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**JODY ENDERS RECEIVES THE MLA'S LOIS ROTH AWARD FOR HER
TRANSLATION OF *IMMACULATE DECEPTION AND FURTHER RIBALDRIES*;
MARJORIE PERLOFF AND PETRA REID AND JIM DINGLEY RECEIVE
HONORABLE MENTIONS**

New York, NY – 6 December 2023 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is presenting its sixteenth Lois Roth Award for a translation of a literary work to Jody Enders, distinguished professor of French and theater at the University of California, Santa Barbara, for *Immaculate Deception and Further Ribaldries: Yet Another Dozen Medieval French Farces in Modern English*, published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. An honorable mention will be given to Marjorie Perloff, the Sadie Dernham Patek Professor of Humanities, emerita, at Stanford University, for her translation of *Private Notebooks, 1914–1916*, by Ludwig Wittgenstein, published by W. W. Norton, and to Petra Reid of Edinburgh, United Kingdom, and Jim Dingley, Margate, United Kingdom, for their translation of Alhierd Bacharevič's *Alindarka's Children*, published by New Directions. 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 twenty-two prizes that will be presented on 5 January 2024 during the association's annual convention, to be held in Philadelphia. 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 Jacques Lezra (Univ of California, Riverside); Sherry Roush (Penn State Univ., University Park); C. P. Haun Saussy (Univ. of Chicago); Patricia Sieber (Ohio State Univ., Columbus); and Sherry Simon (Concordia Univ.), chair.

The selection committee's citation for Enders reads:

In Immaculate Deception and Further Ribaldries, Jody Enders not only researches, compiles, edits, annotates, and translates twelve medieval French farces into contemporary English but also adapts them for performance with stage notes and suggestions for accompaniment. These works, which have lain in relative obscurity for more than seven hundred years, now sizzle with provocative prompts for classroom critical debates on contemporary culture. Enders's treatment of power, promiscuity, and abuse, for instance, finds sardonic articulation (#ThemToo?). Enders is undaunted by the significant translation challenges of situational jokes, euphemisms, and puns, which recur at every turn. The volume masterfully unites technical translation prowess, scholarly rigor, and guffaw-inducing creative humor that capture the timbre of these uncomfortably entertaining plays.

The committee's citation for Perloff's work reads:

Marjorie Perloff's translation and edition of Ludwig Wittgenstein's remarkable notebooks is lucid, precise, and moving. She brings for the first time to the English-speaking world—and, since the notebooks are not widely available in the original, to the German-speaking world as well—documents of immense interest that are indispensable for understanding more clearly both Wittgenstein's biography and the genesis, in the terrible war years the notebooks document, of the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*. Deeply researched, and as attentive to the conventional philosophical translations of the *Tractatus* and of the later work as it is to the peculiarities of Wittgenstein's workaday Austrian German, Perloff's translation and edition offers enlightening notes and substantial introductory and concluding essays that help track Wittgenstein's spiritual and philosophical paths—first parallel, then convergent—during the war years and show how the philosopher's spare words and silences tell the story of Wittgenstein's queerness and of the philosophical establishment that sought so long to obscure it.

The committee's citation for Reid and Dingley's translation reads:

Translated from a text written in at least three languages—Belarusian, Russian, and various mixtures of the two—*Alindarka's Children* is a dark satirical fantasy that required an equally heterogeneous English version. Petra Reid and Jim Dingley devised a dissonant concoction of English and Scottish that converses beautifully with the estrangements and disturbances of the original. The translation accepts the high stakes of language in Belarus, where, as the introduction notes, “language has long been under insidious attack.” The result is a captivating story of childhood and forests, of inept fathers and sibling love, of language as dream and as prison. The theme of Alhierd Bacharevič's novel is in the manner of the telling—which makes the admirable and adventurous translation all the more effective.

The Modern Language Association of America and its over 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 750 scholarly and professional development sessions. 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 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, 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](#).

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.