

iBbY IRELAND

No. 4
December 2007

Welcome to iBbY iNfO and Happy Christmas from iBbY Ireland!

iBbY iNfO is the electronic newsletter of iBbY Ireland, the Ireland section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). We hope you enjoy this quarterly newsletter about upcoming events of interest to children's literature. All suggestions of events and information relevant to the world of children's literature are welcome for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter. To unsubscribe from the quarterly e-newsletter, please reply to patricia@froebel.ie with UNSUBSCRIBE in the heading.

IBBY International News

Report from USBBY conference in Tucson, November 2007, by Siobhán Parkinson
IBBY Ireland was represented at the recent USBBY biennial regional conference in Tucson, Arizona, by Valerie Coghlan and myself, who had been invited to lead a group discussion on current Irish children's literature. The theme of the conference was international: Children Between Worlds.

The conference took place in bright and hot November sunshine amid the desert landscape of Tucson, and the local culture was honoured as well as international literature. A group of about twenty Arizona writers and illustrators brought samples of their work at various stages from roughs and drafts, through manuscripts and proofs to published volumes. Participants wandered among the tables, and had an opportunity to talk to the illustrators and writers. This inspired way of including writers and illustrators who were not formally presenting at the conference, which gave participants a glimpse into the working lives of illustrators and writers that they rarely get from hearing the artist speak more formally, might easily be adapted by conference organisers here, who are looking for new and interesting formats for presentation.

The native American culture of the area was also represented, as two members of the Navajo tribe Monty Roessel, a photographer and author, and Shanto Begay, a storyteller and author, told fascinating episodes from their own lives as Navajo and as artists. The highlight of the programme for many participants was a lively and amusing presentation by the Mexican artist, author and puppet maker Yuyi Morales. For me, the impassioned presentation of Ibtisam Barakat, a Palestinian poet, was the highlight of the conference. She told her own story of war and separation. She told also of how she drew the Palestinian flag in coloured chalk on the pavement outside the UN building, where the Palestinian flag does not fly – but it does fly in IBBY, and this gives great hope and affirmation to her people. Her focus was not only on her personal experience, but on the need for healing. Tayo Shima (or SHIMA Tayo's) presentation on the influence of Japanese art on western picturebooks was based on a similar presentation to an IBBY conference, and a version of this paper, though sadly with only black-and-white illustrations, is available in *Bookbird* 45.4 (October 2007).

Sandwiched in between the highlight presentations were book discussion groups, informal presentations like our own on Irish children's books – which drew quite an audience and hopefully opened some doors – and opportunities to browse an excellent range of titles for sale supplied by the local bookshop.

Some IBBY Ireland people may remember meeting the wonderful Joan Glazer when she was in Dublin some years ago to launch the first issue of Bookbird under its Irish editors. Joan is not only president of Bookbird Inc, but a well known figure in both USBBY and IBBY, and she was honoured at Tucson with the Alida Cutts Award for her services to USBBY, to the loud delight of at least two members of the audience. USBBY can be proud of a superb conference, whose only fault was that the time was too short. Since this is a biennial conference, maybe USBBY could take the luxury of an extra day to accommodate so much good material and allow participants some breathing time. Special praise goes to Dr Kathy Short of the University of Arizona, who was the mainstay of the local organisers, and whose children's literature programme at the university's College of Education makes a special place for Irish children's books.

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It is with great sadness that iBbY Ireland shares with you the news that Richard Bamberger died on Sunday, 11 November 2007 at his home in Vienna. He was 97. As one of the founders of IBBY, Richard Bamberger was closely connected to IBBY for over 50 years. Before he answered Jella Lepman's invitation to meet in Zurich to establish IBBY, he had already founded the Austrian Children's Book Club in 1949. Later on in 1965 he established the International Institute for Children's Literature and Reading Research in Vienna, which became the home of the Austrian Section of IBBY; he remained its director until 1980. He was elected IBBY President in 1962 and served until 1966. In 1963 he and Jella Lepman co-founded IBBY's journal Bookbird, and he served as editor until 1982. He was awarded Honorary Membership of IBBY in 1978 during the IBBY Congress in Würzburg, Germany and received the Jella Lepman Medal in 1991. In 2003 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Dortmund in Germany for his services to reading promotion.

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Report on “What do you see? International Perspectives on Illustration”, the 14th annual British IBBY/NCRCL M.A. Children's Literature conference, 10th November 2007, Roehampton University London, by Pat Pinsent.

The 'International' aspect of IBBY was well to the fore in this conference on illustration. We were fortunate enough to have plenary speakers from Belgium and Portugal, while the countries of origin of the artists featured in workshops included Mexico, Taiwan, Finland, South Africa, Australia, Greece, Cyprus, Sweden and Italy. Any account in words only is inevitably impoverished, as so much of the day was a visual feast of colour.

The first speaker was Martin Salisbury, Reader in Illustration at the Cambridge School of Art at Anglia Ruskin University, who presented his audience with a rich variety of material by recent artists representing different traditions; many of the most interesting of these had been his own students. Then Jan Pieńkowski, a distinguished creator of children's books, was interviewed by Nick Tucker. Supported by a background of colourful pictures from his many books, he disclosed that one of the reasons for his characteristic silhouettes and cut-outs was the way the family curtains

were constructed in war-torn Warsaw. After a short break, two outstanding Flemish illustrators, Sabien Clement and Tom Schamp compared their approaches and techniques by showing their pictures in parallel. They were followed by Satoshi Kitamura, originally from Japan, who told us about his incursion into the world of English picturebooks through the agency of the publisher, Klaus Flugge of Andersen Press – who also sponsored a wine reception.

Before the many and diverse workshops in the afternoon, Penni Cotton brought us up to date on the latest developments resulting from the European Picture Book Collection. Later in the afternoon, Portuguese illustrator of the year 2000, André Letria, showed in conjunction with Neal Hoskins, his British publisher, some of his often challenging pictures. A different slant on children's picturebooks was then provided by Prodepta Das who, in interview with Prue Goodwin, talked about the use of photographs to illustrate different cultures. Finally, Anthony Browne (whose work had been celebrated at teatime with a cake commemorating his latest book, mused on aspects of his career and showed us some of the international exhibitions at which his work has been shown.

The capacity audience left visually satiated with the abundance of stunning imagery with which they had been inundated, and, hopefully, with their horizons widened to the wealth of material for children available beyond these shores.

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Upcoming conferences and calls for papers in children's literature

The international conference, "Evidence of Reading, Reading the Evidence", will be held at the Institute of English Studies, University of London, from 21st-23rd July 2008. This conference seeks to provide a forum for the study of the history of reading. 20-minute papers are invited from parties in all disciplines who are interested in the history and practice of reading in any period or geographical location. Topics may include, but are by no means limited to theories of reading; issues of literacy; reading and readers in fiction; quantitative versus qualitative methodologies; genre reading; digital resources and their development; using historical data in contemporary research fields; the sociology, psychology and neurology of reading experiences and evidence of reading from private audio recordings and blogs. Paper titles, abstracts of no more than 300 words and short biographies should be sent electronically by 31 January 2008 to all three organisers: Dr Shaf Towheed (S.S.Towheed@open.ac.uk), Dr Rosalind Crone (r.h.crone@open.ac.uk) and Dr Katie Halsey (Katie.Halsey@sas.ac.uk).

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The Write Away annual conference, with the theme "More than Information: Engaging Hearts and Minds through Non-fiction" will be held on 22nd May 2008 in the University of London, Institute of Education, Bedford Way, London. This 'inspirations' conference aims to reinvigorate the teaching of non-fiction reading and writing in primary schools through implementation of a creative curriculum, harnessing the emotions and asserting the value of aesthetic experience. Delegates will have the opportunity to hear leading voices in the field reflect upon current practices as well as presenting ideas for development and change. A key feature of the conference is a programme of workshops co-presented by writers and educators,

which will creatively explore different forms of writing as well as the use of film, photography and drama. Children's work will be on display during the day. Confirmed speakers include Nicolette Jones, Martin Salisbury, Nicola Davies, Vivian French, Nikki Gamble, Richard Platt, Prodecepta Das, Julia Jarman, and Marilyn Brocklehurst. For further information contact info@writeaway.org.uk

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Submissions are invited for an edited collection of essays on fairy tale film, entitled "Fantastic Voyages, Monstrous Dreams, Wondrous Visions: Cinematic Folklore and Fairy Tale Film". Suitable topics include but are not limited to: Intersections between folklore, fantasy, and film theory; Metamorphosis, enchantment, monstrosity, and abjection in fairy tale film; Transgender or transbiology in fairy tale film; Discourses of Otherness, (post)coloniality, and Orientalism in fairy tale film; Analyses of particular works by fairy tale filmmakers from Georges Méliès and Walt Disney to Tim Burton and Stephen Spielberg; Fairy tale motifs in the visual culture of film shorts, TV advertising and music video; Relationship of "classic" 19thC fairy tale illustration (from Arthur Rackham, Kay Nielsen, Walter Crane, Edmund Dulac, et al.) and the Disney animation image repertoire to the iconography of contemporary cinematic folklore. Final essays should range in length from 5,000 - 9,000 words. Previously published work, appropriately revised and/or updated, will be considered. Send 500-word proposals (or completed essays) and a brief c.v. electronically as email attachments to Sidney Eve Matrix (matrixs@queensu.ca) and Pauline Greenhill (p.greenhill@uwinnipeg.ca) by 1st January 2008.

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The Lion and the Unicorn is inviting submissions for a special issue devoted to the varieties of the didactic in the long eighteenth century. Didacticism, often considered the dominant literary form of much European and American eighteenth-century children's literature, has been undertheorized. Possible topics might include: What was the relationship between eighteenth-century pedagogy and didacticism? How did children and adults read didactic texts as quintessentially eighteenth-century readers? What was the relationship between didactic children's literature and other didactic eighteenth-century genres such as the novel, the sermon, and the conduct book? How were political ideologies, economic theories, and cultures shaped by didacticism during the eighteenth century? What constituted an aesthetics of didacticism during the eighteenth century? Articles of 12-15 pages should be submitted by 1st March, 2008 to the editors for consideration for inclusion in the April 2009 special issue of *The Lion and the Unicorn*. Essays should be submitted in .PDF format using MLA style. Documents should be sent as an e-mail attachment. Send submissions to: Pamela Gay-White, Department of Languages and Literatures, Alabama State University, pdgaywhite@aol.com and Adrienne Wadewitz, Department of English, Indiana University, wadewitz@gmail.com.

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Submissions are invited for the *Journal of African Children's and Youth Literature* (JACYL). *The Journal African Children's & Youth Literature* invites contributions from Children's and Youth Literature theorists, practitioners, scholars and graduate students. For almost eighteen years, JACYL has provided a forum for scholars in African children's and youth literatures to share their ideas and findings and promote the growth and development of scholarship in the genre. The following is a list of some areas you might like to address: New directions in African children's literatures;

African Children's literature and the media; Online research in African children's and youth literatures; interdisciplinary nature of African children's and youth literatures; African roots of world children's literatures; African children's and youth literature and AIDS. Please note that this list is by no means exhaustive, and we welcome submissions on any aspect of children's and youth literature in Africa, in the African diaspora and in the international/global community. Please email papers to the editor, Osayimwense Osa, at Osayimwense@gmail.com OR Send a copy to the editor using the following address: Osayimwense Osa, Editor, Journal African Children's & Youth Literature, Department of Languages and Literature, Virginia State University, 1 Hayden Drive, Petersburg, Virginia 23806, USA.

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A Harry Potter Conference presented by Narrate Conferences, Inc. Terminus, an interdisciplinary Harry Potter-themed conference to take place August 7-11, 2008, in Chicago, Illinois, seeks papers, panels, interactive workshops, roundtable discussions, and other presentation formats suitable for an audience of academics, students, professionals, and fans. Analyses that address the development of topics through the entirety of the seven Harry Potter books are especially encouraged, including those topics that focus on the related cultural phenomenon. A non-exhaustive list of sample topics includes literary analyses of the novels; studies of the cultural phenomenon; use of the novels in schools and libraries for education; examination of related business and legal issues; scientific explanations of magic in the series; media and fan studies; craft-based workshops in writing, art, and publishing; and overviews of how the series and films fit into larger contexts. Submission to the vetting board is by online system only. The submission system is located at <http://www.terminus2008.org/submissions/> and the deadline for proposals is 1st February 2008. At the time of proposal submission, we require an abstract of 300-500 words, a 50-100 word presentation summary, and a presenter biography of no more than 100 words. For more information about programming, our review process, and proposal submissions, please see the Terminus website at <http://www.terminus2008.org/programming/>.

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Articles are sought for a proposed collection of essays on popular young adult fiction, normalcy, and the conflation of the modern adolescent body with the disabled body. Some young adult fiction considers the adolescent body through stories that address self-esteem and body image, teen pregnancy, or homosexuality, whereas other stories consider the body and disability more literally—those of eating disorders, self-mutilation (“cutting”), and drug abuse. How does young adult fiction imagine the adolescent identity as it relates to the adolescent body (in terms of sexuality, menstruation, or teenage pregnancy)? In what ways is the adolescent body imagined as a “disordered” body? We are looking for critical work that avoids jargon, is clear and accessible, and that examines canonical and/or popular YA fiction. Possible topics might include: eating disorders; cutting; drug abuse; weight and body image; AIDS/HIV; cancer/leukemia; depression/suicide. Please send a proposal of approximately 200-500 words along with a brief CV. by 8th February to Adrienne Finlay, Department of English, Box 6000, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY 13902-6000 or afinlay@binghamton.edu.

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Recent publications, news and events in children's literature

Mad about Books: The Dubray Books Guide to Children's Books has just been published. Packed with over 500 reviews and many author interviews, it's a must for anyone interested in children's books. Launched by Robert Dunbar and Marita Conlon McKenna, and edited by Sarah Webb, it is only 2 euro and is available from any Dubray Books shop.

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It is now planned to present the Reading Association of Ireland Children's Book Awards in early January 2008. The awards, traditionally presented in December have required longer and more serious deliberation than was planned for and so the executive committee of the RAI decided to defer the ceremony until January to give the jury time to reach their decision. The RAI apologises for this delay but feels that the integrity of the awards requires such a change in its timing.

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The O'Brien Press Christmas Children's Books Celebration takes place in Airfield House, Dundrum on Thursday 6th December. For more information, email Ruth Heneghan at ruth@obrien.ie

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The Imagine Children's Literature Festival, at the South Bank Centre, brings together some of the best contemporary children's writers, storytellers and illustrators for readings, discussions and workshops. The line-up for 2008 includes James Campbell's Comedy for Kids, Francesca Beard's Animal Olympics and performances from Philip Ardagh and Jeremy Strong. Please visit the festival website for full details of the programme. For more information, contact the website at www.rfh.org.uk/imagine

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