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MLA'S ALDO AND JEANNE SCAGLIONE PRIZE FOR A TRANSLATION OF A LITERARY WORK AWARDED TO JACK JUNG, SAWAKO NAKAYASU, DON MEE CHOI, AND JOYELLE MCSWEENEY FOR *YI SANG: SELECTED WORKS*; ANASTASIYA LYUBAS AND ALAN VERSKIN RECEIVE HONORABLE MENTIONS

New York, NY – 6 December 2021 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it will award its seventeenth Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work to Jack Jung, visiting assistant professor of English at Davidson College; Sawako Nakayasu, assistant professor of literary arts at Brown University; Don Mee Choi, of Seattle, Washington; and Joyelle McSweeney, professor of English at the University of Notre Dame, for *Yi Sang: Selected Works*, published by Wave Books. Anastasiya Lyubas, of Mississauga, Canada, will receive an honorable mention for *Blooming Spaces: The Collected Poetry, Prose, Creative Writing, and Letters of Debora Vogel*, published by Academic Studies Press. Alan Verskin, associate professor of history at the University of Rhode Island, will receive an honorable mention for *A Vision of Yemen: The Travels of a European Orientalist and His Native Guide: A Translation of Hayyim Habshuh's Travelogue*, published by Stanford University Press.

The Scaglione Prize 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 Lois Roth Award 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 committee's citation for *Yi Sang: Selected Works* reads:

Yi Sang was a bilingual (Korean and Japanese) avant-garde poet who died in obscurity, at twenty-seven, in 1937. His writing combines fable, fantasy, satire, parody, Dadaism, concrete poetry, and quasi-translation and presents a steep challenge to translation. But Jack Jung, Sawako Nakayasu, Don Mee Choi, and Joyelle McSweeney—themselves experienced practitioners of experimental poetry—took the job to heart and have re-created in English Yi Sang's terse, polyglot, self-undermining, dreamlike parables and essays, first published in Korean and Japanese and then subjected to the hazards of war and neglect. With its evocation of alien typographies, its professed decadence, and its indifference to hierarchy, Yi Sang's writing fits on neither side of the colonial relationship that defined Korea and Japan. The elegant format and plural translating voices make this book a suitable monument to this intriguing figure.

The committee's citation for *Blooming Spaces* reads:

Blooming Spaces is a revelatory presentation of Debora Vogel (1900–42), a multifaceted writer who wrote in Polish and Yiddish. Vogel was a philosopher, a poet, an art critic, a literary scholar, an observer of her time, and a nuanced interpreter and participant of the avant-garde. Her life was tragically cut short, when she was murdered at the Lviv ghetto, before she could establish herself as a major literary figure. Her original insights and aperçus come to life in Anastasiya Lyubas’s admirable translation of Vogel’s essays, poems, and letters, which offers a comprehensive picture of the many facets of Vogel’s writings, including the initial reception of her work, accompanied by thoughtfully chosen images.

The committee’s citation for *A Vision of Yemen* reads:

Alan Verskin’s *A Vision of Yemen* translates an astonishing document, originally written by Hayyim Habshush in Hebrew and Judeo-Arabic, that lets us see European nineteenth-century Oriental scholarship from a rare perspective. Habshush served as a translator and “fixer” for a French archaeologist, who he accompanied on his explorations in 1869–70, and his travelogue is an account of their journey to the back country of Yemen, then still ruled by tribal authorities. The work is full of Borgesian digressions, tales from the past, peculiar customs, poetic recitations, medical advice, ritual observances, disquisitions about customary law, and other matters as they come to the author’s mind. Verskin displays impressive skill and scholarship in translating and annotating the memoirs of this unpretentious man from a distant time and place.

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 Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work was presented for the first time in 1993.

The 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 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 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, 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](#).

The Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Endowment Fund was established and donated by Aldo Scaglione to the Modern Language Association in 1987. The fund honors the memory of

Scaglione's late wife, Jeanne Daman Scaglione. A Roman Catholic, Jeanne Daman was headmistress of a Jewish kindergarten in Brussels, Belgium. When arrests and deportations of Jews began in 1942, she worked with Belgian and Jewish resistance units, helping to find hiding places for two thousand children throughout Belgium. She also helped rescue many Jewish men about to be deported as slave laborers by obtaining false papers for them. Jeanne Scaglione's life and contributions to humanity are commemorated in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

Aldo Scaglione, a member of the Modern Language Association from 1957 until his death in 2013, was Erich Maria Remarque Professor of Literature at New York University. A native of Turin, Italy, he received a doctorate in modern letters from the University of Turin. He taught at the University of Toulouse and at the University of Chicago. From 1952 to 1968 he taught at the University of California, Berkeley, and from 1968 to 1987 he was W. R. Kenan Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In 1987 he came to New York University as professor of Italian and then chair of the Department of Italian. Scaglione was a Fulbright Fellow and a Guggenheim Fellow, held senior fellowships from the Newberry Library and the German Academic Exchange Service, and was a visiting professor at Yale University, the City University of New York, and the Humanities Research Institute of the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In 1975 he was named Cavaliere dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana. Scaglione was president of the American Boccaccio Association and was a member of the MLA Executive Council from 1981 to 1984. His published books include *Nature and Love in the Late Middle Ages* (1963), *Ars Grammatica* (1970), *The Classical Theory of Composition* (1972), *The Theory of German Word Order* (1981), *The Liberal Arts and the Jesuit College System* (1986), *Knights at Court: Courtliness, Chivalry, and Courtesy from Ottonian Germany to the Italian Renaissance* (1991), and *Essays on the Arts of Discourse: Linguistics, Rhetoric, Poetics* (1998).