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## ITALY

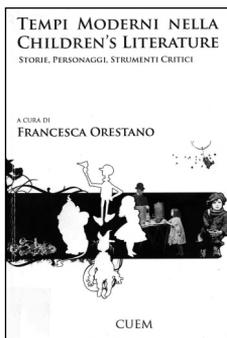
FRANCESCA ORESTANO (ED)

***Tempi moderni nella children's literature. Storie, personaggi, strumenti critici***

[Modern times in 'children's literature'. Stories, characters, literary-critical tools]

(Series: LIMC 5)

Milan: CUEM 2007 225pp ISBN 9788860011206 €14



A continuation of *Le guide del mattino. Alle origini della 'children's literature'* [The morning guides. On the origins of 'children's literature'], this volume of collected essays is devoted to the study of modern British children's literature.

The editor, professor of English at Milan State University and since 2007 host of an English-language website on the study of children's books in Italy (<http://users.unimi.it/childlit/>), brings together eight contributions by Italian Anglicists. The period of the Enlightenment is represented by the essay 'Puer oeconomicus', which looks at work, wealth, and social rise in 18th-century narrative children's literature, and by Giulia Margon's article on Sarah Fielding's *The Governess, or The Little Female Academy* (1749), the first British novel to be published specifically for girls. Matteo Crivelli's contribution on scientific phenomena and issues in Lewis Carroll's Alice novels is followed by four essays on famous protagonists of children's books from the Victorian era to the present: Winnie-the-Pooh, Mary Poppins, Harry Potter and, in Orestano's essay, child protagonists in 19th-century urban novels. An annotated bibliography of British children's literature from the beginnings to the postmodern present completes the volume, which, thanks to its

broad thematic and historic scope, succeeds in uncovering the intellectual and cultural roots of British children's literature.

Elena Kilian

## JAPAN

OKIKO MIYAKE (ED)

***Picture Books in Korea. A Collection of Essays / Symposium 'Picture Books in Korea and Japan'***

Suita: International Institute for Children's Literature,

Osaka 2006 321pp no ISBN ¥2000 Multilingual edition:

Japanese, Korean, English



The present trilingual edited volume offers an excellent overview of Korean picturebook art, which has been attracting growing international interest. In the first section, Korean and Japanese specialists present the

history of Korean illustration from the beginnings to the present day. Okiko Miyake's opening essay sketches the historical background: Japanese colonisation, following the demise of the Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910), the Korean War and the following military dictatorship, which lasted until 1996, all suppressed traditional Korean culture. Only within the context of democratisation and economic recovery did South Korea slowly recover its cultural identity. Today, young artists, trained in Western art, struggle to get back in touch with their cultural heritage. This desire is manifest in many recent picturebooks and lends them a unique charm. In his essay, Osamu Nakamura analyses Japanese translations of Korean originals focusing on differences in quality between

the original and the translated text, the difficult translation of idioms and phrases particular to the Korean language, and the problem of the lack of knowledge of the cultural background.

The second section features renowned picturebook artists such as Seung-gak Chung (South Korea) and Seizy Tashima (Japan) who look back on their artistic development,

comment on their styles and techniques, and share their views of art and social commitment.

The volume comprises illuminating contributions on the characteristics of Korean picturebook art and its producers that are bound to inspire further explorations of this burgeoning art form.

*Fumiko Ganzenmüller*

## UNITED KINGDOM

KIMBERLEY REYNOLDS

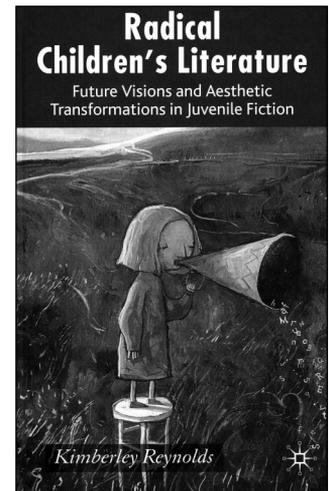
### ***Radical Children's Literature. Future Visions and Aesthetic Transformations in Juvenile Fiction***

Basingstoke [et al]: Palgrave Macmillan 2007 xi+215pp ISBN 9781403985613 £45

In this groundbreaking study, the British professor of children's literature Kimberley Reynolds sets out to contradict the opinion voiced by some earlier critics that writing for children is a conservative form of literature that defies any kind of modernist influence. In the first chapter, the author prepares the ground for her argument by discussing some of the points laid down in two influential critical works published in the 1980s, Jacqueline Rose's *The Case of Peter Pan or The Impossibility of Children's Fiction* (1984) and Juliet Dusinberre's *Alice to the Lighthouse. Children's Books and Radical Experiments in Art* (1987).

In contrast, Reynolds concludes that, quite frequently, 'textual experiments are given their first expression in writing for children'. Focusing mainly on contemporary English-language children's books from different countries, Reynolds then analyses a variety of themes (such as fear, sexuality and trauma), and genres (eg nonsense literature, picturebooks and problem novels) to demonstrate that children's literature, in its traditional form as well as in modern media, 'is both a breeding ground and an incubator for innovation'. The wide range of texts discussed and the new insights offered into the interplay of children's literature with childhood and youth culture will make this book an indispensable study for children's literature scholars.

*Claudia Söffner*



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