



'The Child Reader and the Birth of Children's Literature, 1700-1840'
Dr Matthew Grenby, Newcastle University

Monday 14 May 2012, V&A Museum of Childhood, 17.30-19.00

Children's literature, it is often said, was an invention of the eighteenth century. But who owned and read these new books, where did they get them, and what sort - and how many - of them were they likely to own? Moreover, how did these young people actually use this new-fangled product, and what did they think of it? Since children leave so few reliable records of their lives these are all difficult questions to answer. But by combining many unused and unusual kinds of evidence - inscriptions, marginalia, journals, letters, portraits, and the contents of the books themselves - it has been possible to discover much about this first generation of readers of children's literature, and, from this, to say with much more certainty how children's literature began.

Free, booking recommended. Telephone 020 8983 5205.

The Child in the World forum is organised in collaboration with Queen Mary, University of London



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