

Award for Lifetime Service to Arthurian Studies

The North American Branch of the International Arthurian Society is proud to announce that it has chosen Norris J. Lacy to receive its Award for Lifetime Service to Arthurian Studies. We have created this exceptional commendation specifically to honor Norris for his extraordinary contributions to our field and to the Society.

It is impossible to imagine what Arthurian studies would be like without Norris Lacy. To begin with, he has served the IAS as International President and the IAS-NAB as President, Secretary-Treasurer, and member of the Executive and Advisory Committee. He has supported *Arthuriana* from its inception as a member of the advisory board, contributing his expertise regarding the choice of submitted articles and of special issues. He also sits on the editorial board of the newly created *Journal of the International Arthurian Society* and on that of numerous other journals, including *Arthurian Literature*. He currently directs two important series published by D.S. Brewer: Arthurian Studies and Arthurian Archives.

Author or editor of numerous books and countless articles, Norris has covered all periods of Arthuriana. His contributions to *Arthur of the French* (2006) pertain to both late medieval Arthurian literature and modern French fiction and film. As a Chrétien scholar, he authored *The Craft of Chrétien de Troyes: An Essay on Narrative Art* (1980) and co-edited both *The Legacy of Chrétien de Troyes* (1987-88) and *A Companion to Chrétien de Troyes* (2008). Moreover, he was one of the first major scholars to examine productively the two fifteenth-century Burgundian adaptations of Chrétien's romances, the prose *Erec* and *Cligés* (1994, 1998, 2006).

Of Norris's many publications, it is no doubt his work as an editor in all different capacities that has made his name synonymous with Arthurian studies. So impressive is this contribution that in 2008 *Arthuriana* established in his honor the Norris J. Lacy Prize for Outstanding Editorial Achievement in Arthurian Studies, a prize that is now sponsored jointly with the NAB. As an editor of Arthurian texts, Norris published *The Romance of Tristan*, by Béroul, a critical edition with parallel translation (1989) republished in *Early French Tristan Poems* (2000). For the series Arthurian Characters and Themes, he presided over the creation of eight casebooks (1994-2006) by different editors and co-edited one volume himself. A crowning achievement was his supervision of the monumental *Lancelot-Grail: The Old French Arthurian Vulgate and Post-Vulgate in Translation* (1993-96), for which he translated *La Mort Artu* and directed the work of nine other translators.

Among the many honors that Norris has received, we mention only the distinctions that are undoubtedly the most meaningful to him. In 1988, the French Ministry of Culture made him a *Chevalier* in the *Ordre des Palmes Académiques* for his work promoting French culture, and he was raised to the rank of *Officier* in 2003. In 2000, his colleagues honored him with a Festschrift, "*Por le soie amisté*": *Essays in Honor of Norris J. Lacy*, and in 2008 his past students at Washington University and Penn State University offered him a volume of which he is just as proud, *Lagniappe Festschrift, in Honor of Norris J. Lacy*, which was published in *Arthuriana*. (Norris has directed twenty Ph.D. dissertations and co-directed three others.)

This necessarily brief list of Norris's accomplishments in the field of Arthurian studies hardly does him justice. Yet, what is most impressive about all these projects (and many more too numerous to mention) is that he has brought them to fruition while offering, throughout his career, extraordinary support and encouragement to students and colleagues alike. Just as legendary as his wide-ranging erudition and tireless work are the kindness, geniality, wit, grace, and generosity *outrémesure* that he has always displayed. Where else in our profession do we find these human qualities combined with such a high level of scholarly achievement?

In short, we offer this Award for Lifetime Service to Arthurian Studies to Norris J. Lacy because he is quite simply *awesome*.