

It is my honor and privilege to award **the first annual Dhira B. Mahoney Prize for Outstanding Scholarly Book in Arthurian Studies**. It is funded by a bequest from Dhira's estate and a matching subvention from the Editorial Board of *Arthuriana*, to which we are grateful. Dhira Mahoney was a professor of English at Arizona State University, where she taught Old and Middle English as well as Renaissance literature. She did extensive work on Malory and other Arthurian literature, and was a pillar of the North American Branch of the International Arthurian Society.

I want to thank my colleagues who served on the committee to choose the first winner of this prize, the Board's elected representatives for the various areas of literature, as well as the book review editors for *Arthuriana*, for their hard work and extensive reading as we sifted through a substantial and excellent body of Arthurian monographs, editions, and translations. Mel Elmes, Molly Martin, Kathy Krause and Alex Mueller, in particular, did a lot to help us stay organized and work through questions that arose due to the prize being newly created, and their contributions will make the process go even more smoothly in future years.

The committee considered books published in 2020 and 2021, of which there were a considerable number, and which I'm happy to say were all good, solid contributions to scholarship which we enjoyed reading and which will no doubt contribute further to on-going scholarly conversations. Of those, Ann Howey's book, *The Afterlives of the Lady of Shalott and Elaine of Astolat*, rose to the top of our list of candidates.

Ann Howey is Associate Professor of English at Brock University. Her areas of interest include popular and speculative fiction, as well as medieval literature and medievalism. She combined all of these in *Afterlives*, which clearly outlines the medieval sources and their key themes, before turning to developments of these two characters in nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first century works, not only literary but also artistic and musical. The book is well-written, thoroughly researched, and clearly argued. Howey delineates the ways Elaine and the Lady of Shalott are often conflated in modern interpretations of the Arthurian legend. More importantly, she shows how their conflation accomplishes the goals of later authors and artists in exploring either a single character or using elements of both to construct visions of "the feminine" in various periods; further, she demonstrates how these varying interpretations of Elaine/the Lady influenced other constructions of gender and prompted still more literary variations on the theme. Without losing sight of the origins of these characters, Howey offers new insights into the oeuvre of writers from Tennyson to Byatt and on to twenty-first century authors of young adult and fantasy fiction. The book sets a high bar for future prize winners, and it is my great pleasure to award this first Mahoney Prize to **Professor Ann Howey**.

Nicole Clifton, Committee Chair