The Peter Dobkin Hall History of Philanthropy Book Prize
to
David A. Hollinger
for
Protestants Abroad: How Missionaries Tried to Change the World but Changed America
and
Tore C. Olsson
for
Agrarian Crossings: Reformers and the Remaking of the US and Mexican Countryside

The members of this year’s committee (David Hammack, Stephen R. Porter - last year’s winner, and Patricia Rosenfield) are delighted to report that the historical study of philanthropy, nonprofit organizations and civil society is in such a thriving condition that this year we have co-winners of the Peter Dobkin Hall Prize.

David A. Hollinger’s Protestants Abroad succeeds in showing how American Protestants who “tried to change the world” actually succeeded both in transforming Protestant communities in the United States and in “changing America.” In a book that is much more than a study of missionaries “abroad,” Hollinger shows how the “Protestant Establishment” that through the 1930s and beyond dominated many key institutions, learned from experience in Asia, the Middle East, and at home to be more open and cosmopolitan. He also shows how after World War II the mainstream denominations changed, lost numbers, and saw their national cultural and political prominence decline even as the numbers and political influence of Evangelical Protestants, who retained and expanded their own foreign and domestic missions, rose. Through compelling stories of remarkable individuals and diverse communities Hollinger lays out the complex history of this religious and cultural transformation with extraordinary clarity. Students of philanthropy, of nonprofit organizations, and of American culture in general will be debating this book for many years.
Tore C. Olsson’s *Agrarian Crossings* brings a fresh and arresting perspective to the study of agrarian reform and agrarian reformers in both Mexico and the U.S. South. Challenging conventional notions of regional boundaries and calling attention to neglected engagements by both American and Mexican diplomats in the 1920s and 1930s, he makes the case for treating Dixie as part of a region that extends far past the southern border of the United States. Using extensive archival evidence, he shows how philanthropic organizations, notably the General Education Board and subsequently the Rockefeller Foundation but others as well, played key roles in shaping private as well as government efforts to allay hunger and food insecurity as a way to address rural protest. He argues that persistent failure, in the American South as well as abroad, to address the fraught issues of race, ethnicity, and economic disparities doomed agrarian reform efforts despite success with new seed varieties and the “Green Revolution.” Students of development and historians of the role of philanthropy and NGOs in both domestic and international development assistance efforts, will also be debating this book.