

## Editorial, Vol 2, no. 1

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This third number of Ecozon@ shares the format of the last one. It opens with a guest-edited, thematically focussed section, which is followed by essays of a general nature, and sections devoted to creative writing/ visual art and book reviews.

Guest Editor of the section “Literary Landscapes and the National Imaginary”, José Manuel Marrero Henríquez writes in his introduction of landscape as a synthesis of the mental and the material, and of nature and culture. Taking his native Canary Islands as an example, he describes how individual landscapes can come to encapsulate local, regional and national identity. He notes how geographers, historians, travel writers and novelists have all played a part in articulating, reconfiguring and commenting critically on such identities, and points to the political and economic importance of landscapes (not least for tourism). The five essays which follow, by Ana Isabel Queiroz and João Carrilho, Santos Casado de Otaola, Astrid Kirchhof, Reinhard Hennig and Rosemarie Rowley illustrate different aspects of this nexus of natural environment, social organisation, and cultural construct, with reference to landscapes in Spain, Portugal, Iceland, Germany and Ireland.

As in the last number, the general section consists of two essays and an interview. Tatiana Pogossian writes on the fragmented experience of contemporary London which is reflected in the writing of Peter Ackroyd and Iain Sinclair and the art of Gilbert & George, and of their aesthetic strategies for its representation. Maria Antonia Martí Escayol follows with an essay in Spanish on the concept of nature which underpins the environmentally committed work of the great Japanese manga artist, Osamu Tezuka, assessing his contribution to toxic discourse and environmental awareness. The section is rounded off by a second interview in the ongoing series of conversations with founders of ALSE and its affiliated organisations, exploring the emergence, evolution and internationalisation of the ecocritical movement. For this number, Irene Sanz has interviewed Axel Goodbody, asking questions about the circumstances which led to the founding of EASLCE, the people involved, the ideas behind the association, and other ecocritical groupings and activities in Europe.

In the creative writing and art section we are delighted to present a selection of Michael Augustin’s ‘seriously amusing’ prose miniatures, in German and in English translations of Sujata Bhatt, together with illustrations by the author. These are followed by poems by Dean Anthony Brink and Em Strang. The final item in the section consists of two short series of images on the theme of art and science by the Portuguese artist Marta de Menezes, with

accompanying texts. We are grateful to Marta de Menezes for giving us permission to use a further piece of her work for the cover image of this number of Ecozon@.

The number is concluded by eight book reviews. Continuing our efforts to communicate ideas and approaches on literature, culture and environment between countries and languages, Matteo Andreozzi presents the economist Jeremy Rifkin's book *The Empathic Civilization* in Italian, and Sonja Luther discusses Axel Goodbody's study of 20th-century German literature, *Nature, Technology and Cultural Change* in German. Two of the most important recent contributions to English-language ecocriticism are presented in Roman Bartosch's review of Graham Huggan and Helen Tiffin's volume of essays on postcolonial ecocriticism, and Charles Whitney's assessment of the collection of writing on *Early Modern Ecostudies* edited by Thomas Hallock et al. Claudia Deetjen examines a volume of interdisciplinary essays in German sketching out a cultural history of the terms 'landscape', 'wilderness' and 'ecosystem' and showing how these reflect aesthetic, moral and scientific approaches to nature. A review of the DVD publication of proceedings of the 3rd EASLCE's International Conference, *Cultural Landscapes: Heritage and Conservation*, edited by Carmen Flys Junquera, Irene Sanz Alonso, Montserrat López Mújica and Esther Laso y León, is presented by María Antonia Mezquita, while María Dolores Porto Requejo reviews *Ecocrítica*, a special number of the Spanish journal *Nerter*, devoted to ecocriticism and edited by Carmen Flys Junquera and Juan Ignacio Oliva. Finally, Rosemarie Rowley reviews two recent, explicitly ecocritical publications on Irish writing, Tim Wenzell's *Emerald Green* and a collection of essays edited by Christine Cusick.

The editorial team regrets the slight delay in the appearance of this number, which was due in part to technical problems experienced in switching the journal to a new host server. We thank both contributors and readers for your patience, and hope as always that you will find the contents interesting and stimulating for your own thinking. Please consider use of the forum for open debate on issues arising out of the articles, and the facility for contacting authors with questions via the platform.