New York, NY – 4 December 2012 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced it is awarding its fifteenth annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Publication Award for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies to Teodolinda Barolini, of Columbia University, and Richard Lansing, of Brandeis University, for “Dante’s Lyrics: Poems of Youth and the Vita Nuova.” Konrad Eisenbichler, of the University of Toronto, received an honorable mention for “The Sword and the Pen: Women, Politics, and Poetry in Sixteenth-Century Siena,” to be published by the University of Notre Dame Press.

The award is one of fifteen that will be presented on 5 January 2013, during the association’s annual convention, to be held in Boston. The members of the selection committee were Lina Insana (Univ. of Pittsburgh), chair; Thomas Peterson (Univ. of Georgia); and Arielle Saiber (Bowdoin Coll.). The committee’s citation for the winning manuscript reads:

This extraordinary manuscript traces Dante’s poetic and ideological itinerary from the poetic production of his youth to the Commedia. Teodolinda Barolini’s scholarship melds a theoretically and philologically rigorous critical apparatus and analysis with the superb translations of Dante’s poems by Richard Lansing, excellent notes by Manuele Gragnolati, and translations of the volume’s commentary by Andrew Frisardi. “Dante’s Lyrics: Poems of Youth and the Vita Nuova” attends to long-standing questions regarding the development of Dante’s poetics, the poems’ transmission tradition, and the editorial interventions that have profoundly shaped our understanding of Dante’s early poems. Lansing’s new translations will prove to be an invaluable resource for an audience without access to Dante’s original Italian, while the volume’s rich commentary includes rigorous explications of the poems and extends to gender theory and contemporary readings of Dante that engage themes of friendship, social classes, urban politics, and desire.

Teodolinda Barolini is Lorenzo Da Ponte Professor of Italian at Columbia University. She is the author of Dante’s Poets: Textuality and Truth in the Comedy, which received the MLA’s Howard R. Marraro Prize and the Medieval Academy of America’s John Nicholas Brown Prize; The Undivine Comedy: Dethelogizing Dante; and Dante and the Origins of Italian Literary Culture, which won the Premio Flaiano di Italianistica. She is the editor and commentator of Dante’s Rime giovanili e della Vita Nuova and is working on the second volume of her commentary to Dante’s lyric poems for the Biblioteca Universale Rizzoli. Barolini is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the Medieval Academy of America. She served from 1997 to 2003 as the fifteenth president of the Dante Society of America.
Richard Lansing is professor of Italian studies and comparative literature at Brandeis University. He received his BA from Columbia University and his MA and PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. He is the editor of *The Dante Encyclopedia* (a *Choice* Outstanding Book) and *Dante: The Critical Complex*, the associate editor of *Medieval Italy: An Encyclopedia*, and author of *From Image to Idea: A Study of the Simile in Dante’s Commedia*. He is editor in chief of the journal *Dante Studies* and a member of the editorial board of *La parola del testo, Studi Danteschi, Letteratura italiana antica*, and *Dante: Rivista internazionale di studi su Dante Alighieri*. Lansing is an honorary member of the Società Dantesca Italiana.

The committee’s citation for the honorable mention reads:

Konrad Eisenbichler’s lucid, elegant, and original volume brings to light the virtually unknown writings and lives of a circle of sixteenth-century Sienese women poets. This intriguing historical study, commentary, and anthology will be a precious contribution to the history of Italian lyric and religious poetry in the early modern period, to women’s studies, and to Renaissance studies. Eminently readable, “The Sword and the Pen: Women, Politics, and Poetry in Sixteenth-Century Siena” is the product of extensive archival work that engages broadly with existing scholarship in literary history and criticism, providing the reader with all the descriptive and analytic information necessary for an understanding of the biographies of the Sienese poets and a measured evaluation of their poems, including an appreciation of their contrasting styles and aesthetic orientations.

Konrad Eisenbichler is a professor of Italian studies and Renaissance studies at the University of Toronto. He received his BA and MA from McMaster University and his PhD from the University of Toronto. Among his publications is *The Boys of the Archangel Raphael: A Youth Confraternity in Florence, 1411–1785*, which was the recipient of the Howard R. Marraro Prize from the American Catholic Historical Association. He is the translator of ten books and is editor of over a dozen collections or book-length manuscripts. He was appointed Commendatore in the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy in 2010, and in 2012 he received the Canadian Society for Renaissance Studies Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Modern Language Association of America and its 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 Boston 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 Press of Toronto to publish Hermann W. Haller’s *The Other Italy: The Literary Canon in Dialect*. Recent recipients are Justin Steinberg, Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg, Lina N. Insana, Kristin Phillips-Court, Paola Gambarota, Jo Ann Cavallo, and Demetrio S. Yocum, 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. Mildenberger 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 a Distinguished Bibliography; 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; 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 MLA in 1987. The fund honors the memory of his wife, Jeanne Daman Scaglione. A Roman Catholic, Jeanne Daman taught in a Jewish kindergarten in Brussels, Belgium. When deportation of Jews began in 1942, she helped find hiding places for two thousand children. She also helped rescue many Jewish men 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 MLA since 1957, is 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 has 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 served as chair of the Department of Italian. He has been a Fulbright fellow and a Guggenheim fellow, has held senior fellowships from the Newberry Library and the German Academic Exchange Service, and has been 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. He has been 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).