

NEWS RELEASE

Plexus Publishing, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Plexus Publishing and Author Nelson Johnson Are Recipients of Two Coveted Book Awards Recognizing the Best in Independent Publishing

Boardwalk Empire and its Sequel, *The Northside*, Take Gold in the 2011 Independent Publisher [IPPY] Book Awards Competition

May 16, 2011, Medford, NJ—Plexus Publishing, Inc., a small New Jersey regional publisher, and author Nelson Johnson have been named double gold winners in the Independent Publisher [IPPY] Book Awards. The publisher/author team won for both the 2010 tie-in edition of the *New York Times* bestseller that inspired HBO's blockbuster series and for *The Northside: African Americans and the Creation of Atlantic City*.

Boardwalk Empire won gold in the "Mid-Atlantic, Best Regional Non-Fiction" category while *The Northside* took national gold in the "Multicultural Non-Fiction Adult" category.

"Winning gold medals for two books in different categories is very rare for any one author/publisher team," said Jim Barnes, IPPY Awards Director. "The nomination process for the IPPYs is very rigorous—Plexus Publishing and Nelson Johnson impressed *two* sets of judges—they should be very proud of this wonderful achievement."

John B. Bryans, editor-in-chief and publisher of the Book Publishing Division at Plexus, said, "We are thrilled to receive gold honors for these two great books by Nelson Johnson, and nothing could make me happier than the win for *The Northside*. It's a remarkable story of triumph over adversity and the national gold IPPY is sure to help bring it the wide readership it deserves. Congratulations to Nelson Johnson and Plexus CEO Tom Hogan, and kudos to our amazing team of editors and designers who prove time after time what a small independent publisher is capable of."

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Nelson Johnson said, “I’m thrilled to have my work recognized by the publishers. It’s a bit overwhelming. My research and writing on Atlantic City has been an adventure. I’m glad Plexus and I are together for the excitement.”

About the IPPY Awards

For 15 years the Independent Publisher Book Awards have been conducted annually to honor the year’s best independently published titles. The IPPY Awards recognize those who exhibit the courage, innovation, and creativity to bring about change in the world of publishing. Independent spirit and expertise comes from publishers of all sizes and budgets, and books are judged with that in mind. All independent, university, small press, and self-publishers who produce books intended for the North American market are eligible to enter. For more information visit Independent Publisher online at www.independentpublisher.com.

About the 2011 IPPY-Winning Books, Author, and Publisher

Boardwalk Empire is the true story that inspired the Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild, and Director’s Guild award-winning HBO series of the same name. In the book, Nelson Johnson covers Atlantic City from its birth as a quiet seaside health resort, through the notorious backroom politics and power struggles, to the city’s rebirth as an international entertainment and gambling mecca where anything goes. For more information visit www.boardwalkempire.com.

The Northside, Johnson’s sequel to *Boardwalk Empire*, tells the story of Atlantic City’s black community, from the arrival of the first African Americans to Absecon Island in the early 19th century through the glory days of the “World’s Playground.” Drawing on dozens of interviews and painstaking archival research, Johnson reveals long-forgotten details about the people on whose backs the gambling mecca was built, and he offers eye-opening profiles of Northside leaders past and present. For more information visit www.thenorthsidebook.com.

Author Nelson Johnson, whose family’s presence in Atlantic County predates the founding of Atlantic City, is a lifelong resident of Hammonton, New Jersey. He practiced law for 30 years and was active in Atlantic City and County politics through much of that period.

Plexus Publishing, Inc., incorporated in 1977, is an independent, family-owned publisher located in historic Medford, in southern New Jersey. Plexus’s regional publishing program encompasses diverse Jersey-centric books in genres that include history, nature and the environment, travel/tourism, and fiction. For more information visit www.plexuspublishing.com.

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