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CLINT BRUCE RECEIVES THE MLA'S LOIS ROTH AWARD FOR *AFRO-CREOLE POETRY IN FRENCH FROM LOUISIANA'S RADICAL CIVIL WAR-ERA NEWSPAPERS*; MARGARET JULL COSTA AND PATRICIO FERRARI AND JOEL SCOTT RECEIVE HONORABLE MENTIONS

New York, NY – 6 December 2021 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is presenting its fourteenth Lois Roth Award for a translation of a literary work to Clint Bruce, of the Université Saint-Anne, for *Afro-Creole Poetry in French from Louisiana's Radical Civil War-Era Newspapers: A Bilingual Edition*, published by the Historic New Orleans Collection. An honorable mention will be given to Margaret Jull Costa, of Leicester, United Kingdom, and Patricio Ferrari, of Rutgers University, Newark, for their translation of Fernando Passoa's *The Complete Works of Alberto Caeiro*, published by New Directions, and to Joel Scott, of Berlin, Germany, for his translation of Peter Weiss's *The Aesthetics of Resistance*, volume 2, published by Duke University Press. The late Lois W. Roth worked for the United States Information Agency as an advocate for the use of literary study as a means of understanding foreign cultures.

The Lois Roth Award for a translation of a literary work is one of eighteen prizes that will be presented on 8 January 2022, during the association's annual convention, to be held in Washington, DC. The prize is awarded annually for a translation into English of a book-length literary work. From 1999 until 2016, the prize was offered biennially, alternating years with the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work. The two prizes are now both offered annually. The members of this year's selection committee were Thomas Oliver Beebee (Penn State Univ, University Park), chair; Efrain Kristal (Univ. of California, Los Angeles); Luiza Moreira (Binghamton Univ., State Univ. of New York); C. P. Haun Saussy (Univ. of Chicago); and Sherry Simon (Concordia Univ.).

The selection committee's citation for the winning translation reads:

Afro-Creole Poetry in French from Louisiana's Radical Civil War-Era Newspapers is an extraordinary publication, combining archival research with remarkably accomplished translations. Clint Bruce brings to light a little-known tradition of political poetry by Afro-Creole poets of Louisiana—French-speaking poets of color—in radical Civil War-era newspapers, considerably enriching our understanding of America's plurilingual past. The work offers new insight into connections among literary communities in the Caribbean, France, and Louisiana; moreover, it is a handsomely produced book, with annotations, illustrations, and a beautifully written historical and literary introduction. The poetry comes from a lyrical tradition that is no longer current, and Bruce does not attempt to modernize the language but rather responds to and echoes the political and poetic language of the original. Attentive to the complexities of form, he (re-)creates stirring and sensitive verse.

The committee's citation for Jull Costa and Ferrari's work reads:

Margaret Jull Costa and Patricio Ferrari's translation of the works of Alberto Caeiro, as they are brought together in Jerónimo Pizarro and Ferrari's edition, will give readers who already admire Fernando Pessoa thought-provoking new ways of understanding his project. This brief bilingual volume is also an engaging, concise introduction to Pessoa's complex and ever-shifting universe. It opens with the poems of Alberto Caeiro, one of several heteronyms, or fictional authors, created by Pessoa. The translators succeed in conveying the lucid, direct, but often disconcerting style of Caeiro's poetry in quietly resonant English. In the second part, the editors compile unpublished prose pieces by several heteronyms, writers of varying scope and outlook, to highlight the humor underlying Pessoa's imagined literary world.

The committee's citation for Scott's translation reads:

Originally published in 1981 as *Die Ästhetik des Widerstands*, Peter Weiss's *The Aesthetics of Resistance* has been aptly dubbed a novel-essay. The narrative attempts to give a fly-on-the-wall account of life and martyrdom among German workers and leftists during the Nazi era and World War II—but it opens with a long analysis of Géricault's painting *The Raft of the Medusa* and later spends many pages recounting a Swedish peasant rebellion of the fifteenth century. Joel Scott's translation of the second volume is finely tuned to the shifts in register in Weiss's prose, and Scott follows up every historical reference, including finding English equivalents for medieval Swedish social ranks and translating from German a name glossary of scores of historical personages referred to in the text.

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.

The Lois Roth Award is presented 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 Prizes for a Scholarly Edition and for Collaborative, Bibliographical, or Archival Scholarship; 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. A complete list of current and previous winners can be found on the [MLA website](#).

While a graduate student in sociology at Columbia University, Lois Wersba Roth won a Fulbright grant to Uppsala University in Sweden, after which she worked for the American Scandinavian Foundation in New York. Her only literary translation, *Roseanna*, the first of the Martin Beck series by Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahlöö to appear in English, was published in 1967, the same year

that she began working for the United States Information Agency. While with the USIA, she lived abroad and learned Persian, Italian, and French. Her work was devoted to literary concerns, notably translations. She was instrumental in the establishment in France of the Maurice Coindreau Prize for best translation of American literature. The Lois Roth Award was established to enhance recognition of translation as a humanistic discipline. Lois Roth died in 1986. Her husband, Richard T. Arndt, and David Lee Rubin, of the University of Virginia, established the award.