

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.

Alvar Wallinder: *National funding for the publication of literature for children and young people – a retrospective*

National funding for the publication of literature has been enshrined in Swedish policies on culture and the arts since 1975. Working committees at the Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs are the fund-granting bodies. Intensity, complexity and originality are among the key terms used in decision-making. In recent years the question has arisen as to whether the committees should provide written citations regarding their decisions about funding. Studies have been made, and indicate clearly that funding for the publication of literature has been of major importance regarding the publication of literature for children and young people and has had tangibly positive effects in terms of both quality and diversity.

Tobias Hübinette: *Adoption from a Korean and a Swedish perspective*

This is a comparative study of Korean and Swedish books for children and young people on the subject of international adoptions of children from Korea and Korean adoptees. The study finds that this genre of literature arose, firstly, at different points in time in the two countries, that the Korean and Swedish books for children and young people on this subject, secondly, represent different interests, and, finally, that the ideologies expressed in the various books differ from one another. The study concludes that

in recent years the genre of "adoption literature" in both countries has become more differentiated and diversified.

Elina Druker: *The fickle alphabet – the materialization of letters in children's literature*

In this study, the theme of letters of the alphabet made animate, with human and animal shapes has been used as a motif over different decades, and the ways in which similarities between eating and reading have been used to work with the different semantic levels of verbal signs in books on the theme of reading and writing, art and literature.

Research Conference at the Swedish Institute for Children's Books in 2005

On 1–2 June 2005, approximately fifty researchers, PhD students, teacher trainers and others gathered at the Swedish Institute for Children's Books. Professor Boel Westin inaugurated the conference with an address in which she described the current state of research in Sweden. Her overview of past and present was divided into three phases: establishment, expansion and institutionalisation/differentiation. This third phase is the current one for Swedish research on children's literature. The rest of the first day was devoted to presentations of ongoing research. The second day consisted of a discussion of the survey conducted by the Institute on Swedish university and other higher education courses in literature for children and young people, and some presentations about such courses being run today.