

EDITORIAL

This issue is dedicated to two friends and colleagues whose support has been crucial for the development of *Poetry Salzburg Review*: James Hogg and David Miller.

It was James who showed me, no less, how to run a small press when he invited me to become his co-editor in 1995. As founding Director of the University of Salzburg Press, he published, between 1971 and 1998, over 550 books in his “Salzburg Studies in English Literature” series. One strand of his publishing programme was devoted to the (re)publication of mainly British poets, neglected by metropolitan publishers. The poets James Kirkup and Peter Russell, both now dead, were those who benefited the most from James’s publishing programme. It was also James’s idea to re-launch, together with Fred Beake and me, the little magazine *The Poet’s Voice*, which we co-edited from 1994-2000.

Between 1971 and 1996 James taught at the Department of English and American Studies of the University of Salzburg. His many academic publications – more than 400 to date – comprise studies in such diverse fields as contemporary British literature, Elizabethan literature, Romantic poetry and Restoration Drama. But he also acquired a worldwide reputation in a completely different field: as historian of the Carthusian Order of which he was a member from 1962 to 1968. In his series *Analecta Cartusiana*, founded in 1970, he has edited and published more than 300 volumes.

In 2000 James decided to stop publishing *The Poet’s Voice*, as he wanted to concentrate on his editorship of the *Analecta Cartusiana*. But it was due to James’s encouragement that I decided to launch a new magazine. In long discussions Andreas and I developed the policy and editorial structure of *PSR*, and James has continued regularly to provide us with critical and constructive comments on the structure and content of issues. To commemorate his eightieth birthday on 15 March a poetry festschrift, *Poetic Pilgrimages*, was presented to James. During a celebration organised by the Department of English and American Studies at the University of Salzburg, his long-term friends Patricia and William Oxley, Parvin Loloi and Glyn Pursglove, as well as Derek de Silva read their contributions to the festschrift. But it

should be clear that festschrifts, readings and dedications are at best only a token of how I and this magazine feel about James.

The second figure whom we intend to honour with the dedication of this issue is David Miller. He has been part of our team from the very first issue and is therefore its longest-serving member. His influence on the editorial policy of *PSR* cannot be overestimated. He commissioned many (young) poets to contribute work to *PSR*, some of which was sometimes highly experimental. In 2001 David launched, together with Jeff Hilson and Sea Bonney, the London reading series *Crossing the Line*, a characteristic title expressive of his credo as editor and publisher. In one of his rare editorials to *PSR*, David summarised his beliefs in the following way: “I wish to highlight and promote those poets and poetic writers whose work I find challenging, singular, exciting – whatever, if any, their allegiances may be.”

Due to personal reasons David has decided to leave the Editorial Board of *Poetry Salzburg Review* after the publication of this issue. Even if David is not ‘on board’ anymore we will not change our policy. In addition, we have taken steps to ensure that David will provide us with his invaluable advice whenever we call upon him to do so. He will continue to suggest poets to us and publish examples of his new work in *PSR*. We would like to thank David for all the time and energy he has spent on making *PSR* the successful magazine which it is now and wish him the very best for his future.

David’s decision has also initiated a thought-process as regards our policy, the result of which will not only be visible in an enlargement of our Editorial Board. We want *PSR* to represent the work of a wider variety of writers, both locally and internationally. At the same time, we also want to see *PSR* and its poets better represented publicly, in bookshops, at festivals and readings organised by members of the Editorial Board. In the meantime we have managed to enlist the support of the poet and critic John Mateer, who will represent our magazine primarily, but not exclusively, in Australia and South Africa. Robert Minhinnick, poet, translator, critic and editor of *Poetry Wales* between 1997 and spring 2008, has also agreed to join our Editorial Board. At the moment we are in contact with poets and editors from Ireland and Scotland, who, we hope, will be joining our editorial team by summer at the latest.

Wolfgang Görtschacher