

## The Corneliu M Popescu Prize For Poetry Translated from a European Language into English – shortlist announced



### Translation prize sheds new light on poetic discoveries

A shortlist of six titles has been announced by this year's judges of the Popescu Prize. Selecting the shortlist was an exciting journey of discovery for Sasha Dugdale and Jane Draycott:

"Amongst the many very fine new translations that stood out vividly and clearly in their own poetic right, it was a delight to find so many which shed light on less well-known work – a double discovery, demonstrating translation's work of advocacy at its best." – *Jane Draycott, judge*

This year's shortlist has been selected from a total of 73 submitted titles which represented 25 European languages:

- Ramsey Nasr, *Heavenly Life* (Banipal Books) translated by David Colmer
- Harry Martinson, *Chickweed Wintergreen* (Bloodaxe) translated by Robin Fulton
- İkinci Yeni, *The Turkish Avant-Garde* (Shearsman Books) translated and edited by George Messo
- *Into the Deep Street: Seven Modern French Poets* (Anvil), translated by Jennie Feldman and Stephen Romer
- Toon Tellegen, *Raptors* (Carcanet) translated by Judith Wilkinson
- Mircea Ivănescu, *Lines Poems Poetry* (University of Plymouth Press) translated by Adam J Sorkin and Lydia Vianu

This year's shortlist represents six publishers and the work of poets translated from five languages (Dutch, French, Romanian, Swedish and Turkish).

Organised by the Poetry Society and sponsored by the The Ratiu Foundation, the £1,500 prize is awarded biennially to the translator of a collection of poetry translated into English from another European language.

In 2009 the biennial award celebrated the work of American translator Dr Randall Couch in bringing alive the poetry of Spanish speaking Gabriella Mistral, whose astonishing, often heart-rending poetry had been relatively unfamiliar to British readers.

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#### **For further information**

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The winning translator of the 2011 prize will be announced in the autumn and the winning title celebrated at a close reading event (Best Words in Translation) at Aldeburgh Poetry Festival on 5 November.

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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:

- **Popescu 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*.

- **Aldeburgh Festival associated event. Best Words in Translation. 3pm, Saturday 5 November.** Jane Draycott, one of this year's judges of The Corneliu M Popescu Prize for Poetry Translated from a European Language into English, celebrates the winner with a close reading of poems from the book. She will also talk about the significance of the award and how she and fellow judge, Sasha Dugdale, reached their decision. Peter Pears Gallery, Aldeburgh, Suffolk IP15 5AQ. [www.thepoetrytrust.org](http://www.thepoetrytrust.org)

- **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.ratiufamilyfoundation.com](http://www.ratiufamilyfoundation.com)

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