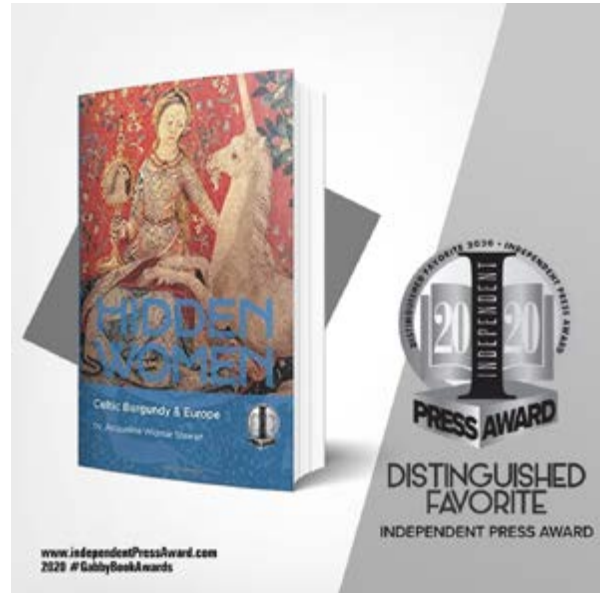




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Author receives national recognition through the INDEPENDENT PRESS AWARDS®!

Palo Alto, California, May 5, 2020 – The **INDEPENDENT PRESS AWARD** recognized the two most recent books in The **HIDDEN WOMEN Series: *Frankish Splendor & Valor in Celtic Europe*** and ***Celtic Burgundy in Europe*** by Jacqueline Widmar Stewart in the categories of World History and Women’s Issues as winner and distinguished favorite, respectively.

The competition is judged by experts from different aspects of the book industry, including publishers, writers, editors, book cover designers and professional copywriters. Selected award winners and distinguished favorites are based on overall excellence.

In this multi-disciplinary study narrated by photography, poetry, maps and text, HIDDEN WOMEN books bring vantage views into a wealthy, innovative, nature-loving Celtic civilization that spanned Europe from the British Isles to Hungary and beyond. Starting from archaeological finds and following right up to the present-day, the author traces some of the common threads that were beautifully woven by both genders over some 3000 years. One discrepancy stands out: Europe’s pre-Christian residents esteemed women, whereas invaders and imperialists do not. By embracing the Celtic legacy of freedom and equality, the world can regain an open, cosmopolitan society that honors achievement regardless of gender.

***HIDDEN WOMEN: Frankish Splendor & Valor in Celtic Europe*, category World History: The name “Frank” recalls the Frankish role in freeing Europe from Roman imperialism in the 5th century. Later Frankish men and women - including Charlemagne, his mother and sister - founded abbeys**

that functioned like secular academic villages. Even today, viticulture from Pannonia to the Rhineland evidences on-going Frankish presence, as do exquisite health resort towns at ancient hot springs.

HIDDEN WOMEN: Celtic Burgundy in Europe, category Women's Issues: Although known primarily for its wines, Europe's Burgundy family also excelled in hydrology, textiles and literature. Because Burgundian female leaders spirited away the library of the Dukes of Burgundy to Spain in the 15th century, the collection is open to the public in the national library in Brussels today. Preserving this collection of largely secular work is particularly significant due to the few non-religious writings that survived 1400 years of heresy laws. Some thousand years earlier, Burgundians had joined forces with other Celtic families to regain their Rhineland capital from Roman control. A famed heroic epic, the Nibelungenlied, relates the story of a Burgundian widow from Borbetomagus (now Worms) who mounted a military campaign against the Romans after they had killed her husband. Women then stood side by side with their men; both were decorated in gold for defending freedom.

In 2020, the INDEPENDENT PRESS AWARD had entries worldwide. Participating authors and publishers reside in countries such as Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, India, Ireland, Portugal, Sweden, and others. Books submitted included writers located in cities such as Austin to Memphis to Santa Cruz; from Copenhagen to Mumbai; from Albuquerque to Staten Island; from Boise to Honolulu, and others.

"We are thrilled to announce the winners and distinguished favorites in our annual 2020 INDEPENDENT PRESS AWARD. This year included a myriad of excellent independently published books. It is clear that independents are prospering in every corner of the earth. We are so proud to be highlighting key titles representing global independent publishing." said awards sponsor Gabrielle Olczak.

From Wikipedia:

About 2,400 publishers throughout the English-speaking world participate in the awards each year. In 2017 the contest drew over 5,000 entries, and medals were awarded to authors and publishers from 43 U.S. states, seven Canadian provinces and 15 countries.

Books by IPPY winners in 2016, 2017 and 2018 were published by university presses including Princeton, Stanford, Yale, Wisconsin, Iowa, and other major university presses. Among the fiction gold medalists was Elena Ferrante's *The Story of the Lost Child*, originally published in Italy and issued in English by Europa.

Previous winners in fiction categories include the small presses Milkweed, Coffee House, Graywolf, The Other Press, McPherson, Europa, and McSweeney's. IPPY Gold Medal winner *Lord of Misrule* also won the National Book Award and *The Patience Stone* also won France's Prix Goncourt for its French edition. David Eggers won a 2003 Outstanding Book of the Year for *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*.^[3] Margaret Atwood won in 2003 for *Negotiating with the Dead: A Writer on Writing*. Juan Felipe Herrera, the United States Poet Laureate, won an IPPY gold medal in 2005 for *Featherless* (Desplumado).

For more information please visit independentpressaward.com; and to see this year's list of IPA Winners and Distinguished Favorites, please visit the website pages:

2020 WINNERS:

independentpressaward.com/2020winners

2020 DISTINGUISHED FAVORITES:

independentpressaward.com/2020distinguishedfavorites