

MLA'S SCAGLIONE PRIZE FOR A TRANSLATION OF A SCHOLARLY STUDY OF LITERATURE AWARDED TO PEIMIN NI FOR *UNDERSTANDING THE ANALECTS OF CONFUCIUS* AND TO SYLVIA ADRIAN NOTINI FOR *THE VENETIAN QUR'AN*; JOHN MARINCOLA TO RECEIVE HONORABLE MENTION FOR *ON WRITING HISTORY*

New York, NY – 4 December 2019 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is awarding its thirteenth Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature to Peimin Ni, of Grand Valley State University, for *Understanding the Analects of Confucius: A New Translation of Lunyu with Annotations*, published by the State University of New York Press, and to Sylvia Adrian Notini, of the University of Bologna, for her translation of Pier Mattia Tommasino's *The Venetian Qur'an: A Renaissance Companion to Islam*, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. John Marincola, of Florida State University, is receiving an honorable mention for *On Writing History: From Herodotus to Herodian*, published by Penguin.

The prize is one of eighteen awards that will be presented on 11 January 2020, during the association's annual convention, to be held in Seattle. It is awarded each odd-numbered year for a translation into English of a book-length work of literary history, literary criticism, or literary theory. The members of this year's selection committee were Nattie L. Golubov (Univ. Nacional Autónoma de Mexico); Carol Marie Lazzaro-Weis (Univ. of Missouri, Columbia), chair; and Geeta Patel (Univ. of Virginia).

The committee's citation for Ni reads:

Peimin Ni's new translations in *Understanding the Analects of Confucius* build on and challenge a wide array of previous translations, which, at times, seem to contradict one another because of important transactional issues in translation that reveal how translation is both a product and a process. While comparing his solutions to those of other translators and employing commentary with extensive annotations of the text, Ni demonstrates his deep understanding of Confucius and various strands of Confucianism. This monumental work features a detailed and informative introduction as well as a presentation of the key terms in the *Analects* that have led to conflicting interpretations or additions of words to clarify the context. Ni has produced a scholarly yet surprisingly readable text for a nonspecialized audience.

Peimin Ni is professor in the Department of Philosophy at Grand Valley State University. He holds a PhD from the University of Connecticut and an MA and BA from Fudan University, Shanghai. Ni is the author of *Confucius: The Man and the Way of Gongfu*, *Wandering: Brush and Pen in Philosophical Reflection* (with Stephen Rowe), *On Reid*, and *On Confucius* and is

coeditor, with Chenyang Li, of *Moral Cultivation and Confucian Character: Engaging Joel J. Kupperman*. He is a founder and former president of the Association of Chinese Philosophers in America (ACPA) and former president of the Society of Asian and Comparative Philosophy. He is the editor in chief of the ACPA book series Chinese and Comparative Philosophy. Ni has had visiting professorships at the University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa, and the University of Hong Kong and has been a distinguished professor at Beijing Normal University. He also served as an executive vice-director of the Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies at Peking University.

The committee’s citation for Notini reads:

In *The Venetian Qur’an: A Renaissance Companion to Islam*, Pier Mattia Tommasino traces the origins of an anonymous book, the *Alcorano di Macometto*, first published in Venice in 1547, in an extremely comprehensive work linking archival research with literary analysis and close readings. Tommasino examines the history of the translation of the book and its publication, outlines the publishing life of the real author of this text, and then places the purpose of this translation and its lasting influence in a tempestuous religious and political background that extends far beyond Venice. This work also serves as a commentary on the practice of translation across many languages and traditions, which are brought to life by Sylvia Adrian Notini’s elegant and compelling translation, which will induce the reader to follow the many steps of Tommasino’s interpretive interdisciplinary apparatuses.

Sylvia Adrian Notini is a freelance Italian-to-English translator and professor of English language, literature, and translation at the University of Bologna in Italy. A native of Boston, Massachusetts, she moved to Italy to complete her PhD in Romance languages and literatures from Harvard University after earning a BA in Italian at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and an MA in Romance languages and literatures at Harvard. She also earned an Italian degree from the University of Urbino. In addition to teaching English at the School of Letters and the Humanities at the University of Bologna, Notini translates for numerous publishers both in Italy and abroad, including Rizzoli, Mondadori, 24 Ore Cultura, Skira, Marsilio, Quodlibet, Gingko, Thames and Hudson, and Laurence King. She also translates for museums and art foundations such as MAXXI in Rome, LAC in Lugano, MUDEC in Milan, Fondazione Giulio e Anna Paolini in Turin, and Prado in Madrid.

The committee’s citation for Marincola reads:

With *On Writing History: From Herodotus to Herodian*, John Marincola gathers and translates a wide range of exemplary texts on the theorizing of history in the Hellenic world. He complements his compilations and translations with an excellent detailed theoretical introduction and introductions to each philosopher. In this work, Marincola traces the history of Hellenic historiography, which has been repeated in many later writings in the Western world on the place of historical writings as representation, philosophy as well as social and political engagement. This useful work brings ancient historians’ concerns to the fore in such a way that they become relevant today without losing their historical specificity.

John Marincola was born in Philadelphia in 1954 and was educated at Swarthmore College, the University of Pennsylvania, and Brown University. He has taught at the College of the Holy Cross, Union College, and New York University, and since 2003 he has been Leon Golden Professor of Classics at Florida State University. Marincola has held several fellowships, including at Harvard’s Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington and the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. He has published widely on the Greek and Roman historians and is currently at work on a book examining the relation between democracy and the writing of history in the ancient world.

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 a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature was presented for the first time in 1995. Recent recipients include Karen Green, Constant J. Mews, and Janice Pinder; Michael K. Bourdaghs, Atsuko Ueda, and Joseph A. Murphy; Pierre Joris; Jane O. Newman; Michael Nylan; Alexandra Berlina; and Lahcen Elyazghi Ezzaher.

The prize is presented 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 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 a Collected Edition; 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, and for a Translation of a Literary Work; 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 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).