

Press Release #18

SPECULATIVE LITERATURE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES FOURTH ANNUAL TRAVEL RESEARCH GRANT WINNER

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SPECULATIVE LITERATURE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES FOURTH ANNUAL TRAVEL RESEARCH GRANT WINNER

The Speculative Literature Foundation is delighted to announce that its fourth annual Gulliver Travel Research Grant has been awarded to author Matt Hughes. The \$600 grant will be used to help Hughes travel to Seville, Ecuador, to research records concerning the Spanish Inquisition and the history of a local family for a historical novel with elements of magical realism.

Historical novelist Cecelia Holland advised Hughes to let his novel emerge from the actual history. "I intend to follow her advice," he said, noting that he has wanted to write the novel for more than thirty years, since coming across a report of a historic shipwreck in the area.

"Matt's stories are lush, sometimes using verbs and nouns that are so strong that they give his stories a baroque feel, but there is a crispness to his writing and plotting that underpins that superficial opulence," said Colin Harvey, author of *Lightning Days* and *The Silk Palace* and the Foundation's United Kingdom travel grant juror.

"Though we enjoyed all the submissions, we found Matt's writing sample clever, sophisticated, and imbued with a delightful sense of tongue-in-cheek humor," said Tiffany Jonas, founder and publisher of Aio Publishing Company, LLC, and the Foundation's United States travel grant juror. "We're eager to see the results of this particular research on the bookshelves soon."

Hughes' novels have been published by Warner Aspect, Tor, the Science Fiction Book Club, Night Shade Books, Pocket Books, PS Publishing, Robert J. Sawyer Books, Maxwell Macmillan Canada, and Doubleday Canada. His short fiction has appeared in *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *Asimov's*, *Storyteller*, *Interzone*, and *Postscripts Magazine* as well as anthologies *Best Short Novels of 2005*, *Fantasy: Best of the Year* (2006), *Tesseract 10*, and *Forbidden Planets* (2006).

The Gulliver Travel Research Grant is awarded to assist a writer of speculative fiction in his or her research. As in previous years, the 2007 grant includes \$600 to be used to cover airfare, lodging, and/or other expenses relating to the research for a project of speculative fiction. The grant is awarded by a committee of Speculative Literature Foundation members on the basis of interest and merit.

The grant is named after Gulliver, a character in the 1726 story "Gulliver's Travels" written by Jonathan Swift. The story represents one of the earliest examples of fantasy travel.

Applications for the fifth annual Gulliver Travel Research Grant will open on July 1, 2008.

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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.

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