



26 Broadway, 3rd floor, New York, NY 10004  
 Contact: Rosemary G. Feal  
 646 576-5102, awards@mmla.org

**MLA'S ALDO AND JEANNE SCAGLIONE PRIZE FOR ITALIAN  
 STUDIES AWARDED TO JOSEPH LUZZI FOR *ROMANTIC EUROPE  
 AND THE GHOST OF ITALY***

New York, NY - 1 December 2009 - The Modern Language Association of America today announced that its fifth Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies will be presented this year to Joseph Luzzi, of Bard College, for his book *Romantic Europe and the Ghost of Italy*, published by Yale University Press. From 1996 until 2000, the Scaglione Prize was awarded jointly with the Howard R. Marraro Prize; since 2001, it is awarded as a separate prize.

The Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies is awarded biennially, and alternately with the Marraro Prize, for an outstanding book by a member of the association in the field of Italian literature or comparative literature involving Italian.

In addition to the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies, the MLA will present seventeen other awards on 28 December 2009 during the association's annual convention, held this year in Philadelphia. The members of the selection committee were Valerio Ferme (Univ. of Colorado); Ellen Nerenberg (Wesleyan Univ.), chair; and Jane Tylus (New York Univ.).

The selection committee's citation for Luzzi's book reads:

*In Romantic Europe and the Ghost of Italy*, Joseph Luzzi addresses with learning and eloquence what he calls a "vexed relationship with modernity" that characterizes Italy's unique version of Romanticism. In focusing on Foscolo's, Leopardi's, and Manzoni's returns to medieval and Renaissance Italy as sources of inspiration, he provides an engaging account of the creation of a national culture in the decades before unification of the modern Italian state. Free of jargon and sensitive to literary and ideological nuances, Luzzi's study not only contextualizes Italian Romanticism within its European framework but also offers rich and original interpretations of canonical figures, positioning them against the backdrop of nineteenth-century Italian and European philosophical discourses.

Joseph Luzzi holds a BA cum laude in political science from Tufts University, an MA in French literature from New York University, and an MA, MPhil, and PhD in Italian literature from Yale University. He is currently tenured associate professor of Italian and director of Italian studies at Bard College. His articles have appeared in *Comparative Literature*, *Dante Studies*, *Italica*, *Modern Language Notes*, *Modern Language Quarterly*, and *Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century*, and he coedited a special volume on translation for the *Yale Journal of Criticism* in 2003. He has published translations in *PMLA* and *Romantic Review* and reviews in *Italica*, *Los Angeles Times Book Review*, *Modernism/Modernity*, *Salmagundi*, and *Yale Italian*

*Poetry*. His awards and honors include the Dante Society of America Grandgent Prize for a best essay by a graduate student, a Yale College of Teaching Prize, a Keats-Shelley Association of America Pforzheimer Grant, and fellowships at the Yale Whitney Humanities Center and the National Humanities Center.

The Modern Language Association of America, the largest and one of the oldest of American learned societies in the humanities (est. 1883), promotes the advancement of literary and linguistic studies. The 30,000 members of the association come from each of the fifty states and the District of Columbia, as well as from Canada, Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. *PMLA*, the flagship journal of the association, has published distinguished scholarly articles for over one hundred years. The association's annual convention, held each December, is attended by approximately 9,500 members of the MLA and its allied groups. The MLA is a constituent of the American Council of Learned Societies and the International Federation for Modern Languages and Literatures.

The Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies is awarded under the auspices of the MLA's Committee on Honors and Awards. From 1994 to 2000, the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies was awarded jointly with the Marraro Prize. The cowinners in 1994 were Robert S. Dombroski and Karen Pinkus. For the 1996 competition the winner was Barbara Spackman, and Dennis Looney received honorable mention. In 1998 Margaret Brose and Nancy Canepa were awarded prizes for their respective works. In 2000 the award was given to Gaetana Marrone-Puglia, and in 2002 the award went to Lina Bolzoni. Raymond B. Waddington received the award in 2004, and Ingrid D. Rowland received an honorable mention. The 2006 award went to Cristina Della Coletta.

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 Distinguished Scholarly Edition and for a Distinguished Bibliography; 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; and the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prizes for Comparative Literary Studies, for French and Francophone Studies, for Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures, for Studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures, for a Translation of a Literary Work, for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature, and 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 2,000 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 since 1957, is 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 has

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 has been a Fulbright Fellow and a Guggenheim Fellow, has held senior fellowships from the Newberry Library and the German Academic Exchange Service, and has been 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 has been 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* (1980); *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).

 **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to [jluzzi@bard.edu](mailto:jluzzi@bard.edu) by [awards@mla.org](mailto:awards@mla.org).  
Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Modern Language Association | 26 Broadway, 3rd floor | New York | NY | 10004