

iBbY IRELAND

No. 10

November 2008

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 January.**

IBBY news:

A report on the IBBY 31st World Congress, 7th to 10th September 2008 in Copenhagen, by Siobhán Parkinson and Valerie Coghlan

The proceedings began on the 6th September, with pre-congress workshops for IBBY national sections. These workshops provide a welcome opportunity for national sections from developing countries to meet and exchange information and skills and to learn from each other about projects successfully implemented. Also before the congress proper got under way, the general assembly of IBBY members worldwide met and voted in a new executive council (EC); Patricia Aldana (Canada) was re-elected as president of the organisation. Full details of the new 2008–2010 EC will be available shortly on www.ibby.org.



Vagn Plegn, IBBY Denmark, the chief congress organizer and Patsy Aldana, President of IBBY



The Queen of Denmark at the opening of the Congress



Siobhan Parkinson, Valerie Coghlan and Vagn Plegn, IBBY Denmark

The core congress lectures and seminars were held in fine style in the Radisson hotel. Parallel sessions included Freedom of Speech in Children's Books, Literary Awards, Children's Literature and Socialization and many others focusing on the conference theme of 'Stories in History – History in Stories'. As at all large congresses, the interest level and quality of the presentations varied widely, but most delegates reported hearing several excellent papers. The major congress addresses were unfailingly stimulating. The prize for the most entertaining address goes to the Pakistani–Canadian writer Rukshana Khan with her amusing, yet deeply serious response to the famous 'Danish cartoons' controversy, which still rankles on both sides; Denmark's own world-renowned children's literature expert, Professor Torben Weinreich gave a most engaging and accessible paper; but for depth, analysis, sparkle and sheer humanity, the Brazilian Hans Christian Andersen laureate, the writer and illustrator Ana Maria Machado's address came away ahead of the rest as the most inspiring and satisfying lecture on the importance of children's literature not just for children, but for humanity and for the planet. The Hans Christian Andersen Awards were presented on the opening night to Roberto Innocenti for illustration and to Jürg Schubiger for writing. IBBY Honour Book certificates were presented

during the conference; the IBBY Ireland delegates were delighted that one of their nominees, Siobhán Parkinson, whose *Something Invisible* was the selected novel, was present to collect her certificate.

IBBY Ireland delegates were assiduous in attending the IBBY General Assembly and IBBY Forum at which members of national sections broke into regional groups to discuss ways in which they could co-operate together. IBBY Ireland has recently twinned with IBBY Zimbabwe, and the presence of Keith Munyengeterwa, Chair of IBBY Zimbabwe, gave the Irish contingent an excellent chance to get to know something of the work that the Zimbabwe section has planned and to discuss how IBBY Ireland could assist with this.

Participation in a congress is important for an IBBY national section. It provides an opportunity to become more closely acquainted with the work of 'big' IBBY and to meet and learn from other IBBY members all over the world. It is inspiring too to hear the winners of the IBBY Asahi Awards talk about their projects; this year both winners, from Laos and Rwanda, reflected the need for children of the world to have access to literature in their own languages. The 2010 congress will take place in Santiago de Compostela. A lively presentation at the closing banquet about the delights ahead, sent delegates home, buoyed up with the prospect of setting off for Galicia (in northern Spain) in two years' time.

IBBY Ireland news:

Green Gables to Globalization: Crossover, Canada and Children's Literature. Report by Marian Keyes.

On Saturday 18th October, iBbY Ireland celebrated Children's Literature with a distinctively Canadian flavour at the Church of Ireland College of Education in Rathmines. Three eminent speakers travelled especially from Canada to join a number of Irish speakers, participating in what proved to be a thoroughly stimulating and enjoyable day.

Irene Gammel, a leading authority on Anne of Green Gables and author of the recent '*Looking for Anne: How Lucy Maud Montgomery Dreamed Up a Literary Classic*', outlined the extensive celebrations taking place throughout Canada to mark the centenary of Montgomery's enduring and lovable character. She spoke of the many faces of Anne of Green Gables and how they were heavily influenced by her reading of Sunday School magazines and glossy women's magazines found in her grandmother's home in Prince Edward Island. Further information about the exhibition *Anne of Green Gables: A Literary Icon at 100*, curated by Gammel can be found at <http://www.ryerson.ca/mlc/anne/inside3.htm>.

Following on from Irene's presentation, the audience enjoyed 3 short presentations by Kieran Fanning, Martina Siefert and Brian O'Neill. Kieran spoke of Robert Cormier who was of Canadian descent and spent most of his life in French Hill, a community of French Canadian immigrants in Leominster, Massachusetts. This sense of place was crucial to Cormier's novels and Fanning discussed the intensity of religious iconography in his publications for young people, the sense of alienation, of belonging yet not belonging so evocative of adolescence. Martina took us on a roller coaster ride with 'The Short Ones', alleged folk heroes of the rugged Canadian wilderness translated recently to wide acclaim for a German audience. It made for a fascinating and hilarious story, where the author, translator and illustrator joined forces to create this simulacrum of a reality that never actually existed in the first place! Brian O'Neill demonstrated the leading role that Canada plays in global media education for young people. He interspersed footage of that father figure of media theory, Marshall McLuhan and demonstrated a number of invaluable websites for teachers, parents and all involved with education, see for example <http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/index.cfm>



Éilís Ní Dhuibhne receiving her IBBY Honour Book Certificate from Valerie Coghlan and the Canadian Ambassador.



Jorid Lindberg, Patricia Kennon and Martina Seifert at the conference reception



Irene and Jean-Paul Gammel

After a delicious lunch and much browsing through the book fair hosted by International Education Services, the audience returned to hear Sandra L. Beckett's talk on 'Crossover Fiction and Border Crossings in a Globalized World'. Her recent publication '*Crossover Fiction*' is a pioneering study of this topical subject area and she spoke of the blurring of boundaries as to what constitutes adult and children's literature. Generating plenty of discussion and questions afterwards, the significance of the crossover phenomenon is undoubtedly wide-reaching but as Beckett pointed out, there was in fact a very long tradition of literature enjoyed by audiences of all ages. As author Siobhán Parkinson mentioned in her introduction to the final speaker of the day, there really was no need to introduce him as every single speaker so far at the conference had already alluded to his work! It was clear that Tim Wynne Jones' excellent reputation preceded him and his talk was indeed inspirational. Speaking of the importance of place in his own work and that of other Canadian writers, he looked at how books help us to venture out into the world. Stories break down borders and are a passport to imagine ourselves into another landscape.

Valerie Coghlan, President of iBbY Ireland brought the conference to a close by inviting the Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, His Excellency Patrick Binns, to say a few words and all adjourned to a reception at the Book Fair. While the audience enjoyed wine from Prince Edward Island, sponsored by the Canadian Embassy, the President of iBbY Ireland and the Canadian Ambassador presented awards to Irish authors. These included the 2008 iBbY Honour Book Awards to Éilís Ní Dhuibhne and Siobhán Parkinson and the 2008 iBbY Hans Christian Andersen Certificate to Kate Thompson. Please visit www.ibbyireland.ie to see further photos and to experience some of the flavour of the conference and we thank all who attended for contributing to the success of the day.

Upcoming conferences and call for papers relating to children's literature:

CONNECTIONS: Children's Literature and Culture will be the 1st All-Ireland Symposium of The Irish Society for the Study of Children's Literature (ISSCL) on 22nd November in the Seminary Room, 18 College Green, Queen's University, Belfast. This free conference, hosted by the School of Languages, Literatures and Performing Arts in Association with the Institute of Irish Studies at Queen's University Belfast, will involve presentations on current new research from established academics, post-doctoral researchers and PhD scholars in children's literature across the island and a round table discussion on current directions in the study of children's literature in Ireland. Author Colin Bateman will also be talking about his latest work. If you would like to book a place, please see www.isscl.com for further details.

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There is a special issue of *The Nathaniel Hawthorne Review* planned on Hawthorne's children's literature and on his fiction which includes children as protagonists or his non-fiction which refers to children. Topics of interest may include the following: theories of pedagogy and/or child-rearing; Hawthorne and Sophia as parents; reception of Hawthorne's children's stories;

children at play, children at war; tolerant/intolerant children; Hawthorne's children's literature as a vehicle of social critique/ social protest; childlike adults (i.e., Dimmesdale, Clifford, Donatello); children in/and history; history of illustrations in Hawthorne's children's literature; gender roles in his children's stories. Contact Monika Elbert, Incoming Editor of the *Nathaniel Hawthorne Review* by mid December at elbertm_at_mail.montclair.edu. Completed essays of 5,000-6,000 words would be due by 15 February 2009.

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A conference dedicated to the work of the fantasy writer, Diana Wynne Jones, will take place on 3rd, 4th and 5th July 2009 at the University of the West of England, Bristol. Papers on any and all aspects of the writing of Wynne Jones and her influence and influences are welcomed for submission. Papers on fan activity, TV and film adaptations are also welcome. The deadline for 300-word proposals is 31st January 2009. For more information contact Charles Butler and Farah Mendlesohn at <http://www.charlesbutler.co.uk/dianawynnejonesconference.html>

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The conference 'Asterisks and Obelisks: Greece and Rome in Children's Literature' will take place at the University of Wales Lampeter from 6th-10th July 2009. This conference will be the first major conference on receptions of classics in children's literature. Abstracts (up to 300 words) are invited for papers (20 or 40 minutes) on any aspect of the reception of classics (broadly construed: Greek and Roman texts, myths, culture, history, etc.) in children's literature. Contributions will range from broader papers addressing issues specific to reception in children's literature, to readings focussing on particular texts and receptions. Please send abstracts to helen.lovatt@nottingham.ac.uk; please give full name and title, institution, provisional title of the paper, and specify whether a 20 or 40 minute paper. Relevant topics could include: what have been the roles of children's literature in contributing to the broader awareness of the Classical world, from the beginning of children's literature to the present? What makes something 'children's literature', 'teen fiction' etc? (Why) is literature less likely to be studied by literary scholars and taken seriously by literary critics and commentators if it has such labels? Is there anything inherently 'childish' in the appeal of myths or other aspects of the Classical world?

Recent award-winning children's books:

The Canada Council for the Arts today announced the finalists for the 2008 Governor General's Literary Awards. The awards are in the categories of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, children's literature (text and illustration) and translation. The following books won the awards for best children's fiction:

Alma Fullerton's *Libertad*; John Ibbitson's *The Landing*; Dianne Linden's *Shimmerdogs*; Shenaaz Nanji's *Child of Dandelions*; Mariko Tamaki's *Skim*.

The awards for best children's illustration were given to: Isabelle Arsenault's *My Letter to the World and Other Poems*; Josée Bisailon's *The Emperor's Second Hand Clothes*; Matt James' *Yellow Moon, Apple Moon*; Stéphane Jorisch's *The Owl and the Pussycat* and Kim LaFave's *Shin-chi's Canoe*.

The winners will be announced on Tuesday 18th November and more information may be found on www.canadacouncil.ca

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The American National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) has awarded the 2008 Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children to *M.L.K.: Journey of a King* by Tonya Bolden (Abrams Books for Young Readers). NCTE, through the Committee on the Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children, established the annual award to promote and recognize excellence in the writing of nonfiction for children. For more information about the Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children, see www.ncte.org.

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Louise Rennison has been crowned as the winner of The Queen of Teen Award. Under-18-year-olds nominate and vote for their favourite female author of teenage fiction. Other nominees were Cathy Hopkins, Cathy Cassidy, Meg Cabot and Jacqueline Wilson. More information about the award can be found at www.queenofteen.co.uk

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The winners of the 2007 UK Booktrust Early Years Awards were announced at a ceremony at BAFTA on 27 September. An interactive board-book, *Tucking in*, by Jess Stockham won the Baby Book Award, Polly Dunbar's *Penguin* was the winner of the Pre-School Award while Emily Gravett won the Best Emerging Illustrator Award with *Monkey and Me*. Children's Laureate Michael Rosen launched Booktrust's new picture book campaign, The Big Picture, at the ceremony.

The campaign aims to put picture books back in the public eye and find the best new illustrators in the UK: <http://www.booktrusted.co.uk/news/index.php4?newsid=34>

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Nearly 5,500 young poets across the world submitted poems for the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2008. The judges announced the winners on National Poetry Day, 9th October, where one hundred poets were awarded with the title Foyle Young Poets of the Year 2008. The Award was organised by The Poetry Society to discover young poets (aged 11-17) and help them develop their talents. You can read the winning entries at

<http://www.poetrysoc.com/content/competitions/fyp>

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6 writers have been shortlisted for the £60,000 Dylan Thomas prize (which aims to help young writers develop their talents without financial pressures). The list includes Caroline Bird's *Trouble Came to the Turnip*, *Blood Kin* by Ceridwen Dovey and Edward Hogan's *Blackmoor*. Winners will be announced on 10th November. You can find out about the shortlist at

<http://www.thedylanthomasprize.com/>

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Patrick Ness has won the prestigious £1,500 Guardian Children's Fiction Award for his book *The Knife of Never Letting Go* - a novel which traces the journey of 12-year-old Todd Hewitt in a world where thoughts are audible. The book beat Jenny Downham's *Before I Die* Frank Cottrell Boyce's *Cosmic* and Siobhan Dowd's *Bog Child*.

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The Irish-language book, *Dialann Sár-Rúnda Amy Ní Chonchúir* won a prize in the Oireachtas awards yesterday in the category fiction for teenagers, The Irish language Book of the Year *Gradam Réics Carló* was announced at last weekend's Oireachtas in Cork. The winner was *An Phleist Mhór*, written by Ré Ó Laighléis and Susan Edwards. The other two titles on the shortlist were *Fáinne Fi Fíifí* and *An Oíche Dhorcha*.

Is iad An Cléireach, urscéal suite sa 17ú Aois le Darach O Scolaí, agus An Phleist Mór, leabhar do phaistí ó pheann Susan Edwards agus Ré O Laighléis, buaiteoirí móra na bliana seo ag Gradaim Leabhair na Bliana. D'fhograíodh buaiteoirí na gradaim is mó luach - agus is mó tóir - ag ócáid in Oireachtas na Gaeilge ag am lón inniu Déardaoin. Tá duais chiste suntasach ar fáil do bhuaiteoirí na ngradam seo - is fiú €10,000 don fhoilsitheoir agus €5,000 don údar Gradam Uí Shuilleabháin agus tá duais €7,000 ar fáil d'fhoilsitheoir bhuaiteora Ghradaim Reics Carló agus €3,000 don údar sa chás sin. Is cinnte go mbeidh an gabhar á róstadh ag Leabhar Breac agus Moinín anocht de thoradh luach saothair an lae inniu as a gcuid oibre sa ghort litríochta Ghaeilge. Ina oráid roimh bhronnadh na ngradam, dúirt an tOllamh Alan Titley go raibh tabhacht i gconáil le leititheoireacht agus gur ghá tacaíocht a thabhairt don earnáil foilsitheoireachta má tá uainn an Ghaeilge a choimead beo agus beathach san am atá le teacht.

Upcoming events relating to children's literature:

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Libraries will be hosting the Animal Magic Roadshow in the following libraries during Science Week in November: Cabinteely Library - Thursday, 6th November at 4.30pm; Dalkey Library - Friday, 7th November at 10am; Deansgrange Library - Thursday, 6th November at 3pm; Dundrum Library - Thursday, 6th November at 12pm; Dun Laoghaire Library - Friday, 7th November at 3pm; Sallynoggin Library - Friday, 7th November at 12pm; Shankill Library - Thursday, 6th November at 6.30pm; Stillorgan Library - Thursday, 6th November at 10am. Please call DLR Library HQ on 01-2781788 for further details.

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Following a successful national tour, The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children is delighted to present Mandscape, the ground-breaking visual arts project for children, schools and families this autumn. Mandscape features artworks depicting urban and rural landscapes where mankind is present or has left a trace.

Over four weeks, children aged 3+ and their families can access contemporary visual art and develop their imagination through an exhibition, interactive art space and workshops led by professional artists. Public workshops will run each Saturday and Sunday until 16 November. The exhibition is free to visit, and free tours are also available for booking on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:30pm. A panel discussion involving Martin Drury, Arts Director at the Arts Council, Founding Director of The Ark and curator of Mandscape; Catherine Marshall, Touring Experiment Visual Arts Advisor from the Arts Council and artists from the Mandscape network will be held on Wednesday 12 October at 4pm. Mandscape runs from 21 October to 16 November at The Ark. For further information and booking call 01.6707788 or see www.ark.ie

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The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators First Writer's and Illustrator's Conference will take place on 22nd and 23rd November in London. Barry Cunningham (*Chicken House*), Geraldine McCaughrean (*White Darkness, Peter Pan in Scarlet*), Lee Weatherly (*Child X, Glitterwings*), Tim Bowler (*River Boy, Bloodchild*), Ben Sharpe (DFC Comics), Chris Wormell (*The Big Ugly Monster and the Little Stone Rabbit*) will be attending. See <http://britishscbwi.org/events.htm#festivals> for more information.

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Children's Books Ireland (CBI) and Irish Book Publishers' Association (CLÉ) invite all publishers, authors and illustrators to attend a special forum examining publishing for children in Ireland. The event will be a unique opportunity to explore current issues and trends in the sector. The forum will take place between 2pm and 5pm on Thursday 27th November in Pearse Street Library and Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. Seamus Cashman will chair a panel discussion which will include Seosamh Ó Murchú (*An Gúm*), Michael O'Brien (*The O'Brien Press*), Eoin Purcell (*Mercier Press*) Conor Kostick (author and former chairperson of the Irish Writer's Union) and Mary Esther Judy (*Dubray Books, Galway*). Contributions from the floor will be an important part of this forum. To confirm your attendance please contact Mags Walsh in CBI – 01 8727475, or email mags@childrensbooksireland.ie

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You are all very welcome to attend the monthly meeting of the Irish branch of the Society Children's Books Writers and Illustrators on 29th November in CBI, 17 North Great George's Street at 2:30 p.m. Sine Quinn, an editor from O' Brien Press and Adrienne Geoghan, a writer and illustrator will be making presentations.

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CBI and the National Library of Ireland will be presenting illustrator PJ Lynch in conversation with Dr Pat Donlon on Monday 8th December at 6.30pm in The National Library of Ireland, Dublin 2. The library will also host an exhibition of selected pieces by PJ from its collection. Places must be reserved in advance. Please email info@childrensbooksireland.ie or telephone 01-8727475

Co-ordinator of newsletter: Dr Patricia Kennon
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