

PULITZER PRIZES FACT SHEET -- 2012

Overview

- More than 2,500 entries are submitted each year to the Pulitzer Prize competition and only 21 prizes are awarded.
- The year-long process begins with the appointment of 102 distinguished jurors who serve on separate juries and make three recommendations in each of 21 categories.

Journalism

- In the 14 Journalism categories, 1,113 entries were submitted this year (16 more than last year).
- In Journalism, there was a robust competition with finalists coming from 31 different news organizations, two of them weekly newspapers. Winners represented 12 organizations.
- In 2009, the Journalism competition was expanded to include online-only news sites. This year, the Huffington Post, an online news site, won its first Pulitzer Prize. It was for National Reporting.
- POLITICO, a largely online site, won the prize for Editorial Cartooning.
- The Stranger, an alternative weekly in Seattle, won the Feature Writing prize.
- Substantial online and multimedia content was submitted, most of it from newspapers.
- Digital content played a role in seven winning entries: Public Service, Breaking News Reporting, Investigative Reporting, Explanatory Reporting, National Reporting, Editorial Cartooning and Breaking News Photography.
- In the arts categories, juries reviewed 1,162 books (42 fewer than last year). They also reviewed 170 Music entries and about 60 plays.

Board

- The Board is composed of 20 members, 18 of whom are voting members.
- Members serve a maximum of three three-year terms.

Juries

- Juries range in size. Journalism juries have five or seven members, depending on the volume in a category. Book juries have three members. Music and Drama juries have five members.

Procedure

- Each jury recommends three finalists – no more, no less – without statement of preference.
- The Board makes the final decisions after evaluating all the nominated finalists and considering jury reports.
- Prizes are awarded by majority vote of the Board but the Board is also empowered to vote “no prize” or by three-fourths vote to switch nominations among categories or to select any entry that has not been nominated by a jury.

Notable facts

- This year, no prize was awarded in one book category (Fiction) and in one Journalism category (Editorial Writing).
- A book was moved from the Biography category to History and selected as a winner.
- Two prizes were awarded in the Investigative Reporting category – to the Associated Press and the Seattle Times.

- Craig F. Walker of the Denver Post won his second Pulitzer (Feature Photography).

Awards luncheon

- The prizes will be awarded at a luncheon on May 21 at Columbia's Low Library.

Symbol of the Prizes

- The iconic Gold Medal is awarded each year to the American newspaper that wins the Public Service category. It is never awarded to an individual. However, through the years, the Medal has come to symbolize the entire Pulitzer program.