The Director’s Chair

Dear Friends,

Summer is winding down. Many students are already back in school, and Labor Day weekend is just around the corner.

Here at Ohioana, we have been busy preparing for our next major event: the 2016 Ohioana Book Awards. This year we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the awards, which are among the oldest and most prestigious state literary prizes in the nation.

The first Ohioana Award winner in 1942 was James “Scotty” Reston, then in the early years of a career that would ultimately include two Pulitzer Prizes. Since Reston, there have been few noted Ohio writers who have not been honored with an Ohioana Award.

From the nearly 300 books that were eligible for this year’s awards, thirty finalists in six categories were selected by jurors. To make this short list is itself recognition of excellence, and selecting the winners was a challenge. The books and authors chosen as 2016’s honorees are truly stellar.

The Ohioana Library is pleased to announce the winners of the 2016 Ohioana Book Awards! The awards, established in 1942, honor Ohio authors in Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Juvenile Literature, and Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature. The final category, About Ohio or an Ohioan, may also include books by non-Ohio authors.

Congratulations to the 2016 Ohioana Award Winners!

Fiction & Readers’ Choice

Mary Doria Russell. Epitaph: A Novel of the O.K. Corral. Ecco, 2015. Russell has been called one of the most versatile writers in American literature and one of our greatest contemporary storytellers. Her first novel, The Sparrow (1996), was chosen as one of the Ten Best Books of the Year by Entertainment Weekly and won the Arthur C. Clarke Award (Britain’s most prestigious science fiction award) for Best Novel in 1998. Doc, her fictional biography of Doc Holliday, was one of the Washington Post’s Three Best Novels of 2011. Its follow-up, Epitaph, examines how the gunfight at the O.K. Corral became central to American mythology about the Old West.
Nonfiction
Before turning to full-time book writing and teaching, Wil Haygood was a journalist at the *Boston Globe*, where he was a Pulitzer Prize finalist, and the *Washington Post*, where he wrote a story that became the award-winning motion picture *The Butler*. He is the author of seven nonfiction books, including *The Haygoods of Columbus*, a memoir about his youth in Ohio, which won the Ohioana Book Award for nonfiction in 1998.

About Ohio or an Ohioan
Acclaimed as a “master of the art of narrative history,” McCullough is a two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award and has received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His most recent book, *The Wright Brothers*, was a #1 *New York Times* bestseller and remained on the list for nine months. He is the author of nine other works, including *1776*, *John Adams*, *The Johnstown Flood*, and *Truman*. His books have been published in nineteen languages.

Juvenile Literature
Long is the author and illustrator of the *New York Times* bestselling picture books *Otis*, *Otis and the Tornado*, *Otis and the Puppy*, *An Otis Christmas*, *Otis and the Scarecrow*, and *Otis and the Kittens*. He is also the #1 *New York Times* bestselling illustrator of President Barack Obama’s picture book *Of Thee I Sing* and *Mr. Peabody’s Apples* by Madonna. Loren’s *Little Tree* is a picture book for all ages.

Middle Grade/Young Adult Literature
Pearsall is the author of six books for middle grade and teen readers. Her first book, *Trouble Don’t Last*, received the Scott O’Dell Award for Historical Fiction. *All of the Above* and *The Seventh Most Important Thing* are ALA Notable Books, and all six of her books have appeared on numerous state reading award lists. Prior to becoming a full-time author, Shelley was a teacher in the public schools and also worked in the education departments of several parks and history museums.

Poetry
Andrews’s poems and stories have appeared in many literary journals and anthologies, including *Ploughshares*, *The Paris Review*, *Best American Poetry* (1997, 2001, 2003, 2013), *The KGB Bar Book of Poems*, and *Great American Prose Poems*. The recipient of an individual artist grant from the Ohio Arts Council in 1997 and again in 2003, she is the author of six chapbooks and six full-length poetry collections. She is the mother of two grown children and lives in Poland, Ohio, with her husband and her Boston terrier, Froda.

For the 75th anniversary, we introduced the new Readers’ Choice Award. We received more than 1,100 votes from readers, who chose their favorite from among the thirty finalists. The winner: Mary Doria Russell for *Epitaph*, which also happened to be the fiction award winner.

In addition to the book awards, we will present the 2016 Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant to Eliese Colette Goldbach of Cleveland. Named for Ohioana’s second director, the Marvin Grant is a competitive prize given to an Ohio writer age 30 or younger who has not yet published a book. A number of past Marvin recipients have gone on to national acclaim, including Pulitzer Prize winner Anthony Doerr. We will feature Eliese’s prize-winning story, *In the Memory of the Living*, in this fall's *Ohioana Quarterly*.

The 2016 awards presentation is set for Friday, September 23, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the beautiful Atrium of Ohio’s historic Statehouse. I’m pleased to say that all our winners will be attending except for Loren Long, who will be at a long-scheduled literary conference out of state. We’ll have Loren on video to accept his award.

Honoring literary excellence, recognizing outstanding authors, and encouraging talented young writers: what a great tradition the Ohioana Awards have become. I hope you will join us and our award winners on September 23 for what will truly be a night to remember.

David E. Weaver
Executive Director
NEW BOOKS
The following books arrived at the Ohioana Library in April through June. Look for them at your local library or bookstore!

Nonfiction
Aft, Richard N. 100 Years of Uniting a Caring Community: United Way of Greater Cincinnati 1915-2015. 2015. PB. The United Way has dutifully served the city of Cincinnati, among others, for a century. In this book, Aft documents how the organization has changed during the past 100 years and the amazing impact the nonprofit has made on the city since its inception.


Aft, Richard N., and Mary Lu Aft. Grassroots Initiatives Shape an International Movement: United Ways Since 1876. Philanthropic Leadership 2004. PB $10.00. Grassroots initiatives and community organizing have become buzzwords used during election cycles. However, the United Way and similar organizations have been utilizing this kind of community outreach for decades. The authors provide an insightful look into how these local innovations have developed and come together to meet community needs nationwide and worldwide.

Aft, Richard N. Painful Decisions, Positive Results: United Way & Community Chest 1915-2000. Symphony Communication (Cincinnati, OH) 2000. PB $20.00. A lack of resources in the nonprofit world often leads to difficult choices. However, community leaders make these painful choices.

REVIEWS

This is the year for politics, judging candidates, and deciding who will be the next president. Karl Rove’s newest book, The Triumph of William McKinley, was released in paperback in time for the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. In this fascinating history, Rove describes how McKinley ran the first modern political campaign using newspapers, social networking, and public opinion. Wait a minute! If this sounds like political campaigns today, you are correct. McKinley campaigned for president in 1896, stomping and barnstorming across the country for votes at the Republican National Convention in Chicago and then in the race to the White House. Today’s politicians still campaign using McKinley’s techniques.

This staunch Republican, native Ohioan, U.S. Representative, and Ohio governor was the last president to have served in the Civil War. He was a master at currying favor and networking across the state and later the country. McKinley stood for protectionism, high import tariffs, and buying American. As a young politician, he weathered the Depression of 1873 while serving as U.S. Representative for Ohio. He was governor of Ohio during the Panic of 1893. The first half of McKinley’s political career was wracked with long years of unemployment, failed banks, and failed businesses in the midst of rising monopolies and industrialization. He faced many of the same problems we face today, and he campaigned successfully through it all.

You don’t have to be a Republican to read this book; it is fascinating regardless of your political persuasion. Election buffs will love the political wrangling, horse-trading, and maneuvering. Historians will delight in the political, economic, and societal issues of the United States from the end of the Civil War to the end of the century. Readers will savor the details Rove provides about this Progressive Era politician who is still relevant in the 21st century.

Reviewed by Miriam Kahn
Blackford, Mansel G. *Columbus, Ohio: Two Centuries of Business & Environmental Change*. Trillium/Ohio State Univ. Press (Columbus, OH) 2016. HC $69.95.

In this book, historian Blackford examines the evolution of Columbus from a frontier village in 1812 to a present day thriving Midwestern city. He examines not only economic decisions, but also innovative water- and land-use policies and the role they played in the city's success.


"As Ohio goes, so goes the nation." Khoury takes readers on a journey through Ohio to meet residents from all walks of life and discuss how the recent recession affected their daily lives. Their stories combine with national data to provide insight into how Americans are faring and where the state and the nation are going.


Inside this guidebook readers will find maps with detailed directions, essential information about parking and transportation, and facts about historical, architectural, cultural, and culinary sites. Grab this book and get lost in the lovely neighborhoods of the Queen City!
Don Plusquellic grew up in Akron, the son of a rubber worker and the first in his family to attend college. After an injury ended his college football career, Plusquellic changed course; he ended up serving as Akron’s mayor for more than twenty-eight years and led the city’s revitalization after the collapse of the rubber industry. In this book Steve Love tells the story of the city as well as its controversial mayor.

Matthias, John. Six Short Plays. Blaze Vox Books (Buffalo, NY) 2016. PB $16.00. In this anthology, Matthias melds drama and poetry to create six short plays that serve as performance poetry with multiple readers.

Mintz, Charles. Lustron Stories. Trillium/Ohio State Univ. Press (Columbus, OH) 2016. HC $64.95. The Columbus-based Lustron Corporation manufactured enamel-coated steel houses between 1948 and 1950. The house components were shipped to the building site on special trailers and could be assembled using only wrenches. Of the 2,500 Lustrons sold, approximately two-thirds survive. Here Mintz photographs a cross-section of these unique homes and the people who live in them.

Mould, David H. Postcards from Stanland: Journeys in Central Asia. Ohio Univ. Press (Athens, OH) 2016. PB $24.95. Although Central Asia has been the crossroads for many historic and recent events, the story of the people who live there is often left untold. This book creates a tapestry of place and contributes to the understanding of a post-Soviet world.

Platt, Carolyn V. Cuyahoga Valley National Park Handbook: Second Edition. Kent State Univ. Press (Kent, OH) 2016. PB $14.95. The Cuyahoga Valley National Park, located between Cleveland and Akron, has been called a “Green-Shrouded Miracle.” This handbook provides a comprehensive history of the park, including the politics that led to its creation.

Plumly, Stanley. The Immortal Evening: A Legendary Dinner with Keats, Wordsworth, and Lamb. W.W. Norton & Company (New York, NY) 2014. HC. On December 28, 1817, painter Benjamin Haydon hosted a dinner party to introduce his friend John Keats to William Wordsworth. An evening of thoughtful discussion and festivities ensued. Plumley not only uses the evening as a gateway to examine the lives of these three Romantic artists, but also to examine the nature of genius.

Popp, Cheryl, and Peter Bronson. Legacy of Courage: True Stories of Honor Flight Veterans. Honor Flight Tri-State (Cincinnati, OH) 2015. PB. The Honor Flight Tri-State’s mission is to thank and honor veterans, take them to visit their memorials in Washington, D.C., and to share their experiences. In this book Popp and Bronson compile the stories of many amazing veterans as a way to remember and honor those who risked their lives for our country.

Richardson, Laurel. Seven Minutes from Home: An American Daughter’s Story. Sense Publishers (Boston, MA) 2016. PB $25.00. In this book, award-winning sociologist Laurel Richardson documents the years from 1980-2015 in a series of linked stories. With topics ranging from September 11 to aging to her therapy dogs, Richardson provides a literary look at American life.

Shkurti, William J. The Ohio State University in the Sixties: The Unraveling of the Old Order. Trillium/Ohio State Univ. Press (Columbus, OH) 2016. HC $39.95. On May 6, 1970, Ohio State University president Novice G. Fawcett closed down the university in the face of violent student protests. William Shkurti, who was a student at OSU from 1964-68 and later a university vice president, uses news stories, archival materials, and interviews to explore how underlying tensions built up over time, why they exploded when they did, and how the events of 1970 changed the university.

The Shots chronicles the events that led to the shooting, explores conspiracies, and discusses the search for healing.

Sroufe, Del. The China Study Quick & Easy Cookbook: Cook Once, Eat All Week with Whole Food, Plant-Based Recipes. BenBella Books (Dallas, TX) 2015. PB $19.95. Del Sroufe makes it easy to eat a plant-based diet, even with the busiest of schedules. His cookbook provides pantry lists, menu plans, and more than 100 plant-based recipes that range from snacks to full and hearty meals. This cookbook is based on The China Study and encompasses the nutrition standards from LeAnne Campbell's original cookbook.

Stokes, Louis, and David Chanoff. The Gentleman from Ohio. Trillium/Ohio State Univ. Press (Columbus, OH) 2016. HC $39.95. After serving in the U.S. Army during WWII, becoming a lawyer, and arguing cases before the Supreme Court, in 1968 Louis Stokes became the first black congressman from Ohio. There he was one of the organizers of the Congressional Black Caucus and served in the House of Representatives for thirty years. This autobiography, completed shortly before his death in 2015, tells the story of a pioneer in American politics.

Suess, Jeff. Lost Cincinnati. The History Press (Charleston, SC) 2015. PB $21.99. Founded in 1788, Cincinnati has a long and colorful history. Suess's book commemorates the cornerstones of the Queen City's past and takes readers on a trip to famous landmarks, uncovering unique quirks that even born and raised Cincinnatians may not know.


Fiction


Bollen, Christopher. Orient. Harper (New York, NY) 2015. HC $26.99. Orient is a typically quiet small town on Long Island—until it is hit with a string of strange and violent events. At the heart of it all is a lonely teenage drifter, and as the town turns their eyes toward him, he struggles to unravel the mystery before it's too late.

Castillo, Linda. After the Storm. St. Martin's Paperbacks (New York, NY) 2015. PB $7.99. Chief of Police Kate Burkholder thought she left her life in the Amish community behind, until a tornado tears through Painters Mill and unearths human remains. While dealing with her own romantic turmoil, Kate finds herself plunged into a thirty-year-old case only to discover that the death was no accident, and that people will go to extraordinary lengths to protect one of their own.

Chappell, Connie. Deadly Homecoming at Rosemont: A Wrenn Grayson Mystery. Black Rose Writing (Castroville, TX) 2016. PB $17.95. Historian Wrenn Grayson has two mysteries on her hands: the murder of the Rosemont Mansion's former owner, and the theft of priceless Egyptian artifacts from the local university's history department, which her boyfriend chairs. It's up to her to save her boyfriend's reputation and catch the killer—before the killer catches her.

Chappell, Connie. Wild Raspberries. Black Rose Writing (Castroville, TX) 2015. PB $17.97. After the tragic and sudden death of her lover, Callie MacCallum's only wish is to fulfill her promise to visit their cabin in the West Virginia mountains. Instead, she must protect Jack's grandson from his emotionally manipulative grandmother and his power-usurping mother. As the story unfolds, secrets are revealed, and the women discover that more than grief runs between them.

Coates, Lawrence. The Goodbye House. Univ. of Nevada Press (Reno, NV) 2015. HC $26.00. In the wake of the dot-com collapse, Katherine Watson's husband, Scott, has disappeared after losing their savings and their home, causing Katherine and her teenage son Cameron to move back in with her dying father. As Katherine considers divorce and Cameron tries to fit in at his new school, Scott reappears, hoping to
recreate their past happiness. Each character must find his or her own way in a very different world.

Gustine, Amy. *You Should Pity Us Instead*. Sarabande Books (Louisville, KY) 2016. PB $15.95. In her debut collection, Gustine examines questions of love and morality in short stories set in a variety of places and times.

Hawley, Richard. *The Three Lives of Jonathan Force*. Fomite (Burlington, VT) 2016. PB. After escaping the American Midwest, Jonathan Force becomes a famous psychologist and social critic whose ideas guide public opinion around the world. A personal revelation in late middle life causes him to abandon his famous persona and move beyond the idea that one person can truly know everything.

Pollock, Donald Ray. *The Heavenly Table*. Doubleday (New York, NY) 2016. HC $27.95. In 1917, the three Jewett brothers set out from the Georgia-Alabama line on a crime spree inspired by a dime-store novel. In Southern Ohio, a farmer named Ellsworth Fiddler is swindled out of his life savings, which puts him on a collision course with the now-famous Jewetts.

Russell, Mary Doria. *Epitaph: A Novel of the O.K. Corral*. Ecco/HarperCollins (New York, NY) 2016. PB $16.99. On October 26, 1881, Doc Holliday and the Earp brothers attempted to arrest a group of cowboys in Tombstone, Arizona. Thirty seconds later, three officers were wounded and three cowboys were dead; only Wyatt Earp emerged unscathed. In this novel, Russell exposes the misrepresentation and sensationalism surrounding the gunfight, which helped create the mythology of the Old West.

Scalzi, John. *The End of All Things (Old Man’s War #6)*. Tor Books (New York, NY) 2015. HC $24.99. After the events of Scalzi’s *The Human Division*, the Colonial Union and Earth are at risk from alien attacks, an unknown assailant, and each other. Lieutenant Harry Wilson races against time to discover who is behind the new attacks, seek peace with Earth, and save humanity from oblivion.

Stewart, Leah. *The New Neighbor*. Touchstone (New York, NY) 2016. HC $24.99. Margaret Riley is content with her solitary life in Tennessee. However, the elderly woman takes notice when a young mother and son move in nearby. Margaret hopes to find a companion for her loneliness, but Jennifer refuses to open up about her past. As Margaret’s desire for friendship turns to obsession, she threatens to unravel the new life that Jennifer has carefully created and reveals secrets better left alone.

Welsh-Huggins, Andrew. *Capitol Punishment: An Andy Hayes Mystery*. Swallow Press (Athens, OH) 2016. HC $27.95. Columbus PI Andy Hayes has agreed to provide protection for a political reporter pursuing a big election-year story. But when murder strikes at the Statehouse, Andy finds himself partly responsible for the death. It will take all he has to save an innocent man, prevent more killings, and solve the crime.

**Poetry**


Bryner, Jeanne. *Both Shoes Off*. Bottom Dog Press (Huron, OH) 2016. PB $16.00. Bryner’s poetry highlights the simple beauty of rural life. Her poems tell stories of plumbers and milkweed, and her honest perspective allows the reader to be a part of personal moments of everyday domesticity.

Ignatius, Bucky. *Fifty under Fifty*. Finishing Line Press (Georgetown, KY) 2015. PB $12.49. Tight, short, free verse poems tell a story of love, nature, and creativity. These poems contain a rich interplay of imagery with an undertone of quick wit.


Quade, Mary. *Local Extinctions*. Gold Wake Press (Boston, MA) 2016. PB $14.95. One of the poems in this volume begins “The smaller the window / the more you will see / clearly.” With poems about subjects ranging from a gull to toys to a drive-in theater, Quade focuses
on seemingly everyday objects to reveal a greater truth.

Siegel, James J. How Ghosts Travel. Spuyten Duyvil (New York, NY) 2016. PB $15.00.
Siegel's dark and lyrical poems channel the past through crumbling maps, Ouija boards, and a childhood in suburban Ohio. The ghosts of his poems are an old Ferris wheel or a dilapidated Skyline drive-in, evoking feelings of nostalgia and a little fear.

Young Adult

Lee Westfall has a loving family and a secret: she can sense gold in the world around her. When her family and home are taken from her, she escapes to California, where gold has just been discovered. Can she blend in enough here to hide from those who would control her power?

After Ethan's school is taken over by a sleazy reality TV show called For Art's Sake, he decides to take action. With the help of his friends and his beloved gerbil, Luke stages a poetic protest against the show. Although their poem starts a rebellion, the show's producers are more ruthless than they seem. It's up to these vigilantes to save their school.

Michael Flynn is good at keeping secrets, including the fact that he lives in his car to escape his mother's hoarding. As if things weren't bad enough, he has been expelled and sentenced to community service after a high school stunt. There he meets Shelly, who has a difficult past of her own. She discovers not only Michael's secret, but also his good heart. Can she help him choose the right path?

Every justice system has flaws, and mistakes can lead to innocent people spending years behind bars. In this book, readers learn about the legal processes that can cause mistakes, discover the Innocence Project, and read about cases that have eventually been overturned. Since 1989 nearly 1,500 Americans have been exonerated from wrongful convictions, but can we learn from our mistakes to prevent more unjust convictions in the future?

Middle Grade & Children's

This first book in the critically-acclaimed Curious Critters series features vibrant, high-resolution photos of a variety of animals. Short passages or poems accompany each photo, and additional information is provided at the end of the book.

Twelve-year-old Charlie Price's life is divided into two parts: before his mother died, when he was part of a happy family, and after, when his father is distant and his little sister Imogen has started skipping school and making up stories about their mother. When Charlie follows Imogen one day, he learns that she has discovered a parallel world where their mother is still alive. At first it is wonderful, but the more time Charlie and Imogen spend there, the more things seem wrong in both worlds. Charlie must make a choice before he loses Imogen—and himself.

After throwing a brick at the “Junk Man,” Arthur T. Owens has two options: juvenile hall or community service supervised by the Junk Man himself. Arthur is given a rickety shopping cart, a list of “important” things, and a chance to make amends. As he hunts through other people's trash, he discovers that there's more to the Junk Man than meets the eye and that beauty can come from the most ordinary objects.

The latest installment in the *Biographies for Young Readers* series tells the story of Geraldine “Jerrie” Mock. After developing a love of flying as a young girl and studying aeronautical engineering at Ohio State University, she settled into married life until a suggestion from her husband helped her rediscover her childhood dream. In a Cessna named *The Spirit of Columbus,* Jerrie raced another pilot, Joan Merriam Smith, nearly 23,000 miles in her attempt to be the first woman to fly solo around the world.


As Clyde the cat sits at his window perch, he quietly observes his animal friends in the yard. The sleepy artwork combined with whimsical limericks make this a fun bedtime book or classroom story time option.


This picture book describes the vital role elephants play in their ecosystem, from creating paths that serve as fire barriers to eating saplings that might otherwise overtake the grasslands. But what would happen if the elephants only lived once upon a time?


This beautifully illustrated picture book provides a fun insight into a child's first word. Henry searches high and low to find what his first word should be, and once he finds it, he's not afraid to use it.

**Coming Soon**

**Thurber House Evenings with Authors** Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Ohio

The 2016 series of author readings features outstanding writers across all genres, including Ohioan Candice Millard. For schedule and ticket information, visit [http://thurberhouse.org/evenings-with-authors.html](http://thurberhouse.org/evenings-with-authors.html).

**Ohioana Book Awards** September 23, 2016, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Ohio Statehouse, Columbus, Ohio

Join us as we celebrate the winners of the 2016 Ohioana Book Awards. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. with a reception followed by the awards presentations and book signing. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.ohioana.org](http://www.ohioana.org).

**Books by the Banks** October 15, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Duke Energy Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio

This regional book fair features a book sale, author signings, children's and teen activities, panels and workshops, a writing contest, and author awards. For more information visit [http://booksbythebanks.org](http://booksbythebanks.org).

**The Write Stuff** October 15, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Upper Arlington Main Library, Upper Arlington, Ohio

The second annual day of information and inspiration for writers will feature sessions and workshops by local authors as well as an expo of local publishers and literary organizations. For more information, visit [www.ualibrary.org](http://www.ualibrary.org).

**Buckeye Book Fair** November 5, 2016, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Fisher Auditorium, Wooster, Ohio

The 29th annual book fair is a great chance to get a jump on holiday shopping. For more information, visit [www.buckeyebookfair.com](http://www.buckeyebookfair.com).

**Ohioana Book Club** November 16, 2016, 10 a.m. – noon, Ohioana Library, Columbus

The book for November is *The Soil Will Save Us* by Kristin Ohlson. The club meets in the Ohioana reading room from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If you would like to attend, please e-mail us at ohioana@ohioana.org.