SIR is pleased to announce that Gabrielle C. Burton of Columbus, OH, has won the 2013 Thomas A. Wilhelmus Editors’ Nonfiction Award. Burton’s essay “East of East” will appear in the Fall 2013 issue.

“What strikes me first is the clarity and precision—the wisdom, beauty, accuracy and inevitability—of her sentences, how everything flows smoothly and is of a piece. Later, there is the sensation of a person fully present in what she recalls—the descriptive richness of what she sees, senses, and feels. Later still, the surprising amplitude of her themes—expatriate family life, cultural difference, environmental consciousness, sexual, gender, and cultural identity, a truly global awareness. All of these things are swept up in a single narrative structure that moves decisively toward a well-conceived and well-rounded conclusion. Ms. Burton’s essay is truly remarkable.”

—Thomas A. Wilhelmus

Contest Finalists

Molly Beer        “Someplace Borrowed, Someplace Blue”
Jacqueline Kolosov “Pilgrimage to St. Ives” & “With Horses”
Lisa Lenzo        “Valet Parking”
Adriana Paramo    “Girl in Red Stilettos Getting Drunk in Ashgabat”
Lee Patton        “Caught in History with the Archangel of the Confederacy: Encounters with Southerners, Dead and Alive”
Julie Marie Wade  “The Big Picture” & “Hourglass (III)”

Thanks to everyone who entered!