

From Alice to Harry Potter: Children's Fantasy in England

By Colin Manlove

"The longer I live the more I am convinced of the importance of children's books." When Robert Bloomfield wrote this in 1817 he could have no idea of the explosion of children's books to come, nor of how in England their outstanding form would be fantasy. In this survey of 400 English children's fantasies from 1850 to 2001, taking in authors from the well-known Charles Kingsley, C. S. Lewis or J. K. Rowling to the less-known Annie Keary, Edith Elias or Pete Johnson, Colin Manlove shows just how good their books often are as literature. He combines new interpretations of individual works with explanations of how the character of children's fantasy changes from decade to decade in a rapidly shifting culture. This book is intended both as a critical companion for children's literature courses, and as a stimulus for the general reader.

The Author

Colin Manlove taught English literature at the University of Edinburgh till 1993. Though fantasy has been his main interest, he has also written books on Shakespeare and on literature from 1600 to 1800, and a wide range of essays and articles. His work on fantasy ranges from *Modern Fantasy* (1975) to *C. S. Lewis* (1987), and from *Science Fiction* (1986) to *Christian Fantasy* (1992). His most recent book is *The Fantasy Literature of England* (1999) which, being mainly about adult fantasy, makes a companion to the present book.

“Manlove offers succinct, jargon-free readings of the major features of a number of fantasies in each period... his readings and analyses of the way children's literature reflects cultural concerns are insightful and stimulating... Essential.”

R. E. Jones, Choice

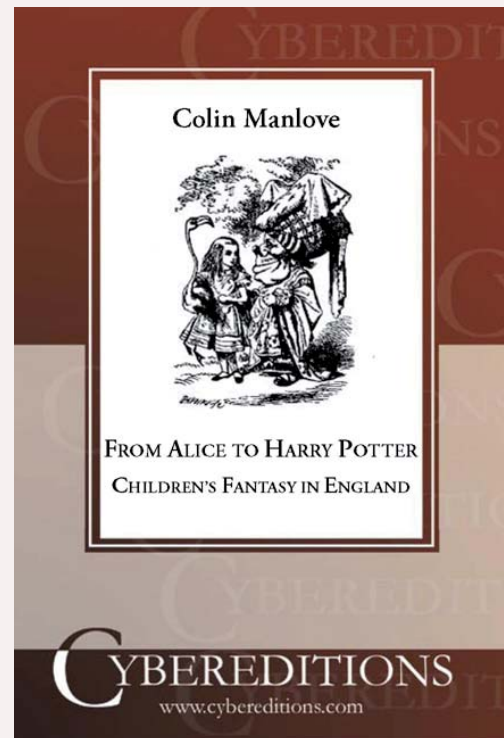
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