

Texas Institute of Letters

July/August 2008

Judges named for TIL's 2008 literary contests

Authors and publishers from throughout the state and nation are setting their sights on TIL's prestigious literary awards which this year will carry a monetary value of \$21,450.

Deadline for submission is January 9, 2009.

Entries must be sent directly to each judge at the addresses listed below. The words "For TIL Award" should appear on the outside of the container or envelope.

A writer may have only one work entered in a category. No work may be submitted in more than one category. Different works by the same author may be submitted in different categories. All works, with the exception of the Sourette Diehl Fraser Award for Best Translation of a Book, must have been first published during 2008. The translation award covers the years 2007 and 2008.

Each entry should be accompanied by a statement of eligibility: birth in Texas or two years consecutive residence in the state at some time. A work whose subject matter substantially concerns Texas is also eligible.

Each entry should include the entrant's address, email address, and phone number.

As has been the case in recent years, TIL has three judges for each contest. The judges and their addresses are as follows:

Jesse H. Jones Award for Best Work of Fiction (\$6,000) and **Steven Turner Award for Best Work of First Fiction** (\$1,000): Sandra Scofield (chair), 5225 NE 29th Ave., Portland, OR 97211; Jeff Guinn, 3704 Westcliff Rd. South, Fort Worth, TX 767019; and Jesse Sublett, 1607 Taylor Gaines St., Austin, TX 78741.

Carr P. Collins Award for Best Book of Non-fiction (\$5,000): Don Chipman (chair), 3226 Huisache St., Denton, TX 76209; James Haley, 1507 Cullen Ave., Austin, TX 78757; and Robin Doughty, Dept. of Geography, University of Texas at Austin, 1 University Station A3100, Austin, TX 78712.

TIL Award for Most Significant Scholarly Book (\$2,500): Mark Busby (chair), Center for Study of Southwest, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX 78666; T. Lindsay Baker, P.O. Box 507, Rio Vista, TX 76093; Ty Cashion, 14 Hawkseye Place, The Woodlands, TX 77381.

Helen C. Smith Memorial Award for Best Book of Poetry (\$1,200): Jack Myers (chair), c/o Creative Writing Dept., University of North Carolina, Wilmington, 601 South College Road, Wilmington, NC 28403 (note: after Dec. send to Myers at 3109 Caribou Court, Mesquite, TX 75181); John Blair, 141 Puma Ct., San Marcos, TX 78666-1846; Andrew Hudgins, 1380 Stoneygate Lane, Columbus, OH 43221-1566.

Kay Cattarulla Award for Best Short Story (\$1,000): Jane Roberts Wood (chair), 567 N. Gibbons, Argyle, TX 76226; Carolyn Osborn, 3612 Windsor Rd., Austin, TX 78703; C.W. Smith, 6521 Malcolm St., Dallas, TX 75214.

O. Henry Award for Magazine Journalism (\$1,000): Carlton Stowers (chair), 1015 Randy Rd., Cedar Hill, TX 75104; Michael Merschel, Dallas Morning News, 508 Young St., Dallas, TX 75202; Noel Parsons, 8512 Louisville Dr., Lubbock, TX 79423.

Stanley Walker Award for Best Work of Newspaper Journalism Appearing in Newspaper or Sunday Supplement (\$1,000): Darwin Payne (chair), 9021 Gunnison Dr., Dallas, TX 75231; Claude Stanush, 719 Oban, San Antonio, TX 78216; Bob Compton, 3205 S. Glenbrook Dr., Garland, TX 75041-4404

Austin Public Library Awards for Best Children's Book and Best Young Adult Book (\$500 for each): Rene Saldana Jr. (chair), 5720 89th St. Lubbock TX 79424; Bobbi Samuels, 5 Waverly Court, Houston, TX 77005; and Jean Flynn, 101 Cliffside Dr., San Antonio, TX 78231.

Fred Whitehead Award for Best Design of a Trade Book (\$750): James Hoggard (chair), English Department, Midwestern State University, 3410 Taft, Wichita Falls, TX 76308; Fran Vick, 6335 W. Northwest Highway, #618, Dallas, TX 75225; Bryan Woolley, 18040 Midway Rd., #215, Dallas, TX 75287.

Sourette Diehl Fraser Award for Best Translation of a Book (\$1,000) (books published in 2007 or 2008): Lynn Hoggard (chair), 111 Pembroke Lane, Wichita Falls, TX 76301; Roger Jones, Dept. of English, Texas State University-San Marcos, San Marcos, TX 78666; Susan Briante, 5904 Ross Ave., Dallas, TX 75206.

John Bloom Humor Award for the Funniest Texas Book (\$1,000) is not being offered this year pending changes to attract more entries.

News of members and others

Kent Biffle is back to his witty and spicy self after a stay in the hospital. He sent the following missile: "Mucho thank-yous for your good wishes. I got an armload of get-well mail from TIL members. I know your newsletter space is precious, but I wish you could find room to express my gratitude to all the talented, thoughtful TIL members, who took time from more serious projects to write to me. They cheered me through the long hospital stay after I did my stupid (if beautiful) high dive onto a moist damn spot on the tile in a shower at my place in Rockwall. I almost called it my "crash pad."

Abraham Verghese, our gifted physician and author and TIL member since 2001, has departed San Antonio for a new position at Stanford University, where he holds the chair for the theory and practice of medicine. In other good news, he has a new novel, his first, coming out in February, 2009, with a fine publisher, Alfred Knopf. It's widely anticipated. His first book, *My Own Country: A Doctor's Story*, was hailed by *Time* magazine as one of the five best books of 1994. It was made into a Showtime movie. His second book, *The Tennis Partner: A Story of Friendship and Loss*, 1998, was also acclaimed. In 2004 (*Texas Monthly*, December), **Jan Reid** called Verghese "one of the most gifted writers ever to make Texas his home." His new address in California is 673 Palmer Lane, Menlo Park, CA 94026-1943.

Bill Minutaglio, who's teaching journalism at UT-Austin in addition to his prolific writing schedule, has signed a contract with PublicAffairs in New York to write a biography of the late Molly Ivins. It will be

a full-dress biography, ranging from her years in Houston as the daughter of a high-ranking executive with Tenneco, to her days with the *Texas Observer*, to her career in New York, to her syndication in 400 newspapers. If any TIL members have memories or thoughts of Molly, Bill would like to hear from you at bminutag@mail.utexas.edu.

Recently, after a fine meal together, **Judy Alter** and **Fran Vick** heard **Deborah Crombie** (who became a TIL member in 2007) talk about her new book, *Where memories Lie*, at the Barnes & Noble on Northwest Hwy. in Dallas. During her talk Deborah announced that she had just discovered that her novel *Water Like a Stone* has been nominated for the Macavity Award. The Macavity Award is named for the "mystery cat" of T.S. Eliot (*Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*). Each year the members of Mystery Readers International nominate and vote for their favorite mysteries in four categories.

The Museum of New Mexico Press has republished **David Farmer's** book, *Willard Clark—Printer and Printmaker*, in an expanded trade edition. David has had book signings in Albuquerque and Santa Fe as well as in Taos, where he has lived since his retirement in 2001 as director of DeGolyer Library at SMU. The original edition of this book was published by Four-O Publishers at Hardin Simmons University and sold out in less than a year. It won a TIL award in 2000 for Bradley Hutchinson who designed it.

John Watson Foster Dulles, prolific author, specialist on Latin America, dies at age 95

Long-time TIL member **John Watson Foster Dulles**, son of the former secretary of state John Foster Dulles and a professor of Latin American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin for 45 years, died June 23, 2008, at the age of 95 in San Antonio.

Dulles was preceded in death four days earlier by his wife of 68 years, Eleanor Ritter Dulles.

A mining engineer who worked in Mexico in the 1940s and 1950s, Dulles became fascinated with the history of that country. His first book was

Yesterday in Mexico: Chronicle of the Revolution, 1919-1936. Soon afterwards he took a position in Brazil, and became similarly interested in its history.

In 1962 he became a professor at the University of Texas and compiled a prolific record as an astute researcher and author of Latin American affairs. He published 12 highly regarded books on Brazil.

Dulles enjoyed tennis, which he played regularly into his 80s. His career is summarized at <http://jwfdulles.blogspot.com/>.

Deadline for short story contest honoring Elmer Kelton is Oct. 15

Concho River Review, in conjunction with the Angelo State University Writers Conference in Honor of Elmer Kelton, has announced its second annual

short story competition. All fiction writers are invited to submit original, unpublished works of short fiction. No simultaneous submissions permitted.

Entry Fee: \$10.00 per manuscript; make checks payable to *Concho River Review*

Maximum Length: 4,500 words

Entry format: Typed, double-spaced manuscripts; hard copy; cover sheet with title, author, postal address, and e-mail address; no name on the manuscript; SASE for reply or return of manuscripts

Deadline: October 15, 2008

Winner Announced: December 15, 2008

Award: \$250; publication in *Concho River*

Review; reading slot at Angelo State University Writers Conference in Honor of Elmer Kelton (encouraged but not required)

Please Note: Submissions to *Concho River Review* or to the Writers Conference should be made separately from submissions to the short story competition. Send submissions to Terry Dalrymple, Short Story Competition, Department of English, Angelo State University, San Angelo, TX 76909

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TIL Website: <http://texasinstituteofletters.org/>

Note: Please send news about yourself for the next newsletter to dpayne@smu.edu. Also changes of address and corrections for the directory.