Victor H. Winston and Bellwether Publishing
AAG Publication Award

The Association of American Geographers presents its Publication Award to Victor H. Winston and Bellwether Publishing in recognition of 50 years of sustained support for the discipline of Geography that they have provided. Currently, Bellwether is the publisher of five outstanding journals in the discipline: Eurasian Geography and Economics, GIScience & Remote Sensing, Physical Geography, Urban Geography, and Post-Soviet Affairs. Victor Winston and the staff at Bellwether Publishing have long been active in the AAG specialty groups associated with these topics, and developed a constructive corporate model that has been highly productive for scholarly and academic geographic programs, people, and efforts.

Originally from Lithuania, and having survived the horrors of World War II under the Soviet regime, including incarceration in a concentration camp, Victor Winston came to the U.S. in 1946, where he pursued undergraduate and graduate degrees at Columbia University. In the 1950s, he taught at the Army War College and years later, as an adjunct professor, at George Mason University. Victor’s entry into the private sector led him to become head of a small publishing house headquartered in Maryland, Bellwether Publishing, which publishes five academic journals. He is also Visiting Professor of International Affairs at Marshall University, and has written or edited three books. For more than half a century Victor has consistently supported the efforts of the AAG.

Central to his leadership of Bellwether is the publication of five high-quality and affordable geography journals – Eurasian Geography and Economics, GIScience & Remote Sensing, Physical Geography, Urban Geography, and Post-Soviet Affairs – that have become important and prestigious outlets for different parts of the discipline. Some of these went by different titles: GIScience & Remote Sensing was published for 40 years as Mapping Sciences and Remote Sensing, and Eurasian Geography and Economics which Victor Winston started (as he did Physical Geography and Urban Geography), was long known as Soviet Geography: Review and Translation. Victor has long played an important role in each of them as an involved, hands-on manager and, occasionally, with constructive, day-to-day editorial suggestions. At a time when the publishing industry is increasingly dominated by large, impersonal corporations with agendas occasionally at odds from that of academia, Bellwether retains an important, more personalized, and specialized niche outlet. Victor came to know the literature of each subdiscipline well, including the contributors, editors, and editorial boards, and devoted substantial time and resources to ensuring that each journal flourished, overseeing processing of papers, printing, and distribution. All of the five journals published by Bellwether have served as outlets for junior and senior scholars alike, and have become important in shaping the intellectual trajectory of the discipline over several decades. Victor Winston has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to maintain their quality and viability. Over more than 30 years, the five journals combined have published more than 3,000 refereed geography papers. For his efforts, Victor has earned the widespread respect and indebtedness of scholars of geography the world over.

In recognition for his many years of service as a rare combination of scholar and publisher, and for the contributions of Bellwether Publishing to the discipline, the AAG acknowledges the numerous contributions that Victor Winston and his staff since 1985 (Andrew Bond, Brian Hayman, and Cathy McKeon Feinman) have made with the AAG Publication Award.