

**Masten's *Queer Philologies* Wins Thirteenth Annual Elizabeth Dietz Award**  
**Rice University, Houston, 30 October 2018**

The Elizabeth Dietz Memorial Award, established in 2005 by Rice University in memory of Professor Dietz, is given in alternate years to either the best recent book in English Renaissance studies or the best recent book in Tudor and Stuart Drama. Out of an exceptional field of some 232 qualifying publications, the judges for 2018 have selected Jeffrey Masten, Professor of English and Gender and Sexuality Studies at Northwestern University, for his publication *Queer Philologies: Sex, Language, and Affect in Shakespeare's Time*. The book is published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in its Material Texts series, and was recently released in a new paperback edition. Professor Masten has taught at Northwestern since 1998, directed the university's Gender and Sexuality Studies program from 2005 to 2008, and has been named Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence, the university's highest teaching honor. He is also the author of *Textual Intercourse: Collaboration, Authorship, and Sexualities in Renaissance Drama* (1997) and *Language Machines: Technologies of Literary and Cultural Production* (1997), coedited with Peter Stallybrass and Nancy J. Vickers, as well as editor of the collaborative play *The Old Law* in *Thomas Middleton: The Collected Works* (2007). The judges praise *Queer Philologies* as the "result of persistent intellectual risk-taking and careful thinking about the relations among queer theory, philology, historical linguistics, book history, and early modern literary studies." Here are further excerpts from the judges' remarks:

"This is a book of deep and rigorous learning and careful scholarship: these are old-fashioned virtues, perhaps, but they help to advance the argument of a book making a number of suggestive, often counterintuitive, claims. While this is a book that frequently takes issue with the conventional wisdom, it nonetheless does so graciously and productively. Masten covers a lot of ground, and there is certain to be resistance to some of his claims; yet in ranging from typeface to the supposed biographies of the Folio compositors, from claims about the representational character of boy actors to the sexualized character of Marlowe, to the ways sexuality, race, and gender are misrepresented and mismaterialized in the editorial tradition, Masten imaginatively reshapes the implication of print and writing in theatrical and social life in unanticipated, brilliant ways."

"*Queer Philologies* manages to be both conceptually capacious and historically rigorous, and in this respect, I feel, represents contemporary early modern studies at its best. Masten calls for a renewed historical philology as a way to map out both the familiarity and alterity of early modern understandings of the bodies, acts, affects, and pleasures that comprise what we would now call sexual identity. This 'philology of the queer' involves attending to the etymologies, transformations, and even orthographies of certain keywords—queue, tail, conversation, intercourse, fundament, foundation, mongrel, tup, bumbast, and many others—that structured the experience of sex, gender, and desire. Ranging from Foucauldian theory to textual editing and from Indo-European language families to Charles Hinman's collation machine, *Queer Philologies* embodies two of the characteristics I have come to admire most in literary scholarship: a commitment to methodological pluralism and a capacity to be both creative and scholarly."

The judges for this year's contest were Kevin Curran, Professor of Early Modern Literature at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland; Henry Turner, Professor of English and Director of the Center for Cultural Analysis at Rutgers University; and W. B. Worthen, Alice Brady Pels Professor in the Arts, Barnard College, Columbia University.

Professor Masten, upon learning of the judges' decision, commented, "I'm delighted and deeply honored to learn that *Queer Philologies* has been selected for the Dietz Award. It's gratifying to see the book in the company of previous recipients whose critical and editorial work I so admire, teach, and am in conversation with—in particular Margreta de Grazia's *'Hamlet' without Hamlet*, an inspiration to so many of us. I'm grateful to the judges for their work and comments, and to *SEL* for its longstanding commitment to publishing and reviewing the widest range of scholarship in early modern literature. Thanks too to Jerome Singerman and Penn Press for the care with which they edited, designed, and published this book."

The Dietz Award will be presented to Professor Masten and the University of Pennsylvania Press at a ceremony and reception hosted by *SEL Studies in English Literature 1500-1900* to be held in Chicago during the annual Modern Language Association Convention. The prize is administered by *SEL*, a quarterly journal publishing since 1961 scholarly articles on English literature, on behalf of Rice University Dean of Humanities Kathleen Canning and the English Department, chaired by Professor Rosemary Hennessy.

Previous winners have been Henry Turner, Professor of English and Director of the Center for Cultural Analysis at Rutgers University; Zachary Lesser, Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania; Laurie Shannon, Franklyn Bliss Snyder Professor of English Literature at Northwestern University; Brian Cummings, Professor of English and Related Literature at the University of York; Andrew Hadfield, Professor of English and Director of Research and Knowledge Exchange at the University of Sussex; Richard S. Dutton, Humanities Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of English at Ohio State University; (jointly in 2011) Gary Taylor, Distinguished Research Professor at Florida State University and founder of the interdisciplinary History of Text Technologies program and John Lavagnino, Reader in the Department of Digital Humanities and the Department of English at King's College London; Margreta de Grazia, Emerita Sheli Z. and Burton X. Rosenberg Professor of Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania; Alison Shell, formerly Professor of English at Durham University, England, now Reader in English Language and Literature at University College London; Charles C. Whitney, Professor of English at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and Robert N. Watson, Neikirk Distinguished Professor of English and Associate Vice-Provost for Educational Innovation at UCLA.

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