

18 January 2006

To: Kim Baker, AAA
From: Andrea Wiley, Awards Committee Chair

Re: Annual Report

Awards Committee Members: Leo Chavez, Barbara Rose Johnston, Kay Orzech (formerly McElween), Patricia Urban, and Andrea Wiley (Chair), and Kathy Ano (AAA Staff Liaison)

Barbara Rose Johnston and Kay Orzech were newly appointed to the committee in 2005. Leo Chavez served as the liaison to and chair of the Margaret Mead Award committee

The Awards Committee submitted the following recommendations for AAA Awards to the AAA Executive Committee May 2005 (all approved):

Boas Prize for service to Anthropology: **Regna Darnell**
McGraw-Hill Prize for undergraduate teaching in anthropology: **Scott Lukas and Richard Robbins**
Anthropology in the Media award (AIME): **Meredith Small**

We also approved the recommendation of the Textor Prize committee, who nominated **Kathleen Newman** as the 2005 Textor Prize winner.

The Margaret Mead Committee recommended that **Eric Lassiter** receive the Mead Award; the AAA Executive Committee approved this recommendation.

Additional Work:

- The discussed a proposal from the Committee on Ethics to develop a non-monetary prize for publishers of textbooks with particularly innovative/excellent discussions of anthropological ethics. After COE's responding to the committee's query on the definition of a "textbook" the Award Committee unanimously agreed to support such an award.
- We discussed ways to increase our pool of nominees; this year various listservs were used as a vehicle to disseminate information about the awards.
- The awards committee approved a request from Meg Conkey (President, Archaeology Division) to change the awarding of the Alfred V. Kidder award from once every three years to once every two years. This is a non-monetary awards, and the medals have already been made and there are sufficient medals for the foreseeable future even given this increase in award frequency.

- The awards committee was charged to come up with a design for new bronze medal that will now be given to the Boas Prize recipient. We decided that the image of Boas doing the raven/eagle dance would go on the medal, along with the inscription: Franz Boas Award (around the top of the circle) and AAA (or American Anthropological Association) along the curve on the bottom. On the back would be engraved: In recognition of exemplary service to anthropology, NAME and YEAR.

This decision was made in consultation with the executive committee, George Stocking and Richard Handler (the latter two at the suggestion of the executive board). After the medal was awarded at the 2005 Awards Ceremony, the medal image generated some controversy, and there will be an AN forum to discuss the appropriateness of this image for the Boas award. The committee is willing to reconsider the image, pending the outcome of the discussions of this well-known image.

- The timing of the Mead Award relative to the other AAA awards has not been resolved. The SfAA continues to operate on a June 1 deadline rather than the March 1 AAA awards deadline, which makes coordinating the awards somewhat awkward.
- The Awards committee will need an incoming chair to serve *ex officio* for 2006, who will then chair the committee after Andrea Wiley's term expires in November 2006