Regulations for the Johannes van Dam Prize

Johannes van Dam
Johannes van Dam (1946-2013), a renowned Dutch journalist and book collector, lived and worked in Amsterdam. He wrote articles for Elsevier and Amsterdam-based newspaper Het Parool. In 2005 his magnum opus DedikkevanDam was published, containing the wealth of knowledge he had accumulated on the history of eating and drinking in the Netherlands. In that same year, he united his extensive library with that of culinary historian Joop Witteveen and his partner, Bart Cuperus, in the Stichting Gastronomische Bibliotheek (Gastronomic Library Foundation). The three book collectors decided to bequeath their collection to the University of Amsterdam. Featuring in excess of 20,000 publications on gastronomic history, the joint library is now part of the Special Collections of the University of Amsterdam.

The award
The Special Collections of the University of Amsterdam established the Johannes van Dam Prize in 2012. The aim of the award is to encourage the use of the gastronomic books and manuscripts managed by the Special Collections in an academic environment and to raise awareness of the importance of the collection amongst a wider audience. In addition to nearly all the significant cookery books published in the Netherlands over the years, the History of Food collection – part of the Special Collections of the University of Amsterdam – also features a selection of international cookery books, books about diets, dietetics, home economics, table decoration, etiquette and a wealth of other related topics. This culinary historical collection includes several sub-collections, including the library of the Voorlichtingsbureau voor de Voeding (Netherlands Bureau for Food and Nutrition Education), the Collection of the Culinair Museum in Amersfoort and the collection of the Stichting Gastronomische Bibliotheek. The History of Food collection offers the opportunity to conduct research into innumerable areas of interest in the field of the history of food and drink.
The Johannes van Dam Prize consists of a special plate, designed by Dutch artist Joost Swarte, and a cash prize of €2,500.

Criteria
The Johannes van Dam Prize is an international oeuvre award, named after culinary journalist and author Johannes van Dam. The award is presented in recognition of the extraordinary efforts of a living person to distribute knowledge of gastronomic culture in a wide sense, through their (Dutch language) publications and other communications.
In special cases, the jury is permitted to deviate from these criteria for reasons of their own.

Procedure
The independent jury selects the winner from the nominations presented by the members of the jury and the previous winners of the award invited to make nominations. The focus will alternate between a culinary author, a culinary scientist and representatives from the professional culinary field.
The winner is selected by a unanimous jury decision. In the unlikely event that the jury is unable to reach a unanimous decision, the Chairperson has the casting vote. The winner will be informed as soon as possible following the jury’s decision. The winner’s attendance at the award ceremony in Amsterdam is a precondition of the Prize being awarded.

Award ceremony
The Johannes van Dam Prize is awarded every year at a ceremony held in the Aula of the University of Amsterdam. All laureates are invited to the award ceremony. The laureates are expected to participate in the public activities associated with the award ceremony.

**Jury**
The composition of the jury reflects the following areas: gastronomy, the book/publishing world and science and should include a representative of UvA Erfgoed (UvA Heritage). The members of the jury are appointed for a term of four years. This term may be (repeatedly) extended by a period of two years. When a jury member retires from the position and when new jury members are appointed, the overlapping terms of the various jury members should be used to ensure the greatest possible continuity. New jury members are nominated by existing members and appointed unanimously.

**Organisation**
The Special Collections of the University of Amsterdam is responsible for the organisation of the Johannes van Dam Prize.

In cases not covered by this regulation, the decision will be made by the Chairperson following consultation with the members of the jury.

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