

## The Corneliu M Popescu Prize for Poetry in Translation shortlist announced



### Shortlist stretches the English language to singing point

A shortlist of seven titles has been announced by this year's judges of the Popescu Prize. Selecting the shortlist was an exhilarating process for judges Karen Leeder and David Wheatley that showed how translation can stretch the English language.



"The translations this year ranged from classics cast in a radical light to fresh voices fetched into English for the first time, but an exhilarating constant was the way English itself was stretched in the process and made to sound and sing in invigorating new ways." – Karen Leeder, Judge.



"If linguistic unity was lost with the fall of the Tower of Babel, the rude good health I've encountered of poetry in translation, across multiple languages and genres, suggests a glorious restoration may not be far off." – David Wheatley, Judge.

Organised by the Poetry Society, the £1,000 prize is awarded biennially to the translator of a book of poetry translated into English from another European language. The 2013 shortlist has been selected from a total of 79 submitted titles which represented 26 languages.

Judges Karen Leeder  
and David Wheatley

### 2013 SHORTLIST

**Ciaran Carson**, for *In the Light of: after Illuminations*, Arthur Rimbaud, pub The Gallery Press (from French)

**Henry Israeli** (plus additional translators), for *Haywire: New & Selected Poems*: Luljeta Lleshanaku, pub Bloodaxe (from Albanian)

**Ilmar Lehtpere**, for *1001 Winters*: Kristiina Ehin, pub Bitter Oleander Press (from Estonian)

**Peter Manson**, for *The Poems in Verse*: Stéphane Mallarmé, pub Miami University Press (from French)

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**Patrick McGuinness**, for *Seizing: Places*: Hélène Dorion, pub Arc Publications (from French)

**Alice Oswald**, *Memorial: "An Excavation of the Iliad"*, Homer, pub Faber (from Greek)

**Lorna Shaughnessy**, *The Disappearance of Snow*: Manuel Rivas, pub Shearsman (from Galician)

The winner of the 2013 prize will be announced on 29 November 2013 at an event at Europe House in London. At this celebratory event, the judges will give a short talk about translation, and extracts from all the shortlisted collections will be read.

– ENDS –

**For further information about the Corneliu M Popescu Prize 2013, telephone Sophie Baker on 020 7420 9895 or email [sbaker@poetrysociety.org.uk](mailto:sbaker@poetrysociety.org.uk)**

#### Notes to Editors:

- **The Corneliu M Popescu Prize**, run by the Poetry Society was formerly called the European Poetry Translation Prize. The first winner of the Prize, in 1983, was Tony Harrison for *The Oresteia*. The prize was relaunched in 2003, and renamed in honour of the Romanian translator Corneliu M Popescu, who died in an earthquake in 1977, at the age of 19.
- **Past winners of the Corneliu M Popescu Prize** have been David Constantine for his translation of *Lighter than Air* by Hans Magnus Enzensberger in 2003; Adam Sorkin and Lidia Vianu for their translation of *The Bridge* by Marin Sorescu in 2005; Ilmar Lehtpere for his translation of *The Drums of Silence* by Kristiina Ehin in 2007; Randall Couch for his translation of *Madwomen* by Gabriela Mistral in 2009; and Judith Wilkinson for her translation of *Raptors* by Toon Tellegen in 2011.
- **Karen Leeder** is Professor of Modern German Literature and Fellow and Tutor in German at New College, Oxford. She has translated work by a number of contemporary German poets including Raoul Schrott, Durs Grünbein, Uljana Wolf, Ulrike Almut Sandig and Volker Braun. Her translation of Evelyn Schlag's *Selected Poems* (Carcanet, 2004) won the Schlegel-Tieck Prize in 2005 and her translation of Hans Magnus Enzensberger, *Fatal Numbers: Why Count on Chance?* (Upper West Side Philosophers' Press, 2011), was shortlisted for the US National Book Critics' Circle Award. In 2014 her translations of Michael Krüger, *The Eleventh Commandment: Selected Poems*, will appear with Sheep Meadow Press.
- **David Wheatley** is a poet and critic with particular research interests in the field of twentieth-century and contemporary poetry, Irish literature and Samuel Beckett. He has published four collections of poetry with Gallery Press: *Thirst* (1997; Rooney Prize for Irish Literature), *Misery Hill* (2000), *Mocker* (2006), and *A Nest on the Waves* (2010). He has also edited the Poems of James Clarence Mangan for Gallery Press (2003) and Samuel Beckett's *Selected Poems 1930-1989* for Faber (2009). His work features in various anthologies, including *After Ovid: New Metamorphoses* (Faber/FSG, 1994), *The New Irish Poets* (Bloodaxe, 2004), *Identity Parade: New British & Irish Poets* (Bloodaxe, 2010), *An Anthology of Modern Irish Poetry* (Harvard UP, 2010), and *The Penguin Book of Irish Poetry* (2010). He was a founding editor of the poetry journal *Metre*, and has written on poetry for a variety of other journals including *London Review of Books*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *The Guardian*, *New Statesman*, *Essays in Criticism*, *Times Higher Education Supplement*, *The Irish Times* and *Poetry Review*.
- **Europe House** is the UK base of both the European Parliament Information Office and European Commission Representation. It provides a space for discussion and debate on EU issues as they relate to the UK, and hosts a wide range of cultural events.
- **The Poetry Society** runs a number of influential prizes recognizing excellence in poetry, including the National Poetry Competition, Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award, SLAMBassadors UK, the Geoffrey Dearmer Prize, Hamish Canham Prize and the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry. Founded in 1909, the Poetry Society was set up to promote the study, use and enjoyment of poetry, and has grown to become one of the UK's most dynamic arts organisations. We organise extensive education and commissioning programmes, publish leading poetry magazine *Poetry Review* and edit the UK domain of [poetryinternationalweb.net](http://poetryinternationalweb.net). For further information about the Poetry Society visit [www.poetrysociety.org.uk](http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk)