

## Howard's poem selected for major new anthology

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"Leaving Tralee," a poem by Dr. Ben Howard, professor of English at Alfred University, appears in a new anthology edited by Billy Collins, the former Poet Laureate of the United States. Howard's poem is one of 180 selected by Collins for *180 More: Extraordinary Poems for Everyday* (Random House 2005). In his introduction Collins explains that his new anthology expresses his preference for "poems that are hospitable toward their readers, poems in which a human voice is clearly sounded - poems with the front door left open." Like Collins' previous anthology, *Poetry 180* (Random House 2003), *180 More* aims to "bring back to poetry those readers who have lost interest or who have had the poetry scared out of them by bad teaching or the wrong menu of poems to choose from." "Leaving Tralee" first appeared in *The Recorder: The Journal of the American Irish Historical Society* (Summer 2004). Two other poems by Howard, "Leavings" and "Holy Water," appeared in the Spring 2004 issue of the *Sewanee Review*, America's oldest literary quarterly. Like "Leaving Tralee," these poems are set in the city of Tralee in County Kerry, Ireland. Another Howard poem "We Must Labor to be Beautiful," appeared in a recent issue of *The Formalist*. The poem is based on a line from W.B. Yeats. "A Belfast Contemplative: The Art of Michael Longley," an essay by Howard, has recently appeared in a special Irish issue of the British journal *Agenda*. The essay explores Buddhist themes in the work of a leading poet of Northern Ireland. And finally, Howard's essay "Unexpected Affirmations: The Moral Vision of John Montague," appears in *Well Dreams: Essays on Montague* (Creighton University Press 2004), edited by Thomas Dillion Redshaw. Now in his 70s, John Montague is one of the most respected and influential of contemporary Irish poets, Howard explained.