

DEDICATED TO ... GIANNI RODARI

Bologna, 23 – 26 March 2010

2010 is an essential year for remembering Gianni Rodari: the 90th anniversary of his birth (1920, Omega), the 30th of his death (1980, Rome), and the 40th of his receipt of the H.C. Andersen Award, the world's most prestigious prize for children's book writers (Bologna, 1970).

A man of culture and many talents – writer, poet, journalist, illustrator – Gianni Rodari devoted his unique sensibility to children's literature.

*"Fantasy is part of us,
as is reason:
looking into fantasy
is another way of
looking into ourselves" (Gianni Rodari)*

An author who so clearly recognised the centrality of "fantasy" simply had to write for young readers. In 1947 – the year his first children's stories were published in "Giornale della Domenica" – Rodari began the enormous output of stories and nursery rhymes that would punctuate his literary production.

1960 saw the masterpiece that made him internationally famous: **Nursery Rhymes in the Sky and on Earth**, consecrating him as a writer for children. A fundamental work in education and teaching, proposing an innovative vision in which even serious subjects can be taught and explained by means of amusing tales.

The 2010 CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR honours this classic author of children's literature, translated into more than 50 languages, with a series of seminars and meetings and an illustration competition (with 846 participants from all over the world).

CONFERENCES DEVOTED TO GIANNI RODARI

The highlight of the Rodari celebration will be the conference entitled **GIANNI RODARI, UN CLASSICO PER RAGAZZI E...**, an important contribution to the understanding of Rodari's works, his value as a writer, journalist, critic, and intellectual.

At the conference, to be held on Wednesday 24 March at 10 AM (Sala Notturmo, Services Centre, Block D), prestigious speakers will emphasise the modernity of Rodari's message.

GIANNI RODARI, UN CLASSICO PER RAGAZZI E...

Wednesday 24 March at 10 AM (Sala Notturmo, Services Centre, Block D)

Greetings

- **Antonio Concina** – Mayor of Orvieto

Introduction

- **Emy Beseghi** – Professor of Children’s Literature at Bologna University

Speakers:

- **Tullio De Mauro** - Professor emeritus at University of Rome 1
- **Antonio Faeti** – former Professor at Bologna University
- **Pino Boero** - Professor of Children’s Literature at Genoa University

Coordination and closing remarks: **Mario Di Rienzo** – Director of Rodari Study Centre of Orvieto

(Simultaneous translation will be provided)

Second conference devoted to Gianni Rodari: **THE GRAMMAR OF FANTASY: TRANSLATING GIANNI RODARI**. Wednesday 24 March at 3 PM (Sala Notturmo, Services Centre, Block D).

Speakers:

- **Francine Boouchet** - La joie de Lire
- **Teresa Duran i Armengol** – Catalan translator
- **Giulia Massini** – Department of Italian studies, Bologna University
- **Alain Serres** - Rue du Monde
- **Maria Stefankova** – Outside In
- **Edgardo Zaghini** – Outside In

Coordination: **Simona Mambrini**

(Simultaneous translation will be provided)

Third conference devoted to Gianni Rodari: **PLAYING WITH LANGUAGE: RODARI AND THE LIMERICK**. Tuesday 23 March at 4:30 PM (Translators Centre, Hall 25 stand B/93) – Encounter with **Alessandra Repossi**.

EXHIBIT

THE GRAMMAR OF FIGURES is the title of the exhibit devoted to Rodari, based on the illustration competition and presenting the works of 44 illustrators (33 selected from participants in the competition and 11 who have recently published a book by Gianni Rodari).

Set up in the Services Centre, the Exhibit offers a series of images that approach the author’s stories and characters in various ways and with various sensibilities. These illustrations are a means to appreciate different perspectives and to “see” Rodari’s works with the eyes and experience of those who know him only in translation and in completely different cultural contexts.

Edizioni EL – Einaudi Ragazzi – Emme Edizioni, enthusiastically accepted the Children’s Book Fair’s proposal to designate one of the illustrators selected for **The Grammar of Figures** to illustrate a soon-to-be-published story by Gianni Rodari. The many possible choices convinced the publisher to engage not one, but two artists. Therefore, one story will be illustrated by **Vitali Konstantinov** and another by **Ikuko Takeuchi**.

These artists were chosen because they are able to interpret, with elegance, irony, conciseness, and poetry, the spirit that makes Gianni Rodari one of the 20th century’s greatest writers for children.

The exhibit is sponsored by the Children's Book Fair and curated by Giannino Stoppani Cooperativa Culturale, in cooperation with El, Emme, Einaudi Ragazzi. The exhibit catalogue is published by IBC, Institute for artistic, cultural, and natural heritage. Superintendence for literary and documentary heritage.

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