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For Immediate Release

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***CHICAGO RIVER BRIDGES WINS THE FERGUSON AWARD
FROM THE SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY***

This book chronicles the history, development, and technology of the Windy City's bridges from the first wood footbridge, built by a tavern owner in 1832, to the fantastic moveable steel and concrete structures crossing the Chicago River today.

Albuquerque, NM – last night Patrick T. McBriarty was awarded the biennial Eugene S. Ferguson Prize by the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) for his book *Chicago River Bridges* at the SHOT Annual Meeting's awards banquet. This is the third award for this book.

Chicago River Bridges presents the untold history and development of Chicago's iconic bridges. It is the story of Chicago as seen through its bridges, for it has been the bridges that proved critical in connecting and reconnecting generations of Chicagoans. It is the first comprehensive guidebook of these remarkable features of Chicago's urban landscape, chronicling more than 175 bridges, past and present, spanning the Chicago River. The book unearths the rich history of Chicago's downtown bridges and delivers new research into the bridges' architectural designs, engineering, and innovations.

The Eugene S. Ferguson Prize is awarded biennially by SHOT for outstanding and original reference work that will support future scholarship in the history of technology. The Ferguson Prize recognizes work that is in the tradition of scholarly excellence established by Eugene S. Ferguson (1916-2004), SHOT's pioneering bibliographer, a founding member of the Society (President, 1977-1978; da Vinci Medalist, 1977), museum curator, and exhibit catalog author, editor, annotator, university professor, and scholar of the history of engineering and technology. The prize consists of a plaque and a cash award.

The Society for the History of Technology is dedicated to the historical study of

technology and its relations with politics, economics, labor, business, the environment, public policy, science, and the arts. Founded in 1958, the society now numbers around 1500 members. An international society, SHOT meets annually in North America or Europe and also sponsors smaller conferences focused on specialized topics, often jointly with other scholarly societies and organizations. SHOT is an international organization that actively works to foster a stronger global community for the study of the history of technology and to support a worldwide network of scholars in this field. SHOT currently has members from at least thirty-five countries, including Australia, Greece, Italy, South Korea, Colombia, Brazil, South Africa, and India. Canada, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Japan, and France all have significant representation in SHOT.

Patrick T. McBriarty began this second career as a creative with the award-winning history and photographic guidebook *Chicago River Bridges*, which won the Henry N. Barkhausen Award for original research in the field of Great Lakes maritime history from the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History, and received an Honorable Mention at the 2014 Chicago Writer's Association Annual Book Awards for traditional non-fiction. McBriarty has since developed the award-winning PTM Werks Series of children's picture books designed, as a fun introduction to STEM/STEAM topics, to answer the "why" questions kids often have about how the machines all around us work. For more details see his author website: www.PTMWerks.com and the documentary film website: www.ChicagoDrawbridges.com.

Chicago River Bridge was printed in the USA and available at most museum shops and finer booksellers in the greater Chicago area, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon.

Chicago River Bridges

76 color photographs, 101 black & white photographs, 23 line drawings, 2 tables

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344 pages

11 inches x 9.5 inches

Hardcover

\$44.95