

Disraeli Letters: 1868 Wins Fifth Annual Robert Lowry Patten Award
Rice University, Houston, 22 November 2016

The editors of *SEL Studies in English Literature 1500-1900* are pleased to announce that the fifth annual Robert Lowry Patten Award, this year for the most outstanding recent contribution to British literary studies of the Nineteenth Century, will go to the editorial and production team behind *Benjamin Disraeli Letters: 1868, Vol. 10. Letters: 1868* was edited by Michel W. Pharand, director of the Disraeli Project at Queen's University and editor of SHAW: The Journal of Bernard Shaw Studies; Ellen L. Hawman, research associate and coeditor with the Disraeli Project; Mary S. Millar, coeditor with the Disraeli Project and an independent scholar in Kingston, Ontario; Sandra den Otter, associate professor in the Department of History at Queen's University; and M. G. Wiebe, director emeritus of the Disraeli Project and professor emeritus of English at Queen's University. Out of a daunting field of 278 qualifying publications, the judges for the 2016 award selected *Letters: 1868*, published by the University of Toronto Press, praising it as "a monument to editorial excellence and a beacon of scholarship which will endure for many generations." The judges went on to say:

"This volume continues the impeccable work of previous volumes in the series, including material sourced from America, Canada, France, and Australia, all arranged in an elegantly designed reference format. Volume 10, however, is the first in the series to be devoted to one year alone. The quality of the annotation is breathtakingly high: vast amounts of historical detail are distilled for the reader or (where necessary) quoted in full so that each letter by Disraeli appears in the fullest possible context, supported by judicious editorial explanation and assessment. The patience, dedication, and meticulous research, as well as the sheer legwork involved, make this a daunting model of editorial excellence. The volume as a whole achieves that unusual feat of combining accessibility with the highest level of scholarship, enabling general readers to enter its world and proving irreplaceable to critics and historians."

The judges for this year's contest were Jane Stabler, Professor in the School of English at the University of St. Andrews; Jeffrey N. Cox, Professor of English and Humanities and Vice Provost and Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs at the University of Colorado Boulder; and Juliet John, Professor and Hildred Carlile Chair in the Department of English at Royal Holloway, University of London.

The award, created in honor of the over forty-year distinguished scholarly and pedagogical career of Professor Robert Lowry Patten at Rice University, will be officially presented to the editorial and production teams at a ceremony and reception hosted by *SEL Studies in English Literature 1500-1900* to be held in Philadelphia, PA during the annual Modern Language Association Convention. *SEL* is a quarterly journal publishing scholarly articles on English literature and an omnibus review in each issue of recent studies in the field. For nearly thirty of his years at Rice, Professor Patten served as either editor or publisher and executive editor of the journal.

Michel Pharand, upon learning of the judges' decision, observed, "I'm deeply grateful that *Benjamin Disraeli Letters X: 1868* has received the Robert Lowry Patten Award, a much appreciated and most humbling honor. Each *BDL* volume is a group effort, and so on behalf of our entire editorial team, I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in the selection process and to the three Patten Award judges who found our book worthy of special recognition. I also owe a debt of gratitude to one

member of our team, Disraeli Project director emeritus Dr. Mel Wiebe, whose mentorship was crucial in helping me navigate the frequently choppy waters of Victorian political and parliamentary history. The University of Toronto Press was a joy to work with, and their elegant *BDL* volumes are a boon to Disraeli scholarship.”

Previous winners have been Thomas Lockwood, Professor of English at the University of Washington; Simon Goldhill, Professor of Greek Literature and Culture and Fellow and Director of Studies in Classics at King’s College, University of Cambridge; Leah Price, Francis Lee Higginson Professor of English Literature at Harvard University; and Peter de Bolla, Professor of Cultural History and Aesthetics and Director of the Cambridge Concepts Lab at King’s College, University of Cambridge.

Please contact Logan Browning (brownin@rice.edu), publisher and executive editor of *SEL*, for additional information.