

## EDITORIAL

When I launched *Poetry Salzburg Review* in spring 2001, I did not dare to consider the idea that it would survive for 25 years. As a student of little magazines since the mid-1980s, I have often contemplated the dictum by Cyril Connolly of *Horizon* that a decade was the ‘ideal life-span’ for a little magazine. That the publication of this issue more or less coincides with my retirement from the university post, which in fact happened on 30 September, invites a retrospective evaluation.

It all started with my PhD supervisor and mentor James Hogg, the founding editor of the University of Salzburg Press (now Poetry Salzburg). He even published a forerunner to *Poetry Salzburg Review*, and that was called *The Poet’s Voice*. I worked on it as co-editor with him and Fred Beake, the founding editor. We published eleven issues and then in early 2000 James and Fred decided to leave the magazine and focus on other projects. I found myself sole editor of a poetry magazine. I had always wanted to run my own magazine. And James encouraged me to develop my own ideas on policy, corporate design and identity, and the editorial structure of the new magazine. I changed the name to *Poetry Salzburg Review*, reminiscent of famous magazines with similar titles and traditions. I had already launched the Poetry Salzburg press in 1997 with Nicholas Samaras’s *Survivors of the Moving Earth*. By 2001 when the first issue of the magazine came out, I had already published more than half a dozen books.

I believe it is the heterogeneity of an editorial board that contributes to the liveliness, catholicity and development of a magazine. Especially the current board members – John Challis, Hilary Davies, Lisa Fishman, Martin Malone and Lisa Samuels – have made a significant impact on *PSR*. They read submissions, they commission work, conduct interviews, and suggest books for review and reviewers. Sometimes they contribute editorials and essays on poetics. I, for my part, also commission them to write review essays and encourage them to contribute their own poetry and translations. I strongly believe in their critical judgement, their commitment, and I trust their opinions. Without their loyalty and devotion to OUR magazine *PSR* would not have survived the time of the pandemic. But I also want to pass on my thanks to past board members, especially to Ally Acker, William Bedford, the late Robert Dassanowsky, Keith Hutson, David Miller, Caitriona O’Reilly, and Andreas Schachermayr, whose contributions I still regard as a major part of the magazine’s history.

The University of Salzburg and the Department of English and American Studies have enabled me to edit the magazine and run the small press as part of my day-to-day job. The university has provided the infra-

structure – an office, computer and programmes, etc. Once a year I received a small grant both from the Rector (or Vice Chancellor) and the Department of English and American Studies. The University Library has a standing order with the magazine and the small press. All this has greatly helped to establish the magazine. Despite my retirement the department lets me use an office that I share with a colleague and a basement room as the Poetry Salzburg archive. I am very grateful for this exceptional and very generous support, which enables me to continue with my work as editor and researcher.

After quite a long time the department once again organised a poetry competition: I would like to congratulate Gloria Weichselbaumer, the competition winner, and the three runners-up Anna-Lena Hofer, Hannah Renée Smith, and Benjamin Simon Remmelberger, whose poems are contained in this issue.

My retirement also implies new financial circumstances – to be honest it was quite shocking to receive the first pension statement. As both the magazine and the press are financed from my own pocket, I launched a fund-raising appeal that asked our poets and readers to buy copies of our publications and, if possible, to make a donation. I was overwhelmed by the reactions that we received, by the very generous orders and donations but also by the positive statements about our work. Thank you, it will help us ensure our very ambitious publishing programme.

Due to my own medical problems the publication of this issue is delayed, for which I apologise. It is devoted to Tinkerbelle, our much loved chihuahua lady and honorary editorial assistant who died aged 14 last October. She was my everyday companion and manager, she would invite me to leave my office and would take me on a walk whenever I needed it most. With her overwhelming smile, empathy and enthusiasm she encouraged me to carry on with my work and helped me get through situations that were painful and depressing. We miss you very much, Tinkerbelle!

Wolfgang Görtschacher