



Number 4
(August 2003)

"It is the function of some people to be a lamp and some to be a mirror. I have been very pleased to function as a mirror of others' work." – Arne Nixon



Arne J. Nixon taught children's literature and storytelling for many years at California State University, Fresno. In 1995 he gave 22,000 children's books to the Henry Madden Library and when he died, in 1997, he left the Library a generous bequest to endow the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature.

"Words and Pictures: The World of Children's Books" conference planned

The Arne Nixon Center will co-sponsor a regional conference with the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) on the campus of California State University, Fresno, on October 17 and 18, 2003. Activities include a Friday night reception and an all-day Saturday workshop.

On Friday, October 17, the Arne Nixon Center Advocates (ANCA) will host a reception so conference attendees can get acquainted and tour the Arne Nixon Center. Stephen Mooser, President and co-founder of the SCBWI, will describe this international organization, which has 16,000 members. Other speakers, listed below, will offer previews of their talks scheduled for the next day.

On Saturday, October 18, Mooser will discuss "Writing for Boys, Then Getting Them to Read It." Picture book author Alexis O'Neill will present "Selling Your Picture Book Without an Agent."

(See SCBWI, page 6)

Patricia McKissack, award-winning author of "Goin' Someplace Special," will speak on October 18.



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Frances Hodgson Burnett Society formed

A new literary society was founded in Fresno on April 26, 2003, tentatively titled The Frances Hodgson Burnett Society. It will study the works, life, and influence of this famous British/American author.

The society was a result of the "Frances Hodgson Burnett: Beyond *The Secret Garden* Conference" sponsored by the Arne Nixon Center. This conference, held in Fresno from April 25-27, attracted a hundred people from England, Ireland, Australia, Japan, and from many parts of the United States. Evaluations were overwhelmingly favorable. Even the weather cooperated, with cool, sunny

(See FHB Society, page 6)



Gretchen Gerzina, Peter Hanff, Penny Deupree, Diana Birchall (standing), Deborah Bellow, and Angelica Carpenter discuss the new Society.

Betty Jo Peterson

1932–2002

Betty Jo Peterson, the founding Vice President and Membership Chair of the Arne Nixon Center Advocates, died September 23, 2002, in Fresno.

She received her M.L.S. from UC Berkeley in 1956. She worked as a children's librarian and later as children's services coordinator at the Kern County Library in Bakersfield from 1956-1973 and as Curriculum/Juvenile Librarian at the Madden Library at California State University, Fresno, from 1973-1996.

As a member of the American Library Association, she served on the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award Committee, the Notable Children's Books Committee, the Newbery Medal Award Committee, and the Caldecott Medal Award Committee. She also served on the John and Patricia Beatty Award Committee of the California Library Association. An active member of the Fresno Area Library Council, the California Media and Library Educators Association, and the Fresno Branch of the American Association of University Woman, she was for many years a judge for the story writing contest of Fresno's William Saroyan Festival.

Her family donated her collection of more than 600 children's books and other materials to the Arne Nixon Center and asked that donations be made to the Center in her memory. To date, more than \$1,800 has been received. The donations will help to fund the Frances Hodgson Burnett conference, which she was helping to plan.

Betty Jo Peterson's accomplishments and leadership touched the lives and hearts of many people, and helped to establish the Arne Nixon Center. Her friends miss her very much.



Tales & Tidbits from ANCA

By Denise Sciandra,
ANCA President



The Arne Nixon Center Advocates, ANCA, is thriving. There are 300 members including 20 Life Members. They live in Great Britain and 11 states in the U.S.—California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, and Washington.

Members distinguish themselves in unique ways. Carol Brown of Corvallis, Oregon, joined ANCA at some 30,000 feet in the air somewhere between Atlanta and L.A. Lisa Schoof of El Cerrito, California, sent photos from the March Festival to be published in *Martha's Kidlit Newsletter*.

There has been transition on the ANCA Board. Founding members Betty Jo Peterson and Jane Fischer have been replaced by Cynthia MacDonald and JoEllen Misakian. Betty Jo died unexpectedly in September. Her calm, cheerful manner and thoughtful contributions are already missed. Jane continues to be active doing what she loves, calling people, for ANCA, on the telephone. Cynthia, Youth Services Manager for the Fresno County Public Library, and Jo Ellen, Director of the Library Media Credential/Master's Program at Fresno Pacific University, bring much expertise. A quirky statistic: this 12-member board now has 5 left-handers.

At the beginning of 2002, I had no idea that the ANCA annual meeting in October would be my first outing following four weeks of confinement after surgery. No one was happier to be at that event than I was. Out of the house AND hearing Richard Peck speak. Newbery award-winning author Peck exceeded expectations. He spoke primarily from his book, *Invitations to the World*, about teaching and writing for the young based on his experiences as a teacher. The many teachers in the audience could be seen nodding emphatically as he spoke.

In November, ANCA sponsored Peter Hanff, Deputy Director of the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley, President of The International Wizard of Oz Club, and author of *Bibliographia Oziana*, who shared his knowledge of Oz books. He even interested several people in attending the Winkie conference at Asilomar in July. Performers from New Wrinkles dressed as Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Lion (see photo on page 7), treated the audience to Oz songs and Sandy Stubblefield prepared Ozzy refreshments. All in all, an informative, enjoyable morning. Many worthwhile programs that perpetuate the work begun by Arne Nixon are planned through June 2004. Members of ANCA will receive the earliest notice of all of these.

Would Arne be proud of what the ANC/ANCA team has accomplished so far? I think so!

Answers to quiz:

1. *The Secret Garden*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett
2. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, by J. K. Rowling
3. *Gaops and How to be Them*, by Gelett Burgess
4. *Anne of Green Gables*, by L. M. Montgomery

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The Arne Nixon Center for the
Study of Children's Literature
Henry Madden Library
California State University, Fresno
5200 North Barton Avenue M/S ML34
Fresno, CA 93740-8014

Phone: (559) 278-8116

Web site: www.arnenixoncenter.org

Open weekdays 1 – 4:30 p.m.
and by appointment.

Staff

Angelica Carpenter, Curator
E-mail: angelica@csufresno.edu

Jennifer Crow, Library Assistant
Matt Borrego, Student Assistant
Dearly Amara, Student Assistant
Maria Carrizales, Student Assistant

ANCA Board of Directors

Denise Sciandra, President

Phone (559) 229-5085

E-mail: deeceeb@psnw.com

Jackie Sarkisian, Vice President
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Magic Mirror

Angelica Carpenter, Editor
Janet Bancroft, Designer & Co-editor

Graham Rust kindly granted permission for the
use of his illustrations (on front and back pages)
from *The Secret Garden*.

by Angelica Carpenter

CURATOR'S CORNER



The Secret Garden was my favorite book (well, one of my favorites) when I was a child. I read it over and over. It has healing powers: at age twelve I spent a homesick week at church camp. On my first day back, I celebrated by rereading *The Secret Garden* on my front porch in Omaha.

In 1990 my mother, Jean Shirley, and I published *Frances Hodgson Burnett: Beyond the Secret Garden*, a biography for young people. When I tell people about this book, their eyes glaze over and they say, “*The Secret Garden* was my favorite book when I was young.” This response occurs in America or Britain in the very same way.

Soon after moving to Fresno, I was invited to give a talk at the Unitarian Universalist Church, where Denise Sciandra and her committee have organized a fine children's library. Speaking outside in the sunny churchyard, I noticed a large vegetable garden next door. It was a community garden, I learned, and the gardeners were Hmong immigrants.

Teacher Richard Moats, whom I met that day, was teaching English to a class of these Hmong men and boys. He had planned to use children's books in this effort, but the books he had selected were not needed; the class he took over had already started reading a long novel written for children, *The Secret Garden*. Richard worried that this book might be more appropriate for female readers and he feared also that its Yorkshire dialect might prove confusing to people who were struggling with English.

But the book came through for him. The Hmong men and boys loved *The Secret Garden*. They, and all the book's fans, could identify with the idea of planting a garden in a strange land in order to make a new home.

In April Fresno will bloom with scholars and fans from around the world, meeting to celebrate the life and works of Frances Hodgson Burnett. We hope to see you at the conference!

Happy reading!

Curator publishes fourth book

Lewis Carroll: Through the Looking Glass is Angelica Carpenter's fourth biography for young people. The book, dated 2003, was released late in 2002 by Lerner Publications Company of Minneapolis.

Lewis Carroll, whose real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, wrote children's books under a pseudonym, probably to protect his academic reputation. As principal mathematics tutor at Christ Church, a college at Oxford University in England, he published many books on mathematics and logic. He wrote *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* for a child friend, daughter of the college dean.

Born in 1832, the son of an Anglican minister, Lewis Carroll grew up in a large, happy family, telling stories to his ten brothers and sisters. At Oxford he took up the newly invented hobby of photography. Today he is considered the Victorian era's finest photographer of children. Photography gave him an entrée into artistic circles in London where his friends included the most famous authors, artists, and actors of his time. His photographs, some of nude children, make him a controversial figure more than 100 years after his death.

Angelica Carpenter traveled to England several times to do research for this book and to take photographs, her first to be published.



ANCA members (joining April 1–December 31, 2002)

(those joining before January 1, 2002, are considered Charter Members)

\$1,000 Life Membership

Robert & Linda Glassman
James & Coke Hallowell
Eleanor Larsen*
Jim & Kay Provost*
Don & Carol Larson
Dennis & Sandy Stubblefield*
Alice Peters

\$250 Patron Membership

Susan Cooper
J. Delbert & Mary Crummey
Lisa Schoof*

\$100 Sponsor Membership

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Mark & Janet Cameron
Robert & Doe Clark
Sheli Glasrud
Mary Graham
Audry & Merle Hanson*
Dorothy Hughes*
Richard & Althea Johanson
Thomas & Vicie Nagy
Robert & Stephanie Oliver
Alexis O'Neill
Wendy Nugent
R.W. & Grace Pengilly
Bertina Richter
SCBWI
Sherry Shahan
Turnipseed Infant–Toddler
Educare & Preschool
Kristene Vaux & John Scholefield*

\$50 Advocate Membership

Neil & Linda Baird
Jerry & Pat Bird
Mary Lou Carrillo
George & Anidelle Flint, in honor
of Nicholas Hershenow*
Craig & Kathie Hartsell
Adrienne Herrell
Gray & Geraldine Hughes*
Barbara Leal
Gary & Barbara Marsella
Betsy Mitchell
Dick & Wilda Moller
Bette Noblett
Sylvia Owens
Etta Paladino
Caroline Williams

\$25 Sustaining Membership

Merilee Amos
Vallorie Borchardt
Carol Lynn Brown
Jeannie DeGroot*
Virginia Dow
Sandra Dralle
Jeri Chase Ferris*
Doreen Gauthier
Frances Graves
Nancy Hatcher
Kathy Haug
Karen Hill
Melba Johnson

Lois Langer
Daryl Lusher
Brenda Martin
Margaret McMahon
Linda Minier
Marisa Montes
Kim Peters
Jean Piston
Stephen Sacks & Valerie Johnson
Balzer & Blondia Scherr
Mary Schrader
Bernadette Siegel
Ann Stalcup
Elizabeth Sullivan
Amy Teeter
Nancy Tholen
Karen Thomas
Sandy Wee
Andrew & Carolyn Wright
Roberta Young

\$10 Student Membership and Other Members

Janice Hallaian
Tirian Klein
Chris Peters
Ashley Peters
Aaron Rapp
Mercy Rubio
Melanie Tatco

* Membership upgrade/Additional donation

Memorial donations

In Memory of Betty Jo Peterson

AAUW-Fresno Branch
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Janet Bateson
Judith Board
Hal & Janet Bochin
Elizabeth Calderwood
Richard & Angelica Carpenter
Lanette Ching
Wilma Conner
Carol Cousineau
Melva Cousins
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Michael Gorman
Jerry & Sandra Gothe
Frances Graves
Sue Haffner
Christy Hicks
Stephanie Hillman
Ruth & John Kallenberg
Rosellen Kershaw
Russell & Kathleen Kirkpatrick

Bernice Lacks
Howard & Mary Ann Latimer
Susan Mangini
Howard & Eileen Michaelis
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Lillie Parker
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Mary Ellen & Betty Graham
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Robert & Jill Smetherman
Phillip & Evelynne Walker
Hope Woodhouse

In Memory of Suzanne Cates

Michael Gorman
John & Ruth Kallenberg

Donations of materials

April–December 2002

Curriculum/Juvenile Collection, Henry Madden Library:

66 books in foreign languages, 34 books in English

de Grummond Collection: 6 books, 49 periodicals

Lois Duncan: 12 foreign language editions of her books

Lynne Edwards: 24 books

Family of Betty Jo Peterson: 600 of her books and other materials

Louise Feinberg: book and other materials

Ramona Frasher: 387 books from China

Friends of the Fresno County Library and Rosellen Kershaw: 81 books

Michael Gorman: 29 books

Henry Holt and Co.: 46 books

Holiday House: 38 books

Houghton-Mifflin: 68 books

Carol and Don Larson: 23 books

Lerner Publications: 21 books

Rudy Najjar: 5 books

Oakland Public Library: 146 books

Richard Peck: 6 books

Penguin Putnam: 10 books

Mary Purucker: 188 books

Random House: 133 books

Richmond Public Library: 30 books, 336 periodicals

Bertina Richter: 7 books

San Francisco Public Library: 142 books

Scholastic: 138 books

Sciandra Family: 16 books

The value of materials donated to the Arne Nixon Center since its opening is estimated at more than \$70,000! To list every gift would overflow this newsletter. Thanks to all our donors!

Sign me up!

I/We would like to join the Arne Nixon Center Advocates and enclose a donation. (Donations are tax-deductible as allowable by law.)

____ New membership ____ Renewal

____ \$1,000 Life membership

____ \$ 250 Patron membership

____ \$ 100 Sponsor membership

____ \$ 50 Advocate membership

____ \$ 25 Sustaining membership

____ \$ 10 Student membership

____ \$ Other amount

Make check payable to CSUF Foundation.

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Mail to: Angelica Carpenter
California State University, Fresno
Henry Madden Library
The Arne Nixon Center
5200 North Barton Ave. M/S ML34
Fresno, CA 93740-8014

Phone (559) 278-8116

FAX (559) 278-6952

E-mail angelica@csufresno.edu

Not just for children

The Arne Nixon Center and Sunnyside Regional Library, a branch of the Fresno County Public Library, will co-sponsor a program funded by a grant from the California Center for the Book. "Not for Children Only: Classic Children's Literature for Adults" is a book discussion group to be led by Dr. Glenn DeVoogd from the Literacy and Early Education Department at California State University, Fresno. The books to be discussed are:

Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott

The Secret Garden, by Frances Hodgson Burnett

The Classic Fairy Tales, by Iona and Peter Opie

The Giver, by Lois Lowry

Charlotte's Web, by E. B. White

Dragonwings, by Laurence Yep

From March 4 through April 1, the program will meet every Monday at Sunnyside Regional Library, 5566 East Kings Canyon Road, Fresno, at 7 p.m. The library will lend books to program participants. There is no charge. For more information, call (559) 255-6595.

Conference, from page 1

Participants will stay at the Piccadilly Inn—University (phone (559) 224-4200; ask for “Burnett Conference” rates). Conference meetings will take place on campus and at the hotel. The conference will conclude with brunch in a beautiful Fresno garden.

Featured speakers for plenary sessions:

Phyllis Bixler, author of *Frances Hodgson Burnett* (Twayne’s English Authors Series).

Angelica Shirley Carpenter, Curator of the Arne Nixon Center and author of *Frances Hodgson Burnett: Beyond the Secret Garden*.

Michael Cart, librarian, teacher, *Booklist* columnist, and author of *From Romance to Realism, a History of Young Adult Literature*.

Penny Deupree, Frances Hodgson Burnett’s great-granddaughter.

Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina, Professor of English, Vassar University, author of *Black London: Life Before Emancipation* and *Carrington*. Her new biography of Burnett will be published in 2003 by Rutgers University Press.

Alison Lurie, Professor of English, Cornell University, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, author of *Foreign Affairs*, *Boys and Girls Forever: Children’s Classics from Cinderella to Harry Potter*, and *Don’t Tell the Grown-Ups: The Subversive Power of Children’s Literature*.



*Pulitzer Prize winner
Alison Lurie will
speak at a luncheon on April 26.*

Ann Thwaite, Burnett’s principal biographer, author of *Waiting for the Party: The Life of Frances Hodgson Burnett, 1849-1924*. Thwaite, the esteemed British author of *A. A. Milne: The Man Behind Winnie-the-Pooh*, will deliver a pre-conference lecture, “Who Wrote Winnie-the-Pooh?” at the Satellite Student Union at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 24, as part of the University Lecture Series.

Presenters and their topics:

Amy Billone, Professor, University of Tennessee. “‘Almost Like Fear’: Doubling and the Sublime in Frances Hodgson Burnett’s *A Little Princess*.”

Nancy Chinn, Associate Professor, English Department, Baylor University. “*A Little Princess* and Two Film Versions: Changing Images of American Girls.”

Carole Dunbar, Lecturer, St. Patrick’s College, Drumcondra, Ireland. “Rats in Black Holes and Corners: An Examination of Frances Hodgson Burnett’s Portrayal of the Urban Poor.”

Jerry Griswold, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, San Diego State University, author of *Audacious Kids: Coming of Age in America’s Classic Children’s Books*. “Snuggles: The Robin in its Nest.”

Ariko Kawabata, Assistant Professor, Aichi Prefectural University, Japan. “*A Fair Barbarian* and ‘the Noble Bachelor’: The Transatlantic Marriage Plot in Burnett and Doyle.”

Megan Lambert, Youth Services Librarian, Gaylord Memorial Library, South Hadley, Massachusetts. “Just a Whisper: Connecting Burnett’s *Secret Garden* with Other Touchstone Works of Children’s Literature in an Undergraduate Survey Course.”

Anne Lundin, Associate Professor, School of Library and Information Studies, University of Wisconsin, author of *Victorian Horizons: The Reception of the Picture Books of Walter Crane, Randolph Caldecott, and Kate Greenaway*. “Cultural Work: The Critical and Commercial Reception of *The Secret Garden*.”

Tim Morris, Professor and Chair in the English Department, University of Texas at Arlington, author of *You’re Only Young Twice: Children’s Literature and Film*. “Shifting Secrets in Burnett’s *Surly Tim* (1877).”

Sylvia Nosworthy, Professor, Walla Walla College, Washington. “A Comparison of Frances Hodgson Burnett’s *Two Little Pilgrims’ Progress* with Louisa May Alcott’s *Little Women* and Richard Peck’s *Fair Weather*.”

Sally Stokes, Curator, National Trust for Historic Preservation Library Collection, University of Maryland. “The Influence of Burnett on Noel Streatfeild, Particularly as Manifested in Streatfeild’s *Movie Shoes*.”

Midori Todayama, Associate Professor, Hachinohe National College of Technology, Japan. “Those Abandoned Children: The Children and Sexuality in *The Turn of the Screw* and *The Secret Garden*.”

Additional speakers will be announced. The deadline for conference registration is April 11. For more information, check our Web site at www.arnenixoncenter.org, contact the Center via E-mail at anc@listserv.csufresno.edu, or call (559) 278-8116.

Bring Alice to Fresno!

The Arne Nixon Center wishes to acquire a unique research collection of materials related to Lewis Carroll, the author of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*. The 1,900 items, primarily books, were collected by Hilda Bohem, rare books librarian and scholar and bibliographer of Carroll's work. Bohem, now in her 80s, hopes that the collection will stay together, in a library with access for researchers.

The Bohem collection, including hundreds of editions, illustrations by 300 artists, 100 foreign language translations, 250 imitations of Alice, and many other rare items, is of international importance. Lewis Carroll's great classics and characters—Alice, the White Rabbit, the Cheshire Cat—are instantly recognizable the world over.

The collection is valued at \$150,000. Development efforts have resulted in pledges totaling \$59,000. The Center needs your generous support to acquire this outstanding collection.

To help, contact the Madden Library's Director of Development, Marcie Morrison, at (559) 278-7177 or by E-mail to marciamo@csufresno.edu.



ANC pairs with SCBWI

The Arne Nixon Center and the Arne Nixon Center Advocates will co-sponsor a regional workshop for the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators on October 17 and 18, 2003. Speakers will include Stephen Mooser, President of the SCBWI, author Alexis O'Neill, illustrator/author Deborah Nourse Lattimore, and author Patricia McKissack. Optional credit will be available. Details to be announced.

Snapshots of past events

NEAR: Newbery winner Richard Peck, shown here with Denise Sciandra, spoke at an ANCA luncheon on October 12.

FAR: Actors from the "New Wrinkles 2002" show greeted guests at Peter Hanff's Oz program on November 16.



CALENDAR

2003

March 17

Tea for Life Members

April 6

Secret Garden Party

April 24

Ann Thwaite

"Who Wrote Winnie-the-Pooh?"

7:30 p.m., Satellite Student Union

April 25-27

Frances Hodgson Burnett:

Beyond the Secret Garden Conference

October 17 & 18

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators regional workshop

2004

June 10-13

Children's Literature Association Annual conference.

Theme: "Dreams and Visions"



Can you identify book titles from these famous lines?

(Answers on page 2)

Q¹ “Once upon a time there was a little chimney-sweep and his name was Tom. That is a short name, and you have heard it before, so you will not have much trouble in remembering it.”

Q² “Persons attempting to find a motive in this narrative will be prosecuted; persons attempting to find a moral in it will be banished; persons attempting to find a plot in it will be shot. By Order of the Author, Per G.G., Chief of Ordnance.”

Q³ “Uncle McAllister lived in Scotland. Every year he sent Louis a birthday gift for his nature collection.”

Q⁴ “I like you the way you are,” she said, “but you’ll be more comfortable with your shoulder strap fastened.”

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature
Henry Madden Library, California State University, Fresno
5200 North Barton Avenue M/S ML34
Fresno, CA 93740-8014

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