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GERALDINE RHOADES BECKFORD'S LANDMARK DICTIONARY IS 2011 BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

(Cherry Hill, NJ, June 24, 2012)—“Biographical Dictionary of American Physicians of African Ancestry, 1800-1920” compiled by Geraldine Rhoades Beckford won Honorable Mention-Reference in “ForeWord Reviews” (FR) 2011 Book of the Year Awards (BOTYA) on June 23, 2012. The FR editors held the ceremony at the Pop Top Stage at the American Library Association (ALA) annual conference in Anaheim, California. Representing more than 700 publishers, the BOTYA winners were selected from 1,200 entries in 60 genre categories. This achievement confirms Beckford’s dictionary as an example of independent publishing at its finest. It is also a first time distinction for author and publisher.

“Biographical Dictionary of American Physicians of African Ancestry, 1800-1920” presents information on physicians of African ancestry who practiced in the United States or taught those who practiced in the U.S., a unique achievement. It features almost 3,000 entries that provide the physician's birth and death dates, place of practice, medical school and year of graduation, birthplace, parents, spouse, and children. A geographical index and a general index complete the work. The dictionary is available in print in two editions, hardcover, ISBN 978-0-9831151-4-4 and softcover, ISBN 978-0-9831151-5-1, 512 pp., published March 2011. On August 15, 2012, AHLP will release two e-book editions, in PDF (ISBN 978-1-937622-18-3) and EPUB (ISBN 978-1-937622-19-0) formats.

“What an amazing treasure! ... This volume directs researchers to vital information about the first century of African American physicians. Geraldine Rhoades Beckford has meticulously and accurately identified graduates of predominantly white and historically black medical schools and has produced a volume that is the starting point for anyone doing research on physicians. I highly recommend this an invaluable, comprehensive reference guide,” wrote Darlene Clark Hine, Professor of African American Studies and History, Northwestern University and co-author of “The African-American Odyssey.”

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Professor Claudia Lascar of the City University of New York also praised the compiler and her work: "The Biographical Dictionary of American Physicians of African Ancestry, 1800-1920' (Africana Homestead Legacy, 2011) compiled by Geraldine Rhoades Beckford is an extraordinary achievement, due to its scope and depth of coverage. First and foremost it is a 'labor of love' ... More importantly, however, in my opinion is the fact that she has succeeded in raising the public awareness and knowledge of the extraordinary achievements made by American physicians of African ancestry." ("CircumSpice," Fall 2011, p. 3, City College Library, CUNY.)

Before Geraldine Rhoades Beckford officially retired to complete research on early African American physicians, she was an information analyst, as well as a cataloging librarian, in both the public and private sectors. Beckford earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and chemistry at City College of New York, a Master in Library Science at Long Island University, and completed postgraduate studies in history at City University in New York. She is a member of the Organization of American Historians (OAH), the Association of the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the Schomburg Society, the Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier, and the American Society for Indexing.

"ForeWord Reviews" established the Book of the Year Awards program to help publishers spotlight their best titles and bring increased attention to librarians and booksellers of the literary and graphic achievements of independent publishers and their authors. "Librarians and booksellers who are on the front lines, working everyday with patrons and customers, choose the award winners." ForeWord is the only review trade journal devoted exclusively to books from independent houses.

In its online store at www.ahlpstore.com, AHLP offers the hardcover edition of the "Biographical Dictionary of American Physicians of African Ancestry, 1800-1920" for \$75 (40% discount on retail price \$125) and the paperback edition for \$45 (50% discount on retail price \$90). Customers may pay by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, Diners' Club and JCB. Amazon members may select Checkout with Amazon to use their Amazon account payment options. The dictionary and all AHLP books are sold to libraries and institutions through wholesale distributors, including Ingram. Booksellers everywhere, including Amazon.com and bn.com, also offer sales prices for "The Biographical Dictionary of American Physicians of African Ancestry, 1800-1920."

For additional information or a sample copy, contact Carolyn C. Williams at 856-773-0694 and by e-mail at public-relations@ahlpub.com. Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers is an independent publisher, founded in 1996 and located in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Its catalog includes nonfiction and fiction titles for all ages.

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