

The Katharine Briggs Folklore Award 2006

Judges' Report

Once again the Katharine Briggs Award has attracted a good crop of high quality books covering a broad range of subjects and approaches. Historical studies were prominent, highlighting the common interests of folklorists and historians. The Short List represents the diversity of original folkloristic approaches, and also admirably demonstrates how they can be presented to a general readership in an accessible and engaging way.

Short List

Anne O'Connor, *The Blessed and the Damned: Sinful Women and Unbaptised Children in Irish Folklore*.

Catherine Rider, *Magic and Impotence in the Middle Ages*.

Savely Senderovich, *The Riddle of the Riddle: A Study of the Folk Riddle's Figurative Nature*

Emma Wilby, *Cunning Folk and Familiar Spirits: Shamanistic Visionary Traditions in Early Modern British Witchcraft and Magic*.

Yuriko Yamanaka and Tetsuo Nishio (eds), *The Arabian Nights and Orientalism*:

Runner-up

Yuriko Yamanaka and Tetsuo Nishio (eds), *The Arabian Nights and Orientalism*:

This provides a series of fascinating, detailed discussions on the impact of the tales on cultures other than the one in which they emerged. Intellectually, it is a riposte to Said's idea of Orientalism. The judges particularly appreciated the use and interpretation of images and illustrations.