

Nicola Darwood & Nick Turner ~ Introduction

In the introduction to Volume Three of the *Elizabeth Bowen Review* we noted that ‘we had no idea when we hit the ‘publish’ button last September that so much would change over the course of the year’ and now, in October 2021, we find ourselves expressing the same sentiment. But once again, we also count ourselves very fortunate to belong to a growing group of people who are not just interested in the work of Elizabeth Bowen, but who also engage with this body of work. We have seen this throughout 2020 and 2021 through the activities of the Elizabeth Bowen Society, from those participating in the online book group which is slowly working its way through Bowen’s short stories, to all who enjoyed ‘An Evening at Bowen’s Court with David Hicks and Ian d’Alton’, at the end of September.

The balance of this volume of the *Review* is focused more on reviews of the excellent scholarship that has been published since the last volume, but we start with an essay by K. Narayana Chandran (University of Hyderabad), ‘The Familiar Compound Ghost of ‘The Demon Lover:’ A Correspondent Reading of Elizabeth Bowen and T. S. Eliot’, which draws on ‘The Demon Lover’ and *The Four Quartets*. The essay provides a fascinating insight into the ways in which a reader can make connections between two literary works, and discusses the ‘illusion of co-presence, of the familiar in or as the unfamiliar, either by some circumstantial likeness, or a resonance at once compelling and unignorable’, placing both texts within their cultural and historical contexts.

Bowen scholarship is thriving at the moment, and we have been fortunate to be able to review five new books in this volume of the *Elizabeth Bowen Review*. The first is Victoria Coulson’s *Elizabeth Bowen’s Psychoanalytic Fiction*, reviewed by Layla Ferrández Melero, and the second is *Reconsidering Elizabeth Bowen’s Shorter Fiction: Dead Reckoning* by Heather Levy, which has been reviewed by Aimée Gasston. The co-editors have also reviewed books this year: Nick Turner has reviewed Heather Ingman’s *Elizabeth Bowen* in the Key Irish Women’s Writers series and the new edition of short stories, *Elizabeth Bowen: Selected Stories*, edited by Tessa Hadley, and Nicola Darwood had the pleasure of reading and reviewing *The Shadowy Third: Love, Letters and Elizabeth Bowen* by Julia Parry and Eibhear Walshe’s *The Last Day at Bowen’s Court: A Novel*. Reviewing is always a privilege; we get to read some excellent scholarship and fiction. We always hope that our reviews will both lead to increased readership of those specific texts, and encourage others to develop their own research into Bowen, a writer whose life and works continues to fascinate so many. This year’s volume ends with an afterword by Eoin O’Callaghan, the Treasurer of the Elizabeth Bowen Society, as he reflects on a recent trip to Doneraile Court and the recent Bowen Society event, ‘An Evening at Bowen’s Court with David Hicks and Ian d’Alton’.

As always, we are very grateful for the support of our Editorial and Advisory Boards, and the vital work of our peer reviewers, without whom we could not offer a rigorous

system of review to ensure that the *Elizabeth Bowen Review* continues to provide a platform for both early career and more established scholars. We reflected recently on the five years that have elapsed since the Bowen conference in Warsaw, and we hope that we have created some strong foundations on which to build future Bowen scholarship.

Nick Turner and Nicola Darwood
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