



Number 5
(April 2004)

"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.

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Cart loads of books

Michael Cart gave 3,600 books and other materials to the Arne Nixon Center in November 2003. His gift is the first installment of a pledge to give or leave all his papers and books (a collection of 10,000+) to the Center. His collection includes the books and papers of Walter R. Brooks, author of the *Freddy the Pig* series of children's books. Michael Cart is the founder and past president of the Friends of Freddy literary society. Thanks largely to his efforts, the *Freddy* books, originally published from 1927 to 1948, are back in print.

Michael Cart is also a well-known author, editor, columnist, and librarian. In 2000, the American Library Association presented him with the Grolier Award, a lifetime achievement award given for an "unusual contribution to the stimulation and guidance of reading by children and young people." As President of the Young Adult Library Services Association, he led the effort to create the Michael L. Printz Award, ALA's new prize for literary excellence in young adult literature.



Michael Cart

Since retiring as director of the Beverly Hills Public Library, he has turned to writing, teaching, and consulting. He writes the "Carte Blanche" monthly column for *Booklist* magazine (the September 15, 2003, column describes his donation to the Arne Nixon Center) and hosts an award-winning television interview series. He writes books for young readers and about literature for young readers, and his most recent book, *Necessary Noise: Stories About Our Families as They Really Are* was chosen as a Best Book for 2003 by the *San Francisco Chronicle* and many other publications. Later this year he will launch a new project, a literary magazine for young adults titled *Rush Hour*.

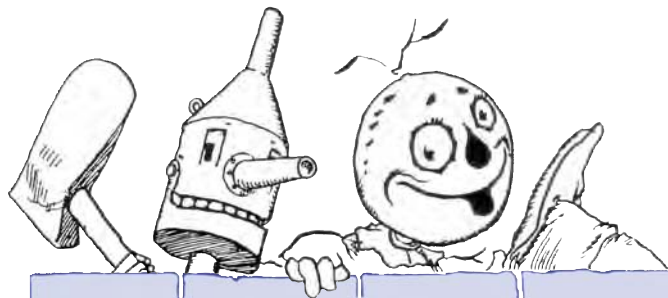
We are proud that he is a founding member of the Arne Nixon Center's Advisory Board and proud that the Henry Madden Library has named him as one of two Library Donors of the Year for 2003.

Children's Literature Association to meet here

The Arne Nixon Center will host the 31st annual conference of the Children's Literature Association (ChLA), June 10-12, 2004, on the Fresno State campus. The conference theme is "Dreams and Visions." About 200 people will travel to Fresno from around the world for this conference and local people are also invited. For information about the Children's Literature Association, see its Web site at www.childlitassn.org. Information about the conference may be seen at www.arnenixoncenter.org under "Events." Full conference registration is \$135 for ChLA or ANCA members, \$175 for non-members. Daily registration is \$55 for members, \$70 for non-members. Student rates are \$75 for the full conference, \$35 for a day.

(See *ChLA Conference*, page 2)

Conference speakers will include Richard Peck, winner of the Newbery medal for *A Year Down Yonder*; Pam Muñoz Ryan, winner of the Pura Belpré Award for her novel *Esperanza Rising*; and British author Berlie Doherty, whose novel *White Peak Farm* will win the 2004 Phoenix award at the conference banquet. The Phoenix Award is given twenty years after publication to the author of a book for children published originally in English that did not win a major award when it first appeared. *White Peak Farm* has recently been re-published in England as *Jeannie of White Peak Farm*. Canadian author Brian Doyle, the Phoenix Award Honor winner for his novel *Angel Square*, will also speak.



Secret Garden Party (in Oz!)

Save the date—Sunday, May 16, 3 to 5 p.m.—for the Arne Nixon Center's second annual Secret Garden party. Join us for an elegant tea in a beautiful Fresno garden that will be temporarily transformed into the Land of Oz. The party location is a secret that will be revealed shortly before your trip to Oz. Proceeds from the party will support the purchase of a major Lewis Carroll collection for the Arne Nixon Center.

Underwriters, either businesses or individuals, are needed to support this important project. Please let us know if you can help. Underwriters receive free tickets to the party. Individual tickets may be purchased for \$50.

To request an invitation, to suggest or volunteer as an underwriter, or to receive additional information, please call (559) 278-5790 or send an E-mail message to kelliew@csufresno.edu.

Tales & Tidbits from ANCA

(Arne Nixon Center Advocates)



By Denise Sciandra,
ANCA President

I had dinner with an Oogaboo! I know this because she proudly identified herself as such when she sat down. No one else seemed startled by this announcement. Was I the only one in touch with reality? I would ask myself that question throughout the weekend at the Winkie Convention I attended last summer.

The question I asked aloud was, "What's an Oogaboo?" After the laughter died down, I was told that Oogaboos live in a small northwestern corner of Winkie country in the land of Oz. People who live in Washington State and Oregon consider themselves Oogaboos at the Winkie (western regional) convention of the International Wizard of Oz Club.

Oogaboos were small in number but they were very visible. The one who dined with me appeared in the talent show where she stood on her head and played "Over the Rainbow" on the kazoo. She later dressed as a snail when all the Oogaboos posed as Slow Pokes from *The Royal Book of Oz*. Their slow motion entrance while singing "Slow Down, You Move Too Fast," was unforgettable. These lighthearted activities provided quite a contrast to the scholarly talks given by Ph.D.s.

I never know where the path from the Arne Nixon Center will lead. But with a curator who describes herself as an Oz nut and who is now president-elect of the International Wizard of Oz Club, maybe dining with Winkies and Oogaboos is normal.

Turning back the calendar to 1976, that is the year that my then 2½-year-old daughter Lisa fell in love with *The Wizard of Oz*. Watching the movie became an annual ritual.

Lisa eventually had a Wizard of Oz bedroom filled with books, dolls, posters, and more. Family trips took us on searches for out-of-print books.

Lisa read the 14-book series by L. Frank Baum and some of Ruth Plumly Thompson's sequels in Del Rey paperbacks. It took a dedicated fan to read those unusually plain editions.

I first read the entire series in 1990 when I was bedridden. My daughter said, "Mom, I think you'd really like these." And then she patiently brought them to me two at a time until I had read them all.

Lisa was right. I did enjoy them. Now it's my turn to introduce her to Winkies and Oogaboos.

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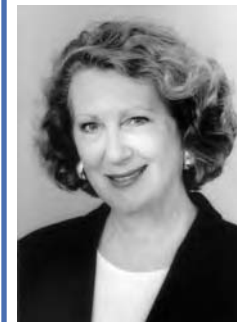
Magic Mirror

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

by Angelica Carpenter

CURATOR'S

CORNER



Close your eyes for a moment and picture your grandmother, the way she looked when you were a child. What was she wearing? In the 1950s my grandmother did not own a single pair of slacks. She always wore dresses, even when building my sister and me a playhouse in the back yard.

Now picture a grandmother from today, wearing a jogging suit, talking on her cell phone. Graduate student Rosie Arenas studied the changing image of grandparents in children's books, part of her research for a Ph.D. in children's literature at the University of San Francisco. She spent several days in the Arne Nixon Center, photographing illustrations with a digital camera.

Dr. Glenn de Voogd from the School of Education worked here on bibliographies for his book *Critical Literacy: Enhancing Students' Comprehension of Text*. This book, to be published by Scholastic in June, is the first book to acknowledge the Arne Nixon Center for help with research. We are proud and pleased that the first book was Glenn's, as, so far, he has used the Center more than any other faculty member on this campus.

Grace Pengilly is the Fresno co-author of a soon-to-be-published book, written for parents, about helping very young children to cope with loss. Her research in the Center resulted in several annotated bibliographies to be included—picture books for children aged 0-5 who have lost a friend, a parent, a pet, or a beloved home due to a move or a natural disaster.

Dr. Dee Michel used our services as he compiled facts for his forthcoming book on the appeal of Oz for gay men. He E-mailed questions from his home in Massachusetts. Other scholars have E-mailed us from Hungary, Italy, England, Brazil, France, and many parts of the USA. Recently we have helped people in faraway places to find information on Dr. Seuss, Leo Politi, Frances Hodgson Burnett, bedtime stories, interactive stories, and illustrator Blanche Fisher Wright.

Undergraduates use the collection, too, primarily to study the works of one particular author. The questions we get are varied and unpredictable. On good days we feel like literary detectives, solving mysteries with books and databases. When local researchers work here, on long-term projects, we assign them their own shelves or book carts so that the materials they are studying remain easily accessible.

As the Center's collection and reputation grow, we anticipate many more visits from out-of-town scholars. Hosting the Children's Literature Association's 31st annual conference will increase usage. For three days, dozens of internationally known professors, along with graduate students, famous authors, and local teachers, librarians, and fans of children's books, will convene in Fresno. To all our researchers, we say thank you. As you learn from us, we learn from you!

Happy reading!

List of names

A list of ANCA members and monetary donors to the Arne Nixon Center may be seen at www.arnenixoncenter.org. These names will be printed annually in *The Magic Mirror*, in the fall edition.

Thanks to Tawfic Farah

Tawfic Farah, Arne Nixon's "adopted" son, has been proclaimed one of two Library donors of the year for 2003, for his recent, very generous planned gift that will add substantially to the Arne Nixon Center Endowment. Dr. Farah has been a strong supporter of the Center since its inception and he served as a founding member of the Center's Advisory Board from 1997-2003.

The philosophy of Arne Nixon as reflected in the Center

by Maurice J. Eash, Professor Emeritus
University of Illinois at Chicago

The Arne Nixon Center welcomes its newest Advisory Board member, Dr. Maurice Eash, a longtime friend and colleague of Arne Nixon who now lives in Boston. Thanks to Dr. Eash for writing the first of a series of essays on Arne Nixon's life and work.

The once widely read and influential columnist, Walter Lippman, observed that a man's autobiography was a statement of his philosophy. Arne Nixon never authored an autobiography, but the crucial influential elements of his biography live on in the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature. An eclectic in knowledge and interest, he valued literature above all human discourse and saw children's literature in particular as the key to self understanding and obtaining a grip on broader human experience. As with many of us, he came to his persuasion through having relied upon those early paths of thought cultivated in a wide, in-depth emersion in reading. These early reading experiences in the written word opened up for him a world outside the small, cloistered Finnish community of South Dakota. They furnished early insights into the richness represented in the broader world of human existence. He was an early, voracious reader whose mind took him outside the limitations of his immediate Great Plains community. Fairy tales, great swathes of biblical literature, a few current magazines commonly found in rural farm homes, and the oral tales of his grandfather—all were grist for an exceedingly active intelligence. In a lonely and isolated childhood he found his companions through reading. These early learnings became the framework for directing later adult exploration, a lengthy and full professional career, eventuating in a library of children's literature and a program of teacher education featuring story telling.

He found worth in the literary efforts of many authors and multicultural literature long before this approach became an important component of reading series. He was anything but doctrinaire in his approach to story and its telling. Believing that human experience was many-sided and that a liberated intelligence could profit from multicultural exposure, he traversed many countries collecting their special contributions to the long struggle to civilize the human race. Many of these artifacts became props in his own story telling. Over time, as he prepared his craft, he drew thousands of teachers into his web with its emphasis on man's quest for a more civil and just society. Always he rejected savagery in human interaction whether it be fist and spear or snobbish humiliation. Story telling was to be

stimulating and embrace the best of human relationships as it communicated the story of man's struggle through this most ancient pedagogy, story telling. Teacher Education for him should give major attention to the repository of children's literature, combining this with the ancient but well developed art of story telling. For Arne Nixon this philosophical commitment became a sacred trust to be shaped, developed and passed on in that endless chain that connects one generation of teachers to the next. A life of service well lived reaches into the future through this Center. Touching as it does thousands of teachers, this nationally renowned center continues Arne Nixon's philosophical vision.

*Answers to quiz: 1. The River Between Us, by Richard Peck
2. The Wind in the Willows, by Kenneth Grahame
3. Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll
4. The Human Comedy by William Saroyan*



Speakers at last October's Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators conference held on campus included (L to R) illustrator/author Deborah Nourse Lattimore, Scholastic editor Dianne Hess, and author Patricia McKissack.



Donations of materials/services

July 2003–February 2004

Alma Flor Ada: 8 boxes of her papers
Violet Allen: framed Leo Politi painting
Bandicoot Books: 8 books from Australia
Dave Boeshaar and Alexis O'Neill: computer and printer
Hilda Bohem: 7 books, 14 journals, other materials
Boyd's Mill Press: 22 books
California Pistachio Commission: 250 packets of nuts
Michael Cart: 3,600 books, other materials
De Grummond Collection: 55 books
Fresno City County Convention & Visitors Bureau:
3 boxes of Visitors Guides
Michael Gorman: 38 books
Pamela Harer: 126 books
Holiday House: 26 books
Henry Holt and Company: 31 books
Houghton Mifflin: 150 books
Image Cascade Publishing: 94 young adult novels
Rosellen Kershaw: 31 books
Deborah Nourse Lattimore: original art from her book
Arabian Nights
Jean Ray Laury: 2 books, 5 pieces of original art from
her books
Ritva Laury: translation services
Judy Leas: 9 children's books from Russia
Lerner Publications: 54 books
Tom McClanahan: 67 books
Tim Morris: 7 books
Richard Osterberg: 4 framed Leo Politi paintings
Tamara Pierce: 16 bound galleys
Random House: 93 books
Anne Reuland: 5 books
Marilyn Reynolds: inscribed copies of 5 of her books
Santa Ana Public Library: 14 bound volumes of
The Horn Book
Scholastic: 140 books
Denise & Salvatore Sciandra: hospitality, signed
copy of the only Leo Politi book lacking in
this collection, 4 books, 24 journals
Simon and Schuster: 15 books
Diane Steele: 2 lithographs signed by artist
Donald A. Peters
Sun-Maid Growers: 252 boxes of raisins
Patricia Walsh Taylor: 28 books
Tricycle Press: 9 new books
Mary Anne Wells: 26 books

The value of materials donated to the Arne Nixon Center is estimated at more than \$100,000! To list every gift would overflow this newsletter. Thanks to all of our donors.

Richard Osterberg donated 4 framed Leo Politi paintings.

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

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Dave Boeshaar and Alexis O'Neill donated a computer and a printer.



Writing for children

The popular course "Writing the Worlds of Childhood: The Art of Writing for Children" will return to the Summer Arts Program on the Fresno State campus from July 11-23, 2004. The program director is novelist Alexandria LaFaye (www.alafaye.com). When she taught this course in 2002, it earned the highest student rating that CSU Summer Arts had ever received. Those who repeat the class will find new material covered this year.

Guest speakers will include poet Paul Janeczko, editor Deborah Halverson, novelist and screenwriter Neal Shusterman (www.storyman.com), folktale reteller and illustrator Ruth Sanderson (www.ruthsanderson.com), young adult novelist Chris Crutcher (www.aboutcrutcher.com), young adult novelist and sports biographer Terry Davis (www.terrydavis.net), bilingual poet and picture book author Juan Felipe Herrera, middle grade novelist Hillary Homzie, and poet and picture book author Janet Wong (www.janetwong.com).

Fine artists, book artists, book binders, graphic designers, and interested amateurs who love handmade books are invited to apply for the "Book as Visual Object" workshop, which will also be offered July 11-23. For more information about Summer Arts programs, call (559) 241-6090 or visit www.csusummerarts.org/www.html.

"Path to Publishing"

A limited number of seats will be available for the Summer Arts "Path to Publishing" Luncheon, to be held Saturday, July 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Smittcamp Alumni House on the Fresno State campus. This program will offer practical information on how to get a children's or young adult book published. Speakers will include Harcourt editor Deborah Halverson, novelist Alexandria LaFaye, and others, to be announced.

The luncheon is offered in conjunction with the Summer Arts course "Writing the Worlds of Childhood." Cost for class members is \$15, for non-members, \$30. For more information, or to reserve a seat, please call Summer Arts at (559) 241-6090.

Party with authors

ANCA will host an ice cream social/reception for authors Chris Crutcher and Terry Davis at the Fig Garden Swim and Racquet Club, 4722 North Maroa, on Monday, July 19, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Reservations are required. There is no charge for this event, which is held in conjunction with the Summer Arts course "Writing the Worlds of Childhood," but space is limited and places will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. The writers, best-selling authors for young adults, have asked especially that some of their young readers be included, so invite your favorite teenager and call the Summer Arts office at (559) 241-6090 to reserve a spot at the party. The authors' books will be available for sale and autographing at the event.

Recent visitors to the Arne Nixon Center included



Dale Schafer, an overseas liaison officer from the British-based Beatrix Potter Society,



and Katherine "Katie" Nichols. When she was a little girl, she was friends with Doris Gates, who named this book in her honor.

Beatrix Potter takes tea in Fresno

A red brick cottage in a shady grove. A beribboned Peter Rabbit sign to welcome guests. The front sidewalk lined with watering cans, multi-hued cabbages, and a tea table set for two. This entrance set the scene for a Beatrix Potter Tea, held February 12 at the home of Denise and Salvatore Sciandra in Fresno.

Denise Sciandra is president of ANCA, the Arne Nixon Center Advocates. ANCA has 403 members, including 37 life members. The Tea honored life members and board members.

Inside, a hard-working committee had transformed the house into a tea shoppe. The living room furniture had been replaced by small round tables with peach-colored tablecloths and rustic wooden chairs. The tables were set with Beatrix Potter dishes and menus. Each table's centerpiece was a basket of growing lettuce. The dining room offered a glorious tea buffet with everything homemade, from scones to carrot cake. In the kitchen, a jolly crew served thirteen kinds of teas. Two large curio cases sheltered figurines in charming tableaux; tabletops and bookcases offered fetching scenes created with stuffed animals, doll furniture, books and toys. Even the necessary room was decorated!

Two special guests attended the Tea. Dale Schafer, an overseas liaison officer from the British-based Beatrix Potter Society, came from southern California. The guest of honor was Beatrix Potter herself, reincarnated in Linda Spalding, who seems to have found her alter ego. Her soft burr, more pronounced than might have been expected, bore evidence of our subject author's happy, youthful days in Scotland.

As the last guest left, ANCA's president breathed a well-deserved sigh of satisfaction and wondered how long her husband would tolerate the Potteresque décor, and if he would notice that she had taken down not just the dining room curtains, but the hardware, too!



Beatrix Potter (Linda Spalding) at the tea table.

CALENDAR CONTENDERS

2004

May 16

Secret Garden Party in the
Land of Oz

June 10-12

Children's Literature Association
31st Annual Conference

July 19

Party for authors Chris Crutcher
and Terry Davis

October 16

Lewis Carroll Society of North
America Fall Meeting

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. Ms. 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 more than \$100,000, but we must raise \$50,000 before the final payment date of June 30. The Center needs your generous support to acquire this outstanding collection. To help, contact the Henry Madden Library's Development Officer, Marcie Morrison, at (559) 278-7177 or by E-mail at marciamo@csufresno.edu.



Can you identify book titles from these famous lines?

(Answers on page 4)

Q1

I explained to her that womenfolk didn't go into Jenkins's as a rule. The forge was in a back room and men were apt to hang around there, chewing and using language we all knew but weren't supposed to.

"Pffft," said Delphine, and lifted her skirts across the road.

Q2

"Believe me, my young friend, there is *nothing*—absolutely nothing—half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

Q3

"Twinkle, twinkle little bat! How I wonder what you're at!"

Q4

The little boy named Ulysses Macauley one day stood over the new gopher hole in the backyard of his house on Santa Clara Avenue in Ithaca, California.

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