

International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts (Children's Division)

The 25th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 24-28 March 2004. Papers on all aspects of the fantastic are welcomed. This year's theme is "The International Fantastic," and details can be found at our website <<http://www.iafa.org>>.

The ICFA has a thriving children's science-fiction and fantasy division. We particularly welcome papers in this area and hope also that the division will be able to contribute to the overall theme of the international fantastic. Papers on children's fantasy and science-fiction written outside the Anglo-American world are especially solicited this year.

Please send queries to Dr. Farah Mendelsohn, Division Head, at the following e-mail address: farah3@mdx.ac.uk.

Children's Literature and the Literary

Session at the Modern Language Association's annual meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 27-30 December 2004. Sponsored by the MLA Children's Literature Division.

In recent years, children's literature studies has increasingly explored children's material and popular culture, embraced critical models from cultural studies, and expanded its concerns to include interdisciplinary childhood or children's studies models. In light of the changes in children's literature studies and literary studies in general, this panel seeks to explore the role of literariness in children's literature. Is literariness still a meaningful concept? How do we define the literary in our discussions of children's texts? How does the history of children's literature studies, such as the struggle to get English departments to recognize children's literature as "literature" rather than "sub-literature," continue to inform our critical theory and practice? What do "literary" criteria have to offer children's cultural studies, and what does children's cultural studies have to offer children's literature?

Papers are invited that explore these questions or related ones. Both discussions of the role of the literary as it relates to children's literature's disciplinary status and discussion of specific texts are encouraged.

Please send detailed abstracts to Richard Flynn, Department of Literature and Philosophy, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA 30458-8023; e-mail: rflynn@gasou.edu. Deadline: 1 March 2004. Panelists must be members of the MLA by 1 April 2004.

Reading Children

The English department of Jadavpur University in Kolkata will host an international conference from 11 to 13 December 2003 to consider the entire range of texts written for children as well as the presentation of children in other texts. Given that the venue is a department of English in India with interests in book history, areas of special focus will include encounters between European and Indian children's texts (circulation, reception, interaction, adaptation, translation); the presentation of Europe in Indian and India in European texts for children; production (including such matters as design and illustration), publishing, and circulation of children's texts. Special sessions will be devoted to these issues.

Other areas covered will include (but need not be restricted to) school texts and other educational writings; imaginative literature for children; writings by children; children's periodicals; the presentation of children in "adult" literature; children's reading habits and demands. The focus will not be on the analysis of texts per se but on the role of such texts in social formations and transactions. The conference will explore the ways in which texts shape the concepts of "childhood" and "the child."

Intending participants are invited to submit synopses (not exceeding one A4 page) of their papers by 15 August 2003. Papers should be of a duration of 30 to 45 minutes. The full paper need not be submitted in advance.

Participants must arrange and fund their own travel to Kolkata. (Limited funds may be available for travel within India.) Jadavpur University will provide local hospitality. Intending participants are requested to let the organizers know whether they require the university to make arrangements for their stay.

All enquiries and correspondence to
Professor Sukanta Chaudhuri, Conference Director
Department of English, Jadavpur University
Kolkata 700 032, India
Fax: (+91-33) 2413-7903
Email: prantik1@vsnl.com