



EVANS BIOGRAPHY AWARDS FOR BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2022 & 2023



Evans Biography Award
 (\$10,000 Award)

Evans Handcart Award
 (\$2,500 Award)



THE MOUNTAIN WEST CENTER FOR REGIONAL STUDIES AT UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY IS SEEKING SUBMISSIONS FOR
WELL-RESEARCHED & WELL-WRITTEN BIOGRAPHIES, AUTOBIOGRAPHIES, OR EDITED MEMOIRS
WITH A SIGNIFICANT CONNECTION TO THE INTERIOR WEST

Deadline for submission of books published in 2022 & 2023: February 15, 2024

AWARD CRITERIA:

To be considered for the biennial Evans Biography Award and Evans Handcart Award, books need to be well-researched and well-written and fit at least one of the following criteria:

- A biography, autobiography, or edited memoir of someone who lived a significant portion of his or her life in “Mormon Country”—that region historically influenced by Mormon institutions and social practices. The region is roughly an expanded Great Basin and Rocky Mountain region, extending south into Chihuahua and Sonora, Mexico, and north into southern Alberta, Canada (neither the biography’s subject nor author need be affiliated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, also known as the Mormon Church).
- A well-researched history or family history in which the biographical material concerning the principal(s) is/are extensive and significant. The Interior West must be a significant setting.
- A collection of biographical portraits in which the individuals fit a unifying theme and understanding. The Interior West must be a significant setting.
- A biography or family history with significant biographical content dealing with nineteenth-century Mormon history, including the Palmyra, Kirtland, Nauvoo, and exodus periods.
- The Evans Handcart Award gives preference to first-time authors of full length books of biography, autobiography, or edited memoir about the Interior West. Writers of family history or memoir are especially encouraged to submit their published work.

AWARD CLASSIFICATION:

Authors or nominating publishers may self-identify the category under which they wish to be considered; however, the regional jury will screen all submissions and make the final determination about whether books best fit the criteria of the Evans Biography Award or the Evans Handcart Award.

Guidelines for best fit are as follows:

<p>Evans Biography Award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference given to strong, scholarly work • Potential use as academic text or cited in other research • Use of solid research methods & primary research • Offers new insight, fresh approach, or innovative look at subject person or culture • Typically expansive in time span • Maintains readability; is engaging 	<p>Evans Handcart Award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference given to work with a personal perspective (i.e., family story) • Should have a strong narrative & good storytelling • Can be a memoir (i.e., narrowly focused by a theme or span of time) • Not required to be an exhaustive analysis of an entire life • Preference given to a new author or an author new to the genre
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AWARD SELECTION:

The regional jury will choose up to four finalists for the Evans Biography Award and choose the winner of the Evans Handcart Award. The winner of the Evans Biography Award will be chosen from the finalists by a national jury. Past judges on the regional and national juries have included award-winning historians, biographers, and memoirists as well as western studies scholars and representatives from independent booksellers. The winning authors and publishers will be notified in July, and the presentation of the awards will take place at a ceremony at Utah State University in Fall 2024. *(No award will be given if jurors determine that no submission merits an award in any given award cycle.)*

AWARD SUBMISSION:

Send a submission cover sheet (available at www.usu.edu/mountainwest) with **six** copies of the book and one copy of the author’s resume to the address below. Books published in 2022 & 2023 may be sent at any time but no later than February 15, 2024.

Mailing Address (US Postal Service): Mountain West Center for Regional Studies Utah State University 0735 Old Main Hill Logan, UT 84322-0735	Parcel Address (Fed Ex / UPS): Mountain West Center for Regional Studies Utah State University Old Main Building – Room 338 Logan, UT 84322
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Established by the Evans family in 1983 to honor David Woolley Evans and Beatrice Cannon Evans, and administered by the Mountain West Center since 1987, these awards recognize outstanding writing in the genres of biography and autobiography. David Evans (1894-1982) was a writer, editor, and founder of a large advertising and public relations firm that bore his name. Beatrice Evans (1894-1985) was an historian and family genealogist who edited the *Cannon Family Historical Treasury*, a six-generation history of her father’s family. She was also the genealogist and historian for her mother’s large Bennion family. Both David and Beatrice recognized the importance of publishing the stories of the people and families who shaped and were shaped by their sense of place in the Interior West.

QUESTIONS: Email: mwc@usu.edu; Phone: 435-797-0299; Website: www.usu.edu/mountainwest

EVANS BIOGRAPHY AWARDS PAST WINNERS (ABBREVIATED LIST):

(See website www.usu.edu/mountainwest for a complete list of award winners since 1983)

<p>Evans Biography Award Winners</p> <p>1983 Leonard J. Arrington – <i>Brigham Young: American Moses</i></p> <p>1987 Levi S. Peterson – <i>Juanita Brooks: Mormon Woman Historian</i></p> <p>2000 Donald Worster – <i>A River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell</i></p> <p>2011 William M. Adler – <i>The Man Who Never Died: The Life, Times, and Legacy of Joe Hill, American Labor Icon</i></p> <p>2012 Timothy Egan – <i>Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: The Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis</i></p> <p>2016 Gregory A. Prince – <i>Leonard Arrington and the Writing of Mormon History</i></p> <p>2020 James R. Swensen – <i>In A Rugged Land: Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, and the Three Mormon Towns Collaboration, 1953-1954</i></p> <p>2022 Terryl L. Givens – <i>Stretching the Heavens: The Life of Eugene England and the Crisis of Modern Mormonism</i></p>	<p>Evans Handcart Award Winners</p> <p>1997 Donna Toland Smart – <i>Mormon Midwife: The 1846-1888 Diaries of Patty Bartlett Sessions</i></p> <p>2000 Robert S. McPherson – <i>The Journey of a Navajo Oshley: An Autobiography and Life History</i></p> <p>2002 Margaret Bell (ed. Mary Clearman Blew) – <i>When Montana and I Were Young: A Frontier Childhood</i></p> <p>2012 Erin Ann Thomas – <i>Coal in Our Veins: A Personal Journey</i></p> <p>2013 Evelyn I. Funda – <i>Weeds: A Farm Daughter’s Lament</i></p> <p>2014 James M. Aton – <i>The Art and Life of Jimmie Jones: Landscape Artist of the Canyon Country</i></p> <p>2016 Pete Fromm – <i>The Names of the Stars: A Life in the Wilds</i></p> <p>2018 Rodney Frey – <i>Carry Forth the Stories: An Ethnographer’s Journey in Native Oral Tradition</i></p> <p>2020 Tara Westover – <i>Educated</i></p> <p>2022 Judy Y. Kawamoto – <i>Forced Out: A Nikkei Woman’s Search for a Home in America</i></p>
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**EVANS BIOGRAPHY AWARD &
 EVANS HANDCART AWARD
 SUBMISSION FORM**



Book Title: _____

Author: _____

Publisher: _____

Date Published: _____

Submitted By: _____

(Check one) **Author** **Publisher** **Lit.Agent** **Other** _____

Author Contact Information

Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Publisher Contact Information

Contact Name and Title: _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Enclosed _____ **Six (6) copies of the book** _____ **Author bio / resume**

How Did You Learn of the Awards? (Check all that apply)

- Direct solicitation by MWC staff**
- Publisher is a regular submitter**
- Through advertising at conference or a professional organization**
- MWC website**
- Direct mailing from MWC**
- Word of mouth**
- Other** _____