

Southern Historical Association  
thesha.org  
berrys@thesha.org

**Southern Historical Association announces James A. Rawley Award Winner**

Athens, GA: The Southern Historical Association is pleased to announce the winner of the 2019 Rawley Award for the best book on secession or the sectional crisis published over the last two years: R.J.M. Blackett, Andrew Jackson Professor of History (Emeritus) at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN for his 2018 Cambridge University Press book, *The Captive's Quest for Freedom: Fugitive Slaves, the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law, and the Politics of Slavery*.

First awarded in 2007, the Rawley Award was established in honor of historian James A. Rawley, perhaps best known for *Race and Politics: "Bleeding Kansas" and the Coming of the Civil War* (1969) as well as the painstaking quantitative research he undertook for *The Transatlantic Slave Trade: A History* (1981).

"Blackett's book stood out for several reasons," noted the committee in making its decision. "We believe *The Captive's Quest* will stand as the definitive history of the operation of the Fugitive Slave Law for decades to come. The research is astonishing, the analysis compelling, and the prose engaging. Even more, it allows readers to better appreciate the role that runaway slaves played in shaping the political trajectory of the 1850s."

**About the SHA:** The Southern Historical Association was organized on November 2, 1934 and charged with promoting an "investigative rather than a memorial approach" to southern history. Its objectives are the promotion of interest and research in southern history, the collection and preservation of the South's historical records, and the encouragement of state and local historical societies in the South. As a secondary purpose the Association fosters the teaching and study of all areas of history in the South. The Association holds an annual meeting, usually in the first or second week of November, and publishes *The Journal of Southern History*.

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