

# Focus IBBY issue 58.2, 2020

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by LIZ PAGE

*Across the globe, friends and colleagues are working from home, practicing self-isolation, and learning how to use the latest technology as we try to keep in touch and fulfill our mission of bringing books and children together.*

2020 will be remembered as the year when our world turned upside down. Across the globe, friends and colleagues are working from home, practicing self-isolation, and learning how to use the latest technology as we try to keep in touch and fulfill our mission of bringing books and children together. It is a challenge! But one that IBBY members have risen to

meet. Sadly, the 2020 Bologna Children's Book Fair had to be canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic, so the biggest test for IBBY International this year was how to announce the winners of our 2020 awards: the Hans Christian Andersen Award, the IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award, and the IBBY-iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award. IBBY will make a digital announcement to present the awards on Monday, May 4, 2020. Because these have to be prerecorded, we will be able to share the announcements for months, if not years, to come. Digital meetings will be held, video conferences will be set up, and the Internet will be used in many different ways; we are experimenting and finding ways to stay in to contact. When this emergency is over, we will have much to do and we will need all of your support and dedication to give the children back this time when they have been without school, without their friends, and without easy access to reading and books.

## **The Child's Right to Become a Reader—The IBBY Yamada Program**

In 2005, IBBY launched a campaign to draw attention to the right of every child to become a reader. With the generous funding of the Yamada Bee Farm, the IBBY-Yamada Fund was established to provide funds for IBBY projects that help develop a book culture for children in all regions of the world.

Each year, projects are developed by IBBY members and presented to the executive committee. The projects selected thus far have included reading promotion programs, establishing libraries in schools and community centers, training teachers and parents in maintaining libraries and storytelling, and workshops for writers, illustrators, and editors of children's books.

For the 2020 projects, the sponsor, the Yamada Bee Farm, has generously increased the funding to US\$7,500 for each project. We are very grateful to the sponsor for this amazing support that IBBY has received since 2006.

Because of restrictions imposed by banks and the 2020 pandemic, some

of these projects will be postponed until 2021. Others are going ahead. The projects supported in 2020 and 2021 are as follows:

**Argentina:** Workshop on the use of books in hospitals, including a writers' workshop, the creation of a small library, and training in bibliotherapy.

**Armenia:** Reading promotion activities and workshops in rural areas.

**Bolivia:** The challenge of reading where there are no books: using books in schools and creating a library.

**Costa Rica:** Los libros violetas: Promoting gender equity in thirty Costa Rican public schools through children's literature.

**El Salvador:** Reading Is Marvelous: the objective is to help children develop reading habits, to encourage them to develop as independent thinkers, and to support them in writing down their own experiences.

**Indonesia:** Workshop on trauma healing for activists in community libraries in the Ring of Fire region.

**Lebanon:** Promoting reading among children with special needs.

**Nepal:** Developing wordless picturebooks for Nepalese children.

**Peru:** Vengan los niños y niñas a pescar historias en el mar de Chorillos: a project aimed at preschool children from age three to five; children engage in workshops where they will "fish up" their experiences in the creation of stories.

**South Africa:** Pan-African content creation workshop, with Book Dash, that will provide approximately thirty-five creators from across the African continent with the opportunity to collaborate on new African children's books.

**Sri Lanka:** Kathandara Kadalla—Story Nest: incorporates activities and training to revive the art of storytelling in preschools.

We will be posting the reports from the projects on the IBBY website as they come in. The IBBY-Yamada program is one of the most exciting projects in IBBY's vast array of activities. This grass-roots activity reaches many children and helps to bring books into their lives, as well as helping them to discover the joy of reading.



### Hans Christian Andersen Award 2020

The 2020 jury was selected by the members of the IBBY Executive Committee during its meeting at the 36th IBBY Congress in Athens in 2018 from nominations made by the IBBY members. All through 2019 the jury members assessed, read, and studied the candidates and their works from digital files. They were also able to discuss aspects of the work by using a private blog space set up by IBBY. With thirty-four authors and thirty-six illustrators, the jury had to work hard to assess all candidates. Their work culminated in three days of intense discussion and study of the physical books as they met at the International Youth Library in Munich in January

under the leadership of jury president Junko Yokota. The jury reached consensus on a short list of six authors and six illustrators. The winners will be announced at a virtual press conference on Monday, May 4, 2020.

The 2020 HCA Shortlist comprises:

Authors: María Cristina Ramos (Argentina)  
Bart Moeyaert (Belgium)  
Marie-Aude Murail (France)  
Farhad Hassanzadeh (Iran)  
Peter Svetina (Slovenia)  
Jacqueline Woodson (USA)

Illustrators: Isabelle Arsenault (Canada)  
Seizo Tashima (Japan)  
Sylvia Weve (Netherlands)  
Iwona Chmielewska (Poland)  
Elena Odriozola (Spain)  
Albertine (Switzerland)

Profiles of all the candidates can be found in *Bookbird* vol. 57, no. 4, published in December 2019. Shorter profiles can be read on the IBBY website.

The jury also repeated the popular innovation from the 2018 awards to help build bridges of understanding. The members of the jury identified twenty outstanding books from the 2020 nominees that they felt were important enough to merit translation everywhere so that children around the world could read them, thus expanding their access to some of the very best books: **2020 Hans Christian Andersen Jury Recommends**. The full list of titles with their publishing details is posted on the IBBY website. Naturally, the books from the short-listed nominees are also highly recommended. As in previous years, a film has been made of personal clips from the short-listed candidates: this is well worth viewing and can be accessed through the IBBY website or by going to the IBBY YouTube channel.

[www.ibby.org](http://www.ibby.org) > Awards & Activities > Awards  
> Hans Christian Andersen Awards

### IBBY Logo

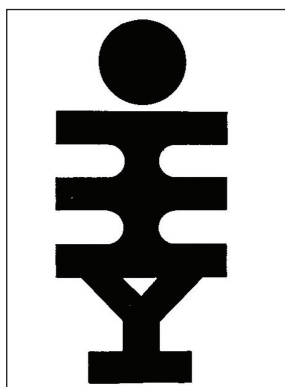
At the start of 2020, IBBY introduced its new logo. For several years, we have been looking at the IBBY logo, wondering how to update it for the twenty-first century. There have been three IBBY logos in the organization's history. The Slovak illustrator Miroslav Cipar designed the very first

logo, which was introduced in 1978 in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of IBBY. The second logo replaced the Cipar logo in 1985 and was designed by Japanese Andersen Award winner (1984) Mitsumasa Anno. The next logo



IBBY logo 2020

was introduced in 1992, along with the new corporate “look” of IBBY. The designer was Jean-Olivier Héron from Ed. Gallimard in Paris. The letters that made up the word *IBBY* had been especially designed to reflect the letters that many children are familiar with: cursive from first lessons in writing, a capital letter with serifs, a lowercase letter with no serifs, and finally the *Y* that represents the stenciled letters that were found on shipping containers across the world. With its long “tail,” the new logo was elegant and distinctive. However, it seemed to be out of date in the digital age. We looked at all the national sections’ logos and found that many use the basic IBBY colors of red, green, dark blue, and light blue, which made it unreasonable to change the basic lettering. The new design is compact, but keeps its identity. We are very grateful to Lorenz Vettiger of the Basel design company Vischer Vettiger Hartmann for his excellent work.



IBBY logo 1978–1985



IBBY logo 1985–1992



IBBY logo 1992–2020

## Peter Schneck 1943-2019

### Memories of Peter

The news of Peter Schneck’s accidental death at the age of seventy-six, while hiking in the Austrian Alps in July 2019, was a shock to his many friends and colleagues all around the world. It somehow did not seem to fit the image of a ministerialrat, the correct civil servant at the Austrian Ministry of Education that had been Peter’s occupation for decades.

And yet, such a farewell could also be seen as fitting for a man who met challenges fearlessly. As director of the Division of Children’s and Juvenile Literature at the Ministry of Education, Peter had to fight against conservative politicians, but his achievements as coordinator and modernizer in the Austrian children’s book scene were widely recognized and far-reaching.

Since the mid-seventies he had been involved in projects promoting literature for children and young people, engaging young researchers to develop new criteria to evaluate children's books. He worked in close cooperation with the International Institute for Children's Literature and Reading Research and the Austrian Section of IBBY, encouraging authors and illustrators, teachers and researchers, publishers and librarians to work together.

Early on, Peter was guided by Jella Lepman's mission to promote international understanding through children's books and himself became an important figure in IBBY. He represented Austria as a delegate and speaker at international congresses and served in many functions. He was a member of the Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury (1990 and 1992), later becoming the jury president (1994 and 1996). He was elected to the IBBY Executive Committee from 1998 to 2002, serving as IBBY vice president from 2000 to 2002. At the IBBY Jubilee Congress in Basel, Peter was elected president of IBBY and served from 2002 to 2006. He also joined the board of the IBBY Foundation and became its president in 2007. For his commitment and contribution to IBBY, he was bestowed with honorary membership in 2012.



Peter Schneck 1943-2019

As IBBY president, Peter was a kind, responsible, and unassuming leader with the authority of a hardworking person who knew how to combine cultural interests and diplomatic skills with an appreciation of the good things in life.

My memories of work and fun shared with Peter are many, but an absolute highlight was the invitation that the Chinese Section of IBBY extended to us after our retirement from active IBBY work. Following the IBBY Congress in Macau in 2006, Peter, his wife Antonia, and I were taken to a fantastic trip in western China.

When we boarded the plane in Beijing, we only knew that we are bound for Dunhuang, on the Silk Road, between Tibet and Mongolia, the Gobi desert and the Himalayas. It was great! Our hosts, Hai Fei, who was then president of Chinese IBBY, Mrs. Ma, and Mingzhou Zhang, who now is IBBY president, were marvelous. What we saw was overwhelming; we were treated to sumptuous meals, we laughed a lot, even went to the massage salon. The six of us were all in the same room and six giggling young girls treated us during two hours, first the feet, then the back. The slapping sounded terrifying, but it did us good. And I remember that the girls decided that Peter had the most beautiful feet of all and that made him even happier for the rest of the trip.

*Leena Maissen  
Basel, February 2020*

### Further Recollections of Peter

Peter Schneck was head of the Department for Children's and Youth Literature in the Austrian Ministry for Arts and Culture when I met him first in the nineties. He asked me to join the advisory council for supporting children's and youth literature, where I learned to value highly his keen

sense of diplomacy and his essential ability to connect people; this characterized all his work.

He enabled the publication of my graduate thesis, but for me he was not just a generous mentor. More than his professional obligation as a government official, he supported many initiatives in the field of children's literature. He also knew all the pioneers of Austrian children's literature and was a vivid narrator of its evolution. With great foresight, he supported associations and artists as they became more professional and thus helped them to reach higher recognition.

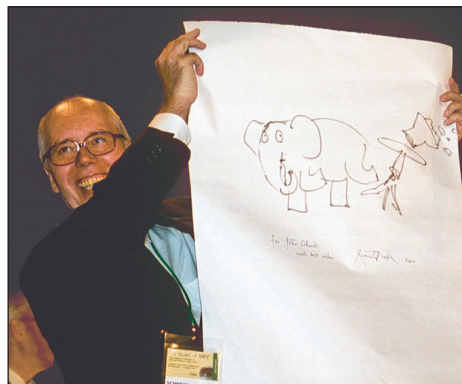
What made him so special was that he always looked over the national borders and mental constraints.

In 2002, he introduced me to IBBY during the Congress in Basel. He loved his work with the international IBBY community, and I am very glad that he got me involved, too. His enormous interest in many things allowed him to be well informed in different subjects, such as literature, politics, opera, diets, and "barefoot" shoes, as well as the different countries that he wanted to visit.

I benefited a lot from his meticulous planning of our pre-IBBY-Congress travel to Mexico. I also enjoyed listening to his anecdotes about his rich experiences. On the other hand, he was also a good listener and enjoyed witty humor.

Besides the mountains, opera was his passion. Because he was also spontaneous, he often had to stand to enjoy the performances when the seats had sold out.

I certainly miss his kind advice and his comprehensive knowledge. I lost a real friend.



Peter Schneck at the closing ceremony of the IBBY Jubilee Congress in Basel, 2002

*Sabine Fuchs  
Graz, February 2020*

**Liz Page** was born in Britain and moved with her family to Heidelberg, Germany, in 1983. After nearly two years they left Germany and settled in Basel, Switzerland. Through her interest in children and books Liz helped to establish the Intercultural Children's Library in Basel–JUKIBU, which opened in 1990. She was a member of the managing board with responsibility for the day-to-day running of the library for the first years and was elected President of the Intercultural Children's Libraries Association of Switzerland, now called INTERBIBLIO. She joined IBBY as Assistant to the Executive Director in 1997 and in 2009 was appointed Executive Director.

