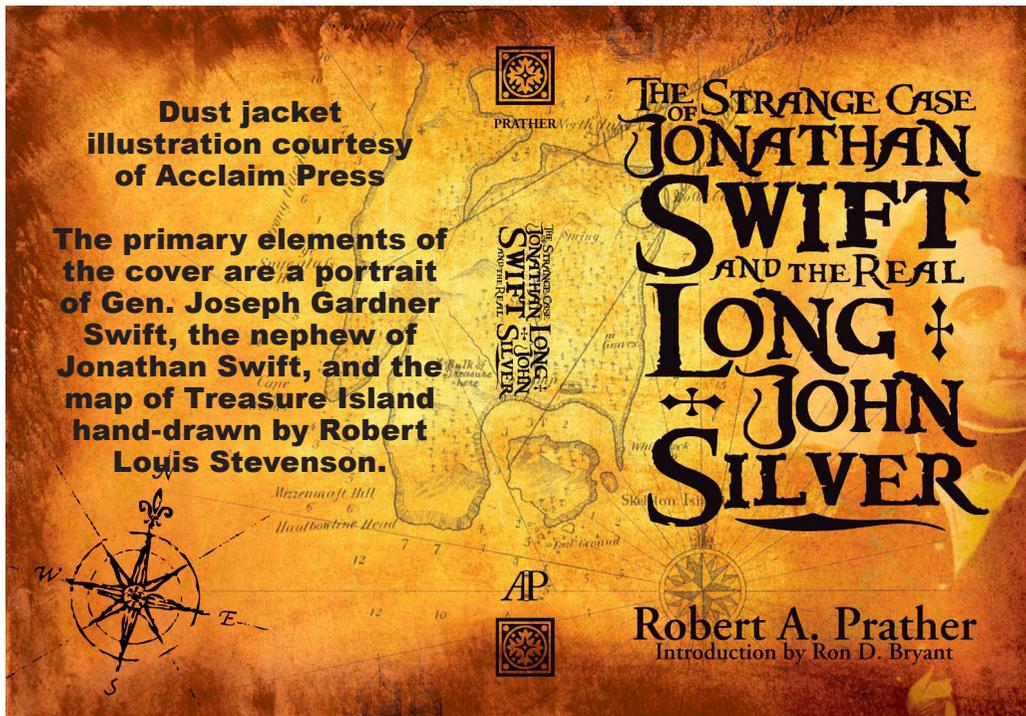


Local author's book wins Silver ADDY award for cover design



Dust jacket illustration courtesy of Acclaim Press

The primary elements of the cover are a portrait of Gen. Joseph Gardner Swift, the nephew of Jonathan Swift, and the map of Treasure Island hand-drawn by Robert Louis Stevenson.

By SANDRA STONE
Messenger Staff

"We knew it was a good cover. We just didn't know how good it was." That was local author Robert A. "Tony" Prather's reaction upon learning the cover design for his book, "The Strange Case of Jonathan Swift and the Real Long John Silver," had won a 2007 Silver ADDY Award for publication design. With over 60,000 entries annually, the ADDY Awards are the world's largest advertising competition.

Emily Sikes, designer, and Doug Sikes, publisher, received the award on behalf of Acclaim Press Inc., which published Prather's book.

"Emily has designed a number of good covers," said

Prather. And of Acclaim Press, he said, "They do good work."

Two primary elements of the cover were incorporated with input from Prather.

The first is the portrait of Gen. Joseph Gardner Swift, a nephew of Jonathan Swift. There are no portraits of Jonathan Swift, but he was described as being tall, dark and blue-eyed, similar, it is thought, to his nephew.

Joseph Swift was the first cadet to graduate from West Point Military Academy. He is also recognized as the first American-trained engineer in the United States. The portrait was provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"He has a wistful, pensive look," said Prather of the portrait on the far right side of the front cover. "We like the look

of Joseph as if he's reflecting on his Uncle Jonathan."

The second element is a map of Treasure Island, hand-drawn by the book's author, Robert Louis Stevenson. This map was likely drawn between 1881 and 1883, after the original was presumably lost in transit to Stevenson's publisher. "It's only appropriate that Stevenson's drawing of Treasure Island would win some sort of award," said Prather.

These two elements, coupled with a color scheme and directional symbols which bring to mind adventurers from long ago, and you have an award-winning cover.

"You can get a lot of story out of just a cover," said Prather. "That's the neat part of the creative genius of Emily Sikes. She did a fabulous job."