



PRESS RELEASE
Embargoed until Sunday 11 June 2017

The George A. and Jean S. DeLong Book History Book Prize 2017

The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP) is delighted to announce the award of the 2017 DeLong Book History Book Prize to **Eva Mroczek** of UC Davis, USA, for her title **The Literary Imagination in Jewish Antiquity** (published by Oxford University Press).

In announcing the Prize at SHARP's annual conference in Victoria, British Columbia, Claire Squires, SHARP's Director of Publications and Awards:

The book is breathtaking and beautifully-written, taking issue with the notion of both 'the Bible' and 'the book'. Stripping away scholarly assumptions about early Jewish literary culture, this study tackles the scraps, fragments and scrolls that have, over the centuries, been imaginatively ordered – often, as Mroczek shows, erroneously – into a coherent canon. *The Literary Imagination in Jewish Antiquity* asks readers to explore the literature of early Judaism on its own terms, and, in doing so, prompts us to rethink dominant paradigms which structure our imaginative approach to biblical literature and textual circulation. Despite its impressive and wide-ranging scholarship, the book is deft of touch, enjoyable and accessible, and should be read by any scholar interested in the history of the Bible, early Jewish literature, and the idea of the book.

Eva Mroczek receives \$1,000 as winner of the SHARP DeLong Book History Book Prize.

Two Highly Commended Awards were made: to **Jonathan G Alexander**, Emeritus Professor at NYU in the US, for **The Painted Book in Renaissance Italy, 1450 – 1650** (Yale University Press), and to **Noah Millstone** of the University of Birmingham in the UK, for **Manuscript Circulation and the Invention of Politics in Early Stuart England** (Cambridge University Press).

June 2017
[cont]

About SHARP

SHARP was founded to create a global network for book historians working in a broad range of scholarly disciplines. Research addresses the composition, mediation, reception, survival, and transformation of written communication in material forms including marks on stone, script on parchment, printed books and periodicals, and new media. Perspectives range from the individual reader to the transnational communications network. With more than 1000 members in over twenty countries, SHARP works in concert with affiliated academic organizations around the world to support the study of book history and print culture. See <http://www.sharpweb.org/>

About the DeLong Prize

SHARP annually awards a \$1,000 prize to the author of the best book on any aspect of the creation, dissemination, or uses of script or print published in the previous year. Owing to the generosity of the DeLong family in endowing the prize, from 2004 it has been known as the George A. and Jean S. DeLong Book History Book Prize. Previous winners include Kristina Lundblad's *Bound to be Modern* (Oak Knoll Press, 2015), Daniel Wakelin's *Scribal Correction and Literary Craft: English Manuscripts 1375-1510* (CUP, 2014), Paula Rabinowitz's *American Pulp: How Paperbacks brought Modernism to Main Street* (Princeton University Press, 2014), David McKitterick's *Old Books, New Technologies: The Representation, Conservation and Transformation of Books since 1700* (CUP, 2013), Helen Smith's *'Grossly Material Things': Women and Book Production in Early Modern England* (OUP, 2012), **and** Barbara Hochman's *"Uncle Tom's Cabin" and the Reading Revolution: Race, Literacy, Childhood and Fiction, 1851-1911* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2011). Details of the 2017 prize submission process will be available shortly from <http://www.sharpweb.org/main/delong-book-history-prize/>

Contact details

SHARP/DeLong Book History Book Prize

Professor Claire Squires

Director of Publications and Awards, SHARP

University of Stirling, Scotland, UK

Tel:+44 (0)1786 467505

publications@sharpweb.org

Oxford University Press

Alyssa Russell

Marketing Manager

Academic/Trade Marketing

Oxford University Press

alyssa.russell@oup.com 001 212 743 8268

Dr Eva Mroczek

UC Davis, USA

emroczek@ucdavis.edu

Yale University Press

Anne Richardson

anne.richardson@yale.edu

Professor Jonathan G Alexander

NYU, USA (Emeritus)

Cambridge University Press

Lauren Simpson

lsimpson@cambridge.org

Dr Noah Millstone

University of Birmingham, UK

N.C.Millstone@bham.ac.uk