

2008 Romance Through The Ages Contest
with a special award for The Legend – A Man For All Reasons
and the Best of the Best award

Thank you for considering entering the seventh annual contest sponsored by Hearts Through History, an RWA special interest chapter. The purpose of this contest is to inspire and motivate, as well as provide honest, constructive feedback. Good Luck!

Eligibility

Entrants do not need to be members of Romance Writer's of America to enter the contest. Chapter membership in Hearts Through History is also not required. Participation is open to both published and unpublished authors. All entries must be the author's original work. Any work of fiction that has not been contracted for publication by February 01, 2008 may be entered.

Categories

Ancient/Medieval/Renaissance
Georgian/Regency/Victorian
Colonial/Western/Civil War
Post-Victorian –World War 2

Time Travel/Paranormal (bulk of entry must be in historical period)

The Legend Award, a special award given to the entry with the Most Memorable Hero.

This is not a separate category – all entries will be considered for this award.

Categories may be eliminated at the discretion of the Contest Committee if fewer than ten entries are received.

Entries

The contest entry shall consist of THREE copies of the opening of the manuscript [including any prologue] not to exceed 30 pages plus a 1-2 page unjudged synopsis. Contestants are urged to take into consideration the most effective stopping point for their entry, even if that point is short of the 30 page limit. Manuscripts do not have to be complete in order to enter.

We accept both paper and e-mail submissions. Entry forms, fees, waiver, and entries themselves must be received by the category coordinators by **March 15, 2008.** For e-mail entries: entry forms, fees and signed waivers must still be mailed to the category coordinator. Once your forms and payment have been received your category coordinator will contact you with instructions for sending her your entry.

The Contest fee is:

Hearts Through History Members: \$20 US; \$33 CAN
All other entrants: \$25 US; \$41.25 CAN

Only U.S. or Canadian currency will be accepted. We do accept Paypal.
NO CASH PLEASE.

Rules

Entries must be novel-length Historical Romance or Romantic Historical Fiction. Short stories, nonfiction, and fiction in other genres other than historical romance will not be accepted. Contest coordinators reserve the right to reject any entry that does not meet this requirement or that does not meet acceptable industry formatting standards.

The official entry form, contest waiver, and entry fee must accompany each submission. Participants may enter multiple entries, however, each entry may be entered in only one category (for example a paranormal medieval can be entered in either the medieval category or the paranormal category, not both). Each submission will be treated as a separate entry. All fees and rules apply separately and individually to each entry.

Each hard copy entry must include a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage and large enough to return the judged manuscripts used to compute your scores. Please enclose a SASE with the same amount of postage it required to send the entry in; that is how much it will cost the coordinator to return it to you.

DO NOT SEND AN ENTRY THAT REQUIRES A SIGNATURE. THEY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND THE POST OFFICE WILL RETURN THEM TO YOU.

All hard copy entrants have the option to send a SASE marked “score sheets only”. Keep in mind that judges are encouraged to make comments and if they have commented on your ms this will not be returned to you this way. Please enclose an envelope with enough postage for approximately 15 pages.

Entrants outside the U.S. have two options: 1) include the cost of postage in the contest entry fee, or 2) submit your entry via the e-mail option.

Judging

First Round: Each first round entry will be evaluated by THREE qualified judges. Judges may or may not write on manuscripts at their discretion, however all scores of less than three will be explained on the score sheet. **The lowest of the three scores will be dropped and the remaining two will be averaged to determine the entries final score.**

There will be no discrepancy judging. The top three scoring entries in each category will advance to the Final Round; four will advance in the event of a tied score. The *Legend* finalists will be determined by the first round judges, contest scores notwithstanding. The highest *Legend* score in each category will advance to the next round. In the case of a tie for *Legend* in a category, the highest overall score of the entry will determine which entry goes to the *Legend* final round.

Note: All preliminary round judging is confidential unless a judge elects to disclose his/her name once the contest is completed. The contest coordinator will not discuss the names of judges.

Final Round: Finalists will be notified on approximately May 10, 2008. All finalists will have an allotted amount of time (approximately 2 weeks) to review the first round judges' comments and make desired changes to his/her manuscript before it goes to the final round agent/editor. A fourth revised hard copy (**no electronic entries will be accepted for the final round**) must be received by the Contest Chair by May 31, 2008 for submission to the final judges.

Best of the Best Award: The winning entry will be chosen from among each category's top winner. The highest score of first round scores among the first place winners determines the *Best of the Best* Award. In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by higher *Legend* score. The Prize for the *Best of the Best* Award is a conference fee.

Categories and Final Round Judges

The category finalists and *Legend* award entries will be ranked by the following:

Ancient/Medieval/Renaissance: Rose Hilliard, St. Martin's Press

Georgian/Regency/Victorian: Kate Seaver, Berkley/Jove

Colonial/Western/Civil War: Nicole D'Arienzo, The Wild Rose Press

Post-Victorian –World War 2: TBA

Time Travel/Paranormal: Lindsay Nouis, NAL

Legend Award: Tessa Woodward, Avon

This list will be updated as final judge confirmations come in. CHECK BACK OFTEN!

The list of final judges may change at any time, and Hearts Through History assumes no liability for such changes.

Failure to Comply

Any entry failing to comply with the rules states herein will be disqualified and entry fee forfeited. No fees will be refunded on the basis of disqualification or withdrawal.

Notification

Contest finalists will be notified by the Contest Chair via email or telephone on or about May 10, 2008. The winner will be announced at Hearts Through History's annual meeting at the RWA National conference, San Francisco 2008. Should the winner not be in attendance, he or she will be notified by email or telephone shortly after.

Award

All category and *Legend* finalists will receive a certificate from Hearts Through History. *Best of the Best* winner will receive a certificate as well as the cost of a conference fee.

Entry Format Checklist

Each Hard Copy entry will be formatted and presented as follows:

___ Entry must be presented in proper standard manuscript format (double-spaced, one-inch margins, legible font such as Courier or Times New Roman).

___ A typed cover page which shall include the title, category and word count; entrant's full name [no pseudonyms], address, telephone number, and email address. Cover page must be legible.

___ Header on manuscript pages should contain **the title and category only** on the left (for example: The Heir/GRV) and the page number on the right. Author's name and full manuscript title appears only on the title page, which is kept by the Contest Coordinators. Authors name may not appear anywhere on the manuscript or the entry will be disqualified.

___ Photocopies and printouts must be legible and of good quality.

___ Entries should be bound by small binder clips. Please do not use paper clips, staples of rubber bands and do not bend or fold pages.

E-submission:

___ Send Cover Page as described above, Entry Form & signed waiver, and contest fee (or Paypal receipt) to the appropriate category coordinator. She will contact you when they are received and inform you where/how to send the entry. Please note the MS header requirements stated above as they apply to the email submissions as well. In the event that your forms and/or entry are not received by the deadline of March 15, 2008 the entry will not be accepted.

___ Coordinator will e-mail confirmation of receipt of above. At this time, submit ONE copy of the e-submission as an .rtf document. (In the event a judge is unable to read the .rtf document, the coordinator reserves the right to re-save the document to another format.)

___ Entry must be formatted as above in a Word program. Coordinator will check to ensure entry meets requirements.

Entry Composition/Checklist

Each entry will include the following:

___ Three (3) hard copies of the opening of each manuscript (maximum of 30 pages) plus Three (3) hard copies of the 1-2 page unjudged synopsis.

___ E-submissions should send Cover Page, entry form/waiver, and check (or Paypal receipt) to category coordinator.

___ One (1) completed and signed official entry form and waiver for each entry. Please print the information.

___ One (1) check or money order or Paypal receipt made out to "HHRW" (see fees listed above) (If desired, non-US residents may include amount of return postage in their entry fee check. NO CASH PLEASE.

___ SAS Postcard if you wish to be notified when entry is received.

___ SASE for return of score sheets and entries (or score sheets only).

___ E-submissions do not need to enclose SASE as their entries are returned via the internet

Please note any entry advancing to the final round judges will require a fourth hard copy of the entry and an additional SASE for return of scores from the judges. These will be sent to the Contest Chair, and information will be sent to finalists upon announcement. No e-submissions will be accepted for the final round.

Send Hard Copy Entries & Entry Form, Waiver and payments to:

Ancient/Medieval/Renaissance

Sonja Baker
8972 E. Lee Street
Tucson, AZ 85715

Email: bakersonja@hotmail.com

Time Travel/Paranormal

Holly Youngquist
224 W. 11th St. S.
Newton, IA 50208
Email: FrancescaHawley2@aol.com

Colonial/Western/Civil War

Michelle Inglesby
1811 Tender Court
Mount Airy, MD 21771
Email: michelleinglesby@hotmail.com

Georgian/Regency/Victorian

Brenda Rice Wright
6061 SW Bonita Road, Apt. O-205
Lake Oswego, OR 97035
Email: brwkrw83@yahoo.com

Post Victorian - WWII

Tamara Zimmerman
4306 Julie Court
High Ridge, MO 63049
Email: rttachair@hotmail.com