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**MLA AWARDS HOWARD R. MARRARO PRIZE TO MARTIN EISNER FOR *DANTE'S
NEW LIFE OF THE BOOK: A PHILOLOGY OF WORLD LITERATURE***

New York, NY – 7 December 2022 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced that its twenty-seventh Howard R. Marraro Prize will be presented this year to Martin Eisner, professor of Italian at Duke University, for his book *Dante's New Life of the Book: A Philology of World Literature*, published by Oxford University Press.

The Howard R. Marraro Prize was established in 1973 and is awarded biennially and alternately with the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies, for an outstanding book in the field of Italian literature or comparative literature involving Italian. (The Marraro Prize was awarded jointly with the Scaglione Prize from 1996 until 2000.)

The Howard R. Marraro Prize is one of nineteen awards that will be presented on 6 January 2023, during the association's annual convention, to be held in San Francisco. The members of the selection committee for this year's Marraro prize competition were Kevin Brownlee (Univ. of Pennsylvania); Marilyn Migiel (Cornell Univ.); Dana Renga (Ohio State Univ., Columbus); and Barbara Spackman (Univ. of California, Berkeley), chair. The selection committee's citation for Eisner's book reads:

In Dante's New Life of the Book: A Philology of World Literature, Martin Eisner uses not only manuscripts, editions, and translations of Dante's *Vita nuova* but also adaptations of the work in postcards, paintings, music, and film to show what all these transmissions of the *Vita nuova* reveal about Dante's distinctive textual strategies. Eisner covers a dazzling number of contexts, offering persuasive analyses of literary and nonliterary material. This strikingly original book illuminates the issues regarding the material transmission of a canonical work the way no other study of Italian literature has and, in so doing, opens up new perspectives and ways of reading. It will be fundamental reading not only for scholars of Dante but for all those working within the material turn in literary studies.

The Modern Language Association of America and its 20,000 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 Howard R. Marraro Prize 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 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; 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, for African Studies, for East Asian Studies, for Middle Eastern Studies, and for South Asian Studies; 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](#).

The Howard R. Marraro Prize is supported by a fund established by Marraro during his lifetime and maintained by his bequest to the MLA. Marraro was born in Sicily in 1897. He emigrated to the United States in 1905 and received most of his schooling here before returning to Sicily in 1912. In 1915 he entered Columbia College as a freshman, thus beginning an association with the university that lasted all his life. He was appointed to the Columbia faculty in 1925, received his PhD in 1932, and rose from lecturer to professor. He died in 1972.