

**DAVID G. LUMMUS AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS TO RECEIVE
SCAGLIONE PUBLICATION AWARD FOR A MANUSCRIPT IN ITALIAN LITERARY
STUDIES FOR *THE CITY OF POETRY: IMAGINING THE CIVIC ROLE OF THE POET
IN FOURTEENTH-CENTURY ITALY***

New York, NY – 4 December 2019 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is awarding its twenty-second annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies to David G. Lummus, of the University of Notre Dame, for *The City of Poetry: Imagining the Civic Role of the Poet in Fourteenth-Century Italy*, to be published by Cambridge University Press.

The award is one of eighteen 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 Andrea Ciccarelli (Indiana Univ., Bloomington); Richard H. Lansing (Brandeis Univ.), chair; and Nicoletta Marini-Maio (Dickinson Coll.). The committee's citation for the winning manuscript reads:

David G. Lummus's superlative *The City of Poetry* is a rigorous and erudite study of the poet's civic role as an authority in the political arena of the city. In considering the Latin and vernacular works of four major medieval Italian authors—Mussato, Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio—he offers a new reading of the role of poetry as a political force, showing how each to a greater or lesser degree articulates a defense of poetry both as another form of theology and as a means of attaining the laurel crown within the political domain of the city. The manuscript establishes a coherent, nuanced, and tightly framed argument, developing a lucid and well-focused narrative that reads like a story, and it contributes significantly to present-day critical debates on the role of the poet as an authority in society.

David G. Lummus is assistant director of the Center for Italian Studies and the Devers Family Program in Dante Studies at the University of Notre Dame. He was previously on the faculty at Yale University and then at Stanford University, where he taught medieval and early modern Italian literature and culture. He received a BA summa cum laude in Italian and classics from the University of Texas, Austin, and an MA and PhD in Italian from Stanford University. His publications on authors of the Italian fourteenth century and their reception have appeared in journals such as *Mediaevalia*, *Renaissance Quarterly*, and *Speculum* as well as in books such as the *Cambridge Companion to Boccaccio* and *Boccaccio: A Critical Guide to the Complete Works*. He is coeditor of *A Boccaccian Renaissance: Essays on the Early Modern Impact of Giovanni Boccaccio and His Works* and editor of the forthcoming *The Decameron Sixth Day in Perspective: Lecturae Boccaccii VI*.

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 Scaglione publication award was established in 1997 and first presented in 1998; recent recipients include Paola Gambarota, Jo Ann Cavallo, Demetrio S. Yocum, Teodolinda Barolini and Richard Lansing, Sarah Rolfe Prodan, Ruth Ben-Ghiat, Arielle Saiber, Sarah McNamer, and Andrea Moudarres. The presses that received subventions to publish their manuscripts include the University of Toronto Press, Cambridge University Press, Indiana University Press, the University of Notre Dame Press, and the University of Delaware Press.

The Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies is awarded under the auspices of the association'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 an Edited Collection; and 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 Literary Work, and for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature.

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).