

## Fictionalizing History in Amin Maalouf's writings

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**Abstract.** The Lebanese novelist Amin Maalouf can be considered the pioneer of French-speaking authors who produced novels inspired by History. When we review novels like *Leo the African*, *Samarkand*, *The Gardens of Light*, *The Journey of Baldassare*, *The Rock of Tanios*, or essays like *The Crusades seen by the Arabs*, it is clear that History, as a scientific discipline and as an inexhaustible source of information, enjoys a thematic preponderance in these works. It is a rewriting of History in a literary mold strewn with fictionalization with didactic aims, the revision of History and also the perpetuation of memory. This logically leads us to address this generic class which arouses so much controversy. Is it a full genre or a subgenre? Questions also abound in this sense on the 'dangerous connections' between History and fiction, on the difficulty (that arises sometimes) of perceiving limits between the two.

**Keywords:** novel, History, (re)writing, fictionalization, literary genericity, memory.