

FAIRY TALES – TELLERS, TELLINGS AND  
INTERPRETATIONS

PREFACE TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE

The current special issue of JEF is dedicated to the study of fairy tales. In addition to their keen scholarly interest in the folk narrative genre that is defined as the fairy tale, the authors of this issue delivered oral presentations at the international conference entitled *Family Relationships in Fairy Tales*, held on October 19–20, 2012, in Hajdúböszörmény, Hungary. This conference was organised by the Department of Literature, Communication and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Debrecen's Faculty of Child and Adult Education, led by professor Péter Bálint, whom we would like to thank for his invitation addressed to Estonian scholars of fairy tales. Although the conference focused on family relations it does not serve as a common theme for the articles in the current issue as most of the authors did not develop their conference papers, preferring to submit other studies of fairy tales to the journal.

The articles in this issue represent different approaches in folk narrative scholarship, concentrating mainly on Hungarian and Estonian examples. Gábor Biczó addresses fairy tales through the narrator and his repertoire by analysing the relationship between the biography of the Gypsy storyteller Lajos Ámi and the motifs of his folk tales. Zoltán Bódis focuses on the process of telling fairy tales and claims that the act of telling can be regarded as a specific mode of communication. Mairi Kaasik, Kärri Toomeos-Orglaan and Merili Metsvahi discuss particular themes in fairy tales, focusing closely on certain tale types. Kaasik studies the type cluster covering a mortal's visits to the Other World, Toomeos-Orglaan focus her research on the *Cinderella* (ATU 510A) and *The Princess on the Glass Mountain* (ATU 530) tale types, and Metsvahi dedicates her article to the tale type of *The Woman as Wolf* (AT 409).

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Editor of the Special Issue