



# Newsletter

Volume XVI Issue I

Spring 2009

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## President's Message

**Dr. Adrienne Kertzer**

A few months ago we launched a new and improved ChLA website. One of the strengths of the redesign is that it provides more information regarding the work of our many committees. Each committee now has its own page with a brief description of the committee's function and a list of its current membership. A more detailed account of each committee's duties can be found in the *Policies and Procedures Manual*, and elsewhere on the website you will find the many grants and awards that could not be adjudicated without the work of numerous committee members. You will also find information about our two journals, *Children's Literature* and *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, links to the *Phoenix Award Papers* and this *Newsletter*, which you may, in fact, be reading in its online form. On the Announcements link you will find evidence of some of the Executive Board's work since the Fall: the successful appointment of a new editorial team led by Kate Capshaw Smith who will soon replace Richard Flynn as editor of the *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*; our advertisement for future conference hosts; and, of course, our first electronic election, whose results are provided on page 8 in this newsletter.

Another aspect of the redesign is the posting of the documents that govern our association. Under the Governance link, you will find our *Constitution and Bylaws*, our *Policies and Procedures Manual*, our *2007-2012 Strategic Plan*, and the draft minutes of our Annual Membership Business meeting. Each of these documents would not exist without the dedication of many ChLA members, but I want to take this opportunity to highlight the roles played by two individuals: the *Policies and Procedures Manual* was recently revised under the leadership of Martha Hixon; the five-year *Strategic Plan* is a document produced by the Strategic Planning Committee chaired by Roberta Trites. Roberta's committee is now engaged in developing five-year plans with four ChLA committees: Membership, Publicity, Diversity, and International. Martha and Roberta are exemplary in the contributions that they both make to ChLA, and I thank them both.

The redesign also signals our commitment towards providing a history of ChLA in that we have posted a list of past presidents and Carol Gay's history of the first ten years of the association. The next step will be finding an institutional home for our archival records. By the time you read this, we anticipate that our Archive RFP will have produced several proposals that will help us find such a home.

By the time you read this, you will also have received registration information for our annual conference, June 11-14, in Charlotte, North Carolina. The conference organizers, Mark West and Paula Connolly, truly want to make this conference the best of the three that have taken place in Charlotte, and what I know about their plans suggests they will indeed succeed.

It has been traditional for past presidents to note the arrival of spring in their spring presidential messages, but no signs of spring were evident this morning as I plugged in the block heater of my car in anticipation of the low of -28 degrees Celsius forecast for tonight. I look forward to seeing you in Charlotte, where the conference promises to be marvelous and the weather is guaranteed to be better than it is today in Calgary. Have a great spring whenever it arrives.



*The Best of  
Three*

June 11-14,  
2009

*University of North Carolina at Charlotte*

36th Annual Children's Literature Association Conference

# The Best of Three

University of North Carolina at Charlotte - Charlotte, North Carolina

## WELCOME TO CHARLOTTE

The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Literature Association Conference will take place in uptown Charlotte, NC, from June 11-14. This will be the third Charlotte conference, and this one promises to be the best of the three. The conference will kick off with a welcoming reception that will take place in the Levine Museum of the New South in uptown Charlotte.



Levine Museum of the New South



Daniel Shealy

## FEATURED SPEAKERS

Daniel Shealy, an internationally recognized expert on Louisa May Alcott, will deliver the Francelia Butler Lecture. Titled "The Three Sisters of Louisa May Alcott" this lecture will delve into the history of the Alcott family. Dianne Johnson, a preeminent scholar in the field of African American children's literature and an author of numerous books for children, will deliver a plenary presentation titled "My Three Interwoven Worlds: Creativity as Writer/Teacher/Mother."



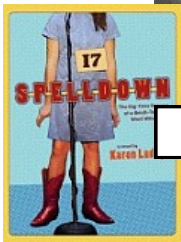
Dianne Johnson

## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

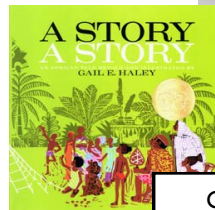


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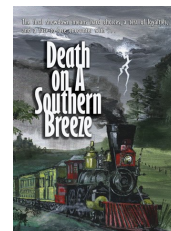
Other highlights include the opening of a special exhibit of African American dolls; the showing of two silent Oz films accompanied by a live piano performance featuring rag time pianist Ethan Uslan; a dance featuring the legendary band Spongetones; and a reading by three children's authors - Gail E. Haley, Mark de Castrique, and Karon Luddy - whose children's books deal with the history of the South. The conference will also include a large book sale and a book signing. Participants will have many opportunities to hear some of the best and most recent scholarship in the field of children's literature studies.



Karon Luddy



Gail E. Haley



Mark de Castrique



[www.english.uncc.edu/bestofthree/](http://www.english.uncc.edu/bestofthree/)

# Children's Literature and Media

**June 10-12, 2010 - Eastern Michigan University - Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor, MI**

Many texts from various media now constitute children's culture: novels, picture books, and poetry as well as video games, text messages, Facebook, television shows, and films. It is important that we expand our understanding of these child-oriented cultural forms and media platforms. Doing so expands the way we define and analyze children's culture and, hopefully, provides new critical tools by which to understand children's books. This conference, the 37th Annual Children's Literature Association Conference, therefore seeks to illuminate the broader electronic children's culture within which children's literature exists and thus highlight the multivalent, dialectical relationship between literature and other media written for younger readers, viewers, and consumers.

## Some suggested topics follow, but other ideas are welcome and encouraged:

- History of genres such as children's film, television, video games, computers, picture books
- Discussions of particular shows, child stars, games, films, web texts, or works of children's or young adult literature
- Digital spaces: public spaces, virtual bodies, the on-line child/the child on-line
- Hypertexts: Cell phone text messaging, YouTube, MySpace, Facebook, blogs, web sites
- Ratings and Children's Media; funding for children's television; censorship of children's media
- Teaching children's media; literacy and the media
- Media as contemporary folklore; electronic orality; the urban myth on-line
- How has electronic media affected the form and content of children's books? How have books been altered or adapted into other forms? How do author web sites or other ancillary materials affect the way we read a work of literature? How have developments in print technology affected children's texts?
- Children's media and literature and gender or sexuality; images of race, ethnicity, nationality and/or social class in children's media and literature; global media and literature; images of children around the world
- Issues of adaptation: books into films, games and toys; or films, games and toys into books

Send 300-500 word paper proposals to  
Annette Wannamaker and  
Ian Wojcik-Andrews at  
[chla2010@emuenglish.org](mailto:chla2010@emuenglish.org)

**Deadline  
15 Jan 2010**

For more information and conference  
updates go to  
<http://chla2010.emuenglish.org>



### 2010 Francelia Butler Lecture: Margaret Mackey

Margaret Mackey is a Professor in the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta in Canada. She has published widely on the subject of young people and their literature and media; much of her research invites the participation of young people themselves. Her most recent book is *Mapping Recreational Literacies*, published by Peter Lang in 2007.



## MLA 2008 Review: Summary of Panels and Papers Presented

In an effort to provide more information about the work happening in connection with the Children's Literature Association, we are including a new feature in the Spring Newsletter. Past practice included sending out the call for papers for MLA in the Fall issue of the Newsletter, which will continue. The Spring issue of the Newsletter reported names of chairs and panelist with paper titles. This year we have decided to ask the chairs for a summary of each paper in their panel, providing a more informative narrative about discussions within our field that occur at MLA. We welcome feedback for this new addition to the Newsletter and send our thanks to the chairs of the panels for writing the summaries below.

### Princess Culture Industry

Co-Chairs: June Cummins and Catherine Tosenberger

Panelists discussed many depictions of the "princess" figure in contemporary literature, media, and culture for girls. Each of the presenters provided important insights into the marketing of princess culture to young people, and opened up several fruitful avenues of research into girls' culture in general.

Crystal Benedicks (Wabash College), "The Princess and the Policeman: Negotiating Gender and Power in Fairy Tales": Dr. Benedicks, analyzing the obsession many young girls have with emulating princesses, argued that the princess model incorporates both complicity and resistance as desirable traits. The promulgation of the princess icon throughout popular culture suggests doubly that girls should view themselves as superior and exceptional and at the same time should bow to prescribed gender roles. These doubled messages result in complicated and perhaps irreconcilable representations that girls today are still forced to negotiate.

Natalie Wall (University of Calgary), "Revisiting the Exotic: Manipulating the Postcolonial Princess in Western Discourse": Ms. Wall examined the ways in which Disney films that feature princess figures from non-Western cultures attempt to both "market and domesticate the exotic"; in addition, she argued that these films often present the heroine's culture as the chief obstacle to her success. A highlight of the presentation was her use of clips from Disney films such as *Aladdin*, *Mulan*, and *Pocahontas* to illustrate her arguments.

Lisa Orr (Utica College), "Disney Princesses, Barbie Princesses: 70s Feminism vs. Mid-Century Nostalgia": Dr. Orr described the strategies the Mattel company has used in developing and marketing its line of Barbie/Princess movies - six, full-length feature films since 2001. As compared to Disney, Mattel presents a more "feminist" princess who seems pitched to appeal to today's parents who came of age in the '70s when traditional princess qualities and Disney were being questioned. The success Mattel has had with their Princess line reveals a somewhat surprising mix of progressivism and commercialism.

Helen Pilinovsky (California State University-San Bernardino), "Passive Princesses? Perversions of the Fairy Tale Form in Princess Culture": Dr. Pilinovsky discussed the startling changes that the princess culture industry has made to traditional fairy tales. While the fairy tales of the 18<sup>th</sup> century French salon writers featured princesses who used their social position to enable activities that would have been impossible for women of lesser rank, later iterations of these stories robbed these princesses of their agency and autonomy; it is these passive forms that are the dominant narratives in the princess culture industry.

- - Co-editors Tammy Mielke and Jennifer Miscek

### Return to Prince Edward Island: *Anne of Green Gables* at 100

Chair: Michelle Ann Abate

This panel examined the past place, present status, and future importance of L. M. Montgomery's classic novel as it marked the centennial of its publication. Below, each of the four panelists provided an overview of their individual paper presentations.

In "The Domestic Artist and the Creation of the Family in *Anne of Green Gables*: Making Twenty-first Century Readers at Home in the Victorian," Kathleen A. Miller (University of Delaware) suggested that by prefiguring constructions of the modern family, Montgomery makes readers quite literally "at home" in the Victorian by way of her twentieth-century construction of domestic spaces and relationships, as well as her assertion of modern values such as advocating female domestic and social artistry.

Next, in "The Problem Novel Then and Now: Using *Anne of Green Gables* in the Contemporary Young Adult Literature Classroom," Fiona Paton (State University of New York at New Paltz) argued for the continuing relevance of Montgomery's novel, despite (or perhaps because of) the increasing emphasis on social issues such as drug use, pregnancy, abuse, and violence in young adult fiction. While Anne Shirley may seem irrelevant to teenagers today, her character provides a salutary reminder of qualities that should endure from one generation's childhood to another. Paton also suggested ways of teaching the novel in the contemporary college classroom.

Meanwhile, in "A Return to the Wild," Val Czerny (Florida Atlantic University) described *Anne of Green Gables* as a narrative unearthing "wild consciousness," where borderland, or "lunatic," thinking creatively celebrates the symbiosis between the "real" and the imagined. In tune with the enduring *zoë*-life, Anne, disengaged from chronological time, is a "woman-child" - an ancient crone - who agelessly initiates new consciousness, teaching us to avoid the danger of being abandoned by the wild by discovering how to become responsive to it.

Finally, Irene Gammel (Ryerson University, Toronto) gave the paper, "From Formula Fiction to Girls' Classic: *Anne of Green Gables*, Fashion Magazines, and Sunday School Writing." Starting with Roland Barthes's premise that each text is "a tissue of quotations," this presentation uncovered the long-lost and unacknowledged sources that shaped *Anne of Green Gables* including two magazine stories, "Lucy Ann" and "Charity Ann." These Anns without the E ultimately reveal how Anne came by her E.

### Children's Literature and the Legal System

Chair: Ramona Caponegro

This panel offered two different looks at the ways in which legal systems in novels for children and young adults address concerns not only about the law but also about the larger societies in which these laws exist. Rebecca Skidmore Biggio (West Virginia University) presented "Re-Reading Insurrection: Pauline Carrington Bouvé's *Their Shadows Before*," a historical-cultural reading of a fictional account of Nat Turner and his rebellion as narrated by Penelope Winston, a prepubescent white female. Writing for an adolescent audience, Bouvé connects the violence of slavery at the time of the book's setting in 1831-1832 with the violence of the lynch mobs and the legal manipulations that threatened the 14th and 15th Amendments at the time of the book's publication in 1899. Biggio also emphasized Bouvé's subversive decision to use a relationship between an African American man and a Caucasian girl to explore questions and definitions of violence, as well as the law's different responses to violent acts.

In "Children and the Ill-Used Judicial System in E. Nesbit's *Railway Children* and *The Magic City*," Anna M. Blanch (Baylor University), described the ways Nesbit's social philosophies influenced her portrayals of the legal system in two of her most popular books. *Railway Children* (1906), a work of domestic realism in which the protagonists' father is wrongfully imprisoned, allowed Nesbit to respond obliquely to the resolution of the Dreyfus Affair, which ended when Alfred Dreyfus was officially exonerated of treason in 1906, as well as to other court cases involving issues of political freedom. Several years later, in *The Magic City* (1910), a work of fantasy, Nesbit explored the inaccessibility of legal terminology for many citizens, as well as the inconsistencies and arbitrariness of the portrayed judicial system. Blanch located both Nesbit's political ideologies and her desire to enlarge children's social consciousness in these novels. Following these excellent presentations, audience members engaged the presenters with questions about Nesbit's and Bouvé's other works and political beliefs, as well as their representations of legal systems and justice.

### Children's Literature and Disability

Co-chairs: Jennifer M. Miskec and Keith Dorwick

This panel was committed to exploring representations of differing abilities and disabilities in Children's and Adolescent Literature. The interpretation of what constitutes disability as well as the individual scholars' approaches were varied, and what resulted was a diverse and provocative panel.

In her presentation "Kissing the Normal Boy: Disability, Heteronormativity, and the Affective Labor of Lurlene McDaniel's Dawn Rochelle Series," Julie Passanante Elman (New York University) analyzed the logic of compulsory able-bodiedness in Lurlene McDaniel's Dawn Rochelle Series (1985-2001) in order to trace how pursuing traditional femininity and a heteronormative romance with able-bodied boys is equated with health, normality, and coming-of-age. Considering the relationship between reading practice and content, Elman also argued that the affective labor of "teen sick-lit" - its incitement and manipulation of sadness and fear in readers - performs a cultural and biopolitical function in defining adolescence, normal/abnormal teen bodies and "healthy" emotions.

Abbye Meyer (University of Connecticut) argued that K.L. Going's *Fat Kid Rules the World* (2003), Carolyn Mackler's *The Earth, My Butt and other Big Round Things* (2003), and Brian Francis's *Fruit* (2004) support goals of the Fat Acceptance Movement; however, all three novels implicitly further problematic assumptions of Western society by characterizing fatness as voluntary and by associating fatness with shame, mental illness, self-absorption, and a lack of self-control.

Finally, in her paper "Working-Class Childhood and Children's Hospitals in Mid-Nineteenth Century Children's Literature," Katharina Boehm (King's College London) investigated the representation of pediatrics as an emerging medical discipline in middle-class children's literature of the 1850s and 1860s. Boehm's paper concentrated in particular on the first English hospital for sick children, the Great Ormond Street Hospital in London, which contemporary writers turned into the emblem of both the scientific and social mission of pediatrics at the mid-nineteenth century.

### Children's Literature and War

Chair: Karin Westman

This well-attended panel featured four papers exploring the intersection of children's literature and WWII. In "Momotaro, or the Peach Boy: Japan's Best-Loved Folktale as National Allegory," David Henry (University of Michigan) discussed how, from the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95 to the end of World War II, the Momotaro tale became a central metaphor for Japanese overseas aggression, appearing in national language readers, children's literature, ethnographic studies, and animated film. Henry concluded by noting how the tale's appropriation as a military metaphor is representative of the state of modern Japanese children's literature in general during the interwar period. In "The Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima: Whose Story is It?" Reade Dornan (Michigan State University) compared multiple representations of Hiroshima in image and text to show how America's suppression of the story about the A-Bomb's destruction is countered by representations of Hiroshima from countries in Europe and Asia. In "'An Entrance to Nowhere': Children's Understandings of War in Susan Cooper's Fiction," Lee Talley (Rowan University) argued that knowledge of war, forged in moments of trauma, is often inaccessible, baffling, and enervating in Cooper's realist fiction - an experience that Cooper conveys in her use of the uncanny. Finally, in "Ghosts, Gremlins, and Fantasy in Children's Blitz Fiction," Kristine Miller (Utah State University) showed how the gremlins, ghosts, witches, and wardrobes of children's war literature create spatial distance or mark temporal distance from wartime trauma, thereby describing obliquely a reality often too horrible to confront directly.

## New Editorial Staff at the *Quarterly*

Beginning this summer, the *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* will be administered by a new editorial staff with offices housed at the University of Connecticut. Katharine Capshaw Smith will serve as the new editor. Capshaw Smith writes the following of her role as editor: "As the publication that consistently issues the most innovative work in the field of children's literature, the *Quarterly* has enriched and inspired a generation of scholars, myself included. My own editorial perspective focuses on inclusivity, which is the key component of my vision regarding the *Quarterly*. As the journal representing the intellectual interests of a diverse organization of scholars and educators, the *Quarterly* has an obligation to issue scholarship on a range of topics and from various theoretical perspectives. Quite simply, I will seek to publish the best scholarly pieces and will not lead the journal along particular pathways. I stand in deep admiration for the work of previous Editors, particularly that of Richard Flynn and Roberta Seelinger Trites, and pledge to continue the tradition of rigorous, wide-ranging scholarship for which the *Quarterly* is known."

### Editor:

Katharine Capshaw Smith has been an Associate Editor of the *Quarterly* for five years, and has co-edited the "Cultural Pluralism" column of the *Quarterly* since 2001. She and Donnarae MacCann co-edited a special issue of the *Quarterly* on Caribbean and African Children's Literature in Fall 2005, and Smith also edited for *Children's Literature* a "Forum" of four essays on Trauma and Children's Literature which appeared (with an introduction) in 2005. With Margaret R. Higonnet, Smith co-edited a special issue of *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States* on Ethnic American Children's Literature in 2002. At present she is on the Editorial Boards of *The Lion and the Unicorn* and *The Journal of African American Children's Literature*. She was also Contributing Editor for the *Heath Anthology of American Literature* (5th edition, 2006); in that capacity she was able to advocate for the inclusion of Caribbean American writers who address child audiences as well as adult, like Edwidge Danticat. Her current scholarly work includes editing the collected poetry (both for children and adults) and political writings of Bessie Woodson Yancey, sister to black historian Carter G. Woodson. Her publications include a monograph, *Children's Literature of the Harlem Renaissance* (2004), winner of the ChLA's Book Award, peer-reviewed articles (appearing in *Children's Literature*, *The Lion and the Unicorn*, *African American Review*, *Midwestern Miscellany*, *Southern Quarterly*, and others), and peer-reviewed book chapters.

### Associate Editors:

Kenneth Kidd has served as an Associate Editor of the *Quarterly* for five years. In addition, he co-edited, with Sidney Dobrin, *Wild Things: Children's Culture and Ecocriticism* (Wayne State, 2004), and has a forthcoming co-edited collection with Michelle Abate, *Over the Rainbow: Queer Children's Literature*. His additional editorial experience with journals includes editing the Forum "Outing Dumbledore" in the *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* (Summer 2008), editing a special issue on Sexuality and Children's Literature for *The Lion and the Unicorn* (September 1999), and editing a special issue on Lesbian/Gay Children's Literature for the *Quarterly* (Fall 1998). He is on the Advisory Board of the *Journal of Narrative Theory* and the Editorial Boards of *The Lion and the Unicorn* and *Thymos: Journal of Boyhood Studies*. He is the author of the monograph *Making American Boys: Boyology and the Feral Tale* (2004), many peer-reviewed articles (appearing in *Children's Literature*, *The Journal of Children's Literature Studies*, *The Lion and the Unicorn*, *The Looking Glass*, and others), and peer-reviewed book chapters. An Associate Professor of English, Kenneth is also the Associate Director of the Center for Children's Literature and Culture at University of Florida.

Anne K. Phillips, a past president of the Children's Literature Association, has rich experience in a variety of editorial capacities. Recently she co-edited a special issue of *Children's Literature* on Louisa May Alcott (2006); she has had a long track record of working with the annual, since she co-edited an issue in 1993 and served as an Editorial Associate for the journal during the early 1990s. Anne also co-edited a special issue of *The American Nature Writing Newsletter* (1995) on Children's Literature and the Environment. In addition to the annual's 2006 special issue, Anne's most significant editorial accomplishments have been on Alcott: she co-edited the *Norton Critical Edition of Little Women* (2004) and *The Louisa May Alcott Encyclopedia* (2001). She is the author of several peer-reviewed articles (appearing in *Children's Literature*, *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, and *The Lion and the Unicorn*) as well as pedagogical publications. An Associate Professor at Kansas State University, Anne has won several teaching awards and will bring her sensitivity to pedagogical issues to her work as an Associate Editor of the *Quarterly*.

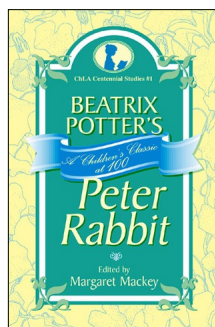
Lynne Vallone, Professor of Childhood Studies at Rutgers University, co-edited *The Norton Anthology of Children's Literature* (2005), and the collections *Virtual Gender: Fantasies of Subjectivity and Embodiment* (1999) and *The Girl's Own: Cultural Histories of the Anglo-American Girl, 1830-1915* (1994). Lynne edited the special issues "Children's Literature and New Historicism" for *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* (Fall 1996) and "Forgotten Authors: Challenges to Literary History" for *The Lion and the Unicorn* (Winter 1997). She is the author of *Becoming Victoria* (2001) and *Disciplines of Virtue: Girls' Culture in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries* (1995). She has published many peer-reviewed articles (appearing in *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, *Children's Literature*, *The Lion and the Unicorn*, *Papers*, *College Literature*, *the Journal of Children's Literature*, and others) and peer-reviewed book chapters. Lynne is the Chair of Rutgers's Center for Children and Childhood Studies.

The new editors are now soliciting submissions for upcoming issues.

Inquiries and correspondence should be directed to the *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, Dept. of English, 215 Glenbrook Road, Unit 4025, University of Connecticut, Storrs CT 06269-4025. Capshaw Smith can be reached at [chlaq@uconn.edu](mailto:chlaq@uconn.edu). For submission guidelines and further information, see the journal's page at [www.childlitassn.org/chla\\_quarterly\\_journal.html](http://www.childlitassn.org/chla_quarterly_journal.html).

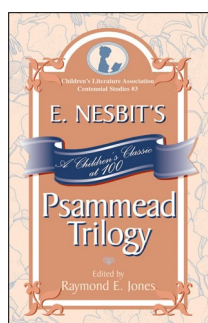


## Children's Literature at 100: ChLA Centennial Series



Thirteen essays explore the timeless appeal of Peter's antics, and the impact of this extraordinary book on children worldwide. Contributors, each a respected scholar in the field of children's literature, examine details of Potter's life, her history as an artist, her accomplishments as a naturalist, and the contextual factors affecting her writing and illustrations. Others investigate the timelessness of this story, exploring its psychological and sociological truths and comparing Peter Rabbit to present day literature.

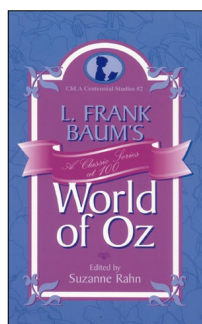
EDITOR: Margaret Mackey



The essays collected in this volume celebrate the completion of the Psammead trilogy. These essays employ differing critical strategies and place Nesbit in various contexts to assess her achievement. In producing books with memorable comic moments, character-testing adventures, plausible child characters with real feelings and real limitations, and interesting and challenging thematic material, Nesbit produced in the Psammead trilogy books that children still read with enjoyment. Such fantasies truly are classics of children's literature. Teachers and students of children's literature and of British literature and culture will find this a valuable guide to critically reviewing and enjoying Nesbit's works.

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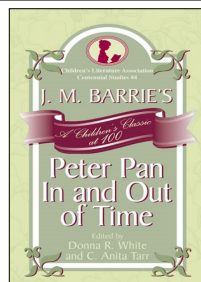
EDITOR: Raymond E. Jones



Although L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was published one hundred years ago, literary critics and historians continue to discover new approaches to the fantastic world of Oz. The second in a new series of anthologies sponsored by the Children's Literature Association, this collection of essays represents some of the most interesting of these new approaches.

Beginning with a glance back over the entire history of research and commentary on the Oz books, this work is organized in three main sections. Essays in the "Origins of Oz" examine Frank Baum's personal history and unlock the mystery of one of the most bizarre episodes in the Oz books. "The World of Oz" looks at three very different aspects of Baum's world: its concept of home and family, its sense of humor, and its relationship to its young readers. "Oz on Screen" features both the silent films Baum produced himself and MGM's classic movie *The Wizard of Oz*.

AUTHOR: Suzanne Rahn



Celebrating 100 years of Peter Pan, this fourth volume in the Centennial Studies series explores the cultural contents of Barrie's creation and the continuing impact of Peter Pan on children's literature and popular culture today, especially focusing on the fluctuations of time and narrative strategies. This collection of essays on Peter Pan is separated into four parts. The first section is comprised of essays placing Barrie's work in its own time period.

Part two features an essay on Derrida's concept of the grapheme, and uses it to argue that Barrie is attempting to undermine racial stereotypes. The third section explores Peter Pan's timelessness and timeliness in essays that examine the binary of print literacy and orality; Peter Pan's modular structure and how it is ideally suited to video game narratives; the indeterminacy of gender that was common to Victorian audiences, but also threatening and progressive; Philip Pullman and J.K. Rowling, who publicly claim to dislike Peter Pan and the concept of never growing up, but who are nevertheless indebted to Barrie; and a Lacanian reading of Peter Pan arguing that Peter acts as "the maternal phallus" in his pre-Symbolic state. The final section looks at the various roles of the female in Peter Pan, whether against the backdrop of British colonialism or Victorian England. Students and enthusiasts of children's literature will find their understanding of Peter Pan immensely broadened after reading this volume.

THE EDITORS: C. Anita Tarr and Donna R. White

### ChLA Centennial Series Call for Papers

#### MARY GRANT BRUCE AND

#### THE AUSTRALIAN CLASSIC "BILLABONG SERIES"

Mary Grant Bruce (1878-1958) is best remembered for her series of fifteen novels referred to as the "Billabong" series, written between 1910 and 1942. These works portray adventurous child protagonists, dynamic portrayals of family/friend interactions, and mesmerizing presentations of Australian bush life.

This paper call seeks proposals on a variety of topics specifically related to the Billabong series, for a collection of scholarly essays to be considered for publication as part of the Children's Literature Association/Scarecrow Press Centennial series. Respondents are invited to consider as proposal examples, any of the following topics: portrayals of play and adventure; gender roles (both conformity to, and independence from traditional roles); emotional and physical isolation as seen in bush life; dispute mediation in family/friend relationships; economic issues and effects upon children and adults; concepts of domestic/environmental space; attitudes toward, and treatment of wildlife; stereotypical portrayals of Australian Aboriginal people and other minority groups; the presentation and role of food in the series; concepts of work and work ethic; conceptual frameworks of male/female education; the romance of the natural Australian setting. Other topics related to the series will also be considered. Theoretical approaches are particularly welcome.

Proposals should be 1-2 pages in length and are due no later than **July 1, 2009**. Respond to:

**Dr. Karen Patricia Smith,**  
89 North Broadway, Unit #117,  
White Plains, New York 10603

Or, you may e-mail Dr. Smith at: [alice31smith@optonline.net](mailto:alice31smith@optonline.net)

## Results of the 2009 ChLA Election of Officers, Board and Committee Members

### Vice-President/ President Elect

Michael Cadden

### Treasurer

Jackie Stallcup

### Executive Board

Jackie C. Horne

Jennifer Miscek

Annette Wannamaker

### Anne Devereaux Jordan Award Committee

Martha Hixon

### Article Award Committee

Michael Joseph

Anita Tarr

### Book Award Committee

Elizabeth Goodenough

Catherine Tosenberger

### Diversity Committee

Karen Chandler

Debbie Reese

### International Committee

Jane M. Gangi

Erica Hateley

Claudia Mills

### Phoenix Award Committee

Christine Jenkins

Judith Plotz

## Anne Devereaux Jordan Award - Call for Nominations

The Anne Devereaux Jordan Award is intended to honor the lifetime achievement of an individual whose scholarship and service have had a significant impact on the field of children's literature scholarship. The award is not restricted to ChLA members or to those whose work has benefited the Association specifically. The award may be given posthumously.

To nominate someone for the Anne Devereaux Jordan Award, send a letter that explains the person's accomplishments and contributions to children's literature scholarship to: Anne Devereaux Jordan Award Committee, Children's Literature Association, P.O. Box 138, Battle Creek, MI 49016 or by email to Kathy Kiessling ([kkiessling@childlitassn.org](mailto:kkiessling@childlitassn.org)).

Nominations must be received no later than October 15, 2009. Although nominees are considered annually, there may be years in which no award is given.

### **Hannah Beiter**

### **Graduate Student Research Grants**

Amanda K. Allen, Ph.D. Candidate,

University of Alberta

Rebecca Anderson, Ph.D. Candidate,

Illinois State University

Abbie Ventura, Ph.D. Candidate,

Illinois State University

## ChLA Research Grant Recipients

### **Faculty Research Grants**

**Michelle Abate**, Assistant Professor of English, Hollins University  
Book Project: *Help! Mom! I'm Being Indoctrinated: Children's Literature, the American Political Right, and Millennial Popular Culture*

**Alisa Clapp-Itnyre**, Associate Professor of English, Indiana University, Richmond  
Book Project: *Nineteenth-Century British Children's Hymnody: Re-Tuning the History of Childhood with Chords and Verses*

**Donelle Ruwe**, Associate Professor of English, Northern Arizona University  
Book Project: *Writing for the Child 1780-1830: British Women Writers and Romanticism*



The following Association awards will be presented at the 2009 conference awards banquet:



### Anne Devereaux Jordan Award

Elizabeth Keyser

### Article Award

Winner: Jackie Horne for  
"The Power of Public Opinion:  
Constructing Class in Agnes  
Strickland's *The Rival Crusoes*."  
*Children's Literature* 35 (2007).

Honor Article: Kenneth Kidd for  
"Prizing Children's Literature:  
The Case of Newbery Gold."  
*Children's Literature* 35 (2007).

### Book Award

Winner: Kimberley Reynolds for  
*Radical Children's Literature: Future Visions and Aesthetic Transformations in Juvenile Fiction*.  
Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

Honor Book: Clare Bradford for  
*Unsettling Narratives: Postcolonial Readings of Children's Literature*.  
Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2007.

Honor Book: Joseph T. Thomas, Jr. for  
*Poetry's Playground: The Culture of Contemporary American Children's Poetry*.  
Wayne State University Press, 2007.

### Carol Gay Award

Erica Wnek for "The Transformation of the School Story"  
(sponsored by Michael Joseph at the Rutgers University Libraries)

### Graduate Student Essay Awards

PhD level award: Robin Hoffman for  
"Holiday House, Childhood, and the  
End(s) of Time"  
(sponsored by Marah Gubar at the  
University of Pittsburgh)

Master's level award: Naomi Lesley  
for "Solar Systems and Power  
Systems: Decentering the  
Naturalized Universe in The Planet  
of Junior Brown"  
(sponsored by June Cummins at San  
Diego State University)



### Phoenix Award

Winner: Weetzie Bat  
(HarperCollins, 1989) by  
Francesca Lia Block  
Honor Book: *Lucie Babbidge's  
House* (Crowell, 1989) by  
Sylvia Cassedy

### International Sponsorship Grant

Odete Burgeile and Ana Maria G.  
C. Aguilar, for their paper,  
"Children Literature and the  
Indigenous Culture Revitalization  
in the Inclusive School."

The Children's Literature Association  
is delighted to announce that all issues  
of

*Children's Literature*  
and

*Children's Literature Association Quarterly*  
are now available through The Johns  
Hopkins University Press online  
collection, *Project Muse*.

See <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/>

The current and back issues of the  
*ChLA Newsletter* are now available online  
at the ChLA web site.

## Communicating with ChLA

ChLA Administration: **Kathy Kiessling**  
([kkiessling@childlitassn.org](mailto:kkiessling@childlitassn.org))

ChLA, P.O. Box 138,  
Battle Creek, MI 49016-0138.  
Phone: 269-965-8180, fax: 269-965-3568

On the Internet: **[www.childlitassn.org](http://www.childlitassn.org)**

In Print:

*ChLA Quarterly* Editor: **Katharine Capshaw Smith**  
([chlaq@uconn.edu](mailto:chlaq@uconn.edu))

Children's Literature Association Quarterly,  
Dept. of English, 215 Glenbrook Road, Unit 4025,  
University of Connecticut, Storrs CT 06269-4025

*Children's Literature* Co-Editors:

**Julie Pfeiffer** ([jpfeiffer@hollins.edu](mailto:jpfeiffer@hollins.edu))

**Michelle Ann Abate** ([mabate@hollins.edu](mailto:mabate@hollins.edu))

Department of English,  
Hollins University, Roanoke, VA 24020

*ChLA Newsletter* Co-Editors:

**Tammy Mielke** ([tmielke@uncc.edu](mailto:tmielke@uncc.edu))

**Jennifer Miskec** ([miskecjm@longwood.edu](mailto:miskecjm@longwood.edu))

Check out the latest on the ChLA Website!  
[www.childlitassn.org](http://www.childlitassn.org)

Children's Literature Association  
P.O. Box 138  
Battle Creek, MI 49016-0138

