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The Textile Society of America is pleased to announce the winner of the 2016 R.L. Shep Ethnic Textile Book award:

Block Printed Textiles of India: Imprints of Culture

Eiluned Edwards

New Delhi, Niyogi Books, 2016

Block Printed Textiles of India: Imprints of Culture represents an important addition to the growing literature on the textile traditions of India. The work is based on over 24 years of field research with Indian block printers, block makers, dyers, entrepreneurs, designers, government and non-governmental organizations, as well as research of private and museum collections in India and abroad. An engaging and accessible read, it provides intimate, grounded discussions of local traditions and change and the many talented artists who are forging those changes.

Thirteen works were nominated for the 2016 R.L. Shep Award, representing the tremendous variety of textiles and textile approaches embraced by TSA. In addition to the winning book, the committee wanted to recognize two other works for the originality and scope of their research--Textiles of the Banjara: Cloth and Culture of a Wandering Tribe, by Charlotte Kwon and Tim McLaughlin and Encyclopedia of Embroidery from the Arab World, by Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood. It was a challenging task to determine the winner among so many outstanding publications. Details of the nominated books, including reviews of some of them, were featured in Textile Society of America Newsletter, Vol. 29, No. 1, (Spring 2017).

Given annually to a publication judged to be the best book in the field of ethnic textile studies, the R.L. Shep Award consists of a cash prize funded by an endowment established by R.L. Shep in 2000. The purpose of this award is to encourage the study and understanding of textile traditions by recognizing and rewarding exceptional scholarship.

For further information about the award or to nominate a book for the 2017 Shep Award, please visit: <https://textilesocietyofamerica.org/programs/awards-scholarships/shep/>

The 2016 R.L. Shep Ethnic Textile Book Award committee:

- Dr. Michele Hardy, 2016 Shep Committee Chair; Curator, Nickle Galleries, University of Calgary
- Dr. Sarah Fee; Curator, Textiles & Costume, Department of World Cultures, Royal Ontario Museum
- Dr. Eulanda A, Sanders; Professor and Chair, Donna R. Danielson Professor in Textiles and Clothing Department of Apparel, Events and Hospitality Management, Iowa State University