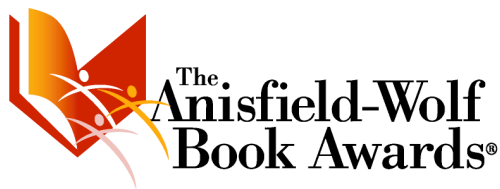


The Cleveland Foundation
1422 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1300
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2001
216.861.3810 • fax 216.861.2229

www.anisfield-wolf.org



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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Laura S. Scharf
Landau Public Relations
216.912.2857
lscharf@landaupr.com

71st Annual Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards® Winners Announced

Zadie Smith's "On Beauty" Captures Fiction Prize

CLEVELAND, Ohio (April 12, 2006) – The Cleveland Foundation today announced the winners of the 2006 Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards, created in 1935 to recognize outstanding works that contribute to society's understanding of racism or appreciation of the rich diversity of human cultures. The 2006 winners are:

- **Zadie Smith, *On Beauty***, Fiction
- **Jill Lepore, *New York Burning: Liberty, Slavery, and Conspiracy in Eighteenth-Century Manhattan***, Non-Fiction
- **William Demby, novelist**, Lifetime Achievement Award

The winners will be honored in Cleveland on Thursday, September 7th at a ceremony hosted by The Cleveland Foundation.

"This year's selections compellingly illuminate the complex nature of cultural identity in the 21st century, as well as the necessity -- and sometimes the irony -- of different cultural voices narrating their own stories," says Jury Chair Henry Louis Gates Jr., the W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities, Harvard University. "These outstanding authors show us how we, as members of the human community, are similar and how we are different."

"These works, and the men and women who created them, have challenged us to look harder and deeper at who we are, and where we want to go, as a society," says Cleveland Foundation President & CEO Ronald B. Richard. "The vision of the award's creator, Edith Anisfield Wolf, was to recognize books that explore racial prejudice and celebrate human diversity."

On Beauty, Smith's third novel is a 21st century satire which takes place on both sides of the Atlantic and concerns the struggle between the personal and political dynamic in family life.

Set at a fictional Massachusetts university, Howard Belsey, a Caucasian British transplant, and his liberal family are pitted against Trinidadian Monty Kipps and his conservative family in this examination of race, class, gender and politics. The novel takes the reader into the lives of the two feuding patriarchs and their radically different families. *On Beauty* was a Man Booker Prize finalist. Smith's other works include *The Autograph Man* and *White Teeth*. Born in Northwest London, Smith still maintains her home there.

In *New York Burning*, Lepore tells the story of the execution and deportation of hundreds of slaves found guilty of conspiring to kill whites and take over Manhattan. Over the course of a few weeks in 1741, 10 fires burned across the city leading many to blame competing political parties. The city soon united against black slaves based on the testimony of a single young white woman who claimed to have knowledge of the conspiracy. Inspired by a journal written by a Supreme Court justice in 1744, Lepore's research uncovers evidence that questions whether the conspiracy ever existed and examines the tensions of a pre-revolutionary New York City. Lepore is a professor of History at Harvard University and the author of *The Name of War: King Philip's War and the Origins of Identity*, which won the 1999 Bancroft Prize.

Demby, a World War II veteran, emerged on the literary scene in 1950, with the introduction of his highly acclaimed first novel, *Beetlecreek*. His second novel, *The Catacombs* was hailed by *The New York Times* as "one of the most important black novels of the 1960s," cementing his reputation as a powerful voice in African American literary circles. All of his novels, including *Love Story Black* and *Blueboy*, remain vibrant and relevant to this day. Demby has lived and worked in Italy for many years and served as the English translator for virtually all of the important Cinecittà films by Antonioni, Fellini, Visconti and Rossellini. He was the assistant director on Rossellini's *Europa 51*.

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, Johnstone Family Professor of Psychology, Harvard University;

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

Now in its 71st 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 human cultures. 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 literature as a means to explore racial prejudice and celebrate human diversity. Her work and wishes continue to be carried out through these book awards.

For additional information, including a complete list of winners, visit www.anisfield-wolf.org.

Established in 1914, The Cleveland Foundation is the nation's first community foundation and the third largest today, with assets of \$1.7 billion and annual grants surpassing \$80 million. The Foundation improves the lives of Greater Clevelanders in perpetuity by building community endowments, addressing needs through grantmaking, and providing leadership on vital issues. Currently the Foundation proactively directs two-thirds of its grant dollars to the community's greatest needs: economic development, public school improvement, early childhood development, neighborhoods and housing, and arts advancement.

For more information on the Cleveland Foundation, please visit www.clevelandfoundation.org.