

Press Release #13

SPECULATIVE LITERATURE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES TRAVEL GRANT WINNER

SPECULATIVE LITERATURE FOUNDATION PO Box 1693, Dubuque, IA 52004-1693

info@speculativeliterature.org - <http://www.speculativeliterature.org/>

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The Speculative Literature Foundation is delighted to announce that its second annual Travel Grant has been awarded to Christopher Barzak. The \$600 grant will be used to help Christopher research cultures and settings in southern Japan for a novel with magical realism and contemporary fantasy elements. The travel will be to the cities of Kyoto and Nara in Japan.

Christopher's novel will feature a set of interconnected stories set in Japan and characters of both Japanese and foreign nationalities. "The [stories] draw on Japanese folklore and fairy tales, as well as Japanese superstition and ghost stories," the author explained.

The Speculative Literature Foundation's travel grant jurors were again an international team comprised of Tiffany Jonas in the United States and Colin Harvey in the United Kingdom. "The quality of the applications was again excellent, and we especially appreciated the diversity-we received proposals for works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and a screenplay," said Tiffany, founder and editorial director of Aio Publishing Company, LLC. "Christopher's work was particularly lyrical. His writing sample was fraught with humanity, singing with hopeful, tenuous emotion. His description of the project and its speculative elements certainly piqued our interest."

"Chris Barzak's application was supported by a fine piece of fiction," said Colin, a novelist and critic in the speculative fiction genre, "that with its cool, limpid prose, shone like a gem, presenting a different facet on each reading."

Christopher has published short fiction in publications such as Strange Horizons, Realms of Fantasy, Ideomancer, The Third Alternative, and Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet in addition to poetry published in Icon and The Penguin Review. His work has also appeared in anthologies: his short story Plenty appeared in The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror (Vol. 15) and his story Dead Boy Found appeared both in Small Beer Press' anthology Trampoline and Carroll & Graf's The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror (vol.

15). Wheatland Press, Viking, and Haworth Press will publish more of his short fiction in 2005, 2006, and 2007 respectively.

Christopher's project was chosen from among thirty applications.

Further details of SLF's Travel Grant program can be found at: <http://www.speculativeliterature.org/Awards/SLFTravelGrant.php>. Applications for next year's Travel Grant will open on July 1st, 2006.

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Contact: Cheryl Morgan press@speculativeliterature.org

The Speculative Literature Foundation is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the interests of readers, writers, editors and publishers in the speculative literature community.

"Speculative literature" is a catch-all term meant to inclusively span the breadth of fantastic literature, encompassing literature ranging from hard and soft science fiction to epic fantasy to ghost stories to folk and fairy tales to slipstream to magical realism to modern mythmaking -- any literature containing a fabulist or speculative element.

More information about the Speculative Literature Foundation is available from its web site (<http://www.speculativeliterature.org/>) or by writing to info@speculativeliterature.org