

MLA'S SCAGLIONE PUBLICATION AWARD PRESENTED TO UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME PRESS TO PUBLISH SARAH MCNAMER'S *MEDITATIONS ON THE LIFE OF CHRIST: THE SHORT ITALIAN TEXT*; GERRY P. MILLIGAN TO RECEIVE HONORABLE MENTION

New York, NY – 5 December 2017 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is awarding its twentieth annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies to Sarah McNamer, of Georgetown University, for *Meditations on the Life of Christ: The Short Italian Text*, to be published by Notre Dame University Press. Gerry P. Milligan, of the College of Staten Island, City University of New York, will receive honorable mention for *Moral Combat: Women, Gender, and War in Italian Renaissance Literature*, to be published by the University of Toronto Press.

The award is one of eighteen that will be presented on 6 January 2018, during the association's annual convention, to be held in New York City. The members of the selection committee were Timothy Campbell (Cornell Univ.); Margherita Heyer-Caput (Univ. of California, Davis); and Deanna Shemek (Univ. of California, Santa Cruz), chair. The committee's citation for the winning manuscript reads:

This critical edition and English translation of *Meditations on the Life of Christ: The Short Italian Text* presents for the first time the long-neglected Italian vernacular version of an influential Latin text and advances an argument for its female authorship. The work represents a significant contribution to the study and understanding of medieval devotional literature and, more broadly, of the role of women in the emergence of vernacular literature and theology. Sarah McNamer's critical text is clear and accessible; her translation is elegant, clean, and engaging. The manuscript productively addresses the historic turn indicated by our ability to consider a female author, as well as the foundation of scholarship on which that ability lies. Beyond medieval studies, McNamer's edition has suggestive implications for how to write revisionary textual scholarship.

Sarah McNamer is an associate professor of English and medieval studies and director of the Medieval Studies Program at Georgetown University. She received her PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles; her MPhil from Oxford University; and her BA from Harvard University, where she later returned as a junior fellow at the Society of Fellows. McNamer is the author of *Affective Meditation and the Invention of Medieval Compassion*, which received the 2010 Book of the Year Award from the Conference on Christianity and Literature, and *The Two Middle English Versions of the Revelations of St. Elizabeth of Hungary*. Her essays have appeared as book chapters and in journals such as *PMLA* and *Speculum*. She is at work on two books, *Feeling by the Book: The Work of the Pearl-Poet in the History of Emotion* and *Middle English Literature and the History of Emotion: Methods, Issues, Readings*.

The committee's citation for the honorable mention reads:

Gerry P. Milligan's scan of medieval and early modern Italian literature for content about women and war is well-executed and revelatory. Developed from focused, new research, *Moral Combat: Women, Gender, and War in Italian Renaissance Literature* sheds light on the intersection of fiction and history in the construction of gender. The manuscript addresses a variety of major and minor Italian Renaissance texts and deftly integrates primary and secondary sources to make a cogent and powerful argument. *Moral Combat* is historical, philosophical, and literary in scope and offers an important contribution to the field. Its accessible, engaging voice and its exploration of both masculinity and femininity make it a promising text for use in the classroom.

Gerry P. Milligan is an associate professor at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York, where he is interim dean of the humanities and social sciences. He received his PhD from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Milligan's research focuses broadly on gendered identity in Italian Renaissance literature, and he works on treatise literature, women-authored texts, and theater of the early modern period. He has written articles on such diverse topics as cross-dressing in sixteenth-century comedy, the rhetorical use of effeminacy in Castiglione and Machiavelli, and the heroines of the sacred poems of Lucrezia Tornabuoni. With Jane Tylus, he edited *The Poetics of Masculinity in Early Modern Italy and Spain*, whose introduction provides the first analysis of the cross-cultural exchange of masculinity between Italy and Spain. In 2007–08, he received a postdoctoral fellowship at Villa I Tatti–The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies.

The Modern Language Association of America and its 24,000 members in 100 countries work to strengthen the study and teaching of languages and literature. Founded in 1883, the MLA provides opportunities for its members to share their scholarly findings and teaching experiences with colleagues and to discuss trends in the academy. The MLA sustains one of the finest publication programs in the humanities, producing a variety of publications for language and literature professionals and for the general public. The association publishes the *MLA International Bibliography*, the only comprehensive bibliography in language and literature, available online. The MLA Annual Convention features meetings on a wide variety of subjects; this year's convention in New York is expected to draw 7,000 attendees. More information on MLA programs is available at www.mla.org.

The Scaglione publication award was established in 1997 and first presented in 1998; recent recipients include Lina N. Insana, Kristin Phillips-Court, Paola Gambarota, Jo Ann Cavallo, Demetrio S. Yocum, Teodolinda Barolini and Richard Lansing, Sarah Rolfe Prodan, Ruth Ben-Ghiat, and Arielle Saiber; the presses that received subventions to publish their manuscripts include the University of Notre Dame Press, the University of Toronto Press, Cambridge University Press, and Indiana University Press.

The Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies is awarded under the auspices of the association's Committee on Honors and Awards. Other awards sponsored by the committee are the William Riley Parker Prize; the James Russell Lowell Prize; the MLA Prize for a First Book; the Howard R. Marraro Prize; the Kenneth W. Mildener Prize; the Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize; the MLA Prize for Independent Scholars; the Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize; the Morton N. Cohen Award; the MLA Prizes for a Scholarly Edition and for a Bibliography, Archive, or Digital Project; the Lois Roth Award; the William Sanders Scarborough Prize; the Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies; the MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies; the MLA Prize for Studies in Native American Literatures, Cultures, and Languages; the Matei Calinescu Prize; and the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prizes for Comparative Literary Studies, for French and Francophone Studies, for Italian Studies, for Studies in Germanic Languages and

Literatures, for Studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures, for a Translation of a Literary Work, and for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature.

The Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Endowment Fund was established and donated by Aldo Scaglione to the Modern Language Association in 1987. The fund honors the memory of Scaglione's late wife, Jeanne Daman Scaglione. A Roman Catholic, Jeanne Daman was headmistress of a Jewish kindergarten in Brussels, Belgium. When arrests and deportations of Jews began in 1942, she worked with Belgian and Jewish resistance units, helping to find hiding places for two thousand children throughout Belgium. She also helped rescue many Jewish men about to be deported as slave laborers by obtaining false papers for them. Jeanne Scaglione's life and contributions to humanity are commemorated in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

Aldo Scaglione, a member of the Modern Language Association from 1957 until his death in 2013, was Erich Maria Remarque Professor of Literature at New York University. A native of Turin, Italy, he received a doctorate in modern letters from the University of Turin. He taught at the University of Toulouse and the University of Chicago. From 1952 to 1968 he taught at the University of California, Berkeley, and from 1968 to 1987 he was W. R. Kenan Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In 1987 he came to New York University as professor of Italian and then chair of the Department of Italian. Scaglione was a Fulbright Fellow and a Guggenheim Fellow, held senior fellowships from the Newberry Library and the German Academic Exchange Service, and was a visiting professor at Yale University, the City University of New York, and the Humanities Research Institute of the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In 1975 he was named Cavaliere dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana. Scaglione was president of the American Boccaccio Association and was a member of the MLA Executive Council from 1981 to 1984. His published books include *Nature and Love in the Late Middle Ages* (1963), *Ars Grammatica* (1970), *The Classical Theory of Composition* (1972), *The Theory of German Word Order* (1981), *The Liberal Arts and the Jesuit College System* (1986), *Knights at Court: Courtliness, Chivalry, and Courtesy from Ottonian Germany to the Italian Renaissance* (1991), and *Essays on the Arts of Discourse: Linguistics, Rhetoric, Poetics* (1998).