



AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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From: Peggy Barber, Director
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For release

Barbara Rollock, President of the Children's Services Division of the American Library Association, has named Crown Publishers, Inc., as the recipient of the 1975 Mildred L. Batchelder Award for the publication in 1973 of An Old Tale Carved Out of Stone by A. Linevski, translated from the Russian by Maria Polushkin.

The Award has been given annually since 1968 by the Children's Services Division to an American publisher for the children's book considered to be the most outstanding of those originally published in a foreign language in a foreign country and subsequently published in English in the United States. Formal announcement of the 1975 Award was made at UNICEF's Children's Cultures Center in New York on April 2, International Children's Book Day, during ceremonies sponsored by the U. S. Committee for UNICEF, the Children's Services Division of the American Library Association, and the Children's Book Council.

On the same date, local programs honoring the award winner were held at ten institutions selected as initial participants in a two-year pilot project designed to encourage wider understanding and appreciation of other cultures as depicted in translated books for children. The sponsoring institutions, representing a wide variety of library services as well as diversity of location, were:

University of Alabama, Graduate School of Library Service, University, Alabama;
Bartram School, Jacksonville, Florida; Leavenworth Public Library, Leavenworth, Kansas; Boston Public Library and Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System,

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Boston, Massachusetts; The Kerlan Collection, Research Center for Children's Books, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Clark County Library District, Las Vegas, Nevada; Orchard Road School, Skillman, New Jersey; Manor Branch Library, Portsmouth, Virginia; Brown County Library, Children's Department, Green Bay, Wisconsin; Cooperative Children's Book Center and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Library School, Madison, Wisconsin.

Appropriately, for our times, the winning publication, An Old Tale Carved Out of Stone, not only reflects its Russian origins but also the universality of the ancient conflict between age and youth. It is the story of Liok, a reluctant young shaman of a prehistoric culture, whose reliance on ingenuity rather than total commitment to traditional customs brings him into conflict with the conservative tribal elders.

The author, A. Linevski, born in Leningrad in 1902, received numerous awards for his archaeological discoveries as well as for his books and magazine articles. While still a student at Leningrad University, he worked with the ethnographic expeditions into Karelia and in 1926 discovered the "Devil's Footstep Cliffs" which contained three hundred Stone Age drawings. After his graduation in 1929, he began work for the Institute of Language, Literature and History at Karelia, a branch of the USSR Academy of Science. An Old Tale Carved Out of Stone was first published in the city of Petrozavodsk, Russia in 1930.

Maria Polushkin, the translator, also born in Russia, lived in Germany before immigrating to the United States in 1949 with her parents and sister. Following her graduation from college, she became children's book editor first for St. Martin's Press and then for Doubleday and Company where she was responsible for generating the publication of many translations from the Russian including

What It's All About by Vadim Frolov, translated by Joe Barnes, which won the 1968 Child Study Award. She then began translating books herself, among them Anatolii Aleksin's A Late Born Child (World) which was a nominee for the 1973 Mildred L. Batchelder Award.

That translated books for children can become a bridge between cultures is reflected in her own words: "I sometimes feel as though I have come to translating the easy way, having been born in Russia, always speaking Russian at home, yet growing up in America. I have never gone through the ordeal of slowly, bit by bit, acquiring a second language through scholarship. My two languages have always been there, a legacy from my emigre parents, who have crossed many borders in their lifetime."

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B-C-D-E-F-I-J-K-M

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