



Polar Libraries Colloquy

Media Release

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Winner of the 2022 William Mills Prize for Non-Fiction Polar Books Announced

The Polar Libraries Colloquy is pleased to announce the winner of the 2022 William Mills Prize for Non-Fiction Polar Books is ***The Nansen Photographs*** by Geir Kløver (published by The Fram Museum).

The Nansen Photographs uses documents and recovered photographs to tell the story of Norwegian Arctic explorer Fridtjof Nansen and his ground-breaking efforts to reach the North Pole in the specially-designed polar ship the *Fram*. The book begins with the initial planning of the expedition in 1890 and continues until the end of Nansen's international lecture tour in 1897.

Entries from the personal diaries of Nansen and seven of his crew members add to the story. The construction of the *Fram* is followed through numerous letters between Nansen and the ship's designer and builder, Colin Archer, and five previously unknown sets of drawings are included, from the initial proposal for the ship to the final design.

Geir Kløver's text knits the varied content together into an impressive tribute to Nansen and the *Fram*.

Two other nominations were awarded Honorable Mentions:

- ***What I Remember, What I Know: The Life of a High Arctic Exile*** by Larry Audlaluk (published by Inhabit Media).

What I Remember, What I Know tells the story of the struggle of Audlaluk's family to survive after their relocation by the Canadian Government. Seven families were moved from a traditional Inuit settlement west of Inujjuak, Nunavik to the High Arctic in the 1950s. Their suffering is juxtaposed in the book with excerpts from official reports conveying the relocation as a successful experiment.

"They were promised a land of plenty. They were given an inhospitable polar desert."

- ***Antarctic Atlas: New Maps and Graphics that Tell the Story of a Continent*** by Peter Fretwell (published by Penguin Random House).

Antarctic Atlas presents an innovative collection of new maps and charts to tell the story of Antarctica's history, climate, resources, oceans, atmosphere, wildlife and more. Predictions for Antarctica's future are also included.

Peter Fretwell, a Geographic Information Scientist with the British Antarctic Survey, has succeeded in creating an atlas with great appeal to a wide variety of readers.

*"Antarctica is ... the frontier of our fight against climate change. If its ice melts, it will swamp almost every coastal city in the world. **Antarctic Atlas** ... shows how, far from being abstract, it has direct relevance to us all."*

Twenty remarkable books were nominated for the 2022 Mills Prize. A full list of all titles nominated for the 2022 William Mills Prize, including those titles that were shortlisted, is available on the [Polar Libraries Colloquy website](#).

The William Mills Book Prize is awarded every two years and honours the best Arctic or Antarctic non-fiction books published throughout the world. The prize was first presented in 2006. It is named in honour of William Mills, a polar librarian and author, and a core member of the Polar Libraries Colloquy during its formative years.

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