

**MLA'S SCAGLIONE PRIZE FOR COMPARATIVE LITERARY STUDIES AWARDED
TO CARMEN NOCENTELLI**

New York, NY – 3 December 2014 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is awarding its twenty-second annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literary Studies to Carmen Nocentelli, of the University of New Mexico, for her book *Empires of Love: Europe, Asia, and the Making of Early Modern Identity*, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. The prize is awarded annually for an outstanding scholarly work that is written by a member of the association and that involves at least two literatures.

The prize is one of sixteen awards that will be presented on 10 January 2015, during the association's annual convention, to be held in Vancouver. The members of the selection committee were Gerard Aching (Cornell Univ.); Ralph Bauer (Univ. of Maryland, College Park); and John Thomas Hamilton (Harvard Univ.), chair. The committee's citation for Nocentelli's book reads:

Based on extensive archival work, Carmen Nocentelli's *Empires of Love* investigates the mutual constitution of European and Asian identities across the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, specifically by focusing on the constructions and projections of race and sexuality, which contributed to definitions and self-definitions of culture. In this brilliant, broadly conceived study, the readings adroitly attend to materials in English, Dutch, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish with expert erudition and theoretical insight. In pressing the relevance of race in the history of sexuality, Nocentelli offers a lucid and altogether compelling account of how eros turns into matters of ethnos. Historically grounded and deeply reflective, the book fruitfully opens fresh lines of research in early modern studies and theories of empire.

Carmen Nocentelli is an associate professor of English and comparative literature at the University of New Mexico. She received her MA from American University and her PhD from Stanford University. Her articles have appeared in journals such as *Modern Language Quarterly*, *PMLA*, and *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies*. Her translation into Italian, *Spostare il centro del mondo: la lotta per le libertà culturali*, by Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, received the 2001 Nonino International Prize. She has received numerous fellowships and awards, from institutions such as the Folger Shakespeare Library and the Newberry Library.

The Modern Language Association of America and its 30,000 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 Vancouver is expected to draw 8,000 attendees. More information on MLA programs is available at www.mla.org.

The Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literary Studies, awarded under the auspices of the MLA's Committee on Honors and Awards, was presented for the first time in 1992. Recent winners have been Loren Kruger, Evelyne Ender, Toril Moi, Daniel Heller-Roazen, Sahar Amer, Alexa Huang, Donna V. Jones, Frédérique Ait-Touati, and David Spurr. Honorable mentions were awarded to Neil Kenny and Richard Helgerson.

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, Languages, and Cultures; the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prizes 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; and the 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 Torino, Italy, he received a doctorate in modern letters from the University of Torino. 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).