



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Island library publishes *Elizabeth Bishop: The North Haven Journal, 1974–1979*

NORTH HAVEN, MAINE - July 2015 – The previously unpublished North Haven summer journal of Elizabeth Bishop, one of the most important twentieth century American poets, will become available July 1 in a new book, edited and with an introduction by Eleanor M. McPeck. Bishop summered on North Haven, one of Maine's remote islands, from 1974 to 1979. During her stay, she kept a journal in which she described her life on a small island, her impressions of people she met, and the physical beauty of her surroundings.

Elizabeth Bishop, The North Haven Journal, 1974-1979 provides insight into Bishop's poetic process at the culmination of her career. It demonstrates the poet's deep appreciation of Maine's beautiful coast, which she describes in detail. From her documentation of flower and bird species to depictions of sharing lemonade with neighbors, the journal appeals to scholars, poetry lovers, and those who love the islands as she did.

The publisher, the North Haven Library, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit institution that for over one hundred years has been a cultural resource for the community. It is the home of the North Haven Art Association, whose annual Art Show emerged from the Bartlett's Harbor Artists' Colony. Artists including Frank Benson and Frederick Warren Allen, inspired by North Haven's simple life and beautiful vistas, exhibited and sold their work in the 1930s for the Library's benefit, a tradition that continues each summer. The Library's publication of the journals, which has been accomplished with the backing of a generous benefactor, continues its tradition of supporting the literary fine arts.

Elizabeth Bishop: The North Haven Journal, 1974–1979 will be for sale in area bookstores and gift shops, at the North Haven Library, and online at NorthHavenLibrary.org. Its release will be celebrated with an August 14–15 symposium at Waterman's Community Center featuring several of America's leading poets, Bishop biographers, and her publisher.

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. A long-time summer resident of North Haven, she lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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