PRESS RELEASE

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RE: Grand Comics Database ™ Comics History Awards

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Mr. Donald Dale Milne, Chair, chair@comics.org

The Grand Comics Database ™ is excited to announce its first ever Comics History Awards! The Grand Comics Database ™ is a nonprofit, internet-based organization of international volunteers dedicated to building a database covering all printed comics throughout the world. Our main project is our database, at https://www.comics.org/. But in addition to the database we have a related educational mission: expanding and improving the public's understanding and appreciation of comics, which includes the history of the medium.

As a part of our educational mission we announce the winners of the Grand Comics Database ™ Comics History Awards. Awards have been made in two categories, best book and best reprint collection, for works published in English between January and December, 2020. The awards were expected to have been made last year and the Grand Comics Database ™ apologizes to all involved, for the delay due to circumstances beyond our control. The awards are:

Best book - "Dreaming the Graphic Novel" by Paul Williams - $750,
Best reprint collection - "Atlas at War!", for the Introduction by Dr. Michael J. Vassallo - $200,
Best article – no award.

Paul Williams is Associate Professor of Twentieth-Century Literature and Culture at the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom. "Dreaming the Graphic Novel: The Novelization of Comics" (Rutgers UP, 2020) is his third book, after "Paul Gilroy", and "Race, Ethnicity and Nuclear War: Representations of Nuclear Weapons and Post-Apocalyptic Worlds". He also co-edited the collection "The Rise of the American Comics Artist: Creators and Contexts" with James Lyons. His new book, The US Graphic Novel, will be released by Edinburgh UP in September 2022. His book, "Dreaming the Graphic Novel", also won Honorable Mention, 2019-2020 Book Prize, from the Research Society for American Periodicals.

Dr. Michael J. Vassallo is a noted comics historian and authority on the Timely/Atlas period of Marvel Comic's history. For the book, in addition to writing the introduction he chose stories from sixteen different Atlas war titles featuring the artwork of twenty different artists, many of which are back in print for the first time. He has co-authored "The Secret History of Marvel Comics" and written many introductions to Marvel's Timely and Atlas Age Masterworks volumes. Dr. Vassallo also maintains his own Timely-Atlas-Comics blog. He is also a collector of original comic art, frequent contributor to comic history publications, and has provided writing and editorial support to Taschen Publishing.

An Awards Committee was established consisting of three Grand Comics Database TM members, Tony Rose, Steven Rowe and Patrick Lemaire, and two members from academia, Dr. Amy Nyberg of Seton Hall University and Dr. Leonard Rifas of Seattle Central College. Both academic members have written on comics history. Approximately 12 works were nominated and reviewed by the Committee against the following criteria:

♦ Serious scholarship representing a significant contribution to the discipline,
♦ Relevant topic of continuing importance to fans, readers, and scholars,
♦ Authority in interpretation: depth and breadth of expertise represented,
♦ Relevant topic of continuing importance to fans, readers, and scholars,
♦ Authority in interpretation: depth and breadth of expertise represented,
♦ Spirit of objectivity,
♦ Research findings handled with skill and assurance,
♦ Accurate, thorough, clear cross-referencing and indexing,
♦ Well-written and readable writing style.

From time to time, the Grand Comics Database TM may undertake additional projects to help expand and improve the public's understanding and appreciation of comics. Our primary project consists of a free online searchable database and now contains data on comics from nearly 100 countries. For over twenty-five years, we have been indexing the information contained in comic books for the use of fans, collectors, scholars, media, and anyone else interested in any aspect of comic books. The effort is and has always been entirely volunteer-driven and includes comics fans, scholars, and even a number of current and past comic book professionals! Anyone can join and help provide missing data, update existing data, or upload cover scans. We are a non-profit 501(c) corporation in the United States. Any funds will be used for our goal of documenting and indexing every comic ever published. You can also help as a volunteer web designer or programmer: we always need more technical help.

The Grand Comics Database TM continues to work towards the goal of being the web's BEST comic data source!

Please consider for your appropriate categories that would include news on comics, cartoons, pop culture, literature, or the internet.

For additional information on the Grand Comics Database TM, please contact Donald Dale Milne, Chair, at contact@comics.org . "Grand Comics Database" and the distinctive "GCD" logo shaped like a comic word balloon, are trademarks of the Grand Comicbook Database Foundation.

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