

## ENGLISH SUMMARY

The Swedish Institute for Children's Books publishes Barnboken – Children's Books – semiannually. It contains articles and essays on children's literature by specialists in the field, and provides information on reference books and theoretical works recently published and acquired by the library of the Institute.

Anna Karlskov Skyggebjerg: *The fantastic tale in children's literature. Genre and subgenres*

This article comprises a theoretical discussion and an inclusive definition of the fantastic tale in children's literature. A distinction is drawn between two traditions within the genre: a content-orientated epic tradition and a language-orientated, experimental tradition.

Ingrid Boström: *On religion and world view in role playing games*

Role-playing games can be seen as oral, collectively told tales. Religion is used as an aesthetic dimension in these leisure time activities, in which myths and religiosity constitute frames for the plot. These stories fit into the "fantasy culture" and are retold to a larger audience through literature, computer games and films. Religion for fun.

Barbara Knockenhauer: *Through the wardrobe and into the world of the fantastic: E.T.A. Hoffmann's The Nutcracker and the Mouse King (1816) and C.S. Lewis' The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (1950).*

The motif of a wardrobe which serves as a door to the world of the fantastic is generally familiar from C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (1950), but can be seen as early as in the story of *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* (1816) by E.T.A. Hoffmann. This

article discusses differences and similarities between the texts, focusing on the actual passage through the wardrobe and on the world on the other side of it, as portrayed by each author.

Martin Hellström: *The world in a tin and the city of boxes – a study of the use of packaging in children's literature*

This is a study of the characteristics of the packaging of children's literature. A tin or a box, items from the "real world" of adults, may incite the imaginative processes of children, and are things they enjoy playing with. However, they can also contain criticism of how we are impacting on our environment and of the way we live together.

Ulrika Ramstrand: *What adventures should be allowed? The Brothers Lionheart and the critics*

In this article Ulrika Ramstrand analyzes how the book *Bröderna Lejonhjärta* (*The Brothers Lionheart*) by the famous author Astrid Lindgren was received by the critics in Swedish newspapers during the months after it was released in 1973. This fairy tale about good and evil was published at a time when children's books were supposed to be realistic and preferably political. Most of the critics were exceedingly positive but there were some very negative reviews as well.