The Historians of British Art Book Prize Committee is pleased to announce the Book Award winners for publications from 2018. The winners were chosen from a nominating list of seventy books from thirty different presses. Awards are granted in four different categories.


Sonja Drimmer’s *The Art of Allusion: Illuminators and the Making of English Literature, 1403–1476*, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press, is Highly Commended in the same category.


The multi-authored book prize goes to Steven Brindle for his *Windsor Castle: A Thousand Years of a Royal Palace*, published by the Royal Collection Trust.

HBA would like to offer congratulations to the winning authors and the publishing teams at Princeton University Press, the University of Pennsylvania Press, Manchester University Press, and the Royal Collection Trust.

This year’s committee of readers consisted of Matthew Reeve, Stacey Sloboda, Eric Stryker, and Alison Syme.

*Building Anglo-Saxon England* presents, for the first time, the full richness of Anglo-Saxon building in wood and stone. As so little survives above ground for Anglo-Saxon building in England, this book offers a meticulous and balanced examination of the material, archaeological and documentary record. But it also locates patterns of building and experiencing buildings within broader European traditions. Concerned to articulate “how people behaved in constructed space,” Blair offers a vision of a sophisticated and elegant built environment in Anglo-Saxon England.

Sonja Drimmer’s *The Art of Allusion* is Highly Commended in the pre-1600 category. Drimmer’s book offers a compelling analysis of the new tradition of illuminating English language texts by Geoffrey Chaucer, John Gower, and John Lydgate for royal and gentry audiences. Bridging later medieval manuscript illumination and the very origins of “English literature,” Drimmer’s study charts the development of illustration that responds and contributes to new ideas about literary authorship, political history, and the history of the book in fifteenth-century England.

*Committed to Memory* is a bold and inventive book. It tells the story of how a schematic rendering of a slaving ship and its human cargo—its densely packed, naked bodies—became widely reproduced at the end of the eighteenth century and came to function as an icon for artists of the African Diaspora to deal with the violent legacy of the slave trade, and of slavery in general. Focussing upon what she calls “mnemonic aesthetics, a process of ritualized remembering,” Finley demonstrates how members of the African Diaspora re-invented and modified the icon so that it became an enduring symbol of black resistance, identity, and remembrance.

*Ideal Homes* focusses upon the architecture and interior design of suburban homes in interwar Britain. It explores the complexities and contradictions of suburban modernity, the material forms of which expressed a longing for “Old England” while simultaneously allowing for change and experimentation. Blending design and social history, this volume sensitively analyses the tastes and aspirations of suburban communities and shows how the suburban home was a site of tempered modernist innovation and a retreat from modernity.
HBA Book Award for an Exemplary Multi-authored Book


This magisterial volume comprises 32 chapters that explore the art, architecture, history and culture of Windsor Castle from the middle ages to the present. Windsor Castle’s history is that of its nation, and its vicissitudes are evidenced in the changes it took over its thousand-year history. Each of these changes is carefully explained and illustrated over nearly 600 pages. Remarkable new reconstructions are offered of rooms long lost, including their imagery in wall painting and stained glass, tapestry, and the castle’s furnishings. Building upon a wealth of recent archaeological and documentary research, this book offers a panoramic vision of Windsor Castle, and it will be the definitive source on the subject for many years to come.
The book prize committee would also like to recognize the excellent scholarship of the finalists in each category:

**Single-authored book with a subject before 1600**

**Single-authored book with a subject 1600–1800**


**Single-authored book with a subject 1800 to today**


**Multi-authored book**

