

PITTSBURGH AUTHOR HONORED WITH BEST BOOK AWARD

Carole Lombard bio “Fireball” earns gold in Benjamin Franklins

AUSTIN, TX – April 11, 2015. The 2014 GoodKnight Books hardcover ***Fireball: Carole Lombard and the Mystery of Flight 3*** by Robert Matzen received a Benjamin Franklin Gold Award as Biography of the Year in a ceremony last night at the Sheraton Austin Hotel in Austin, Texas. The Benjamin Franklin Awards are presented annually by the Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA) and represent the highest national honor for small and academic presses.

Fireball tells the story of events leading up to the crash of TWA Flight 3, a commercial airliner that impacted Mt. Potosi, Nevada 30 miles southwest of Las Vegas on the evening of January 16, 1942 killing all 22 people onboard, including Hollywood actress Carole Lombard.

Author Robert Matzen visited the site of the crash on a difficult-to-access mountainside and worked that adventure into the Fireball narrative. He also accessed thousands of pages of government records to tell the story of first responders to the crash scene and investigators trying to understand the reason for the crash.

“Fireball tells many converging stories,” said Matzen. “Primarily it’s a book about Carole Lombard’s short but dynamic life, but it’s also about the pilot, the other passengers on the plane, and those Nevada men who climbed the mountain in hopes of rescue. And it’s the story of Clark Gable, Lombard’s husband, before and after the crash. There were so many human stories to tell. I was shocked nobody had thought of the idea and I was the one to put it all together.”

Fireball, now in its second printing and available in hardcover, ebook, and audiobook formats, has been hailed by publications ranging from *Publishers Weekly* to *Air and Space Smithsonian* and *The Hollywood Reporter*. Matzen has been interviewed dozens of times on local and national radio and television about the book.

Robert can be booked for television, radio, and print interviews through GoodKnight Books by calling 412.310.3271.

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Robert Matzen is the author of six books, including the 2010 bestseller ***Errol & Olivia***. He is also a filmmaker whose work has achieved national broadcast.

GoodKnight Books is a small press located in Pittsburgh, PA. In addition to *Fireball*, recent releases include ***Travels with My Father*** by Nancy Myer and ***Showmen, Sell It Hot!*** by John McElwee. Both these titles received USA Best Book Awards. Visit www.goodknightbooks.com to learn more.