THE 2019 JAMIE BISHOP MEMORIAL AWARD

for an essay on the fantastic written in a language other than English

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Winner

Alessandro Cabiati, "Arrigo Boito e la *idée fixe*: ritornelli, monomania e le rappresentazioni del fantastico" ("Arrigo Boito and the *idée fixe:* Refrains, Monomania, and the Representations of the Fantastic")

Arrigo Boito (1842–1918) was a writer and composer, and one of the leading authors of *Scapigliatura*, the movement that introduced a modern notion of the fantastic into nineteenth-century Italian literature. Boito experimented artistically with the *idée fixe*, which in the 1860s–70s was considered, together with the clinical term "monomania", as referring to a single maniacal fixation in the nascent field of psychiatry. In this paper I investigate Boito's representation of fixed ideas, both in fiction with the novella *L'Alfier nero* and in poetry with the fairy tale *Re Orso.* Far from being treated solely on a psychopathological level, in Boito's hands the *idée fixe* transcends its medical and scientific premises. On the one hand, it becomes a veritable aesthetic tool, poetic and musical; and on the other hand Boito's depiction of fixed ideas opens up to a supernatural realm that puts into question the assumed technical-medical explanation of sensory hallucinations and nightmarish visions. The element that links what can be considered as representations of the *fantastic* in *L'Alfier nero* and *Re Orso* is, thus, the *idée fixe*, depicted thematically by means of the juxtaposition between the domains of the hallucinatory and the supernatural, and formally through the repetition of expressions and sentences, hence *refrains* that convey the obsessional feelings of Boito's characters.

Finalists

Zofia Litwinowicz, "Le Fantastique huysmansien entre les synesthésies et les correspondances" ("The Fantastic According to J.K. Huysmans: In-Between Synesthesia and Correspondences")

Juan C. Toledano Redondo, "Lo que se llevó 'el Ciclón del 16' en la Cuba ciberpunk de *Habana underguater*" ("What the '2016 Cyclone' Took Away in the Cyberpunk Cuba of *Habana underguater*")