The Twenty-First Annual Children's Book Festival

March 3-4, 1988
University of Southern Mississippi
School of Library Service
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI MEDALLION

The awarding of the University of Southern Mississippi Medallion to Jean Fritz is the highlight of the Twenty-First Annual Children's Book Festival, March 3 and 4, 1988. The Medallion is awarded annually for outstanding contributions in the field of children's literature. Silver medallions are cast for the recipient; for the President of the University of Southern Mississippi; for Dr. Lena Y. de Grammond, founder of the de Grammond Children's Literature Research Collection; and for the Collection's permanent display. In addition, a number of bronze medallions are cast and are available for purchase during the Festival.

Past recipients of the Medallion include:

1969 Lois Lenski
1970 Ernest H. Shepard
1971 Roger Duvoisin
1972 Marcia Brown
1973 Lynd Ward
1974 Taro Yashima
1975 Barbara Cooney
1976 Scott O'Dell
1977 Adrienne Adams
1978 Madeleine L'Engle
1979 Leonard Everett Fisher
1980 Ezra Jack Keats
1981 Maurice Sendak
1982 Beverly Cleary
1983 Katherine Paterson
1984 Peter Spier
1985 Arnold Lobel
1986 Jean Craighead George
1987 Paula Fox
1988 Jean Fritz
THE de GRUMMOND CHILDREN’S LITERATURE RESEARCH COLLECTION

The de Grummond Children’s Literature Research Collection is one of North America’s leading research centers in the field of children’s literature. Although the Collection has many strengths, the main focus is on American and British children’s literature, historical as well as contemporary.

The Collection holds original materials and published works in its facility on the fourth floor of the McCain Library and Archives on the Hattiesburg campus of the University of Southern Mississippi.

The Collection is named for Dr. Lena Y. de Grummond, author of several children’s books, who founded the Collection in 1966. She assembled materials which were sent by contributors from around the world. Over 1200 people have generously donated their books and original materials to the Collection.

For more information, please contact: Dee Jones, Curator Anne Lundin, Assistant Curator de Grummond Children’s Literature Research Collection McCain Library and Archives Southern State, Box 5148 University of Southern Mississippi Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5148 (601) 266-4349; 266-4350
Jean Fritz

The recipient of the twenty-first University of Southern Mississippi medalion was born in 1915 to missionaries in Hankow, China, where she lived until she was 13 years old. As the only American in a British school, Jean Fritz felt a compelling need to defend her country. When a history teacher characterized the American Revolution as just a stupid mistake, "I didn’t let that pass.”

She lived in an international community and was exposed to a miniature world of life-styles and customs; however, she knew that America was best. "No one is more patriotic than the one separated from his country; no one is as eager to find roots as the person who has been uprooted ...." (Jean Fritz, "On Writing Historical Fiction," Horn Book, October, 1967.) Her family’s return to America in the spring of 1928 must have seemed like a return from exile.

Jean Fritz decided at the age of five that she wanted to write poetry. When her father told her that she would never make a living writing poetry, she said that she guessed she could write stories too — stories about Americans.

Although she has written many types of books, Jean Fritz is best known for her historical fiction. Her favorite period is the Revolutionary era. "... the real reason I explore America’s past is that I like the people I meet there. John Adams is as good a friend as I have anywhere and when I try to set the record straight in the stories I write about the Revolution, it’s as much for his sake as it is for the reader’s." (Commune, Anne, Something About the Author, vol. 1, 1971)

Before she starts writing, Jean Fritz does extensive historical research, often uncovering little known details that other historians failed to report. She doesn’t falsify or dress up flattering facts, believing that it is important for children to see historical people as people.

The results of her painstaking research and unique sense of humor are cheeky, slightly irreverent stories that make history fun. We learn in What’s the Big Idea, Ben Franklin? that young Ben did swimming tricks as a boy, learning to float on his back while flying a kite. She tells us in Why Don’t You Get a Horse, Sam Adams? that Adams, revolutionary figure and founding father, stubbornly refused to learn to ride horseback in spite of the badgering of his cousin John Hancock. And Then What Happened, Paul Revere? is packed with amusing facts and details that reveal a multi-dimensional character who did more than make one big ride.

During her long career, Jean Fritz has written over 40 children’s books. She has also served as research assistant, children’s librarian, writing workshop director, book reviewer, lecturer, and faculty member. Her books have received numerous awards and honors, including the New York Times Outstanding Book of the Year (And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?, 1973), Why Don’t You Get a Horse, Sam Adams?, 1974: Where Was Patrick Henry on the 29th of May?, 1975; What’s the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?, 1976), the Boston Globe-Horn Book honor book for fiction (Will You Sign Here, John Hancock?, 1976; Stonewall, 1979), the American Book Awards finalist (Where Do You Think You’re Going, Christopher Columbus?, 1981; Traitor: the Case of Benedict Arnold, 1982), and several ALA Notable Books designations and Junior Literary Guild selections.

She received an Honorary D.Litt. from Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, PA, and was awarded the Children’s Book Guild Non-Fiction Award for her “total body of creative writing” in 1979. Her latest book is Shh! We’re Writing the Constitution, illustrated by Tomie de Paola.

Steven Kellogg

As soon as he was old enough to hold a crayon, Steven Kellogg began drawing pictures for stories he’d heard and making up and illustrating his own. Today, over 60 books later, he is as imaginative and prolific as ever. He is known for his intricate drawings filled with outrageous and extravagant details just waiting to be discovered.

Kellogg is a versatile author/illustrator. His works include easy-to-read mysteries for children just learning to read, pet stories, animal fantasies, retellings of fairy tales, and adaptations of classic folk songs.

The antics of his Great Dane are the inspiration of some of Kellogg’s most popular books, the "Pinkerton" series. Pinkerton is a great, ungainly puppy whose zany adventures are fraught with mayhem and slapstick humor.

Kellogg enjoys retelling and adapting traditional stories. "I like the idea of organizing a classic and presenting it my own way. Every artist will have his own mental pictures to go along with a particular story, so there’s always a new way of looking at something familiar." When preparing his own retellings, Kellogg researches every version of the story he can find, adapting some elements, eliminating others, and adding some original ideas. Some of his recent adaptations include Paul Bunyan (Morrow, 1984), Chicken Little (Morrow, 1985), and Pecos Bill (Morrow, 1986).


William Joyce

William Joyce, illustrator of Humphrey’s Bear, was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, and began writing and drawing as a child. He won many art awards all through his school years and at the age of eighteen was showing his work in regional galleries.

While attending Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, Joyce studied filmmaking which he feels had a great influence on his work. "Studying movies taught me how to tell a story through pictures and I think of my books as my own little movie epics." While in college he also illustrated for local newspapers and magazines. He has been influenced by artists N.C. Wyeth, Maxfield Parrish, Windsor McCay, Howard Pyle, Edward Hopper, and Maurice Sendak.

Married and living in Shreveport, Louisiana, William Joyce works out of his home. His other books include Waiting For Spring (Harper & Row, 1984), George Shrinks (Harper, 1985), Shoes (Harper, 1986), and Mother Goose (Random House, 1984).

About his work, Bill Joyce says, "I try to get better with every book I do, and feel that I’m really just starting to get better — my best work is far down the road."

Humphrey’s Bear has been named as one of Redbook magazine’s Top Ten Picturebooks for 1987 and a Booklist starred review said, "... infused with a warm, gentle spirit, this book is one to treasure."
Nancy S. Hands

Nancy S. Hands is the publisher of Yellow Brick Road newsletter, a bi-monthly publication for parents featuring quality children's books and activities for families to do together starting with the reading of a book. Nancy brings to her newsletter over twenty years of working with children and books. She has taught primary grades in Baltimore, Chicago, and London. She also has been an artist-in-residence in the Minneapolis and Rochester public schools.

In 1986, Prentice Hall Press published Illustrating Children's Books, which grew out of her summers of teaching children's book illustration at the University of Minnesota Split Rock Arts Program. 1988 will be her tenth summer teaching at the University of Minnesota.

Nancy studied children's book illustration with Uri Shulevitz and drawing at the Art Student's League. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a Master's in Education from Johns Hopkins University.

Currently Nancy is working on a biography of Ezra Jack Keats and an "Easy Reader" series. She also works in the artist-in-residence program for the Rochester, New York School District.

Pamela Barron has over twenty years experience as a children's librarian and school media specialist in libraries in Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, and the District of Columbia. She has also served on the faculties of Florida State University, Columbia College in Columbia, South Carolina, and the University of South Carolina.

In 1982 her telecourse Jump Over the Moon received a National University Continuing Education Association Award as the best continuing education program in the southeastern region. Her research on the impact of reading aloud to elementary school children was funded by a South Carolina State Department of Education grant in 1984-86. She has also done research in the area of library services to disabled children, and has published in Top of the News and in the School Library Media Annual.

Pamela Barron

Dr. Barron is active in the American Library Association, the South Carolina Library Association, and the National Association for the Preservation of Storytelling. She is currently an assistant professor in the College of Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina.

Meb Norton is Director of Libraries at Metairie Park Country Day School in Metairie, Louisiana. She received her BA from Newcomb College and her MLS from Louisiana State University. Meb has taught children's literature at Tulane University and the University of New Orleans, and presents a yearly Children's Literature Update workshop at the Independent School Association of Southwest Conference.

Meb's international travel with her family as a child gave her a strong interest in storytelling and, she honed her skills during five summers working for the Children's Arts Council in New Orleans. Prior to her work at County Day, Meb was a Children's Specialist at the New Orleans Public Library where she spent five years developing a branch program. Promoting books has always been a key interest of Meb's. She particularly enjoyed her unique experience as a consultant in the opening of a bookstore from conceptualization to the first ring of the cash register.

Anne Lundin

Anne Lundin is Assistant Curator of the de Grummond Collection. She came to librarianship after fifteen years teaching English. She has an MA in English from the University of Michigan and an MLS from Louisiana State University.

She has published in various journals, most recently the lead article in The Five Owls and a current article in Language Arts. She is compiling a bibliography of religious books for Librarians Unlimited and is doing research on Victorian periodicals related to Kate Greenaway.

Berthe Amoss teaches Children's Literature at Tulane University. She is the author and illustrator of numerous children's books, the most recent being What Did You Lose, Santa? (Harper & Row, 1987). She is the author of a monthly column, "Reading, Writing & Children," in the New Orleans Times Picayune. In March 1986, she was one of ten artists participating in a 10th year anniversary exhibit at the Newcomb College Woman's Center Art Gallery. She is working on a novel for older children as well as a picture book.

Berthe Amoss

CHILDREN'S BOOK PREVIEW CENTER

The School of Library Service at the University of Southern Mississippi has established a preview center for children's books. Children's book publishers have provided review copies of over 350 books which are available for examination by students in education and library science classes, by faculty members who teach children's literature, and by participants in the Children's Book Festival. Written reviews of the books are being solicited for publication in several established sources. The Children's Book Preview Center will be open at selected times during the Children's Book Festival. Participating publishers include:

Macmillan Publishing Co.
Aladdin Books
Atheneum Publishers
Bradbury Press
Charles Scribner's Sons
Collier Books
Four Winds Press
Margaret K.McElderry
Harper and Row Publishers
Harper Junior Books
T. Y. Crowell Junior
J. B. Lippincott Junior

Little Brown and Company
Atlantic Monthly Press
Henry Holt and Company
William Morrow and Company
Lothrop, Lee and Shepard
Morrow Junior Books
Random House
Alfred A. Knopf Books
Pelican Publishing Company
Lerner Publications
Scholastics, Inc.
Viking Penguin, Inc.
Puffin Books