

**MLA'S SCAGLIONE PUBLICATION AWARD PRESENTED TO
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS TO PUBLISH SARAH ROLFE PRODAN'S
"MICHELANGELO'S CHRISTIAN MYSTICISM: SPIRITUALITY, POETRY AND ART
IN SIXTEENTH-CENTURY ITALY"**

New York, NY – 3 December 2013 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is awarding its sixteenth annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies to Sarah Rolfe Prodan, of the University of Toronto, for “Michelangelo’s Christian Mysticism: Spirituality, Poetry and Art in Sixteenth-Century Italy,” to be published by Cambridge University Press.

The award is one of sixteen that will be presented on 11 January 2014, during the association’s annual convention, to be held in Chicago. The members of the selection committee were Lina N. Insana (Univ. of Pittsburgh); Thomas E. Peterson (Univ. of Georgia); and Arielle Saiber (Bowdoin Coll.), chair. The committee’s citation for the winning manuscript reads:

Sarah Rolfe Prodan’s study of Michelangelo’s complex and oft-discussed spirituality is elegantly written and highly erudite. It manages to do triple time as a superb introduction to the many ways in which Michelangelo’s works and mode of production have been analyzed by scholars with an eye to understanding how his works relate to God, devotion, and mysticism, thoughtfully discussing the limits of these past critical interpretations; a rigorously documented study of the various forms and formats of Michelangelo’s spiritual expression, drawing expertly from theological, classical, literary, historical, and critical texts; and a convincing argument for the significant influence of Neoplatonic, Augustinian, Viterban, and Platonized Dantean thought on Michelangelo. This study will be of great interest and value to scholars and students of literary studies, the history of art, and religious studies alike.

Sarah Rolfe Prodan is a fellow at the Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies at Victoria University in the University of Toronto, where she has designed and taught cultural history courses for the Renaissance studies program and lectured on Italian language and literature. Her research interests include Michelangelo, the Italian Reformation, and the intersection of literature and art in Italian religious culture of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. She has participated in numerous international conferences as a speaker and as an organizer. A published translator of French and Italian, she appears as a scholarly writer and reviewer in such journals as *Quaderni d’italianistica*; *Confraternitas*; and *Annali d’italianistica*. Most recently, she has coedited a volume on friendship and premodern Europe, for which she wrote the introduction.

The Modern Language Association of America and its nearly 30,000 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; this year's convention in Chicago is expected to draw 8,000 attendees. More information on MLA programs is available at www.mla.org.

Established in 1997, the Scaglione Publication Award was first presented in 1998 to the University of Toronto Press to publish Hermann W. Haller's *The Other Italy: The Literary Canon in Dialect*. Recent recipients include Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg, Lina N. Insana, Kristin Phillips-Court, Paola Gambarota, Jo Ann Cavallo, Demetrio S. Yocum, and Teodolinda Barolini and Richard Lansing, and the presses that received subventions to publish their manuscripts include the University of Notre Dame Press, the University of Chicago Press, and the University of Toronto Press.

The Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies is awarded under the auspices of the association'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 Prize for a Scholarly Edition; the MLA Prize for a Bibliography, Archive, or Digital Project; 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; and 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, and for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature.

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 Torino, Italy, he received a doctorate in modern letters from the University of Torino. He taught at the University of Toulouse and 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).