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Wayne Miller Receives National Endowment for the Arts Literature Translation Fellowship

Fellowship will support the translation into English

of short stories by the Albanian writer Moikom Zeqo

Denver, CO—Today, the National Endowment for the Arts announced that Wayne Miller will receive a Literature Translation Fellowship of \$10,000 to translate *Sellers of Chaos*, by Moikom Zeqo, into English. Miller is one of 24 Literature Translation Fellows selected for fiscal year 2022. In total, the Arts Endowment will award \$325,000 in grants to support the translation of works written in 16 different languages into English.

“The NEA Literature Translations Fellowships provide crucial support, affording translators the time and means and encouragement to focus on their projects,” said the NEA’s Director of Literary Arts Amy Stolls. “In turn, these fellows will enrich our culture by bringing writers from around the world to English-speaking readers through the translators’ skill and creativity.”

Miller’s fellowship will support the translation from the Albanian of the short story collection *Sellers of Chaos* by Moikom Zeqo (1949-2020), who published more than 100 books in his lifetime and whose poetry was suppressed for a decade after his 1970s poetry collection *Meduza* strayed from the Albanian Writers Union’s aesthetic tenets. He later became employed by the Archeological Museum of Durrës, where he became Albania’s first underwater archeologist. *Sellers of Chaos* includes stories from an almost 40-year period and includes themes, techniques, and ambitions reflective of many of Zeqo’s other works. This project is a collaboration with the daughter of Moikom Zeqo, Kleitia Zeqo.

Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, Wayne Miller is the author of five poetry collections, most recently *We the Jury* (Milkweed, 2021) and *Post-* (2016), which won the Rilke Prize and the Colorado Book Award. He has co-translated two poetry collections by Moikom Zeqo: *Zodiac* (Zephyr, 2015), which was shortlisted for the PEN Center USA Award for Translation, and *I Don’t Believe in Ghosts* (BOA, 2007). Miller has received the George Bogin, Lucille Medwick, and Lyric Poetry Awards from the Poetry Society of America; a Ruth Lilly Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation; the Bess Hokin Prize from *Poetry*; and a Fulbright Distinguished Scholarship to Northern Ireland. With Kevin Prufer, he co-directs the *Unsung Masters* Book Series. He is a professor at the University of Colorado Denver, where he edits the literary journal *Copper Nickel*.

Since 1981, the NEA has awarded 550 fellowships to 487 literary translators, with translations representing 78 languages and 88 countries. Visit [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov) to browse bios and artist statements from all of the 2022 recipients and past Literature Translation Fellows.