

Southern Historical Association
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**Southern Historical Association announces the
John W. Blassingame Award Winner**

Athens, GA: The Southern Historical Association is pleased to announce the winner of the 2018 John W. Blassingame Award: Clayborne Carson, Martin Luther King, Jr., Centennial Professor of History and Ronnie Lott Founding Director of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute, Stanford University.

The John W. Blassingame Award, established in 2004, honors distinguished scholarship and mentorship in African American history over a three-year period. In designating Carson for the award, the committee noted: "Carson best exemplifies many of the qualities of John W. Blassingame himself in his roles as the founding editor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project (now one part of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute, which he also established) at Stanford University, his teaching and mentorship of undergraduate and graduate students, his broad teaching commitments beyond the traditional college classroom, and his influential civil rights scholarship."

Carson is the author of the award-winning and highly-influential *In-Struggle: SNCC and the Black Awakening of the 1960s* (Harvard University Press, 1981). He has edited or co-edited over a dozen books on the writings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King specifically sought out Carson to take on the King Paper Project out of respect for his scholarship and his role as a movement insider. As one scholar has noted, Clayborne Carson has played a critical role in helping us to see "King as a whole human being, one with a radical critique of our capitalist society that rings true from King's birth at the onset of the Great Depression in 1929 to our present era."

Carson has a similarly strong record as a mentor. As one of his former students noted: "every time I step into the classroom I try to channel Dr. Carson's kind of passion. Dr. Carson is a brilliant, giving and tireless historian, but also the most giving educator I've ever met."

About the SHA: The Southern Historical Association was organized on November 2, 1934 and charged with promoting an "investigative rather than a memorial approach" to southern history. Its objectives are the promotion of interest and research in southern history, the collection and preservation of the South's historical records, and the encouragement of state and local historical societies in the South. As a secondary purpose the Association fosters the teaching and study of all areas of history in the South. The Association holds an annual meeting, usually in the first or second week of November, and publishes *The Journal of Southern History*.

About John W. Blassingame: John Wesley Blassingame (1940-2000) was a pioneering historian of American slavery beginning with *The Slave Community: Plantation Life in the Antebellum*

South (1972) and continuing through his editorship of six volumes of the Papers of Frederick Douglass. Born in Covington, Georgia, Blassingame took master's and doctoral degrees from Yale University before joining the faculty, which he served for twenty-nine years.

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