

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 September.

iBbY Ireland news:

The IBBY Zimbabwe national section, twinned with iBbY Ireland, is continuing with their activities to support children's reading. They held a workshop in mid-June for the training of teachers and librarians and a 'book bash' event by children's authors and illustrators is planned over the summer.



The dossiers for iBbY Ireland's nominees, author Eoin Colfer and illustrator PJ Lynch, for the 2010 Hans Christian Andersen Awards have been completed and sent to the international jury for consideration. These highly prestigious awards are presented every two years by IBBY 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

Verna Wilkins of Tamarind Books was the iBbY Ireland speaker at the annual conference organised by Children's Books Ireland on 16th and 17th May at the National Gallery Ireland, Dublin 2. The theme this year was 'Challenge and Change in Children's Books'. It is now over 20 years since Verna started Tamarind Books and she is committed to representing black and disabled children positively and unselfconsciously. She has written 30 picture books for children to date and she introduced a series of Biographies profiling prominent individuals such as Benjamin Zephaniah, David Grant and Malorie Blackman. The latest Black Star title which will be published in September 2009 will feature Barack Obama. Verna finished the session by emphasising how each of us can play such a vital role raising awareness and fighting for equality and quality in children's books. She issued the challenge to the audience to fight for change. One person can achieve so much and children deserve the best we have to offer.

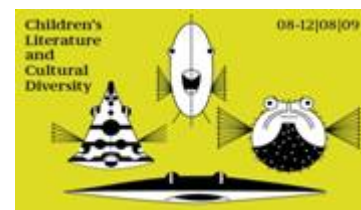


Verna Wilkins at CBI Conference, May 2009

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

The Write4Children: International Journal for the Practice and Theories of Writing for Children and Children's Literature is calling for ongoing paper submissions for a new peer reviewed e-journal being launched by Professor Andrew Melrose and Vanessa Harbour with the University of Winchester and the Centre for Creative Writing. For further details see the website www.write4children.org.uk

The 19th Biennial Congress of the International research Society for Children's Literature will be held in Frankfurt from 8th-12th August. The theme of the Congress is 'Children's Literature and Cultural Diversity in the Past and Present'. Writer Siobhan Parkinson, Mags Walsh of Children's Books Ireland, Jane O'Hanlon of Poetry Ireland and Valerie Coughlan and Patricia Kennon from the iBbY Ireland committee will be speakers on a panel dedicated to exploring this theme in Irish children's literature and illustration. For more information on the Congress, see <http://www.irscl2009.de/jom/index.php>



The March 2010 issue of *The Journal of Children's Literature Studies* will be devoted to the work of Philip Pullman. Articles on any aspect of Pullman's work will be welcomed; among possible subjects are: the relationship between Pullman's interest in graphic novels and his prose fiction; intertextuality – myth, religion, fairytale, etc – in Pullman's work; the reception of his work both in the UK and elsewhere in the world, including its inclusion of controversial material; the relationship between Pullman's novels and his involvement in the area of education. Papers should be sent by November to Pat Pinsent (PatPinsent@aol.com) and Madelyn Travis (madelyn@travis33.co.uk).



Papers are invited for the conference *Recycling Myths, Inventing Nations*, 14th-16th July 2010 in Aberystwyth University, Wales. Proposals should raise new questions and ideas in relation to the cultural, social and political functions of myth; the 'recycling' of stories; the formation of 'invented' identities and the multivalent relationships between mythology, history, fact and fiction. Suggested themes include: the ways in which writers draw on myths to retell the stories of people and nations; the re-inscription of myths in fiction as a challenge to 'official' history; using myth as a way to rethink literary traditions; recycling mythologies to reflect contemporary political, cultural and global crises. 250-word abstracts should be sent by 30th November to myth2010@aber.ac.uk.

The editors of *Neil Gaiman and Philosophy*, forthcoming from Open Court Publishing Company, invite short abstracts proposing essays for possible inclusion in this volume of Open Court's series, *Popular Culture and Philosophy*. Topics may include: feminist readings of Gaiman; Intertextuality; Gaiman as author of children's/young adult literature; Berkelian idealism and the Dreamworld; delirium, Foucault, and the creation of Madness; rewriting mythology; do fictional characters have absolute qualities and to what extent are we constrained by them? 500-word abstracts with a brief biographical profile should be sent to Rachel Luria, Wayne Yuen, and Tracy Bealer at neilgaimanandphilosophy@gmail.com by 25th July 2009. Chapters will be 3-5,000 words in length and will be commissioned by August 31st for delivery by November 30th.



Essays on the social, political and economic aspects of Shrek are invited for an edited volume on the movie trilogy Shrek. The volume will be edited by Drs. Aurélie Lacassagne, Tim Nieguth and François Dépelteau (Laurentian University, Canada). Analytical perspectives may include: Popular culture and politics; Political economy; Psychoanalysis; Sociology and politics of gender; Sociology and politics of the body; Film studies and cultural studies. 6000-word papers and a short biographical statement should be submitted via email to alacassagne@laurentian.ca as Microsoft Word attachments.

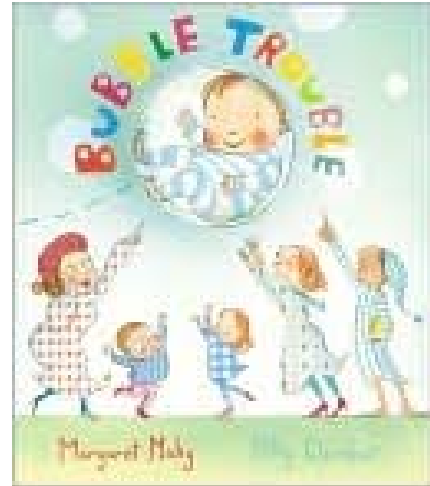


The International Conference at the Cultural Institute of Japan, Cologne (Japanisches Kulturinstitut Köln, The Japan Foundation) will be held 30th September to 2nd October 2010, in cooperation with CITS (Center for Inter- and Transcultural Studies, University of Cologne). The theme is 'Manga, Comics and Graphic Novels' and the conference will focus on the historical development and theoretical aspects of Japanese and European/North American comics and manga by stressing their mutual influences. Topics for papers could include: Comparative analysis of the construction of time and setting in comics and manga; The functions of color in comics and manga; •Impact of wordless comics and manga; Historical development of the mutual influence of comics and manga; Influence of films and cinematic style on the production of comics and manga. 300-word abstracts and a short biography as attached word documents should be sent by 31st August to Bettina Kümmerling-Meibauer at: bettina.kuemmerling@t-online.de.

Recent award-winning children's books:

The shortlist for the Reading Association of Ireland awards have been announced: *The Poison Throne* by Celine Kiernan; *Move* by Conor Kostick; *The Story of Ireland* –by Brendan O'Brien ; *Hal's Sleepover* by Maddie Stewart ; *Wild Dublin* by Éanna ní Lamhna; *Adolf sna hArda* by Marvin Halleraker. The Book of the Year and the Special Merit Award will be announced at the annual conference of the RAI on 24th September in St Patrick's College, Drumcondra. At 8:00pm. The opening address to the conference will be delivered by acclaimed children's author, Siobhán Parkinson. Further information is available from Finian O Shea foshea@cice.ie or www.reading.ie.

An award-winning British novelist, an American biographer, and a New Zealand storyteller are winners of the 2009 Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards for excellence in children's and young adult literature. The awards, announced on 2nd June, were given in three categories: *Nation* by Terry Pratchett won for best fiction and poetry; *The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary* by Candace Fleming won for best nonfiction; and *Bubble Trouble* by Margaret Mahy, illustrated by Polly Dunbar won for best picture book.



The Tamer Institute for Community Education, working on the West Bank and Gaza, received the five-million SEK (approx 460, 000 EUR) Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. The Award is the world's largest prize for children's literature. It was instituted in memory of Swedish author Astrid Lindgren and has previously been received by Sonya Hartnett (Australia), Philip Pullman (Great Britain) and Maurice Sendak (USA) amongst others. The award is designed to strengthen children's right at global level and honours authors, illustrators, oral storytellers and promoters of reading working in the spirit of Astrid Lindgren. The Tamer Institute for Community Education in Ramallah is an independent organisation that has carried out reading promotion work for children and young people in West Bank and Gaza since 1989. The Tamer Institute was founded to give children access to books and alternative learning as young people's schooling, leisure time and lives suffered from the troubles in the area.

Children's writer and illustrator Anthony Browne has become the sixth U.K. Children's Laureate. Browne takes over from Michael Rosen and is the second illustrator to become the children's laureate since Quentin Blake took on the role when it was first launched ten years ago. Browne has stated that 'One of my main aims as laureate will be to raise the profile of, and respect and enthusiasm for, picture books.'

The English Book Awards 2009 for 4-11 year-old children for the best U.K. books published in 2008 were announced in early June. Awards are given in the following categories: Key Stage 1 Fiction *The Odd Egg* by Emily Gravett; Key Stage 1 Non-Fiction *The Beeman* by Laurie Krebs and Valeria Cis; Key Stage 2 Fiction *The Princess' Blankets* by Carol Ann Duffy; Key Stage 2 Non-Fiction *Ask Dr K. Fisher About Minibeasts* by Claire Llewellyn and Kate Sheppard. In addition, a Special Award was given to *We Are All Born Free*, published by Frances Lincoln in association with Amnesty International

New author and Bus Eireann employee, Daniel Dairo-Singerr, has published a book, *The Nigerian Cultural Stories for Schools – The Outcast*. Daniel has lived in Ireland for over eight years and has published the first in a series of books that aims to highlight traditional practices from the three main cultural backgrounds in Nigeria for 4th, 5th and 6th class primary school pupils. A promotional essay competition for schools within the Munster region was sponsored in conjunction with Munster Business Equipment and Cork Arts Studio. For more information, contact Dan Singerr Ltd, 1 Ballymacmoy, Killavullen, Mallow, Co Cork. Schools ordering 20 copies or more will retain €2 commission per book. The Outcast is also available online from www.scallta.com/catalog/ or at <http://books.trafford.com/4dcgi/dosearch>.

The 2009 CILIP Carnegie Medal was awarded posthumously to Siobhan Dowd for *Bog Child* at a ceremony in London in late June. Dowd finished writing *Bog Child* in 2007, just before her death from cancer. Set in Northern Ireland in 1981 at the height of the Troubles, it tells a story of growing up against a background of sectarian violence. At the same ceremony, CILIP's 2009 Kate Greenaway Medal was awarded to Catherine Rayner for *Harris Finds His Feet* (Little Tiger Press). The story of a hare who has to learn to manage his exceptionally large feet was inspired by a real and magical encounter with a wild hare as well, in part, by Rayner's own large feet. For more information about the shortlists, see http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/greenaway/current_shortlist.php



Siobhan Dowd

Horses and Tortoises, Stories from Africa is a collection of 10 short stories for children, written and illustrated by women from the African Women's Network, with assistance from writer Siobhán Parkinson and artist Felicity Clear. The project is part of the Hugh Lane Gallery's community programme, and the purpose of the book is to provide a resource through which Irish children can learn about traditional African culture. The book was launched on 24th June at the Hugh Lane Gallery by the children's illustrator PJ Lynch. It will be sent to every primary school in the country, as well as to libraries. For more information, contact Katy Fitzpatrick, Education Curator, tel: 01-2225553.

Upcoming activities and events in children's literature:

Children's Books Ireland's annual events for 4-12-year-old children will be held on 12th July at Farmleigh House Conservatory from 11am. Sessions will involve readings by authors Fiona Tierney (*Lion's Lunch*), Maddie Stewart (*Bertie Rooster*), workshops with illustrators Adrienne Geoghegan (*Fancy That!*) and Niamh Sharkey (*I'm a Happy Hugglewug*) along with storytelling by Niall de Búrca. All events are free but places will be allocated on the day only on a first come, first served basis. For further information please contact: Tom Donegan, CBI Programme Officer, tel. 01-8727475, email: tom@childrensbooksireland.ie.

Sarah Webb and Judi Curtin will be hosting a writing workshop for 8-12 year old children as part of the West Cork Literary Festival in Bantry. The workshop will take place from Monday 6th to Friday 10th July from 9.15am-12.45pm in the Gaelscoil, Main Street, Bantry. For more information and booking details, call (027) 55987 or info@westcorkliteraryfestival.ie

From now until Saturday 15th August, The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children invites everyone to step inside and be part of Earth Explorers, Visual Arts Summer Programme for 2009. Earth Explorers is your opportunity to engage creatively with our environment and explore the impact we have on our surroundings through a range of fun, inspirational and imaginative visual arts activities. Saturday workshops will include Micro Gardens, Global Homes, Kite Flights, Sun Shots and Wings in Motion and Summer Schools include Material World, Green Animation, Developing Nature or The Ark's Summer Residency at The Red Stables: Environmental Sculpture, an outdoor visual arts project.

For full programme details, prices and booking please see www.ark.ie, phone 01.6707788 or visit The Ark, 11a Eustace Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2.