

Satu Apo. **The Narrative World of Finnish Fairy Tales: Structure, Agency, and Evaluation in Southwest Finnish Folktales.** FFC 256. Helsinki: Suomalainen Tiedeakatemia, 1995. Pp. 322, notes, appendices, bibliography, indices. Approximately \$42.00 cloth.

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The Narrative World of Finnish Fairy Tales is a study of the folktales collected in Southwest Finland in the nineteenth century. Given the importance of the Finnish School in folktale research, it may be surprising to some that Satu Apo's book is one of the first monographs on the Finnish fairy tale tradition. Research on Finnish folk narrative has focused on epic poetry and has concerned itself very little with the folktale. Until Apo's monograph, no one had presented an overall view of the Finnish folktale tradition. The first half of the book presents a rigorous structural analysis while the second half describes and interprets the themes and the characters, drawing from historical, psychological, literary, and comparative schools of thought. Apo carefully details her theoretical premises, although at times her examples are overwhelming.

Apo's goal, as stated, is "to present a general picture of the chief contextual elements of long magic tales...the tale types of plots, main themes, plot structures and characters favored by Finnish tellers of fairy tales." There are times, however, when it is unclear whether Apo is discussing a general tale type or a particular variant found in Finland. Despite this drawback, Apo's extensive analysis creates new possibilities for the comparative study of Finnish and European folktales, since, as she points out, the Finnish folktale tradition is similar to the folktale traditions of surrounding countries.

Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek. **The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and Other Farm Structures.** New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1995. Pp. xii + 222, drawings, photographs, maps. \$29.95 cloth.

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As Allen Noble and Richard Cleek note in *The Old Barn Book*, an increasing number of people have made a hobby of identifying and understanding the old farm structures that dot the North American landscape. Noble and Cleek have therefore supplied these "barnwatchers" with a