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**MLA AWARDS PRIZE FOR COLLABORATIVE, BIBLIOGRAPHICAL, OR
ARCHIVAL SCHOLARSHIP TO LEAH KNIGHT AND WENDY WALL FOR *THE
PULTER PROJECT*; GILLIAN PINK RECEIVES HONORABLE MENTION**

New York, NY – 14 December 2020 – The Modern Language Association of America has announced the winner of the twelfth Modern Language Association Prize for Collaborative, Bibliographical, or Archival Scholarship. The prize will be presented to Leah Knight, associate professor of English at Brock University, and Wendy Wall, Avalon Professor of the Humanities; Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence; and professor of English at Northwestern University, for *The Pulter Project: Poet in the Making* (<http://pulterproject.northwestern.edu/>). Gillian Pink, OCV research editor at the Voltaire Foundation, University of Oxford, and representing a team of editors, received honorable mention for *Les œuvres complètes de Voltaire*, vol. 145, published by Oxford University Press.

Awarded each even-numbered year, the prize is one of eighteen awards that will be presented on 9 January 2021, during the association's annual convention, to be held online. The members of the selection committee were Dan M. Edelstein (Stanford Univ.); Matthew Kirschenbaum (Univ. of Maryland, College Park), chair; and Lisa Marie Rhody (Graduate Center, City Univ. of New York). The committee's citation for the winning project reads:

The *Pulter Project* is an exceptional example of textual and digital scholarship that is committed to being public-facing. Launched in 2018 by Leah Knight and Wendy Wall, the project seeks not merely to offer access to Lady Hester Pulter's oeuvre—which was unknown until the close of the twentieth century—or even to render a high-quality apparatus but also to use the recent discovery of Pulter's canon and the subsequent critical activity that has attended it as a window onto the scholarly editing process itself. The *Pulter Project* is a demonstration of the inevitable instability of textuality, as witnessed in competing manuscript versions, transcriptions, and editions. Coupled with its public appeal, high technical standards, and emphasis on process and materiality over authority and determination, the site's carefully focused attention on a single historical figure offers an important reminder of the irreducible individuality of both subjects and texts.

The committee's citation for the honorable mention reads:

Volume 145 of *Les œuvres complètes de Voltaire*, dedicated to the notes and marginal writings of Voltaire, edited by Gillian Pink and a dozen other specialists, is one of the final volumes in a massive critical edition begun in 1968. The complete critical edition of Voltaire's works is a remarkable achievement, and this individual volume is a particular accomplishment, collecting marginalia from books owned and read by Voltaire that did not end up in St. Petersburg following Catherine II's purchase of his library after his death. Voltaire covered his books in notes and comments, often arguing with his

opponents in the margins of their texts. But these marginalia can also show him to be a measured and open reader. Wonderfully and clearly edited, this erudite volume will serve scholars for generations to come.

The MLA Prize for a Bibliography, Archive, or Digital Project was established by the MLA Executive Council in 1997 in response to a proposal from the association's Advisory Committee on the *MLA International Bibliography*. The prize was redefined in 2012 to include archives and digital projects, and expanded and renamed in 2019 to recognize collaborative research.

The Modern Language Association of America and its 24,000 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. More information on MLA programs is available at www.mla.org.

The MLA Prize for Collaborative, Bibliographical, or Archival Scholarship is awarded 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. Mildenberger Prize; the Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize; the MLA Prize for Independent Scholars; the Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize; the Morton N. Cohen Award; the MLA Prize for a Scholarly Edition; 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 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 Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies.