What do Narrative Changes, Africa and IBBY have in common?

The articles in this edition of Bookbird explore the theme of “narrative changes.” It is an important discussion that complements and extends the thought-provoking presentations that took place at the symposium organized in Bratislava as part of BIB 2003 last September. Here, as there, a variety of authors, illustrators, literary critics, and students of children’s literature examine changes that are occurring in traditional approaches to narrative, and consider the subsequent change in the relationship between reader/viewer, text, author and illustrator that is derived from them.

It strikes me that, in its simplest form, this is a discussion about new ways of seeing or representing the world of children, and it implies the possibility of endless innovation. It is an invitation to consider new ways of thinking about the way children experience the story and is an encouragement to artists to create new forms.

I cannot help but draw connections between this discussion and the one that we are having in IBBY today. We too, are thinking about new ways of pursuing our mission. We too, will need to be innovative and apply new thinking to the important work we have committed our energies to.

IBBY’s network of dedicated groups and individuals come from very different cultural, political, and social contexts but share the conviction that stories can nourish and educate the child and, in so doing, prepare a safer, more peaceful world in which they can grow. They believe that they can promote international understanding through children’s books. How they do this and how IBBY can help them to do it, especially in
developing countries, is where we need to think and act in new ways.

In this regard, we can be very pleased that our next IBBY Congress, the one that signals the beginning of the next 50 years of IBBY, will be held on the African continent. We should ask ourselves how we can support Jay Heale and his team of volunteers as he works to make it a successful forum for enriching exchange and collaboration. We can, of course, plan to attend the Cape Town Congress to be a part of the celebration of Books for Africa. But we can also reflect upon the organizer’s challenge to us all, wherever we are, to develop new ways of seeing the world of the child.

For many children, the world is plagued with want and fear. Nowhere is this truer than in many African nations. One of the stated aims of the Congress is to determine ways to “provide African young people with the books they urgently need.” Our task will be to provide viable responses. One response is embedded, I am sure, in providing better access to the educational, professional, and cultural expertise that we have within our IBBY network. We need to talk about these matters and the recent IBBY survey of National Sections is a part of that discussion. But, we also need to act so that we cotinue to be a leading voice in the world of children’s literature.

Kimete Basha i Novosejt

International Children’s Book Day 2004

Greece is the sponsoring country of the International Children’s Book Day 2004. Angeliki Varella, the award-winning author of more than thirty books and translator of twenty others, has written the message. Angeliki draws her themes not only from Greek mythology and Ancient Greece, but also from contemporary social problems and the natural world. Nicholas Andrikopoulos who has illustrated more than fifty children’s books since he began his work in 1993, has designed the poster. Their work has been sponsored by the National Book Centre of Greece in cooperation with the Greek Section of IBBY.

Copies of the poster and the leaflet with the message in Greek, English, French, German, and Spanish are available from IBBY Greece <email: kyklos@greekibby.gr> or from the National Book Centre <email: info@ekebi.gr>.

The Light of the Books

The two children used to play with a globe. Spinning it round and round, they pointed their finger somewhere on the globe having their eyes closed. And if that point happened to be Peking, Madagascar or Mexico, they would look in the libraries for books with stories about the place they had chosen.

They loved reading. They enjoyed it. The light at their window was on till late at night.
It was with the ‘light’ of the books they had found themselves walking near the Great Wall of China, listening to the ocean song along with the Vikings, going for a sleigh-ride on the frozen lakes together with the Eskimos, participating in the games of ancient Olympia and being crowned with a branch of wild olive tree.

And whenever they fell asleep, all of the tales, the stories, the legends, the places, the writers, the heroes would be mixed up in their dreams to lull them gently to sleep: Aesop would recite his fables to Shahrazad from the highest place of the Eiffel Tower, while Christopher Columbus would listen to Tom Sawyer talking about his mischief on a river boat on the Mississippi River. Alice would travel in Wonderland together with Mary Poppins and Andersen would narrate his own tales to Ananse the Spider outside a pyramid.

The games with the globe combined with the books made the children enjoy themselves immensely as it never seemed to end. They had found a way to become navigators and explorers through their pages. Their ‘light’ helped them to conquer the whole planet, live through different civilizations and eras and admire their great variety. In short, they could experience life in that great world, beyond their little room. They could fly everywhere, travel around and dream.

And of course, they would always forget to turn off the light!

“Are you going to sleep at last?” their parents would shout to them. “It’s too late. Turn off the light!”

“We can’t”, they would always reply bursting into laughter. “The ‘light’ of the books never turns off.”

Angeliki Varella
Translated from the Greek by Eva Kaliskami

WHY COME?

In September 2004 IBBY South Africa will host the first ever IBBY Congress in Africa. We urge everyone from IBBY worldwide to attend this event and offer five good reasons why you should:

Because it’s a place worth visiting.

We appreciate how far most of you will travel to reach Cape Town—so we want to make sure that you see something of “the fairest Cape in all the world” (as Sir Francis Drake put it) while you are here. Your hotels will all be in the city bowl which has the great bulk of Table Mountain as its backdrop and the exciting Waterfront area on the edge of Table Bay. After three days in the Baxter Theatre Centre, you can take an optional tour to the top of Table Mountain by cablecar and then into the townships to see local schools and libraries, eat traditional African food, and be entertained by school choirs.

If you wish, your African adventure won’t end there. Our official post-congress tour will take you along the Garden Route, where you will encounter elephants near Knysna, ostriches in Oudtshoorn and whales off Hermanus. During the tour participants will enjoy accommodation in excellent hotels. To add more IBBY-flavor, various South African authors and illustrators will join you for dinner: Elwyn Jenkins will regale you with snippets from local literature along the way, and in Plettenberg Bay you will enjoy lunch with author Dianne Hofmeyr and illustrator Ingrid Mennen.

Because the children of Cape Town are waiting for you.

Young people are going to be involved in this IBBY Congress at every possible opportunity—as helpers, as entertainers, as designers and artists. If you wish, you can be ‘adopted’ by a local school or library and meet your young hosts.
Primary schools all over South Africa have been invited to share in the excitement of this IBBY Congress by taking part in book-related activities during the Congress week. They will be enjoying books while we talk about them.

The Congress has spurred an outreach project called ‘Book Flood’, which aims to fund picture-book libraries in classrooms in underprivileged schools. Already, children, many of whom have never before held a new book in their hands, have been given access to these libraries.

Because it’s going to be memorable.

This Congress will offer a chance to bring IBBY into Africa, an opportunity to meet the new Executive Director and a context to examine together the theme “The Future of IBBY.”

We are thrilled to announce that the IBBY Honour List presentation will be made once again by Leena Maissen. Book displays will include the Honour List Books and Andersen winners, as well as selected South African books and exhibitions created especially for the Congress. Just about every local publisher of children’s books will be represented, and a Congress bookshop will be provided by Exclusive Books.

You will enjoy speakers from all over Africa. Authors Beverley Naidoo, Lesley Beake, Dianne Case, illustrators Niki Daly and Piet Grobler, researchers Osazee Fayose, Elwyn Jenkins, Neville Alexander and Carole Bloch, are just some of them. We shall also welcome Katherine Paterson (USA), Joy Cowley (New Zealand), Teresa Cardenas (Cuba), Pat Hutchins (UK), Anne Pellowski (USA) and Kidi Bebey (France).

In a “Universal Storytelling Moment” the entire Congress will be told a story at the same time as every child in South Africa—perhaps even outside South Africa. Our beloved storyteller, Gcina Mhlophe, will lead this event.

Because it’s going to be fun.

We’re not giving away all our surprises, but we can promise warm hospitality, varied menus, plenty of wine, uncluttered coffee breaks, and enjoyable lunches. Storytelling every day.

Plans are that Mrs Graça Machel and possibly her husband, former President Nelson Mandela, will welcome delegates at the Gala Opening. Other possible guests of honor include the Mayor of Cape Town Nomaindia Mfeketo, Nobel prize-winner Nadine Gordimer, the Director General of Education, the Speaker of Parliament and Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu. The Hans Christian Andersen Awards will be presented on this occasion and will be followed by a reception in the impressive foyer of the Artscape Opera House.

The final afternoon is reserved for a bus ride to the winelands where the Closing Ceremony and the Farewell Dinner will take place.

Because by coming you will be helping children’s literature in Africa.

Many people in South Africa are frankly amazed that experts should gather from around the world to celebrate children’s literature. Children’s books, they reason, merely help you to learn to read at school. Promoting quality reading for young people and highlighting its many rewards is still a relatively new concept on the continent of Africa.

By coming to Cape Town you will be making a gesture of solidarity, a statement of faith in the
value of good books for children. We need you here.

Dates: September 5–9, 2004
Post-congress tour September 10–14, 2004
Place: Baxter Theatre Centre, Cape Town—with other evening venues
Theme: Books for Africa
Registration deadline: April 30, 2004—
either online at <www.sacbf.org.za> or by
post to Global Conferences, PO Box
44503, Claremont, 7735 South Africa
Registration forms are available from
SACBF and the IBBY Secretariat

Jay Heale
Congress Organizer

The Smile Remains

Éva Janikovszky was well-known in the IBBY community not only because she presided over the Hungarian Section for a very long time (1978–95), but also because she was the only Hungarian author writing for children and one of the few who broke through the language barrier of our beautiful but lonely mother tongue to be read widely beyond our borders.

She was very successful and timelessly popular. In fact, several “Janikovszky generations” followed each other because the books she created in close cooperation with her friend and colleague Laszlo Reber, one of Hungary’s finest illustrators, touched succeeding generations of children who grew up with her stories. Her success came from her appeal to both children and adults—the ones who listen and the ones who read her stories. It also came from the talent she had to make both readers and listeners smile. Yes, smile! A very characteristic element in her books and even of her personality was an ever-present warm smile that was understanding and ironic at the same time. It is not fortuitous that the award she was proudest of—and she received many awards both in Hungary and abroad—was the “Knight of Smiles” given by Polish children.

Her books have been translated into twenty languages and everywhere her most popular ones have been those that are less traditional tales and more children’s monologues. One of my favorites is If I were grown up in which she depicts the world from the child’s perspective and makes fun of adults. I received a signed copy of this wonderful story at just the right time—before I grew up—and then re-read it several times as an adult.

Éva wrote the message for the International Children’s Book Day in 2000. The theme that year was Books Have it All. This year, she was nominated by IBBY Hungary as its candidate for the Hans Christian Andersen Award. Sadly, the nomination came too late. Éva Janikovszky has left us but her warm, understanding and ironic smile remains to be remembered and enjoyed by the future generations of children.

Pál Békés
President of IBBY Hungary
Candidates for the Hans Christian Andersen Awards 2004

The Hans Christian Andersen Awards are presented every two years by IBBY to an author and an illustrator whose complete works have made an important and lasting contribution to children’s literature. IBBY National Sections from 30 countries have made their selections, submitting the following 26 authors and 27 illustrators as candidates for the 2004 Hans Christian Andersen Awards:

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<tr>
<th>NATIONAL SECTION</th>
<th>AUTHOR NOMINATION</th>
<th>ILLUSTRATOR NOMINATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Ema Wolf</td>
<td>Istvan Schritter</td>
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<td>Austria</td>
<td>Martin Auer</td>
<td>Linda Wolfsgruber</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Bart Moeyaert</td>
<td>Kitty Crowther</td>
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<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Joel Rufino dos Santos</td>
<td>Angela Lago</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
<td>Gilles Tibo</td>
<td>Marie-Louise Gay</td>
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<td>China</td>
<td>Cao Wenxuan</td>
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<td>Croatia</td>
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<td>Denmark</td>
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<td>Egypt</td>
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<td>Helmi Abdel-Hamid El-Touni</td>
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<td>Finland</td>
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<td>Mauri Kunnas</td>
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<td>France</td>
<td>Jean-Paul Nozière</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>Kirsten Boie</td>
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<td>Greece</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
<td>Satoru Sato</td>
<td>Daihachi Ohta</td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Paul Biegel</td>
<td>Max Velthuijs</td>
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<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Margaret Mahy</td>
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<td>NATIONAL SECTION</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Luísa Ducla Soares</td>
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<td>Russia</td>
<td>Eduard Uspensky</td>
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<td>Slovak Republic</td>
<td>Ján Uliciansky</td>
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<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Lesley Beake</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
<td>Juan Farias</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
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<td>Armin Greder</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Geraldine McCaughrean</td>
<td>Tony Ross</td>
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<td>USA</td>
<td>Lois Lowry</td>
<td>Vera B. Williams</td>
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The International Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury, under the chairmanship of Jeffrey Garrett (USA) and with members from Brazil, Colombia, Iran, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, the USA and Venezuela, will meet in April 2004, to select from among these nominations the winners of the 2004 Andersen Awards. The results will be made public at the Bologna Children's Book Fair, April 2004. The Awards will be presented to the winners at the 29th IBBY Congress in Cape Town, South Africa.
Biennale of Illustrations
Bratislava 2003

From a total of 2,398 illustrations by 311 illustrators from 38 countries the International Jury of the BIB 2003 awarded the following prizes:

Grand Prix BIB’03
Iku Dekune (Japan)
For her illustrations to the book Amefurashi by Haruki Amanuma (Tokyo: Paroru-sha, 2001)

BIB’03 Golden Apples
Isol Misenta (Argentina) For her illustrations to the book Tic Tac by Jorge E. Luján (Mexico: Alfaguara, 2001)
Michael Dudok De Wit (Netherlands) For his illustrations to the book Vader en dochter (Amsterdam: Leopold, 2002)
Victoria Fomina (Russia) For her illustrations to the book Mozart, Velikije imena (Taipei: Grimm Press, 2002)
Armin Greder (Switzerland) For his illustrations to the books An Ordinary Day by Libby Gleeson (Sydney: Scholastic Press, 2001); and Die Insel (Aarau & Frankfurt: Sauerländer, 2002)
Chiara Carrer (Italy) For her illustrations to the book A Qui la faute by Marco Carrara (Paris: Circonflexe, 2001)

BIB’03 Plaques
Carll Cneut (Belgium) For his illustrations to the books Mijnheer Ferdinand by Agnes Guldemont (Wielsbeke: De Eenhoorn, 2003); and The Amazing Love Story of Mr. Morf (London: Macmillan, 2003)
Andrea Petrlik Huseinovic (Croatia) For her illustrations to the books The Blue Sky (Zagreb: Kasmir Promet, 2002); and Alica u zemlji cudesa by Lewis Carroll (Zagreb: Kasmir Promet, 2002)
Hafez Mir Aftabi (Iran) For his illustrations to the books Bayad be Fekre by Mohammad Reza Yousefi (Tehran: Shabaviz, 2002); and Elyas by Mostafa Rahmandoust (Tehran: Shabaviz, 2003)
Piet Grobler (South Africa) For his illustrations to the books En slokje Kikker (Rotterdam: Lemniscaat, 2002); and Die spree met foete by Annie M.G. Schmidt (Cape Town: Human & Rousseau, 2002)
Antonio Acebal (Spain) For his illustrations to the book Sahar, despierta! by Anna Torttajada (Austria: Milenta Muyeres, 2002)

BIB’03 Honorable mentions to Publishers
Omsca-1, Tirana, Albania
Katha, New Delhi, India
Khan Printing, Ulan Bator, Mongolia

The BIB’03 Jury comprised: Chair: Renate Raecke (Germany), members: Maha Bulos (UNESCO), Boris Diodorov (Russia), Behzad Gharibpour (Iran), Dusan Kállay (Slovak Republic), Angela Lago (Brazil), Takeshi Matsumoto (Japan), Ida Schuurman (Netherlands), Józef Wilkon (Poland), Petros Zambelis (Greece).