David McCullough to Be Honored

The Trustees of the Memorial will present Mr. McCullough with the Saint-Gaudens Medal at a ceremony tentatively scheduled to take place on the Boston Common behind the Shaw Memorial on the afternoon of October 4, 2016.

David McCullough is the author of ten books on topics of American history, a number of which focus on people and events connected with America’s national parks. One in particular, The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris tells the story of Augustus Saint-Gaudens and many other artists, writers, doctors, and politicians whose lives and achievements were enriched by sojourns in Paris. Mr. McCullough has received two Pulitzer Prizes (for Truman and John Adams); two National Book Awards (for The Path Between the Seas and Mornings on Horseback); and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award. In addition, Mr. McCullough is a lecturer, a frequent narrator of television programs and documentaries, and was the host of PBS’s American Experience for eleven years. In the course of his research for The Greater Journey, Mr. McCullough came to know the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site and its staff and collections well.

The Saint-Gaudens Medal is intended to honor individuals and/or institutions who, through their talents and beneficence, have made a distinguished contribution to the arts in America in the high tradition of Augustus Saint-Gaudens. The Medal itself was designed by artist, sculptor and former Memorial Trustee Robert W. White, grandson of Saint-Gaudens’s collaborator and friend, Stanford White. The Medal has been awarded nine times (seven times in its present form), most recently in 2014 to James B. Atkinson.