

***Tahoma and Its People* Selected as Finalist in the Banff Mountain Book Competition**

One of the many things I learned in writing *Tahoma* and seeing it through to publication was that any email that begins with "Thank you for submitting..." is probably a publisher's rejection. When I recently received a similar email from the Banff Mountain Book Competition committee, I naturally assumed it was one of those "thanks-for-entering-but-we-get-a-ton-of-entries-and-yours-was-not-selected" emails. I also learned early on to send rejection emails to myself before receiving publisher rejections, as it lowered my expectations and help lessen the sting of a "no thank you." Before I read the Banff email, I re-read the Banff rejection I'd sent to myself.



I then dutifully muddled through the Banff note, reading the usual, "2020 was no exception. After many months of reviewing 130 titles in seven categories, we have selected the top books in each category based on style, content, relevance and story as reviewed by a team of dedicated readers." But the lead sentence in the next paragraph was a real stunner: "I'm pleased to say that *Tahoma and Its People: A Natural History of Mount Rainier National Park* is a finalist. Congratulations!" What?! Are you kidding?!

The online awards ceremony is November 5th, and I hope you can join us. But with just three finalists in the Mountain Environment and Natural History category, *Tahoma* is assured at least a bronze medal, right?

<https://www.banffcentre.ca/banff-mountain-book-competition>