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Guest Editor announced for summer 2013 issue of *Poetry Review*



Patrick McGuinness

The summer 2013 issue of *Poetry Review* will be guest edited by the leading poet, translator and novelist **Patrick McGuinness**.

The UK's most widely-read poetry magazine, *Poetry Review* is published quarterly by the Poetry Society. McGuinness's issue of the magazine concludes the *Review's* recent series of guest editorships.

McGuinness who is currently Professor of French and Comparative Literature at the University of Oxford, brings a wide-ranging international perspective to the magazine. Born in Tunisia, his parentage a mixture of Belgian and Newcastle Irish, McGuinness grew up in a succession of different countries – including Venezuela, Iran and France. It was while living in Romania as a teenager in the 1980s that he first came across *Poetry Review*. McGuinness explains:

"I'd read *Poetry Review* in the British Council Library, a prefab building in the recesses of the UK Embassy in Bucharest. It's where I first encountered contemporary British poetry, but also translation as an art and as a means of dialogue. It's also where I read my first East European poets in English translation in ways that helped me understand the places and the cultures I was experiencing. I also responded to the magazine's commitment to a fearless but fair-minded reviewing culture, because good criticism and good poetry sustain each other. I respect and admire the magazine's values and I want to produce an issue that reflects them."

Patrick McGuinness has published two poetry collections with Carcanet, *The Canals of Mars* (2004), and *Jilted City* (2010, PBS Recommendation), as well as a pamphlet with Smith/Doorstop, *19th Century Blues*, which won the Poetry Business Competition in 2006. He has published translations of poets including Mallarmé and Quebecois writer Hélène Dorion; and is also the editor of the *Collected Poems* of modernist poet Lynette Roberts.

His novel, *The Last Hundred Days* (Seren/Bloomsbury, 2011), about the fall of communism in Romania, was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize, shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award and the Desmond Elliott Prize and won the Writers Guild Award for Fiction and the Wales Book of the Year.

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“Editing an issue of *Poetry Review* is going to be a pleasure,” said Patrick McGuinness. “I’m looking forward to every part of it, from editing and commissioning material to working with the *Poetry Review* staff and the Poetry Society.”

The spring issue of the magazine, titled ‘The Anonymous Invitation’ and guest edited by Moniza Alvi & Esther Morgan will be published on 27 March 2013.

The award-winning Irish poet Maurice Riordan, will take on the editorship of *Poetry Review* after Patrick McGuinness. Beginning with the autumn 2013 issue of the magazine, Riordan will take the helm until 2015.

– ENDS –

**For further information, please contact Robyn Donaldson
on 020 7420 9886, or email marketing@poetrysociety.org.uk**

Notes to Editors:

PATRICK MCGUINNESS

• Patrick McGuinness was born in Tunisia and spent his childhood in various countries including Venezuela, Iran, Belgium and Romania. He won a Gregory Award in 1998 and began his academic career focusing on avant-garde theatre. He now teaches in Oxford, where he is Professor of French and Comparative Literature.

McGuinness's poetry includes two collections, *The Canals of Mars* (2004), and *Jilted City* (2010, PBS Recommendation), and a pamphlet with Smith/Doorstop, *19th Century Blues*, which won the Poetry Business Competition in 2006. He translated Mallarmé's *For Anatole's Tomb* (Carcenet/Routledge USA 2003), and recently, a translation of the Quebecois poet Hélène Dorion's *Seizing: Places* (Arc publications, 2012). He is also the editor of the *Collected Poems* of modernist poet Lynette Roberts, and is preparing an edition of the *Selected Poems* of Canadian poet Margaret Avison. His interest in translation led him to create a fictional poet, Liviu Campanu, a Romanian dissident, whose poems, *City of Lost Walks*, appeared in McGuinness's collection *Jilted City*.

His novel, *The Last Hundred Days* (Seren/Bloomsbury, 2011), about the fall of communism in Romania, was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize, shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award and the Desmond Elliott Prize and won the Writers Guild Award for Fiction and the Wales Book of the Year.

POETRY REVIEW

• *Poetry Review* is one of the world's leading contemporary poetry magazines. Published by the Poetry Society since 1912, it has become the most widely read poetry magazine in the UK. Many of the century's greatest names have appeared on its pages, from W.H. Auden and Robert Frost to Seamus Heaney and Wislawa Szymborska. It continues to showcase exciting new work by poets from across the world.

• Submissions for the summer 2013 issue can be sent by post to: *Poetry Review*, Poetry Society, 22 Betterton Street, London, WC2H 9BX.

• *Poetry Review* is published quarterly and is available from leading bookshops across the UK and internationally. A subscription to *Poetry Review* is also included as part of membership of the Poetry Society. Telephone 020 7420 9881 or email membership@poetrysociety.org.uk

• The latest issue of *Poetry Review* (Winter 2012/13), titled ‘Offending Frequencies’ and guest edited by Bernardine Evaristo, included work from poets such as Hannah Lowe, Suzi Feay, Kayo Chingonyi, Warsan Shire, Sophie Mayer, Nick Makoha and Dorothea Smartt.

• *Poetry Review's* recent rotating programme of Guest Editors began in summer 2012 with George Szirtes, followed by Charles Boyle, Bernardine Evaristo, Moniza Alvi & Esther Morgan and Patrick McGuinness.

THE POETRY SOCIETY

• The Poetry Society was founded in 1909 to promote a “more general recognition and appreciation of poetry”. Since then, it has grown into one of Britain's most dynamic arts organisations, representing British poetry both nationally and internationally. With innovative education and commissioning programmes and a packed calendar of performances, readings and competitions, the Poetry Society champions poetry for all ages. It publishes the magazine *Poetry Review*, runs the National Poetry Competition, the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award and the youth performance poetry championship SLAMBassadors UK. www.poetrysociety.org.uk