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MLA'S SCAGLIONE PRIZE FOR EAST ASIAN STUDIES AWARDED TO EDWARD MACK FOR *ACQUIRED ALTERITY*; BRIAN HURLEY RECEIVES HONORABLE MENTION FOR *CONFLUENCE AND CONFLICT*

New York, NY – 6 December 2023 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is awarding its first annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for East Asian Studies to Edward Mack, professor of Asian languages and literatures at the University of Washington, Seattle, for his book *Acquired Alterity: Migration, Identity, and Literary Nationalism*, published by the University of California Press. Brian Hurley, assistant professor of Asian studies at the University of Texas, Austin, is receiving an honorable mention for his book *Confluence and Conflict: Reading Transwar Japanese Literature and Thought*, published by the Harvard University Asia Center. The prize is awarded annually for an outstanding scholarly work in East Asian or East Asian diaspora literary or linguistic studies.

The Scaglione Prize for East Asian Studies is one of twenty-two awards that will be presented on 5 January 2024 during the association's annual convention, to be held in Philadelphia. The members of the selection committee were Matthew Fraleigh (Brandeis Univ.), chair; Suyoung Son (Cornell Univ.); and Nicolai Volland (Penn State Univ., University Park). The committee's citation for Mack's book reads:

Drawing on a wide range of lesser-known materials, Edward Mack's *Acquired Alterity: Migration, Identity, and Literary Nationalism* vividly re-creates the literary field in which prewar Japanese migrants to Brazil operated, where merchants facilitated access to imported books, Japanese-language newspapers featured literary content in their pages, and contests were held to promote fiction writing by local Japanese. Mack's discussion shows the importance of considering Japanese literature beyond the frame of the nation-state while also calling attention to the specificity of local literary environments. His critical reexamination of the presumed unity of state, language, and ethnicity extends beyond the confines of Japanese literature, with far-reaching implications for other forms of intralingual and intraethnic literary practices. The book's inclusion of Mack's translations of ten acclaimed stories illustrates the contribution scholarly translation can make to rich textual analysis.

The committee's citation for Hurley's book reads:

Boldly bringing into conversation prominent Japanese writers and thinkers from the 1920s to the 1950s—figures who are too often considered only within their respective disciplinary silos of literary and intellectual history—Brian Hurley's *Confluence and Conflict: Reading Transwar Japanese Literature and Thought* shows us several cases in which issues and texts from these two domains resonate with each other in unexpected ways. Reading the work of the philosopher Tosaka Jun alongside contemporaneous poets embracing "the prose spirit," for example, Hurley shows how both conspired in

opposition to prewar fascism. Instead of positing simple structures of influence or transference, Hurley demonstrates how writers and thinkers of the transwar period breathed together in ways not appreciable unless one considers the two domains together.

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 Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for East Asian Studies 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 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 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).