The 60th Anniversary of the Kerlan Collection

15 November 2009, 2:00 p.m.
Kerlan Collection 60th Anniversary Event
Featured Speaker: Leonard Marcus
Room 120, Elmer L. Andersen Library

Please join us as we commemorate sixty years as one of the world's great children's literature research collections with an exhibit and opening reception featuring writer, literary historian, and children's literature critic Leonard Marcus. This event will be held on Sunday, November 15, at 2:00 p.m. in 120 Elmer L. Andersen Library and is free and open to the public. An RSVP by Friday, November 6th to stangret@umn.edu or (612) 624-9339 is encouraged.

Sixty years ago, Dr. Irvin Kerlan donated his collection of children's books to the University of Minnesota. Dr. Kerlan, long-time chief of medical research for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, chose what was best and representative of each current year and, when he could afford it, bought children's classics and past Newbery winners.

It was not long before he took his collection one step further, pursuing the background material that went into making the books. He wrote letters to authors and illustrators, and they replied by forwarding their original manuscripts, artwork, and selected correspondence with editors and children.

From the halls of a Washington, D.C., brownstone to the caverns of the University, the Kerlan Collection now contains over 110,000 children's books, as well as original manuscripts, artwork, galleys, and color proofs for more than 18,000 titles.

The anniversary exhibit will be open from 12 November – 31 December in the Elmer L. Andersen Library Gallery. The exhibit gallery is free and open to the public Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., excluding University holidays. Contact clrc@umn.edu for details.
FROM THE KERLAN FRIENDS PRESIDENTS

Dear Friends,

One of the privileges of serving as the president of the Kerlan Friends Board is that I have an opportunity to greet each of you in a letter published in the Kerlan Collection Newsletter. I teach children's literature and literacy courses at University of Minnesota Duluth. I have been conducting research at the Kerlan Collection since 1986, have served on the board since 2007, and served as the chair of the Kerlan Award Committee in 2008 and 2009. It is a pleasure for me to be able to "give back" and serve in any way I can.

Andersen Library and the Children's Literature Research Collections are busy—even in the summer. I hope that many of you were able to attend the annual meeting that coincided with a Split Rock Arts Program lecture presented by Caldecott Award winning illustrator Eric Rohmann and Boston Globe-Horn Book Award winning author Candace Fleming. They discussed their creative processes and explained how their processes complement each other and blend when they work on books together.

In mid-July Claudia Mills, author of Being Teddy Roosevelt, The Totally Made-up Civil War Diary of Amanda MacLeish, and many other books, began her lecture on writing school stories by describing her delight in being a part of the rich community of people who work at and use the Kerlan Collection. She added, "I can't believe people put on white gloves to look at my manuscripts…such care…such an honor." She went on to describe her childhood filled with books and writing, shared some of her favorite books from childhood, and then told the untold stories behind many of her books. In addition to her lecture, she spent time talking with a group of students who were using manuscripts she had donated to the collection.

We are all part of the rich community Mills described, because we have experienced the surprise, excitement, and delight that occurs when we participate by attending lectures and presentations, discover the first draft of or preliminary sketches for a favorite book while conducting research, work as volunteers on special projects or at events, and share our excitement, discoveries, and passion with others. Thank you for your continued support.

This year is the 60th Anniversary of the Kerlan Collection! To celebrate Dr. Irvin Kerlan's generous gift to the University of Minnesota there will be an exhibit of materials chronicling the collection in the first floor gallery of Andersen Library. Leonard Marcus, author of Margaret Wise Brown: Awakened by the Moon, Dear Genius: The Letters of Ursula Nordstrom, The Wind and the Wand: Conversations with Writers of Fantasy, Golden Legacy, and Minders of Make-Believe, will present a lecture on Sunday, 15 November 2009 at 2:00 p.m. I hope that many of you were able to attend the annual meeting that coincided with a Split Rock Arts Program lecture presented by Caldecott Award winning illustrator Eric Rohmann and Boston Globe-Horn Book Award winning author Candace Fleming. They discussed their creative processes and explained how their processes complement each other and blend when they work on books together.

Sincerely,
Jean Stevenson

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity employer and educator. To receive this information in alternative formats, or for disability accommodations, contact the CLRC at clrc@umn.edu or 612-624-4576.
CADDIE WOODLAWN AT THE CLRC

The Carol Ryrie Brink files for Caddie Woodlawn have been a treasured part of the Kerlan Collection and the basis for several scholarly papers and journal articles. Now an on-line presentation makes samples of these files easily accessible for elementary students and others interested in children’s literature.

The book, Caddie Woodlawn, is based on the childhood of the author’s grandmother as an early white settler in Wisconsin. The on-line presentation in PowerPoint format provides samples of the correspondence between Brink and her grandmother that gives a unique and transparent look at the process of writing historical fiction. Also included are historical photographs, original drafts of the story, background information on the setting and times of the story, a bibliography of related American Indian resources, and teaching activities.

— Adele Greenlee

The Caddie Woodlawn portfolio is available online at <http://special.lib.umn.edu/clrc/kerlan/caddie/index.php>. You can find a list of all the portfolios available at <http://special.lib.umn.edu/clrc/kerlan/resources.php>. All of the digital educational portfolios are free for use, and the non-digital portfolios are available for a two-week loan period for a nonrefundable advance payment of $25. For more information, contact clrc@umn.edu.

RESEARCH BASED ON CLRC RESOURCES

The Sweetly Diabolic Art of Jim Flora, the third anthology on Jim Flora by Fantagraphics Books. Editors Irwin Chusid and Barbara Economon spent a number of days with the Flora illustrations and manuscripts in the Kerlan Collection, eventually dedicating an entire chapter to the materials found at the Children’s Literature Research Collections.

Fred Erisman, From Birdwomen to Skygirls; American Girls’ Aviation Stories. Fort Worth, TX: TCU, 2009.


Professor Jean Stevenson, “A Triangulated View of the Creation of Children’s Books Using the Kerlan Collection-CLRC to Conduct Research” at the ChLA conference in Charlotte, NC, on 13 June 2009.

RECENT VISITORS

Klaus Flygge, President of Anderson Press, UK

Dr. Keiko Hori, Tokai University, Japan, where she received Best Professor of the Year Award.

Maria Liza Nava, MD, studying at the Mayo Clinic in June, visited the Minnesota Historical Society to view #43 Wanda Gág in the 150 Minnesotans exhibit. As an elementary school student, she won a competition in her island of Iloilo in the Panay, retelling Millions of Cats.

Sherry F. Litwack, assistant to Tomie DePaola of Concord, MA. “...thank you for giving us such a warm welcome to the Kerlan Collection. It was fascinating to go behind the scenes and see how well everything is organized and protected. And it was a highlight for me to see the original Strega Nona artwork.”

Seven “Betsy Tacy” fans from around the country who attended the conference in Mankato visited to look at the clippings file, among them the conference organizer Radhika Breaden, MD from Oregon.

Sara Hudson, PhD candidate in American Studies from Yale University, researching for her dissertation: Crossing Stories: Contesting Citizenships in an Expanded Frontera. Sara says, “My project explores how the development of American children’s literature in the imperial aftermath of 1898 reflects, anticipates, contradicts, and comments on the borders and belonging in “America,” not only geographically, but also politically, racially, culturally, and linguistically. My dissertation proposes that current scholarship on the impact of the U.S. empire in the twentieth century is radically incomplete without a study of the production and circulation of art, photographs, oral tales, and most importantly, children’s literature.”
When I was seven years old my best friend Leslie Hayashi saw a picture I drew and told me she'd write the stories and I would do the illustrations. Decades later she sent me her stories and I learned to paint illustrations for her.

For most of our lives we’ve collaborated, helping each other learn to write, paint, edit, illustrate, compose, and market children’s books. We share a passion for children, stories and art, so creating books has been rewarding and enriching. Thus far, we have created seven books together and have many more in progress. As a self-taught illustrator and author, studying at the Children’s Literature Research Collection was an amazing gift. We were in book heaven for four very full days. I studied 27 illustrators and 95 books, evidence of the good company I keep with other illustrators who are dedicated to bringing joy to children through art. Mahalo, thank you, for the Keats/Kerlan grant.

— Kathleen Wong Bishop, 2009 Keats/Kerlan Fellowship Winner

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— Kathleen Wong Bishop, 2009 Keats/Kerlan Fellowship Winner

I saw a picture in a Los Angeles Newspaper about 1959 or 60 of a boy named Alan who had built a six-foot-tall robot from tin cans. This started the idea for the book. Unfortunately, the publishers lost the clipping...

— Carol Ryrie Brink, Andy Buckram’s Tin Man

For [Irvin] Kerlan, who admitted “the drawings are nice.”
No comment on the text!
— Delia Goetz, The Dragon and the Eagle

Bright Wishes
purrrr
purrrr
purrrr
Peace
Joy
Love
— Ashley Bryan, The Cat’s Puff

Winning the Newbery Medal was such an exciting thing & such a great encouragement to me as a writer. The character of Charlie was based on three real case histories and not something I created myself — I never felt I could take credit for him. I also owe credit to my daughters for the puce sneakers — they were always dying things with unfortunate results.

— Betsy Byars, The Summer of the Swans

As you can see, I am still only in the first half of the alphabet, so I have to keep coming back; I don’t want to miss anything.

— Jim Eyer, Kerlan Collection Volunteer
IN MEMORIAM

Gary Harm, Wanda Gág’s nephew and executor of her estate, died June 20, 2009. Gág dedicated The ABC Bunny (1933) to him, as he was the son of her oldest sibling, Stella Lona. The University of Minnesota Press recently reprinted the book, using the original lithographs in the Kerlan Collection. Harm’s most recent gift was 88 pages of correspondence between Wanda and sister Flavia Gág.

Jay Bennett, Author.
The family suggested gifts to the Kerlan Collection in memory of Jay Bennett (1912-2009), a children’s book author who continued his writing well into what would be retirement years for others. Mr. Bennett’s popular suspense novels for young readers were translated into more than fifteen languages and he won the Edgar Allan Poe Award twice.

2010 KEATS FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Ezra Jack Keats/Kerlan Memorial Fellowship, from the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, provides $1,500 to a “talented writer and/or illustrator of children’s books who wishes to use the Kerlan Collection for the furtherance of his or her artistic development.”

This fellowship is intended to provide financial assistance for writers and illustrators who wish to use the original manuscripts, illustrations, and books of the Kerlan Collection in course of their professional development. Special consideration will be given to those who would find it difficult to finance a visit to the Kerlan Collection. The Ezra Jack Keats Fellowship recipient will receive funds for travel expenses and a per diem allotment. Applications for 2010 must be postmarked by 31 December 2009. The winner will be notified by February, 2010. Study and written report must be completed during the 2010 calendar year.

For paper copies of the application send a request including a large size (6” x 9” or 9” x 12”) self-addressed, $.97 postage paid envelope to the address below:

Ezra Jack Keats/Kerlan Collection Memorial Fellowship
113 Andersen Library, University of Minnesota
222 – 21st Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455

For more information about the Fellowship program, visit us online at <http://special.lib.umn.edu/clrc/kerlan/awards.php>.

TRAVELING TO THE CLRC

Since we are on the University of Minnesota campus, one of the most common questions we receive from patrons is, “But how do I get to the Kerlan Collection?”

For those of you driving or biking to the University, we suggest visiting the official parking map for Andersen Library at <http://special.lib.umn.edu/swha/parking.pdf>. It offers routes from all different directions, as well as the various parking options available near the library.

Patrons that prefer to use public transit should check out the Minneapolis Metro Transit website available at <http://www.metrotransit.org/>, as they have a customizable trip planner. A number of public buses stop on the West Bank of the University, including popular routes such as the 3, 16, 50, 22, 111, 113, 114, 152, and 144, with only a short walk to Andersen Library.

HOLLINSHEAD FELLOWSHIP

Marilyn Hollinshead Visiting Scholars Fund for Travel to the Kerlan Collection will be available for research study in 2010. Applicants may request up to $1,500.

Send a letter with the proposed purpose, plan to use specific research materials (manuscripts and art), dates, and budget (including airfare and per diem) to Marilyn Hollinshead Visiting Scholars Fellowship, 113 Andersen Library, 222 – 21st Ave. S. Mpls, MN 55455. The application deadline is 31 December 2009. Travel and a written report on the project must be completed and submitted in 2010.

2010 KERLAN AWARD

Please submit nominations by 15 October 2009.

The Kerlan Award is given annually “in recognition of singular attainments in the creation of children’s literature and in appreciation for generous donation of unique resources to the Kerlan Collection for the study of children’s literature.”

The Kerlan Award Committee invites nominations for the forthcoming Kerlan Award. Individuals from all areas of children’s literature, including authors, illustrators, editors, publishers, and educators, are eligible for this honor. Please submit nominations to the Kerlan Friends, 222 –21st Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

For additional information on donors to the Kerlan Collection, please visit our online Finding Aids at <http://special.lib.umn.edu/clrc/kerlan/auweblinks.php>.
RECENT ACQUISITIONS

These materials have been donated by the creators, their families, or third parties. Titles of recent acquisitions are not listed if previously reported in a newsletter. Key: MS – manuscripts, IL – illustrations; published titles are indicated by italics.

Constance Bergum: IL – Daniel and His Walking Stick

Franny Billingsley: MS – Briar

N.M. Bodecker: MS & IL – Unpublished poetry & illustration materials.

Sharon Creech: MS – The Castle Corona; Hate That Cat, The Raven

Ariane Dewey: MS – Dorin and the Dragon; The Fish Peri; Scrapbooks; Sea Frog City Frog: The Thunder God’s Son

Brenda Ferber: MS – Jemma Hartman, Camper Extraordinaire; Julia’s Kitchen

Candace Fleming: MS – Battista’s Song; A Big Cheese for the White House; Critters A-comin’ Along; Madame LaGrande and her so High, to the Sky, Uproarious Pompadour; Munchal Munchal! Munchal! Professor Fergus Fahrenheit and his Wonderful Weather Machine; Smile, Lily!; Westward Ho, Carlotta!; When Agnes Caws

Kristine Franklin: MS – Cuss; The Grape Thief

Stephen Gammell: IL – Airmail to the Moon; Blackbird Singing; Day of the Blizzard; Demo and the Dolphin; Flash and the Swan; A Furl of Fairy Wind; Ghost of Tillie Jean Cassaway; Ghosts; The Glory Horse; Halloween Poems; The Hawks of Chelney; Hide; Humble Pie; The Kelpie’s Pearls; Who Kidnapped the Sheriff?; Leo Possessed; Let Me Hear You Whisper; Meet the Vampire; Meet the Werewolf; Nabby Adams’ Diary; A Net to Catch the Wind; The Old Banjo; A Regular Rolling Noah; The Search: A Biography of Leo Tolstoy; Stonewall; The Story of Mr. and Mrs. Vinegar; Terrible Things; Thanksgiving Poems; ‘Thanksgiving Poems; Thunder at Gettysburg; Waiting to Waltz; Yesterday’s Island.

David Geister: IL – The Legend of Minnesota

Ron Koertge: MS – Deadville

Carolyn Marsden: MS – Starfields

Tim Mason: MS – The Last Synapsid

Laura Numeroff: MS – Correspondence


CHILDREN’S LITERATURE EVENTS

Wednesday, 23 September at 2 p.m., Prof. Lawrence R. Sipe, the 2009 Marilyn Hollinshead Fellow, will present “Peritextual Features of Contemporary Picturebooks: How Readers are Prepared to Experience the Story,” as part of the ASC Research in Progress series. The program will be in the Elmer L. Andersen Library, Room 120, University of Minnesota, West Bank.

Dr. Sipe, University of Pennsylvania, is Co-Editor of the international journal Children’s Literature in Education and author of Storytime (Teachers College Press).


The Ninth Annual Twin Cities Book Festival Saturday, 10 October 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Minneapolis Community & Technical College, conveniently located in Downtown Minneapolis. This event is Free and open to the public. For more information please visit <www.raintaxi.com/bookfest/>.

CHILDREN’S THEATER COMPANY EXHIBIT

This Spring, Kerlan Friend Kim Farout selected art and manuscript materials from the papers of Louis Darling which are housed in the Kerlan Collection. Kim’s selections were then scanned and turned into display materials for the Children’s Theater Company’s performance of *Ramona Quimby*. The production ran from 21 April – 7 June 2009.

KERLAN FRIENDS RENEWALS, NEW MEMBERS AND GIFTS

Thank you to all who became a Kerlan Friend, renewed memberships, or gave a donation between 21 May and 1 August 2009:


Thanks also for these other gifts and endowments from 21 May to 1 August 2009:

Arcadia, Dr Marjorie A Biddle, Renate DeConna, Mary Fowles, Doris Frank, Arlene & Lester Friedman, Dr Karen Nelson Hoyle, Peter Limburg.

BECOME A KERLAN FRIEND

I/we wish to join the Kerlan Friends (UM10 LIBR KNEW)*

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_____ Kerlan Student full-time ($10)    _____ Special Patron ($1000)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED $ ________

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Signature: _________________________________________________________________________________

Make your check payable to the University of Minnesota & mail to: Kerlan Friends, University of Minnesota Libraries, CM 3854, P.O. Box 70870, St. Paul, MN 55170-3854

* All membership gifts are tax deductible.
This year’s Book Week speaker will be Susan Marie Swanson, author of the 2009 Caldecott Medal book *The House in the Night*, illustrated by Beth Krommes.

Award-winning author Susan Marie Swanson grew up in a small town on the outskirts of Chicago where she happily spent her time at the local library and bookstore, fortified by words and the really good sweet rolls available at a nearby bakery. It’s not too surprising to learn that she became a writer at an early age; her first published poem appeared in the local newspaper when she was ten. Susan Marie has worked with students through the COMPAS Writers and Artists in the Schools program for more than 25 years, inspiring children to record their own voices and stories. After listening to so many children for so many years, she knows just how they speak and how to speak to them, telling them just what they want to hear in each book she creates.

For more information, visit <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/CI/Literacy/bookweek.html> or contact the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at 612-625-7835 or via e-mail at zemke001@umn.edu. Driving and parking suggestions for Elmer L. Andersen Library are available online at <http://special.lib.umn.edu/swha/parking.pdf>.

Book Week is supported by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction of the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), University of Minnesota; by the generous contributions of Ms. Ruth Mitchell and other CEHD alumni; The Red Balloon Bookshop; and by the Children's Literature Research Collections, Andersen Library, University of Minnesota.