

News Release: American Library Association

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From: Peggy Barber, Director
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For immediate release

Three individuals who have made distinguished and diverse contributions to children's literature have been nominated for the 1980 Laura Ingalls Wilder Award presented every three years by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) of the American Library Association (ALA). The candidates were announced by Glenn E. Estes, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville and chairperson of the award committee.

Nominees for the award are:

Harold Courlander, collector of folktales, whose books include Uncle Bouqui of Haiti (1942), The Hat Shaking Dance, and Other Tales From the Gold Coast (1957), and The Fourth World of the Hopis (1971). Courlander has brought to the field of children's literature a range of authentically documented stories from parts of the world formerly unrepresented in the genre.

Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, who has delighted children and adults with his exuberant and inventive fantasies both in illustration and text since the appearance of And To Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street (1937). Underlying the playfulness have been consistent themes of social and personal imagination and values.

Milicent Selsam, author of Egg to Chick (1946), Plants We Eat (1955), Voyage of the Beagle (1957), Harlequin Moth (1975), and numerous other books on a variety of scientific topics. Her clarity of style, scientific accuracy,

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ability to raise a child's sense of wonder about his/her natural environment have contributed to the popularity of her books among readers for more than thirty years.

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal, first presented in 1954, is given to an author or illustrator whose books, published in the U.S., have made a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children.

The ALSC membership will be polled this fall in a nationwide vote to determine the winner. Announcement of the winner will be made in January, 1980 during the Midwinter Meeting of the ALA. The medal will be presented during the 99th Annual Conference of the ALA in June 1980 in New York City.

Members of the Award Committee included: Jane M. Bingham, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan; Gertrude B. Herman, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Ruth Lynn, Waltham (MA) Public Library; and Raymond E. Williams, Virginia State Library, Charlottesville.