OUTSIDE IN: Children's Books in Translation

The idea for *Outside In: Children's Books in Translation* resulted from working in collaboration with Siân Williams, organiser of the Children's Bookshow. When the theme of Children's Writers in Translation was decided for the 2005 Bookshow, Edgardo Zaghini (my co-editor) and I saw this as an ideal opportunity to bring children's books in translation to the forefront of public attention by producing a book that would tie up with the Bookshow. Milet Publishing expressed great enthusiasm for the project and agreed to publish the book and, in partnership with the Children's Bookshow and support from Arts Council England, the idea of ***Outside In*** became a reality.

The aim of *Outside In* is to celebrate and actively promote an interest in the rich tradition and culture of international children's literature. Translated literature should be able to break down barriers of geography, language and race as well as developing a greater tolerance and understanding of other people's beliefs. Learning about other cultures is an enriching experience opening up new horizons and stimulating ideas.

With only a small percentage of children's books translated into English in the UK, the profile of children's literature in translation needs to be increased. *The Marsh Award for Children's Books in Translation* has done a lot to raise awareness in this area, but there is much more that needs to be done. *Outside In* hopes to act as a further catalyst and attract the support needed to assist in this endeavour.

Outside In includes over 170 reviews of books that are available in English in the UK. The selection covers an age range from under 5 to 14+ and includes picture books, fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels and dual-language books. Philip Pullman has written the foreword and there are articles on topics that will help stimulate the debate surrounding the subject of translation, including why there is a British problem in the translation of children's books expounded by Nicholas Tucker. Award winning translator and author Sarah Adams, writes about the experience of translating the *Golem* books and Lene Kaaberbol identifies some of the problems of being translated and of being a translator. Other articles cover teaching an MA module on children's literature, bilingual books, different publishing perspectives and classic European literature in translation.

There are a great many wonderful books out there waiting to be brought to an UK audience. I hope that *Outside In* will go some way to encourage publishers to identify gaps in this area and to translate more children's literature.

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