

VERSATILITY AND ANALOGIES IN LATIN AMERICAN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

By Gabriella Armenise, University of Salento

The heterogeneity of the historical-cultural systems present in Latin America, if properly compared (even in their respective contradictions or differences), can be seen as an added value for any process of critical inquiry about literature in its different expressions. In this paper we intend to reconstruct the editorial situation of children's literature in Latin America. It is a literature that sometimes stands in relationship of discontinuity with the cultural tradition of the "motherland" and sometimes it extends the characteristics and peculiarities of the national literature into other geographical and cultural realities.

Keywords: Latin America, children, literature, publishers.

ALBERTO MANZI FOR A DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION: *NON È MAI TROPPO TARDI*

By Claudia Matrella, University of Foggia

Alberto Manzi (1924-1997) was an important representative of popular pedagogy whose actions were based on caring for those on the margins. Action that, in the Italian context, leapt into the limelight thanks to his hosting of the television programme *It is never too late*. Set up in 1960 by RAI in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the well-known programme represented an attempt to democratise education at a time when schools were still steeped in exclusionary logic. In fact, although since the 1960s it was the subject of a series of regulatory interventions promoted by centre-left governments aiming at reawakening a slumbering democratic ethos, classism still permeated the actions of the teaching staff, contributing to the phenomenon of, among others, school dropouts. *It's never too late* was a pedagogical experiment animated by a profound vocation for democracy and caring for the last.

Keywords: Alberto Manzi, *It's never too late*, democracy, school teaching.

ENCOUNTERS WITH NATURE, ENCOUNTERS WITH LIFE. ALBERTO MANZI COLLABORATOR OF «IL VITTORIOSO»

By Andrea Dessardo, European University in Rome

In the first years of his career as author for the young and before achieving the celebrity on television, Alberto Manzi was also, in the Fifties, freelance of «Il Vittorioso» ["The Victorious"], a successful magazine promoted by the Italian Youth of Catholic Action. His contribution was mostly limited to scientific divulgation, but he offered also essays of journalistic inquiry and literature in some reports. This collaboration, however, is unacknowledged and seems, read today, not completely developed.

Keywords: «Il Vittorioso»; children's magazines; scientific dissemination; Latin America; Fifties.

SOLIDARITY AND RESISTANCE IN ALBERTO MANZI'S CHARACTERS: FOR AN ACHIEVEMENT OF DIGNITY

By Chiara Ramero, University of Grenoble- Alpes (FR)

Alberto Manzi's many trips to Latin America between 1955 and 1984 gave the writer and teacher an in-depth insight into the living conditions of peasants and illiterates exploited by the government and deprived of their rights. *La Luna nelle baracche* (Salani, 1974), *El loco* (Salani, 1974) and the two posthumous novels *E venne il sabato* and *Gugù* (Gorée, 2005), inspired by these

experiences of the author in Latin America, deal with major social themes and evoke issues of marginalisation, oppression and exploitation through characters that have become emblematic. This contribution aims to analyse how some of the characters born from the pen of Alberto Manzi and presented in these four novels assume a fundamental role of social emancipation.

Keywords: Manzi, novel, character, emancipation, rights.