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Children's literature - Foreign
language books

NEWS

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AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONFrom: Peggy Barber, Director
Public Information Office

AUG 21 1974

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For immediate release

A two-year pilot program to stimulate wider interest in and knowledge of the Mildred L. Batchelder Award was announced today by Barbara T. Rollock, President of the Children's Services Division of the American Library Association. The program is being made possible with the cooperation of the Children's Book Council and the publishers nominated for the 1975 awards.

The Mildred L. Batchelder 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 published in a foreign language in a foreign country and subsequently published in English in the United States.

Ten institutions will be selected to co-sponsor local announcements of the 1975 Award winner simultaneously with the formal announcement by the president of the Children's Services Division in New York City on April 2 (International Children's Book Day (ICBD), the anniversary of Hans Christian Andersen's birth) at the UNICEF Information Center on Children's Cultures. The ten institutions selected for formal participation in the project will receive free: one copy of each of the books nominated for the award; one copy of Maurice Sendak's beautiful ICBD poster, picturing a scene from "The Emperor's New Clothes"; materials developed by the 1975 sponsor of ICBD, the Danish National Section of the International Board on Books for Youth (IBBY); and confidential advance notice from the Batchelder Award Committee as to the name of the actual winning publisher in 1975 for purposes of local announcement on April 2nd.

The nominees are:

There, Far Beyond the River, by Yuri Korinetz, translated from the German by Anthea Bell, published by J. Philip O'Hara;

My Great-Grandfather, the Heroes and I, by James Kruss, translated from the German by Edelgard von Heydekampf Bruhl, published by Atheneum;

An Old Tale Carved Out of Stone, by A. Linevski, translated from the Russian by Maria Polushkin, published by Crown.

In order to be considered for co-sponsorship, applicants must submit an outline of a plan for a local program centering on translated children's books, with emphasis on those books nominated for the 1975 Mildred L. Batchelder Award. Applications forms are available from the Office of the Executive Secretary, Children's Services Division, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

Projected programs need not be elaborate, but should place emphasis on introducing translated books to young people. A simple type of program might be developed around the nominated books which could be read by as many students or library patrons as possible and which could be discussed at a meeting or assembly program. Participants reading all the books would then be eligible to cast a vote for the book they think might win. Other types of programs--all logically culminating on April 2nd--might center on foreign cultures, Hans Christian Andersen tales, folk tales throughout the world or contemporary international affairs as viewed by young people. There are many other possibilities. An integral part of each plan should be the projected publicity, local and regional.

The libraries and schools selected to participate will be notified immediately after the Midwinter Meeting of the American Library Association. However, all librarians and teachers are urged to focus attention on this award as a positive gesture toward international understanding.