

## PRESS RELEASE

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The Massachusetts Historical Society invites submissions for the 2017 **Peter J. Gomes Memorial Book Prize**. One prize will be offered for a distinguished book in English on the history of Massachusetts published in 2016. The winning entry will be announced in the fall. The author of the selected title will be honored at a special meeting of the Fellows of the Society in Boston in the late fall or early winter and will receive an award certificate and a prize of \$2,500. The author and publisher will receive publicity through announcements made by the Massachusetts Historical Society.

All nonfiction historical works representing any period of the history of Massachusetts are eligible for consideration. Works must represent original research. Monographs and edited collections are eligible; if scholarly in nature, the volume should also appeal to the general reader. Works that address a wider geographic region than Massachusetts should make a significant contribution to the history of the Commonwealth. Likewise, biographies should address the life of someone intimately connected with Massachusetts. Books for children's and young adult audiences, textbooks, genealogies, and books that are primarily journalism will not be considered. Self-published works and re-publications are not eligible. The committee is seeking works of exemplary scholarship written in a clear and engaging style.

Submissions will be accepted from publishers or authors. Please provide three copies of each book by **May 31** of the year following the date of copyright. Only books with a 2016 copyright date are eligible for the 2017 prize. Include the name and contact information of the author and the publisher, indicating the submitter. Books should be sent to the **Massachusetts**

**Historical Society, Attention: Gomes Prize, 1154 Boylston Street, Boston, MA, 02215.**

Electronic submissions cannot be accepted. Submissions cannot be returned. Both the author and the publisher of the title selected to receive the prize will be notified of the decision. The committee may choose not to make an award if no submission is considered worthy of the prize. For more information, visit <http://www.masshist.org/gomesprize>. Questions? Contact MHS Research Coordinator and Book Review Editor Kate Viens at [kviens@masshist.org](mailto:kviens@masshist.org) or 617-646-0568.

The Peter J. Gomes Memorial Book Prize is an annual award that honors the memory of Reverend Peter J. Gomes, a Harvard scholar and a respected and beloved Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society for almost thirty-five years. Reverend Gomes had a deep and enduring interest in the history of his native state, so it is only fitting that this award should recognize exemplary work on a subject that meant a great deal to him.

Founded in 1791, the Massachusetts Historical Society is an independent research institution that promotes the study of the history of Massachusetts and the nation. It strives to enhance the understanding of our nation's past and its connection to the present, demonstrating that history is integral to our daily lives. The MHS collections, which include more than 12 million manuscripts and several hundred thousand books, are particularly well-known for extensive holdings of personal papers from three presidents: John Adams, John Quincy Adams, and Thomas Jefferson. Moreover, the MHS offers many other ways for the public to engage with history, including its publications, exhibitions, and an extensive range of programs including public lectures, tours, academic seminars and conferences, brown-bag lunch talks, and teacher workshops.

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