TRANSLATING MAJOR LITERATURE INTO ARABIC

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Category: Translation

There is an interesting article in the Independent about the Kalima project which *aims to revive the art of translation across the Arab world and reverse the long decline in Arabic readers' access to major works of global literature, philosophy, science and history.* Read the whole thing here.

> Inspired by Mr Nagy, a literature-loving Egyptian entrepreneur and former McKinsey management consultant now based in Abu Dhabi, Kalima has become an official venture of the Abu Dhabi government. One of the triggers which led to its creation was a widely-circulated statistic from the 2003 UN report into human development in the Arab world. It estimated that more books (about 10,000) were translated into Spanish every year than had been translated into Arabic over the past millennium.
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> Kalima is endorsed by the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan, and backed financially by the emirate's authority for culture and heritage. The authority's director-general, Mohammed Khalaf al Mazrouei, said the Crown Prince saw the UN figures and "commissioned us to work to revive translation".
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> "Funding is the least of our concerns," said Mr Nagy, who plans to arrange and distribute expanding batches of Kalima translations year by year. "It's the quality of the translation that counts."

The initial list of books to be translated is fascinating. I've not read many of them, and some of them might have well been written in Arabic to start with because the English is impenetrable! But it has to be a worthy project.

On a different subject - I'm flying home tonight. Yippee!