

Local News

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Grand Old Master of gaming recognized: Ed Greenwood

The following information is edited from an article in the GAMEVINE Gamers' Report and tells of the achievements of Cramahe resident Ed Greenwood.

In a year in which roleplaying gaming lost its Grandest Old Master, the gaming industry seems poised to bestow its highest awards on another Grand Old Master.

The "Grandest Old Master" was E. Gary Gygax, co-creator of the Dungeons & Dragons® game. Mr. Gygax, who died in March, aged 69, is widely considered the founder of the roleplaying game industry.

The Grand Old Master still standing is Canadian librarian and Cramahe Township resident Ed Greenwood, creator of The Forgotten Realms® world setting for the Dungeons and Dragons® game and prolific fantasy author and game designer.

The Origins Awards, informally known as "the Callies" because the trophies are surmounted by an image of Calliope, the Greek muse of epic (heroic) poetry, are the Oscars of the gaming industry.

Callies are awarded annually by the Academy of Adventure Gaming Arts and Design (AAGAD) and the Game Manufacturers Association (GAMA) at the Origins Game Fair held in Columbus, Ohio every June. This year's 34th awards will honour achievements in the gaming field during 2007.

This year, Mr. Greenwood is nominated in two categories: Best Publication, Non-Fiction (for "The Grand History of the Realms" hardcover from Wizards of the Coast, a nomination shared

by co-author Brian R. James) and Best Roleplaying Game Supplement (for the "Castlemourn" hardcover game setting, from Margaret Weis Productions).

Mr. Greenwood also contributed to four other 2007 Origins nominees. In the Best Publication, Non-Fiction category: "40 Years of Gen Con" from Atlas Games, compiled by Robin D. Laws (another celebrated Canadian game designer); "Hobby Games: The 100 Best" from Green Ronin Publishing, edited by James Lowder; and "Kobold Quarterly" magazine from Open Design, edited by Wolfgang Baur. In the Best Publication, Fiction category, Greenwood was a contributor to the nominated pulp fiction anthology "Astounding Hero Tales" from Hero Games, edited by James Lowder.

This is the largest number of Origins Awards nominations garnered by any individual in one year, and also marks the most nominations ever for a non-American (legendary German game designer Reiner Knizia has amassed almost as many nominations, over the last two decades).

Ed Greenwood co-won a Callie in 1990 for Best Roleplaying Game Supplement for the Forgotten Realms Adventures and again in 2001 for Best Roleplaying Game Supplement for the "Forgotten Realms" 3rd Edition D&D® hardcover game setting. He also received a second exclusive Origins statue for his GAMA Hall of Fame induction in 2003. He also contributed to award winners in 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2003.

Shane Peacock wins Arthur Ellis Award

Shane Peacock is the winner of the 2008 Arthur Ellis Award for Best Juvenile Crime Fiction, Canada's premier award for excellence in the crime genre. The announcement came June 5.

Shane Peacock's nominated novel, *Eye of the Crow*, describes the world of an adolescent Sherlock Holmes as he tries to solve his first mystery. Mr. Peacock's boy-Sherlock begins his crime-solving career at the age of 13, only to find he is accused of the very crime he's trying to solve.

The award itself, the Arthur, is hand-carved by Canadian artisan Barry Lambeck and based on a design and prototype by artist Peter Blais. Arthur is a wooden articulated jumping-jack figure with a noose around its neck that "dances"

when a string is pulled.

Born in 1957 in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Mr. Peacock's resume includes work as a biographer, journalist, and screenwriter. He is also the author of six novels and three plays, and has been nominated for two previous Arthur Ellis Awards for crime fiction.

This marks the 25th year for the Arthur Ellis Awards. The Crime Writers of Canada is a national organization for Canadian crime writers, associated professionals, and fans of Canadian crime writing.

In addition to the Arthur Ellis Awards, the CWC publishes a quarterly newsletter (Fingerprints) and hosts a series of popular literary events.