

Report of the ASOR Awards and Honors Committee, November 17, 2015

Submitted by Laura Mazow, Committee Chair

1. We received a slightly fewer number of nominations in our book award categories Cross (13 nominations) and Wright (11 nominations) book awards, but probably b/c we asked publishers to limit themselves to one or two nominations per publishing house. (Last year a few publishers sent in 4 or 5 nominations for the same award). In addition, the quality of the books we received and their reflection of the type of research ASOR does was recognizably better than last year, particularly in the category of the Cross award. We suggest this is due to the re-wording of the Cross award description.

In conjunction with book nominations, we are currently discussing if we can book nominations from ASOR publications.

2. We are requesting the renewal of 2 of our members – Lauren Monroe for a 2nd term and K. Lawson Younger for a 1st term (he initially served a 1 yr. interim term to accommodate the change in size of the committee).
3. The NEW Popular Book award is now called the **Nancy Lapp Popular Book Award**. The original award description, however, is being changed to include more of what ASOR does and tie it in with the new strategic plan. We've temporarily adjusted the wording to read "a new synthesis of archaeological or textual evidence" where previously it just said "archaeology," but we will formalize the wording at ASOR meeting.

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 or textual evidence intended to reach an audience of scholars as well as students and the broader public.

4. The NEW Poster award is now called the **Joy Ungerleider Poster Award**. Because the awarding of this award is not made until after the member's meeting, we have decided to recognize the previous year's winners at the current member's meeting.
5. We continue our efforts to 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. We continue to look for more ways that we can engage the membership in the nomination process.