



HOMENAJE A JAYANTA MAHAPATRA

Varios distinguidos intelectuales de Cuttack, Orissa, India, se unieron para editar este libro de homenaje al laureado poeta JayantaMahapatra, nacido en esa ciudad. El libro fue editado en abril de 2012 en Cuttack, en oriya y en inglés, por BijayineePublications. Se incluyó la siguiente nota de Alicia Miranda Hevia sobre su admiración por el poeta y los libros suyos que ha editado en Editorial Montemira.



A tribute toJayantaMahapatra

By Dr. Alicia MIRANDA-HEVIA (Costa Rica)

During the month of September 1988 I was doing research in the National Library of San José, my home town. I had to wait some hours to have some material photocopied; this material was not allowed to leave the library due to its age.

So I glanced at a magazine on a rack nearby. It was called **Papeles de la India**, Papers from India, and was an official publication.

I took it and read it while I waited for my photocopies. It was thus that I came in contact with the poetry of JayantaMahapatra.

The texts presented there were translations into Spanish. I liked them and wrote to the Indian Embassy, that was then in Panama City, for more information.

Very kindly, the embassy wrote back and sent me more information about the poet.

Armed with this information I began to look for his books. Luckily people I knew were going to London and New York and I was able to purchase some of his books through these persons.

I found that a particular poem from **Burden of Waves and Fruit**, which had been translated into Spanish, could be translated in a different way. So I sent the poet this translation along with a book of mine, a novel, **La huella de abril**, that I had just published.

The poem in question was *An Evening by the River*.

This is really one of the best poems in English I have ever read.

In the years that followed a correspondence ensued. The poet sent me his books and I sent him mine.

By 2005 I knew I had to go to India, and I did. The purpose of my visit was to meet Mr. Mahapatra and his dear wife, Runu, now deceased.

I travelled with my eldest son and had a magnificent time in this vast country.

By then I had a purpose: to translate and publish in Spanish some of Mr. Mahapatra's work. That same year I started a tiny publishing house.

There were, of course, problems and obstacles. But finally in 2009 the book **Orissa** appeared in Spanish: my translation of one of Mr. Mahapatra's most beautiful prose texts, about his homeland.

In time, I could achieve the translation of another collection of Mr. Mahapatra's poems and texts, which was published in 2010 under the title **Unapuerta a la poesía (A Door to Poetry)**.

Few experiences in my life have been as enriching and fulfilling as my contact with the great poet from Orissa, Jayanta Mahapatra.

San José, February 2012.