



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Publication of Elizabeth Bishop's North Haven journals celebrates the life and poetry of one of America's foremost poets on her favorite island

NORTH HAVEN, MAINE – July 2015 - North Haven, one of Maine's remote islands, will celebrate the publication by the North Haven Library of Elizabeth Bishop's summer journal, written on North Haven from 1974 to 1979. The journal has been edited by Eleanor M. McPeck, who has written an introduction to the text. The material is published with permission from Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Elizabeth Bishop, considered one of the most important poets of the 20th century, summered on North Haven toward the end of her life. According to *The Paris Review*, Bishop loved the island so much that she kept returning, despite her desire to see more of the world. Its rocky beaches and wildflower-strewn meadows inspired her work, which reflected the physical world she experienced from her childhood home in Nova Scotia to her beloved tropical Brazil. The publication of her journal will provide insights into one of her best-known poems, *North Haven*, dedicated to her friend and fellow poet Robert Lowell, as well as illustrate the impact the isolated Penobscot Bay community had on a major poet's life.

To commemorate the release of *Elizabeth Bishop: The North Haven Journal, 1974–1979*, an August symposium is planned with speakers including inaugural poet Richard Blanco; Jonathan Galassi, president and publisher of Farrar, Straus & Giroux; Poetry Society of American Executive Director Alice Quinn; scholar Megan Marshall; author Susan Minot; poet Lloyd Schwartz; filmmaker Barbara Hammer; and author Deborah Weisgall. In addition, the Library will display Elizabeth Bishop memorabilia throughout the summer.

*Elizabeth Bishop: The North Haven Journal, 1974–1979* will be available for purchase at bookstores and gift shops throughout mid-coast Maine and online. All proceeds will benefit the North Haven Library.

**ABOUT ELEANOR M. McPECK** - Eleanor M. McPeck is a landscape architect and historian. She is co-author of *Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes* and has taught widely, first at the Radcliffe Seminars and later at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Rhode Island School of Design. She is a long-time summer resident of North Haven. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**ABOUT THE NORTH HAVEN LIBRARY** - The North Haven Library was founded in 1898 and stands in its own building on the island's Main Street. *Elizabeth Bishop: The North Haven Journal, 1974–1979* represents the first work published under the auspices of the Library, a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

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