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CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
CENTER

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To ALSC Task Force--Newbery/Caldecott Awards:

Much thought has gone to the question of how to achieve both maximum attendance at a Newbery/Caldecott Awards presentation and the kind of festivity that should derive from so inherently ceremonious an occasion. I'd be unwilling to see the conference occasion become something like those attended in the United Kingdom. The parallel Carnegie and Greenaway Medals are, or used to be, presented within a general session of the Library Association. One I attended at Llandudno when Lucy Boston received her medal had no air of festivity and only permitted the briefest acceptance by her, as an item of business in a long agenda. This I felt greatly diminished the significance of the award not only for the YLG (Youth Library Group) but also for the wider membership of the Library Association.

Lesser attention would not necessarily result if there were to be a special ALSC session for the awards, and the publishers involved might contribute to a wine-and-cheese reception to follow the awards ceremony, when all members could greet the winners. But what enormous receiving lines these can be!

Zena Letherland
Chief