Annual Prizes with Competitions in 2020

James Russell Lowell Prize
Definition: For an outstanding literary or linguistic study or a critical biography. Open to studies dealing with literary theory, media, cultural history, or interdisciplinary topics.
Eligibility: Books published in 2019; authors must be current members of the MLA.
Copies required: Eight.

MLA Prize for a First Book
Definition: Same as for James Russell Lowell Prize.
Eligibility: Book must have been published in 2019 as the first book-length publication of a current member of the MLA.
Copies required: Eight.

Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize†
Definition: For an outstanding book published in English or Spanish in the field of Latin American and Spanish literatures and cultures. Competing books should be broadly interpretive works that enhance understanding of the interrelations among literature, the other arts, and society.
Eligibility: Books published in 2019; authors need not be members of the MLA.
Copies required: Six.

Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literary Studies†
Definition: For an outstanding scholarly work in comparative literary studies involving at least two literatures.
Eligibility: Books published in 2019; authors must be current members of the MLA.
Copies required: Four.

Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for French and Francophone Studies†
Definition: For an outstanding scholarly work in French or francophone linguistic or literary studies.
Eligibility: Books published in 2019; authors must be current members of the MLA.
Copies required: Four.

Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies‡
Deadline: 1 June 2020.
Definition: For an outstanding manuscript dealing with any aspect of the languages and literatures of Italy.
Eligibility: Manuscripts completed or accepted for publication before award deadline; authors must be current members of the MLA.
Copies required: Four, plus contact and biographical information.

Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work†
Deadline: 1 April 2020.
Definition: For an outstanding translation into English of a book-length literary work.
Eligibility: Translations published in 2019; translators need not be members of the MLA.
Copies required: Six, plus copies of 12–15 pages from original text.
Note: Works submitted for the Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work will also automatically be considered for the Lois Roth Award and vice versa. Definitions and criteria are the same for both awards. Separate submissions are not required.

Lois Roth Award†
Deadline: 1 April 2020.
Definition: For an outstanding translation into English of a book-length literary work.
Eligibility: Translations published in 2019; translators need not be members of the MLA.
Copies required: Six, plus copies of 12–15 pages from original text.
Note: Works submitted for the Lois Roth Award will also automatically be considered for the Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work and vice versa. Definitions and criteria are the same for both awards. Separate submissions are not required.

William Sanders Scarborough Prize
Definition: For an outstanding scholarly study of black American literature or culture.
Eligibility: Books published in 2019; authors need not be members of the MLA.
Copies required: Four.

Matei Calinescu Prize‡
Deadline: 1 April 2020.
Definition: For a distinguished work of scholarship in twentieth- or twenty-first-century literature and thought. Preference will be given to a first or second work published by a nominee.
Eligibility: Books published in 2019; authors need not be members of the MLA.
Copies required: Six.
Biennial Prizes with Competitions in 2020

Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize

**Deadline:** 1 May 2020.

**Definition:** For a scholarly book in the fields of language, culture, literacy, or literature with strong application to the teaching of English.

**Eligibility:** Books published in 2018 or 2019; authors need not be members of the MLA.

**Copies required:** Four.

Howard R. Marraro Prize†

**Deadline:** 1 May 2020.

**Definition:** For an outstanding scholarly work on any phase of Italian literature or culture or comparative literature involving Italian.

**Eligibility:** Books published in 2019; authors must be members of the MLA.

**Copies required:** Four.

**Note:** The Howard R. Marraro Prize is given each even-numbered year, while the Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies is given each odd-numbered year. Each competition is open for books published in the year preceding the year in which the award is given. Definitions and criteria are the same for both awards.

MLA Prize for Independent Scholars

**Deadline:** 1 May 2020.

**Definition:** For a scholarly book in the field of English or other modern languages and literatures.

**Eligibility:** Books published in 2018 or 2019. Authors not enrolled in a program leading to an academic degree or holding a tenured, tenure-accruing, or tenure-track position in postsecondary education at the time of publication are eligible. Authors or publishers must request an entry form from the MLA. Authors need not be members of the MLA.

**Copies required:** Six. Return completed entry form with copies.

Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Studies in German Languages and Literatures†

**Deadline:** 1 May 2020.

**Definition:** For an outstanding scholarly work on the linguistics or literatures of the German languages.

**Eligibility:** Books published in 2018 or 2019; authors must be members of the MLA.

**Copies required:** Four.

MLA Prize for Collaborative, Bibliographical, or Archival Scholarship

**Deadline:** 1 May 2020.

**Definition:** For an outstanding bibliography, archive, digital project, or collaborative research project in the field of modern languages and literatures, composition theory, folklore, or linguistics. Editions may be in single or multiple volumes.

**Eligibility:** At least one volume must have been published in 2018 or 2019; substantive work to a digital project must have been added during that period. Editors need not be members of the MLA.

**Copies required:** Four.

Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies†

**Deadline:** 1 May 2020.

**Definition:** For an outstanding scholarly work in the field of English.

**Eligibility:** Books published between 2016 and 2019; authors need not be members of the MLA.

**Copies required:** Four.

MLA Prize for Studies in Native American Literatures, Cultures, and Languages

**Deadline:** 1 May 2020.

**Definition:** For an outstanding scholarly work in the field of Native American literatures, cultures, or languages.

**Eligibility:** Books published in 2018 or 2019; authors must be members of the MLA.

**Copies required:** Four.

Biennial Prizes with Competitions in 2021

Detailed announcements of these awards are available on request.

Kenneth W. Mildenberger Prize

(For books published in 2019 or 2020)

Morton N. Cohen Award for a Distinguished Edition of Letters†

(For editions published in 2019 or 2020)

Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures†

(For books published in 2019 or 2020)

Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literatures†

(For books published in 2019 or 2020)

MLA Prize for a Scholarly Edition

(For editions published in 2019 or 2020)

Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Italian Studies†

(For books published in 2020)

MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies

(For books published in 2019 or 2020)

MLA Prize for an Edited Collection

(For books published in 2019 or 2020)

Information on MLA Prizes

The deadline for the James Russell Lowell Prize and for the MLA Prize for a First Book is 1 March; for the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for a Translation of a Literary Work, the Lois Roth Award for a translation of a literary work, and the Matei Calinescu Prize it is 1 April; for the Scaglione Publication Award it is 1 June; for all other awards it is 1 May. An entry form is required for submissions to the MLA Prize for Independent Scholars. Shipments of books should be preceded or accompanied by letters identifying the works and, where necessary, confirming the authors’ membership in the MLA. Shipping labels should indicate the names of the prizes for which the books are competing. In the case of a born-digital publication, send the relevant media or URL and a letter identifying the work to awards@mla.org. Authors who are not members of the MLA at the time of publication may become eligible to compete by joining the association before the deadline of the prize for which they are competing.

For detailed information about specific awards, call or write the office of programs, MLA, 85 Broad Street, suite 500, New York, NY 10004-2434 (646 576-5141; awards@mla.org).

Unless otherwise noted, “literary studies” here encompasses works of literary history, literary criticism, philology, and literary theory, as well as works dealing with literature and other arts and disciplines. Translations are eligible only for the awards specifically devoted to that category.

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