

FRATELLI MILITELLO LITERARY PRIZE 2007

Di Annalisa Coppolaro

During this November the winners of the Fratelli Militello Literary Prize have been awarded in front of an interested, numerous audience at the Italian Cultural Institute. The event was as usual very pleasant, conducted by Pino Ferrara in front of a large public and the winners, whose names have been revealed (like at the Oscars...) during the same ceremony.

The Prize was launched in 2002 by Escape in Art and is divided into two sections, Poetry and Fiction. Many took part in the selection, with a high number of good-quality poems and short stories, according to the commission. This included the Director of the Italian Cultural Institute Prof. Pierluigi Barrotta, president, Prof. Laura Lepschy Momigliano, Prof. Luca Paci, Prof. Mauriza Trowell, Dr. Guido Santevecchi.

Present also Donna Sandra Aragona, wife of the Italian Ambassador, who was the honorary president of the commission and patroniser of the prizes, Comm. Lillo Militello and Cav. Giovanni Militello. In the audience also Prof. Giulio Lepschy, professor of Italian studies at UCL, Reading and Cambridge Universities.

The prizes included plaques, diplomas and copies of the book which has been just published with the title *Racconti da Londra* [*Tales from London – Author's note*], containing the winning works of the previous editions of the Militellos' Prize. It is a lovely publication, very appreciated by all those present for the graphics and mostly for the good contents.

The introduction was written by Prof. Lepschy and the preface by Pino Ferrara. The stories are by 18 authors and they include a biography of the writers. The earnings of the book sales will all go to a charity cause, thanks to the generosity of the Militello brothers and of the authors who have given up their rights on the works.

Coming back to the 2007 edition, the poems and short stories that reached the first three places were read with great sensitivity by Silvana Camilletti, dubber at the BBC and an actress with Escape in Art.

Here are the names of the prize winners of the 2007 edition.

For the Poetry section, Marika Prezioso came first with "La mia nazione", second place for Oriene Bratti with "Ho perduto la mia guerra", third place for Mita Riotto "Dov'e' la poesia?", while all at the fourth place ex-aequo five poems: "Sono scesa a London Bridge" by Dina Iannotti, "Scena muta" by Domenico Corvaglia, "Otto volante" by Luigi Omiccioli, "Riflessi e sguardi" by Angelo David Brandi, and "La citta' dei vivi" by Daniela Raimondi.

For the Fiction section, first was Pietro Addeo with "Ancora vivo!", in second place again Daniela Raimondi, fourth for the Poetry section, with "Una storia da raccontare", and third was "Tre polli una morale" by Luigi Omiccioli, who was also fourth in the Poems section. Fourth ex-aequo were five stories: "Storia di un'amicizia londinese" by Jara Cremoli, "La prima volta" by Annalisa Coppolaro, "Gli ospiti" by Oliviero Pesce, "Lampi, tuoni, pioggia e regina" by Bernardo Stella, and "La Passeggiata" by Massimo De Rose.

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