

The Meaning of Ice Wins 2014 William Mills Prize for Non-Fiction Polar Books

August 25, 2014 - The Polar Libraries Colloquy is pleased to announce the winner of the 2014 William Mills Prize for Non-Fiction Polar Books is ***The Meaning of Ice: People and Sea Ice in Three Arctic Communities***, published by International Polar Institute Press.

The prize winner was announced at an awards ceremony on July 3, 2014 in Cambridge, UK, at the Polar Library Colloquy's biennial conference. The Polar Libraries Colloquy is an international organization of librarians and others interested in the collection, preservation and dissemination of polar information.

The William Mills Book Prize is awarded every two years and honours the best Arctic or Antarctic non-fiction books published throughout the world. The prize includes a \$300 US award and was first presented in 2006. It is named in honour of William Mills, a polar librarian and author, and a core member of the Polar Libraries Colloquy during its formative years.

The 2014 William Mills Prize winner was selected by a group of Polar Libraries Colloquy members from the United States and Canada. Seventeen nominations qualified for consideration this year, the most ever since the inception of the prize.

As the publisher's description explains, "***The Meaning of Ice*** celebrates Arctic sea ice as it is seen and experienced by the Inuit of Canada, the Iñupiat of Alaska, and the Inughuit of Greenland, who for generations have lived with it and thrived on what it offers. ***The Meaning of Ice*** is an important contribution to understanding the Arctic and its people at a time when the region is undergoing profound change, not least in terms of sea ice."

This year two other nominations have been awarded Honorary Mentions.

The Japanese South Polar Expedition 1910-12: a Record of Antarctica, published by Bluntisham Books and The Erskine Press, provides the only translation of Nobu Shirase's account of the first exploration of Antarctic territory by Japan.

Yupik Transitions: Change and Survival at Bering Strait, 1900-1960, from University of Alaska Press, is a compelling portrait of the struggle of the Yupik people of Siberia to maintain their culture and identity in the face of actions taken by Russian and Soviet authorities especially during the Cold War.

A full list of all titles nominated for the 2014 William Mills Prize, including those titles that are shortlisted, is available on the Polar Libraries Colloquy website at <http://arcticcentre.ulapland.fi/polarweb/plc/millspast.asp#2014>.

For more information about the 2014 William Mills Prize, please contact Julia Finn, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada at millsprize@gmail.com.