

**MLA'S SCAGLIONE PRIZE FOR FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE STUDIES
AWARDED TO DIANA HOLMES FOR *MIDDLEBROW MATTERS: WOMEN'S
READING AND THE LITERARY CANON IN FRANCE SINCE THE BELLE ÉPOQUE***

New York, NY – 4 December 2019 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is awarding its twenty-seventh annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for French and Francophone Studies to Diana Holmes, of the University of Leeds, for her book *Middlebrow Matters: Women's Reading and the Literary Canon in France since the Belle Époque*, published by Liverpool University 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 11 January 2020, during the association's annual convention, to be held in Seattle. The members of the selection committee were Frieda Ekotto (Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor); Alison S. James (Univ. of Chicago); and Ourida Mostefai (Brown Univ.), chair. The committee's citation for Holmes's book reads:

Middlebrow Matters: Women's Reading and the Literary Canon in France since the Belle Époque is an original and refreshing book that challenges the ways we read and think about the canon. Diana Holmes explores the derogatory category of the middlebrow novel in the French tradition and the ways this designation serves to discount and dismiss a major corpus of serious but popular novels and their—mostly female—authors and readers. In so doing she offers a major and much-needed reevaluation of writers from the belle époque to the contemporary period, including better-known figures like Colette and Marie NDiaye, as well as critically neglected writers such as Marcelle Tinayre and Anne Gavalda. *Middlebrow Matters* constitutes an outstanding contribution to the fields of French and feminist studies.

Diana Holmes is professor of French at the University of Leeds. She received her DPhil and BA from the University of Sussex and her MA from the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris 3. She is the author of *Romance and Readership in Twentieth-Century France: Love Stories; Rachilde: Decadence, Gender and the Woman Writer; French Women Writers, 1848–1994; François Truffaut*; and *Colette*. She has published articles in numerous journals and coedited several books, most recently *Making Waves: French Feminisms and Their Legacies, 1975–2015*. She is also the cofounder and coeditor of the French Film Directors series for Manchester University Press. In 1998, Holmes was awarded the Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques for service to French culture.

The Modern Language Association of America and its over 25,000 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; the 2020 convention in Seattle is expected to draw over 5,000 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 Maurice Samuels, John Culbert, Larry F. Norman, Christopher Braider, Valérie Loichot, Irving Goh, Hannah Freed-Thall, Andrew Joseph Counter, and George Hoffmann.

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 Collaborative, 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 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 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).