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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 27, 2015
TO: SAR Board of Directors
RE: Approval of Staley Award winner for 2015

The J. I. Staley Prize Review Panel met on February 13 and selected the following book as this year's winner:

William F. Hanks (University of California, Berkeley), *Converting Words: Maya in the Age of the Cross* (University of California Press, 2010).

The committee's citation reads as follows:

In *Converting Words*, linguistic anthropologist William F. Hanks informs our understanding of how a Yucatec Maya "translanguage" emerged from the collaboration of Franciscan missionaries and indigenous scribes during the early colonial era. By reordering linguistic and discursive fields, this new colonial language effected a spiritual conquest that facilitated the physical, social, and political reorganization of indigenous communities and its perpetuation by the Maya themselves. Drawing on three decades of fieldwork and archival research, Hanks uses ethnohistorical and linguistic methodologies and discourse analysis to produce a compelling account of how changing language practices helped construct the colonial social order. The result is a work of great significance not only to anthropologists but also to historians, Maya scholars, and students of colonialism and the globalization of Christianity. *Converting Words* illuminates the transformative power of language in processes of culture contact, conquest, and resistance.

On behalf of the Review Panel, I respectfully request that the SAR Board approve this selection.

Staley Review Panel for 2015:

Michael F. Brown, President, SAR
Jane Buikstra, Regents Professor of Anthropology, Arizona State University
Pamela Erickson, Professor of Anthropology, University of Connecticut
Paul Kroskrity, Professor, Applied Linguistics and Anthropology, UCLA
Susan McIntosh, Herbert S. Autrey Professor of Anthropology, Rice University

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