

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 21, 2016

CONTACT: Jeff Mammenga, Media Coordinator, (605) 773-6000,
jeff.mammenga@state.sd.us

Cartoonist, State Historical Society Author Chris Browne Receives Mayor's Award

PIERRE, S.D.—Chris Browne, cartoonist of “Hägar the Horrible” and author and illustrator of the children’s book “The Monster Who Ate the State,” has received the Sioux Falls Arts Council’s 2016 Mayor’s Award for Individual Excellence in Literary Arts.

The South Dakota State Historical Society published the book, which features sites throughout the state, including Falls Park, the State Theater and the Great Plains Zoo in Sioux Falls.

“Dedicated to the children of South Dakota, “The Monster Who Ate the State” is a fun and engaging story,” says Nancy Tystad Koupal, director of the South Dakota Historical Society Press. “It is a delightful addition to our children’s book collection, and, as this award demonstrates, Chris Browne is a wonderful literary asset to the state.”

In “The Monster Who Ate the State,” Soozy the dinosaur is roused by scientists working in an underground laboratory. Emerging from the Black Hills, she discovers a world far different from the one she left behind. The hungry dinosaur munches on motorcycles, chases bison and sparks panic as she sees the sights across South Dakota, hunting for a new place to call home. The Midwest Book Review calls Browne’s work “a sneakily educational children’s picturebook” that is “fun to read aloud, and highly recommended.”

Born in South Orange, N.J., Chris Browne brings the prehistoric Soozy to life as he regales readers with her adventures and describes the unique places she visits in the Mount Rushmore State. Browne now lives in Sioux Falls with his wife, Carroll. In addition to being the syndicated cartoonist behind “Hägar the Horrible,” he is an artist whose works can be found all over the world.

“The Monster Who Ate the State” is suitable for first- to fourth-grade readers or as a book to be read aloud to younger children. Readers can purchase the book for \$19.95 directly from the South Dakota Historical Society Press by visiting www.sdhspress.com or calling (605) 773-6009.

-30-

About the South Dakota State Historical Society

The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Education. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society’s world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for

more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.