

# 2010 Romance Through The Ages Contest

*Hearts Through History (an RWA special interest chapter) is pleased to host the ninth annual Romance Through The Ages Contest. We would be honored if you would join us, show us your inspiration and motivation while our judges provide honest, constructive feedback. We wish you the best of 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 Participation is open to both published and unpublished authors.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 March 1, 2010 may be entered. Previous RTTA first-place and RTTA Best of the Best winning entries are not eligible. (All other previous finalist entries are eligible.)

## Categories

**Ancient/Medieval/Renaissance (AMR)**....worldwide, for these eras through early 1700s  
**Georgian/Regency/Victorian (GRV)**.....worldwide, less America, for these eras  
**Colonial/Western/Civil War (CWW)**.....America, for these eras through late 1800s  
**Post-Victorian/World War 2 (PVW)**..... worldwide, for these eras  
**Time Travel/Historical Paranormal (TTP)** ...for all eras of Earth history to end of WW2/bulk of entry (over half) must be in historical period  
**Historical Erotic (HER)**.....worldwide, all eras of history to the end of WW2/erotic romance submission only - no straight erotica  
**The Legend (LGD)**.....special award given to the Most Memorable Hero— all entries considered

Categories may be eliminated or combined with another category at the discretion of the RTTA Contest Committee if fewer than ten entries are received.

## Entries

**All first round entries are now e-mail submissions only.**

The contest entry shall consist of ONE (1) copy of the opening of the manuscript (including any prologue) not to exceed 30 pages. The contest entry shall also include a 1-2 page unjudged synopsis. Unjudged synopsis may be single or double-spaced.

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.

All entry forms, fees, waiver and entries must be received by Category Coordinators no later than **March 1, 2010**. Official signed Entry Form & Waiver, entry fees and cover page must be sent prior to submitting entry. Once these have been received your Category Coordinator will contact you with requirements for submitting your entry.

## **Entry Fees**

Hearts Through History RWA Chapter Members: \$20.00 U.S.

All other entrants: \$25.00 U.S.

Only U.S. or Canadian currency (equivalent to U.S. payment) will be accepted.

We do accept PayPal. ~ **NO CASH PLEASE**

(See Payment Options for more information)

## **Rules**

Entries must be novel-length Historical Romance or Romantic Historical Fiction (when the manuscript is/will be finished). 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 & Waiver, confirmation of entry fee payment and entry must have confirmed e-mail receipt by Coordinators for each submission. Participants may enter multiple entries, however, each entry may be entered in only one (1) 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.

### *First-Round Entry Checklist*

\_\_\_\_\_ Send official Entry Form & Waiver, proof of contest fee (PayPal receipt or check number and date sent) and a cover page for your entry to the appropriate Category Coordinator. Cover Page shall include the title, category and word count; entrant's full name (no pseudonyms), address, telephone number, and e-mail address. Any forms and/or entry not received by the deadline of March 1, 2010 will not be accepted.

Contest fees can be paid via Paypal on our website or checks/money orders sent to our treasurer:

HHRW/Contest

c/o Tracy Ranson

10422 Haversack Circle

Independence, KY 41051

\_\_\_\_\_ Category Coordinator will e-mail confirmation of receipt of above and will instruct you on how to submit ONE (1) copy of your e-submission as an .rtf document (formatted in a Word program). In the event Coordinator or a judge is unable to read the .rtf document, the Coordinator reserves the right to re-save the document to another format.

\_\_\_\_\_ Send ONE (1) e-submission copy of the opening of each entry (maximum 30 pages). Also, send ONE (1) e-submission copy of the synopsis. Synopsis will be unjudged and may be

single- or double-spaced. Manuscript should follow standard submission requirements (double-spaced, one-inch margins, legible font such as Courier or Times New Roman).

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 will appear only on the cover page which is kept by Contest Coordinators. Any entry and/or synopsis in which the author's name appears will be immediately disqualified and no fees returned.

\_\_\_\_\_ Coordinator will review complete entry and notify you of receipt or any format errors. In the event of format error (too many pages, etc.) you will only have until March 1, 2010 to get a revised entry to Coordinator.

## **Judging – First Round**

Each first-round entry will be evaluated by THREE (3) qualified judges. Judges may or may not “write” on manuscripts at their discretion, however all scores of less than “3” will be explained on score sheet.

Once score sheets are returned to Category Coordinators (for each entry), the lowest of the three scores will be dropped and the remaining two scores will be averaged to determine the entry's 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 for third highest category score.

*Legend* Finalists are picked from all entries, based on a special *Legend* score sheet (separate from overall score sheet). The highest *Legend* score in each category will advance to the Final Round. In the case of a tie for *Legend* in any category, the entry with the highest overall score will be the one to advance to the Legend Final Round. All first round judges are kept confidential unless a judge elects to disclose his/her name once the contest is completed. The Contest Chair(s) and/or Category Coordinators will not discuss the names of judges. Finalists will be notified and their scored entries will be returned first. All non-finalist scored entries will be returned within the 30-day period after finalists entries are sent (for 2010, between April 27<sup>th</sup> and May 20<sup>th</sup>).

## **Judging – Final Round**

Finalists will be notified on approximately April 18-20, 2010. All finalists will have an allotted amount of time (approximately 2-3 weeks) to review the first round judges' comments and make desired changes to his/her manuscript. A **revised copy** must be received by the Contest Chair no later than **May 16, 2010** for submission to the Final Round. If the revised copy is not received by that time, at the discretion of the Contest Chair, the previously entered copy will be sent to the final round judge. Category Placement, *Legend* winner and Best of the Best winner will be determined by the scores of Final Round Judges. All decisions of Final Judges are final. For Best of the Best Award, the winning entry will be chosen from among each category's first-place winners. In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by the higher overall score from the first round judging.

Each Final Round 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 (to be kept by Contest Chair).
- ~ 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 cover page, which is kept by the Contest Chair. Any entry and/or synopsis in which the author's name appears will be immediately disqualified and no fees returned.
- ~ Contest Chair will email you within approximately 48 hours of receipt.

### **Final Round Judges**

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

Ancient/Medieval/Renaissance: Kevan Lyon, Marsal Lyon Literary Agency  
Georgian/Regency/Victorian: Barbara Poelle, Irene Goodman Agency  
Colonial/Western/Civil War: Deb Werksman, Sourcebooks  
Post-Victorian –World War 2: Laurie M. Rauch, Samhain Publishing  
Time Travel/Historical Paranormal: Alicia Condon, Kensington  
Historical Erotic: Audrey LaFehr, Kensington Books  
Legend Award: Esi Sogah, Morrow/Avon Books

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

### **Prizes**

The Best of the Best Award is now a \$100.00 cash prize. The *Legend, A Man for all Reasons* Award is now a \$50 cash prize. Each First Place Historical Category Winner will receive a gift certificate good for one HHRW Campus Workshop of winner's choice.

### **Failure to Comply**

Any entry failing to comply with the rules stated herein will be disqualified and entry fee forfeited. No fees will be refunded on the basis of disqualification or withdrawal by entrant for any reason.

### **Notification**

Contest finalists will be notified by the Contest Chair via email or telephone on or about April 18, 2010. Non-finalists will receive notification within 30 days after all finalists entries have been sent (for 2010, by May 20<sup>th</sup>). All winners will be announced at Hearts Through History's annual meeting at the RWA National conference, Nashville, TN July 2010. Should any finalist not be in attendance, he or she will be notified of status by email or telephone shortly after. Final round scores/sheets will be sent to finalists within 30 days after the winners are announced.

## **Category Coordinators**

### **Ancient/Medieval/Renaissance**

Nicole Strandlund

Email: [nrs@shaw.ca](mailto:nrs@shaw.ca)

### **Georgian/Regency/Victorian**

Sonja Baker

Email: [bakersonja@hotmail.com](mailto:bakersonja@hotmail.com)

### **Colonial/Western/Civil War**

Eliza Knight

Email: [writer@elizaknight.com](mailto:writer@elizaknight.com)

### **Post Victorian - WWII**

Cynthia Arends

Email: [sidney@sidneyayers.com](mailto:sidney@sidneyayers.com)

### **Time Travel/Historical Paranormal**

Isabel Roman

Email: [isabel@isabelroman.com](mailto:isabel@isabelroman.com)

### **Historical Erotic**

Francesca Hawley

Email: [FrancescaHawley2@aol.com](mailto:FrancescaHawley2@aol.com)

If you have any questions about our contest, please contact our Contest Chair,  
Eliza Knight at [writer@elizaknight.com](mailto:writer@elizaknight.com).