MLA’S SCAGLIONE PRIZE FOR FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE STUDIES
AWARDED TO ANDREW JOSEPH COUNTER FOR THE AMOROUS RESTORATION
AND TO MAURICE SAMUELS FOR THE RIGHT TO DIFFERENCE

New York, NY – 5 December 2017 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is awarding its twenty-fifth annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for French and Francophone Studies to Andrew Joseph Counter, of the University of Oxford, for his book The Amorous Restoration: Love, Sex, and Politics in Early Nineteenth-Century France, published by Oxford University Press, and to Maurice Samuels, of Yale University, for his book The Right to Difference: French Universalism and the Jews, published by the University of Chicago Press. The prize is awarded annually for an outstanding scholarly work in its field—a literary or linguistic study, a critical edition of an important work, or a critical biography—written by a member of the association.

The Scaglione Prize for French and Francophone Studies is one of eighteen awards 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 Andrea Goulet (Univ. of Pennsylvania), chair; Oana Panaite (Indiana Univ., Bloomington); and Joëlle F. Vitiello (Macalester Coll.). The committee’s citation for Counter’s book reads:

*The Amorous Restoration: Love, Sex, and Politics in Early Nineteenth-Century France* is thoughtfully written in a style that blends wit and erudition as it uncovers the political ideologies at play in the era. Subtle readings anchored in deep archival research—on legal codes regarding sodomy, clerical scandals involving rapist priests, aristocratic fears of sterile marriage, literary quarrels about conjugal vice, and cases of journalistic censorship—reveal a strong rhetorical link between conflicting sexual values and regime-change turbulence. Shifting gracefully between high canon and low culture, Andrew Joseph Counter situates his analyses in an extensive and up-to-date field of secondary criticism while retaining a strong and original voice. Counter also proposes that Restoration-era discussions of closeted desire and even same-sex marriage provide the historical preconditions for modern-day discourse on gender and sexuality.

Andrew Joseph Counter is an associate professor of French at the University of Oxford. He received his BA, MPhil, and PhD from Christ’s College, Cambridge. Counter is the author of *Inheritance in Nineteenth-Century French Culture: Wealth, Knowledge and the Family*. His articles have appeared in journals including *Romantisme, Law and Literature, French Studies*, and *French History*. He received the 2013 *Forum for Modern Language Studies* essay prize and a Philip Leverhulme Prize, among other awards. He is coeditor of a forthcoming special issue of *Romantic Review*. 
The committee’s citation for Samuels’s book reads:

In this clear-eyed and synthetic study, Maurice Samuels argues that French universalism constitutes a continuously renegotiated form of pluralism rather than an erasure of difference. *The Right to Difference: French Universalism and the Jews* takes its readers through moments of national redefinition, beginning with late-eighteenth-century discussions of Jewish assimilation that reveal revolutionary thought to be more pluralist than expected, thus setting up a tradition of republican universalism that allows for the possibility of—or the right to—difference. Through analysis of historical, cultural, and political examples of the status of Jews since the eighteenth century, Samuels explores models for reconciling the universal and the particular. This lucid intervention into current discussions of ethnic and religious challenges to the French republic will be useful for scholars, teachers, and the general public.

Maurice Samuels is the Betty Jane Anlyan Professor of French at Yale University. He received his PhD, MA, and BA from Harvard University. His first book, *The Spectacular Past: Popular History and the Novel in Nineteenth-Century France*, received the Gaddis Smith International Book Prize, given by Yale’s MacMillan Center. His book *Inventing the Israelite: Jewish Fiction in Nineteenth-Century France* received the 2009 Scaglione Prize for French and Francophone Studies and was translated into French in 2017. Samuels coedited *Nineteenth-Century Jewish Literature: A Reader* and edited *Les grands auteurs juifs de la littérature française au XIXe siècle*. He has published articles on diverse topics, including Romanticism and realism, aesthetic theory, representations of the Crimean War, boulevard culture, and writers from Balzac to Zola. He also directs the Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism.

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 City is expected to draw 7,000 attendees. More information on MLA programs is available at www.mla.org.

The Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for French and Francophone Studies, awarded under the auspices of the MLA’s Committee on Honors and Awards, was presented for the first time in 1992. Recent recipients have been Adelaide M. Russo, Willa Z. Silverman, Maurice Samuels, John Culbert, Larry F. Norman, Christopher Braider, Valérie Loichot, Irving Goh, and Hannah Freed-Thall.

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. Mildenberger 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; the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prizes for Comparative Literary 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; and the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies.

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).