



The Canadian Nautical Research Society **Société canadienne pour la recherche nautique**

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MATTHEWS AWARDS 2012 FOR THE BEST OF 2011

Keith Matthews was a founding member and first president of the Canadian Nautical Research Society. He taught at the Memorial University of Newfoundland. He died suddenly in the mid 1980s. In his memory CNRS established awards for the best book and best article published annually. Awards have been made since at least 1987 for the 1986 publication year.

Best Article

This award with a prize of \$500 is made for the best article published in the society's journal, *The Northern Mariner/Le marin du nord*. This year the awards committee is also recognizing one article with an "Honourable Mention."

The Honourable Mention is presented to Carl Swanson for his article ' "The unspeakable Calamity this poor Province Suffers from Pyrats": South Carolina and the Golden Age of Piracy'

The award for the best article is presented to George Bolotenko for 'Wartime Explosions in Archangel, 1916 - 1917: "Bakaritsa is Burning"; "Ekonomiia is Now a Wasteland"'. This article presents original research in Russian language sources, and Dr Bolotenko provides his own translations of important excerpt. His topic is an event that is almost entirely unknown. His article skilfully sets out the complex chain of events for each of the two disasters, and provides preliminary analysis that will be valuable to specialists. As the article rightly emphasizes, there are important parallels with the Halifax explosion of December 1917, which makes the piece of special interest to Canadian readers.

Best Book

This award with a prize of \$1,000 is made for the best book written by a Canadian on any maritime subject, or by anyone on a Canadian maritime subject. Again, the awards committee has decided to recognize one book with an Honourable Mention.

The Honourable Mention is presented to Katharine Lochnan for *Black Ice: David Blackwood Prints of Newfoundland*, which was published by Douglas & McIntyre and the Art Gallery of Ontario. This book offers well written and substantial articles on various aspects of the work of the important Newfoundland artist, David Blackwood. In the words of one committee member: "the Blackwood volume is beautifully produced and a joy to go through".

The award for the best book published in 2011 is presented to James Pritchard for *A Bridge of Ships: Canadian Shipbuilding during the Second World War*, published by McGill Queen's University Press. There is prodigious new research from an impressive diversity of sources, both archival and published. No less impressive is the depth and imagination of the analysis, which cogently welds together materials bearing on such wide-ranging subjects as detailed labour practices in shipyards, supply of specific raw materials, national economic policies, and relations between the wartime Allies in little-known areas of logistics. One committee member commented: "It seems to me this book fills a significant gap - as significant in its way as the recent tomes on the RCN itself."