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**MLA AWARDS ALDO AND JEANNE SCAGLIONE PRIZE FOR STUDIES IN  
GERMANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES TO PETRA S. MCGILLEN FOR *THE  
FONTANE WORKSHOP*; MATTHEW H. BIRKHOOLD AND PRISCILLA LAYNE TO  
RECEIVE HONORABLE MENTIONS**

New York, NY – 14 December 2020 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is awarding its fourteenth Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures to Petra S. McGillen, associate professor of German studies at Dartmouth College, for her book *The Fontane Workshop: Manufacturing Realism in the Industrial Age of Print*, published by Bloomsbury. Matthew H. Birkhold, associate professor of German at Ohio State University, Columbus, will receive an honorable mention for his book *Characters before Copyright: The Rise and Regulation of Fan Fiction in Eighteenth-Century Germany*, published by Oxford University Press. Priscilla Layne, associate professor of German and adjunct assistant professor of African and Afro-American studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, will receive an honorable mention for her book *White Rebels in Black: German Appropriation of Black Popular Culture*, published by the University of Michigan Press. The prize is awarded biennially for an outstanding scholarly work on the linguistics or literatures of the Germanic languages, including Danish, Dutch, German, Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish, and Yiddish.

The prize is one of eighteen awards that will be presented on 9 January 2021, during the association's annual convention, to be held online. The members of the selection committee were John B. Lyon (Univ. of Pittsburgh), chair; Bala Venkat Mani (Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison); and Yasemin Yildiz (Univ. of California, Los Angeles). The committee's citation for McGillen's book reads:

With *The Fontane Workshop: Manufacturing Realism in the Industrial Age of Print*, Petra S. McGillen has written a field-changing study of nineteenth-century realism, informed by contemporary media theory and grounded in extensive archival research and historical detail. Instead of focusing on the content of aesthetic objects, she highlights the material processes and contexts of their creation. She shows how Fontane conformed to the demands of the literary market to construct a literary identity that veiled modern modes of media production. McGillen thus shifts scholarly understanding of Fontane from the author-genius venerated by Romanticism to the calculating compiler of the modern media world and of writing from individual creative expression to production line-like manufacturing processes. Fontane's texts, McGillen shows, are not mimetic recreations of reality but medial creations of a reality effect.

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

Matthew H. Birkhold's *Characters before Copyright* is a timely and well-written study of fan fiction, a genre that still enjoys popularity in the twenty-first century. Locating the origins of fan fiction in eighteenth-century Germany—a period usually identified with the revolution in readership (*Leserrevolution*)—Birkhold tells a fascinating parallel tale of the democratization of authorship and the commercialization of print. The book sutures these histories with an equally rich discussion of copyright law in Germany, thus mobilizing fan fiction to shed new light on the emergence of intellectual property. Drawing on an impressive range of legal and print-cultural archives, this study underlines how an engagement with material print-cultural and legal histories can contribute to a reconceptualization of authorship and readership.

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

In *White Rebels in Black*, Priscilla Layne breaks new ground for German studies by highlighting the centrality of Blackness for critical evaluations of postwar German cultural productions. Layne makes a strong case for rereading mobilizations of Black popular culture, particularly music, as significant heuristic moments offering differentiated insight into formations of postwar Germanness. At times abstracted, at times embodied, Blackness figures multivalently in discourses about masculinity, inheritance, and rebellion. By offering analyses of texts from West and East, before and after unification, canonical and lesser-known, created by white German, African American, and Black German authors, Layne demonstrates the versatility of this approach and thus expands our toolbox for analyzing race and racialized subjects in German literary and cultural studies.

The Modern Language Association of America and its 24,000 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 Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures was presented for the first time in 1993. 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 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](#).

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).