

Luigia Negro

I was born in a small village in Val Resia in the Julian Alps in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region. My childhood memories take me to the pleasant occasions when old people told us fairy tales where the protagonists were almost always the fox and the wolf.

These two protagonists were part of my childhood because their stories were set right by us, in our villages, in our valley. They too had had a home, like ours, and they too cultivated a field like all of us. They wandered through the woods and various events took place in very specific places known to us. The fox was always smart and ready to win at any cost, the wolf was poor, teased and exploited, but always good.

Those were the years, those of my childhood, in which children's books began to arrive in our valley.

I remember that one of my first books was Pippi Longstocking. The book had been brought to me by my older sister who worked in the city.

Growing up I attended a technical institute with a linguistic and tourist course of study and so I was able to travel around Italy and Europe. When I visited some cities, I gladly went into bookstores and, as a souvenir for my nephew brought a book of fairy tales in the local languages.

As a cultural worker I have had many opportunities, in all these years, to dedicate myself to the enhancement of the oral narrative heritage of Val Resia. In this, the academic folklorist Milko Matičetov (1919 - 2014) - whom I had the honor of meeting in person - has had great merit, since he, with his tireless and passionate work, has also transmitted to us valley people the attention and interest in the heritage of oral fiction.

In the field of the valorization of the tales and fairy tales of the Val Resia I have collaborated and I still collaborate in various initiatives that have been organized above all in the context of the Resian Cultural Circle "Rozajanski dum" and the Museum of the people of the Val Resia.

I collaborated, from 1993 to 1999, in the organization of the Story Week which took place every year in August in the various villages of Val Resia. During these events, in particular the tales and fairy tales of the Val Resia were presented. I have also told some of them.

Since 2012 I have been collaborating with the Museum of the people of Val Resia and the ViviStolvizza association, in the realization of the event "The village tells a tale" which takes place in August. In particular, we try to involve children in order to pass on our heritage of oral fiction to them.

In 2017 I collaborated in the realization of the exhibition "Zverinice tu-w Reziji" which presented the fables, fairy tales and legends of our valley and their protagonists, the storytellers and the art of telling, the books and scholars of heritage of oral fiction, in particular the academic folklorist Milko Matičetov. Of this interesting exhibition, the first of its kind in our region, remains the Section with all this topics. Here I gladly tell fairy tales but I also illustrate the works of other important personalities: from Giovanni Francesco Straparola to Giambattista Basile, from Charles Perrault to the Grimm brothers. As well as scholars: from Antti Amateus Aarne and the international ATU classification system to the works of Wladimir Propp.

In 2019, on the occasion of the centenary of Milko Matičetov's birth, I promoted and collaborated in the organization of the round table "Pravice z Rezije ... kaku na napred? / The fables of Val Resia ... what future?". The scholars who currently deal with the fables of Resia participated in this round table.

With a special project funded by the FVG region we organized in september 2021 the children's book festival extended to the areas close to us: Slovenia and Austria. During this festival we presented three books.

I collaborated in the making of several books: "Ta prawä pravicä od lisica od Rezia / The true story of the Resia fox", (1998 and 2017) which presents various events from the fox and his wolf companion. It was the first illustrated fairytale book made in our valley; "Raccontami una favola" (2003); "Ta mala dujacesa / The wild girl" (2003); "The girl who wished for a flower / Ta hči ki jë tëla rožico" (2020) narrated by Tina Wajtawa (Valentina Pielich 1900 - 1984) to Milko Matičetov in 1968. The fairy tale presents the motif of "The beautiful and the beast". This is the first volume of the *Rozajanske pravice*, fairy tales of the Val Resia series.

The candidacy for the ALMA award for this simple activity of mine made me very happy and encourages me to continue on the path I have taken.