

2019 Leader Prize Citations (awarded May 2020)

Kristina Hildebrand, Fiona Tolhurst, K. S. Whetter

The Leader Prize always has a good slate of potential winners, meaning the competition and decision-making are tough. 2019, however, had some especially strong contenders, particularly from mid-career scholars and from retired faculty. As a result, there are two 2019 awards: one to a faculty member still building a career, and a second award to a 'Fair Well-Known' who has had a long and successful career. With this second award, we hope to inaugurate an acknowledgement of the strength of scholarship from retired faculty.

The first 2019 Leader Prize goes to Frank Brandsma for his article "'Al was hi sward, wat scaete dat?": Emotions and Courtly Cultural Exchange in the *Roman van Moriaen*' (from *Arthuriana* 29.4). Brandsma points out that there is no word for 'race' in Middle Dutch and that 'Dutch Arthurian research has not (yet) taken a postcolonial "turn".' Consequently, a noble black knight can be accepted by Middle Dutch courtly heroes such as Walewein and Lancelot, as well as by modern readers. This acceptance is enabled by emotional affect, which encourages the audience to sympathize with Moriaen. The black knight is further valued and accepted because of his courtesy and prowess. This article is engaging for the light it sheds on indigenous Middle Dutch Arthuriana, but also – although this is not Brandsma's focus and so he does not suggest the connections – for the parallels between the portrayal of Moriaen in his *Roman* and the portrayal of Feirefiz in Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Parzival* and of the Saracen knight Palomydes in the English *Le Morte Darthur*. This article shows both Brandsma's solid knowledge of Middle Dutch Arthurian texts and his skillful usage of audience reception theory.