Recent Studies in 18th-Century Children's Literature

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This bibliography surveys scholarship on children's literature published from 1986 to 2007. It is most inclusive for the years 1990-2006, in consequence of my compiling studies of that period for Section I--"Printing and Bibliographical Studies"--of ECCB: The Eighteenth Century Current Bibliography. Some relevant titles excluded here may be found in my bibliographies on recent studies of 18th-century reading and bibliophilia and of engraving and illustration (also posted at BibSite). For additions, I am grateful to Pat Garrett, Co-Editor of the Children's Books History Society Newsletter and that Society's Executive Secretary, and to Andrea Immel, Curator of Princeton's Cotsen Children's Library. Please call omissions and errors to my attention for future revisions. I thank Jeff Barton and Travis Gordon for making this BibSite posting possible.

Alderson, Brian. "'Mister Gobwin' and His 'Interesting little Books, Adorned with Copper Plates.'" *Princeton University Library Chronicle*, 59 (1998), 159-89; appendix with bibliographical descriptions of ten books discussed (1805-1815); illus.
Alderson, Brian. "A Pretty Piratical Book of Pictures." *Bodleian Library Record*, 16, no. 4 (Oct. 1998), 341-50; illus. [On the text and pictures of *A Pretty Book of Pictures for Little Masters and Misses; or, Tommy Trip's History of Beasts and Birds*, with particular attention to a "twelfth edition" with a false London imprint printed in Newcastle c. 1779 by Thomas Saint with wood engravings by Thomas Bewick completed in 1778. Alderson corrects the dating error written on the Bodleian copy by antiquary John Bell and discusses John Newbery's first London edition (1752) and the text and designs borrowed then from *A Description of Three Hundred Animals* (1730).]


Avery, Gillian, and Julia Briggs (eds.). *Children and their Books. A Celebration of the Work of Iona and Peter Opie*. Foreword by Iona Opie. New York: Oxford U Press; Oxford: Clarendon, 1989. Pp. xvi + 424; bibliography; ftr. photo.; illus.; index. [The 20 essays include the following relevant to the long eighteenth century: Brian Alderson's "Collecting Children's Books: Self-Indulgence and Scholarship" (7-17); Clive Hurst's "Selections from the Accession Diaries of Peter Opie" (19-44); Keith Thomas's "Children in Early Modern England" (45-77); Nigel Smith's "A Child Prophet: Martha Hatfield as The Wise Virgin" [by Sheffield minister James Fisher, 1653] (79-93); Gillian Avery's "The Puritans and their Heirs" (95-118); Jack Zipes's "The Origins of the Fairy Tale for Children, or How Script Was Used to Tame the Beast in Us" (119-134); Giles Barber's "'Malbrouck s'en va-t-enn guerre' or, How History Reaches the Nursery," on popular song tradition (135-63); William St Clair's "William Godwin as Children's Bookseller" (165-79); Julia Briggs's "Women Writers and Writing for Children: From Sarah Fielding to E. Nesbit [d. 1924]"
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(221-250); and A. O. J. Cockshut's "Children's Diaries" (381-398). Rev. by Tessa Rose Chester in Library, 6th ser., 13 (1991), 77-79; by Andrea Immel in Book Collector, 39 (1990), 414-15.]


Barth, Susanne. "Das Goldtöchterchen: Zur geschlechtsspezifischen Erziehung von Kleinen Mädchen im Kinderbuch um nach 1800." Der Deutschunterricht: Beiträge zu seiner Praxis und wissenschaftlichen Grundlegung, 42, no. 3 (June 1990), 61-75.


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"Childhood and the Expansion of the Eighteenth-Century British Empire"; Vincent DiGirolamo's "Heralds of a noisy world: Carrier Boys, Post-Riders, and the Print Revolution in Early America"; and J. L. Bell's "Du Simitière's Sketches of Pope Day in Boston, 1767."]


Jahrhunderts" (181-200); Anne-Kristin Kupke's "Elementarschulunterricht in Kursachsen um 1670" (225-52) and Gisela Teistler's "Fibeln als Dokumente für die Entwicklung der Alphabetisierung: Ihre Entstehung und Verbreitung bis 1850" (255-81; illus.).]


Borns, Aernoot. "De kinderprenten van A. W. Sijthoff." *De Boekenwereld*, 20, no. 1 (2003), 2-9; illus. [including including *Robinson Crusoe*].


Bottigheimer, Ruth B. "German Children's Literature [review essay]." *Children's Literature*, 17 (1989), 176-81.


Bottigheimer, Ruth B. "Luckless, Witless, and Filthy-Footed: A Sociocultural Study and Publishing History Analysis of *The Lazy Boy.*** *Journal of American Folklore*, 106, no. 421 (1993), 259-84. [Touches on the effect print distribution has had on this old tale.]


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Literature (1984); Mary V. Jackson's Engines of Instruction (1989); Ruth K. MacDonald's Christian's Children: The Influence of John Bunyan's The Pilgrim's Progress on American Children's Literature (1989); and Samuel F. Pickering, Jr., Moral Instruction and Fiction for Children, 1749-1820 (1993).]


Bottoms, Janet. "'To read aright': Representations of Shakespeare for Children." Children's Literature, 32 (2004), 1-14. [Material discussed begins with the Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare (1807).]

Bouckaert-Ghesquière, Rita. "Cinderella and Her Sisters." Poetics Today, 13, no. 1 (Spring 1992), 85-95; bibliography. [On Dutch and Flemish children's literature, historically considered, finding children's literature even more than adult literature subject to international influences and relations.]


Buijnsters, Piet. "Bibliofilie in de kinderkamer: Over het verzamelen en bestuderen van oude kinderboeken." Jaarboek van het Nederlands Genootschap van Biblioofieren, 3 (1995), 69-91; illus. [Revised valedictory address on the collecting of children's literature; also issued separately.]

Buijnsters, P[jiet]. J., and Leontine Buijnsters-Smets (comps.). Bibliografie van Nederland se school--en kinderboeken 1700-1800. Zwolle: Waanders Uitgevers, 1997. Pp. 318; illus. (some in color); summary in English; indices of authors; illustrators; publishers and printers; and titles. [Divided into 24 fields by subject and genre, the "BNK" provides "a complete bibliographic survey of all Dutch-language school and children's books published between 1700 and 1800 within the modern borders of the Kingdom of the Netherlands" (297). It provides for each book title, format, pagination, illustration, contents, location of a copy, references to the work, indicating how important or rare it might be, and information about author, translator, and/or adaptor and, if a translation, information on the original. Reviewed (favorably) by Brian Alderson in Children's Books History Society Newsletter, no. 60 (March 1998), 28-29; (fav.) by R. Breugelmans in Quaerendo, 29 (1999), 310-11.]


C, M. "Notably Accessions." The Bodleian Library Record, 16, no. 2 (Oct. 1997), 165-68. [This section includes a notice signed "M.C." on the newly acquired notebook for 1733-1752 of Mrs. Jane Johnson, educator of her children, containing her "Very Pretty Story," and a number of letters from Johnson family members.]


Canepa, Nancy L. "From the Baroque to the Postmodern: Notes on a Translation from Giambattista Basile's The Tale of Tales." Marvels & Tales, 16 (2002), 263-82. [Provides "The Old Woman Who Was Skinned" in translation and annotates the 17th-century Neapolitan tale.]


Children's Books History Society Newsletter [Established in 1970 and published three times a year, edited by Pat Garrett and Brian Alderson, with a correspondence address of the Society's Secretary Ms. Garrett: 25 Field Way, Hoddesdon, Herts. EN11 0QN, U.K. The first 60 issues were index in June 1998 (see Garrett). On this newsletter, see the entry under May, James.]

Children's Literature Association Quarterly. [Through its summer 1999 issue (Vol. 24, no. 2: 55-108), CLAQ had annually run a bibliography of studies of children's literature. The summer 1999 issue's is the last to be run; it draws upon Children's Literature Abstracts, nos. 96-100 (Spring 1997 - Spring 1998), providing studies of particular works in English and French, arranged largely by the authors studied. On German children's literature it directs us to Kinder- und Jugendliteraturforschung.]


David, Linda. *Children's Books Published by William Darton and His Sons: Catalogue of an Exhibition at the Lilly Library, Indiana University, 1992; with a Historical Calendar by Lawrence Darton.* Bloomington, IN: Lilly Library, 1992. Pp. 88; bibliographical references [81-82]; chronology; 21 illus. (5 in color); index. [Rev. (fav.) by Andrea Immel in *Book Collector*, 42 (1993), 436-38.]


Dawson, Muir. "Two Children's Books Illustrated by Bewick: With Notes on Printing from the Original Blocks." *Book Collector*, 54 (2005), 375-88. [On *Select Fables* (Newcastle, 1820) and *The Beauties of Aesop* (London, 1822); the other has located all the woodcut blocks for the latter but that for the frontispiece. Some of these recur in John Hewlett's *An Introduction to Reading and Spelling* (1786, 1791).]


Findlay, James A. ZYX: An Exhibition of Selected ABC Books from the Jean Trebbi Collection; April 3-May 19, 1997, Bienes Center for the Literary Arts, the Dianne and Michael Bienes Special Collection and Rare Book Library, Broward County Main Library. Fort Lauderdale, FL: Bienes Center for the Literary Arts, 1997. Pp. 28; bibliography [p. 22]; illus.; index.

Flood, John L. "Dietrich Wilhelm Soltau und seine Übersetzungen des 'Reynke de Vo's': Ein Beitrag zur Erforschung der deutsch-englischen Literaturbeziehungen um 1800." Archiv für Geschichte des Buchwesens, 45 (1996), 283-336; bibliography; illus.; index. [Covers 17C-19C fable literature.]


Glénisson, Jean, and Ségolène Le Men (eds.). *Le Livre d'enfance et de jeunesse en France.* Bordeaux: Société des bibliophiles de Guyenne, Bibliothèque de Bordeaux, 1994. Pp. 332; illus. (some colored). [Separate issue of *Revue française d'histoire du livre*, nos. 82-83 (1994). After a preface by the editors, appear many essays relevant to eighteenth-century studies: Marc Soriano's "Le degré zéro du message?" (9-11); Jean Glénisson's "Du livre de prix au livre de jeunesse: Naissance d'une édition spécialisée" (13-17); Catherine Velay Vallantin's "L'invention d'un public enfantin au XVIIIe siècle: Entre famille et école: Les éditions des *Contes* de Perrault" (19-38; 2 of plates); Isabelle Havelange and Marc Havelange's "Voir? Les formes du regard dans la littérature à l'usage des demoiselles au XVIIIe siècle" (39-59); Dominique Julia's "Un voyage pédagogique sous la Révolution: Les vacances des pensionnaires de l'Ecole centrale de l'Eure en l'an VIII" (61-92; 1 of plate); Michel Manson's "Continuités et ruptures dans l'édition du livre pour la jeunesse à Rouen, de 1700 à 1900" (93-125; 1 table and 2 graphs).]


Gonda, Caroline. *Reading Daughters' Fictions, 1790-1834: Novels and Society from Manley to Edgeworth.* Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press, 1996. Pp. xx + 287; illust; index. [Peripheral to children's literature, treating the family as subject and some women authors writing juvenile literature.]


Hilton, Mary, Marag Styles, and Victor Watson (eds.). *Opening the Nursery Door: Reading, Writing, and Childhood (1600-1900)*. London: Routledge, 1997. Pp. x + 242; 14 illus.; index. [In addition to Mary Hilton's introduction (1-13), eight of the fourteen essays in the collection concern the 18th century. Shirley Brice Heath's "Child's Play or Finding the Ephemera of Home" examines the archive--including alphabet cards and handmade children's books--assembled by Jane Johnson, 1706-1759, wife of an English vicar, who educated her children with great creativity (17-30); Victor Watson's "Jane Johnson: A Very Pretty Story To Tell Children" also discusses Mrs. Johnson and what her work and her archive imply about childhood then (31-46). Other essays of interest include Margaret Spufford's "Women Teaching Reading to Poor Children in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries" (47-62; illus.); David Whitley's "Samuel Richardson's Aesop" (65-79; illus.); John Rowe Townsend's "John Newbery and Tom Telescope" (80-88; illus.); and three essays involving women writing for children: Norma Clarke's "'The Cursed Barbauld Crew': Women Writers and the Writing for Children in the Late Eighteenth Century" (91-103), Nicholas Tucker's "Fairy Tales and Their Opponents: In Defense of Mrs. Trimmer" (104-16); and Morag Styles' "'Of the Spontaneous Kind'? Women Writing Poetry for Children--From Jane Johnson to Christina Rossetti" (142-59). Andrea Immel reviews this collection (with another book) in *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, 25 (Winter 2000/2001), 227-29.]


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Immel, Andrea. "'Little Rhymes, Little Jingle, Little Chimes': A History of Nursery Rhymes in English Literature before *Tommy Thumb's Pretty Song Book*." Diss. U. of California, Los Angeles. *DAI*: 55, no. 9 (March 1995), 2841A.


tales are taken to be more representative of the form; with sections on the cultural context and on the manner of presentation. Rev. (fav.) by Anne E. Duggan in *Marvels & Tales*, 18 (2004), 122-24.]


John, Judith Gero. "I have been dying to tell you': Early Modern Advice Books for Children." *Lion and the Unicorn*, 29, no. 1 (January 2005), 52-64.


Jones, Christine. "The Poetics of Enchantment (1690-1715)." *Marvels & Tales*, 17, no. 1 (2003), 55-74. [On Marie-Catherine D'Aunoy (1650-1705), the Henriette Julie de Castelnau, Comtesse de Murat (1670-1716), and Marie-Jeanne L'Héritier de Villandon (1664-1734).]


Keyes, Marian. "Saturday 21st June, 1997 Summer Meeting--Joint-Meeting with ARLIS (Art Libraries Society) 'Three Hundred Years of Illustrated Nursery Rhymes including the Opie Collection,'" *Children's Books History Society Newsletter*, no. 59 (Nov. 1997), 5-7. [Provides jumbled account of talks by Clive Hurst, Curator of the Opie Collection of the Bodleian, noting the filming of that collection by University Microfilms International of Ann Arbor, MI, and of a talk by Brian Alderson on "Three Hundred Years of Illustrated Nursery Rhymes."]


Koch, Ingrid. "Lesen Lernen--ABC Bücher aus fünf Jahrhunderten' in einer Dresdner Ausstellung." *Aus dem Antiquariat* (2005), 135-37. [A review essay of an exhibition at the Buchmuseum of the Sächsische Landesbibliothek-, Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Dresden [SLUB], January to April 2005 in Dresden, entitled as indicated by Koch, with an online catalogue at <www.tu-dresden.de/slub/>. See also information site #399 at the SLUB website.]


Lathey, Gillian (ed.). *The Translation of Children's Literature: A Reader*. Clevedon, UK: Multilingual Matters, 2006. Pp. 259; index. [Some essays were formerly published elsewhere.]


Le Marchand, Bérénice Virginie (comp.). "Reframing the Early French Fairy Tale: A Selected Bibliography." *Marvels & Tales*, 19, no. 1 (2005), 86-122. [Primary and secondary sources related to seventeenth- and eighteenth-century French fairy tales, most in French and English but some in German and Italian.]


Marsden, Jean I. "Letters on a Tombstone: Mothers and Literacy in Mary Lamb's Mrs. Leicester's School." Children's Literature, 23 (1995), 31-44.


McKay, Barry. "John Atkinson's Lottery Books of 1809: John Locke's Theory of Education Comes to Workington." Pp 127-44 (illus.) in The Moving Market: Continuity and Change in the Book Trade. Ed. by Peter Isaac and Barry McKay. New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll; Winchester: St. Paul's Bibliographies, 2001. [The "lottery" here used involves a game, employed in teaching children to read, where small bits of paper with engraved images and words were dispersed in books.]


Müller, Anja (ed.). *Fashioning Childhood in the Eighteenth Century: Age and Identity*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2006. Pp. xiii + 243; illus. [Includes Christoph Houswitschka's "Locke's education or Rousseau's Freedom"; the editor's "Fashioning Age and Identity"; Sonja Fiellitz's "Tales of Miracles or Lessons of Morality"; Uwe Böker's "Childhood and Juvenile Delinquency in Eighteenth-Century Newgate Calendars"; Brigitte
Claser's "Gendered Childhoods"; Jan Hollm's "Fictionalizing Foundlings"; and Peter Sabor's "Fashioning the Child Author."


Myers, Mitzi. "'Anecdotes from the Nursery' in Maria Edgeworth's *Practical Education* (1798): Learning from Children 'Abroad and At Home.'" *Princeton University Library Chronicle*, 60 (1999), 220-250; illus.


Nagel, Michael. "The Beginnings of Jewish Children's Literature in High German: Three Schoolbooks from Berlin (1779), Prague (1781) and Dessau (1782)." *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book*, 44 (1999), 39-54.


Neefs, Jacques, and Jean M. Goulemot. "Preface." *MLN: Modern Language Notes,* 117, no. 4 ([Sept.] 2002), 695-97. [Introducing a special French Issue, focused on "Imaginaires de L'Enfance." Also included are Wilda Anderson's "Régénérer la nation: Les enfants terrorisés de la Révolution" (698-709); Goulemot's "L'Enfant et l'adolescent, objets et sujets du désir amoureux dans le discours des lumières" (710-21); Shane Agin's "Comment se font les enfants?" Sex Education and the Preservation of Innocence in Eighteenth-Century France" (722-36); Robert Mankin's "Montesquieu and the Spirit of Childhood" (737-53); Neefs' "Scènes d'enfants, au dix-neuvième siècle" (754-67).]


Nikolajeva, Maria (ed.). *Aspects and Issues in the History of Children's Literature.* Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1995. Pp. xiii + 207; bibliography [191-96]; illus.; index. [Selected papers from the 9th Congress of the International Research Society for Children's Literature in Salamanca, 1989. Many are far more theoretical than historical, but relevant essays include Zolar Shavit's "The Historical Model of the Development of Children's Literature" (27-38; with bibliography); Roderick McGillis's "Lame Old Bachelor, Lonely Old Maid: Harriet Childe-Pemberton's 'All My Doing; or Red Riding Hood Over Again'" (127-38; with bibliography); Dennis Butts's "The Role of Women Writers in Early Children's Literature: An Analysis of the Case of Mrs. Barbara Hofland" (139-47); and, focused on the 16C and 19C, Maria Lypp's "The Origin and Function of Laughter in Children's Literature" (183-89).]


*The Opie Collection of Children's Literature* [microform]. Ann Arbor, MI: UMI, 1991-. 161 microfiches + printed guide with indices. [Collected by Iona and Peter Opie and held by the Bodleian Library.]


Perrot, Jean, and Véronique Hadengue (eds.). *Écriture féminine et littérature de jeunesse: Actes du colloque d’Eaubonne.* (Littérature de jeunesse.) Eaubonne: Institut international Charles Perrault; Paris: La Nacelle, 1995. Pp. [iv] + 245; index. [The conference occurred in Eaubonne, mars 1994. Publication was assisted by Centre National du Livre. Relevant discussions, as on Perrault's tales, occur in Jean Perrot's "L'attrait de l'origine" (85-100) and in Sophie Quentin's "De la tradition orale aux adaptations modernes: 'Le Petit Chaperon rouge' ou le carrefour des écritures"]


Projekt KiLiM: Datenbank zur Kinder- und Jugendliteraturforschung sowie Literatur- und Mediendidaktik. [Under Dr. Petra Josting at the Duisburg/Essen Universität.] <http:bibadmin.projekt-kilim.de>. [Can be searched by author. Searching "Carola Pohlmann," I turned up dozens of articles that she had co-edited and some she had written.]


Raven, James, Helen Small, and Naomi Tadmor, eds. The Practice and Representation of Reading in England. Cambridge: CUP, 1996. Pp. xvii + 313. [Includes such essays as Tadmor's "In the Even My Wife Read to Me: Women, Reading, and Household Life in the Eighteenth Century."]


Roberts, Russell. John Newbery and the Story of the Newbery Medal. Hockessin, DE: Mitchell Lane Publishers, 2004. Pp. 48; checklist of Newbery Award winning books (1922-2003); illus; colored map. [This is for a juvenile library.]


Saalmink, L. G. "In een kleinder formaat, zindelijk, op best papier." *Dokumentaal*, 25 (1996), 151-58. [This and Saalmink's essays below concern children's verses by Hieronymus van Alphen; see Alphen above.]


Shefrin, Jill. "Ingenious Contrivances": *Table Games and Puzzles for Children: Based on an Exhibition at the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books, Toronto Public Library, November 7, 1996 - February 8, 1997*. Toronto: Friends of the Osborne and Lillian H. Smith Collections, Toronto Public Library, 1996. Pp. 64; illus. (some in color); index; facs.; maps.

Shefrin, Jill. "'Make it a Pleasure and Not a Task': Educational Games for Children in Georgian England." *Princeton University Library Chronicle*, 60 (1999), 251-75; illus.


Stallcup, Jackie E. "Inescapable Bodies, Disquieting Perception: Why Adults Seek to Tame and Harness Swift's Excremental Satire in *Gulliver's Travels*." *Children's Literature in Education*, 35 (2004), 87-111. [Includes a discussion of textual alterations.]


Styles, Morag. *From the Garden to the Street: An Introduction to 300 Years of Poetry for Children*. London: Cassell, 1998. xxix + 304. [Reviewed by Laura Apol in *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, 25 (Winter 2000/2001), 225-27; and also (unfavorably) in *Children's Books History Society Newsletter*, no. 62 (Nov. 1998), 28-31; and again in no. 66 (April 2000), 5. One reviewer finds the thematic examination is without sufficient attention to historical context and omits some important historical materials.]


Townsend, John Rowe (ed.). *John Newbery and His Books: Trade and Plum-Cake for Ever, Huzza!* Cambridge: Colt Books; Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1994. Pp. xviii + 175; appendix; bibliographies [1) selection of children's books published by Newbery, 127-34; 2) sources on Newbery and his circle, 161-67]; facsimiles; illus.; index; map. [To this tribute to Newbery, Townsend contributed a preface, a biographical and critical sketch, a bibliography of Newbery's children's books, also accounts of Newbery's ancestors, of Newbery's early career working for and then controlling the Reading Mercury, of Newbery's publications in America, and of his successors, particularly his nephew and his son; he also appended a list of Newbery Medal winners (1922-1994), a bibliography of sources on Newbery, and an index. He has reprinted Charles Welsh's biographical sketch of Newbery, *A Bookseller of the Last Century* (1885); Samuel Johnson's humorous sketch of Jack Whirler from *Idler* No. 19, modeled on Newbery; George Colman the Elder's satirical portrait (1763); and, with comments, a children's story--perhaps written by Newbery--from his *Lilliputian Magazine* (1751) Reviewed by Gillian Avery in *TLS* (15 July 1994), 28; (fav.) by Dennis Butts in *Children's Books History Society Newsletter*, no. 49 (Aug. 1994), 21-22.]


Tsurumi, Ryoji. "The Development of Mother Goose in Britain in the Nineteenth Century." *Folklore*, 101, no. 1 (1990), 28-35. [Focused on Thomas Dibdin's pantomime *Harlequin and Mother Goose* (1806), but the account reaches back into mid 1700s.]


tale, the conte de fées." Reviewed in Children's Books History Society Newsletter, (March 1996), 4-5; by JoAnn Conrad in Journal of American Folklore, 112 (1999), 559-61.]


Research in Eighteenth-Century and Romantic Literature continues to flourish in the Cambridge English Faculty. The diversity and intensity of thought and art in this key period are reflected at every level of our teaching, conversation and writing. Research and publications in eighteenth-century literature and Romanticism at Cambridge, traditions of close reading and attention to literary form are reinvigorated by innovative and challenging ideas. Here, there are as many approaches to criticism in the period as there are long eighteenth centuries or Romanticisms.

20th Century Children's Lit: Well-Known Classics are Born. In 1908, Kenneth Grahame wrote The Wind in the Willows, continuing one of the oldest traditions of children's literature: anthropomorphic animals. In 1926, A.A. Milne created one of the most popular children's book characters of all time: Winnie-the-Pooh. The four books starring Pooh have been published in dozens of languages and are one of the first children's stories to focus on the fleetingness of childhood and the bittersweet nature of growing up. Pooh continues to inspire today, featuring in songs, television series, and films. By the end of the 18th century, children's literature was a flourishing, separate and secure part of the publishing industry in Britain. Perhaps as many as 50 children's books were being printed each year, mostly in London, but also in regional centres such as Edinburgh, York and Newcastle. By today's standards, these books can seem pretty dry, and they were often very moralising and pious.