



Contact: Paula M. Krebs
646 576-5102, awards@mla.org

MLA'S ALDO AND JEANNE SCAGLIONE PRIZE FOR A TRANSLATION OF A LITERARY WORK AWARDED TO OKSANA MAKSYMCHUK AND MAX ROSOCHINSKY FOR *THE VOICES OF BABYN YAR*; ANDREW FITZSIMONS AND JONATHAN GREEN RECEIVE HONORABLE MENTIONS

New York, NY – 6 December 2023 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it will award its nineteenth Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work to Oksana Maksymchuk, visiting lecturer for English at the University of Chicago, and Max Rosochinsky, of Chicago, Illinois, for their translation of Marianna Kiyanovska's *The Voices of Babyn Yar*, published by Harvard University Press. Andrew Fitzsimons, professor of English at Gakushuin University, Tokyo, will receive an honorable mention for *Bashō: The Complete Haiku of Matsuo Bashō*, published by the University of California Press. Jonathan Green, instructor of languages at the University of North Dakota, will receive an honorable mention for *Theuerdank: The Illustrated Epic of a Renaissance Knight*, published by Routledge.

The Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work is one of twenty-two prizes that will be presented on 5 January 2024 during the association's annual convention, to be held in Philadelphia. The prize is awarded annually for a translation into English of a book-length literary work. From 1999 until 2016, the prize was offered biennially, alternating years with the Lois Roth Award for a translation of a literary work. The two prizes are now both offered annually. The members of this year's selection committee were Jacques Lezra (Univ. of California, Riverside); Sherry Roush (Penn State Univ., University Park); C. P. Haun Saussy (Univ. of Chicago); Patricia A. Sieber (Ohio State Univ., Columbus); and Sherry Simon (Concordia Univ.), chair.

The committee's citation for Maksymchuk and Rosochinsky reads:

Hovering between pandemonium and the unspeakable, Marianna Kiyanovska's *The Voices of Babyn Yar* channels bits of everyday observation, fragments of thoughts, and the horrors of mass execution from among the historically voiceless—the tens of thousands of Jews and others massacred on the outskirts of Kyiv in 1941—into an incantatory tour de force. In a translation that nudges close to the linguistic breaking points of the original, while retaining the fullness of its poetic registers and plethora of references to Ukrainian, Jewish, Soviet, and Western contexts, the seasoned translators-cum-poets Oksana Maksymchuk and Max Rosochinsky draw attention to an extraordinary work within the literary canon of the Holocaust.

The committee's citation for Fitzsimons reads:

With *Bashō: The Complete Haiku of Matsuo Bashō*, Andrew Fitzsimons has given us renderings in 5-7-5 syllabic measure of the nearly one thousand poems in the canon, presented in chronological order, along with biographical and thematic annotations

usually found in Japanese editions. The translator's range of tone and register runs, like that of the original, from the sublime to the utterly everyday, capturing Bashō's openness to experience and his gift for naming the transient detail. This translation guides readers in English to follow the obsessions, personality, development, and intellectual background of a poet often singled out for mere quirkiness.

The committee's citation for Green reads:

In his translation, Jonathan Green daringly and convincingly presents Emperor Maximilian's 1517 narrative poem *Theuerdank*—about a knight who must overcome myriad moral obstacles to reach his beloved Princess Ehrenrich—as a protographic novel. It is an especially rich edition, with reproductions of more than one hundred intricate woodcuts and with many supporting materials (maps, chronology, a key to the characters and narrative, discussion questions, and suggestions for further reading). Only in Green's meticulous and pioneeringly readable prose version of the Early New High German poem does “the greatest German book of the Renaissance” come alive as a work that can be compared with Machiavelli's *Prince* or Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*.

The Modern Language Association of America and its over 20,000 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 750 scholarly and professional development sessions. More information on MLA programs is available at www.mla.org.

The Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work was presented for the first time in 1993. The prize is awarded under the auspices of the MLA'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 Bibliographical or Archival Scholarship; 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 MLA Prize for an Edited Collection; 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 Scholarly Study of Literature, for African Studies, for East Asian Studies, for Middle Eastern Studies, and for South Asian Studies; and the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies. A complete list of current and previous winners can be found on the [MLA website](#).

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 at 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).