

## Report of the ASOR Awards and Honors Committee, November 10, 2014

### Submitted by Laura Mazow, Nov. 17, 2014

1. We received the largest number of nominations ever for Cross (17 nominations) and Wright (15 nominations) book awards!
2. Changed make-up of committee from 5 to 7 members. In addition to having a more robust voting process, the larger number enabled us to divide into two sub-committees for the 2 major book awards –Cross and Wright - with chair sitting on each group.
3. Revised wording of Cross Award, with the help of Sidnie White Crawford – to remain with the original intention of the award but less vague wording with the hope that we would get more applicable nominations.

New Wording: This award is presented to the editor/author of the most substantial volume(s) related to one of the following categories: a) the history and/or religion of ancient Israel; b) ancient Near Eastern and eastern Mediterranean epigraphy; c) textual studies on the Hebrew Bible; or d) comparative studies of the Hebrew Bible and ancient Near Eastern literature. This work must be the result of original research published during the past two years. (One award given annually.)

4. NEW Popular Book award: We are still considering various names for the award, but in the mean time we wanted to get it up and running. It is awarded for the 1<sup>st</sup> time ASOR 2014.

The ASOR Popular Book Award: This award is presented to the author/editor of a book published in the last two years that offers a new synthesis of archaeological data intended to reach an audience of scholars as well as students and the broader public.

5. NEW Poster award: We are still considering various names for the award, but in the mean time we wanted to get it up and running. Awarding of the poster award will NOT take place during the Member's Meeting but on Saturday during the Poster session. It is awarded for the 1<sup>st</sup> time ASOR 2014.

The ASOR Annual Meeting Poster Award: This award is conferred upon the author(s) of the poster presenting the results of a study about ancient Near Eastern societies in a clear, legible fashion using original graphic content. Subject matter may be based in archaeological sciences, history, anthropology, epigraphy, ethnography, heritage or other scholarly approaches to understanding ancient people in the areas covered by ASOR.

6. We are working on clarifying the nomination process for ASOR service awards so that we can have access to more information about the nominee's service to ASOR. We've changed the wording of the nomination process, but may try to build a fillable template that can be submitted.

The new wording: To nominate someone for an award, please submit the following information:

- i. Contact information of nominator.
- ii. Name of nominee
- iii. Name of award
- iv. A letter of support. This letter should indicate the years of service contributions to ASOR (e.g., board of trustees, overseas centers, committees, editorial or office services, etc.) and should highlight why nominee is suitable for the specific award for which the candidate is being nominated. A CV of the nominee can be attached at the discretion of the nominator.

7. We continue our efforts to:

- a. Increase nominations, particularly for ASOR service awards.

We continue to have problems getting many nominations in these service categories. There are many dedicated volunteers who serve in ASOR, but it has always been difficult to drum up nominations from the membership. One action that we undertook was to actively solicit nominations via email to all ASOR committee chairs requesting names of those who recently rotated or were rotating off committees, but we are looking for more ways that we can engage the membership in the nomination process.

- b. Increase visibility of winners.

- i. The blue ribbons last year were a great success.
- ii. Possible separate table displaying nominated and awarded books
- iii. Suggestion to follow up with publishers whose books were nominated but who do not advertise with ASOR.

- c. Suggestion that ASOR web page should include past presidents with their years of service.