

FOREWORD

Dear Reader:

As always, we offer with a mixture of pleasure and pride this new number of *The Grove. Working Papers on English Studies*. As you may have all guessed by the slightly different format, this is a very special issue of our journal. To begin with, it corresponds to the 25th anniversary of the appearance of *The Grove* among Spanish academic journals of English studies. Our first issue, edited by the Universidad de Jaén Research Group in Humanities HUM 271, which was led by Prof. Carmelo Medina, appeared in 1996 and included an address by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and a preface by the-then editor Dr Luciano García. Then, Michigan State University Prof. Stephen C. Arch contributed a fine article, which was followed by others by lecturers at the University of Leeds and the Universidad de Jaén, ending with an interview to critic and novelist Gene H. Bell-Villada by Prof. Nieves Pascual. But more significantly for this present, special print (and also digital) edition, the journal, already in its first issue, included poetry by American Book Award recipient Prof. Gordon Henry Jr., from Michigan State University.

It is to this original tradition of the journal that this special number, to which we have given the title of *The Literature of The Grove* pays tribute today. Our homage simply consists of devoting one whole issue of the journal to, on the one hand, recovering most of the poetic and narrative contributions of these past 25 years; on the other, adding some new and generous gifts by some first-class writers and translators. In this sense, we cannot but acknowledge our gratitude to them, among whom I would like to underline the unexpected and gratifying contribution of the reputed author Juan Eslava Galán, a colleague, a scholar and translator, multi-awarded novelist, and great friend of this Department and this university.

This special number, therefore, includes original poetry, translations and short stories by such noteworthy academics and/or creative writers as Libby Adams, Jefferey Simmons, Luciano García García, Julio Ángel Olivares Merino, Gerardo Piña Rosales, Frank Sewell, Ali S. Zaidi, Sheri Spaine-Long, Don Bogen, David Swartz, Jüri Talvet, and Juan Eslava Galán (with an introduction to his translation of T.S. Eliot's *The Wasteland* by Nadia López-Peláez Akalay). To each and every one of them we are grateful, above all for the immediate way in which

they responded, and for their generous gifts of time and talent. To those we could not reach for various reasons, we offer our sincere apologies but remain equally grateful as nobody refused the request of *The Grove*. The volume also includes a compilation of contributions previously published in former issues of *The Grove*—those by John Goodby, Juan Ráez Padilla, James Stewart, Stephanos Stephandes, Peter Figueroa, Chidi Uzoma, Adriana Carolina Bulz, and P. Preethu—which also represent the creative talent that has permeated and enriched our journal throughout these 25 years.

We hope this publication is, to all readers, as interesting, exciting and, at times, moving, as it is to us. In any case, our long-held commitment to the publication of original poetry, translations and short stories is, this way, given a place of honor in our journal's series. The reason for this is obvious: we would be nothing if not for the incessant work of authors and translators, whom we immensely admire and to whom we will always be grateful for their work.

The Editors.