

Preface

As friends and admirers of Paul Durcan's poetry we wish to celebrate his achievement as he reaches his 76th birthday. Durcan's travels around the world and the time he spent in Brazil is reflected on some of the poems that inform his vast oeuvre. Since 2019, we have been in touch with writers, translators, and scholars in order to publish this tribute as a special number of the *ABEI Journal* whose Introduction was written by Alan Gilsenan, filmmaker and also a friend of Durcan's. This issue opens with "Paul Durcan's Poems Around the World", which presents translations by Jorge Fondebrider and Maria Graciela Eliggi (Argentina); Eduardo Bohème Kumamoto, Gisele Giandoni Wolkoff, Heleno Godoy, José Roberto O'Shea, Luci Collin, Sílvia Guerra, Noélia Borges and Monique Pfau (Brazil); Madeleine Descargues Grant (France); Stephanie Schwerter (Germany); Marina Tsvetkova (Russia); Yolanda Fernández Suárez (Spain), and Moya Canon (Ireland). This selection of poems reveals multifaceted and cosmopolitan traits that form his production. The second part of this volume, "Paul Durcan's Poetry from the Irish and the International Perspectives", presents original and republished essays by friends and scholars on Durcan's work from Ireland and abroad, such as Kathleen McCracken, Kim Cheng Boey, Munira H. Mutran, Rui Carvalho Homem, Stephanie Schwerter and Marina Tsvetkova. The third part of this tribute presents "Poems for a Poet" by Celia de Fréine, Damian Grant and Moya Cannon, that is followed by "Recollections of Paul Durcan", by Niall MacMonagle, Paul Muldoon, Katie Donovan and the recently deceased Derek Mahon. Finally, in "Voices from Brazil", a special feature of the *ABEI Journal*, writer and scholar Heleno Godoy contributed with an original piece that plays with the idea of Durcan "dancing down" to Brazil. We thank the contributors for sharing our enthusiasm in embarking on this adventure.

Alan Gilsenan, Munira H. Mutran, Mariana Bolfarine.



Elizabeth Bishop's Casa de Mariana, Ouro Preto, Brazil.
Credits: Rafael Motta, Estado de Minas Gerais, 11/02/2012.