

Lebanese novelist is Cultural Personality

ABU DHABI — The Shaikh Zayed Book Award announced Lebanese-born French novelist Amin Maalouf as the winner of this year's Cultural Personality of the Year Award in recognition of his achievement as a novelist who has conveyed in French some key moments in the history of Arab and other Eastern peoples to the entire world.

The award is given in recognition of Maalouf's ability to recreate unique experiences and adventures in an extraordinary literary style that amalgamates distinctly Arabic narrative and modernist Western styles.

Born in Lebanon in 1949, Amin Maalouf holds a degree in economics and sociology from Beirut University. He worked in the Beirut-based daily *Al Nahar* newspaper, reporting on international and political affairs.

The award ceremony will take place on May 1 at ADNEC, coinciding with the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair. — *Wam*