

## INTRODUCTION

I have been invited to write a few words of introduction to our new periodical, and here I am with the pleasant task of telling you something about BELLS, and this our first issue. But, let's have a little bit of history first.

For several years we mulled over the relevance of publishing our own journal here in the Departament. Many a time, we pondered and weighed up the pros and cons of launching 'yet another publication', and every single time we decided against such a, so it seemed, Herculean task. The reason was no other than the realization that there were already a cluster of prestigious and interesting publications in the world of English studies. Besides, we dreaded the huge task of organizing, planning, reading, editing, etc. etc. that publishing a new magazine entails. However, last year all these considerations were dispelled. We had a powerful reason. Suddenly we were given the courage, the spunk, the force and the heart to take the plunge. This reason was that we wanted to pay homage to Prof. MacDermott on her retirement. A collection of articles and contributions by her colleagues seemed an excellent idea.

I do not intend either to summarize Prof. MacDermott's career, or to discover anything new about her dedication to university life in Spain. Everybody knows how widely she has contributed to the world of English and Commonwealth Studies in our country. Moreover, we have all learned from her lectures and knowledge. Therefore, I will only take advantage of this opportunity to voice on your behalf our most sincere gratitude to one of the most distinguished professors in our University.

This gratitude is also behind the overwhelming response to our call for articles to include in our homage issue. The answer has been so generous that not only number one, but also number two will be dedicated to Prof. MacDermott. Now, I must thank all those who have so greatly contributed to the quality and the interest of the articles included in these two issues.

As might be expected, this is only the beginning of a new venture. We are fully aware, as I mentioned above, of the existence of many and varied excellent publications in our field. But, we also reckon that the vitality and energy of our young studies still allows for the birth of yet another periodical. We know there is a lot of work involved -we have already experienced it-. But, we are sure that with your help we will succeed in our task. Therefore, and sure of your support, we are ready to go on.

We aim to foster the studies of the culture, language and literature of all English-speaking countries. Furthermore, we would like to increase the exchange of opinions on all possible matters related with our studies, and to

promote both creative writing and the translation of any literary work -be it poem, novel or play- into one of the languages spoken in our country. We would also like to keep our readers well informed about new books, articles and publications, besides updating him/her on forthcoming events to be held in Spain and abroad. Therefore, we await your letters with opinions and comments, your articles, reviews, creative writing, translations, bibliographies, and list of events. To all of you thank you for your collaboration.

I would not like to end this foreword without acknowledging the great task fulfilled by the whole Department in general, and by our Editor, Co-Editors, 'Coordinadora', and Secretary in particular. To all of you thank you, for making a long cherished dream come true.

Barcelona, September 1989.

Pilar Zozaya.

Head of the Anglo-German Department.

University of Barcelona.

## **TABULA GRATULATORIA**

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**A FREE SUSCRPTION TO BELLS  
TO BE WON!**

BELLS intends to include a Literary Competition in each issue.

Can you spot the 16 references to literary works in the following poem?

If you can, send the author + title together with your

- 1) Name
- 2) Profession and institution/ employer.
- 3) Address.

Send your entry to:

The Secretary,  
BELLS,  
Secció d'Anglo-germàniques,  
Corts Catalanes, 585,  
08007 Barcelona, Spain.

A year's free subscription to BELLS (2 issues) will be awarded to the first correct, complete entry opened on Monday, March 5th 1990.

Note:

- 1) Only one entry may be made per person.
- 2) The competition is not open to members of staff in the English Departament, University of Barcelona.
- 3) The winner will be notified directly by post and his/her name will appear in the second issue of BELLS.

**BELLS!** -Bells have been with us since time immemorial, jingling, tinkling, chiming, clanging, tolling, marking our joys and sorrows, celebrations and alarms. The sound of bells has also punctuated much of our literature. The following piece contains references to sixteen poetical works. Can you identify them ?

**BELLS**

Ding, dong bell  
Who's that in the well?  
Sea nymphs hourly ring his knell.  
Hark! Now I hear them. Ding,dong bell.  
Toll for the Brave! But never sind to know for whom  
It tolls, that bell of doom.  
For when the passing bell doth toll  
And Furies in a shoal  
Come to fright a parting soul,  
Sweet Spirit comfort me!

Aye clamorous groans that strike upon my heart  
Which is the bell. But leave such thoughts apart  
For is't not fine to dance and sing  
When the bells of death do ring?

So ring ye bells, ye young men of the town  
And leave your wonted labours for the day.  
When the merry bells ring round  
And jocund rebecks sound,  
All is not sorrow. We have heard the chimes  
At midnight, remembering olden times.  
Ah children dear, was it yesterday  
We heard the sweet bells over the bay?  
At mothy curfew time that tolls the knell  
Of parting day when all was well.  
The bees on the bells of thyme  
And the cicale above in the lime,  
And upside down in air were towers  
Tolling reminiscent bells that keep the hours,  
And hark that little vesper bell  
Which biddeth me to prayer. Yes all is well

Doireann MacDermott