

Foreword

While ESBB has always claimed to support creativity, I have often wondered whether the generic inflexibility, that sometimes appears to dominate academic writing, kills creativity. Some of our members could help to dispel my doubts. I am delighted to be able to introduce some creative pages drafted mainly by ESBB members for our 2020 issue. We would like to present these poems not as a supplement, but as an integral part of what we support and do. Founding member, John Unger, is a published poet and, whether this is on his facebook page or in what we could call routine emails, he is always creative. It is therefore very fitting to inaugurate our creative pages with one of his poems. I would not like to interpret his work in this foreword. This is for the reader to do. I would only say that John use language differently to dramatic effect in his poem “Bones”.

When ESBB went to Jalandhar in 2019, we met Seema Jain, who was head of a very welcoming English Department at KMV. On discovering that she was also a published poet, our visit became even more interesting. In her poem, “Why My Lord ! The Duchess to the Duke”, Seema provides us with a creative example of reader response, in which she responds to Robert Browning's My Last Duchess with her own very personal poem. For those of us who ever teach creative writing, or just creativity in writing classes, this suggests an interesting activity.

Another newer member of ESBB, Chris Weagle, is also a published poet. In this inaugural creative venture, he has supported us both as a poet and as an editor. His suite of 3 poems under the title “With the Finale of a Slam” immediately invites us, in the title itself, to respond to an unexpected but effective choice of words. Poems to read and reread with a different response each time.

Finally, Chinese academic and poet Shin Wenjie’s work came to my attention, when he sent me a poem along with an accepted academic paper for another journal with an interesting response to the current covid19 virus. It was sent as an unexpected but welcome gift to relieve lockdown, but I felt the need for a wider audience for this piece and I am happy to say the co-editors agreed that this piece adds variety and colour to our inaugural poetry section. His is the only non-member’s contribution so let me add his biographical information to finalize this foreword to our creative efforts.

Mr. Shi Wenjie, an associate professor in applied linguistics with affection for poem and music, works in The Central University of Finance and Economics, Beijing, China.

With heart-felt love for natural scenery and cultural heritages, He biked around Beijing in days sunny or rainy, shooting the skylines over the West Mountains or high-rises in downtown with cameras as the lights built up and faded away. He wrote verses for memory of the sights and sounds he came across.

I hope you will enjoy these poems as much as I did.