12-1-2008

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Recommended Citation
(2008) "Frederick Douglass Award to Stephanie Smallwood's Saltwater Slavery," African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter: Vol. 11 : Iss. 4 , Article 8.
Available at: https://scholarworks.umass.edu/adan/vol11/iss4/8
Frederick Douglass Award to Stephanie Smallwood's *Saltwater Slavery*

*Saltwater Slavery: A Middle Passage from Africa to American Diaspora*

Stephanie E. Smallwood was selected as the winner of the 2008 Frederick Douglass Book Prize, awarded for the best book written in English on slavery or abolition. Smallwood's *Saltwater Slavery* examines the transatlantic slave trade and the relationships between Africa and the new world. The prize is awarded by Yale University's Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

"*Saltwater Slavery* is a remarkable account of the transatlantic slave trade that will lead scholars to rethink their understanding of the 'middle passage,' Africa's diaspora, and the relationships between Africa and the New World," said Christopher Clark, the 2008 Douglass Prize Jury Chair. "Stephanie Smallwood uses records of the English Royal African Company's trade with the Gold Coast to provide insights into the lives of the men and women the company bought, transported, and offered for sale in the Americas. Tracing the steps that led from captivity in Africa to final sale in the New World, Smallwood gets behind the generalities that often characterize studies of the slave trade. She shows how at each stage captives found themselves transformed and re-presented as commodities -- for purchase by merchants; for confinement aboard ship; and for resale as plantation workers or servants."