The

 **The 2025 Dr. Walter W. Ristow Prize**

***For an Academic Paper in the History of Cartography***

This prize, offered by the Washington Map Society (WMS) since 1994, recognizes academic achievement in the history of cartography. It honors the late Dr. Walter W. Ristow, former chief of the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, and co-founder and first president of the WMS.

**THE AWARD**

A $1500 cash award, three-year membership in WMS, and publication of the winning paper in *The Portolan*, the journal of the Washington Map Society. Honorable Mention may be awarded to an additional paper or papers at the judges’ discretion.

**WHO MAY APPLY**

Full or part-time undergraduate, graduate, and first-year doctoral students attending accredited US or foreign colleges and universities. The Ristow Prize is intended to encourage scholars who are entering the field. Persons who have authored a commercially published academic work are not eligible for this competition.

**ENTRY CRITERIA**

The competition seeks research papers on the history of maps, completed in fulfillment of coursework requirements or based on original research. All papers must be in English, documented in a style selected by the author, and not exceeding 7500 words. Inclusion of clear maps supporting the paper is encouraged. Papers entered for the Prize may have been previously entered in other competitions. They must not, however, have been published or in consideration for publication at the time of entry.

**FORMAT**

Papers should be converted to a Word or PDF document. Please ensure that the document includes a title page and cover sheet with the entrant’s name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and school, department and academic status. Do not include this information on any other page.

**JUDGING CRITERIA**

Three broad criteria: (1) importance of research (e.g. originality), (2) quality of research (e.g. accuracy, source reliability), and (3) writing quality (e.g. clarity, organization, command of cartographic terms).

**DEADLINE**

E-mailed no later than 11:59pm EST on June 1, 2025, to Deepak Bhattasali (Chair, Ristow Prize Committee) at [Bhattasali@Cox.Net](mailto:Bhattasali@Cox.Net). More information is available on the website of the WMS (<https://washmapsociety.org>) or by contacting the Chair.