

The members of the Trollope Prize committee at the University of Kansas are pleased to announce the winners of the 2017 Trollope Prize.

The winner of the undergraduate prize is Katharine Scott of the College of William and Mary. Scott will receive a \$1000 award and her essay will be published by *The Fortnightly Review*, the 21st-century online edition of Trollope's 19th-century periodical. Scott's faculty sponsor, Professor Deborah Denenholz Morse, will receive a \$500 award.

Ms. Scott's winning essay, "Resisting Redemption: Biblical Echoes and Rural Warnings in Anthony Trollope's *The Small House at Allington*," examines echoes of the Biblical story of Ruth in *The Small House at Allington*. Rather than coming to rest in an analysis of allusion and source material, however, the essay puts this analysis to work in a historical argument about the dynamics of urbanization and rural decline, as seen in the novel's treatment of the pastoral. The paper begins with a perceptive insight into past critical debates, pointing out that the novel's "pastoral and maternal elements" are rarely considered in connection with each other. It develops these two aspects of its discussion in concert, not serially, in a series of well-written and carefully situated analyses. The judges commended this cogent and highly readable essay, one sensitive to critical traditions and thoughtful in its argument.

The winner of the graduate prize is Joel Simundich, a recent PhD in English from Brown University. Simundich will receive a \$2000 award and his essay will also be published online by *The Fortnightly Review*.

How should we evaluate Trollope's distinctive engagement with the commonplace details of ordinary lives? In "Feeling for the World: Everyday Life and the Utopianism of Form in Anthony Trollope's *The Fixed Period*," Joel Simundich offers a sophisticated analysis of the peculiar utopianism offered by Trollope's novels. By dwelling at length on uneventful lives and by offering both openness (characters who reappear in novel after novel in a single series) and closure (an end to each novel), Trollope explores the rewards inherent in experiences that are ongoing yet impermanent. By demonstrating that this characteristic and paradoxical treatment of form holds true even of the stand-alone, dystopian fiction *The Fixed Period*, Simundich identifies a quality all lovers of Trollope will recognize, while also providing the kind of nuanced exploration of its significance that few readers have achieved.

The judges also awarded an Honorable Mention in the graduate essay category to Lindsay Munnely of the University of Indiana for her essay, "The 'Burden of Possession' in *The Eustace Diamonds*," which uses the theory of Bruno Latour and Bill Brown to offer an original and sophisticated examination of how the diamonds make evident the changing nature of property law, especially in light of the Married Women's Property Law of 1870.

The judges for this year's competition were Mary Poovey, the Samuel Rudin University Professor in the Humanities and Professor of English at New York University and author, most recently, of *A History of the Modern Fact* and *Genres of the Credit Economy*; Gordon

Bigelow, Professor of English at Rhodes College and author of *Fiction, Famine, and the Rise of Economics in Victorian Britain and Ireland*; and Dorice Elliott, a Conger-Gabel Teaching Professor and Associate Professor of English at the University of Kansas and author of *The Angel out of the House: Philanthropy and Gender in Nineteenth-Century England*.

The Trollope Prize is administered by the English department at the University of Kansas, with support from the Hall Center for the Humanities. It is awarded annually to the best undergraduate and graduate essays in English on the works of Anthony Trollope. The Prize was established to focus attention on Trollope's work and career, to promote the study of Trollope in college classrooms and to encourage student engagement with both Trollope's work and Victorian literary history through intensive research and writing. Please see our website (<http://trollopeprize.ku.edu>) for more information on the Prize.