

The Norris J. Lacy Award for 2014

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 Award 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 Norris J. Lacy Prize for Outstanding Editorial Achievement in Arthurian Studies for 2014 goes to Professor **David F. Johnson** of Florida State University. David's research interests are impressively wide-ranging, with publications covering everything from Gregory the Great to the Old English *Dialogues* to the Middle English *Brut* to the Grail Quest in the Dutch Lancelot Compilation. Many of you will recognize him as co-editor of the journal *Arthurian Literature*, a position he has held for several years. All of these accomplishments reflect rather than reduce his generosity, and it should be noted that he is also an award-winning teacher as well as a fine drinking companion – diverse but equally important qualifications. We wish today, however, to give especial emphasis to David's work, along with Geert Claasens, of editing and translating the multi-volume Dutch Romances for the important Arthurian Archives series. The Dutch Romances are already up to three volumes, and have recently been re-released as a three-volume paperback set. To focus briefly on one example: Volume I of the set comprises the Middle Dutch *Roman van Walewein* by Penninc and Pieter Vostaert. The *Walewein* begins, not with a strange knight riding into Arthur's court to issue a challenge, nor with a damsel riding in to request a champion or lodge a complaint. Rather, the adventures in the *Roman van Walewein* are instigated when a flying chessboard soars through a window to land before the court, play for a bit, and then fly away. Clearly Arthur must possess such a marvel, and clearly Walewein is the knight to acquire it. As I hope this brief summary reveals, it is equally clear that the Dutch Romances deserve to be made as widely available as possible. David's work has enabled that availability. The translations read very well and each romance's apparatus is full and helpful. For bringing the mediaeval Arthurian canon to a wider audience, we are all in David's debt.

The Executive Committee of the IAS-NAB is pleased to recognize David Johnson's considerable editorial work in helping to expand the Arthurian canon by making Middle Dutch Arthurian romance more widely available to students and scholars alike. His considerable scholarly accomplishments and editorial achievements have earned him the prestigious Norris J. Lacy Prize for Outstanding Editorial Achievement in Arthurian Studies for 2014.