

SUMMARY

Volume Nine of *Children's Readings* is dedicated to the studies of Tove Jansson's narratives about Moomintrolls. The scholarship dedicated to this famous Scandinavian author (1914–2001), who was recognized as a classic for children's literature of the XXth century, is full of gaps and omissions. A significant amount of responses to her books that were translated into Russian in pedagogical literature overpowered the study of this author's aesthetics and her stories' literary value. Thus, this particular volume is called to present a new phase in the scholarship of this author and her work. Scholars present in this volume are participants of the International Conference, "Philosophical Experience of Children's Literature: Moomintrolls and Others", that was organized in celebration of Tove Jansson's centennial. Those authors represent different branches of the humanities from philosophy to philology and cultural studies, thus demonstrating different approaches to the subject of their research.

This section is introduced by *Sergei Troitskii's "Introduction to Moomintroll Studies and their Development in Russia"*.

This publication is an introduction to the collection of articles dedicated to the investigation of Tove Jansson's narratives about Moomintrolls. Troitskii provides a brief history of Jansson's publications in Russia and discusses different aspects of scholarship of her Moomintroll series and their place in Western and Russian literary and cultural studies.

Keywords: Tove Jansson, history of publications in Russia, Western and Russian literature, cultural studies.

Agneta Rehal Johansson, "System of Ethics and Artistic Methods in Tove Jansson's Stories on Moomintrolls"

The focus of this article is on the analysis of the system of ethics that was incorporated into the series of Moomintroll novels. Johansson investigates the interconnectedness of Tove Jansson's relationship toward her characters and the principles she uses in depicting them in the text. The analysis is based on the final addition of eight Moomintroll novels that was completed by Jansson during the period 1969–1970. Based on those texts, Johansson suggests that the relationship between the author and her characters could be identified as "emotional-axiological" (Bakhtinian term). It means that Jansson does not favor any character over another, based on their competing characteristics and attitudes. This scholar noticed the typical destruction of traditional hierarchy of values

that is expressed through this lack of preference and she stresses the employment of grotesque, as well as, author's voice of naïve narrator as the most important devices employed by Jansson.

Keywords: Tove Jansson, Moomin series, ethics, grotesque, Bakhtin, naïvaté.

Xenia Bogun, "Mother-centrism as Main Principle of Challenging Fears in Tove Jansson's Tales"

The author demonstrates the underlying causes that define the content of anti-phobial discourse of Tove Jansson's Moomin series. The leading device that drives this discourse is based on *mother-centrism* in the narrative. This principle is made more concrete through sophiological, soteriological, and sacral functions in the character of Moomin-mama. *Mother-centrism* is also marked by its connection to multi-layered cultural and religious theocentrism. Separate inclusions — fragments of ancient Greek mythology, biblical allusions, and ascetic practices of good intentions — support this scholarly argument.

Keywords: ontology, fear, eschatological motifs, anti-phobial practices, sacralization, heirophany, theocentrism, *mother-centrism*.

Bengt Lundgren, "The Candid Moomintroll Learns about Life: Intertextual Relations between Moomin and Voltaire's Candide"

This article draws a parallel between Tove Jansson's Comet in Moominland (1946), and Voltaire's satirical novella *Candide*, or *Optimism* (1759). The author of the article points out how the adventures in the Moomin story in interesting ways mirror those of *Candide* and his companions. Lundgren lets us accompany Moomintroll and the little animal Sniff while they are learning about the world, threatened by disaster. The journeys of *Candide*, allowing him to get a perspective on the human condition, serve as an intertext which, according to the author, might broaden our view of the Moomin characters.

Keywords: comparative literature, intertextuality, Paradise, heroes, Tove Jansson, Voltaire, philosophy of humanism.

Kuisma Korhonen, "Looking through the Eyes of the Groke"

In this article, the author examines the character of Groke — the singular antagonist in the Moomintroll series, and puts forward different interpretations of this character. Special attention should be turned to the focalization analysis employed in Jansson's texts, which allows for the Groke's image to be seen as a projection of different complex phenomena: from political events to Tove Jansson's private experiences. In conclusion, the author argues that these interpretations are not exhaustive.

Keywords: Tove Jansson, Moomin, groke, Finnish and Swedish literature, loneliness, homosexuality.

Ekaterina Levko, "Characters, Images, Objects and Methods for their Selection in Tove Jansson's Tales"

This article examines the kinds of functions that the images of objects partake and the realities of everyday life in the Moomintroll's universe. The author

of this article argues that by changing the images of homely objects in the fantasy world of Moomintroll, Tove Jansson gives the fantasy world of Moomintroll a special coziness and makes her style highly recognizable. It is also shown that some objects play a crucial role in the presence of artistic detail when developing images of various characters.

Keywords: children's literature, Tove Jansson, Moomintroll, artistic detail.

Yaroslava Nikova, "Wartime Fairy Tales: Yuji Kokko's 'Pessi and Illusia' (1944)"

This paper examines the features of Finnish children's literature from the years of World War II, particularly from Yuji Kokko's "Pessi and Illusia" (1944). The author allots special attention to the poems written and their place in the cultural and historical context.

Keywords: fairy tale, Finnish children's literature.

The sub-section of the volume, entitled "*Research and Materials*," denotes the historical retrospective that introduces the domestic pedagogical and literary criticism with the works of Scandinavian children's literature. The creativity of Nordic authors is eminent in the review of the Russian periodicals from the late 19th century to the early 20th century, which includes material aimed toward children. Not only does it draw critical interest from readers, their books caused a lively response in the literary and pedagogical press as a whole. From this section, the readers will be introduced to the article by Victor Rodnikov, the contributor of the pedagogical journal, *Harold of Education*, who discussed the works of Selma Lagerlöf and the new approaches to children's literature. This article was published in 1913. Another addition to this section is the anonymous review of the Finnish author, Zachris Topelius, that was published in 1898 in the literary magazine, *Harold of Foreign Literature*.

The articles that follow include writings by *Maria Akhmetova*, *Evgeniia Lekarevich*, and *Valerii Dymshits*.

Maria Akhmetova, "Anti-Utopia in Children's Literature: Fyodor F. Knorre's 'Captain Krokus' (1967)"

This article analyzes the fantasy tale, "Captain Krokus" (1967) by F. F. Knorre as a text, written in the anti-utopian genre. The author first identifies motifs and themes which are typical of this genre; then, allusions and quotes from concrete works (*Fahrenheit 451* by R. Bradbury); and finally, reminiscences related to certain topics (conditional "Western", national-socialist, and Soviet). Special attention is allotted to the reflection of the struggle against the fairy tale in the early Soviet educational practices. Knorre's narrative appears to be the text aimed at the dual audience because of subtexts targeting an adult reader.

Keywords: anti-utopia, Knorre, Bradbury, Chukovskii, Kogan, literary allusions, children's literature, struggle against the fairy tale, dual audience.

Evgeniia Lekarevich, "Mass Culture for Teenagers: Anti-Utopia"

The focus of this article of this article is exploration of various aspects of publishing, distribution, and criticism of dystopian fiction aimed at young adults. This genre enjoys high popularity within this specific readership. The author comments on the genre specifics, terminology, as well as, issues of publishing and distribution of these works. This study highlights the differences between domestic and western versions of the genre. Commercial strategies of local Russian publishers are analyzed as well. In addition, the author provides a list of young adult dystopian novels that are circulated in Russia.

Keywords: young adult dystopian fiction, genre specifics, domestic and western terminology, commercial strategies, issues of distribution and circulation.

Valerii Dymshits, "Lev Kvitko's Poems for Children in Russian Translation"

Poetic works of the Yiddish poet, Lev Kvitko, in their Russian translation occupy a prominent place within Soviet children's poetry. His poems were translated by such renowned children's authors as, Samuel Marshak and Sergeii Mikhalkov. The article is focused on the comparative analysis of the most popular translations against their Yiddish originals. The main objective of this article is to illustrate common principles and strategies applied to Soviet children's poetry in translation. Stylistic analysis of particular poems will reveal the most important stepping stones in the formation of this literary phenomena.

Also this volume presents the summary of two recent conferences: *Valentin Golovin* from the Center of Children's Literature Research (St. Petersburg, Institute of Russian Literature) shares an overview of the special seminar on "Educating the New Reader" that focuses on 150 years of the formation of the children's literature critique canon. He also describes the contribution made by the special session on children's literature critique at the International Forum, "Children's Literature as an Event," (Moscow, MSPU). *Marina Balina* (Illinois Wesleyan University) provides a review of the *42nd Annual Conference of the American Children's Literature Association*, "Give me Liberty or Give me Death," (Richmond, Virginia, 2015).

The section entitled *Reviews* is completed volume Nine of *Children's Readings*. It consists of articles by *Maria Litovskaya*, who analyzes the book of Irina Glushchenko "The Drummers and Spies. The Marseillaise of Arkady Gaidar" (Moscow, HSE Publishing House, 2015).