

Editors' Introduction

The aim of *ABEI Journal – The Brazilian Journal of Irish Studies* is to map out the state of the field and to invite newcomers to travel along its paths. Though literature is the point of departure interdisciplinary approaches are welcome.

The keynote essay in this issue is a metacultural vision of the intersection between dance and drama, in which Christine Greiner, Brazilian dancer, semiotic critic and lecturer, examines the re-elaboration of Japanese gestural traditions in different dance solos for Yeats's *At the Hawk's Well* and analyses how they have been transformed and "rewritten" on the stage for Western audiences.

The Critic and the Author focuses on Christina Hunt Mahony's recent book, *Contemporary Irish Literature: Transforming Tradition*, enabling readers to enjoy Nicholas Grene's critical insights and Christina Mahony's response. In *Poetry, Fiction, Drama and Autobiography and Biography*, there are articles by such well-known specialists as Maurice Harmon, Stanley Weintraub, Donald E. Morse, Dawn Duncan, Peter Harris and Munira Mutran.

Four new sections have also been introduced in this issue. *Travel Literature and History* contains articles by James Doan, Eoin O'Neill and Irene Portela, and *Translation* examines translations of Michael Harnett's poems by Heleno Godoy and James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake* by Donaldo Schüler. As a South American journal far distant from its object of study – Ireland – *ABEI Journal – The Brazilian Journal of Irish Studies* crosses boundaries and seeks to stimulate new views of Irish culture in relation to other cultures. Thus, in our new section, *The Irish in South America*, Patrick Clarke, an Irish priest who has lived in São Paulo since 1977 and founded the Cultural Centre of Vila Prudente while working for the Movement for the Defence of the Shanty Towns, shares with the reader his experience of life far from home in a short autobiographical narrative, and Juan José Delaney, an Irish-Argentine writer, analyses the encounter of two cultures and discloses Argentine traces in the language and literature of the Irish in Argentina.

The year 2000 brings one millennium to an end and opens a new one but, for Brazil, it is doubly significant because it also marks 500th anniversary of the country's "discovery." In literary terms there have been five centuries of narratives documenting migration and diaspora, both from abroad and within Brazil itself, including the settlement of Irish emigrants. Because we believe in the power generated by the dialogue between cultures, our fourth new section, *Voices from Brazil*, offers the reader a taste of Brazilian culture. Lynn Mario Menezes de Souza invites you to read about native Brazilian literary writings. The items in *News from Brazil* show how Brazil, while enjoying certain cultural links to Ireland, maintains a distinctly South American perspective in its academic production.

Finally, our *Book Reviews* section includes Rüdiger Imhoff's regular collaboration, with shrewd criticism of recently published novels by Edna O'Brien and Roddy Doyle, as well reviews by Brazilian scholars of books sent by Colin Smythe to ABEI (Associação Brasileira de Estudos Irlandeses).

Issue Number 2 opens enriched by two precious jewels – a poem by Michael Longley, "The Lizard," and Maurice Harmon's "Late Summer Lake Nojiri" – and closes with our homage to Oscar Wilde and Sean O'Faolain on the occasion of the centenaries of their death and birth respectively. We welcome our readers to join with us in the commonwealth of transcultural dialogue on Irish Studies.