



Frame of Reference

Annette Goldsmith, editor

Welcome to **The Looking Glass: New Perspectives on Children's Books**, the journal that combines traditional and modern subject matter for a general and academic audience -- and has fun doing it. Allow me to show you around... Sue Easun, Coordinator of the Toronto Centre for the Study of Children's Literature (TCSCL) at the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto, is our publisher. TCSCL may not be an acronym that trips merrily off the tongue, but it is successfully fulfilling its mandate, the publication of *The Looking Glass* being one. Sue and the rest of the TCSCL Steering Committee (Kathleen Bailey, Carole Carpenter, Margaret Maloney, Lissa Paul and Mary Rubio), along with many other volunteers, have been working hard to generate some wonderful projects.

The TCSCL initiative that first caught my interest was the Literary Criticism Roundtable. Librarian-writers Kathleen Bailey, Katherine Matthews and I formed the first one, meeting monthly as a writing group. Along with Sue Easun, we also formed the design and editorial core of *The Looking Glass*. The logo and department headings were developed by our design consultant, Bernard Kelly. Don Lloyd and Rob Lee provided technical, editorial and moral support. Agnes Kruchio joined us as assistant designer, and we quickly found other enthusiastic contributors: Jeffrey Canton, whose column **Looking Glass Lore** reflects on a Canadian classic; Joanne Schott, whose **double acrostic** will madden and delight (and what could be more Carrollian than that?); and **Spyglass**, by the anonymous MaD hATeR, whose gossipy tidbits will tell you all about what's really going on in the world of children's books. Other departments include **Mirrors and Windows**, Kathleen Bailey's take on parallel worlds in children's books; and the humour rubric, **In the Twinkling of an Eye**, in which guest columnist Bill Richardson reinterprets Beatrix Potter for the new millennium.

Alice's Academy is the scholarly section of *The Looking Glass*. Articles will be refereed by members of our international editorial board: Adele Fasick, Jeffrey Garrett, Daniel D. Hade, Agnes Kruchio, Lissa Paul, Judith Saltman and Geoff Williams. Jeffrey Garrett inaugurates **Alice's Academy** with a guest column, an adaptation of the entertaining and insightful slide lecture he gave at our launch April 2, 1997, in Toronto.

We hope to update the website approximately every two months -- the home page will tell you what's new. You can look forward to **Personal Reflections**, Sue Easun's column on issues concerning academics and practitioners; **The Monitor**, our technology column; **The Picture Window**, about illustration; and **Illuminating Texts**, on writing. We hope to run more graphics, too. We welcome your comments, suggestions for future columns and contributions for **Alice's Academy** or the non-refereed part of *The Looking Glass*. This is a Canadian journal with an international focus, so we want to hear from you no matter where you are! Enjoy your visit, and come back soon.

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