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**MLA'S ALDO AND JEANNE SCAGLIONE PRIZE FOR A TRANSLATION OF A LITERARY WORK AWARDED TO ERIC HENRY FOR *GARDEN OF ELOQUENCE* / *SHUOYUAN* / 說苑; MARIAM RAHMANI AND EMMA RAMADAN RECEIVE HONORABLE MENTIONS**

New York, NY – 7 December 2022 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it will award its eighteenth Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work to Eric Henry, senior lecturer emeritus of Asian studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, for *Garden of Eloquence* / *Shuoyuan* / 說苑, by Liu Xiang and published by the University of Washington Press. Mariam Rahmani, of the University of California, Los Angeles, will receive an honorable mention for Mahsa Mohebbi's *In Case of Emergency*, published by Feminist Press. Emma Ramadan, of Brooklyn, New York, will receive an honorable mention for *In Concrete*, by Anne Garréta and published by Deep Vellum.

The Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work is one of nineteen prizes that will be presented on 6 January 2023, during the association's annual convention, to be held in San Francisco. 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); Efrain Kristal (Univ. of California, Los Angeles), cochair; Luiza Moreira (Binghamton Univ., State Univ. of New York), cochair; C. P. Haun Saussy (Univ. of Chicago); and Sherry Simon (Concordia Univ.).

The committee's citation for Henry reads:

Liu Xiang's vast *Garden of Eloquence* / *Shuoyuan* / 說苑 sums up the art of statecraft under twenty headings, each representing a quality that the ideal ruler or official must possess, and fills out these categories through anecdotal illustrations. Offering "an agglomeration of discrete occurrences" set against "a constant set of values and concepts," the book reflects the intellectual preoccupations of the Han dynasty some two thousand years ago. In this translation with facing Chinese text, Eric Henry has succeeded in bringing across not only a single text but also a genre and the feeling of a period. Readers of English can now imagine themselves in the position of a Chinese scholar of long ago with an extraordinarily well-stocked mind, interrogating history for its lessons.

The committee's citation for Rahmani reads:

Mariam Rahmani's brilliant, energetic, and fluid translation of *In Case of Emergency* is able to change or mix registers at will, at times evoking nuances of everyday speech, and adeptly brings out the humor and irony of a story of an individual who is not necessarily aware that the natural and human disasters happening around her are part and parcel of a collective experience. Underneath its humor, irony, and pathos, the novel, translated from the Persian/Farsi, succeeds in offering a window into contemporary Iran that will be a revelation to many of its readers. Rahmani's translation, like Mahsa Mohebbi's original, is both an act of courage and a celebration of literary and human expression.

The committee's citation for Ramadan reads:

Anne Garréta's French novel *Dans l'béton* (*In Concrete*) is a most worthy addition to the Oulipo canon. Apocopation of the definite article in the title already announces that in this work "the border between spoken and written language gradually ceases to exist," in the words of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy. Translation of spoken into written French is only one move in the language games played in this first-person recounting of a Chaplinesque adventure involving the family concrete mixer. Garréta's language games challenge the translator to find creative solutions that transcend accuracy. Helped by her extensive experience, including the translation of two earlier novels by Garréta, Emma Ramadan shows herself to be more than equal to the task—and a true coauthor of the English text.

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 meetings on a wide variety of subjects. More information on MLA programs is available at [www.mla.org](http://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, 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 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).