The Twenty-Eighth Annual

Children's Book Festival

The University of Southern Mississippi

March 22-24, 1995
The University of Southern Mississippi

The awarding of the University of Southern Mississippi Medallion to Tomie dePaola is the highlight of the Twenty-Eighth Annual Children's Book Festival, March 22-24, 1995. 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, and for the de Grummond Children's Literature Research 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

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
1989 Lee Bennett Hopkins
1990 Charlotte Zolotow
1991 Richard Peck
1992 James Marshall
1993 Quentin Blake
1994 Ashley Bryan
Thomas Anthony (Tomie) dePaola

On March 23-24, The University of Southern Mississippi will honor the twenty-eighth annual recipient of the University's Medallion, author and illustrator Tomie dePaola. As a creator of children's stories and folklore, dePaola's career spans forty years and includes more than one hundred and eighty books.

Born in 1934 near the end of the Great Depression, Tomie Anthony dePaola grew up in an Irish-Italian home just before the advent of television, when radio shows still enjoyed a preeminent position as a favorite form of family entertainment. This exposure to radio influenced his early development by nurturing a love of storytelling, which was reinforced by his mother reading to him and his brother.

From his earliest years dePaola realized he wanted to make "books with pictures"—a goal he announced to his first grade teacher. Throughout grade school, dePaola's teachers and parents encouraged him to use and develop his gift, and as he progressed through middle school to high school dePaola concentrated on illustration. Admitted to Pratt Institute in New York to study design in 1952, dePaola earned his degree in the standard four years. After graduation he entered a Benedictine monastery in Vermont for six months—an experience he once confided to the Something About the Author series as helping him to define deep spiritual values. He has maintained his association with the Benedictines throughout the years, occasionally producing liturgical art, fabric designs for their weaving studies, and Christmas cards for the order.

Thoroughly distinguished in his career, dePaola has taught art design at a number of small colleges in New England, several of them associated with the Catholic Church. His designs for greeting cards, posters, magazines, record album covers, and theater sets are as lively as his children's book art. His work has been exhibited since the late 1950s at the Rizzoli Gallery in New York City, the Louisiana Arts and Sciences Center in Baton Rouge, and several galleries in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Among his many books for children, dePaola can count numerous award winners including Charlie Needs A Cock (1973), Simple Pictures Are Best (1977), and Striga Nova (1975), all received the Brooklyn Museum's Art Book for Children Citation. His most highly awarded children's book is Striga Nova, named a Caldecott Honor Book in 1976 and winner in 1978 of the Nakamore Prize in Japan. In addition, dePaola has received several awards for his body of work, including the prestigious Regina Medal in 1983, the Kerlan Award in 1981, and the David McCord Children's Literature Citation in 1986. In 1990, dePaola was the American nominee in the illustration for the Hans Christian Anderson Award.

Always innovative in his adaptation of old folk tales and family experiences, dePaola complements his stories with carefully crafted illustrations designed to serve as an alternative "text" for children too young to read. According to dePaola, these illustrations should illustrate as well as amplify the text in such a way that non-readers can understand the story simply by "reading the pictures."

According to critics and admirers alike, dePaola's exuberant personality shines through in all of his work, radiating good cheer even when addressing a serious topic. Apparently his readers agree. Throughout the years, children nationwide have chosen his books as their favorites, and one suspects that for dePaola, there could be no higher compliment.
Bruce Brooks

Described in a Publishers Weekly interview as a "literary chameleon" because of his ability to fashion characters that cross both color and gender lines, Bruce Brooks has made quite a splash in the world of children's literature since the publication of his first novel, The Moes Make the Man (1984). Brooks himself is something of a professional chameleons as well, having worked as a letterpress printer, newspaper reporter, teacher, and finally as a writer. A relative newcomer to children's literature, Brooks has already won several prestigious awards, including the Boston Globe Horn Book Award and a Newbery Honor in 1985 for The Moes Make the Man. The American Library Association recognized him in 1986 as a best book for young adults and Booklist selected No Kidding as a young adult editor's choice. What Harris captured a second Newbery Honor in 1987 for The Moes Make the Man.

While Brooks insists that he does not concentrate on his unhappy past, either in his personal life or his writing, his work does reflect his childhood in many ways. The experiences of the young protagonist in No Kidding, like Brooks, learned early what it was to have an alcoholic mother. Just as he encountered the reality of racial tensions in the pre-civil rights South in his own childhood, Brooks uses the two friends in The Moes Make the Man to explore the relationship between white and black youngsters. Yet in the first person narrative of The Moes Make the Man, Brooks crosses the color line and narrated the story in the voice of a young African American. In Midnight Hour Encore, Brooks leaps another boundary line—this time of gender—and examines the world of Sibilance, a sixteen-year-old world class cellist.

Trained at the prestigious Iowa Writer's Workshop at the University of Iowa, Brooks speaks with a certain confidence about the style he has developed in his work. In an interview with The Horn Book, Brooks maintained that his characters are "characters" for whom he feels more comfortable than the "first person" voice. Most recently, Brooks left the field of fictional children's literature to write a series of nonfiction books about nature, concentrating on animal predators. Brooks ascribes his unique talent for adopting widely divergent narrative voices and his success to an "investigative spirit...an ear for voices, a quickness to analyze how people do things and why, an almost desperately open mind, and a sense of strategy." If professional recognition measures the success of his strategy works, this is what Karla Kuskin

Reminiscing about her childhood, Karla Kuskin once recalled that despite the many attractions New York City held for a curiously child—king ball on the sidewalk square, ice-skating, the museums, movies and plays—her favorite pastime was reading. As a shy, bouncy child, books sometimes took the place of people and allowed Kuskin to "live in the stories" she read. Both parents were avid readers and enjoyed reading aloud to their daughter—an experience Kuskin credits with impressing upon her the "swing and color of words." Even before she could read, Kuskin loved to hear her mother read her own stories and verses, and she read them until she was 15 years old. From 1930 to 1936, Kuskin attended the Antioch College and in 1955 graduated from Yale University's School of Fine Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. As a class project, she wrote, printed, and bound a book about animal noises, later published by Harper and Row as Roar and More (1956), which won an American Institute of Graphic Arts Book Show Award.

Kuskin then plunged into the world of children's literature, writing and illustrating How Do You Get from Here to There? (1962) and June Ann Jane Spoon and Her Very Adventurous Search for the Moon (1966). The latter title was written under the pen name Nicholas J. Charles—a pseudonym constructed from the names of her children Nicholas and Julia and from her husband's first name. In the early 1980s, she received several important awards for her work. The American Library Association recognized her in 1980 for Dogs and Dragons, Trees and Dreams: A Collection of Poems and again in 1982 for The Alligator Gets Dressed. The book, which was named a New York Times Best Illustrated Book and which received a National Book Award nomination in 1983.

Besides contributing to the genre of children's literature, Kuskin concerns herself with children in a more immediate manner. She often visits schools, offering instruction to children about writing their own verses. However, she discourages them from using rhyme in their own work as the effort often freezes their originality and ultimately sounds artificial. Instead, she gently pushes them to focus on writing verses by visualizing objects or by concentrating on experiences and descriptions—all in short, easy lines rather than perfectly crafted sentences.

In addition to her work as an author, illustrator, and instructor, Kuskin has contributed to the Saturday Review, House and Garden, and the Village Voice as an essayist and reviewer. However, Kuskin's work as a children's author is known primarily for her short, rhythmic verse and carefully designed illustrations, both of which are marked by a sharpness of vision which Kuskin attributes to her mother's eye for detail. Most recently, Kuskin exercised that same vision in Soap Soup (HarperCollins, 1992) and The City Dog (Clarion, 1994).

Jeanne Titherington

Born in New York City on May 23, 1951, Jeanne Titherington knew from age ten that the artist was the career for her. By the age of 17, she was a student at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn between 1969 and 1970. After receiving her degree, she left later moving to the Portland School of Art where she graduated in 1973. She studied at the University of Maine, graduating in 1975. Her official major was listed as painting, but only because her advisor could decide precisely how to classify her particular hybrid of painting and construction art.

Having graduated from the University of Maine, Titherington found that she could not afford art school, and encouraged her to adapt her work to the world of illustrating books. The illustrated book, the Chronicles of Pontifolia was published by David R. Godine in 1981. Susan Hirschman of Greenwillow Books recognized Titherington's many talents and encouraged her to write as well as illustrate. Her children's books deal primarily with a preschooler's concerns: a new sibling, bedtime, separation from parents, and the like. Examples are her Big World, Small World (1985), Pumpkin, Pumpkin (1986), A Place for Ben (1987), and A Child's Prayer (1988). Titherington insists that the "subtlety of the child" fascinates her most and confides that she feels she never grows up and hopes she never will.

Although she has made the transition to author/illustrator, Titherington's illustrations have brought her the most attention, leading to exhibitions at the Justin Schiller Gallery in Manhattan in 1983 and at Manhattan's Master Eagle Gallery as well as reviews from the New York Times. In 1982, she received the award for the Illustration of the Year for her illustration in The Story-teller. In addition to the positive attention showered on her work by reviewers, Titherington's books have received several awards, including a 1987 Children's Science Book Award from the New York Academy of Sciences for Pumpkin, Pumpkin and A Place for Ben was listed on Redbook's Top Ten Children's Picture Books in 1985. Jeanne Titherington lives in Houston, Texas, with her husband and their daughter Anna.

Selma Lanes

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, in the spring of 1929, Selma Lanes has served the world of children's literature as a free-lance writer, consultant, and critic in her long and distinguished career, receiving a B.A. from Smith College in 1950 and an M.S. in 1955 from Columbia University. Although she has written a few books intended for younger readers, her main contribution to the field has been by way of critical analysis. Including regular appearances in the New York Times Book Review, the Book World supplement of the Washington Post, and the Chicago Tribune, Lanes also has served as the articles editor for Parent's Magazine and as editor-in-chief of Parent's Magazine Press (1974-78). She has lectured at Parsons School of Design (1958), the Museum of Art and Industry (1962), and Art Museum (1988). From 1963 to 1964, Lanes worked as the director of the Schiller-Wagner Galleries in New York. Clearly a woman of many talents, Lanes' most significant gift to the world of children's literature has been Down the Rabbit Hole: Advenures and Misadventures in the Realm of Children's Literature (1971) and The Art of Maurice Sendak (1980). We are pleased that Selma Lanes will be presenting the 10th Annual Ezra Jack Keats Lecture.

Jackie Torrence

Jackie Torrence is well known for her retellings of the Uncle Remus and Br'er Rabbit stories which can be heard on audiocassettes. A collection of stories told by her grandparents form the basis of The Importance of Pot Liqur (August House 1994). Torrence still lives in Salisbury, North Carolina, quite close to her granddaughter's home where she spent much of her childhood. In celebration of her outstanding achievements, Torrence received the Annie Glenn Award in 1998, given to professionals who have overcome a speech or hearing defect. She also is featured in the touring exhibit and book I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America.

Her rich sweet voice will captivate young and old alike as she reveals the world of her childhood through her stories.
Workshop Leaders

Debra Ann King
Debra Ann King is a faculty member at The University of Southern Mississippi in the Department of Educational Leadership and Research, and teaches foundation courses. She has nine years teaching experience in grades one and six.

Janie Allen Bradley
Janie Allen Bradley is an associate professor at Delta State University where she teaches children’s literature and reading courses. She was a faculty member at The University of Southern Mississippi for thirteen years after having received an M.S. and Ph.D. from there. Her B.S. degree is from Mississippi University for Women, and she taught elementary school for ten years.

Dr. Allen Bradley especially enjoys working with teachers, demonstrating ways to use children’s literature for pleasure and across the curriculum in their classrooms. She is active in the Mississippi Reading Association in which she presently serves on the Board of Directors. She is working toward publication of two children’s books she has written for beginning readers.

Special Thanks

The USM Children’s Book Festival would like to thank the following for their help in making this 1995 Children’s Book Festival an exciting and rewarding event:

Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas, President, The University of Southern Mississippi

Members of our planning committee
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Joy Greiner
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Tomie dePaola Bibliography

Alice Nizzy Nazzy, the Witch of Santa Fe by Tony Johnston, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1995.

Andy (That’s My Name) written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Prentice-Hall, 1973.

Art Lesson written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1989.

Authorized Autumn Charts of the Upper Red Canoe River Country by Peter Zachary Cohen, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Atheneum, 1972.

Babies and Books: A Joyous Beginning by Claudia Quigg and Katie Gross for Baby Talk, photos by Wayne Rutherford, illustrated by Tomie dePaola.

Baby’s First Christmas written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1988.


Bill and Pete written by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1978.

Bill and Pete Go Down the Nile written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1987.

Bonjour, Mr. Satie written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1991.

Cabinet of the President of the United States by James A. Elcner, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Watts, 1968.

Can’t You Make Them Behave, King George? by Jean Fritz, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1977.

Carseck Zebra and Other Animal Riddles by David A. Alder, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Holiday House, 1983.

Casper’s Week by Cindy Ward, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Macdonald, 1989.

Cat on the Doorstep: A Christmas Tale translated from the Norse by George Webbe Dasent, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1979.


Christopher the Holy Giant written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Holiday House, 1994.

Cloud Book written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Holiday House, 1975.


Comic Adventures of Old Mother Hubbard and Her Dog by Sarah Catherine Martin, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1981.

Cookie’s Week by Cindy Ward, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1988.

Country Angel Christmas written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1995.

Criss-Cross, Applesauce by Tomie dePaola, illustrations by B.A. King and his children; Addison House, 1978.

Danny and His Thumb by Kathryn F. Ernst, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Prentice-Hall, 1973.

David and Goliath retold and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Winston Press, 1984.

David’s Windmill by Alice Low, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1974.

Dog Wash by Tony Johnston, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Firefly Paperbacks, 1977.

Early American Christmas written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Holiday House, 1987.
Easter Buds are Sprouting: Poems for Easter selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1979.

Eduard, Benjamin and Butler by Malcolm Hall, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; CowardMcCann Geoghegan, 1981.

Family Christmas Tree Book written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Holiday House, 1980.

Fat Magic by Steven Kroll, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Holiday House, 1978.

Fight the Night written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Lippincott, 1968.

Fin M’Coul, the Giant of Knockmany Hill retold and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Holiday House, 1981.

Finders Keepers,Losers Weepers by Joan M. Lexau, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Lippincott, 1967.

First Christmas: A Festive Pop-Up Book written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1984.


Folklore of Love and Courtship compiled by Duncan Enrich, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; American Heritage Press, 1970.

Folklore of Weddings and Marriages compiled by Duncan Enrich, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; American Heritage Press, 1970.

For Every Child a Star: A Christmas Story by Tom Yecmans, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Holiday House, 1986.

Four Scary Stories by Tony Johnston, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1978.

Four Stories for Four Seasons written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Prentice-Hall, 1977.

Francis, the Poor Man of Assisi written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Holiday House, 1982.


Friendly Beasts: An Old English Christmas Carol written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1981.

Funyman and the Penny Dodo by Stephen Mooser, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Watts, 1984.

Funyman's First Case by Stephen Mooser, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Watts, 1981.


Ghost with the Halloween Hiccups by Stephen Mooser, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Watts, 1977.

Giants' Farm by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Seabury Press, 1977.

Giants Go Camping by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Seabury Press, 1979.

Giorgio's Village written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1982.

Good Giants and the Bad Pusodugles by Jean Fritz, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1982.

Good Morning to You, Valentine: Poems selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Harcourt, 1975.

Great Adventure of Christopher Columbus: A Pop-Up Book by Jean Fritz, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam and Grosset, 1992.

Haircuts for the Woollyogs written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1989.

Hark!/A Christmas Sampler by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Tomie dePaola, with music and arrangements by Adam Sempel; Putnam, 1991.


Hercules, the Gentle Giant by Nina Schneider, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Hawthorn, 1969.

Hey Diddle Diddle: And Other Mother Goose Rhymes (selections from Tomie dePaola's Mother Goose); Putnam, 1988.

Hold Everything by Sam and Beryl Epstein, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Holiday House, 1973.

Hot as an Ice Cube by Phillip Balistrino, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Crowell, 1971.

How to be a Puppeteer by Eleanor Boylan, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; McColl, 1970; Dutton, 1970.


If He's My Brother by Barbara Williams, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Harvey House, 1976.


Jamie O'Rourke and His Big Potato retold and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1992.


Joe and the Snow written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Hawthorn, 1968.


Journey of the Kiss written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Hawthorn, 1970.

Katie and Kit at the Beach written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Simon & Schuster, 1986.

Katie, Kit, and Cousin Tom written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Simon & Schuster, 1986.

Katie's Good Idea written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Simon & Schuster, 1986.

Katie's Cat Book written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Holiday House, 1979.

Kit and Kat written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Grosset & Dunlap, 1994.

Knight and the Dragon written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1980.

Lady of Guadalupe written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Holiday House, 1980.


Legend of the Bluebonnet: An Old Tale of Texas retold and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1983.

Legend of the Indian Paintbrush written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1987.

Legend of the Persian Carpet retold by Tomie dePaola, illustrated by Claire Evans; Putnam, 1993.

Legend of the Poinsettia: A Christmas Story by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1990.

Let's Find Out about Communications by Valerie Pitt, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Watts, 1973.

Let's Find Out about Houses by Martha and Charles Shapp, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Watts, 1975.

Let's Find Out about Summer by Martha and Charles Shapp, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Watts, 1976.

Light and Sight by Melvin L. Alexenberg, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Prentice-Hall, 1969.

Little Friar Who Flew by Patricia Lee Gauch, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1980.

Little Grunt and the Big Egg written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Holiday House, 1990.

Look in the Mirror by Sam and Beryl Epstein, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Holiday House, 1973.

Maggie and the Monster by Elizabeth Windthrop, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Holiday House, 1987.

Marc the Magificent by Sue Alexander, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Pantheon, 1978.

Marianna May and Nussy written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Holiday House, 1983.

Martha's Mystery Machine by Sibyl Hancock, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Putnam, 1972.

Mary: The Mother of Jesus written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Holiday House, 1995.

Mary Had a Little Lamb by Sarah Josepha Hale, illustrated by Tomie dePaola; Holiday House, 1984.
Children's Book Review Center

Over 1,000 recently published books for children and young adults are available for examination and review at The University of Southern Mississippi Children's Book Review Center. Students in education and library science classes, faculty members, and participants in the Children's Book Festival are invited to visit the Center, which is sponsored by the School of Library and Information Science. The Review Center is open at selected times during the Children's Book Festival.

Participating publishers

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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. In addition, holdings include 50,000 published books.

A major acquisition is that of the Ezra Jack Keats Collection. The original artwork, typescripts, dummies, and preliminary sketches for 36 books by the Caldecott award-winning author/illustrator complement the archives of his personal and professional papers already housed in the de Grummond Collection.

For more information, please contact

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