

Introduction

Abei Journal No. 8 is dedicated to the well-known Brazilian scholar Maria Helena Kopschitz, from *Universidade Federal Fluminense* in Rio de Janeiro, who has been responsible for important pioneering studies and translations of Beckett's work. Her translation of "*Clouds ... Only Clouds*" opens this issue, in which we celebrate Beckett's centenary. This year's Journal also includes some studies by Brazilian scholars and an interview granted to the Irish-Argentine writer Juan José Delaney by Antoni Libera, a Polish writer and theatre director who knew Beckett when he was translating and directing his plays.

Articles on fiction by Peter James Harris and Mary S. Pierse, drama by Robert Tracy and history and culture by James Doan and Davide Benini are followed by our customary section, *Voices from Brazil*, in which João Roberto Faria discusses important Brazilian writers, such as José de Alencar and Machado de Assis in "Representations of Women in Nineteenth-Century Brazilian Literature".

Published in the year in which ABEI held the *First Symposium of Irish Studies in South America* our Journal commemorates the consolidation of the area of Irish Studies in Brazil, now in its twenty-fifth year.



Praça do Corpo Santo, Pernambuco. By L.Schlappriz, 1863.
(In Pedro Corrêa do Lago (org.) *Iconografia Brasileira* São Paulo:
Itaú Cultural, 2001. 233).