

The American Folklore Society
WOMEN'S SECTION

The Elli Kögäs-Maranda Prize

The Women's Section has awarded its annual Elli Kögäs-Maranda Non-student/ Professional Prize to **Elaine J. Lawless** for her book, *Women Escaping Violence: Empowerment Through Narrative* (University of Missouri Press, 2000).

The EKM Non-Student/Professional Prize is awarded annually for outstanding work on women's traditional, vernacular, or local culture and/or for work on feminist theory and folklore. The award goes to the producer/author of an exemplary product (publication, film, video, exhibit, exhibit catalogue, recording, etc.) that can inspire further work in the field of women's folklore. The award carries a \$250 honorarium and was announced at the 2001 AFS Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska.

Judges for this year's EKM contest were: Jo Radner, Professor of American Studies, at the American University in Washington, D.C.; and Elisabeth A. Nixon, Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology and Folklore from the Center for Folklore Studies at the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

In *Women Escaping Violence*, Elaine Lawless shares with the reader the heart-wrenching experiences of battered women who have escaped violence by fleeing to shelters with little more than a few items hastily shoved into a plastic bag, and often with small children in tow. The book offers the unique view of battered women's stories told in their own words, as well as a feminist critique of how these women use the power of narrative to transform their sense of self, and regain a place within the larger society.

Lawless (Ph.D., Folklore, Indiana University) is a Professor of English and Folklore with the Department of English at the University of Missouri, Columbia, and is currently the Editor for *The Journal of American Folklore*. She is the author of numerous scholarly books and articles including, *Preaching Revolution* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1996), *God's Peculiar People* (University of Kentucky Press, 1988), *Handmaidens of the Lord* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1988), and *Holy Women/Wholly Women* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1993). In addition, Lawless produced the documentary film "Joy Unspeakable." She has received awards for teaching and research including the Faculty Alumni Award, the Kemper Award for Excellence in Teaching, a Purple Chalk Award, and the Chancellor's Award for Research. She has served as General Editor of Publications of the American Folklore Society and on the AFS Executive Board. Lawless has been nominated as President of the American Folklore Society (1998).

The EKM Prize Committee also awarded an Honorable Mention to **Suzanne P. MacAulay** for her book, *Stitching Rites: Colcha Embroidery Along the Northern Rio Grande*. *Stitching Rites* reveals how art, history, and memory interweave in a rich creative web. Based on archival research and on extensive interviews with artists, the book reveals the personal motivations of the embroiderers and their relationships with their work, with each other, with their community, and with outsiders. Through stitchers like Josephine Lobato and the San Luis Ladies Sewing Circle, MacAulay shows how colcha creation is bound up in a perpetual round of cultural commentary and self-reflection. MacAulay includes detailed descriptions of changes in stitching techniques, themes, and styles to show the impact of a wide range of outside influences on the lives of the artists and on the art form. By focusing on the individual creative act, she shows how colcha embroidery is used to record how a stitcher's memories of her life are intertwined with the history of her community.

Suzanne P. MacAulay received her Ph.D. in folklore and ethnography from the University of Pennsylvania and has written extensively on Hispanic textile arts. She currently heads the School of Fine Arts at Wanganui Polytechnic in New Zealand.

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