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Newsletter 25

November 2004

IBBY Congress in Cape Town

From 5 to 9 September 2004, 600 participants from 68 different countries gathered at the Baxter Theatre in the beautiful city of Cape Town to celebrate the 29th IBBY Congress and address the theme:



The lectures, seminars, exhibitions and informal discussions focussed on the challenges of children's book publishing in Africa. The programme was varied, discussions were fruitful and the days were full of new ideas.

The IBBY Honour List 2004 was premiered during the Congress; nineteen nominees travelled to Cape Town to receive their diplomas. Other exhibitions in the Baxter Theatre included the Andersen winners and candidates 2004; Proudly South Africa: 100 Representative Children's Books; *First Words in Print*: winner of the IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award 2004; and, a selection of BIB winners.

An exhibition of Dutch Children's books was on display at the Huis der Nederlanden – the home of South African IBBY; Canadian Children's books were at the Milnerton Public Library; illustrations from the Bologna Book Fair 2004 were exhibited at the Bellville Public Library; *Amandla ebali: the power of the story* exhibition was at the National Library; and three exhibitions were on display at the Centre for the Book: German books, both translated to and from German and the languages of South Africa; the evolution of Afrikaans children's literature; and, the *Child in the Book* exhibition of contemporary South African picture books.

The Opening Ceremony took place at the Artscape Opera House in Cape Town. **Anna Louw**, Chair of the South African Children's Book Forum, welcomed the guests – government officials, participants, speakers, sponsors, media people and volunteers – to IBBY's first congress on the African continent.

IBBY's President, **Peter Schneck**, announced in his address that IBBY's presence in Cape Town "acknowledges [its] commitment to support the work of the South African Children's Book Forum, as well as that of other African National Sections, as they continue to promote children's literature, even as they deal with the dramatic economic

circumstances that this continent faces. We are grateful to have the opportunity to visit a country that has given the world an example of peaceful change as it transforms itself into a society based on the principle of racial equality. We must thank all those who have worked so hard to plan such a rich programme and who have succeeded in bringing so many of us together to discuss how IBBY's mission statement can be the source of other changes in Africa and, in particular, how it can contribute to a better world for the African children."

The Mayor of Cape Town, **Alderman Nomaindia Mfeketo**, welcomed IBBY to the city and reminded the participants of the historical context in which they were joining her fellow citizens: South Africa was celebrating ten years of democracy and the end of apartheid. She congratulated SACBF on their work in helping to build the new South African society through books and children.

Deputy Minister of Education, **Enver Surty**, expressed his pleasure and pride in welcoming the IBBY Congress to South Africa where the book still does not have a place in the lives of most of its children. He applauded IBBY's mission and purpose in Africa and encouraged a deeper involvement in the future.

The highlight of the opening ceremony was the presentation of the Hans **Christian Andersen Awards 2004**.

Jury President, **Jeffrey Garrett**, gave the laudatio and told the audience that, "this year's winners of the Hans Christian Andersen medals represent pillars on either side of the fairy tale divide".

In his speech of acceptance, the winner of the 2004 Hans Christian Andersen Award for Writing, **Martin Waddell**, spoke of personal memory as the source of his stories.

"The first strand of my writing for children is the picture book text. It is the area where I feel most challenged, and most at home. It is my belief, born of listening to children, that their fears and needs are what interest them most, and these fears and needs are common to children the world over. The fear of the dark. The fear of losing your mother. All the fears inherent in the playground question, 'Can I play with you?' The fears and needs of very small children are very real to them, and for me it has never been an option to dismiss these fears and needs with the traditional happy ending, unless that happy ending arises naturally from the story. Even the most trivial of picture book texts should be fresh, funny, moving and honest."

"As children grow older they become more aware of the hatred that can exist in the world, the frequent lack of love. As a writer, I feel a need to explore those colder worlds, in the stories for teenagers which form the second strand of my work second but not secondary. I value all my books."

"Writing for older children who are discovering themselves and their place in the adult world. what do I believe is important? It is important to affirm the older child's sense of his or her personal and national identity but it is equally important that children learn of differences, of other cultures, other peoples, other voices, the unknown."

"The message is about common humanity, the binding together of people that comes from simply living with each other, listening to each other; trying to understand the strange world of the stranger. Whether children accept that model of the world is something they have to make their own minds up about."

Max Velthuis, winner of the 2004 Hans Christian Andersen Award for Illustration, spoke of the

constant battle to 'translate one's fantasy into images'.

" The jury's decision to award this prize to me filled me with pride.
But also with amazement, since winning prizes was never my aim.
Does this mean that I am 'the best'?
Of course not.
There are a lot of talented illustrators who are probably better than I am.
But I regard this honour as a sign of recognition that I am one of them.
And today, I can dwell on the mountaintop, and be somewhat proud.
However, when I think about the road I walked and the struggle I fought to get here, I am also filled with a sense of sadness. Nostalgia wells up in me when I think about the time when Frog was born. How I tried to convey a feeling with only a paintbrush, some paint and a piece of paper.
But is drawing this difficult?
When you happen to be born with a little bit of talent, it's not so bad.
Drawing a Frog is not so difficult.
But how do you draw a Frog in love?
Or a frightened frog?
Are there rules or guidelines to help you?
For this, talent alone is not enough.
Now you need feeling.
The essence of this profession is to share something with the onlooker."

The evening was enlivened by music from the Pinelands High School Marimba Band, the New Apostolic Church Junior Choir and the St. Louis Steel Band. The Nissan Motor Company, sponsor of the Awards, also sponsored the gala reception during which IBBY Netherlands presented the participants with not only a pocket-sized copy of 'Frog in Love', but also a pocket-sized Frog!

The following three days offered a rich and extremely innovative programme. Professor

Osazee Fayose from Ibadan University, Nigeria gave the opening lecture entitled *Not just Books for Africa, but a reading culture too!*

Teresa Cardenas from Cuba danced and told of *Black heroes in the literature for children and young people of Cuba*, stories that have their cultural roots in Africa.

The second day began with an enlightening historical analysis of the children's book in South Africa that was presented by Professor Emeritus **Elwyn Jenkins** of the University of South Africa. **Patricia Aldana** launched the latest IBBY fundraising project: *Under the Spell of the Moon*. Participants fell under another spell, this time *the universal storytelling moment* led by **Gcina Mhlophe**, which was shared by children all over South Africa.

On Tuesday evening the **IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award Ceremony 2004** took place at the Italian Club in Rugby. However, on the way to the evening celebration participants were treated to a visit to the **ZipZap Circus**, where young people entertained everyone with their daring acts on the high trapeze, juggling with fire, mono cycle tricks and their general exuberance.

Jury President, **Xosé Antonio Neira Cruz** gave the laudatio and together with **Atsushi Osaki**, representing the Asahi Shimbun, presented the \$US 10,000 cheque and diploma to the winning project *First Words in Print*. The project aims to ensure that all young South Africa children have access to the stimulation of picture books and story books in their own languages.

In her acceptance speech, **Lorato Trok**, the project co-ordinator and speaking on behalf of all those involved with the project, said that the IBBY-Asahi Award "is a victory for all South African children who have long waited to read and enjoy books that depict the surroundings they live in, and most importantly in their own languages. What better

time could be to receive this award than now as we are celebrating ten years of democracy in our country! The problem of illiteracy in South Africa is one of the most vicious legacies of apartheid. There is a perception that African people have a culture of non-reading. I dispute this. What we rather say is African people love books and reading just as much as anyone, but because the majority of them are poor, buying books is not a priority in terms of need. We often equate books with intelligence and wealth, and this excludes the rural poor, and also makes them feel threatened. With the *First Words in Print* project we are unearthing the love of reading from children whose parents cannot afford to buy books for them, and in the same way inculcating a culture of reading in that delicate early age, as well as appreciating their languages. We are also saying reading books should be fun. We still have a long way to go, but we are making a huge progress."

Day three began with a plenary session that focussed on the enormous challenge of providing books in contemporary South Africa. The panel included **Beverley Naidoo**, South African author now living in the United Kingdom, **Jean Williams**, Director of Bibilonef, South Africa, **Neville Alexander**, Director of PRAESA in Cape Town and **Carole Bloch**, Co-ordinator of the Early Literacy Unit at PRAESA. (PRAESA is an independent research and development unit attached to the University of Cape Town.)

On Wednesday afternoon the *Future of IBBY* discussion took the form of a series of breakout sessions that aimed to continue the work begun in September 2003 with the comprehensive survey of all National Sections. [The report of the discussion can be ordered from the IBBY Secretariat.]

The last day of the Congress provided opportunities for participants to reach out into the Cape Town community through visits to the

Centre for the Book where a symposium entitled *Humour in the World of Children's Literature* was organized; through visits to local schools and libraries sponsored by Scholastic Publishing; and, through participation in various tours in and around Cape Town.

The 29th IBBY Congress came to a happy close at the Somerset House School. Music and children again held the attention of the participants. Peter Schneck introduced the new Executive Committee and thanked the outgoing members. He also thanked the outgoing Bookbird editorial team for their excellent work over the past few years, and welcomed the new team of **Valerie Coghlan** and **Siobhán Parkinson**.

With the help of former IBBY Presidents **Ron Jobe**, **Carmen Diana Dearden** and **Tayo Shima**, Peter Schneck conferred Honorary Membership on former Executive Director **Leena Maissen** for her extraordinary contribution to IBBY.

IBBY Executive Director, **Kimete Basha** thanked the organizers on behalf of IBBY; Congress organizer **Jay Heale** thanked all the participants on behalf of the South African Children's Book Forum for making the journey to Cape Town to attend the Congress; and, **Kent L. Brown**, current President of USBBY, returned the compliment on behalf of the Congress participants, thanking the organizers for their enormous efforts.

After the invitation by **Hai Fei**, President of CBBY, to attend the 2006 Congress, an exciting film promoting the Congress in Beijing was shown, promising another great IBBY Congress. Jay Heale officially handed over the 'baton' of Congress Organizer to Hai Fei and his team. This year the baton was an African drum! The evening, and the Congress, ended with a sumptuous dinner at Somerset College.

[A longer report can be found at www.ibby.org]



Jay Heale being interviewed for a local TV station.



Proudly South African



Future of IBBY Sessions. l to r: Kimete Basha, Sandile Gxilishe, Peter Schneck



First Words in Print: Nazli Johardien (Project Administrator) and Lorato Trok (Project Coordinator)



Participants at the IBBY Honour List exhibition



Jay Heale receiving a thank-you gift from Peter Schneck on behalf of SACBF

IBBY Congress 2006 in China

Children's Books and Social Development is the theme of the 30th IBBY Congress, which will take place in **Beijing, 20-24 September 2006**. The Chinese section of IBBY – CBBY – is preparing a full and spectacular IBBY Congress.

The themes of the Congress are:

- Literature of Ours – Children's Forum
- Children's Literature and Ethics
- Children's Literature and the Ideal World
- Children's Freedom and Space
- Children's Books and the Multimedia Era
- Development Trends in Children's Picture Books
- Reflection on the Phenomenon of Harry Potter
- Reading of the Underprivileged Children

The Congress will also celebrate the 20th anniversary of CBBY. There are 367 million young readers in China, making IBBY China's task one of the widest reaching in IBBY!

The five-day programme will include the presentation of the Hans Christian Andersen Awards 2006, the IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award 2006, the IBBY Honour List 2006, the Chinese National Children's Book Fair, and a national exhibition of children's newspapers and periodicals. For the first time at an IBBY Congress, an international children's forum will be held where children will be talking about reading.



Copies of the poster and information brochure are available from CBBY (cbby@cbby.org). Information is also available online at www.cbby.org and www.ibby.org.

IBBY Congress 2008 in Denmark and 2010 in Spain

The Story in History – the History in Stories is the theme of the 31st IBBY Congress, to be hosted by Danish IBBY in **Copenhagen 6-10 September 2008**.

More information from Vagn Plenge at IBBY Denmark, fax +45 333 109 00 www.ibby2008.dk, or, e-mail: vagnpl@get2net.dk

The Spanish Section of IBBY will host the 32nd IBBY Congress in **Santiago de Compostela in 2010**.

The theme will focus on minorities.

More information from

Spanish Section of IBBY – OEPLI

Santiago Rusiñol 8

E-28040 Madrid

www.oepli.org

or

Xosé Antonio Neira Cruz

xneira@usc.es

IBBY Elects New Executive Committee, 2004-2006

Peter Schneck (Austria) was re-elected to serve a two-year term as President of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) at IBBY's 29th General Assembly in Cape Town, South Africa, on Wednesday 8 September 2004. Until his retirement in 2003, Peter Schneck was responsible for children's literature at the Austrian Federal Chancellery's division of literature. As well as remaining very active in his home country, he has brought his tireless energy to IBBY. He was a member of the Hans Christian Andersen Jury 1990 and 1992 and was the Jury President in 1994 and 1998. He served on the IBBY Executive Committee as Vice President from 1998 to 2002. Since his election as President in 2002, he has

travelled widely and advocated for a greater presence of IBBY in the world of children's literature.

Patricia Aldana (Canada) and **Shahaneem Hanoum** (Malaysia) were nominated as Vice Presidents. Patricia Aldana previously served as a member of the IBBY Executive Committee from 1996 to 2000; from 1998 to 2000 as Vice President. She is the publisher of Groundwood Books, Toronto. Shahaneem Hanoum is the President of the Malaysian Section of IBBY, she has been the Director of the Selangor Public Library Corporation since 1988 and is also a writer.

Anne Pellowski (USA), consultant, lecturer, writer and storyteller; **Vagn Plenge** (Denmark), co-organizer of IBBY Congress 2008, founder of ALOA (Centre for Literature from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania) and the Hjulet publishing house; **Chieko Suemori** (Japan) publisher of Suemori Books in Tokyo; and **Jant van der Weg-Laverman** (The Netherlands), President of IBBY Netherlands, critic, translator, writer, as well as founder and President of the *Stichting it Fryske Berneboek* (Foundation for Frisian Children's Books).



IBBY EC 2004-06 (l-r)

Jeff Garrett, Patricia Aldana, Shahaneem Hanoum, Jant van der Weg, Huang Jianbin, Ann Lazim, Elda Nogueira, Mari Jose Olaziregi, Anne Pellowski, Vagn Plenge, Chieko Suemori

Other members elected for a two-year term on IBBY's Executive Committee, serving until the 2006 Congress in Beijing China, are **Huang Jianbin** (China), Secretary General of the Chinese Section of IBBY, co-organizer of IBBY Congress 2006, critic and writer as well as Editor-in-Chief of children's books at Fujian Children's Publishing House; **Ann Lazim** (UK), President of British IBBY, librarian and administrator of the new British CLPE poetry award; **Elda Nogueira** (Brazil), Liaison Officer of the Brazilian Section of IBBY, teacher and translator; **Mari Jose Olaziregi** (Spain), former President of the Basque Branch of Spanish IBBY, university lecturer and writer;

Jeffrey Garrett (US) was re-elected as the President of the Hans Christian Andersen Jury. He is Head of the Literature and Linguistics collections at Northwestern University Library, Illinois. He was a member of the Andersen Award Jury 1992 and 1994 and editor of IBBY's journal *Bookbird* from 1992 to 1995.

Liz Page (Switzerland) will continue as Administrative Director at the IBBY Secretariat in Basel, Switzerland. **Urs Breitenstein** (Switzerland), director of the publishing house Schwabe AG, was confirmed as Treasurer, and **Peter Gyr** (Switzerland) Director of the Library, Media and

School Theatre information Centre in Lucerne, and **Fritz Rothacher** (Switzerland) former Chief executive Officer of the Franz Carl Weber toy company, were re-elected as auditors.

Valerie Coghlan (Ireland) and **Siobhán Parkinson** (Ireland) were confirmed in their role as the new co-editors of IBBY's journal *Bookbird*.

| IBBY Agenda January – April 2005 | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January | Publication: <i>Bookbird</i> Volume 43 # 1 |
| February | IBBY Newsletter 26 |
| March | |
| April | Publication: <i>Bookbird</i> Volume 43 # 2 2 International Children's Book Day: Sponsor: IBBY India 6 Andersen Today: International Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia. More information from: jakob.kenda@lj-oz.sik.si 11 and 12 IBBY Executive Committee meeting 13 IBBY Press Conference 13-16 Bologna Children's Book Fair, Italy 19 and 20 National Convention for Children's Libraries, New Delhi, India More information from: awicbooks@yahoo.com 30 Deadline for submissions of papers to <i>Reading 2005: to read the 21st, for a culture of peace</i> congress in Havana, Cuba (24-29 October 2005) |

Reminder

All Newsletters will include an agenda of IBBY events worldwide. If you would like to contribute information about activities or events that your National Section is organizing, please send relevant details to the Secretariat as soon as they are available.

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