

The Fourth International Conference on Literary Juvenilia was held in the Faculty of Philosophy & Arts at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Spain, in June 2015. The conference was organized by Dr David Owen, who lectures at this university, under the auspices of the UAB's Department of English and German Studies and with the assistance and support of the Juvenilia Press.

This was the first time that the conference had been held outside the English-speaking world, and as such represented a great opportunity to move into new territory and to publicise both the Press and—more generally—literary juvenilia studies to distinct ambits.

The main theme of the conference was *The Child Writer and Poetry*; to this end, the conference was privileged to count on two plenary sessions focussing on this topic. The first was given by Professor Laurie Langbauer (University of North Carolina), with a lecture titled “The Juvenile Tradition”; the second was by Dr Rob Breton, (Nipissing University) whose lecture was “Needless Alarms: Performance in John Ruskin’s Early Poetry”.

An intense, engaging and highly motivating two days’ programme provided a broad range of discussion on issues of literary juvenilia. The conference also provided a presentation of the Juvenilia Press edition of Hannah More’s *Search After Happiness*, with a dramatic reading of the text provided fundamentally by a contingent of speakers from the University of North Alabama under the expert and enthusiastic guidance of Professor Lesley Peterson, and the presentation by Professor Christine Alexander of her latest publication, *Jane Austen’s Love and Freindship and Other Youthful Writings* (Penguin Classics). In addition to these presentations and readings, there was a video showing of Maria Edgeworth’s *Double Disguise* (for further related information, see <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/juvenilia/events>).

In addition to these aspects, and perhaps of still greater significance, a general meeting held at the end of the conference saw the agreement to establish a Literary Juvenilia Studies Association (the formal name is still pending a final decision), with founder members Professor Lesley Peterson and Dr Jeffrey Bibbee of the University of North Alabama; Professor Christine Alexander (UNSW and the Juvenilia Press); Professor Juliet McMaster (University of Alberta and the Juvenilia Press); DR Gillian Boughton-Wilmore (University of Durham) and Dr David Owen (UAB). This association will foster and support research and publication initiatives within literary juvenilia studies, and hopes to represent a consolidated and permanent body through which to channel future conferences and related projects.

As with Durham in 2013, the Barcelona conference attested very fully to the vigorous state of literary juvenilia studies, to its very solid uptake by a number of young researchers, and to the many and varied developments that this area is now beginning to see.

Photos: <https://goo.gl/photos/YW5NsB2XwNa3rgwK6>