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PRESS RELEASE

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TODAY the Trustees of the Charles Taylor Prize Foundation announced the nominees for the 2002 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction. The Prize consists of \$25,000 for the winning author, as well as promotional support. The names of the nominees were unveiled at a press conference at the Windsor Arms Hotel in Toronto.

THE CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE FOR LITERARY NON-FICTION will be awarded on April 22 in commemoration of Charles Taylor, one of Canada's foremost essayists and a prominent member of the Canadian literary community. The Prize is for achievement in the field known variously as literary non-fiction and belles lettres. It will be awarded to the author whose book best demonstrates and combines an uncommon command of the English language, an elegance of style, and a subtlety of thought and perception.

On April 22, the ceremony to announce the winner of the 2002 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction will be broadcast on CBC Radio One's *Ontario Today* with host Dave Stephens.

THE 2002 NOMINEES AND JURY CITATIONS ARE:

TIME LORD: THE REMARKABLE CANADIAN WHO MISSED HIS TRAIN AND CHANGED THE WORLD, by Clark Blaise (San Francisco, CA)  
Published by Knopf Canada

At once biographical essay, historical precis, memoir, and literary reflection, TIME LORD explores the scientific, poetic, and popular meanings of time. Set against the life of Sir Sandford Fleming, who helped revolutionize the way in which time in the twentieth century was ordered and perceived, this absorbing narrative charts Sir Sandford's efforts towards the establishment of standard time. In a manner both profound and charming, Blaise shows that neither science nor art can fully convey the elusive nature of time.

THINGS THAT MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN: A CHILDHOOD IN WARTIME CHINA, by Michael David Kwan (Vancouver, BC, deceased)  
Published by Macfarlane Walter & Ross

Son of a Chinese father and a European mother, Michael David Kwan was born into a world of material privilege and emotional turmoil. In his evocative memoir THINGS

THAT MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN, he describes how that world unravels when the Japanese invade China, and Kwan's father, a wealthy railway administrator, becomes involved in the resistance movement. The juxtaposition of his innocent Beijing childhood and the afflictions and bitter animosities of war is unforgettable. THINGS THAT MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN is a book by a writer who must not, and will not, be forgotten.

THE SPINSTER & THE PROPHET: FLORENCE DEEKS, H.G. WELLS AND THE MYSTERY OF THE PURLOINED PAST, by A.B. McKillop (Ottawa, ON)  
Published by Macfarlane Walter & Ross

THE SPINSTER & THE PROPHET is a fascinating account of a once-notorious, now little-known literary controversy in which the author and the reader discover a multitude of themes. In trying to answer the question of who wrote *An Outline of History*, either its supposed author, H.G. Wells, or an amateur student of history, the Torontonians Florence Deeks, McKillop recounts a tale which opposes the famous and the obscure, truth and falsehood, history and fiction, male and female, the individual and the state, and the colonizer and the colonized. The book is an investigative *tour de force*, a mystery story, and an excavation of an important part of our past.

NOTES FROM THE HYENA'S BELLY: MEMORIES OF MY ETHIOPIAN BOYHOOD, by Nega Mezlekia (Toronto, ON)  
Published by Penguin Canada

In the forthright and powerful memoir, NOTES FROM THE HYENA'S BELLY, Nega Mezlekia recounts the story of his youth in Ethiopia, a land torn by poverty, political strife, and ultimately, war. He redeems the suffering that he, his family, and his friends endure by writing with great dignity, humour, and self-deprecation. The book is grounded in Mezlekia's own Amhara mythology which lends to an already moving narrative dimensions of timelessness and grace.

JANE AUSTEN, by Carol Shields (Victoria, BC)  
Published by Penguin Canada

Luminous and engaging, Carol Shields's JANE AUSTEN is an intimate dialogue between two much-beloved writers. The narrative ranges freely through Austen's life and work, responding with suppleness and wit to what Shields calls "The...dance of life... in language and in understanding." Shields helps us see that Austen's life, long assumed to be narrow and uneventful, was in fact a microcosm of humanity in which universal truths can be discovered.

THE GEOMETRY OF LOVE: SPACE, TIME, MYSTERY AND MEANING IN  
AN ORDINARY CHURCH, by Margaret Visser (Toronto, ON)  
Published by HarperFlamingoCanada

An extended reflection on the structure and meaning of one building, THE GEOMETRY OF LOVE guides the reader through the complexities of a small church in Rome named *Sant'Agnese fuori le Mura*. Margaret Visser's prose, poised and erudite, perfectly matches the richness of her subject. In this extraordinary book about an ordinary church, her achievement is nothing less than to discover in the particular and concrete what is universal and divine.

THE CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE commemorates Charles Taylor's pursuit of excellence in the craft of writing. The Prize consists of \$25,000 for the winning author, as well as promotional support to help all shortlisted books stand out in the national media, bookstores, and libraries. The publisher of the winning book will receive a citation.

Authors whose books have been shortlisted for the Prize will be brought to Toronto for the award ceremony on April 22, 2002, at the Windsor Arms Hotel. Shortlisted authors will be invited to speak on Sunday, April 21, at the Nicholas Hoare-*The Globe and Mail* Books & Brunch event at the King Edward Hotel.

The jurors for the 2002 Prize are Neil Bissoondath (Quebec City), Wayne Johnston (Toronto), and Eva-Marie Kröller (Vancouver). They have selected the nominees from 154 books submitted by 41 publishers. Books in the genre of literary non-fiction, published between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2001, were eligible if authored by a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant and widely available in Canada.

The Trustees of the Charles Taylor Foundation are Michael Bradley (Toronto), Robert Bringhurst (Vancouver), Judith Mappin (Montreal), David Staines (Ottawa), and Noreen Taylor (Toronto).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE NOMINEES

FOR THE 2002 CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE FOR LITERARY NON-FICTION:

- Media in Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, please contact: Diane Hargrave, Jennifer Asling, or Donna Nopper at 416 467 9954
- Media in British Columbia, please contact: Patricia McLean at 604 224 8976
- Media in the Atlantic provinces, please contact: Marilyn Pincock at 902 453 5686 and Melanie Jollymore at 902 827 3126

## THE JURORS

NEIL BISSOONDATH, author. His new novel, *Doing the Heart Good*, has just been published in Canada and the U.K. His previous novel, *The Worlds Within Her*, was short-listed for several prizes, including the Governor General's Literary Award and France's Prix Medicis. It won Le Prix Litteraire des Amériques insulaires (France). He has published many articles in a variety of journals, magazines, and newspapers, including *The New Internationalist*, *en Route*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Saturday Night*, *The New York Times*, *Le Soleil*, *Le Nouvel Observateur*, and *Le Monde*. His books include *Selling Illusions: The Cult of Multiculturalism in Canada* (1994), which was awarded The Gordon Montador Award and le Prix Spirale de l'essai; *The Innocence of Age* (1992), which won The Canadian Authors Association Award for Fiction; *On the Eve of Uncertain Tomorrows*; *Digging Up the Mountains*, and *A Casual Brutality*. He has lived in Toronto and Montreal, and currently resides in Quebec City, where he is professor of creative writing at Université Laval.

WAYNE JOHNSTON, author. His most recent book, *Baltimore's Mansion: A Memoir*, won the inaugural Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction and the University of British Columbia Medal for Canadian Biography in 2000. His recent novel, *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams* was released to international critical acclaim, and was short-listed for the 1998 Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction, The Giller Prize, the Stephen Leacock Award for Humour and and won the Thomas Raddall/Atlantic Fiction Prize. He was the winner of the Thomas Raddall/Atlantic Fiction Prize for *The Divine Ryans* in 1990, the film adaptation of which was released in 1999. He was chosen as the Canadian Authors' Association Most Promising Young Canadian Writer for *The Time of Their Lives* in 1988, and he won the W.H. Smith/*Books in Canada* First Novel Award for *The Story of Bobby O'Malley* in 1985. His new novel *The Navigator of New York* will be released simultaneously in Canada, the United States and Britain in the fall of 2002. Wayne Johnston was born and raised in Newfoundland and now lives in Toronto. He is currently writer-in-residence at Hollins University, Virginia.

EVA-MARIE KRÖLLER, academic, editor, and author, published *Pacific Encounters: The Production of Self and Other* with the UBC Institute of Asian Research in 1997. She edits *Canadian Literature* and is a professor in the Department of English at the University of British Columbia. Eva-Marie Kröller studied at the Universities of Bonn and Freiburg, Germany and in 1978 received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Alberta. From 1990 to 1995, she chaired the Programme in Comparative Literature at UBC. In 1992 she published *George Bowering: Bright Circles of Colour* with Talonbooks and in 1987 she published *Canadian Travellers in Europe, 1851-1900* with UBC Press. She has won a number of awards and distinctions, most notably a Killam Research Prize in 1995 and a Killam Teaching Prize in 1999.

## BIOGRAPHY OF CHARLES TAYLOR

BEST KNOWN for *Six Journeys: A Canadian Pattern* (1977) and *Radical Tories: The Conservative Tradition in Canada* (1982), CHARLES TAYLOR wrote four books. He was a correspondent for *The Globe and Mail* and a member of its editorial board. Beginning with his first book, *Reporter in Red China* (1966), he displayed a remarkable talent for expressing his thoughts eloquently. His writing style, though deceptively simple, had an elegance of rhythm and music. His second book, *Snow Job: Canada, The United States and Vietnam, 1954 - 1973* (1974) about Canada's involvement in the American War in Vietnam, further exemplified these qualities. He also edited *China Hands: The Globe and Mail in Peking* (1984).

*Six Journeys: A Canadian Pattern* is the book for which he is best remembered. In this collection of biographical essays, he explored the path of six exceptional and diverse personalities driven by the desire to achieve their deeply personal goals. Their lives are described with sensitivity and their tales are told with insight, interest, and a keen intelligence.

Charles Taylor was an involved member of the arts community; he was Chairman of the Writers' Union of Canada, worked on the Harbourfront Board, was active on the 1812 Committee, and in 1977 served as a juror for the Gelber Prize. He was a major figure in the world of horse racing and breeding, where he served as Trustee and Vice-President of the Ontario Jockey Club of Canada, Chief Steward of the Jockey Club of Canada, Member of the New York Jockey Club, and Director of the Breeders Cup. As well, he was President of Windfields Farm Limited and it was during his tenure that the Taylor family home on Bayview Avenue became the Canadian Film Centre.

Charles Taylor died of cancer in 1997 and is survived by Noreen Taylor, his widow, and his two children, Nadina and Edward.

## THE TRUSTEES

MICHAEL BRADLEY is a retired lawyer and is a member of an investment advisory firm. He obtained his B.A. and M.A. from Cambridge and his law degree from the University of Toronto. A member of the Law Society of Upper Canada, he practised with the firm Fraser & Beatty from 1965 to 1998, when he retired as a Senior Tax Partner. In addition to his law practice, principally in the areas of international and corporate tax, he also represented writers in matters related to publishing. Michael is one of the founders and a principal of Quant Investment Strategies Inc. in Toronto, a firm providing investment advisory services.

ROBERT BRINGHURST is a poet, author, and cultural historian. His books include *A Story as Sharp as a Knife: The Classical Haida Mythtellers and Their World* (1999). He was named a Guggenheim Fellow for poetry and has lectured on Native American arts and oral literature at universities around the world. In addition to *A Story as Sharp as a Knife*, he published *The Black Canoe: Bill Reid and the Spirit of Haida Gwaii*, considered one of the best books on the subject of Native American art, and several books of poetry, most notably two volumes of selected poems, *The Beauty of the Weapons* and *The Calling*. He has translated the works of two Haida poets, Skaay and Ghandl, and written what has become a standard in the field, *The Elements of Typographic Style* (2nd edition 1996).

JUDITH MAPPIN is the sister of the late Charles Taylor. She was born and brought up in Toronto, received a B.Sc. from McGill University, worked for a year in the Banting Institute, then married John N. Mappin and moved to Montreal, where she and her husband raised a family of five children. In 1974, with two partners, she established The Double Hook Book Shop on Greene Avenue, where she became well-known as a champion of Canadian authors and their books. Judith served a term as a Director of the Canadian Booksellers Association, was a founding member and director for nine years of the Quebec Society for the Promotion of English Language Literature (QSPELL), and served for two years on the jury selection committee of QSPELL's successor, the Quebec Writers Federation. She is currently President of Windfields Farm Limited and was a juror for the 1999 Giller Prize.

DAVID STAINES is Dean of Arts and Professor of English at the University of Ottawa. Born in Toronto, he received his B.A. from the University of Toronto and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard. He is the author or editor of many books, most notably *Tennyson's Camelot: The Idylls of the King and Its Medieval Sources* and *The Complete Romances of Chrétien de Troyes*. David is a founding member of the Giller Foundation and also serves as general editor of the New Canadian Library and editor of the *Journal of Canadian Poetry*.

NOREEN TAYLOR, Chairman of the Charles Taylor Foundation, is the widow of the late Charles Taylor. An active member of the arts and business communities, she is a Toronto-based painter whose works are in a number of private and public collections and appear on the covers of several literary books. She is a Member of The Jockey Club of Canada, a member of Cancer Care Ontario – Central East Committee, a Trustee of the E.P. Taylor Equine Research Fund, and sits on the Foundation Board of Durham College. She is the Vice-President of Thoroughbred Operations of Windfields Farm Limited.