

## *Introduction*

This year the ABEI Journal is commemorating ten years since the publication of the first issue in 1998, the progeny of the former ABEI Newsletter. In fact, 2008 has been notable for a number of milestones in the development of Irish Studies in Brazil. Milestones present welcome opportunities for the traveller to pause and look back along the road travelled, taking stock briefly before setting off refreshed for the next stage of the journey. In our case we are only too aware that we could not have got as far as this without the support of those who have accompanied us along the way, contributors, editorial commission, technical staff and, of course, readers. For all our travelling companions we present a retrospective of our covers over the past decade.

The reader will notice that our month of publication has changed from June to November. The reason for this is connected with the consolidation of Irish Studies in South America as represented by the third of our annual symposia. This year's conference, hosted very ably by Noélia Borges and Miriam Souza and a large team of willing helpers, was structured around the theme of "Widening Fields of Research". Amongst a number of exciting interdisciplinary contributions we were very pleased to welcome the playwrights Vincent Woods, from Ireland, and Marcos Barbosa de Albuquerque, from Salvador itself. The current issue therefore includes the text of the public interview that Vincent Woods gave to Beatriz Kopschitz, as well as that of the presentation that Marcos Barbosa gave concerning his play *Auto de Angicos*. In years to come we hope that our new publication date will enable us to offer a dynamic response to debates and ideas raised in the course of our September symposium.

The connection with the Northeast of Brazil established by the symposium is celebrated in the cover to the present issue, which is a tribute to one of Bahia's outstanding artists, Ângelo Roberto, whose collection "Cavalos e o Sol" ("Horses and the Sun") was recently exhibited in Lisbon.

Other contributions in the present issue are structured around the two areas of Irish Studies that have witnessed the strongest growth in recent years here in Brazil – Comparative Studies and Diaspora Studies. After Chris Arthur's introductory text "Falling Memory", the largest section in this year's journal is devoted to intertextual studies. Sinéad Wall takes us to Chile on a journey of rediscovery; Dore Fischer looks at biculturalism in the writing of Blake Morrison and Hugo Hamilton; Stephanie Schwerter examines Brecht, Rimbaud and Akhmatova in the context of Northern Ireland; Miguel Montezanti re-examines Seamus Heaney's "Punishment"; and Cristina Elgue-Martini traces links between *Finnegans Wake* and the writing of Ricardo Piglia.

The international flavour of the journal continues with two articles in the area of Diaspora Studies, in which Kerby A. Miller takes us to Nineteenth-Century Ulster, and William H. Mulligan, Jr. gives us the benefit of his personal reflection on Irish diasporic literature published in the United States over the past two decades.

The Journal concludes, as always, with our Review Section, in which we have contributions from Rüdiger Imhof, Jean-Christophe Penet, Pilar Villar-Argáiz, Maria Elena Jaime de Pablos, Viviane Carvalho da Anunciação, Gisele Wolkoff, Domingos Nunez and Tom Hennigan.

As we set out for the next stage of our journey, we would like to dedicate this tenth-anniversary issue to our fellow-scholars, critics, writers and artists – friends.

*The Editors*

