

INTRODUCTION

Launched in March 1979 as "A Journal of Criticism Centering Around the Invisible Generation", *Ilha do Desterro* reaches now its 25th issue as "A Journal of Language and Literature". Considering the well-known difficulties of putting together an academic journal in Brazil, especially one published mostly in English, we feel this is something to be celebrated. Hence this Special Retrospective Double Issue.

Ilha do Desterro has changed considerably in its "passage" from invisibility to visibility. Much has been gained in the attempt to build the Journal into the academic instrument it is today, though perhaps at the expense of the rebelliousness and the passion of the original intent. In the "Statement of Origins" with which Hugh Fox opened the first issue of *Ilha* and which is reprinted here, we read the plea not to turn the Journal "into a mausoleum of Literature." Even though we have come to accept "the dead", as the articles on Conrad, Hawthorne, Joyce and others testify, we have managed to keep a fresh approach, a concern with actual and contemporary critical issues, illustrated here by studies of Zora Neale Hurston and of feminist utopia, and by Sérgio Bellei's preoccupation with the "reading" of American culture in Brazil.

Exclusively concerned with literature at first, *Ilha do Desterro* underwent its biggest change with Nº 11, in 1984, when the Editorial Committee decided to broaden its scope to cover language and linguistic subjects as well. From then on we have put together 14 "monographic" issues on topics ranging from Discourse Analysis to Translation, from Joyce to American Literature of the 1930's. (See General Index).

For the Literature Section of the present issue we have selected studies which display the broad cultural concerns of the

Journal: readings of Literature Written in English by both foreign specialists – Leslie Fiedler, Deirdre Burton, and the “founding fathers” of our Graduate Program, Arnold Gordenstein and John Derrick – and Brazilian scholars and critics such as Raúl Antelo, Rita Schmidt, Heleno Godoy, Nélia Scott and Sérgio Bellei. The approaches are varied and complementary, as is the literature we attempt to chart.

In the Language Section we have put together a selection of articles by nationally and internationally recognized authors, illustrating the main issues of contemporary language studies. From an overview of areas such as Discourse Analysis, Psycholinguistics and Translation, to theoretical consideration on Reading and Language Teaching and specific analyses of narrative and conversational texts, the chosen papers reflect the wide range of linguistic topics that *Ilha do Desterro* has covered. The articles address the question of interdisciplinarity, putting forth the importance of literary- linguistic investigation.

The purpose of this backward glance is thus twofold: to chart the growth of *Ilha do Desterro* through the retrieval of a few representative articles from out-of-print issues and to illustrate the range and the quality of our production.

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