

Archives

Banff Mountain Book Festival Winners 1998

World Mountaineering: the world's greatest mountains by the world's greatest mountaineers, "a beautiful and highly informative book about peaks and mountain places all over the world," is the winner of the 1998 Banff Mountain Book Festival Grand Prize, the \$2000 Phyllis and Don Munday Award, sponsored by the Alberta sections of the Alpine Club of Canada.

According to jury chair, Bob Sandford, the book is an elegantly produced repository of exciting information including locator maps, route photographs and main route selections of some of the world's best climbs. It features articles by some of the world's best climbers including an introduction by Sir Chris Bonington and historical summaries, route descriptions, photographs and practical advice by Greg Child, Roger Mear, Ed Douglas, Kurt Diemberger, Steven Venables, Beth Wald, Simon Yates, Steve Roper and Canadians Chic Scott and Barry Blanchard. Edited by Audrey Salkeld and published by the U.K.'s Mitchell Beazley, *World Mountaineering* also includes descriptions of future climbing challenges. "This book is going to be influential in determining where history will next be made in mountaineering," says Sandford.

There were 72 books entered from eight countries this year, from which 24 finalists were sent to an international jury, consisting of Canadian author and historian Bob Sandford, the Assistant Secretary of the Alpine Club (UK) Sheila Harrison, and author and curator for the Museo Nazionale della Montagna in Torino, Italy, Roberto Mantovani.

Winners in the other categories follow:

Mountain Image Category, \$500 prize sponsored by Miles High Image Centre in Banff, Canada
Stone and Silence by Linde Waidhofer, which won the Mountain Image Category, is a book of landscape photographs taken in the desert country of the American southwest. Published in the United States in 1997 by Western Eye Press, *Stone and Silence* made a "particularly stunning impression" on the jury members.

Adventure Travel Category, \$500 prize sponsored by Mountain Travel*Sobek, California
The Clouded Leopard by Canadian author Wade Davis, published in Canada in 1998 by Douglas and McIntyre, is the winner of the Adventure Travel category. This book deals with the theme of diminishing natural and cultural diversity from a worldwide perspective. "Of all the books entered in the festival, it pronounced most articulately on the sense of loss that is currently invading our notions of adventure," says Sandford. He adds, "It is perhaps telling that almost all the books submitted in the Adventure Travel category this year catalogued loss; loss of cultural tradition, loss of biological diversity, loss of wildness and, finally, loss of landscape and the opportunity to fulfil oneself in it."

Mountain Exposition Category, \$500 prize sponsored by Mountain Lights Bookstore in Lake Louise, Canada
Going Higher: Oxygen, Man and Mountains (Fourth Edition) by the legendary Dr. Charles Houston, published in the United States in 1998 by The Mountaineers Books, is the winner of the Mountain Exposition Category. Sandford says the jury faced a particularly difficult problem choosing between *Going Higher* and *High Altitude Medicine* by Dr. Herb Hultgren. "These were two great books on high altitude physiology written by two famous researchers being entered in the same year in the same category," he says. "They are written by renowned world experts, both with decades of experience, both good writers, both citing many of the same sources and both citing each other's work in books that define the limits about what we know about high altitude physiology today".

Mountain Literature Category, \$1000 Jon Whyte Award, sponsored by the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Banff, Canada

Postcards From The Ledge : Collected Mountaineering Writings Of Greg Child, published in the United States in 1998 by The Mountaineers Books, is the winner of the Mountain Literature category. "This energetic, insightful and well written book captivated the jury," says Sandford. "There is a lot of intelligence in Child's book and a great deal of wisdom and humour. Like all good literature, the book tells its stories slowly and eloquently."

Special Jury Mention, sponsored by Sector Sport Watches

Chomolungma Sings The Blues by Ed Douglas, published in the United Kingdom in 1997 by Constable, received a Special Jury Mention. Young British writer Ed Douglas made a very positive impression with his book about his adventures around Everest. "Read this book -- you won't be able to put it down" says Sandford.