THE PLUTARCH AWARD
CEREMONY
SATURDAY MAY 18, 2013
ROOSEVELT HOTEL
NEW YORK CITY

THE PLUTARCH AWARD
BEST BIOGRAPHY
OF THE YEAR
2012

Biographers International Organization
Welcome to the inaugural presentation of the Plutarch Award—given to the best biography of the year, as chosen by the world’s only organization of biographers.

Named after the famous ancient Greek biographer, the prize is the genre’s equivalent of the Oscar, in that the winner was determined by secret ballot from a list of nominees selected by a committee of distinguished members of the craft.

2012 NOMINEES
(in alphabetical order by author)

• Deirdre Bair, *Saul Steinberg: A Biography* (Nan A. Talese)
• Robert Caro, *The Passage of Power* (Knopf)
• Lisa Cohen, *All We Know: Three Lives* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)
• Timothy Egan, *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: The Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
• Alice Kessler-Harris, *A Difficult Woman, The Challenging Life and Times of Lillian Hellman* (Bloomsbury Press)
• David Maraniss, *Barack Obama, The Story* (Simon & Schuster)
• John Matteson, *The Lives of Margaret Fuller* (W. W. Norton & Company)
• Tom Reiss, *The Black Count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monte Cristo* (Crown)
TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

Introduction and recognition of Plutarch committee
Brian Jay Jones, BIO Vice President

Recognition of Nominees
James McGrath Morris, BIO President

Announcement of Four Finalists
Nigel Hamilton, BIO President (2010-2012)

Announcement of the Winner of the 2012 Plutarch Award
Debby Applegate, BIO's first interim President (2009-2010)
Chair, BIO Advisory Council

THE PLUTARCH AWARDS COMMITTEE

Chip Bishop
Josh Kendall
Vanda Kreeft
Andrew Lownie
Hans Renders
Linda Simon
Barbara Lehman Smith
Steve Weinberg
Brian Jay Jones, ex officio
William Crawley, UMW, ex officio
The Plutarch Award is made possible with the generous support of the Chappell Great Lives Program at the University of Mary Washington.

For the past ten years, the University of Mary Washington has presented a public lecture series/academic course titled “Great Lives: Biographical Approaches to History and Culture.” During that time, it has become a major cultural and educational attraction in the region of Virginia between Richmond and Washington, D.C.

Offered annually, Great Lives brings to campus between 15 and 20 major biographers who speak to audiences comprising students enrolled in the course and hundreds of area residents who attend the lectures free of charge. Total attendance for the recently completed spring series exceeded 10,000.

Although the University of Mary Washington is a public institution, the Great Lives program is largely supported by private funds. Beginning in 2004 with a grant from a generous benefactor, funds have been substantially augmented each year by local patrons who are devoted to the program.

The innovative combination of an academic course and a public lecture series is unusual, if not unique, in the country. The fact that it is not just a public series, but also an academic course, adds a significant dimension to the program. Students are instructed on the evolution of the genre, then introduced to some of its most prominent contemporary practitioners. The result is an extraordinary opportunity for interaction among biographers, students, faculty, and the general public.

BIO is grateful for the support and enthusiasm of William Crawley, Director of Great Lives, and Torre Meringolo, Vice President for Advancement and University Relations.