

iBbY IRELAND

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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. Many of our members join iBbY Ireland through their organizations, while it is more practical for others to become individual members. The iBbY Ireland membership form for 2009 can be downloaded from our website www.ibbyireland.ie. 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 June.**

iBbY Ireland news:

iBbY Ireland's Annual General Meeting was held in the Church of Ireland College of education on Thursday 8th April at 6pm. South African iBbY member, Carole Bloch of the University of Cape Town, gave a fascinating talk about her work with PRAESA (Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa), her experience in reading development projects in South African townships, and about the cross-African book publishing initiative 'Little Books for little Hands'. We would like to thank Carole for her enlightening and passionate presentation and all iBbY Ireland members who attended the evening.

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In April, iBbY Ireland was delighted to nominate Eoin Colfer and P.J. Lynch as the Irish writers submitted for the 2010 Hans Christian Andersen Awards, which are among the most prestigious awards in the world of children's literature. The awards are presented every two years by IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) to an author and an illustrator whose complete works have made an important and lasting contribution to children's literature. You can see the shortlist of writers and illustrators nominated by 33 IBBY National Sections at www.ibby.org. The elected Chair of the International Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury, Zohreh Ghaeni (Iran) and Jury members from Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Egypt, Mexico, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America, will meet in March 2010 to select the winners. The results will be made public at the Bologna Children's Book Fair, Monday, 22 March 2010 and the Awards will be presented to the winners at the 32nd IBBY Congress in Santiago de Compostela, Spain on 11 September 2010.

Calls for papers and upcoming academic conferences in children's literature:

Papers are invited for the 'Natural Born Artists Baboró Conference 2009' on the theme of the engagement and responses of very young children with the arts. The following issues could be explored: Why are the Arts necessary for the development of young children? What form of play was used to with the children, how was this developed and evaluated? What is creativity in theory and in practice? What are the challenges faced by crèche teachers? The conference will occur from 12-18th October 2009. See www.baboro.ie for more information.

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The Society for the Study of Popular Culture and the Middle Ages is calling for submissions for a collection of essays, entitled *Reel worlds of Beowulf: Representations of Beowulfiana in Electronic Multimedia*. The Beowulf story has a long (though neglected) history on film and

television, beginning with a broadcast in the 1960s on the BBC's Jackanory. This collection is interested in expanding knowledge about these filmic retellings and adaptations of Beowulf. Please submit by 15 December 2009 with full contact information (name, address, phone/cell, and email), titles, c.v., and abstracts of 300-500 words to the organizers: Michael A. Torregrossa, Co-founder, The Society for the Study of Popular Culture and the Middle Ages, 34 2nd Street Smithfield, RI 02917-3627 Popular.Culture.and.the.Middle.Ages@gmail.com.

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An International Conference on manga, comics and graphic novels will be held at the Cultural Institute of Japan, Cologne (Japanisches Kulturinstitut Köln, The Japan Foundation), 30th September 30 to 2nd October 2010, in cooperation with CITS (Center for Inter- and Transcultural Studies, University of Cologne). The purpose of this conference is to bring together scholars and other experts of different countries and different fields, i.e. literary studies, picture theory, cultural studies, linguistics, narratology, film studies, and semiotics, who pursue different areas of investigation in this field. Submitted papers might deal with one or several of the following topics: Intermedial, intercultural and narrative perspectives for the interpretation of the graphic novel and other genres of sequential art prominent in both comics and manga; Comparative analysis of the construction of time and setting in comics and manga; Similarities and differences between Japanese and other Asian manga and European and North American comics; Influence of films and cinematic style on the production of comics and manga. Contributions from academics and experts interested in any of these areas and in international perspectives are particularly welcome. There are plans to publishing the proceedings of the conference afterwards in book form. The deadline for proposals is 31st August 2009. Please email a 300 word abstract and a short biography as an attached word document to Bettina Kümmerling-Meibauer at bettina.kuemmerling@t-online.de and Franziska Ehmcke at amm07@uni-koeln.de

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Mercier Press is looking for an exciting talent to illustrate a magical children's book full of wizards, fairies, heroes, villains and surprises. A brand new edition of Patricia Lynch's classic title Tales of Irish Enchantment is due for publication in 2010 and we want YOU to illustrate the charming stories! Mercier Press's Illustrators Competition is an illustrator's gateway to publication. One illustrator will win a publishing contract with us worth €5,000. The book will appear on bookshelves nationwide in October 2010, with an official launch in conjunction with the Children's Books Ireland Festival. The Competition deadline is 14th June 2009 with the winner decided in July 2009. More details are available at www.mercierillustratorscompetition.ie

Recent award-winning children's books:

The 2009 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award has been awarded to the Tamer Institute For Community Education, promoters of reading active on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) is the world's largest prize for children's and young people's literature. The prize totals SEK 5 million (equivalent to approx. USD 578,000, 445,000 EUR) and is awarded annually to a single recipient or to several. The prize aims to strengthen and increase interest in children's and young people's literature globally. The award is designed to strengthen children's rights at global level. With perseverance, audacity and resourcefulness, the Tamer Institute has, for two decades, stimulated Palestinian children's and young adult's love of reading and their creativity. Under difficult circumstances, the Institute carries out reading promotion of an unusual breadth and versatility. In the spirit of Astrid Lindgren, the Tamer Institute acknowledges the power of words and the strength of books, stories and imagination as important keys to self-esteem, tolerance and the courage to face life. The award will be presented by HRH Crown Princess

Victoria on 2 June in the Stockholm Concert Hall in the presence of the Swedish Minister for Culture, Lena Adelsohn Liljeroth. The previous winners are Sonya Hartnett (2008), Banco del Libro (2007), Katherine Paterson (2006), Philip Pullman (2005), Ryôji Arai (2005), Lygia Bojunga (2004), Christine Nöstlinger (2003) and Maurice Sendak (2003).

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The Jane Addams Children's Book Awards are given annually to the children's books published the preceding year that effectively promote the cause of peace, social justice, world community, and the equality of the sexes and all races as well as meeting conventional standards for excellence. *Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai*, written and illustrated by Claire A. Nivola, Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, is the winner in the Books for Younger Children Category. *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom* by Margarita Engle, published by Henry Holt Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, is the winner in the Books for Older Children Category. For more information about the 2009 shortlist, see

http://home.igc.org/~japa/jacba/2009/mainpage_2009.html

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The CILIP Carnegie Medal and the Kate Greenaway Medal are among the UK's oldest and most prestigious awards for children's writing. Twelve librarians from CILIP's Youth Libraries Group then meet to discuss the long list and agree on outstanding titles for the shortlist. The winners will be announced at a ceremony at BAFTA in central London on Thursday 25th June. More information about the shortlist for both awards is available at http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/pressdesk/press.php?release=press_2009_carn.html

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The **Notable Books for a Global Society (NBGS) Committee**, part of the **International Reading Association awards system**, selects each year a list of outstanding trade books for enhancing student understanding of people and cultures throughout the world. Winning titles include fiction, nonfiction, and poetry written for children and you can see the shortlist at <http://www.csulb.edu/org/childrens-lit/proj/nbgs/intro-nbgs.html>

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The shortlist for the tenth annual UK Branford Boase Award has recently been announced, including BR Collins' *The Traitor Game*, Patrick Ness' *The Knife of Never Letting Go* and Sally Nicholls' *Ways to Live Forever*. The judging panel, chaired by Julia Eccleshare, included Jenny Downham, author of last year's winner, *Before I Die*, as well as Jane Churchill of the Cheltenham Literary Festival, influential librarian John Dunne and Caroline Horn of Readingzone and *The Bookseller*. The Branford Boase Award was set up to reward the most promising new writers, as well as to reward excellence in writing and in publishing. The winner of the tenth Branford Boase Award will be announced on 9th July 2009 at an award ceremony to be held at Walker Books in London.

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The shortlist for the Red House Children's Book Awards has been announced. This prize is the only national book award voted for entirely by children. The shortlist includes Allan Ahlberg's picturebook, *The Pencil*, Jenny Valentine's *Broken Soup* and Sophie McKenzie's *Blood Ties*. The winners will be announced on 6th June and more information is available at www.redhousechildrensbooksaward.co.uk

Upcoming activities and events in children's literature

Children's Books Ireland is delighted to announce a sparkling line-up for this year's annual conference, which will take place on 16th & 17th May in association with the National Gallery of Ireland. Tackling the pertinent theme of 'Challenge and Change in Children's Books', this year's speakers will bring a huge wealth of knowledge and expertise to the table, promising an exciting weekend of discussion and debate. *iBbY* Ireland is delighted that writer and publisher Verna Wilkins (the multicultural press Tamarind Books), will present this year's *Ibby* Ireland session at the conference. More information is available at www.childrensbooksireland.com

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African storytelling sessions for 4-7 year-old and 7-10-year-old children will run every Saturday in May in the Irish Aid and Volunteering Centre, O'Connell Street, to support Africa Day on 24th May. The workshops will be given by women who have written down and illustrated traditional stories from their countries such as Uganda, Kenya and Somalia, with professional facilitators Siobhan Parkinson and Beni Oburu. These sessions are free of charge, with African mask and jewellery making workshops at 12.00pm. See www.irishaid.gov.ie for more information.

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The Polish community invites everybody to share and embrace their national heritage by visiting the Magic Illustrations exhibiton, on display in Finglas Public Library, Dublin 11, until 16th May. This campaign was started in order to create a space for children where they could pass through the transition period after leaving their home country as well as helping them through the process of integration into their new country of residence. The concept for this exhibition arose from the idea generated by the "Polish Section of *iBbY* Prizes" and the illustrations themselves form part of the archives of the International Board on Books for Young People (*iBbY*). The archives contain a rich collection of illustrations, which, in recent years, have received awards from *iBbY*. The material has been gathered over the last 49 years. The oldest work in the collection dates back to 1958 and the most recent, to 2008. Akademia Mlodych (Youth Academy) Foundation is the main organisation behind this exhibition, in cooperation with *iBbY* Polish Section, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Polish Embassy in Dublin, Dublin City Public Libraries and Cork City Public Libraries. For more information, contact Finglas Public Library at 01 8344906, finglaslibrary@dublincity.ie

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Earth Explorers, The Ark's visual arts summer programme, will feature school and public events from May to August. Earth Explorers is designed to inspire, in the youngest of our citizens, a long-term interest in the visual arts and a caring commitment to our natural surroundings. Through a variety of exhibition, workshops and interactive visual arts events children will have the chance to engage with concepts relating to our surroundings, and the impact that we all have on our environment. Full details of Earth Explorers events in June, July and August will be available from May on www.ark.ie. Please note that numbers may be limited at certain times subject to demand.

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Following her successful creative writing workshop series at Roehampton University, Jacqueline Wilson will be giving a professional lecture entitled 'From Tracy Beaker to Hetty Feather - writing for children nowadays.' This event will take place in the Portrait Room of

Grove House at Roehampton University at 5:00 pm on 17th June. While the lecture is free, the event will be ticketed as it is expected to be very popular. To have a ticket sent to you, email L.Atkins@Roehampton.ac.uk including your postal address. Please be aware that the lecture will be aimed at adults.

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Spréacha is Draíocht's annual week-long international arts festival for children aged 2 to 12 years, running from 8th to 14th June. Each year companies from all over the world are invited to perform in Fingal, Dublin 15, to spark all our imaginations! Spréacha shows are perfect for school groups and families with events programmed in and out of school time. A full colour free brochure of Spréacha events is now available, so phone Draíocht to be added to the Spréacha Mailing List and get your brochure posted to you tel: 01-8852622. Or drop in and collect one from the Box Office.

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