



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK ANNOUNCES
2013 BOOK AWARDS WINNERS**

NEW YORK, April 1, 2013 -- [The New England Society in the City of New York](#) (NES) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2013 *New England Society Book Awards*, which honor books of merit that celebrate New England and its culture. The Awards are presented annually to the authors of books published in the previous 12 months in the categories of Fiction, Nonfiction, Art & Photography, with a newly created category called Specialty Title for books that fall outside the parameters of the first three award categories. The winning authors will be honored at a luncheon on April 25 at the Grolier Club in New York City.

“Since the early 1800s, distinguished writers from Ralph Waldo Emerson and Mark Twain to William F. Buckley, Jr., Harrison Salisbury and David McCullough have spoken at NES. We are pleased to continue this rich tradition with the *NES Book Awards*,” said NES Book Awards Committee Chair Caroline A. Camougis.

“The 2013 winners represent excellence in New England-themed writing across a wide range of subjects, from the topical Gardner museum heist and the role of Maine in modern art to theologian Roger Williams and the ants of New England. We are delighted to honor this diverse group of books and their authors,” continued Camougis.

The 2013 *NES Book Award* winners, selected from [22 short-listed titles](#), are as follows:

Fiction

The Art Forger by B.A. Shapiro (Algonquin Books): This absorbing thriller, centered on the real-life heist at Boston’s Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, spans three centuries of forgers, thieves and obsessive collectors.

Nonfiction

Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul by John M. Barry (Viking): The *New York Times* best-selling author examines two fault lines that have defined and divided America since Williams’ arrival in Boston in the 17th century: the relationship between church and state, and individual freedom versus state power.

Art & Photography

Maine Moderns: Art in Seguinland, 1900-1940 by Susan Danly and Libby Bischof (Yale University Press): In this beautifully illustrated book, Bischof and Danly explore Maine’s important place in the history of modern art.

Specialty Title, Science & Nature

A Field Guide to the Ants of New England by Aaron M. Ellison, Nicholas J. Gotelli, Elizabeth J. Farnsworth and Gary D. Alpert (Yale University Press): This user-friendly regional guide is lavishly illustrated and will introduce amateur and professional naturalists and biologists to the more than 140 ant species in the region.

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The publishing industry and public are invited to attend the awards luncheon and book signing on April 25 (cost: \$65 for NES members; \$80 for guests). The Grolier Club is located at 47 East 60th Street in New York City. To reserve, download a reservation form from the NES website at www.nesnyc.org, or contact Executive Director Robin Hickey, at (212) 752-1938 or robin@nesnyc.org. Reservations and payment must be received by Thursday, April 18.

ABOUT THE NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY

The New England Society in the City of New York (NES) was founded in 1805 and is one of the oldest social, charitable and cultural organizations in the country. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, NES was established to promote “friendship, charity and mutual assistance” among and on behalf of New Englanders living in New York. Today, NES celebrates the New England spirit and heritage through its charitable works, social activities and cultural programs. One of its most recognizable cultural contributions is its donation in 1885 of *The Pilgrim* statue at East 72nd Street in Central Park. More recently NES launched the *New England Society Book Awards* to honor books of merit that celebrate New England culture. The Society’s philanthropic initiatives include its Scholarship Program and the Central Park Monument Conservation Program. The Scholarship Program helps to fund New York City students at New England colleges and universities. The Central Park Monument Conservation Program was created to preserve the Park’s historic monuments, such as the Society’s *Pilgrim* statue.

The 2012 *Book Awards* winners were: Fiction - *The Night Strangers* by Chris Bohjalian (Crown); Historical Nonfiction - *Death of an Empire* by Robert Booth (Thomas Dunne Books); Contemporary Nonfiction - *Shucked* by Erin Byers Murray (St. Martin’s Press); Art & Photography - *Litchfield Style: Classic Country Houses of Connecticut* by Annie Kelly, photographed by Tim Street Porter (Rizzoli New York).

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