

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
CHARLES W. ROBINSON—DIRECTOR



CATONSVILLE AREA BRANCH and  
BOOKMOBILE HEADQUARTERS

1100 FREDERICK RD. 21228  
(301) 747-3551

June 13, 1979

Dear Zena,  
Thank you for your nice note about my membership on the H.C. Andersen jury. Today the first books came: K. Patterson's. An easy start. What will I do when they are in Japanese?  
I am so much looking forward to this experience and hope that I will be able to convey the spirit, that all of us - West and East - are working for the same goals.  
I spent this past week with board members of the International Research Society for Children's Literature and had a good taste of the 'diplomatic' side of our international relations. (One of the results of our meeting will be my visit to East Berlin at the end of the summer)

And now to the N/C awards celebrations. Everyone I have asked seems to welcome a change but beyond that I have not been able to solicit creative suggestions.

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My personal view is this: (and has been for some time)

Yes, let's change toward a more sophisticated format. Let us emphasize the cultural side of the event ... perhaps with music, dance, visual presentations, poetry readings etc. etc. ... e.g. encourage the artists to prepare a slide show or present a film (e.g. J. McDermott could have shown one of his films)

A fiction writer could read a passage from her/his books (e.g. what a beautiful thing for someone like Virginia Hamilton)

Children could be invited to participate in any of the categories.

Food and drink do help to create a cordial atmosphere but I suggest to have something light and spirited - in form of a reception - after the main event. That would bring down the cost too.

I know that my suggestions would require more work and mainly more creativity but I think there is creativity and idealism in



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this association and we should strive to develop it.

Baltimore County is changing a very basic American trait of the public library: very soon we will not have children's librarians or adult librarians but generalists; a fact that is professionally speaking causing me great anguish as I deeply believe in the challenge and value of the children's librarian. I think other library systems are going into similar directions.

Perhaps now more than ever the Assoc. for Lib. Service to children can provide the professionalism and inspiration for librarians and others working with children.

The N/C celebrations can become one of the uplifting projects.

Sorry for this long sermon.

I am looking forward to talking to you in Dallas.

Sincerely yours, Dybille