

**The Norris J. Lacy Prize for Outstanding
Editorial Achievement in Arthurian Studies**

The Norris J. Lacy Prize for Outstanding Editorial Achievement in Arthurian Studies is presented by the International Arthurian Society-North American Branch Executive every one or two years. The Lacy Prize recognizes and rewards distinction in editing. Such editing might be of the primary texts, but also of collections of scholarly material. Sometimes the award recipient has been notable for both types of editing.

The 2020 Norris J. Lacy Prize goes to Dr. **Kevin J. Harty**, professor of English at La Salle University. Kevin's research interests and literary production are impressively broad, with publications ranging from Business and Technical Writing (*Strategies for Business and Technical Writing*, 2011) to Chaucer ("Chaucer, the Liturgy (Again), and Constance's Ever-increasing Pathos: *The Man of Law's Tale* II (B1) 846-847"), to Medieval Drama (*The Chester Mystery Cycle, A Casebook*, 1993), to Robin Hood ("The Mid-Life Crises of Legendary Medieval Figures: Robin Hood from the Ballad Tradition to Richard Lester's 1976 Film *Robin and Marian*"), among others. He has published nearly one hundred articles and book chapters on these and other subjects.

Today, however, we wish to give especial emphasis to Kevin's ground-breaking work in filmic medievalism. As a specialist—and really, a pioneer—in Arthurian Literature and Film, Harty has written, edited, or co-edited eleven books, and is the guest editor of two volumes of *Arthuriana*. Early on in his career he published the above-mentioned *Strategies for Business and Technical Writing* with Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, the seventh edition of which appeared in 2011. But of course he is best known for books like *Cinema Arthuriana: Essays on Arthurian Film* (1991), *The Reel Middle Ages: American, Western and Eastern, Middle Eastern and Asian Films About Medieval Europe* (1999), and *King Arthur on Film, New Essays on Arthurian Cinema* (1991), all of which are iconic and ground-breaking publications that set the tone for Prof. Harty's on-going publication program, and established him as a pre-eminent expert on medieval literature and film. More recently he has published *The Vikings on Film: Essays on Depictions of the Nordic Middle Ages* (2011), *The Holy Grail on Film: Essays on the Cinematic Quest*. (2015), and *Medieval Women on Film: Essays on Gender, Cinema and History* (2020).

This is an impressive body of work by any standard. In a review of Harty's *King Arthur on Film, New Essays on Arthurian Cinema* some twenty years ago, Alan Lupack articulated perfectly the reasons why Kevin Harty is most deserving of this award:

[T]he scope of the volume is also a tribute to the editor. Kevin Harty has done admirably thorough filmographic and bibliographic work—as reflected in this book; in his pioneering volume *Cinematic Arthuriana*; in his earlier filmographies, and in print; and in his recent book *The Reel Middle Ages* (which extends to all films with medieval themes). *King Arthur*

on Film confirms that, through his exhaustive and important research and his judicious editing, Harty has virtually defined the field of Arthurian film studies. (Alan Lupack, *Arthuriana* 10.1 (2000), 138-39).

We wholeheartedly agree with this sentiment and note that Harty has continued to do this important work during the subsequent twenty years. For bringing the field of Arthurian film studies to a wider audience, we are all in Kevin's debt.

The Executive Committee of the IAS-NAB is pleased to recognize Kevin Harty's considerable editorial work in helping to expand the Arthurian canon by opening up an entirely new field of study to students and scholars alike. His considerable scholarly achievements have earned him the prestigious Norris J. Lacy Prize for Outstanding Editorial Achievement in Arthurian Studies for 2020.