



## PRESS RELEASE

**\*EMBARGOED UNTIL 19.00 ON THURSDAY 2ND JULY 2015\***

### **Travel writing's renaissance - the first Stanford Dolman Travel Book of the Year shortlist crosses continents**

- **Wainwright Prize nominee amongst titles in the running for this year's Stanford Dolman**
- **Judges praise list that celebrates "point, purpose and glory of travel writing"**
- **Call for booksellers and the public to nominate their choice for Outstanding Contribution Award**

Philip Marsden's ***Rising Ground***, an exploration of the landscape around his remote farmhouse in Cornwall nominated for the Wainwright Prize earlier this year, joins a diverse range of titles on this year's Stanford Dolman Travel Book of the Year shortlist.

Speaking at the shortlist announcement on Thursday evening at Stanfords, Covent Garden, Chair of Judges Barnaby Rogerson said "We want the winner of the Stanford Dolman Travel Book of the Year to be able to showcase the continued point, purpose and glory of travel writing. These six authors, through their style, humour, veracity and commitment have proven themselves exemplars of this Stanford Dolman spirit."

Joining Marsden's book on this year's list are Helena Attlee's exploration of the role of lemons in the Italian cultural landscape, ***The Land Where Lemons Grow***; Horatio Clare's embedded account of life below decks on the giant container ships of our era, in ***Down to the Sea in Ships***; Nick Hunt's contemporary retracing of Patrick Leigh Fermor's journey from the Hook of Holland to the Golden Horn, ***Walking the Woods and the Water***; Jens Mühling's travels into the mindscape of modern Russia, attracted and distracted by the lure of a lone hermit in the wilderness, ***A Journey Into Russia***; and Elizabeth Pisani's revelatory account of her travels in Indonesia, ***Indonesia Etc.***

Chris Schüler, Chairman of the Authors' Club, said, "The Authors' Club has administered the Dolman Prize since 2005 in order to promote works of literary merit that instil a sense of place, excitement and wonder. We are greatly impressed by the quality and breadth of this year's shortlist, which demonstrates that this inspirational genre is in vigorous health."

"We are thrilled that the judges have produced a list that really does have something for every reader," added Tony Maher, Managing Director of Stanfords, the world's largest map and travel bookshop, "from a homage to the late great Paddy Leigh Fermor to a celebration of the historical and continued importance of seafaring. There's a delicious journey through Italy, time and taste and a philosophical search for the mysterious connection between people and place. Then there are books which help us glimpse the realities of life in two countries - Russia and Indonesia - and reveal that they are still remarkably unknown to us in the west."

Stanfords announced sponsorship of the Dolman prize earlier this year, doubling its funds and adding it to the newly created Edward Stanford Travel Writing Awards alongside the Edward Stanford Award for Outstanding Contribution to Travel Writing.

#### **Continues...**

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At the shortlist announcement, Maher also called on booksellers and the public at large to nominate the living travel writers who they believe have most contributed to the genre. "We want to hear from readers who *they* feel have made travel writing what it is today," he said, "All you have to do is tweet the author's name with the hashtag #ShowedMeTheWorld. We'll use the suggestions to build a longlist, from which our bookselling partners will choose a winner."

The ultimate winner of the Stanford Dolman Travel Book of the Year will be announced on 28th September at a ceremony at the National Liberal Club in London, where they will be presented with a cheque for £5,000 and a specially commissioned globe by master globe-makers Lander & May of the Isle of Wight.

### The Shortlist

***The Land Where Lemons Grow*, Helena Attlee**  
9780241952573, Penguin (Penguin Random House)

***Down to the Sea in Ships: Of Ageless Oceans and Modern Men*, Horatio Clare**  
9780099526292, Vintage (Penguin Random House)

***Walking the Woods and the Water: In Patrick Leigh Fermor's footsteps from the Hook of Holland to the Golden Horn*, Nick Hunt**  
9781857886177, (Nicholas Brealey Publishing)

***Rising Ground: A Search for the Spirit of Place*, Philip Marsden**  
9781847086303, (Granta)

***A Journey Into Russia*, Jens Mühling**  
9781907973949, (Haus Publishing)

***Indonesia Etc.: Exploring the Improbable Nation*, Elizabeth Pisani**  
9781847086556, (Granta)

***The Land Where Lemons Grow*, Helena Attlee**  
9780241952573, Penguin (Penguin Random House)

### About the book

***The Land Where Lemons Grow*** is the sweeping story of Italy's cultural history told through the history of its citrus crops. From the early migration of citrus from the foothills of the Himalayas to Italy's shores to the persistent role of unique crops such as bergamot (and its place in the perfume and cosmetics industries) and the vital role played by Calabria's unique Diamante citrons in the Jewish celebration of Sukkoth, author Helena Attlee brings the fascinating history and its gustatory delights to life. Whether describing the Battle of Oranges in Ivrea, the gardens of Tuscany, or the story of the Mafia and Sicily's citrus groves, Attlee transports readers on a journey unlike any other.



### About the author

Helena Attlee is the author of four books about Italian gardens, and others on the cultural history of gardens around the world. Helena is a Fellow of the Royal Literary Fund and has worked in Italy for



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nearly 30 years.

### ***Down to the Sea in Ships: Of Ageless Oceans and Modern Men*, Horatio Clare**

9780099526292, Vintage (Penguin Random House)

#### **About the book**

Our lives depend on shipping but it is a world which is largely hidden from us. In every lonely corner of every sea, through every night, every day, and in every imaginable weather, tiny crews of seafarers work the giant ships which keep landed life afloat. These ordinary men live extraordinary lives, subject to dangers and difficulties we can only imagine, from hurricanes and pirates to years of confinement in hazardous, if not hellish, environments. Horatio Clare joins two container ships on their epic voyages across the globe and experiences unforgettable journeys. As the ships cross seas of history and incident, seafarers unfold the stories of their lives, and a beautiful and terrifying portrait of the oceans and their human subjects emerges.



#### **About the author**

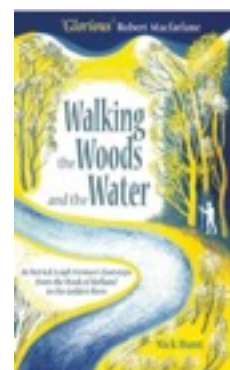
Horatio Clare is the bestselling author of two memoirs, *Running for the Hills* (Somerset Maugham Award) and *Truant*; the travel book *A Single Swallow* – which follows the birds' migration from South Africa to the UK – and a novella, *The Prince's Pen*, the retelling of a Mabinogion tale. An award-winning journalist, occasional teacher, former radio producer, sporadic broadcaster and Fellow in creative writing at the University of Liverpool, Horatio writes regularly on nature and travel for the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Financial Times* and various international publications. He and his family are currently based in Yorkshire.

### ***Walking the Woods and the Water: In Patrick Leigh Fermor's footsteps from the Hook of Holland to the Golden Horn*, Nick Hunt**

9781857886177, (Nicholas Brealey Publishing)

#### **About the book**

In 1933, the eighteen year old Patrick Leigh Fermor set out in a pair of hobnailed boots to chance and charm his way across Europe, like a tramp, a pilgrim or a wandering scholar. The books he later wrote about this walk, *A Time of Gifts*, *Between the Woods and the Water*, and the posthumous *The Broken Road* are a half-remembered, half-reimagined journey through cultures now extinct, landscapes irrevocably altered by the traumas of the twentieth century. Aged eighteen, Nick Hunt read *A Time of Gifts* and dreamed of following in Fermor's footsteps. In 2011 he began his own great trudge - on foot all the way to Istanbul. He walked across Europe through eight countries, following two major rivers and crossing three mountain ranges. Using Fermor's books as his only travel guide, he trekked some 2,500 miles through Holland, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey. His aim? To have an old-fashioned adventure. To slow down and linger in a world where we pass by so much, so fast. To discover for himself what remained of hospitality, kindness to strangers, freedom, wildness, adventure, the mysterious, the unknown, the deeper currents of myth and story that still flow beneath Europe's surface.





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### **About the author**

Nick Hunt grew up in Bristol, studied English Literature and Creative Writing at UEA, and spent the next few years living in Mexico, the USA and Spain before moving to London. He has written for *The Economist*, *The Guardian* and other publications, and recorded a documentary for BBC Radio 4. He also works as a storyteller, and co-editor of the Dark Mountain journals.

***Rising Ground: A Search for the Spirit of Place*, Philip Marsden**  
9781847086303, (Granta)

### **About the book**

***Rising Ground*** is an evocative journey around some of Cornwall's most ancient sites and ritual places, and a profound exploration of the relationship between man and the landscape. From the Neolithic ritual landscape of Bodmin Moor to the Arthurian traditions at Tintagel, from the mysterious china-clay region to the granite tors and tombs of the far south-west, Marsden assembles a chronology of Britain's attitude to place. In archives, he uncovers the life and work of other enthusiasts before him - medieval chroniclers and Tudor topographers, eighteenth-century antiquarians, post-industrial poets and abstract painters. Drawing also on his travels from further afield, Marsden reveals that the shape of the land lies not just at the heart of our own history but of man's perennial struggle to belong on this earth.



### **About the author**

Philip Marsden is a writer and journalist. He is the author of several works of travel writing and non-fiction, including most recently ***The Levelling Sea*** and ***The Barefoot Emperor***, and a novel, ***The Main Cages***. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. He lives in Cornwall with his wife and children.

***A Journey Into Russia*, Jens Mühling**  
9781907973949, (Haus Publishing)

### **About the book**

When Jens Mühling met Juri, a Russian TV producer selling stories about his homeland, he was mesmerised by what he heard. The real stories of Russia, said Juri, were more unbelievable than anything that could be invented. The encounter changed Mühling's life, triggering a number of journeys to the Ukraine and deep into the Russian heartland on a quest for the stories of ordinary and extraordinary people.



Away from the bright lights of Moscow, Mühling meets and befriends a Dostoevskian cast of characters: a hermit from the Taiga who has recently discovered there's a world beyond the woods; a Ukrainian Cossack who defaces the statue of Lenin in central Kiev; a priest who insists on returning to Chernobyl to preach to the stubborn few determined to remain in the exclusion zone.

***A Journey into Russia*** is a revealing glimpse into the Russian soul. Mühling's empathy unveils a country whose contradictions, attractions and absurdities are still largely unknown to many people outside her borders.



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### **About the author**

Jens Mühling studied literature at the Free University of Berlin and in Norwich, at the University of East Anglia. He edited a German language newspaper in Moscow (*Moskauer Deutschen Zeitung*) and since 2005 has worked as a journalist for *Der Tagesspiegel* in Berlin. Mühling has been the recipient of the Axel Springer Prize and the Peter Boenisch Memorial Award for reportage.

***Indonesia Etc.: Exploring the Improbable Nation*, Elizabeth Pisani**  
9781847086556, (Granta)

### **About the book**

***Indonesia Etc.*** is an entertaining and fascinating journey through one of the world's largest, most dynamic and most contradictory countries.

Elizabeth Pisani, who first worked in Indonesia 25 years ago as a foreign correspondent, set out in 2011, travelling over 13,000 miles, to rediscover its enduring attraction, and to find the links which bind together this disparate nation. Fearless and funny, and sharply perceptive, she has drawn a compelling and deeply informed portrait of a captivating nation.



### **About the author**

Elizabeth Pisani was Indonesia correspondent for *Reuters* and the *Economist* from 1988 to 1991. She worked with Indonesia's Ministry of Health from 2001 to 2005 as an epidemiologist, and spent 2011 travelling the archipelago. Pisani is the author of ***The Wisdom of Whores*** (Granta, 2008), and speaks several languages, including Indonesian.

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### **Further information**

#### **About the Edward Stanford Travel Writing Awards:**

Launched in 2015, the Edward Stanford Travel Writing Awards seek to celebrate the best travel writing, and travel writers, in the world. In its first year it consists of the Stanford Dolman Travel Book of the Year and the Edward Stanford Award for Outstanding Contribution to Travel Writing, with the latter being awarded by a panel of high street and independent booksellers. The category list will be expanded in future years to cover other areas of print and online travel writing.

#### **About the Stanford Dolman Travel Book of the Year, in association with the Authors' Club:**

In 2006, the Rev. Dr. William Dolman and the Authors' Club launched the Dolman Travel Book Award. Last year's winner was Sylvain Tesson's ***Consolations of the Forest: Alone in a Cabin in the Middle Taiga***. Edward Stanford Limited relaunched the Dolman Travel Book Award in 2015, renaming it the Stanford Dolman Travel Book of the Year, in association with the Authors' Club, doubling the prize fund to £5k and adding it as a category within the Edward Stanford Travel Writing Awards.





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### **Judging panel for the 2015 Stanford Dolman Travel Book of the Year:**

**Oliver Bullough** is a Welsh author and journalist, who has written two books about Russia, fusing travel and history. The second of them, ***The Last Man in Russia***, was shortlisted for the Dolman Prize in 2014.

**Jason Goodwin** is the author of books of travel and history, including ***The Gunpowder Gardens: Travels through India and China in Search of Tea***; ***On Foot to the Golden Horn: A Walk to Istanbul***; and ***Lords of the Horizons: A History of the Ottoman Empire***.

**Katie Hickman** is the author of ***Daughters of Britannia***, ***The Aviary Gate***, ***Dreams of the Peaceful Dragon***, ***A Journey into Bhutan***, and ***A Trip to the Light Fantastic*** amongst other books. Her books have been translated into 20 languages.

**Robert Macfarlane** is the author of ***Mountains of the Mind***, ***The Wild Places*** and ***The Old Ways***, amongst other books. He was joint winner of the Dolman Award in 2012. He is a Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

**Barnaby Rogerson** has written half a dozen guide-books and an equal number of histories about North Africa and early Islam. He also works at Eland, which keeps in print over a hundred travel classics.

**Jeremy Seal** is a writer and journalist with a particular interest in Turkey. He is the author of ***A Fez of the Heart*** and ***Meander***.

**Sara Wheeler** is the author of many books including the international bestseller ***Terra Incognita: Travels in the Antarctic***. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, a Trustee of the London Library and a Contributing Editor of the *Literary Review*.

### **About Stanfords:**

Edward Stanford Limited was founded in 1853 by Edward Stanford in Charing Cross Road in London. In 1901 the Company moved to its current flagship location in Long Acre, Covent Garden. Famed throughout the World as a publisher of maps, Stanfords expanded into retail following the move to Covent Garden. To this day Stanfords stocks the largest range of maps in the World as well as travel guides, the World's largest selection of globes and other travel related product. It has a further shop in Bristol, a website and a specialist Business Mapping Service based in Manchester. Edward Stanford Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Edward Stanford Group Limited.

### **About the Authors' Club:**



Founded by the novelist and critic Walter Besant in 1891 as a place where writers could meet and talk, the Authors' Club also welcomes publishers, editors, agents, journalists, academics and anyone professionally involved with literature. Early members included Oscar Wilde, George Meredith, Thomas Hardy, Arthur Conan Doyle, JM Barrie, Jerome K Jerome, Ford Madox Ford, HG Wells, Compton Mackenzie, Thornton Wilder and Graham Greene, while guest speakers included Emile Zola, Mark Twain, Rudyard Kipling, Winston Churchill, Bram Stoker, TS Eliot and Clement Attlee.



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