

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 2021 Norris J. Lacy Prize goes to **Dr. Bonnie Wheeler**, Associate Professor of English and Director of Medieval Studies at Southern Methodist University. Bonnie's research interests and literary production are varied and wide-ranging. Chaucer, gender studies, Joan of Arc and pedagogy are among the many things she has published on, both in article-length studies and in the form of edited collections of essays. For example, she edited *Feminea Medievalia I: Representations of the Feminine in the Middle Ages*, in 1993, *Medieval Mothering*, co-edited with John Carmi Parsons in 1996, *Fresh Verdicts on Joan of Arc*, co-edited with Charles T. Wood, also in 1996, *Becoming Male in the Middle Ages*, co-edited with Jeffrey Jerome Cohen, in 1997. She helped translate and edit the letters of Heloise and Abelard in *The Letters of Heloise and Abelard: A Translation of Their Collected Correspondence and Related Writings*, together with Mary Martin McLaughlin, which appeared in 2009. Earlier, in 2000, she had edited *Listening to Heloise: The Voice of a Twelfth-Century Woman. Eleanor of Aquitaine: Lord and Lady*, co-edited with John Carmi Parsons followed in 2003, and in that same year *Joan of Arc and Spirituality*, co-edited with Ann Astell appeared.

There is much more, especially ground-breaking work on gender in medieval literature and Joan of Arc, but here we wish to emphasize the editorial achievements of Bonnie Wheeler in the field of Arthurian studies. Of note in this category are her edited collections, such as *The Malory Debate: Essays on the Texts of Le Morte Darthur*, co-edited with Robert L. Kindrick and Michael N. Salda in 2000, and – co-edited with Fiona Tolhurst in 2001 -- *On Arthurian Women: Essays in Memory of Maureen Fries*; in 2004 she edited, and played a major role in organising, *Arthurian Studies in Honour of P.J.C. Field*. Also relevant in this regard is the fact that she is series editor of two of Palgrave Macmillan's peer-reviewed series, *The New Middle Ages* and *Arthurian and Courtly Cultures*, which has produced many thought-provoking studies on (mostly) Arthurian topics. These are important and significant editorial achievements, to be sure, but if there is one that stands out and truly defines the contribution that Bonnie Wheeler has made to the field in this area, then it is surely her editorship of the quarterly journal *Arthuriana*. Bonnie was founding editor of *Arthuriana* (previously *Quondam et Futurus*), which became the journal of the International Arthurian Society-North American Branch, and was its editor from 1994 to 2009. Fifteen years is a long time to be chief editor of such an important and demanding publication; it takes energy, creativity, deep knowledge and no small amount of charisma to successfully publish four issues of consistently high-quality scholarship and reviews every year. Bonnie proved herself

to be possessed of all of these qualities, and the field of Arthurian Studies has been the better for it. During her tenure as editor, she provided hundreds of scholars—both established and less so—with the opportunity to share with the world the fruits of their research on the Arthurian legend in all of its many forms.

Our collective debt to Bonnie's tireless efforts at the helm of *Arthuriana* simply cannot be exaggerated. William Kibler, the 2016 recipient of the Norris J. Lacy Prize, sums up Bonnie's achievement best as follows:

Bonnie has been indefatigable in encouraging scholarship by younger scholars. Her work with *Arthuriana* has been nothing short of outstanding, bringing it worldwide recognition for solid and innovative scholarship. Her graciousness and generosity are legendary.

We wholeheartedly agree with this sentiment, and so the Executive Committee of the IAS-NAB is pleased to recognize Bonnie Wheeler's considerable editorial work in helping to strengthen and legitimize the study of all aspects of the Arthurian legend. Her considerable scholarly achievements have earned her the prestigious Norris J. Lacy Prize for Outstanding Editorial Achievement in Arthurian Studies for 2021.