

Mildred L. Batchelder Award Committee Manual

July 2023

[Meeting Attendance](#)

[Resignation](#)

[Preparation](#)

[Committee Participation](#)

[Identifying, Obtaining, and Reading Eligible Books](#)

[Identifying Eligible Books](#)

[Obtaining Eligible Books](#)

[Determining Eligibility](#)

[Reading Eligible Books](#)

[Note-taking](#)

[Suggestion and Nomination Processes](#)

[Suggestions](#)

[Nominations](#)

[Meetings](#)

[Introductory Meeting \(Optional, Virtual\)](#)

[Initial Discussion Meeting \(Required, Virtual\)](#)

[Preparation](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Book Discussion](#)

[Meeting Minutes and Quarterly Report](#)

[Preliminary Deliberations \(Required, Virtual\)](#)

[LibLearnX Selection Meeting \(Required, In-Person\)](#)

[Preparation](#)

[Secretary](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Book Discussion](#)

[Balloting](#)

[Re-balloting](#)

[Honor Books](#)

[Review of Confidentiality Policy](#)

[Drafting of Press Release](#)

[Award and Honor Book Notification Calls](#)

[ALA Youth Media Awards Press Conference](#)

[After LibLearnX Selection Meeting](#)

[Public Relations](#)

[Correspondence](#)

[Final Quarterly Report](#)

[Recommendations](#)

[Preparation for the Award Presentation](#)

[Celebration and Presentation of the Awards](#)

[Preservation of Committee Materials](#)

[Conclusion of Service](#)

[Part IV: Additional Roles and Responsibilities](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Committee Chair: Additional Responsibilities](#)

[Administrative Assistant](#)

[Participation of ALSC Membership](#)

[Priority Group Consultant](#)

[ALSC Staff](#)

[General Responsibilities](#)

[Responsibilities at LibLearnX Selection Meeting](#)

[Responsibilities after LibLearnX Selection Meeting](#)

[Responsibilities at Celebration and Presentation of the Awards](#)

[ALSC President](#)

[Appendix A: Supporting Documents](#)

[Checklist for Prospective ALSC Award Committee Members](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions about the Policy for Service on Award and Evaluation Committees](#)

[Sample Calendar](#)

[Employer/Supervisor Information Form](#)

[Letter to Employer/Supervisor #1: Beginning of Service](#)

[Letter to Employer/Supervisor #2: End of Service](#)

[Press Release: Notice of Committee Appointment](#)

[Sample Resignation Letter](#)

[Call for Membership Suggestions](#)

[Sample Note-taking Form](#)

Notes

This manual attempts to outline the practices, procedures, and principles to follow in the selection and presentation of the Mildred L. Batchelder Award. While as complete as possible, it cannot be exhaustive. Therefore, it is important to use the manual as a guide and seek further guidance with the Committee Chair. Contact information is available on the ALSC website.

The Priority Group V Consultant is referred to as the PGC, and this use implies ALSC affiliation.

The American Library Association Communications and Marketing Office is referred to as ALA CMO.

LibLearnX Conference, formerly Midwinter, is referred to as LLX.

The ALA Youth Media Awards Press Conference is referred to as the ALA YMA Press Conference.

response to increased committee queries to ALSC leadership regt

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Part I: Background Information

History

The Mildred L. Batchelder Award is a citation awarded to an American publisher for a children's book considered to be the most outstanding translated book of the year. Books eligible for the award are those originating in a country other than the United States and in a language other than English, and subsequently published in English in the United States.

The purpose of the award is to encourage international exchange of high-quality children's books by recognizing U.S. publishers of such books in translation.

According to Mildred L. Batchelder, children in all countries should have good books in translation from many parts of the world for these reasons:

1. children of one country who come to know the books and stories of many countries have made a beginning toward international understanding;
2. knowing the classic stories of a country creates an attitude for understanding towards the people for whom that literature is a heritage;
3. children, who know they are reading in translation the same stories which children in other countries are reading, develop a sense of nearness with those in other lands; and
4. communication between the peoples of those countries, and, if the books chosen for traveling from language to language are good, the children of one country will be better acquainted with the children of other countries.

for the winner. Beginning in 1979, the winner was selected by a committee and the award was give

Composition of the Committee

The Batchelder Award Committee shall consist of four members plus a chair, appointed by the President.

Terms, Definitions, and Criteria

Please see [Appendix B: Expanded Definitions and Examples](#) for further clarification of the terms, definitions, and criteria below.

Terms

- b. In all cases, committee members must consider the book's manner of presentation for, and the potential appeal to, a child audience.
- c. Aspects of the overall design of the book should be considered when they significantly enhance or detract from the text, thus making the book more or less effective as a
t,
etc.
- d. In some children's books, illustrations are important. In evaluating such a book, consideration should be given to the retention of the original illustrator's work in the U.S. edition.

NOTE: Often it will be impossible for the committee members to read the book in its original language. Therefore, the committee must use its best judgment in evaluating the quality of the translation (point 2 above), keeping in mind that a translated book is a separate entity from the book as published in its original language.

(Approved by the ALSC board, Annual Conference 1981. Revised 2018. Updated 2023.)

Part II: ALSC Policies and Procedures

ALSC Community Agreements

These community agreements were developed so that all meetings convened by members of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) are spaces where meaningful and respectful conversations are held. The agreements outline best practices to ensure that everyone has an opportunity for expression, accountability, and growth.

They provide a guide to how topics are discussed, the language used, and how our different experiences, identities, and knowledge are reflected in our thought processes, discussions, and

Diversity and ALSC Media Award Evaluation

Inclusiveness is a core value of ALSC. It is the responsibility of each ALSC media award and Notables committee to reflect this value in their approach to their work. ALSC award and Notables lists provide librarians, teachers, and parents with information about books and other media our association holds in the highest regard. Everyone benefits, children most of all, when the titles recognized within and across ALSC awards and best-of-the-year lists authentically reflect the diversity found in our nation and the wider world.

It is important that books demonstrate integrity and respect for all children's lives and experiences and do not diminish or denigrate any individual or group through stereotypes, whitewashing, or other derogatory content. The committee should evaluate works with the consideration of all children in mind rather than privileging the dominant culture to the exclusion of others. While the works of individual nominees do not have to include racially and culturally diverse characters, they should not disrespect or discredit diverse lives, experiences and histories.

Each year there will be overlap among individual committees in terms of titles being considered for recognition. The Caldecott, Notables, and Pura Belpré committees, for example, inevitably end up considering some of the same books. It is the responsibility of each committee to consider a work based upon how it meets the criteria of their specific award rather than speculating about whether a particular title will receive another award. If a title is recognized by multiple committees, it does not diminish the work of any of those committees; rather, it draws

As individuals serving on committees evaluate materials according to the criteria outlined for their specific charge, they should strive to be aware of how their own perspectives and experiences shape their responses to materials. Every committee member brings unique strengths to the table, but every committee member also brings gaps in knowledge, understanding, and biases. Committee members are strongly encouraged to be open to listening and learning as well as sharing as they consider materials representing diverse experiences, both familiar and unfamiliar to them.

Revised 1/1/2023

must avoid publishing reviews of eligible materials during their term of service. Following the term of service, members are welcome to express their personal opinions about any eligible titles in any manner or forum; however at no time may they ever use titles or other recognizable details to identify the status of a title as having been or not been under consideration, suggested, and/or nominated for the award, nor may they ever reveal any elements of committee discussion.

7. Members may not serve concurrently on an ALSC Award or media evaluation evaluation committee, or ALA Council.
8. From time to time, ALSC may take other action or establish such other guidelines as may be necessary in the Association's sole discretion to protect the integrity of the award process. Questions from prospective committee members and candidates should be directed to the Executive Director; situations that arise after a committee member has begun to serve should be directed to the ALSC President, Committee Chair, PGC, and Executive Director. The final decision rests with the Executive Committee.

Meeting Attendance and Access to Materials

Persons elected or appointed to an award committee should:

1. Be able to attend all required discussion and decision meetings, in person and virtual, scheduled for the year of service, including pre-scheduled virtual meetings for a week in July following the Annual conference, virtual meetings in the two weeks prior to the LibLearnX Conference, and the in-person final selection meeting at LibLearnX, and be able to follow procedures established by the committee.
2. under consideration in outlets such as their local library or bookstore and through interlibrary loan. It is recognized that there will be an occasional book under consideration that a committee member is unable to obtain. In such an instance, arrangements for review copies may be made as prescribed in the committee's guidelines, which can be found in the [Relationship with Publishers - Guidelines for Committee Members](#) section.

Although these requirements may limit membership on a committee, wise selection requires complete participation of all members of the committee.

Frequency of Service on Award or Notable Book Committees

No individual may serve on the Batchelder Award, Caldecott Medal, Geisel Award, _____, or Notable Children's Books Committee more often than once every four years. The four-year period shall begin from the last year of the term of service regardless of length of term. This guideline will not apply to the appointment for Chair. This guideline will not apply to other ALSC committees. Additionally, in the event that an emergency, mid-year

Relationship with Publishers

Guidelines for Committee Members

publishers are listed below.

Many publishers send committee members eligible books for consideration. Committee members may accept these unsolicited books.

The Chair consults committee members to verify the addresses where publishers should send books and makes a roster for publishers. Addresses should be viable for the term of service because it is difficult for publishers to change the mailing address once established with a warehouse.

The ALSC Awards Coordinator makes the committee roster available to publishers as soon as possible in the year under consideration.

The Chair surveys committee members regularly to ascertain which books have not been received. It's quite common for book shipments to arrive weeks apart.

If certain titles have been difficult to obtain, the Chair may contact publishers directly to request needed titles, with assistance from the PGC as needed. Towards the end of the year, as deliberations approach, the PGC assumes the role of requesting needed titles, with the assistance of the Awards Coordinator.

Committee members are not to solicit publishers for free, personal copies of eligible books. Members accept appointments to this committee with the understanding that they have access to new books. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of each committee member to obtain such books.

Committee members are cautioned to avoid any conflicts of interest that might grow out of personal contact with personnel involved in public contacts so long as there is the express understanding that such contacts in no way influence how books are considered or the final choices made.

Committee members are not to solicit publishers for favors, invitations, or the like. However, should there be such unsolicited offers, committee members may accept with the express understanding that acceptance in no way influences how books are considered or final choices made.

The deadline for submitting books for consideration is **December 31** of the publication year.

Self-Published and Small-Press Titles

Books that are self-published or published by small presses are eligible, provided they meet all other eligibility requirements. Books are eligible in their first year of publication only. If a self-published book is republished later by another publisher, then the book will not be reconsidered upon its commercial publication. The Chair will keep and pass on a current year's list of award-eligible books received directly from authors or from small, independent presses (adopted by ALSC Board of Directors, June 2004). In recent years, the number of self-published and small-press books received for consideration has significantly increased. Often only the Chair receives a copy of these titles. How these titles are shared with the committee is at the Chair's discretion, often with committee input.

Part III: Committee Work

Virtual meetings are also used as a way to winnow down the discussion list prior to the in-person LibLearnX selection meeting. **If a virtual meeting includes the discussion and/or selection of titles, it is mandatory for all committee members to attend.** The Chair should bear this requirement in mind, and schedule these meetings as far in advance as possible.

Please note that a committee member must tender their resignation if they are unable to attend a required meeting, *regardless of the reason*, and regardless of whether the meeting is virtual or in-person (see *Resignation section below for details*)

Identifying, Obtaining, and Reading Eligible Books

Committee members are responsible for identifying, obtaining, and reading eligible books throughout the year under consideration. Committee members will begin to receive books for consideration from publishers by early spring. Eligible books will also be announced in catalogs and reviews and may appear in libraries and bookstores. It is wise to begin this process as soon as possible. The pace of publication increases throughout the year. It is important to keep up with these three responsibilities at all times.

Identifying Eligible Books

Committee members are responsible for identifying eligible books to read and consider. Here are some ways to identify eligible books:

- 1.
- 2.
3. Websites of publishers, authors, and illustrators

Meetings

Introductory Meeting (Optional, Virtual)

Held near the beginning of the year under consideration, the Introductory Meeting is an optional, time and sends out a meeting link well in advance, while also posting the agenda with the meeting link to the ALSC community space on ALA Connect several days before the meeting. This is an open meeting; all other meetings of the committee will be closed to all but committee members.

As with all optional meetings, committee members are urged to attend if at all possible. At this meeting, the Chair will introduce the members, may distribute the year's calendar, and will often invite the PGC to talk about committee procedures, and/or experts in the field and past committee chairs to talk about evaluation techniques. No official business takes place. Books under consideration are not discussed, nor are any procedural issues decided.

Initial Discussion Meeting (Required, Virtual)

The Initial Discussion Meeting is held virtually after the Annual Conference of the year under consideration (early summer), and it allows the committee time to prepare for the work ahead. The highlight of this meeting is a practice book discussion, allowing committee members to hone their discussion skills. It is up to the Chair to determine whether they will host one or two meetings during the appointed time, provided the ALSC Zoom room is available or the Chair has access to another secure online platform.

Preparation

Committee members and the Chair are responsible for making careful preparations for the Initial Discussion Meeting. The Chair schedules the meeting as soon as possible, makes logistical arrangements, sets an agenda, appoints a secretary, and sends out any relevant information in advance. The Chair also establishes a short list of suggested titles for practice book discussion,

consider all books on the practice discussion list. The Chair also asks select committee members to be prepared to introduce books from the practice list into discussion.

Agenda

The agenda at the Initial Discussion Meeting includes:

- An opportunity for committee members to become reacquainted,

- Discussion of terms, criteria, and definitions for Award/Medal Winner and Honor Books. At the discretion of the Chair, an expert may be invited to address the committee,

- Discussion of procedures to be used by the committee during the remainder of the year and at the LibLearnX Selection Meeting,

- Review of responsibilities for committee members and the Chair,

- Discussion of the importance of full participation by committee members and the Chair,

Discussion of what steps to take should full participation be impossible (e.g., how to tender a resignation),

Review role of the PGC. At the discretion of the Chair, the PGC may be invited to address the committee,

Practice book discussion using a short list of suggested books,

Optional look at suggestions list. Members who have made suggestions can remove them at this time; removed suggestions can be added back at a later date.

Book Discussion

The practice book discussion is a critical element of the Initial Discussion Meeting. It's important to remember, however, that this exercise is for practice only and that it will not play a role in the

bearing in mind that **once a book is eliminated from the discussion list, it cannot be reintroduced.**

Last-minute changes to the list should be communicated to the Awards Coordinator, with a copy to the Executive Director.

Once this review is completed, a full discussion of each book remaining on the discussion list takes place. These books are then discussed one by one. After all books have been discussed, it is possible to re-open discussion on selected titles before moving to a selection ballot. Throughout book discussion, important guidelines apply:

Use critical analysis; avoid plot summaries and generalities such as cute, nice, good, etc.

Be clear in what you say, think through the point you are making, and speak loudly enough to be heard by everyone.

Refer back to the criteria to keep the discussion focused.

Be concise be sure that what you have to say adds to the discussion; try not to repeat what others have said.

Speak to the group as a whole. Listen openly to other committee members and respond thoughtfully to what they have to say.

3.

Correspondence

[Appendix A: Letter to Committee Members' Employer/Supervisor #2: End of Service](#)

date that the committee identified in its reading, along with friendly suggestions about procedural matters. Note: While it is sometimes necessary for a Chair to check with their predecessor regarding whether a book has already been considered and might therefore be ineligible, this should be done on a case-by-case basis. Providing a committee's entire discussion list would violate the rules governing confidentiality.

Final Quarterly Report

The Chair submits a final Quarterly Report, along with meeting minutes, to appropriate ALSC leadership (see the Division Leadership Manual and the ALSC website).

Recommendations

After the selection process is complete, the Chair and the committee may make recommendations regarding selection policies, practices, and procedures. These recommendations go to the new Chair, the PGC, and the Awards Coordinator, with a copy to the Executive Director. The recommendations may cover internal changes, changes in the working relationship with the ALSC staff, and/or matters requiring Board action.

Preparation for the Award Presentation

The Chair works with the ALSC Awards Coordinator to make necessary arrangements for presentation of the award. Communication with the winning publisher(s) is paramount. ALSC staff, at the direction of the Awards Coordinator and Executive Director, will send letters of congratulation to the publishers. The Chair may also send notes of congratulation, if desired, with copies of any communication sent to the Awards Coordinator for archival purposes.

In addition, the Chair prepares remarks for the Award presentation, as directed by the ALSC office.

Celebration and Presentation of the Awards

The Batchelder Award and Honor Book citations are presented at the ALSC Award Presentation on Monday morning of the Annual Conference. Although committee members are not required to be present, most find a special satisfaction in being part of this very special occasion.

Preservation of Committee Materials

ALSC preserves suggestion lists, nomination lists, and justification statements (with names redacted); minutes (in keeping with how they are currently posted so that they do not include

Chair's award presentation remarks, adding these materials to the current archive. ALSC permits publication of this information after a period of 50 years following the presentation of the medal/award.

Conclusion of Service

The Chair completes their term of service by sending all committee files to the ALSC Executive Director (copies of committee communications such as letters and emails, as well as copies of congratulatory letters to the Award and Honor Book recipients).

Part IV: Additional Roles and Responsibilities

Introduction

Responsibility for selection of the Award winner and Honor books rests with the Award Committee. The bulk of this manual describes these responsibilities. However, there are others who have responsibilities for the awards. These roles are detailed here.

Committee Chair: Additional Responsibilities

ussed where relevant throughout the manual. However, it is worth noting that the Chair is a voting member of the committee with all the rights and responsibilities of other committee members. As such, they must maintain a delicate balance between being the Chair and being a committee member. Many Chairs find it helpful to the free flow of the discussion if they limit their remarks to books they feel strongly about, speak later in the discussion of any book, and speak only to make a point that has not already been made. The Chair must also be ready to abstain from voting should the committee find itself balloting one member down to ensure a smoother selection process.

The Chair is responsible for setting the tone for committee discussion. This can be done by accepting all statements relevant to the discussion, by leading the discussion on pertinent issues, and by ensuring that all committee members are allowed to speak and that none are allowed to dominate.

It is recommended that the Chair establish contact with the Chairs of other major Award committees and the Notable Children's Books Committee in order to share common concerns and provide mutual support.

In addition, the Chair does the following:

- Attends Chair orientation, which is held online, early in the year under consideration.

Appendix A: Supporting Documents

Checklist for Prospective ALSC Award Committee Members

not necessarily preclude service on an award committee. These questions are intended to alert prospective committee members to situations that may or may not pose a problem; the answers will enable the Executive Committee to assess individual situations.

committee, or ALA Council? Yes No

Are you under contract for a children's trade book that will be published during the period of your award committee service? Yes No

publisher, author, or illustrator in the past three years? Yes No

-book

Do you have a close relative (i.e. parent, spouse/partner, child) who is the author or illustrator of a book that may be eligible during the year of your committee service? Yes No

Do you have a close relative (i.e. parent, spouse/partner, child) who is currently employed by a U.S. trade publisher? Yes No

Do you, or does a close relative, directly own equity (stock, stock options, convertible notes, or any other ownership interest) that represents more than a 5% stake in a U.S. trade publishing company? Yes No

Do you have a personal relationship with the author or illustrator of any book that may be eligible that could reasonably be seen by an independent observer to cause a conflict of interest? Yes No

Do you anticipate having difficulty attending all required meetings in the manner they are offered (in person or virtually)? Yes No

Have you served as a member of the Batchelder Award, Caldecott Medal, Geisel Award, Newbery Medal, Sibert Medal, Legacy Award, or Notable Children's Books Committee in the past four years? Yes No

If you answered "yes" to any of the questions above, please contact the Executive Director in the ALSC Office to discuss your specific situation before you accept an appointment. Failure to disclose such activities may lead to immediate dismissal from the committee.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Policy for Service on Award and Evaluation Committees

Why are there ALSC policies for service on award and media evaluation committees?

If I have a friend who is a children's book author, does this mean I can never serve on an award or media evaluation committee?

It might, if the author is a close personal friend who publishes an eligible book every year. If it happens that your friend does not have a book coming out in your year of service, there's no issue.

We define a close personal relationship as one that could reasonably be seen by an outsider as having an influence on your decision-making process. This would include close friends and co-workers. It would not include authors or illustrators with whom you have a casual acquaintance, such as those who have been speakers at your library or those who sat next to you at a dinner during a professional conference. We want to avoid a situation in which after illustrator X wins

degree of a friendship,

please discuss the specifics with the ALSC Executive Director.

What about accepting dinner invitations from publishers?

Publishers often invite award committee members, as well as other ALSC members, to be their guests at meal events and social gatherings at professional conferences. It is fine for you to accept such invitations, as long as they do not conflict with your committee meetings. You should be very vigilant about maintaining confidentiality in these sorts of gatherings, because many people will hang on your every word. You may want to take the opportunity to relax by talking about something other than books during these occasions.

My wife works for a trade publisher, so I can't serve on an award or media evaluation committee. But my colleague's brother is a book editor, and that doesn't keep her off committees, even though they are very close. What's the difference?

ALA's attorneys advised us that only parents, children, spouses, and partners must be included in the defini

outside this narrow definition. Relationships with siblings may be personally significant but legally, a relationship with a parent, child, spouse, or partner is more susceptible to claims of conflict of interest because those relationships are much more likely to have strong emotional and direct financial ties.

If there is a good chance the book will be published in the year in which you have been invited to serve, it would be best to decline an appointment. In a case such as this, contact the ALSC Executive Director to discuss the ways in which you can verify a book's publication date.

Reading Lists

General Reading List

The following list may be helpful to members in reviewing criteria and understanding various aspects of the evaluation of children's literature.

Derman-

A Teaching For Change Project, 2016. Defines biases and how to identify and better evaluate children's literature.

Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Madison, Wisconsin. Accessed 5 January 2023. Resources addressing cultural competence, critical thinking, and content review. Continuously updated.

Horning, Kathleen T. *From Cover to Cover: Evaluating and Reviewing Children's Books*. New York: HarperCollins, 2010. The gold standard in how to review and evaluate children's books.

Vila-

Documents Specific to the Batchelder Award

preceding the appointment of the Mildred L. Batchelder Award Committee.

2. The award, in the form of a citation, will be made annually, unless the committee appointed to make the nomination is of the opinion that no book of that particular year is worthy of the honor, whereupon the award is withheld for that year.
3. The select
slate of three to five books nominated by a Mildred L. Batchelder Award Committee

5. Is this a complete translation, with necessary editing or is this an abridgment or condensation?

6. Further details, if any.

This Ad Hoc Committee wishes to make recommendations concerning the committee itself. The members should have book knowledge and experience and therefore, this is not a committee

management of a committee. He should schedule a sufficient number of meetings for full discussion of recommended titles. Membership on the committee should also guarantee attendance at these meetings. Appointment to this committee is an important assignment.

The above recommendations and suggestions are an attempt to clarify the problems faced by former committee members. These problems were procedural, administrative and those of interpretation. Therefore, the terms of the Award as adopted by ALA Council on July 15, 1966 should remain unchanged. The recommendations and suggestions of the Ad Hoc Committee could be incorporated in a directive similar to the one given the Newbery Caldecott Committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

Augusta Baker, Chairperson
Jean Karl
Kathleen Sheehan

cc: Ms. Tarbox
Ms. Jinnette
Ms. Ledlie
Ms. Karl
Ms. Sheehan

January 19, 1970

Concerning Mildred L. Batchelder and Translations

By Margaret K. McElderry, December 1973

World War II disrupted, among other things, the normal flow of information from country to country, the cultural exchange of art, music, and books. Channels of communication were cut off, and national energies and resources were, of necessity, directed toward an all-out war effort. As a result, when the war was over, there was a great hunger for knowledge about what had been happening elsewhere. In the United States we were eager to know about books that had been published abroad—often under extraordinarily difficult circumstances—and the same kind of interest was evident in other countries. Thus began a period when books from other lands were eagerly scanned by publishers, and many were chosen for translation and publication both here and abroad.

considered by an editor. If they are truly outstanding, they should be made known to children everywhere. The editor then turns to the accompanying text. Is it equally distinguished and successful? All too often the text is weaker than the pictures, and one gets the feeling it was simply manufactured in order to permit an artist to make lovely pictures. That is always a great disservice to the artist, for the book that results is not an integrate~whole. Sometimes, though it is rare, a new text can be written directly in English which, though based on the original idea, is much more successful than a translation of the second-rate text in the foreign language.

This was the case in a book that I published in 1960. *Chendru* (Harcourt) was written originally in Swedish by Astrid Sucksdorff, who while she was living in India had made remarkable full-color photographs of a boy and his pet tiger. Mrs. Sucksdorff's gift lay more in photography than in writing, and when Collins, the English publisher who originally undertook to bring out the book in the English language, faced the problem of translating the text, they decided and I agreed on behalf of the American edition to ask William Sansom, a well-known English short story writer and essayist, to write a new version. He did, and the text is worthy of the brilliant photography.

In books for older readers, the quality of the original text is all important. There is no question of

had had to write a new version of the rhyme in order to make it work in English, the pictures did not quite fit the details of the original Danish verse. Eventually, the Danish publisher found a well-known Danish poet who fell completely in love with Mr. Bodecker's illustrations. Months later, he appeared in the Gyldendal offices with new poems in Danish, based on the old rhymes, that go perfectly with the pictures. The same thing happened in Sweden. Rabén & Sjögren showed the pictures to a poet who was enchanted with them and wrote new versions in Swedish, when necessary, as well as translating the others. I doubt many books will equal this one's complex history but everyone is happy now, and we are all thankful that Mr. Bodecker's old nurse lived to see the book!

When the translation of a fine book is successful and the book puts down strong roots in a new country, the rewards of originating the translation are, as for anything difficult of accomplishment, extremely rich. How much poorer our literature would be if no one had
Pippi Longstocking (Viking) from Sweden to the United States, Hans Baumann's *Caves of the Great Hunters* (Panthe
Pinocchio from Italy, Saint- *The Little Prince* (Harcourt) from France to name only a handful of the books that now belong as much to American children as to the children of foreign lands. Translation must and will conti
must be: Proceed with Caution at Your Own Risk.

Originally published in The Horn Book, Dec 1973, Vol 49 Issue 6, p 565 569. Reprinted with permission of The Horn Book magazine.

By Mildred L. Batchelder, January 1979

It does not matter to children whose native language is English that Heidi or Pinocchio or Don Quixote or Nils or the Moomins or Pippi Longstocking or the Little Prince or Rapunzel or the Bremen Town musicians are characters from stories that were originally published in a language they cannot understand. But it does matter to a culture, our culture, and a country, our country, that children through these and many other translated books in libraries and bookstores have access to some of the same stories read by children in other countries. This is especially true for American children who grow up where country boundaries and oceans make it very different from European countries, many of which are separated not by geography but by language and culture.

Through translated books, children come to know the books and stories of other nations and thus make a beginning toward international understanding, toward sharing experiences with children who speak and read other languages. Over many years, a considerable number of children's books, especially from European languages, have been translated and published here, and many have been favorites for generations. We are grateful for the wonderful foreign books of earlier years, which our children love and which are known to them only through

recent years that, translated and published in America, would further increase the opportunity for our children to share through stories some feeling of other cultures and people.

Admittedly, there are many problems in publishing translations. The first is identifying and selecting books for possible translation and publication in the United States, or in any country. How can publishers

countries that might be good candidates for translation and publication here? In our country, too few of us are skilled in languages other than our own. Publishers and editors usually have had to depend on literary agents and other secondhand knowledge of books before choosing them.

to translate and publish a book begins. In addition to the normal costs of publication, translations involve numerous extra costs. To mention a few, payments must be made to the publisher and the author and the translator. And if the original illustrations are used, costs, and perhaps more problems, are added. How essential is the original art to transmitting the book to children of a different geography and language? For some books the illustrations in the original are an integral part of the book, and without them the impact of the author's book is reduced.

On the tr

need special skills and experience. It requires a dedicated and inspired translator to produce an excellent translation that transmits the author's style and tone and

the language into which a book is to be translated, and this is of first importance, he or she also needs an intimate knowledge of the language of the original book. Anthea Bell, a translator of

close to both letter and spirit of the original as possible, but especially in translating for children if a clash should arise, then the spirit of the work must take precedence. Any necessity for adaptation may vary from book to book, and from age group to age group, but I would rather with the author's permission, needless to say adapt, than I

By the 1980s, there were opportunities for publishers to see books from countries throughout the world at the annual Frankfurt and Bologna book fairs. Each has extensive displays by publishers and others of books from many countries exclusively. U.S. publishers, editors, and literary agents, as well as some librarians, attend the fairs. Here books are easily seen, publication rights can be negotiated, and first steps taken

translated and published in our country and bring more attention to them. I was impressed with our need to promote these books. My
through translation led, when I retired, to the establishment of an ALA award to recognize a U.S. publisher each year for choosing, translating, and publishing a children's book of merit from another country and language. The proposal for such an ALA award was made and accepted. It would be called the Mildred L. Batchelder Award and would be selected by a committee of the

By Elizabeth D. Crawford, Fall 1981

First of all, I'd like to tell you how pleased and appreciative we are at Morrow Junior Books to be the recipients of the Mildred Batchelder Award for *The Winter When Time Was Frozen*. A pat on the back is always nice, especially when it comes from a group of people we make a great effort to please. But when the pat is given for publishing a good book in translation, it is especially gratifying for publishing translations is fraught with uncertainties all along the line. They require extra care, and often their reception is disappointing, particularly if you consider that the decision to publish has been weighed with more than usual concern. When you share our
alf of all of us

involved, thank you.

Much has been written and spoken about how translations get to be published here. As I was casting about for some fresh ground to explore with you, I was struck by the thought that probably the basic reason we editors are tempted by foreign books is that they are exotic

young aware of and understanding of the best of other cultures but I think perhaps the consideration of the value occurs to us only after our roving eye has traveled to the foreign publishers' lists and been riveted by something that we fall for and would love to try out here.

acceptance by American readers.

people to read it and the more difficult to induce people to make it available to them. This neat little paradox makes us examine each translation prospect very, very carefully. The questions we must ask ourselves, both when acquiring such books and also in the editing of them, are (a) Does this book offer the American reader an experience he or she can't find in a book originating here? and (b) If it does, is that experience presented in a way that will invite our readers to share it?

How one answers these questions varies with editorial taste, of course, and when it comes right

than he said yes, so a yes weighed very heavily indeed.

Once we decide to publish a book and the arrangements are worked out with the foreign publisher, the next hurdle is to find a translator. In this case, a pair of good Dutch translators were already interested in the story if only they were free. And luckily they were or at least enough so that we could work out a schedule that would satisfy us both. We always try to fit extra time into the publishing schedule for translations because they take much more work in the office than the usual English-language manuscript. No matter how good the translation is, there is a great deal of close work on the text, with conferences between editor and translator and often the author too. In this case we were most fortunate that the Rudniks were living in this country so that we could work back and forth more easily than if they'd been overseas, but there was still correspondence with the author, for which time has to be allowed. Then too, when a book originates in this country, a number of people on the staff will have read it, often before it is even under contract. Not so with a translation. So all the usual preparations for launching a new book are compressed into

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audience, there are going to be some usages that sound English. I usually notice it most in the speech rhythms for instance the way the British

By Dorothy J. Anderson, Spring 1999

During her thirty years with the American Library Association, 1936-1966, Mildred L. Batchelder became a powerful leader in the world of library service to children and young adults. She

led divisions for school and children's libraries, and, later, as first executive secretary of its divisions and young adult services.

Batchelder saw her job at ALA as an opportunity to assess grass-roots needs, bring back ideas and solutions, and form connections with other agencies serving youth. It was a pioneer effort requiring a strong and far-sighted leader. Intelligent, persuasive, and sometimes formidable, Batchelder was equal to the task. She had a rare ability to see opportunities for service, to devise new ways to get a job done, and to enlist the enthusiastic support of other people. Her duty, as she sa

Standing barely five feet tall and walking with canes later in her career, Batchelder nonetheless commanded immediate respect as she filled board rooms and auditoriums with the compelling resonance of her New England voice. She had a fast, creative mind and great determination. Not one to spend much time on nit-picky things, she saw the big issues and gave her energy to them.

Of her many major accomplishments, three stand out. First, she developed a world-wide network of relationships between professional people and organizations that benefit children and libraries. Second, she drew talented people into the professional service of ALA, pushed them to the limit, gave them credit, and at the same time facilitated the larger goals of ALA and society at large. Third, through constant promotion of better library services and materials, Batchelder sought to enhance understanding among people of different cultures, races, nations, and languages.

To accomplish these goals she used every means at her disposal: encouragement, persuasion,

Information Science. The above remarks are excerpted from her forthcoming biography, tentatively titled *Mildred L. Batchelder & the Golden Age of Children's Services*.
From Journal of Youth Services in Libraries

Appendix B: Expanded Definitions and Examples

Book Eligibility Issues

In English

Definition

If so, exactly what 14-year-olds would respond to it, and why?

A book may be considered even though it appeals to a fairly small part of the age range if the committee feels that:

It is so distinguished that everyone of that age should know the book; or

It is so distinguished, in so many ways, that it deserves recognition for the excellence it provides to a small but unique readership; or

It is exceptionally fine for the narrow part of the range to which it appeals, even though it may be eligible for other awards outside this range.

Examples

Frog and Toad Together, by Arnold Lobel (1973 Newbery Honor), appeals to a young audience.

This One Summer, illustrated by Jillian Tamaki (2015 Caldecott Honor), is presented in graphic novel format for older tweens and young teens. It was also awarded a Printz Honor for its appeal to teens (see [ALSC Blog post by Angela Reynolds](#)).

Piecing Me Together by Renée Watson (2018 Newbery Honor) is considered by most sources to be for young adults. It appeals to children ages 12 years old and up and has themes that may not resonate with younger children. That said, there is no doubt that it is a distinguished work of fiction intended for children within the qualifying age range.

Book and E-book

Definition

Special Eligibility Concerns: Batchelder Award

American Publisher

Definitions

publisher with editorial offices in the United States that publishes books under U.S. publishing conventions for a United States market. Publishers such as Tundra and Groundwood, with editorial offices in Canada, are not eligible.

(see above) in another country, provided the acquisition and editorial work were done jointly or originated in the U.S.

editorial offices in the United States. Publishers who maintain warehouse or distribution facilities in the U.S. but whose primary editorial offices are in other countries are specifically excluded.

This includes the acquisition, editorial work, and release of a book and may (or may not) also include marketing and promotion.

Examples

The Bird in Me Flies by Sara Lundberg (2020) was translated from Swedish into English and are located in Canada, so the book was not eligible.

Originating in a County Other Than the United States and in a Language Other Than English

Example

The Maps of Memory (2020) by Marjorie Agosin was written in Spanish, then translated into English and published in the U.S. While the author spends a lot of time in Chile, she lives and works in the U.S. so the book did not originate in a country other than the United States. This book was ineligible.

Subsequently Published in English in the United States

Definition

Subsequently published in English in the United States means that the text originated in a language other than English and was translated and published by a U.S. publisher for an American audience. As non-traditionally translated books are eligible, an eligible book may not have been published in another county prior to its publication in English by a U.S. publisher for a

U.S. audience. U.S. publication may occur simultaneously with publication in English in other countries.

Examples

Akissi: Even More Tales of Mischief by Marguerite Abouet (2020) was written in French in Côte d'Ivoire. It was co-published in French by Gallimard Jeunesse in France and in English by Nobrow/Flying Eye Books in the United Kingdom. Because the publisher was located in the United Kingdom and the text was translated for a non-American audience, the book was ineligible.

Of Salt and Shore (2020) by Annet Schaap was written and published in Dutch in 2017. In 2019, it was translated into English and published by Pushkin Press in London. It was then published in the U.S. in 2020 by Charlesbridge; however it was not re-translated for an American audience. This book was not eligible.

Translator Shall be Named

Definition

Non-traditionally Translated Books

Definition

-

des, but is not limited to, books translated first in other

Appendix C: Samples

Sample Calendar

	Winter/Spring Month/day	Introductory meeting (virtual meeting, optional) Meet and greet for members, establishment of expectations and anticipated virtual meeting schedule*
	May/day	Suggestions due**
June/day		Suggestions due**
July/day		Initial Discussion Meeting (virtual meeting, mandatory) Including procedural orientation, practice book discussion
August/day		Suggestions due**
September/day		Suggestions due**
October/day		Suggestions due**
October/day		NOMINATIONS due***
November/day		Suggestions due**
November/day		NOMINATIONS due***
December/day		Suggestions due**
December/day		NOMINATIONS due***
January/day		Suggestions due (for late submissions only)
January/day		Deliberations start as mandatory virtual meetings

Employer/Supervisor Information Form

Employer/Supervisor Information:

Please supply your employer/supervisor information, if you choose, so a letter can be sent regarding your participation on the Committee. You may list as many names as you like.

Your Name

Name of Institution

Mailing Address

Email Address

Name of Institution

Mailing Address

Email Address

Letter to Employer/Supervisor #1: Beginning of Service

mm/dd/yyyy

Dear _____,

Please accept our congratulations and gratitude for your support of _____ during their term on the Association for Library Service to Children's Mildred L. Batchelder Award Committee.

This is an especially exciting assignment. In this time of increasing globalization, the Batchelder Award

Sample Resignation Letter

Committee Member Resignation

To: Chair, President, and Executive Director

Please accept my resignation from **(YEAR)** Mildred L. Batchelder Award Committee effective **mm/dd/yyyy**. I can no longer honor my committee membership because of _____ (brief explanation).

Signed,

Chair Resignation

To: President, Executive Director, and all committee members

Please accept my resignation from **(YEAR)** Mildred L. Batchelder Award Committee effective **mm/dd/yyyy**. I can no longer honor my committee chair position because of _____ (brief explanation).

Signed,

Call for Membership Suggestions

The Chair calls on ALSC members to submit titles for consideration by the committee. The Chair posts an announcement on the ALSC blog, ALA Connect/ALSC, and through tweets @wearealsc during the year. The Chair may also solicit suggestions from other electronic discussion lists having to do with children's literature. Currently, suggestions are submitted via an online tool, which notifies the Chair via email of any responses. The Chair is responsible for passing these suggestions along to committee members.

Input Wanted: The ALSC **(YEAR)** Mildred L. Batchelder Award

The **(YEAR)** Mildred L. Batchelder Award Committee is asking ALSC membership to submit titles for consideration. The Batchelder Award is presented annually to an American publisher

Sample Note-taking Form

Title:

Author:

Illustrator:

Publisher:

I suggested: Yes No

I nominated: Yes No

Subject/Summary:

Quality of Writing (excellent, engaging, and distinctive use of language, vocabulary):

Quality of illustration, if applicable (distinctive and engaging visual material, provides keys or clues to the text):

Quality of Design, if applicable (size of typeface, line length and spacing, use of white space, placement of illustrations):



Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Comments:

REMEMBER: Not every book relies equally on every element. The committee need not find excellence across the board, but rather in those elements relevant to the book. The book must be a self-contained entity, not dependent on other media for enjoyment.

SPECIAL NOTE FOR BATCHELDER COMMITTEE: Often it will be impossible for committee members to read the book in its original language. Therefore, the committee must use its best judgment in evaluating the quality of the translation, keeping in mind that a translated book is a separate entity from the book as published in its original language.

Reviews: BCCB Booklist Horn Book Kirkus PW SLJ Other