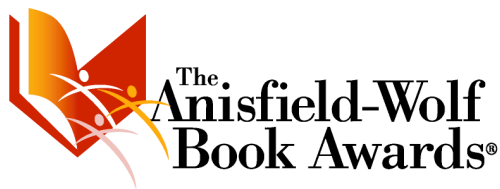


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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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The Cleveland Foundation Announces *2003 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award Winners*

CLEVELAND, Ohio (May 7, 2003) – The Cleveland Foundation today announced the winners of the 2003 Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards for outstanding works that contribute to the understanding of racism or appreciation of the rich diversity of human cultures. This year's winners are:

- **Stephen L. Carter**, *The Emperor of Ocean Park*, Fiction
- **Reetika Vazirani**, *World Hotel*, Fiction
- **Samantha Power**, *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*, Non-Fiction
- **Adrienne Kennedy**, Lifetime Achievement Award

The winners will be honored in Cleveland in September at a reception hosted by The Cleveland Foundation.

“This year’s selections reinforce the many layers and complex nature of the issues of race relations and cultural diversity in our country, as well as the importance of different voices telling their stories,” says Jury Chair Henry Louis Gates Jr., the W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities, Harvard University. “They help us gain a greater understanding of the need to respect both the humanity and individuality of others.”

“These works, and the authors who put the words to paper, have made us look hard and deep at who we are as a society,” says Steven A. Minter, president of The Cleveland Foundation. “While not always comfortable, their writings challenge our way of thinking and open our minds.”

The Emperor of Ocean Park is Carter’s first novel and draws on his familiarity with the law. This legal thriller focuses on a unique family living in two privileged worlds – the upper echelon of the east coast African American community and the close-knit inner circle of an Ivy League law school. Carter is most well known as an author of non-fiction, including his acclaimed books *The Culture of Disbelief* and *Civility*. He is the William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law at Yale University.

Vazirani's *World Hotel* follows her 1995 debut book *White Elephants*, which won the 1995 Barnard New Women Poets' Prize. Her poems explore the heritage, geography and language of South Asia, North America and the Caribbean through a variety of voices. Born in India, she is currently the Writer-in-Residence at the College of William & Mary.

Powers, the executive director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, witnessed some of the horrors of which she writes as a young correspondent covering the wars in the Balkans in 1993. *A Problem from Hell* is her attempt to explain America's response to genocide and to understand why the United States has often failed to intervene to stop these atrocities. *A Problem from Hell* received the Pulitzer Prize for general non-fiction and the National Book Critics Circle Award for non-fiction.

Kennedy, who was raised in Cleveland and attended The Ohio State University, is one of the country's most innovative American playwrights. From her early works in the 1960s to her autobiography *People Who Led to My Plays* in 1987, Kennedy's works continue to challenge audiences through their themes of racial and sexual abuse. Among her many honors are an Obie for *Funnyhouse of a Negro*, an Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Guggenheim fellowship and a Lila Wallace – Reader's Digest Fund Writers' Award. In honor of the 50th anniversary of her graduation, Ohio State University is producing a two-day Adrienne Kennedy Theatre Festival in May and will bestow upon her an honorary degree in June.

A panel of nationally known jurors, chaired by Dr. Gates, selects the Anisfield-Wolf winners. He is joined by:

Rita Dove, Commonwealth Professor of English, University of Virginia;

Joyce Carol Oates, Roger S. Berlind '52 Professor in the Humanities, Princeton University;

Steven Pinker, Peter de Florez Professor of Psychology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology;

Simon Schama, Old Dominion Foundation Professor of Humanities, Columbia University.

Now in its 68th year, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards is the only juried American literary competition devoted to recognizing books that have made an important contribution to society's understanding of racism and the diversity of cultures. To be eligible, books must be written in English and published in the preceding year. Past winners have presented the extraordinary art and culture of peoples around the world, explored human rights violations, exposed the effects of racism on children and illuminated the dignity of people as they strive for justice.

Edith Anisfield Wolf was a published poet and civic activist, who became passionately committed to social justice as a young girl. As a poet, she chose to use literature as a means to explore racial prejudice and celebrate human diversity. She established the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards some 20 years before the landmark Supreme Court *Brown vs. Board of Education* ruling.

Her work and wishes continue to be carried out through the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards, which are administered by The Cleveland Foundation.

For additional information, including a complete list of winners, visit the Anisfield-Wolf Web site at www.anisfield-wolf.org.

The Cleveland Foundation, a public charity dedicated to improving the quality of life in Greater Cleveland, is the oldest and second largest community foundation in the nation. Its establishment in 1914 is cited as one of 10 events that most heavily influenced the development of the nonprofit sector in the 20th Century and it continues to be a leader in its field. The Foundation has assets of approximately \$1.3 billion and last year awarded more than \$75 million in grants and low-cost loans to Cleveland area nonprofit organizations.

The Cleveland Foundation is made up of more than 800 funds created by individuals, families, organizations and corporations. It offers donors of all means the opportunity to have a lasting impact on their community while maximizing income, gift and estate tax benefits. For more information, visit www.clevelandfoundation.org.