

UNH Professor Wins Award for Book on Egyptian Religion

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UNH News Bureau

DURHAM, N.H. -- David Frankfurter, associate professor of history at the University of New Hampshire, will receive a national award for his most recent book, "Religion in Roman Egypt: Assimilation and Resistance."

The American Association of Religion's Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion will be presented to Frankfurter Saturday, Nov. 20, at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston, during the association's annual meeting.

Published by Princeton University Press in 1998, "Religion in Roman Egypt" illustrates cultural resilience and examines the complex fate of classical Egyptian religion from the period when Christianity first appeared in Egypt to its later dominance in the region. In the book, Frankfurter argues that the religion of Pharonic Egypt did not fade as early as widely believed, but was relegated from political centers to village and home, where it continued a vigorous existence for centuries.

According to Princeton University Professor Leigh Schmidt, a member of the awards committee, Frankfurter's work captures the world of Egyptian religion on its own terms. "Rather than a story organized around the displacement of this ancient religion at the hands of Christianity," he says, "Frankfurter evokes the strength and endurance of Egyptian religion, its oracles, festival and healing practices. It is a model study of religious culture in transition."

Frankfurter joined the UNH faculty in 1995, after teaching at the College of Charleston and the University of Michigan. His scholarly background in religion includes degrees from Wesleyan University, Harvard Divinity School and Princeton.

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