



Dear Readers,

This is the first issue of *Libri & Liberi: Journal of Research on Children's Literature and Culture*, the official publication of the Croatian Association of Researchers in Children's Literature (CARCL). *Libri & Liberi* is a peer-reviewed academic journal which focuses on various topics in children's literature and young adult literature, on their wider cultural contexts, and on their intercultural contacts in literature and the media. The journal hopes to facilitate thought exchange among Croatian and international scholars, to support interdisciplinary approaches and intermediality, to inspire younger researchers, and to develop further the field of literary studies which has recently been on the rise in the Croatian context. *Libri & Liberi* publishes contributions in Croatian, English and German.

The journal was planned in 2010, when CARCL was founded, but its development really started during 2011. Hoping to emphasise our serious scholarly orientation in its name, we favoured Latin, as the language which for centuries guaranteed not only scholarship, but also the possibility of knowledge exchange in a wide world of learning. We chose the name *Libri & Liberi*, meaning *Books and Children*, i.e. *books and children of the free*, certain that children indeed are free in the world of children's literature, and that children's literature, just as literature in general, opens up new horizons, offers other perspectives, releases creativity, and reveals new territories we freely roam, free ourselves.

Our project has gained great support in the international academic community. Scholars from all over the world have joined the Editorial Board. Their invaluable individual contributions include various editorial jobs, from reviewing and proofreading, to discussing conceptual issues, which shaped the initial idea of the journal and influenced its contents. A good example of our cooperation is the vivid discussion on the journal sections.

The regular sections are *Papers*, *Reviews* and *Events*. *Debut Paper(s)*, a subsection of *Studies*, calls attention to articles written by young researchers who are presenting their results to the academic community for the first time. Scholars from different fields are invited to contribute a piece on children's literature in the section *Guest Author*. Other sections to appear on the pages of individual issues of *Libri & Liberi* are: *Interview*, providing the words of people who have contributed to the fields of children's literature and culture; *Reprinted Paper(s)*, featuring new printings of old articles that are difficult to obtain; *Translated Paper(s)*, with

translations into English or Croatian of relevant articles originally published in other languages; *Dusty Covers*, including examples of early children's literature or other culturally relevant works of various kinds; and *Fact File*, which includes documents, timelines, biographies, bibliographies and other material useful for the various aspects of research on the history of children's literature and culture and related fields.

We owe gratitude to several colleagues who gladly offered their expertise and work in the process of establishing *Libri & Liberi*. Antonija Balić Šimrak is responsible for its modern and fresh design; Mark Davies gave invaluable advice and proofread several texts; Bojan Marotti was our adviser for Latin; Bruno Gulin, our diligent webmaster, created the journal web page <www.librietliberi.org>.

I also wish to express our immense gratitude to Archaeopress (Oxford, UK) and to Monting – Inženjering d.o.o. (Zagreb, Croatia) for their donations which have made the publication of the first issue possible.

The appearance of *Libri & Liberi* coincides with the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of the first course on children's literature in Croatian higher education. *Libri & Liberi* aims to continue such development. Therefore, we are very happy to be able to publish a paper on this topic on the first pages of the new journal. I hope you will find this, and all the other contributions, worthy of attention. Each has been prepared with the great enthusiasm and engagement of everyone involved.

The experience of establishing *Libri & Liberi* has been marked by an exceptionally friendly and cooperative atmosphere. This issue is truly the result of mutual cooperation and joint efforts of the members of the Editorial Board, authors, all the colleagues who peer-reviewed individual manuscripts, and many others. I do hope some of that spirit and joy with which the journal has been prepared can be recognised. I also hope that you, our readers, will find *Libri & Liberi* interesting and useful. Your comments and feedback will be precious to us. Please also feel welcome to offer your papers for publication in *L&L*.

Finally, I wish *Libri & Liberi* a long life and many intriguing and inspiring pages. If only a spark of the initial enthusiasm is preserved, we can look forward to its future.

Editor-in-Chief