



We at Libros International would all like to congratulate Bill Copeland on winning The Taran Family Memorial prize for Historical Literature in June 2008 with his first novel to be published by Libros: Ashes to the Vistula.

The story begins in Poland and follows the fortunes of three friends, their experiences in Auschwitz concentration camp through to the fall of the third Reich and the arrival of the Russians.

Here is what the judges thought of Ashes to the Vistula.

TARAN FAMILY MEMORIAL AWARD, BILL COPELAND, HISTORICAL FICTION, June 7, 2008

There were many fine books in the First Novel and Fiction categories of the 44th Annual Georgia Author of The Year Award this year. In ASHES TO THE VISTULA the first person approach to the novel was so real that the story could easily be mistaken for a painful memoir. As I read it there were moments when I had to put the book down because of what it evoked in my mind and imagination. A successful writing indeed.

As a Jewish woman as well as a lover of books, in my lifetime I have personally known survivors of the Holocaust and I have read much about the experiences of those who endured that horrific time, that outstanding testimony of man's ability to embrace evil.

Perhaps it is an affirmation of the human spirit's ability to empathize that ASHES TO THE VISTULA was conceived and written. When Bill Copeland first told me about the subject matter of the book I confess I was somewhat doubtful that a person seemingly so far removed from Germany's WWII contribution to ethnic cleansing could pull it off. As time passed and I learned of his love for historical clarity, and I realized that he was persevering with the project, I began to understand that this would be an exceptional story. I was right.

That is why I have chosen ASHES TO THE VISTULA as a recipient of the Taran Family Memorial Award in conjunction with the 44th Annual Georgia Author of the Year Award.

And I believe those in my family whom the award honors would eagerly concur. Therefore it is my honor and pleasure to recognize ASHES TO THE VISTULA and BILL COPELAND for his outstanding Achievement in Historical Fiction.