

## The Corneliu M Popescu Prize 2011, for poetry translated from a European language into English, is open for submissions

DEADLINE 31 MAY 2011



“Marooned on our island of language, the Popescu Prize is one of the few regular supply ships...”

– Sasha Dugdale

**Now open for entries, the Corneliu M Popescu Prize 2011**, for poetry translated from a European language into English, has regularly supplied us with some of the most exciting new discoveries in poetry.

**In 2009, judges Elaine Feinstein and Stephen Romer were delighted to uncover the work of Gabriela Mistral**, a Chilean poet little known in the UK, despite having enjoyed international acclaim in the past. Kristiina Ehin, one of Estonia’s most popular young poets was brought to the attention of a new and welcoming audience by judges Anne Born and Francis Jones in 2007. Ehin’s poetry and prose now appear regularly in leading Irish and British literary journals, and she is a regular reader at festivals all around the world.

**The prospect of venturing into uncharted waters has equally excited this year’s judges, Jane Draycott and Sasha Dugdale:**

“Imagine living in a house with dozens of rooms to explore and as many different views to look out on, yet only staying in the one room. That’s what our imaginative lives would be like without literary translation, and why the Corneliu M Popescu Prize is so invaluable as a celebration of the best new work in the field.” – Jane Draycott

**Encouraging reading beyond our ‘island of language’ is a key part of the Corneliu M Popescu Prize**, and to encourage this further the Poetry Society is setting up a virtual book club to read and review the books selected for the shortlist, announced in August 2011. The winning book will also be featured at an event at the Aldeburgh Festival in November 2011.

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**For further information**

Telephone Lisa Roberts on 020 7420 9895  
or Alan Ward on 020 7420 9886  
Email: [marketing@poetrysociety.org.uk](mailto:marketing@poetrysociety.org.uk)

The Poetry Society,  
22 Betterton Street, London WC2H 9BX  
Tel: 020 7420 9880 Fax: 020 7240 4818  
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**The Corneliu M Popescu Prize is awarded biennially by the Poetry Society.** The £1500 prize is awarded to a translator for a volume of poetry translated from a European language into English.

Formerly the European Poetry Translation Prize (1983-1997) the Prize was relaunched in 2003, and renamed in memory of the young Romanian translator Corneliu M Popescu, who died in an earthquake in 1977, aged 19. Popescu translated the work of one of Romania's leading poets, Mihai Eminescu, into English. The Prize's founding sponsor was Romanian journalist, author and democracy campaigner Ion Ratiu. It has been supported by the Ratiu Foundation since 2003.

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**For further information about the Corneliu M Popescu Prize 2011, telephone  
Lisa Roberts on 020 7420 9895 or email [marketing@poetrysociety.org.uk](mailto:marketing@poetrysociety.org.uk)**

#### Notes to Editors:

- **Ted Hughes Award judges**



**Sasha Dugdale** is a poet and translator. She worked for the British Council in Russia in the 1990s where she set up the Russian New Writing Project with the Royal Court Theatre. Since her return in 2001 she has translated new plays for the Court, the RSC and other theatre companies. She has published two collections of translations of Russian poetry. The most recent, *Birdsong on the Seabed* (Bloodaxe) by Elena Shvarts was a PBS choice and shortlisted for the Popescu and Academica Rossica Translation Awards. A third collection of her own poems *The Red House* is published by Carcanet in August 2011.



**Jane Draycott's** new translation of the medieval dream-elegy 'Pearl', an extract from which was a Stephen Spender Prize-winner 2008, is published this year by Carcanet/OxfordPoets. Nominated as a Next Generation poet, and a previous winner of the Keats-Shelley Prize for Poetry, her collections include *The Night Tree* and *Prince Rupert's Drop* (OxfordPoets) and *Tideway* and *Christina the Astonishing* (with Lesley Saunders) from Two Rivers Press. Her most recent collection *Over* was shortlisted for the 2009 TS Eliot Prize. She teaches at the University of Oxford and Lancaster University. (Photo: Jemimah Kuhfeld.)

- **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 and Ilmar Lehtpere for his translation of *The Drums of Silence* by Kristiina Ehin in 2007. In 2009 Professor Randall Couch took the winning prize of £1,500 for his translation of Gabriela Mistral's *Madwomen*. The first winner of the Prize, in 1983, was Tony Harrison for *The Oresteia*.

- **Submissions should be sent to Corneliu M Popescu Prize**, Poetry Society, 22 Betterton Street, London WC2H 9BX by 31 May 2011. Submissions can be made by the publisher, translator or poet. Three copies of each book should be sent and the original language(s) of the poems should be specified. All submissions should be accompanied by an entry form. These are available from [award@poetrysociety.org.uk](mailto:award@poetrysociety.org.uk) or can be downloaded from the Poetry Society website at [www.poetrysociety.org.uk](http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk)

- **The Poetry Society** is Britain's leading voice for poets and poetry. Founded in 1909 to promote 'a more general recognition and appreciation of poetry', the Society is now one of literature's most dynamic organisations, with nearly 4,000 members worldwide. With its innovative commissioning, education and publishing programmes, and a packed calendar of readings and performances, the Poetry Society champions poetry in its many forms. It publishes the leading international poetry magazine *Poetry Review*; and is editor of the UK domain of Poetry International Web. As well as the Popescu Prize, its other prestigious awards include the National Poetry Competition, the Ted Hughes Award for New work in Poetry, SLAMBassadors, and the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award. [www.poetrysociety.org.uk](http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk)

- **The Ratiu Foundation** was established in London in 1979 by Ion and Elisabeth Ratiu to promote and support projects which further education and research in the culture and history of Romania. The foundation offers grants to Romanian students studying a wide range of subjects in the UK, principally for projects, postgraduate courses, conference participations, travel grants, and other short term courses including academic research. They enable talented graduates and young professionals to become familiar with the UK and gain skills, which they can adapt and apply in Romania. The Ratiu Foundation offers annual seed funding for innovative projects, principally in Romania, which foster Romanian arts and civilisation, heritage, civil society, democracy and environmental protection. [www.ratiufoundation.com](http://www.ratiufoundation.com)

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