

Introduction

A significant trend in contemporary Irish Literature is the practice of appropriating and rewriting traditional sources. This issue of the *ABEI Journal* focuses on this tendency and examines a number of examples which reveal how Irish myth continues to be very much alive in contemporary prose and drama. It is an honour to be able to showcase a chapter from Philip Casey's children's book *The Tins and the Pale Lady* prior to publication, accompanied by a note in which Casey contextualises his allusions to Irish legends. We are also pleased to publish Lia Mills' story, "Flight", with an afterword from the author explaining how it "revisits, revises and plays with the Tóraigheacht Dhiarmuid agus Gráinne or the Pursuit of Diarmaid and Grainne".

These original texts are followed by three articles dealing with the rewritings and restagings of the story of Deirdre. Giovanna Tallone, Beatriz Kopschitz X. Bastos and Domingos Nunez respectively consider the origins and developments of the Deirdre myth in traditional poetry and its reappearance in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century prose; the dramatisations of the myth in the twentieth and early twenty-first century; and finally the translation into Portuguese and the ongoing process of producing Vincent Woods' *A Cry from Heaven* (2005) on the Brazilian stage by the Cia Ludens.

Leaving the traditional aside, our drama and fiction sections include three articles on Beckett. Fernando Poiana analyses the nonsense and violence embedded in the language of *Endgame*, while José F. Fernández explores Beckett's first novel *Dream of Fair to Middling Women*, pointing out the problems raised by his poetics, and Livia Gonçalves focuses on the various narrators in his first book of short stories, *More Pricks than Kicks*. In addition, Eoghan Smith explores the relationship between idealist philosophy and the politics of writing in the work of W. B. Yeats, Samuel Beckett and John Banville. Finally, Stephanie Schwerter compares the representation of a changing Irish identity in contemporary Irish writing on both sides of the border.

In the poetry section, Rubén Jarazo Álvarez studies the translations of Irish poetry published in the Galician newspaper *Faro de Vigo* and Sigrid Renaux analyses Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin's "Horses of meaning". We also have an article from James McElroy tracing some interesting links between American and Irish literature.

In our regular feature, "Voices from Brazil", Maria Helena P. T. Machado's article, "The Traveller and his Diary: Couto de Magalhães and Roger Casement", establishes a connection between diaries and travel literature in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Brazil, suggesting "a correlation between the geographic journey, the narrative journey and the journey as a confessional and intimate experience". Her analysis is illustrated by extracts from diaries written by General Couto de Magalhães and Roger Casement, where the issue of sexuality is addressed as an intimate territory which also reveals factors defining the construction of the travel narrative genre.

Finally we have book reviews by Paul O'Brien, Viviane C. Anunciação, Noélia B. Araújo, Manuela Palacios and Shane Walsh. Our cover recalls the Fifth Symposium of Irish Studies in South America, during which there was an exhibition of the art of Rogério Dias, an outstanding Brazilian painter who has generously authorised the use of this image.

The Editors



Lerouge et Benard (lith). Theatre at Largo do Rocio, Rio de Janeiro; Paris 1822(?). National Library of Australia; engraving 23,8x32cm. In: Pedro Cunha e Menezes. *O Rio de Janeiro na Rota dos Mares do Sul*. Rio de Janeiro: Petrobrás/Estudio Editorial Ltda, 2007.