

Uz pretisak objavljujemo rječnik manje poznatih riječi, bilješku o autorici, kao i kratak zapis živih uspomena autoričinih rođakinja na „tetu Slavu“ i njezinu iznimnu osobnost.

U nadi da ćete se i svojim radovima pridružiti dijalogu o ovim i drugim aktualnim temama, unaprijed se radujem budućoj suradnji.

*Smiljana Narančić Kovač*



Dear Readers,

The first issue of the second volume of *Libri & Liberi*, the third in a row, presents papers that refer to various European cultural, artistic and literary contexts in connection with works of children's and young adult literature.

The section *Studies* opens with Bettina Kümmerling-Meibauer's research on the influence of major exhibitions of children's books from the early twentieth century on the awareness of the importance of visual-art aspects of books for children and of children's artistic education, as well as on the appearance of avant-garde children's literature. Andrijana Kos-Lajtman presents a description and a literary analysis of the newly found manuscript of the first two chapters of *Jaga-baba na Haliču*, written by the great Croatian writer and celebrated children's author Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić. The narrative is related to the contexts of the author's biography and of her interest in Slavic mythology. The next paper also starts from Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić's works. Kristina Giacometti compares the literary worlds of her *Croatian Tales of Long Ago* with the worlds of the modern fairy tales written by the contemporary author Nada Iveljić, and establishes differences between the literary fairy tale and fantasy, considering them as related, but still different kinds of narratives. Oxane Leingang examines autobiographical elements in young adult novels of the Russian writer Anatolij Pristavkin, with special emphasis on the author's own traumatic experiences from World War II presented in his fiction. Marnie Campagnaro focuses on the interpretation of the characters of *Our Ancestors*, a trilogy by the renown Italian author Italo Calvino, interpreting the protagonists of his novels as embodiments of the basic attributes of human nature, and their quests as examples of the search for personal identity during the process of maturation. She discovers the literary and educational value of Calvino's trilogy in his preferences for the unusual and different.

In addition to the regular sections *Book Reviews* and *Events*, this issue also includes the section *Dusty Covers*, which offers the reprint of the forgotten Croatian picturebook *The School Inspector's Children*, originally published in 1919 and reprinted in 1924. The text, a narrative poem, was written in Kajkavian dialect by the Croatian author Krstoslava (Slava) Franić, and the illustrator is unknown, although a clue is left by a pen name. The little book appeals with its humour, originality and subversiveness, as well as with the crossover narrative explicitly offered both to adult and child readers. The facsimiles of the book are accompanied by a glossary of less known words, a note on the author and her work, and a short account of her relatives' vivid memories of "Aunty Slava" and her exceptional personality.

I hope that you will also join the dialogue on these and other relevant topics by sending us your own papers. I am looking forward to our future exchange of thoughts and cooperation.

*Smiljana Narančić Kovač*