

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2005

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE ASSOCIATION'S PRESIDENT: "WINNIPEG IS AN EXCELLENT SITE FOR OUR CONFERENCE"

WINNIPEG—From June 9 - 12, 2005, the Children's Literature Association will hold its annual conference in which academics from around the world will meet to discuss their work, current issues surrounding children's literature and culture, and to celebrate the successes of their colleagues. Over 200 delegates and speakers from more than 10 countries, including Australia, South Africa, Greece, and India will be in attendance at the Forks, where the annual conference is being held.

When asked what the ChLA is, Dr. Craig Werner, the current president of the ChLA, answers that it as "an international organization of persons interested in the promotion of scholarship about children's literature." Werner goes on to explain that the membership of the ChLA "includes college instructors, secondary school educators, librarians, writers, and others dedicated to studying children's literature." The organization holds an annual conference, which is usually located on or near a college campus and partly sponsored by the host college. As well, the ChLA publishes an annual and a quarterly journal through Johns Hopkins University Press, both of which are devoted primarily to scholarship on children's literature. In addition to the conference itself, the ChLA "presents several awards to scholars and writers of books for young readers."

The ChLA has several primary goals: "to encourage serious scholarship and research in children's literature," "to enhance the professional stature of the graduate and undergraduate teaching of children's literature," and "to encourage high standards of criticism in children's literature through: fellowships and scholarships to assist members in research." Each of these goals will be accomplished during its conference.

This year's conference is sandwiched between two in California. When asked why the conference is in Winnipeg, Werner points out that Winnipeg "is a large city with a very accessible airport, cultural amenities, and fine hotels." Werner also makes mention of some of our scholars: University of Winnipeg's Professor Mavis Reimer, who is the conference chair, and Professor Perry Nodelman, who is the paper call chair, are "internationally recognized scholars in the field of children's literature." The University of Winnipeg's English department, among its other areas of specialization, has long specialized in children's literature. Furthermore, Werner draws our attention to the fact

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that "many of [the ChLA's] scholars, including some of ChLA's first members, are Canadians, so hosting the conference in Winnipeg acknowledges their contributions on their home territory, so to speak."

This conference has a variety of opportunities for anyone who is interested in learning more about children's literature. For more information on the conference, see the website: <http://chla.uwinnipeg.ca>. For more information on the ChLA, see their website: <http://www.childlitassn.org>.

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