



Contact: Paula M. Krebs  
646 576-5102, awards@mla.org

**MLA AWARDS PRIZE FOR A SCHOLARLY EDITION TO ADRIAN POOLE;  
VINCENT CARRETTA AND MARK CUMMING, DAVID R. SORENSEN, MARK  
ENGEL, AND BRENT E. KINSER RECEIVE HONORABLE MENTIONS**

New York, NY – 6 December 2021 – The Modern Language Association of America has announced the winner of the fourteenth Modern Language Association Prize for a Scholarly Edition. The prize will be presented to Adrian Poole, professor emeritus of English at the University of Cambridge, for volume 9 of *The Cambridge Edition of the Complete Fiction of Henry James, The Princess Casamassima*, published by Cambridge University Press. An honorable mention will go to Vincent Carretta, professor emeritus of English at the University of Maryland, College Park, for *The Writings of Phillis Wheatley*, published by Oxford University Press. An honorable mention will also go to Mark Cumming, professor of English, retired, from Memorial University, Newfoundland; David R. Sorensen, professor of English at St. Joseph's University; Mark Engel, an independent editor and scholar until his death in 2017; and Brent E. Kinser, professor of English at Western Carolina University, for Thomas Carlyle's *The French Revolution: A History in Three Volumes*, published by Oxford University Press.

Awarded each odd-numbered year since 1995, the prize is one of eighteen awards that will be presented on 8 January 2022, during the association's annual convention, to be held in Washington, DC. The members of the selection committee were Lars Engle (Univ. of Tulsa), chair; Christopher Looby (Univ. of California, Los Angeles); and Jayme Stayer (Loyola Univ., Chicago). The committee's citation for Poole reads:

Adrian Poole's exceptional edition of Henry James's *The Princess Casamassima* includes unusually voluminous and complex collations, laid out clearly in two hefty apparatuses of over one hundred pages each. The front matter is graced with a general editors' preface and a chronology; a lucid, lively, and informative introduction; a textual introduction; a chronology of composition and production; and a bibliography. The back matter lists variants before copy text (the manuscript, the serialization in the *Atlantic Monthly*) and after copy text (James's extensive late revisions for the New York Edition and includes a glossary of foreign words and phrases as well as comprehensive explanatory notes, a list of emendations, and James's preface to the New York Edition.

The committee's citation for *The Writings of Phillis Wheatley* reads:

Vincent Carretta's scrupulous chronological edition of Phillis Wheatley's writings incorporates recent scholarly findings and summarizes Wheatley criticism. Its format supplies readers with an easy way to sample Wheatley's development as poet from version to version, juxtaposing poems with the correspondence associated with them when letters to and from the poet have survived. The notes supply comprehensive textual

commentary and contextual history, and the edition opens with a fine biographical introduction. The edition persuasively presents Wheatley as an important early American writer who links the politics of liberty in the American colonies to the issue of race slavery.

The committee's citation for *The French Revolution* reads:

A monumental undertaking, this comprehensive scholarly edition of Thomas Carlyle's *The French Revolution* appears in three volumes, each with an extensive apparatus of notes. In their richly detailed introduction, the editors—Mark Cumming, David R. Sorensen, Mark Engel, and Brent E. Kinser—situate the text in its political and historical contexts and its reception history. In the notes, the editors track in detail Carlyle's many sources, revealing that the author—contrary to received opinion—was indeed deeply engaged with his sources and that his range was broad. Among the text's generous offerings are a lucid explanation of its editorial policies, appendixes of related texts, a chronological summary of the revolution's course, a meticulous list of emendations, and a useful index.

The Modern Language Association of America and its over 23,000 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](http://www.mla.org).

The MLA Prize for a Scholarly Edition was established by the MLA Executive Council in 1994 in response to a proposal from the association's Committee on Scholarly Editions, and the inaugural prize was presented in 1995.

The MLA Prize for a Scholarly Edition 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. 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 Prize 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 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, for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature; and the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies. A complete list of current and previous winners can be found on the [MLA website](#).