

**MLA'S KATHERINE SINGER KOVACS PRIZE
AWARDED TO DIANA TAYLOR FOR *THE ARCHIVE AND THE REPERTOIRE:
PERFORMING CULTURAL MEMORY IN THE AMERICAS***

New York, NY – 22 November 2004 – The Modern Language Association of America today announced its fourteenth annual Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize for an outstanding book published in English in the field of Latin American and Spanish literatures and cultures. The winner is Diana Taylor, of New York University, for her book *The Archive and the Repertoire: Performing Cultural Memory in the Americas*, published by Duke University Press.

The Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize was established in 1990 by a gift from Joseph and Mimi B. Singer, parents of the late Katherine Singer Kovacs. Kovacs was a specialist in Spanish and Latin American literature and film. She taught at Stanford University, the University of Southern California, and Whittier College. The annual award established in her memory consists of a certificate and \$1,000.

The prize is one of sixteen awards that will be presented on 28 December 2004 during the association's annual convention, held this year in Philadelphia. The members of the selection committee were Edward Friedman (Vanderbilt Univ.); Amy Kaminsky (Univ. of Minnesota, Twin Cities); Susan Kirkpatrick (Univ. of California, San Diego); Diana Sorensen (Harvard Univ.), chair; and Sergio Waisman (George Washington Univ.). The committee's citation for Taylor's book reads:

This important book provides an original and insightful theorization of performance studies in relation to literary and cultural studies. It is an effective interdisciplinary approach to our understanding of the relations between culture and society and to the powerful ways in which embodied practices deal with memory and trauma, citizenship and resistance, gender and ethnicity. This compelling articulation of the vibrant field of performance studies offers interesting case studies that develop the strong theoretical argument and that

range from the scenarios of the “Discovery” to the events of September 11. Diana Taylor integrates a North-South continental vision that furthers the development of the field of the study of the Americas.

Diana Taylor is professor of performance studies and Spanish at New York University. She is the author of *Disappearing Acts: Spectacles of Gender and Nationalism in Argentina’s “Dirty War”* and *Theatre of Crisis: Drama and Politics in Latin America*, which won the New England Council on Latin American Studies Best Book Award and honorable mention in the Joe E. Callaway Prize for the Best Book on Drama. *The Archive and the Repertoire* has also won the ATHE Research Award in Theatre Practice and Pedagogy. Taylor is editor of the forthcoming *Stages of Conflict: A Reader in Latin American Theatre and Performance* and coeditor of four books, including the recently published *Holy Terrors: Latin American Women Perform*. She has edited five volumes of critical essays on Latin American, Latino, and Spanish playwrights and has had articles published in *The Drama Review*, *Theatre Journal*, *Performing Arts Journal*, *Latin American Theatre Review*, and other scholarly journals. Taylor is also founding director of the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, funded by the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation.

The MLA, the largest and one of the oldest American learned societies in the humanities (est. 1883), promotes the advancement of literary and linguistic studies. The 30,000 members of the association come from all fifty states and the District of Columbia, as well as from Canada, Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. *PMLA*, the association’s flagship journal of literary scholarship, has published distinguished scholarly articles for over one hundred years. Approximately 9,500 members of the MLA and its allied and affiliate organizations attend the association’s annual convention each December. The MLA is a constituent of the American Council of Learned Societies and the International Federation for Modern Languages and Literatures.

Previous winners of the Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize are Roberto González Echevarría, Regina Harrison, George Mariscal, William Rowe and Vivian Schelling, Antonio Benítez-Rojo, Francine R. Masiello, Margarita Zamora, Candace Slater, Walter D. Mignolo, Diana Sorensen, Kathryn Joy McKnight, Frances Aparicio, Rebecca Haidt, Idelber Avelar,

Catherine Julien, Georgina Dopico Black, and Noël Valis. The prize is presented under the auspices of the MLA's Committee on Honors and Awards.

Other awards sponsored by the committee are the William Riley Parker Prize; the James Russell Lowell Prize; the MLA Prize for a First Book; the Howard R. Marraro Prize; the Kenneth W. Mildener Prize; the Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize; the MLA Prize for Independent Scholars; the MLA Prizes for a Distinguished Scholarly Edition and for a Distinguished Bibliography; the Morton N. Cohen Award; the Lois Roth Award; the William Sanders Scarborough Prize; the Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize; the MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies; and the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prizes for Comparative Literary Studies, for French and Francophone Studies, for Italian Studies, for Studies in Germanic Languages and Literatures, for Studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures, for a Translation of a Literary Work, for a Translation of a Scholarly Study of Literature, and for a Manuscript in Italian Literary Studies.

Katherine Singer Kovacs completed her undergraduate studies at Tufts University, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and her MA and PhD (in 1974) at Harvard University. Her dissertation was published as a book in 1981 under the title "*Le Rêve et la Vie*": *A Theatrical Experiment by Gustave Flaubert*. Over the next several years she published articles and reviews on Latin American literature, culture, and film and on comparative literature. She was associate editor and coeditor of *Humanities in Society*, a member of the executive committee of the *Quarterly Review of Film Studies*, and a consultant for *Latin American Perspectives*. Kovacs died in May 1989.