalo, Johns Hopkins University, and Harvard. He is the author of six novels as well as several works of criticism and translations from the Dutch and Afrikaans. His first novel, *Dusklands* (1974), combined two novellas separated widely in time and locale but linked thematically in their portrayals of conflict between the savagery of modern civilization and the savagery of the untamed and "natural." *From the Heart of the Country* (1977) centers on domestic conflict with racial overtones in a rural setting. *Waiting for the Barbarians* (1980) explores the psychosis accompanying the forced contact between traditional and modern societies. *Life and Times of Michael K* (1983), rated by many as Coetzee's finest book, paints a chilling picture of the helplessness of an innocent individual adrift in a harsh, cruel world corrupted by power and greed. *Foe* (1986) evokes both the Crusoe-Friday relationship and the figure of eighteenth-century English author Daniel Defoe. Coetzee's most recent novel is *Age of Iron* (1990). *White Writing: On the Culture of Letters in South Africa* (1988) is a book-length discussion of major white South African writers in the years prior to World War II. *Doubling the Point* (1992) collects Coetzee's essays and interviews from fifteen years on a variety of authors and subjects. Among the honors accorded Coetzee's works are England's prestigious Booker Prize, France's Prix Femina Etranger, and the Jerusalem Prize.

JUROR: NURUDDIN FARAH
Somalia. Novelist, Short-Story Writer, Playwright.

Nuruddin Farah was born in 1945 in Baidoa, in the southern region of Somalia, as the fourth of ten children. He received his early education in local schools and colleges, took his first job with the Ministry of Education for the new Republic of Somalia, then went to India to study philosophy and literature at the University of Chandigarh, and returned to teach in a high school in Mogadishu. He has since resided in England and Rome and for a brief period in the United States and is currently based in Kaduna, Nigeria. English is Farah's fourth language. He has written a novel, plays, and short stories in Somali and has translated children's stories from Arabic, Italian, French, and English, but it is as a novelist in English that he has established his international reputation. His novels are set in twentieth-century Somalia, with most of the action occurring in the capital, Mogadishu. *From a Crooked Rib* (1970) tells the story of a nomad girl who flees an arranged marriage, rejects the traditional role of the Somali woman, and establishes an independent life of her own in the metropolis. *A Naked Needle* (1976) focuses on the teacher Koschin and the English girl whom he had promised to marry two years earlier while studying abroad, turning a potentially amusing situation comedy into an unsettling portrayal of sordidness in mid-seventies Somalia. *Sweet and Sour Milk* (1979) follows the protagonist Loyaan's harrowing search for the facts behind the sudden death of his twin brother Soyaan, an economic advisor to the country's president. *Sardines* (1981) carries the fight for women's rights into the very corridors of power, highlighting the activities of several astute, well-educated, independent representatives of the new Somali woman. *Close Sesame* (1983) completes a trilogy of novels on Somali politics bearing the general title "Variations on the Theme of an African Dictatorship," this time centering on the devout Muslim Deeriye and his opposition to and criticism of the authoritarian General. His most recent novels are *Maps* (1991) and *Gifts* (1992). Farah's work has been honored with the English-Speaking Union Literary Award and several other major prizes from various countries.

JUROR: WLAD GODZICH
Switzerland. Critic, Editor, Translator.

Wlad Godzich was born in 1945 in Germany (in a camp where his Polish and Soviet Ukrainian parents were interned during the war), was raised in France, and was educated in the U.S., taking a doctorate in Romance philology and comparative literature from Columbia University in 1972. He has taught at Columbia, Yale, the University of Minnesota, the Université de Montréal, and the University of Toronto, and is currently Professeur Ordinaire de Littérature Contemporaine d'Expression Anglaise at the Université de Genève in Switzerland. He has served as a visiting professor at the University of Silesia (Poland), Harvard, and the Universidade do Estado de Rio de Janeiro, as director of the MSID Programme in Dakar (Senegal), and as director of the Minnesota Center for the Humanities. He is the author of *On the Emergence of Prose, Philosophie einer nichteuropäischen Literaturkritik*, and the forthcoming study *The Culture of Literacy* (Harvard, March 1994); the editor of eight collections of essays on literary theory and the history of literature; the translator of five books; and the author of more than fifty scholarly articles. He serves as general editor of the Theory and History of Literature series published by the University of Minnesota Press and, in part, by Manchester University Press, with eighty-four volumes issued thus far and seventeen in preparation. He has served as a member of the WLT Editorial Board since 1992.

JUROR: ANGEL GONZALEZ
Spain. Poet, Essayist, Critic.

Angel González was born in 1925 in Oviedo and was educated there and in Páramo del Sil, completing his *bachillerato* in 1944 and his study of law in 1949. He spent several years as an employee of the Ministry of Public Works but in the late fifties and sixties gradually turned more and more to editing and writing. Visiting professorships at the Universities of New Mexico, Utah, and Maryland led to a permanent appointment at the University of New Mexico in 1973 as a professor of contemporary Spanish literature, from which he only recently retired. González began writing poetry in 1944 while convalescing from tuberculosis but did not publish his first collection of verse, *Aspero mundo*, until 1956. More than a dozen volumes have followed, including *Sin esperanza, con convencimiento* (1961), *Palabra sobre palabra* (1965), *Muestra de algunos procedimientos narrativos y de las actitudes sentimentales que habitualmente comportan* (1976), *Prosemas o menos* (1983), and several collected editions, among them *Poemas* (1980) and *Material de lectura* (1988). His critical writings include *Aproximaciones a Antonio Machado* (1982) and several dozen articles and introductions for journals and books in Spain and Latin America, and he has edited such anthologies as *El grupo poético de 1927* (1976) and *Gabriel Celaya* (1977). Among the numerous translations of his verse are the collections *Harsh World and Other Poems*, issued by the Princeton University Press in 1977, and *Astonishing World* (1993). His work has been honored with such distinctions as Spain's Premio Príncipe de Asturias de las Letras (1985) and the Angel María de Lera Hispanism Award (University of Colorado, 1989).

JUROR: GITHA HARIHARAN
India. Novelist, Short-Story Writer, Editor.

Githa Hariharan was born in 1954 in Coimbatore in the southern Indian state of Tamilnadu. She grew up and was educated in Bombay and Manila, taking her B.A. in English literature from Bombay University in 1974. She later obtained a Master's in communications from Fairfield University in Connecticut. She worked briefly for the Public Broadcasting System in New York and, after her return to India, spent several years as an editor at a publishing house. Ever since, she has worked as a free-lance writer and editor, editing books and monographs on the social sciences for publishers and the Delhi offices of UN organizations as well as writing book reviews for several Indian newspapers. She has also edited *A Southern Harvest* (1993), a volume of stories in English translation from four major South Indian languages. Her short stories have appeared in such journals as *Writing Women* and *Stand* in the U.K. and *Kunapipi* in Australia, and one story was included in the 1992 anthology *In Other Words: New Writing by Indian Women*. Her first novel, *The Thousand Faces of Night*, was issued in 1992 by Penguin India and received the Commonwealth Writers' Prize both for the year's best first book in Eurasia and for the best first book in all the former British Commonwealth countries. A collection of her stories, *The Art of Dying*, was published by Penguin in 1993. She is currently working on a second novel, to be titled *The Ghosts of Vasu Master*. Hariharan lives in New Delhi with her husband and two sons.

JUROR: DJELAL KADIR

USA. *Essayist, Critic, Editor, Translator. Chairman and Permanent Member of the Jury.*

Djelal Kadir, born in Cyprus in 1946 and educated at Yale and New Mexico, is Distinguished Professor of Literature at the University of Oklahoma and Editor/Director of *World Literature Today*. In this capacity he also administers the Neustadt International Prize for Literature and the biennial Puterbaugh Conferences on World Literature. Between 1985 and 1991 he served as Professor and Chair of Comparative Literature at Purdue University in Indiana, where he taught from 1973 until his move to Oklahoma in 1991. He has published numerous essays on Latin American literature, on literary theory and comparative literature, and in cultural criticism. His books include *Triple espera* (1976), *Juan Carlos Onetti* (1977), *Questing Fictions: Latin America's Family Romance* (1986), *Columbus and the Ends of the Earth* (1992), and *The Other Writing: Essays in Postcolonialism and Latin America's Writing Culture* (1993). He has edited a special issue of *Annals of Scholarship* on Christopher Columbus for the quincentenary and a monographic volume of essays on the cultural criticism of Octavio Paz. He has lectured widely in Europe, Latin America, Australia, and the U.S. and serves as a consultant to such institutions as the Woodrow Wilson Center, the Canadian Federation for the Humanities, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Library of Congress. His edition and translations of 1992 Neustadt laureate João Cabral de Melo Neto's *Selected Poems 1937-1990* is due to be released by the Wesleyan University Press in 1994.

JUROR: ELLI PEONIDOU

Cyprus. *Poet, Prose Writer, Translator.*

Elli Peonidou was born in 1940 in Vasa, Limassol, Cyprus. Among her many book publications are eight collections of poetry, beginning with *Palámi ánighmeni ston ílio* (Palm Open to the Sun; 1964) and also including *Khóma tis Kíprou* (Earth of Cyprus; 1971), *O kiklos tis katangelías* (The Cycle of Accusation; 1977), *Ores* (Hours; 1983), and *Klepsídra* (Clepsydra; 1987). She has also translated and/or edited such volumes as *Ten Contemporary Cypriot Poets* (Slovenia, 1980), *Under the Same Sky* (Bulgaria, 1980), the collection of biographical stories *Prósopo me prósope* (Face to Face; 1985), and *Anthology of Cyprus Poetry* (Budapest, 1986). She is also the author of numerous books and plays for children, including *The Adventures of Hip-Hop* (Budapest, 1979), *The Brother, the Sister, and the Black River* (Bratislava, 1984), *Gualínes xílínes khartínes ke álles istoríes* (Stories Made of Glass, of Wood, of Paper, and Other Stories; 1988), and *I áthli tou Kathedhaki se eptá flintzánia* (The Feats of Kathedakis in Seven Cups; 1991).

JUROR: NAWAL EL SAADAWI

Egypt. *Novelist, Short-Story Writer, Playwright.*

Nawaal El Saadawi was born in 1931 in a village outside Cairo, attended secondary school in the capital, and graduated from the University of Cairo's medical college in 1955. Her interest in literature had been constant throughout her schooling, and writing served her as a creative outlet during her years of study and political activism in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Her earliest efforts were in poetry, but her first book publications were the short-story collection *Talamt el houb* (I Learned to Love) and the novel *Mozakerat tabiba* (both 1958), translated three decades later as *Memoirs of a Woman Doctor* (1988). Six collections of short stories and six novels have followed. Among the former are *Lahzat sidk* (A Moment of Truth; 1962), *El khait wa ain' el hayat* (1972; Eng. *She Has No Place in Paradise*, 1987), and *Mowt ma'ali el wazin* (1979; Eng. *Death of an Ex-Minister*, 1987); the latter include *Emra'atan fi emra'ah* (1968; Eng. *Two Women in One*, 1985), *Emra'a enda noktát el sifr* (1975; Eng. *A Woman at Point Zero*, 1983), and *Sokout el imam* (1987; Eng.

The Fall of the Imam, 1988). She is also the author of several important sociological and health-related studies, including *El ma'ra wal ginse* (Women and Sex; 1971), *El wajh el ary lilma'ra arabeya* (1977; Eng. *The Hidden Face of Eve: Women in the Arab World*, 1980), and *Mozakerati fi signel nissa* (1983; Eng. *Memoirs from the Women's Prison*, 1986). Her fiction and nonfiction have had a deep effect on successive generations of young women in the Middle East over the last three decades and have also brought her numerous difficulties such as the closing of her magazine *Health* and her subsequent imprisonment by the Sadat regime in 1981 (she was released three months later, shortly after his assassination). In June 1991 the Egyptian government shut down the Arab Women's Solidarity Association, which she headed, and today her name figures on one of the death lists issued by religious zealots. She is the recipient of several national and international literary prizes, her works have been translated into most of the major Western languages, and she is a frequent guest and lecturer at colleges and universities around the world (currently at the University of Washington). She is married to the prominent Egyptian novelist Sherif Hetata, who has also translated several of her books.

JUROR: CHRIS WALLACE-CRABBE
Australia. Poet, Novelist, Critic.

Chris Wallace-Crabbe was born in 1934 in Richmond, Victoria, and was educated at Scotch College, the University of Melbourne, and Yale University. After working at various jobs in the city for ten years, he was named Lockie Fellow in Australian Literature and Creative Writing at Melbourne University (1961-63). A series of subsequent appointments led to his chairing the Department of English (1974-76, 1984-85) and being named to a Readership in English (1977) and to the Personal Chair in English (1987). He has also taught at Yale, Exeter, Harvard, and Venice and has given readings throughout Australia and in India, Great Britain, Europe, and North America. He was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 1984, received the Grace Leven Prize for Poetry (1986) and the Dublin Prize (1987), and in 1988 was appointed Director of the Australian Centre at the University of Melbourne, where he teaches honors and graduate courses placing particular stress on the unique development of Australian culture and on the ways in which it relates to the cultures of other nations.

Wallace-Crabbe is the author of a dozen collections of poetry, beginning with *The Music of Division* (1959) and continuing through *In Light and Darkness* (1963), *Where the Wind Came* (1971), *The Foundations of Joy* (1976), and *The Amorous Cannibal* (1985), to *For Crying Out Loud* (1990) and *Rungs of Time* (1993). He has also written a novel, *Splinters* (1981), has published five books of criticism, including *Melbourne or the Bush: Essays on Australian Literature and Society* (1974), *Three Absences in Australian Writing* (1983), and *Poetry and Belief* (1990), and has edited or coedited such collective volumes as *Six Voices: Contemporary Australian Poets* (1963), *The Golden Apples of the Sun: Twentieth Century Australian Poetry* (1980), and *Multicultural Australia: The Challenges of Change* (1991). He serves as General Editor of the Australian Writers series for Oxford University Press.