

# iBbY IRELAND

No. 12

March 2009

## Welcome to iBbY iNfO

**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 bi-monthly 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.

**The next issue of the newsletter will be in early May.**

### **iBbY Ireland news:**

iBbY Ireland held a cultural evening to highlight awareness of the newly formed iBbY Zimbabwe, in Pearse Street Library on Thursday 26th February 2009. Irish authors and illustrators P.J. Lynch, Oisín McGann, Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, Conor Kostick and Sarah Webb generously agreed to come along and talk about their latest work to help iBbY Ireland raise funds for iBbY Zimbabwe's important work. A raffle, African music and refreshments helped add to the ambience! In March 2008, iBbY Ireland (International Board on Books for Young People) twinned with iBbY Zimbabwe in order to help them set up a similar organisation during a particularly challenging time in Zimbabwe's history. We were especially pleased to be joined by so many of the Dublin-based Zimbabwe community, including the Zimbabwe Community Network. iBbY Ireland would like to thank everyone who supported this event and whose generosity is very much appreciated. If you would like donate to the IBBY Zimbabwe fund, you can send a cheque made out to IBBY Ireland and post it to IBBY Ireland, c/o CBI First Floor, 17 North Great Georges Street, Dublin 1. Thanks to the generosity of our speakers and sponsors, we raised much-needed funds to help IBBY Zimbabwe achieve their goals. We wish them ongoing success and look forward to working closely with them in the months ahead.



You can also see more photos of the event by visiting iBbY Ireland on flickr:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/26139586@N06/tags/ibbyzimbabweawarenessevent/>

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Recently iBbY Ireland announced our nominees for iBbY's Hans Christian Andersen Awards 2010, Eoin Colfer for writing and P.J. Lynch for illustration. The Andersen Awards are among the most prestigious international awards for children's literature, and we are delighted to have two such distinguished candidates to represent us:

**Eoin Colfer's** first published book was *Benny and Omar* (O'Brien Press) in 1999. Since then he has achieved huge international success with his 'Artemis Fowl' series. A film of the 'Artemis Fowl' books is currently being developed. Some of these titles are now available in graphic novel format. His *Half-Moon Investigations* has been adapted for television and will soon be shown on BBC. His most recent book is *Airman* (Penguin). He has been commissioned to write a further novel in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* series by the late Douglas Adams – *And Another Thing* (Penguin) – which will be launched in October 2009 to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first book in the series. He also writes for younger readers. He has won several awards for his work, and has been on numerous shortlists.

**P. J. Lynch** has worked as a children's book illustrator since leaving Brighton College of Art in England in 1984. He has won many awards including the Mother Goose Award, the Christopher Medal three times, and the prestigious Kate Greenaway Medal on two occasions, first for *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* by Susan Wojciechowski, and again for *When Jessie Came Across the Sea* by Amy Hest, and the CBI Bisto Award for *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey*. This has sold more than a million copies in the United States alone, and has recently been made into a motion picture. In recent years PJ has been commissioned to design posters for Opera Ireland and the Abbey Theatre. He has also designed several sets of stamps for An Post, including four Christmas issues. His most recent books include *Lincoln and His Boys* by Rosemary Wells (Walker) and *The Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry (Walker).

#### **Upcoming conferences and publications in children's literature:**

Submissions are invited for the publication, *Girls, Interrupted*, which will explore how fiction and non-fiction linguistically, narratively, politically, and socially functions as a medium through which writers register protest, discontent, resentment, and/or other forms of resistance to the sex/gender system in whatever its form, i.e., marriage, sexuality, desire, gender identity, transgendered identity, feminism and so on. We invite essays that consider interruption in a variety of sociological and literary contexts in essays, novels, short stories, autobiographies, film, television, drama, essays and other forms of popular culture.

We are interested in submissions from all national, racial and/or cultural contexts as well as any narrative discipline. Send a C.V. and abstracts of no more than 500 words and/or papers of no more than 20 pages in compatible Word or Rich Text Format to: Patricia Juliana Smith and Jennifer A. Rich, English Department, Mason Hall, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11549, USA or Jennifer.A.Rich\_at\_hofstra.edu. Electronic submissions should be limited to abstracts. Please put 'Abstract, Girls Interrupted' in the subject line of the email. The due date is 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009.

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The "Oshima International Handmade Picture Book Contest" was started in commemoration of the establishment of "OSHIMA MUSEUM of PICTURE BOOKS" 16 years ago. The guidelines for application of "Oshima International Handmade Picture Book Contest 2009" have been published. See the homepage <http://www.ehonkan.or.jp> for the application guidelines and the entry form.

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Papers are invited for a journal issue dedicated to 'The Human-animal Relation' in *JAC: Journal of Rhetoric, Culture and Politics*. As we become persuaded by the ways in which "human being" and human existence are forever altered by digital technologies, the animal question continues to reassert itself, challenging us to develop a more rigorous understanding of the myriad ways in which nonhuman animals historically have served to define what it

means to be “human.” We invite full-length theoretical articles that address a wide range of topics related to the animal question, especially the human-animal relation and its cultural, rhetorical, and political implications. We are particularly interested in articles that explore the various rhetorics at work in the representation of animals and the human-animal relationship in literature, film, and popular culture. JAC is an interdisciplinary theoretical journal devoted to the study of rhetoric, discourse, culture, and politics. Deadline for submissions: August 1, 2009. Send inquiries and submissions to Lynn Worsham, Editor, JAC at [worsham@ilstu.edu](mailto:worsham@ilstu.edu); or to Campus Box 4240; Illinois State University; Normal, IL; 61790, USA.

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Essays which explore Stephenie Meyer’s *Twilight* series are invited for a collection of essays, *Bitten by Twilight: youth culture, media and the Twilight saga*. The collection will feature scholarly work from a diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives, including: analyses of the series messages, production and marketing processes, and audiences. Possible topics include, but are not limited to: Representations of gender, race, class and sexuality; Religion, morality, and values; Intended and unintended audiences; fans and anti-fans; Celebrity culture and Stephenie Meyer, Robert Pattinson, and Kristen Stewart; Translation of the series for the screen; The *Twilight* franchise. Email a 250-word proposal, short bibliography, brief author’s bio, and contact information to Melissa Click at [clickm@missouri.edu](mailto:clickm@missouri.edu) by 10 April 2009. Notification of accepted proposals will be made by May 15, 2009. First chapter drafts of 6000 to 8000 words will be due in early autumn 2009.

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Essays are invited for a collection of the significance of the audiobook. The growing popularity of audiobooks over the last several decades means that literary critics may no longer be able to turn a deaf ear to the ways in which oral delivery influences the reception of literature. The essays gathered here will explore the extent to which the audiobook not only enables us to hear literature but to hear it in new ways. While audiobooks are responsible for only a fraction of the total book publishing market, their use is among the minority of reading practices found to be increasing as the number of overall readers continues to decline. Recent advances in digital audio technology in particular make this an opportune moment to reflect on the evolution of our reading practices. All critical perspectives on the history and culture of the audiobook are welcome. Some questions that might be considered: In what ways do audiobooks adapt printed texts? What skills in close listening are necessary for their reception? How is audio technology influencing our understanding of narrative? Prospective contributors should submit a proposal (500-700 words) and one-page cv to Matthew Rubery ([rubery\\_at\\_post.harvard.edu](mailto:rubery_at_post.harvard.edu)) by 1 May 2009. The deadline for submission of completed essays by selected contributors will be 1 May 2010.

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The editors of the *Dragon Lode*, a peer reviewed journal of the Children’s Literature and Reading Special Interest Group of the International Reading Association, invite all those interested in bringing children and their literature together to submit articles for publication in future issues. This journal publishes scholarly articles of interest to teachers, librarians, researchers, and authors, practical ones grounded in current theory and research, or teaching strategies as they relate to: Children’s Literature in the Classroom, The Home-School Connection, Bridges to Content Knowledge, Current Issues in Children’s Literature and Reading, Exploration of Authors and Illustrators, and to Special Themes. Submissions are invited by 15<sup>th</sup> June for the Autumn 2009 ‘Envisioning the Earth’ issue: A sense of the environment and the natural world is part of the exploration in this issue. People’s sense of place, their roles, contributions, futures, homes, and their understanding of the world are intertwined envisioning of the earth. What realities, delights, and dilemmas about the environment do books and their authors give us? What insights about people of the earth are revealed? Manuscripts should be no longer than 20 double-spaced, typed pages. Use APA (5th edition) formatting. Author’s name, affiliation, mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address should be on a separate cover page. Photos and illustrations

should be sent as a separate jpeg file. Submit all manuscripts to: Dr. Sandip LeeAnne Wilson; Elementary and Literacy Education; School of Education Husson College; One College Circle; Bangor, ME 04401 or email: wilsonsa\_at\_husson.edu

### **Recent award-winning children's books:**

The shortlist for the Bisto Children's Book of the Year Awards, in partnership with CBI, has been released. These awards are presented annually in recognition of excellence in writing and/or illustration of books for young people. The awards are open to any children's book by an author and/or illustrator born or resident in Ireland, written in Irish or English and published between 1st January and 31st December each year. The shortlist consists of: Roddy Doyle's *Her Mother's Face*; Eoin Colfer's *Airman*; Ré O'Laighléis' *An Phleist Mhór*; Mary Finn's *Anila's Journey*; Siobhan Dowd's *Bog Child*; *Brionglóidí* by Áine Ní Ghlinn & Carol Betera; Kate Thompson's *Creature of the Night* and also *Highway Robbery*; *The Gift of the Magi* illustrated by P.J. Lynch and Oliver Jeffers' *The Great Paper Caper*. The winners will be announced at a ceremony on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May.

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Neil Gaiman won the Newbery Medal, the most prestigious writing award, in American children's literature yesterday for his novel *The Graveyard Book*. The Caldecott Medal for children's book illustration went to Beth Krommes for the picture book, *The House in the Night*. The Printz Award for young adult literature went to Melina Marchetta for her boarding-school novel *Jellicoe Road*. Kadir Nelson won the Coretta Scott King writing award for *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*.

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Sarah Ardizzone won the Marsh Award for Children's Literature in Translation 2009 for her translation of *Toby Alone*. The Award of £2000 was presented by Anthony Horowitz. The Marsh Award for Children's Literature in Translation was designed to spotlight the high quality and diversity of translated fiction for young readers and is presented biennially. See <http://www.esu.org/page.asp?p=1835> for more information about the shortlist.

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Michelle Harrison won the Waterstone's Children's Book Prize with *The 13<sup>th</sup> Treasures* (Simon & Schuster). Harrison, who works as an editorial assistant in children's publishing and is also a keen illustrator, beat books by seven other authors to the prize. The other shortlisted books were: *How Kirsty Jenkins Stole The Elephant* by Elen Caldecott; *Zelah Green Queen Of Clean* by Vanessa Curtis; *Changeling* by Steve Feasey; *Gnomes Are Forever* by Ceci Jenkinson; *Lady In The Tower* by Marie-Louise Jensen; *The Mapmaker's Monster* by Rob Stevens; and *Numbers* by Rachel Ward.

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Shadra Strickland was recently named the Ezra Jack Keats New Illustrator of 2009, just weeks after receiving the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award on January 26, 2008 for her illustrations in the picture book *Bird*. Written by Zetta Elliot, *Bird* is the name of a young boy whose loving family, friends, and a gift for drawing help him cope with the death of his grandfather and his drug-addicted brother. The Ezra Jack Keats Book Award for authors, established in 1985, and the illustrator award, created in 2001, recognizes and encourages authors and illustrators new to the field of children's books and is jointly awarded by the New York Public Library and the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation.

### **Upcoming activities and events in children's literature**

Following on from the sell-out success of *Beware of the Storybook Wolves* in 2008, The Ark is excited to present another world premiere theatre production which is suitable for ages 7+ (2<sup>nd</sup> class) and upwards: *The Giant Blue Hand* by Marina Carr and directed by Selina Cartmell. *The Giant Blue Hand* tells the story of the adventures of two young boys and their encounter with the mysterious giant blue hand. Along the way they will meet Aunt Farticus

Fume in pink wellingtons and Queen Dalia the Empress of Dreamers. The cast includes Don Wycherley, Catherine Walker, Cindy Cummings, Robert Donnelly, Patrick Gibson, Jack Gleeson and David Martin. School performances will run Tuesday to Friday from Friday 13 February to Friday 20 March (excluding the mid-term break 17 – 20 February) at 10:15am and 12:15pm each day. Public performances will run 2pm & 4pm, 14 February – 22 March (Saturdays & Sundays); 4pm, 17 March (St. Patrick's Day).

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A five-day residential writing course, 'Fables and Folktales and the Stories of Philip Pullman', will take place at Le Verger, in the heart of the Burgundy countryside, from June 14th to June 20th 2009. 'After nourishment,' Philip Pullman once said, 'and shelter and companionship stories are the thing we need most in the world. Without stories we wouldn't be human beings.' In his own published work Philip Pullman exhibits aspect after aspect of the storyteller's repertory – of how stories can be made to work. The intention behind this five-day course is to examine and discuss not just the different facets of Pullman's own writing but also their relationship to the storytelling traditions within which he works. The course is aimed at enthusiasts who may have an academic or professional interest in children's literature. The course costs £850 for a single room and £750 for a shared room. Price includes tuition, food and expeditions to local places of interest. For further details and an application form please contact Rosemary Stones, 7 Siddons Court, 39 Tavistock St, London WC2E 7NT. Tel: 020 7240 2674. Email: [piazza@btinternet.com](mailto:piazza@btinternet.com)

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Leabhar Power, the campaign to promote sales of Irish language books kicked off on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Along with some terrific promotional goodies - stickers, T-shirts, bookmarks and tote bags – and eye-catching point of sale posters, 2009 sees the first Club Leabhar run by the Leabhar Power team. *Ba choir go mbeadh sé níos fearr i mbliana ná aon bhliain eile go dtí seo. Chomh maith le deábhar bolscaireachta, T-léinte, leabharmhairc, málaí agus póstaer den scoth, cuirfear tús le Club Leabhar nua a bheidh á réachtáil ag foireann Leabhar Power.* To help get the message out to everyone in Ireland with even a basic grasp of an Gaeilge, some of the more well-known names in media have been asked to take part in the Leabhar Power book club, including Newstalk's Tom Dunne, celebrity chef Kevin Dundon, Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny, Senator David Norris, national treasure Maxi, popular Radio 2 DJs Ruth Scott, and Rick O'Shea, Today FM's likely lad Paul Collins, the ever beautiful Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin and presenter Daithí O'Sé. See [www.leabharpower.com](http://www.leabharpower.com) for details of upcoming events.

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Co-ordinator of newsletter: Dr Patricia Kennon  
Vice-President of iBby Ireland, an organisation dedicated to the promotion of intercultural dialogue through children's books  
Lecturer in English Literature  
Programme Coordinator for Lifelong Learning  
Froebel College of Education, Sion Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland  
Tel.: +3531 2888520  
Fax.: +3531 2880618  
email: [patricia.kennon@froebel.ie](mailto:patricia.kennon@froebel.ie)