

News Release: American Library Association

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For immediate release

Five books, published in 1974, have been nominated for the 1976 Mildred L. Batchelder Award given annually since 1968 by the Children's Services Division of the American Library Association to an American publisher for the children's book considered to be the most outstanding of those originally published in a foreign country and subsequently published in English in the United States.

The nominees are:

The Stolen Fire, by Hans Baumann, translated from the German by Stella Humphries, published by Pantheon.
The Cat and Mouse Who Shared a House, by Ruth Hurlimann, translated from the German by Anthea Bell, published by Walck.
Search Behind the Lines, by Yevgeny Ryss, translated from the Russian by Bonnie Carey, published by Morrow.
And Lefte Was Instead of a Dad, by Kerstin Thorvall, translated by Francine Lee Mirrow, published by Bradbury.
The Smugglers of Buenaventura, by S.R. van Iterson, translated by Hilda Van Stockum, published by Morrow.

The award honors Mildred L. Batchelder, the well-known children's librarian and former executive secretary of the Children's Services Division, who has been interested for many years in bringing foreign children's books to the attention of American children. It is intended to encourage the translation and publication of outstanding children's books originally written in languages other than English.

The nominees were selected from eligible titles by the Mildred L. Batchelder Award Selection Committee appointed annually by the president of the Children's Services Division. The winner will be determined by vote of the CSD membership.

As the second year of a pilot program designed by the Children's Book Council and the publishers of the 1975 Mildred L. Batchelder Award in cooperation with the 1975 CSD committee, ten institutions will again have an opportunity to cosponsor the announcement of the winner on April 2, simultaneously with the formal announcement by the president of the Children's Services Division at the UNICEF Center for Children's Cultures in New York. Institutions selected will receive free illustrated and printed materials from the Children's Book Council and confidential advance notice from the Batchelder Award Committee of the winning publisher and title in 1976 for announcement on April 2.

Institutions interested in cosponsorship should submit applications in the form of an outlined plan for a local program centering on translated children's books, with emphasis on those books nominated for the 1976 Mildred L. Batchelder Award. Application forms are available from the CSD Executive Secretary, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Institutions of all sizes, state, regional or local, are eligible to apply.

Projected programs need not be elaborate, but should place emphasis on introducing translated books to young people and on publicizing the Batchelder Award. Since the culmination date is April 2, International Children's Book Day, there are many possibilities for activities, e.g., local voting on the 1976 nominees, folk tales around the world, Hans Christian Andersen and his works, favorites from previous Batchelder competitions, etc.

Entries for cosponsorship of the announcement will be reviewed by the Mildred L. Batchelder Award Committee at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in January, and libraries and schools selected will be notified immediately. All librarians and teachers are urged to focus attention on this award as a positive gesture toward international understanding and the sharing of children's cultures.