

**MLA AWARDS PRIZE FOR A DISTINGUISHED BIBLIOGRAPHY TO
PATRICK SPEDDING FOR *A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ELIZA HAYWOOD*,
HONORABLE MENTION TO JAMES L. HARNER FOR *WORLD
SHAKESPEARE BIBLIOGRAPHY ONLINE***

New York, NY – 30 November 2006 – The Modern Language Association of America has announced the winner of the fifth Modern Language Association Prize for a Distinguished Bibliography. The prize will be presented to Patrick Spedding, of Victoria, Australia, for *A Bibliography of Eliza Haywood*, published by Pickering and Chatto. Spedding will receive a certificate and a check for \$1,000. Honorable mention was awarded to James L. Harner, of Texas A&M University, for the *World Shakespeare Bibliography Online*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press.

The MLA Prize for a Distinguished Bibliography was established by the MLA Executive Council in 1997 in response to a proposal from the association's Advisory Committee on the *MLA International Bibliography*. The inaugural prize was presented in 1998 to Kathleen L. Scott. In 2000 the prize went to David W. Forbes, and in 2002 the recipient was Hamdi El-Sakkout. The 2004 award went to Bege K. Bowers and Mark Allen. The competition in 2006 was open to bibliographies published in 2004 or 2005. Awarded each even-numbered year, the prize is one of sixteen awards that will be presented on 28 December 2006 during the association's annual convention, held this year in Philadelphia. The members of the selection committee were Seth Lerer (Stanford Univ.); Wil Verhoeven (Univ. of Groningen); and Paul Werstine (Western Ontario Univ.). The committee's citation for the winning book reads:

A Bibliography of Eliza Haywood is the first major bibliography of this prolific English author's works. An astounding achievement in descriptive bibliography, it contains a meticulous record of every reprint, facsimile, microformat reproduction, and e-text of the works of Haywood, including translations and works that have been attributed to her. The bibliography restores several lost works to the Haywood canon while rejecting a number of erroneous attributions and ghosts. Scholars will find it an invaluable research tool. Patrick Spedding's extraordinary and extensive archival research forms the basis of this landmark bibliography and brings clarity to our hitherto murky understanding of the publication history of Eliza Haywood.

Patrick Spedding is a sessional tutor at Monash University in Victoria, Australia. He received his BA from the University of Tasmania and his Doctor of Philosophy from Monash University. Spedding was a consulting editor on the series *Selected Works of Eliza Haywood* and coeditor of the ten-volume series *Eighteenth-Century British Erotica*. He was a consulting editor for the series *Whore Biographies, 1700–1825*, and his latest publication is a book chapter on the popularity of Haywood's *Female Spectator*. He is a member of the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand and was just appointed editor of *Script and Print*. Spedding was recently awarded a three-year fellowship funded by the Australian Research Council to support a book-length study tentatively titled "The Dissemination and Control of Clandestine Writing in England, 1695–1774" and an archival and bibliographic project entitled "Checklist of Eighteenth-Century British Erotica."

The committee's citation for the honorable mention reads:

The World Shakespeare Bibliography Online (1963-2006) meets the challenge of equipping scholars with a comprehensive record of articles, books, dissertations, reviews, productions, films, audio materials, and software relating to the English writer, whose works continue to be performed, filmed, and written about on a global stage. Begun in 1950 and now containing over 106,000 annotated entries, the *WSB* represents publications in 118 languages. The *WSBO* brilliantly exploits the unique advantages offered by the electronic medium, thereby appealing to humanities computing scholars. It is the premier searchable electronic database on Shakespeare-related materials available to scholars world-wide. Long an essential tool for anyone engaged in research on Shakespeare and the early modern world, it is now also honored as an outstanding electronic reference work.

James L. Harner is Samuel Rhea Gammon Professor of Liberal Arts and Professor of English at Texas A&M University. He received his MA and PhD from the University of Illinois, Urbana, and was previously affiliated with Bowling Green State University. Among his numerous books are *On Compiling an Annotated Bibliography* (2nd ed.) and *Literary Research Guide* (5th ed., forthcoming), which was *Choice* Outstanding Academic Book of 2003. The *World Shakespeare Bibliography Online* has also been awarded the Besterman Medal from the Library Association of Great Britain and the Besterman/McColvin Medal from the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals.

The Modern Language Association, the largest and one of the oldest American learned societies in the humanities (est. 1883), exists to advance literary and linguistic

studies. The 30,000 members of the association come from all fifty states and the District of Columbia, as well as from Canada, Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. *PMLA*, the flagship journal of the association, has published distinguished scholarly articles for over one hundred years. Approximately 9,500 members of the MLA and its allied and affiliate organizations attend the association's annual convention each December. The MLA is a constituent of the American Council of Learned Societies and the International Federation for Modern Languages and Literatures.

The MLA Prize for a Distinguished Bibliography 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 Prize for a Distinguished Scholarly Edition; 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, for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature, and for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies.