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# THE ELIZABETH BISHOP SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA NEWSLETTER

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The EBSNS was formed in 1994 to celebrate the life and work of the poet Elizabeth Bishop. The society seeks through its various activities and projects, to promote the appreciation and study of Elizabeth Bishop as a Nova Scotian writer. The EBSNS publishes an annual newsletter and holds its AGM in Great Village in June of each year. For more information about EBSNS and about membership, visit our website <http://www.elizabethbishopns.org>. You can also find more information about Elizabeth Bishop on the EBSNS blog [www.elizabethbishopcentenary.blogspot.com](http://www.elizabethbishopcentenary.blogspot.com). You can also visit our Facebook page "The Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia" <https://www.facebook.com/EBSofNS>

## Editorial

For an organization, twenty-three years of continuous activity is an accomplishment. The Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia is now approaching a quarter century and it is still going strong. As heady as the Elizabeth Bishop Centenary (EB100) celebration was in 2011, and as proud as we are of the legacy projects completed in 2013, the EBSNS board has not sat on its laurels. Almost immediately the board began to discuss what the next project(s) would be. When the St. James Church Preservation Society offered the EBSNS space in the sanctuary for a permanent Elizabeth Bishop exhibit, the board readily accepted and work on an exhibit and small art gallery commenced. We are excited to say that we will be unveiling the "Elizabeth Bishop's Beginnings" exhibit and the "Echoes of Elizabeth Bishop" gallery at our Annual General Meeting on 17 June 2017. You can read more about this event in the pages of this newsletter and on the EBSNS blog: <http://elizabethbishopcentenary.blogspot.ca/> and our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/EBSofNS>.

We are excited to report that our "Become a Patron" fund-raiser has raised almost \$2,300.00 for the exhibit/gallery. The raffle fund-raiser is on-going, until the day of the AGM. If you would like to buy raffle tickets, write us at [contactus@elizabethbishopns.org](mailto:contactus@elizabethbishopns.org).

This newsletter also looks back in images at our lively 2016 AGM, when our guest speaker was Halifax visual artist Emma FitzGerald. We also note the recent publication of a number of important books about Bishop. Film-maker John Scott has kindly written an update about his Elizabeth Bishop documentary film project.

These are exciting times in the Bishop world with a surge of new books about her and an ever increasing online presence. Our own social media is accessed by many interested in Bishop and Nova Scotia. As of April 2017, our blog had over 273,270 distinct visits. Our Facebook page is fast becoming a popular site. After the AGM, our 2016 *Newsletter* will be available on our website.

As always, the EBSNS board is grateful for all the support it has received and continues to receive, especially from those who contributed to the fund-raising efforts for the exhibit and gallery; but also from all our members and volunteers who have stayed with us throughout the past two+ decades. Thank you so so much!

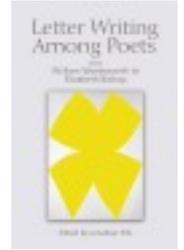
**See you at the EBSNS Annual  
Meeting on 17 June, 2017!**



**Jonathan Ellis, ed., *Letter Writing Among Poets: From William Wordsworth to Elizabeth Bishop*, Edinburgh University Press, 2015, 2016.**

Elizabeth Bishop is arguably one of the best letter-writers of the twentieth century. She was also fascinated by the epistolary art and taught a course in letter writing at Harvard in the early 1970s. Undoubtedly, she would have been fascinated by these excellent essays about the letters of some of her favourite writers.

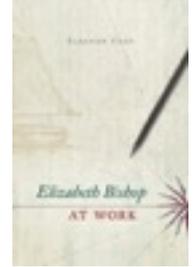
<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-letter-writing-among-poets-13741.html>



**Eleanor Cook, *Elizabeth Bishop At Work*. Harvard University Press, 2016.**

This in depth critical analysis of Bishop's poetic practice, exploring her evolution from the publication of *North & South* to her final book *Geography III*, provides some wonderful insights about Bishop's deep sensibility and ability with language.

<http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674660175>



**Michiru Tsubura, trans., *Flores Rares e Banalíssimas: A História de Lota de Macedo Soares e Elizabeth Bishop*, by Carmen Oliveira. Wind Rose-Suiseisha Publications, Tokyo, Japan, 2016.**

Twenty years later, long-time EBSNS supporter Michiru Tsubura published her translation of Carmen Oliveira's biography of Lota and Elizabeth in Brazil (originally published in 1996), extending the reach of her ground-breaking work on Bishop's life in Brazil to a wider audience.



**Mariana Machóva, *Elizabeth Bishop and Translation*, Lexington Books, 2017.**

Prague scholar and translator Mariana Machova delves into the fascinating subject of Bishop's translations of poetry and prose, as well as the way the practice of translation influenced her own writing process.

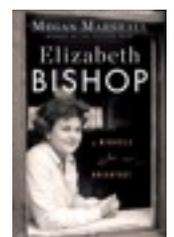
<http://elizabethbishopcentenary.blogspot.ca/2017/01/response-to-elizabeth-bishop-and.html>



**Megan Marshall, *Elizabeth Bishop: A Miracle for Breakfast*, Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt, 2017.**

Marshall's is the first biography in English of Bishop since the mid-1990s. Intermixed with autobiographical chapters (Marshall is a former student of Bishop's), this study mines new material never before seen, including letters to psychiatrist Ruth Foster, letters to and from Lota de Macedo Soares, and letters to and from Alice Methfessel

<http://elizabethbishopcentenary.blogspot.ca/2017/02/a-response-to-megan-marshalls-elizabeth.html>



**ELIZABETH BISHOP SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA  
2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday, 17 June 2017 at 1:00 p.m.**

**at St. James Church, Great Village, Nova Scotia**

**This event is open to the public. Everyone is welcome.**

Refreshments catered by the **Great Village Fire Brigade Auxiliary.**

The EBSNS will be opening the **“Elizabeth Bishop’s Beginnings”** exhibit  
and the **“Echoes of Elizabeth Bishop”** art gallery.

And we will be **drawing for the raffle prize**, an en plein air painting by Ontario artist  
**Alfred Villeneuve.**

**The EBSNS is excited to announce that our guest speaker is  
Nova Scotia writer**

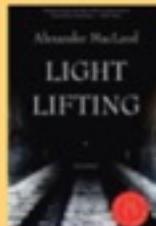
**Alexander MacLeod,**

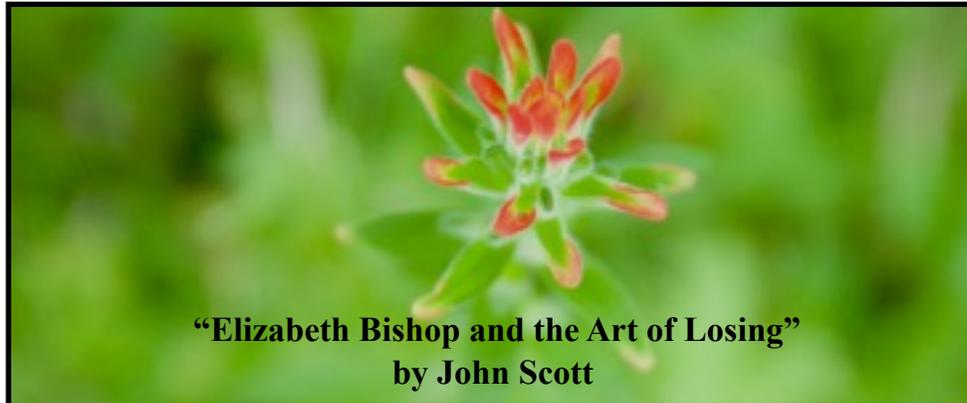
who will be reading from new work.



Alexander MacLeod is a writer and an associate professor of English literature at Saint Mary’s University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. His first collection of short stories, *Light Lifting* (Biblioasis), won an Atlantic Book Award and was a finalist for the Giller Prize, The Frank O’Connor International Short Story Award, The Commonwealth Writers’ Prize (Best First Book, Canada and the Caribbean) and the Thomas Head Raddall Fiction Award. The collection was also long-listed for the Andrew Carnegie Medal Award for Excellence in Fiction and was named a “Book of the Year” by the American Library Association, the *Globe and Mail*, Amazon.ca and *Quill and Quire*.

“MacLeod’s stories are shorn of sentimentality but drenched in an amorphous yearning, an omnipresent sense of loss and peril that seeps into even the happiest moments....*Light Lifting* is a brilliant collection without a weak link. Steeped in the guts and sadness of life, it provides moments of pure literary transcendence.” (*Quill & Quire*)





“Elizabeth Bishop and the Art of Losing,” a feature length documentary on the life and work of Elizabeth Bishop is on pace to be finished in the summer of 2018. In an effort to wrap up the project, director John Scott travelled to Brazil in the spring. In the winter he travelled to New York City and last fall to Boston. Also, a ninety-minute rough cut of the movie is complete. There has been an extensive push to raise funds and partnerships for planned re-enactment shooting this summer. The results of those applications are still pending. Specific plans for shooting won’t be in place until the results of those efforts are known.

Ed. Note: John Scott is based out of Ithaca, NY, where he teaches at Ithaca College. He and his parter Karen Rodriguez have a site on Vimeo, where you can see some of their work: <https://vimeo.com/karenrodriguez>. You can read more about their production company here: <https://www.filmantvpro.com/us/company/71472/magpie-productions>.



If you are interested in buying one of these delightful magnets with the art work by the Belarussian artist Natalia Povalyaeva

You can order the magnet by going to the “Gift Shop” page of the EBSNS website. ( [www.elizabethbishopns.org](http://www.elizabethbishopns.org) )