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(Neb.) - Gold Medal Book Award won by Museum of the Fur Trade

By: John Thayer Posted at: 05/03/2012 09:34 AM

The Museum of the Fur Trade has just received notice that its' book, *Firearms of the Fur Trade*, volume one of the *Encyclopedia of Trade Goods,* has won the gold medal for best reference book from the 2012 Independent Publisher Book Awards. It is the world's largest international and regional book awards competition. The judges considered more than 2,907 titles in various categories. Known as the "IPPY" awards, they honor each year's best independently-published titles and bring increased recognition to the thousands of such titles published annually.

The award-winning book, *Firearms of the Fur Trade*, is 600 pages long and contains 1,500 illustrations. Covering the period from 1600 to the twentieth century, it illustrates examples of guns in American, Canadian, and European collections and is the first chronological history of firearms made specifically for American Indians. The book was authored by museum volunteers Dr. James A. Hanson of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Dick Harmon of Lincoln, Nebraska. The photographers included Steven Walenta of Santa Fe, New Mexico, Martha Blegen and Gail DeBuse Potter of Chadron, Nebraska, and the designer was Ariane Smith of Spokane, Washington. *Firearms of the Fur Trade* is part of a proposed six-volume set that will detail all trade goods supplied to Indians; the next volume,*Clothing & Textiles of the Fur Trade,* is due out in late 2012.

The IPPY awards will be presented on June 4 at a gala ceremony in New York.

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