

# Introduction

In many countries around the world, 2014 has witnessed moving commemorative events in remembrance of the outbreak of the First World War in the first days of August one hundred years ago. However, in literary terms, it is James Joyce's publication of *Dubliners*, which occurred some six weeks earlier, for which 1914 is most notable. The date is somewhat arbitrary, for Joyce had been attempting – eighteen times in all – to get his collection of stories published since 1905. Nonetheless, it is only fitting that the *ABEI Journal* should join readers in celebrating the first publication of the literary work which has immortalised Dublin and its citizens.

Our Special Issue contains contributions from Brazilian and foreign scholars, like Amara Rodovalho who analyses the two published versions of “The Sisters”; Caetano Galindo who considers the thematic and structural connections of “A Painful Case” with Joyce's later work; Benoît Tadié, who has faced the challenge of translating the collection of short stories, and Mick Greer, who translated them into the language of the stage, as well as from Magda Velloso, who shares her experiences of making the text accessible to Brazilian students in the classroom.

Elsewhere in this issue, we print the transcript of an interview with Declan Hughes, contemporary Irish playwright and novelist, conducted by Munira Mutran and Camila Luly at the Ninth Symposium of Irish Studies in South America, which was hosted by the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro at the Casa de Rui Barbosa. The same section contains Elaine Pereira Farrell's interview with Professor Edel Bhreathnach, a specialist in Early Irish Medieval History, a growing line of research in Brazil.

In our Theatre section, the Irish cultural diaspora is analysed in Cathal Pratt's essay on the reception of Beckett's plays in Argentina and two articles on Brian Friel's plays by Chu He and Michelle Alvarenga de Souza.

In Voices from South America, Cristina Elgue-Martini examines the intertextuality between James Joyce's *Ulysses* and *Respiración artificial*, by Argentinian writer Ricardo Piglia.



Façade of the house of Rui Barbosa (1849-1923), a distinguished Brazilian politician, lawyer, orator, translator and academic writer, whose Irish connection was established in his preface to the Brazilian translation of *Gulliver's Travels*.

Our Book Reviews include Andrea M. L. Mateus's examination of Edna Longley's recent book on W. B. Yeats and Eamon Maher's review of M.E. Jaime de Pablos and M. Pierse's collection of essays on George Moore's literary work, as well as reviews by Caroline E. Moreira and Mariana Bolfarine.

*The Editors*