



## **A Brief History of Youth Libraries Group and CILIP's Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Awards**

### **Introduction**

I was given rare access to the archives of YLG and also to the CILIP/CKG archives in spring 2006. What follows is not a comprehensive history, but snapshots from the past. I hope that you will find them interesting, maybe enlightening, but most of all a connection to all those people over the years who have worked so hard to make YLG such a worthwhile organisation. Any opinions not attributed are my own and not the Youth Libraries Group's or CILIP's.

S. V. Sperling  
YLG Past Chair

### **YLG History**

The history of YLG tells a story of development over the last 70 years, intertwined with the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medal. Eileen Colwell and Ethel Hayler formed the Association of Children's Librarians in 1937. It was not affiliated to the Library Association at that time although the group wanted it to be. Keith Barker's excellent "*In the realms of gold*" describes the Library Association as viewing the group with some suspicion, like a "communist conspiracy" (p5, Keith Barker)

It was not until 1947 that the Library Association allowed affiliation and the Association of Children's Librarians became the Youth Libraries Section and minuted meetings began. Meetings were held at Chaucer House, in Malet Street at the previous HQ of the Library Association. The minutes show a small but devoted group of people meeting to develop the Section despite some hardships. At some meetings the minutes note that "refreshments were impossible". By June 1948 there were 130 members. In 1962 the YLS became the Youth Libraries Group, as it is known today.

The committee had 3 meetings a year and by 1948 it was decided to form sub-committees due to pressures of work. In 1949 the minutes record a vote of thanks to Miss Colwell for "her service during the difficult inaugural year of the Section".

Before the development of regional branches, many of the meetings had speakers or events for members. These involved many of the great writers of children's literature. C.S. Lewis spoke to group of 400 on "Three ways to write for children" in 1952. In 1954, Ian Serrailier spoke on "Poetry for children" and in 1959, Philipa Pearce spoke at Chaucer House to an appreciative audience. "She showed how books of real value grew from and were shaped by the developing experiences of the author" (YLG minutes 1952)



As branches became more numerous and active, there was a shift of focus on members' events and activities to the regions. YLG national committee grew its subcommittee structure to keep up with its increasing role in development. The sub-committees in the 1960's included Publications, Finance, Conference, Book Collection, Training and Membership.

### **Branches or Regional Sub Groups**

As early as 1947, the members considered Youth Libraries Section regional sub groups a valuable development. By Sept 1948 Helen Kerr had formed the Scottish branch, our eldest branch. Miss Dale of Lancashire was mentioned in 1948 for getting those interested in forming a North Western Branch together. In a similar role, Miss Bradbury took responsibility for formation of a North Midlands group. Mr Mills of Londonderry was nominated to encourage the development of an organised group in Northern Ireland.

In 1960 there were 4 branches. They were Scotland, North Western, Birmingham & District and the newly formed Yorkshire branch. The first meeting of the Yorkshire branch was held in Huddersfield on 23.3.60.

By 1964 there were 7 branches:

North Midlands (formed in 1962 to serve Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire)

North West

Scottish

South West

Birmingham & District became West Midlands in 1964

Yorkshire

In 1989 these had increased to 11 branches:

Eastern

East Midlands

North Midlands

London & Home Counties

Northern

Northern Ireland

North West

Scottish

South West

West Midlands

Yorkshire

Wales

In 2001, YLG decided to modernise the name of the London group and it became London and South East.



In 2004, due to English regional changes, YLG was the first CILIP group to re-organise on co- terminus boundaries - these led to 9 regions and 3 home nations:-

Eastern  
East Midlands  
London  
Northern  
Northern Ireland  
North West  
Scottish  
South East  
South West  
West Midlands  
Yorkshire  
Wales

### **Representation on LA Council**

Although there was an initial delay in gaining a vacant spot on LA Council, by 1951 when membership exceeded 500, it was decided to request a second seat on Council. YLG has had a seat on LA Council since then. This has also meant that members devoted time to various LA Council sub committees too.

### **YLG National Activities**

A recognisable pattern was set quite early in the history of YLG. Once regional branches began having events and activities for members each year there was a focus on national activities and developments too.

These included:

- A Youth Libraries weekend school
- A summer outing related to children's writers and books
- A Youth Libraries session, run at LA Annual conference
- AGM
- Publications
- Collection of children's books
- Advocacy for the specialism with relevant bodies
- Close working with colleges of librarianship and courses of higher education

### **YLG International Work by John Dunne**

The main role of the Library Association representative on an IFLA  
**(International Federation of Library Associations) Standing** Committee



(the Children's Libraries Section in this case) is to represent the views of your country, contribute to the international work the Committee undertakes and learn about library development from other colleagues. The experience of working with international colleagues is that you share a common aim and fund of knowledge and it is only the individual circumstances in each country (usually to do with funding) which differs.

One of the most interesting projects to work on was to produce the IFLA Guidelines for Library Services to Young Adults. One of the difficulties was trying to produce something which could be used in a number of different situations in both developed and developing countries.

The IFLA Conference itself is very much a working conference with committee meetings, organising your section's contribution to the main conference programme, working on policy guidelines and planning for future projects. The opportunity to hear about libraries in the host country is always an important and enjoyable experience, as is the opportunity to visit local libraries and talk to staff.

The exhibitions at IFLA conferences are large and very much aimed at national and academic libraries, rather than public. For the IFLA Conference in Glasgow in 2002, the Children's Section decided to create a model children's library, complete with shelving, furnishing, books and IT. It took a mammoth amount of organising to set the whole thing up, ably done by Karen Usher, and there were storytelling events organised for nearby schools as well. The number of visitors was huge and it proved to be one of the most successful exhibits that year.

John Dunne filled this role for many years and our representative is now Karen Usher. For more information about IFLA go to: [www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)

### **Early ground breaking work**

From the earliest days of the group the content of training tackled interesting developments and working relationships. The records show services to teens; health and hospital library services to children, work with probation officers, a child guidance unit and work with children's homes were covered in the 1940's. The YLS was recognised as specialist experts from an early stage. It led on many developments and was an advocate for children and young people that was often consulted.

As early as May 1956, YLS had a joint meeting with the School Library Association that over 100 people attended - this good working relationship has continued. Currently, these and other partners work together through the



Youth & Schools Panel. Eileen Colwell's early work helped to acknowledge and develop children's and youth librarianship as a recognised specialism and develop the Library Association's role in developments for children nationally.

This was followed by new ventures in the late 1950's and 60's. YLG members and Marcus Crouch in particular are remembered for encouraging developments with the book collection, authors, publishers and the media. YLG played an important role in getting children's books acknowledged generally. Much effort was put into promoting books, artists and writers in this phase. These early contributions succeeded in developing the influence of the group with publishers, artists and writers of the highest levels. Widening children's experiences of the world was always at the heart of their work.

A photo from the 1962 conference at Wye College shows many of the early chairs and interested people from the early years of YLG.



They are (left to –right) Sheila (Bannister) Ray, Joan Butler, Nancy Dale, Bill Milner, Marcus Crouch, Phyllis Parrott, Eileen Colwell, Derek Lomas and Sheila Rawson.

### **Summer Outings**

In the early days of the YLS, there was a summer outing for members. These always had a theme based on children's books, libraries and culture. In 1956 they had a visit to Tonbridge Castle and a talk on Kentish authors. In 1958 some members attended the unveiling of the Nesbit Memorial in St Mary in



the Marsh Church in Kent and there was also an outing to visit Eton College and its libraries. 1959 saw members visit Reading with the SLA for a tour of Kenneth Grahame country and an evening speaker. In 1960 they visited Wansfell College, Theydon Bois, with a talk on Beatrix Potter and a tour of Epping Forrest.

## **Book Collection**

In 1957 it was agreed that the YLS could have a section of shelving for children's books at Chaucer House and a sub committee was formed lead by Marcus Crouch. They were responsible for acquisition and selection of the collection.

The collection strategy, at the outset, was to collect 20<sup>th</sup> century children's books as the Institute of Education (London) had a pre-20<sup>th</sup> century collection. The collection was expanded to include older titles in later years. It was thought vital to have a collection that students of librarianship (and others) could refer too. They also recognised that an important part of this work would be to locate other collections and form a catalogue of the holdings. The sub committee went on to note some London collections as part of the Metropolitan Joint Reserve Fiction Scheme. The Subject Specialisation Scheme also grew into different library authorities agreeing to cover a section of children's literature through the LASER scheme.

The YLG Collection grew with many donations, some from important collectors and some purchased after careful consideration. The archives show various lists of books. In 1957, it was decided to have a special bookplate for the items in the collection. Edward Ardizzone was contacted and he willingly agreed to design one and a fee of 10 guineas was accepted. **The artwork below is copyright and may not be reproduced without permission from YLG national committee**





In July 1964 when the LA was planning its new building in Malet Street, it informed YLG that the children's book collection would have no home in the new building. The search for a new home started immediately. The first thought was that a London location was needed, but after many institutions requested it, it was located in Manchester. In January 1965 the terms of transfer to Manchester School of Librarianship were agreed. MMU currently holds it, although its future location is currently under review. CILIP does hold a set of CGK winning titles which are available for reference by appointment.

As the current movement to share general catalogue holdings electronically grows it is good to see YLG was a leader in this area.

### **Publications**

YLG has always been a proactive publisher. YLG has produced booklists, books, publicity material and a newsletter since the earliest days. The current list of publications shows an impressive range of subject matter. Groundbreaking case studies are published in the "Practical guide" series.

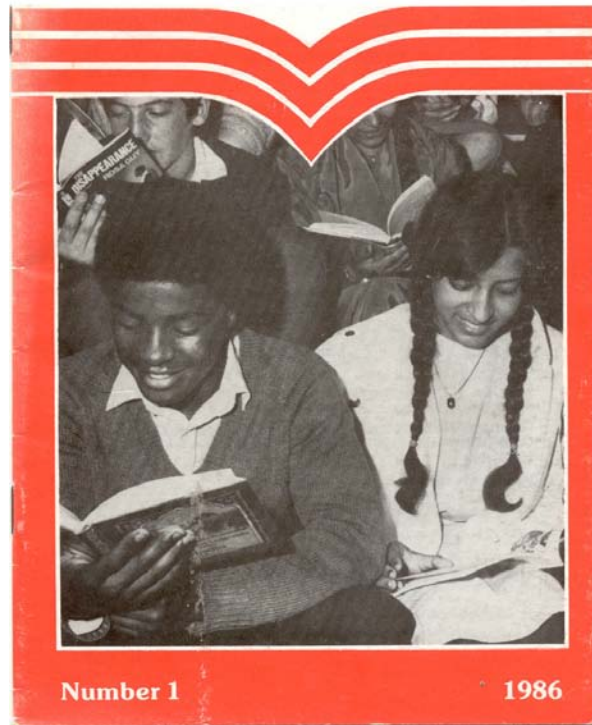
The newsletter was originally called *Spotlight* and began in 1955.

The Youth Libraries Group had been concerned about ways of keeping in touch with its members for many years and although there was an occasional YLG News supplement published in the main Library Association Record, it was felt that its coverage and profile was limited. The decision was made to create a new twice-yearly magazine which could report on current developments, publish the speeches from the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medal winners and report on the annual weekend school. Needless to say the funding of such a magazine was a major consideration, not only for the printing costs but also the cost of mailing every member. The original team to set the magazine up consisted of John Dunne (Editor), Liz Weir (Advertising) and Philip Marshall (Subscriptions).

This has grown into our current *Youth Libraries Review* that began with Issue one in 1986 and continues with one hard copy edition supplemented by on line news and conference reports. Archived contents of this journal can be viewed at <http://www.cilip.org.uk/youth-libraries-group/publications/youth-library-review>



## YOUTH LIBRARY REVIEW



Our web pages at [www.cilip.org/ylg](http://www.cilip.org/ylg) provide a very valuable resource. The members e-list is the latest very useful addition to communication and developments for members.

### **Chair of Youth Libraries National Committee**

The role of YLG National Chair traditionally involves three years work as Vice-Chair, Chair and Past Chair. Although it takes a great deal of time and energy to fulfil this commitment, it has always been an honour to be chair of this national committee. Not only do the chairs lead the national committee, but also chair the judges of the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals and plan the annual conference. Many important names in librarianship can be recognised on the list of former Chairs.

#### Youth Library Group Chairs

- 1947 Miss D Chilcot
- 1948 Miss D Chilcot
- 1950 Miss N A Dale
- 1951 Miss N A Dale
- 1952 Miss E Colwell
- 1953 Miss H Kerr
- 1954 Mr H R Mainwood



1955 Miss JW Butler  
1956 Miss F Parrott  
1957 Miss H Kerr  
1958 Mr M Crouch  
1959 Miss E Colwell  
1960 Mr HR Mainwood  
1961 Miss J Butler  
1962 Miss F Parrott  
1963 Mr WH Milner  
1964 Mr HR Mainwood  
1965 Miss B Clark  
1966 Miss E Colwell  
1967 Miss EH Green  
1968 Miss Peggy Heeks  
1969 Mr Derek Lomas  
1970 Mr Colin Ray  
1971 Mr Kenneth Wood  
1972 Mrs Doris Aubrey  
1973 Mr William Yates  
1974 Miss S Francis  
1975 Mrs M Marshall  
1976 Miss E Bowen  
1977 Dr A Ellis  
1978 Mr B Evans  
1979 Miss J Marriage  
1980 Miss Berkley  
1981 Miss V Griffiths  
1982 Miss K Griffiths  
1983 Mr T W Parker  
1984 Mr John Dunne  
1985 Grace Shaw  
1986 Gill Johnson  
1987 Helen Pain  
1988 Philip Marshall  
1989 Jackie Petherbridge  
1990 Liz Wilson  
1991 Gayner Eyre  
1992 Grace Kempster  
1993 Sue Greenfield  
1994 Keith Barker  
1995 Christina Dyer  
1996 Linda Saunders  
1997 Lesley Sim  
1998 Tricia Kings  
1999 Ray Lonsdale  
2000 Annie Everall



2001 Sarah Wilkie  
2002 Anne Marley  
2003 Karen Usher  
2004 Colin Brabazone  
2005 Sharon Sperling  
2006 Teresa Scragg

### **Responses to being chair**

When Marcus Crouch was introduced as chair in 1958 the minutes record “He thanked the section committee for making it possible for him to achieve one of his ambitions, namely to be Chairman of the Youth Libraries Section”

#### **John Dunne (1984 chair) remembers the Carnegie/Greenaway Medals**

The Medal discussions for 1983 provided lively debate, especially for the Carnegie Medal with Jan Mark’s “Handles” and James Watson’s “Talking in Whispers” being the favourites. Jan Mark had already won the Carnegie Medal in 1976 for her first book “Thunder and Lightnings” and went on to win her second Medal on this occasion. Anthony Browne’s “Gorilla” won the Kate Greenaway Medal and was the clear favourite right from the beginning.

The presentation was not made that year at the Library Association Headquarters, as was the usual procedure, due to a financial crisis. Instead it was held at Islington Central Library where the President, Ron SurrIDGE, was based and the event was funded by the Youth Libraries Group

#### **Anne Marley (2002 chair)**

BBC radio interviewed Anne Marley about the winning books in her year. Anne remembered, “The greatest pleasure of that interview was actually being able to promote CKG positively in the face of the Campaign for Real Education rep who was condemning the books without having read them! Best thing about being Chair - working with such a committed group of people on the Committee and being Chair of a Conference which was popular and made a profit - two things dear to my heart.” (Interview 2006)

#### **Sharon Sperling (2005 Chair)**

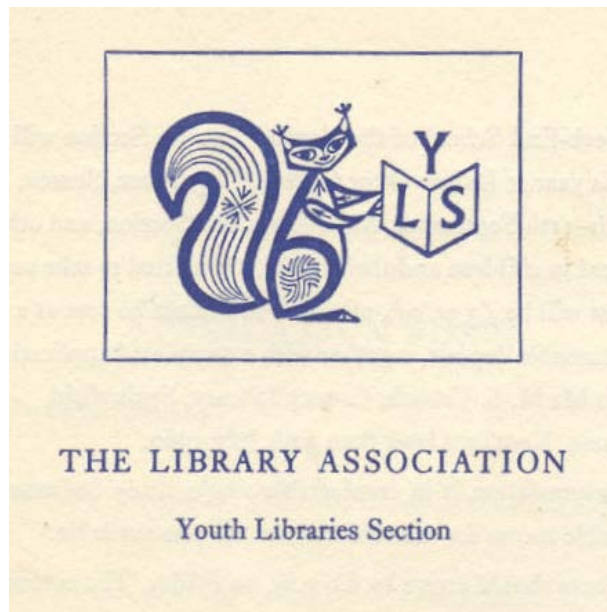
I was very pleased to be Chair of YLG. I felt an historic link to Marcus Crouch, who was the only previous Kent Libraries head of services to children to hold the post, after a 47-year gap! It was an interesting year; very hard work and I enjoyed it. I was also thankful that although we cancelled the London CKG ceremony due to the London bombings in July 2005, no member of the committee or guests was injured. I enjoyed meeting the members in the branches and at my conference, which was a success.



## Identity

YLG recognised from the outset that there was a value in having a clear identity and quality presentation. Different logos, colophons and ways of identifying the network were developed as technology and other opportunities allowed.

In its early days, the group was called the Youth Library Section. The first recognised element was a stamp that was ordered while the minutes of 1956 show the decision to have headed paper that said "LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. YOUTH LIBRARIES SECTION with a note that 'branches could place their branch name beneath.'



Later the section decided to have a logo, or colophon, so in 1960 they commissioned the artist and illustrator William Stobbs to design the colophon. It was done in the style of a woodcut and shows a squirrel holding an open book. In 1962 this was adapted when the section became a group and continued in use for quite a few years.



1968 saw the first use of a more modernistic, rectangular logo with the letters YLG on an open book in a solid background.



The red open book with the YLG initials printed across the pages and the words "Library Association" included beneath the book was in use in the 1980's.





With the creation of CILIP, new stationary and logos were required. In 2001, Andy Thomsen designed the new multicolour YLG logo and new stationary was issued

### **Weekend School -The forerunner of YLG Conference**

From an early stage the section recognised the value of specialist training and activities. The weekend school was suggested in 1950; it cost £2.20 per delegate and was aimed at children's library assistants particularly. It is noted as the committee's first experiment in running a training weekend.

The photo shows Conference 1959 and Stella J Hardy in the centre of an informal group.



Many conferences have followed and an archive of the programmes exists today. Many locations around the UK have hosted the conference, generally university campus. Topics covered at the weekend schools have always been relevant and interesting and have made it a popular conference.

The joint Millennium Conference "Under the covers", which also included the School Library Group and the School Library Association was an example of how well these groups work together to serve the different needs of their members.

### **CKG Shadowing**

CKG Shadowing is an enormous achievement, which involved over 40,000 young people in 2005 but has grown to this size with much hard work and support since the early 1990's. It began as a Hertfordshire School Library Service local project that was soon recognised as a valuable extension to the impact of the awards. The Library Association, through their CKG Working Party, became involved in the mid nineties. By 1996 the first national publicity for shadowing was created and the number of groups reached 150. Lynne



Taylor was working for Peter's Library Service and their sponsorship made this growth possible.

In 1998 there was a national evaluation of shadowing, which showed that it was an overwhelming success and pointed the way for improvements and developments. By this stage Lynne Taylor managed the shadowing project, a role that she held until 2005. In 1998/99 sponsorship by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust allowed investment to develop a web site for shadowing groups. ([www.ckg.org.uk](http://www.ckg.org.uk)) This interactive site has been a welcome addition to librarians and teachers too. In 2004, Arts Council funding then extended the site to include some video clips and interview material.

Anyone interested in more information on CILIP CKG Shadowing can contact CILIP.

### **The Carnegie Medal Award Background**

1935 was the centenary of the birth of Andrew Carnegie, the Scottish born philanthropist who funded so many libraries in Britain and internationally. The Library Association decided that setting up a British book award in his honour would be a fitting tribute. A sub committee was formed to take this forward.

At that time W. C. Berwick Sayers, chief librarian of Croydon had been promoting the idea of a children's book award since 1931 and, mindful that the Americans had set up a children's book award in 1922, the subcommittee recommendation that a gold medal for a children's book be awarded ever year was accepted on April 2nd 1936.

In the early years of the Carnegie Medal, the award subcommittee was in Library Association control and management. Eileen Colwell did sterling work to bring children's librarians into the equation. The records show that in 1968 the LA decided to have a one year experiment with YLG undertaking selection of the winners. The modern format for the award grew from this experiment.

CILIP forms the CKG Working Party, which administers the awards in cooperation with the Youth Libraries Group who select the judges and the chair of judges. All CILIP members participate by nominating titles for the long list. Records show much discussion and criticism of the awards. They are still the most prestigious children's book awards in the UK and have developed well over the last 70 years. Many other awards have been started and they all have a differing role to play. Happily, CILIP now refer to them as their flagship awards. Librarians should be very proud of this, as they are uniquely the only UK children's book medals which librarians' award.



The photo shows the Carnegie and Greenaway short listed and winning authors and illustrators at the medal ceremony in 1990. Tim Bowler (top right in photo) won the Carnegie and the Kate Greenaway was won by Gary Blythe.

### **Kate Greenaway Award Background**

As early as 1949 the minutes show discussion took place on the formation of a picture book award. This was deferred due to a lack of funding. The July 1955 minutes record that "L.A. Council stated that it was not likely that a separate medal for picture books would be awarded this year as Council has referred the matter back to Finance Committee" Another factor was a feeling that the LA needed to improve the handling of the Carnegie medal before taking on another award.

It eventually did begin in 1956 when Edward Ardizzone won for "Tim all alone". It has been awarded every year since then, except for 1958, to a wide range of artists. In 1958 it was not awarded and work was done on the terms of the award.

There have been 4 occasions when an artist won the award for 2 books in the same year. This started in 1959 when William Stobbs won with "Kashtanka" and also for "A Bundle of Ballads." This happened again in 1969 when the judges awarded Helen Oxenbury for "The Quangle Wangle's Hat" and also for "The Dragon of an Ordinary Family". Victor Ambrus won in 1975 for "Horses in Battle" and also for "Mishka." More recently, in 1982, Michael Foreman was awarded the Kate Greenaway medal for "Long neck and Thunder foot" and "Sleeping Beauty and other favourite fairy tales."



In 1996, Peter's and the LA produced a poster/leaflet that celebrated 150 years of Kate Greenway's birthday. Some people have won the award more than once over the years. [www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/home/](http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/home/)

### **Life time achievement book award**

Early minutes record the suggestion of another award to recognise life time achievement in children's book but it was deferred due to cost. It was raised again in 1968 and suggested it be named after Eileen Colwell. It was mentioned again in 1991 but cost still prevented it from being pursued.

### **Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medal Winners**

In recent years medal winners generally make a speech when accepting these awards in London and also join the YLG Awards Dinner at Annual Conference in September to have the awards presented again in front of the membership. They are also asked to speak at Umbrella Conferences when this is possible, to share with the wider CILIP membership. It has not always been the case that the ceremony was as YLG would have wished and "In the Realms of Gold" Keith Barker offers details of a variety of 'situations' over the years.

In recent years the awards ceremony have included a celebrity guest to present the medal to the winners. Some of the celebrities have included Michael Palin, Rabbi Julia Neuberger, Esther Rantzen, Martin Jarvis, Sarah Kennedy, Floella Benjamin, Martha Kearney, Nigella Lawson, Jeremy Paxman and Lizo Mzimba. But whatever the award ceremony situation, the winners and critics have had many opinions about the award themselves.

One winner referred to the Carnegie Medal as a chain stretching across the years, each link marking out a stage, a fashion, a literary phase, a way of thinking in the history of children's book in Britain. The archives hold an interesting assortment of letters. Eleanor Farjeon wrote in 1957 "I am still a little bewildered with gratitude by all the kindness I have been receiving from your Association...Now I must thank you again. For this lovely honour which I accept with all my heart (on her Medal and Honorary membership) one of my greatest happiness's has been hearing of the award of the Kate Greenaway award which has been bestowed on dear Ted Ardizzone."

Memories on receiving the Carnegie Medal – K M Peyton, July 2006.  
This awful occasion is engraved in my memory and I will enjoy venting my feelings about what happened to me in 1969, the year I won it. I had been runner –up for the 3 preceding years, for THE PLAN FOR BIRDMARSH (1965), THUNDER IN THE SKY (1966) and Flambards(1967). The medal wasn't awarded in 1966 but I was the runner-up for the non-award. Work that



one out, I certainly never could! The year FLAMBARDS came out the award went to Alan Garner's THE OWL SERVICE, a decision I could not fault, so it was the second book in my trilogy, THE EDGE OF THE CLOUDS for which I eventually got the award. I think it is a better book than FLAMBARDS so that was very satisfactory.

I seem to remember that the award was presented in a suite of rooms in Bourne and Hollinsworth, a now defunct store in Oxford Street. I can't remember who by. I do remember that Noel Streatfield was there and I regret bitterly that I never spoke to her. The winner of the Kate Greenaway award was Helen Oxenbury. The actual award ceremony was quite pleasant and painless but we-Helen and I- were told that we had to attend the AGM of the Library Association the next morning (Saturday) and speak for ten minutes to 400 assembled librarians. This meant staying the night somewhere - no help or expenses offered - and the next morning - horrors! - to sit on a platform in the Guildhall in front of 400 librarians and get up and make a speech. It was absolutely formal, no fun, no laughs, not even a pleasant person to steer us. I seem to remember Helen could not speak and would not and I was absolutely petrified, never having spoken in public in my life. Nobody did school visits or talks in those days. All I could do was to sit there and think that in this very hall Thomas More had been sentenced to death, likewise Anne Boleyn. I felt much as they must have felt.

Afterwards I wrote a letter to say that what should have been the great pleasure of receiving the medal had been completely ruined for me by the way I was treated and I hoped they would never treat their winners the same way again. And as far as I know they never did. I seem to remember that the man in charge was called Mr Barry. It was traumatic and I didn't enjoy it at all.

So there are my memories. When I compare it today with the lovely receptions in the British Library - well, I shall just have to win it again in order to enjoy it! But sad to think that my acclaimed book was written nearly 40 years ago and I have never bettered it. I did win the Guardian Award the year after, but never anything after that. I still think the Carnegie is the one to win, and I'm glad I won it. The book that won was my fourteenth published book, so I had quite an apprenticeship. My first book was published when I was still at school. I feel it must be very hard to win the medal with one's first published book which seems to happen quite frequently today, because after that it must be hard to know where to go. I have had 60 books published which averages at one a year since I was 15. I think if no one published me ever again I would still go on writing because it is such a habit now. I feel strange without a book on the go and wonder whatever other people think about all the time if they don't write books. I think I have been incredibly lucky.



In 1976 winner Gail E Hailey wrote “I am thrilled and honoured to be awarded the Kate Greenaway Medal”. She received her award on the 30th anniversary of YLG and also attended the YLG 30<sup>th</sup> celebration later that day.

Some thoughts on the Carnegie from\_Geraldine McCaughrean (July 2007) - I won the Carnegie with “A Pack of Lies” back in 1989 – quite literally a lifetime ago, since I was pregnant with my daughter Ailsa. I remember making the organizers nervous for fear I went into labour during my speech. My editor was rather taken aback at me winning it. “I’ve been trying for the Carnegie for years, and blow me, we won it with the ‘furniture book’! (He always thought of “A Pack of Lies” as the ‘furniture book’ having turned it down once as nothing more than a collection of short stories about furniture. I took it away and rewrote it – which proved quite worthwhile in the event, since it won both the Carnegie and the Guardian prize.)

I don’t remember where the announcement was made – somewhere very unlike the British Library - an upstairs room with sandwiches on plates being handed round. (I seem to remember meeting Bel Mooney.) There was a separate presentation, later in the year, at Loughborough – the YLG annual conference, I presume, with Kevin Crossley-Holland doing storytelling and Brough Girling talking about what constituted good children’s fiction. It wasn’t “A Pack of Lies”, that’s for sure! In his address, he said, with an air of utter disdain, that he supposed it was “very *clever*”. Clearly he thought it was a cynical literary conceit written with a view to winning a prize. Now, in those days I was still writing books for the fun of it, without any expectation of them getting published, let alone winning prizes, so he couldn’t have been more wrong, really.

There was not an accompanying prize of books-to-gift, as there is today. The effect of winning a literary prize – especially the Carnegie – is that it keeps your book in print. Even being able to put a sticker on a book saying that it was short listed for the Carnegie Medal lends it a much bigger chance of being reprinted instead of remaindered. Books have a very short life expectancy today – something Jan Mark felt very bitter about – and they need all the help they can get to survive. Of course psychologically, it is the kind of endorsement that allows the author to think they’ve got a right to go on writing. It’s a hugely overcrowded profession and those without talent ought to get out of it. Since I never have the remotest idea whether what I’ve written is any good, I need a LOT of reassurance that I’m not wasting everybody’s time and my own, and clogging up the market with unreadable rubbish. Certainly, 17 years ago I thought I had managed to get published by some extraordinary, fluky accident. I’m not the only author who feels that. So Carnegie brings with it an enormous sense of relief: you haven’t been taking your publisher’s money on false pretences after all.



## **Kate Greenaway Award Winners' Thoughts on Winning**

“As I live far from London, (about as far from London as it is possible to get,) I received the news of my book winning the Kate Greenaway Award by telephone. I was astonished, as astonished as I had been on hearing of its short listing some months before. Somehow I could not equate my picture book, cobbled together with bits of sticky tape among the jumble of pens and ink, crumbs and coffee cups on my desk with receiving such a wonderful award. As I sit here looking back on it, it is still difficult to think that *Jethro Byrde* has received such commendations.

Of course I had a wonderful time travelling over and being at the ceremony, meeting lots of people and taking part in it all. If my mind has a little scrapbook lodged somewhere in my head, then the images are all still there, in a dreamlike kind of way, pinned up with colourful thumb tacks into my memory.” (Bob Graham, 2006 interview.

## **The Medals**

The actual Medal is also important to winners. In 1997, Robert Swindells' home was burgled while he was abroad and his family wrote to the LA to see if they could replace the award before he returned. His brother wrote “All the usual things were stolen, hi-fi etc but these items are but nothing compared to the loss of his commemorative medal given by your organisation.”(CILIP CKG Archive) The LA was able to help out. The same year Peter Dickinson's family realised there might be a chance to replace his 2 Carnegie medals, which had been similarly lost earlier. They were later very pleased to present him with his new medals for his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Carnegie medal itself was modernised in recent years when the original Latin motto was translated into English. The illustration below shows the original inscription .



Double winners

Peter Dickinson was the first author to win the Carnegie medal twice, although others have followed. <http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/home/>

Those wanting more detail on the history of the award and YLG and their relationship from 1936 to 1988 can refer to Keith Barkers "In the realms of Gold".

### **Sponsorship**

There is a history of excellent working relations with publishers, authors, illustrators, academics, the media and others since the earliest days of the Youth Libraries Section. This helped make many of the events, publications and conferences reach a high standard. There have also been some more



formal and long-term agreements that can be identified in partnership with the Library Association.



The photo above shows authors at the South Bank Ceremony in 1996. They are I-R Michael Coleman, Elizabeth Laird, Melvin Burgess (winning with "Junk") Jacqueline Wilson and Anne Fine.

### Peters Library Service

Peters Bookselling Services began its close relationship with YLG and the Carnegie Greenaway Awards in 1990 when their sponsorship began. The YLG minutes for '91 record a vote of thanks to Malcolm Peters for their "magnificent input"

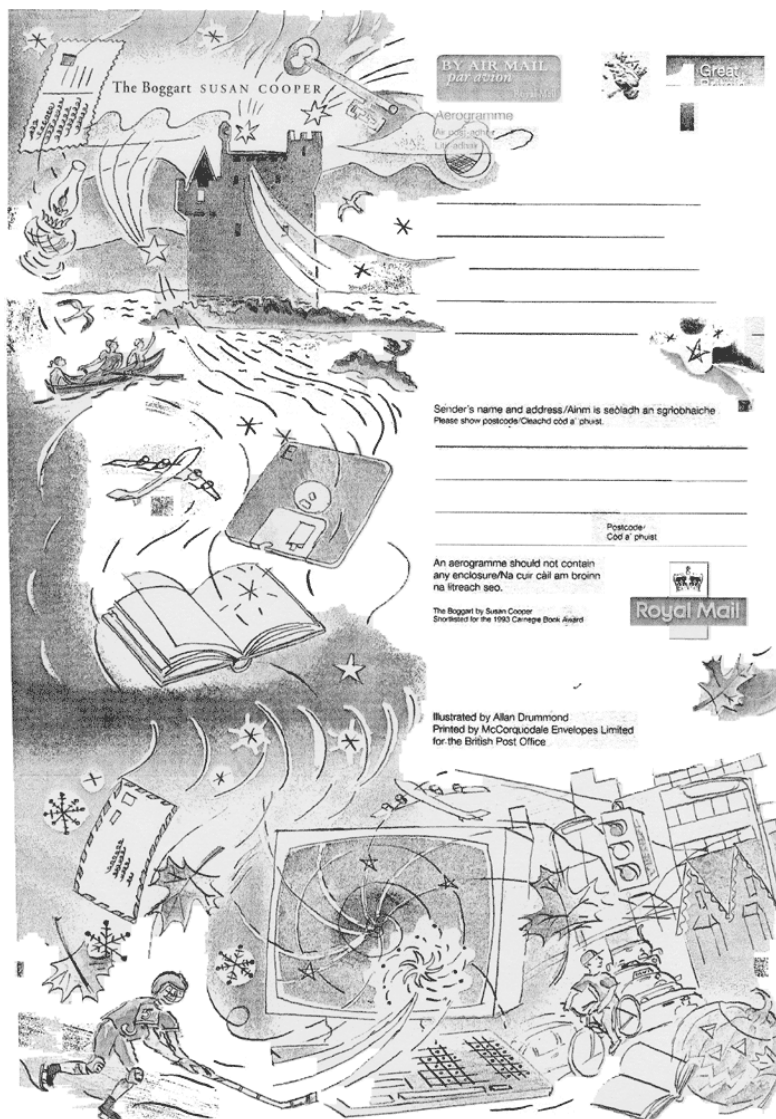
They made an enormous contribution and brought the awards back into national focus with improved Marketing and Publicity which included annual awards posters, shortlists posters, flyers, postcards, bookmarks and merchandising. A shortlist party in Birmingham was introduced to be attended by all short listed authors and illustrators together with librarians from across the UK, and a high profile awards ceremony at the South Bank Centre in London was also established to gain maximum media coverage for YLG, the LA and the awards. In 1993 Peters were presented with a Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme Award in recognition of these achievements, with major sponsorship continuing until 1997.



They continue to support the awards in many ways, not least the Schools Shadowing Scheme which they were instrumental in setting up in 1994, and they remain the official bookseller to the scheme, distributing stock to schools and libraries throughout the country.

## Royal Mail

In 1997, The Royal Mail became new sponsors for a year. This coincided and was linked to their stamp promotion. They produced 5 stamps, which featured Britain's greatest children's writers who they selected to be CS Lewis, Lewis Carroll, JRR Tolkien, Mary Norton and E Nesbit.





They produced first day covers which illustrated, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe", "The Borrowers", "Through the Looking Glass", "The Phoenix and the Carpet" and "The Hobbit". They also produced illustrated airmail letters on the theme of "Northern Lights", by Phillip Pullman (Carnegie Medal winner in 1995) "The Snow Spider" by Jenny Nimmo (Smarties prize winner) and "The Boggart" by Susan Cooper (Carnegie short listed in 1993)

## **The Carnegie UK Trust**

Although the Carnegie UK Trust no longer focuses on library provision, in 1986 it did help with funding of the commemorative booklet for the Golden Jubilee of the Carnegie Medal. Work with young people is of major importance to them though, so CKG Shadowing did have elements, which they found related to their work. They made a major investment in 1998/99 to fund development of the CKG website for shadowing groups.

## **The Prizes**

### Book donations

In the early days of the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway book awards, it was thought to be in bad taste to offer the medal winners any cash prize. As part of the Peter's sponsorship, it was therefore agreed to be in better taste to allow each medal winner to receive books they could donate to a worthy library or cause. Today this amount is still reflected in the award of £1000 worth of books.

Book collections have been sent to school and public libraries in locations around the world over the years. Recently, Frank Cottrell Boyce donated his to Sierra Leone in Africa, in keeping with one of the elements in his winning book "Millions". Tim Bowler donated his to Totnes Library. Other examples include Aidan Chambers - to his local primary school, PJ Lynch to Ballymena and David Almond to Felling Library and Southlands School.

### Colin Mears

For many years, Colin Mears lived at Maple Court in Worthing, West Sussex. He was an avid book collector and enthusiast. He attended many of the CKG ceremonies. His collection included many books, original prints and illustrations. There were Kate Greenaway framed prints and he had particular interest in Edward Ardizzone, the records mention a particular pen and ink drawing called "Brighton Beach" by Ardizzone. Much of this collection was left to Worthing Council Museum on his death in Nov 1998. His will requested funding that he left in trust to the LA to be invested to create disposable revenue for an annual award for distinguished work in the illustration of



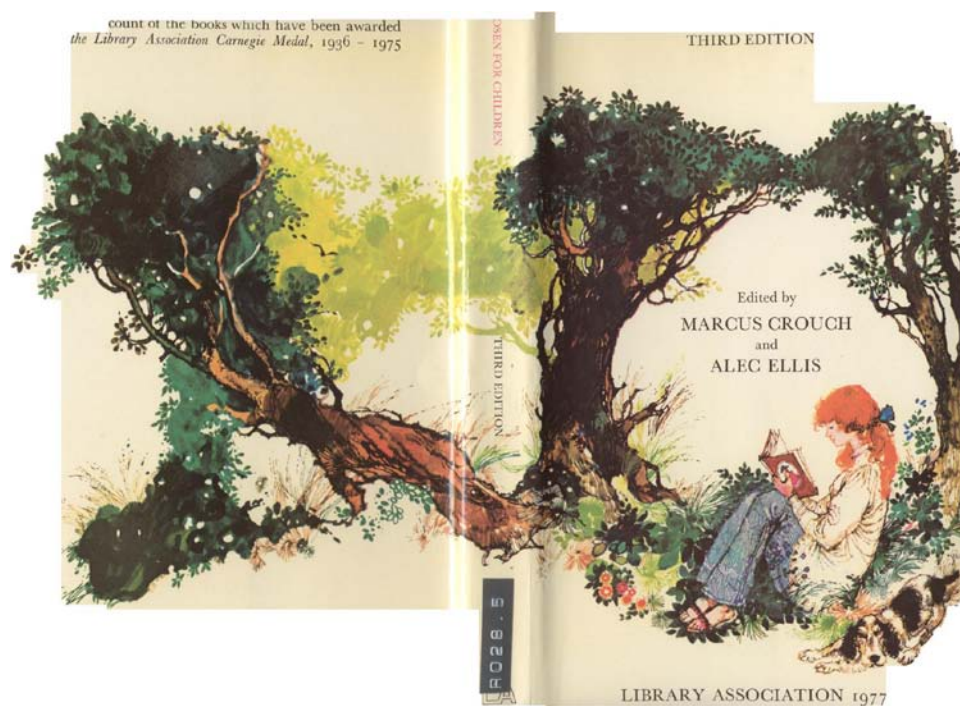
children's books. In Sept 1999, the CKG Working Party decided to give this in his name as a cash prize to the Kate Greenaway winner. It currently stands at £5,000. Since then, some recipients have used the money in different ways. Helen Oxenbury donated hers to Launchpad, now known as The Reading Agency. Bob Graham donated his cash to projects working with refugees in Australia and the UK

## Celebrations

### The Carnegie Medal 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday

The minutes show that in 1956 a 21<sup>st</sup> birthday celebration for the Carnegie award was planned. It was suggested that a commemorative booklet and a celebration with all past winners taking part would be suitable. It was later noted that LA Council discussed a 21<sup>st</sup> birthday celebration but as no 1955 book was being awarded the medal, it would be appropriate to celebrate with at conference in 1957.

Publications Committee had already considered celebrating the 21st anniversary and it was suggested they produce a commemorative book. "Chosen for children", (1957) edited by Marcus Crouch, is an account of the books which have been awarded the Carnegie medal from 1936-1975. The cover illustration is by Victor Ambrus. (0853653496 The Library Association.)





It was revised in 1967, and again in 1977 with Alec Ellis. They also planned a luncheon to be held at the Savoy or Dorchester Hotel.

There was also a plan to make a tape recording of the voices of the writers who won the medals “so that posterity may hear the voices of these writers”. The location of these tapes is still being researched.

### **Youth Libraries Group 21st anniversary**

On October 18, 1969 at Ridgemount Street, a cheese and wine celebration was held to mark the Groups' 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary. Honorary membership of the group was presented to Eileen Colwell as she was largely responsible for inaugurating the section in 1947 and gave outstanding service as a committee member for over 20 years. Mr Alan Garner and Mr Charles Keeping spoke about their work and future developments in books for children.

### **Youth Libraries Group 30th anniversary and LA Centenary Year**

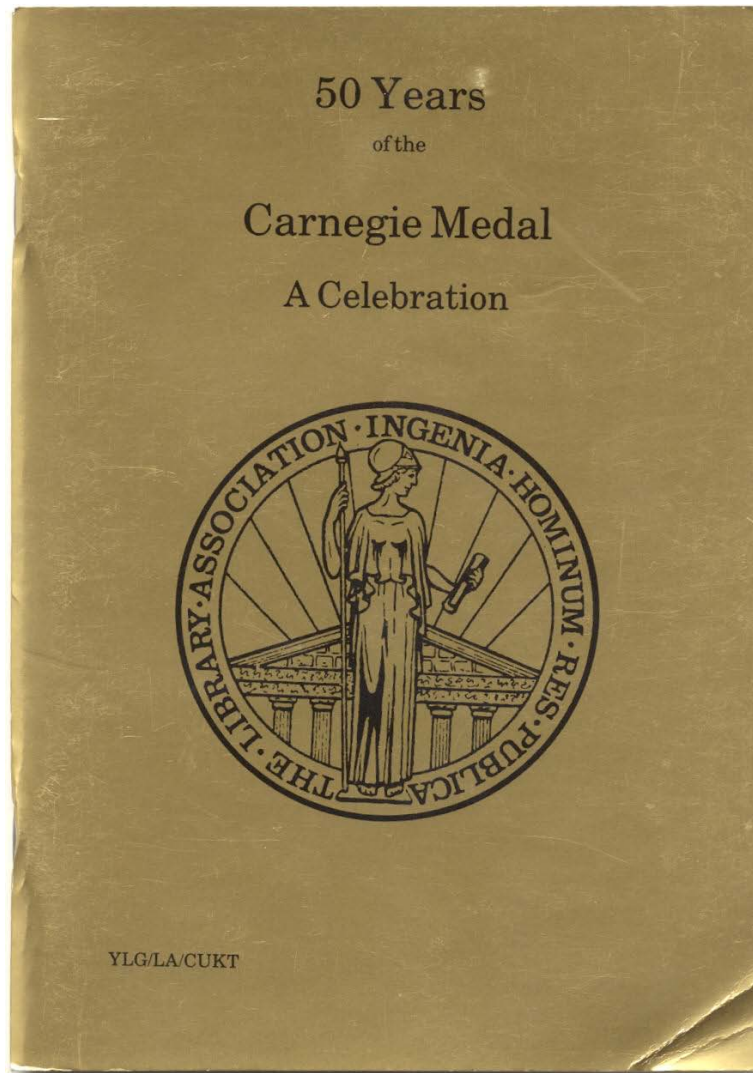
On October 5, 1977 YLG celebrated the 30th anniversary of the formation of the section and 100 years of the Library Association. There was a celebration lunch, when the CKG medals were awarded, and also an evening party at which the Honorary membership was presented to Marcus Crouch. Former winners were also invited to the YLG party as letters in the archives show.

### **The Carnegie Medal Golden Jubilee 1986**

YLG celebrated the Carnegie Medal Golden Jubilee in 1986. This event was held in Harrogate in association with Woodfield & Stanley Ltd of Huddersfield and the Carnegie UK Trust. Woodfield and Stanley were also celebrating their 40th anniversary. They provided a display of all the winning titles still in print which totalled 47 out of the 50 titles.

As Mr Woodfield was at the first Carnegie Medal presentation in 1937 at the Library Association conference at Scarborough, he recounted his memories of the occasion.

A publication was prepared to mark the event - called “50 Years of the Carnegie Medal- a celebration”, it was compiled by Derek Lomas. It included a review of each of the winning Carnegie Medal titles. It was produced with a golden cover with a replica of the medal. A YLG/LA publication, it also received funding from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust.



### **Millennium Children's Book Award (2000)**

YLG, SLG and the SLA had a joint millennium celebration to highlight some of the best books of the 20th century chosen by librarians, teachers, publishers and others who have been involved in producing and promoting children's books. The century was divided into 5 periods. Winners were identified for each period and there was an overall winner.

#### 1900 – 1919

Kenneth Grahame "The Wind in the Willows"

#### 1920 – 1939



J.R.R. Tolkien "The Hobbit"

1940 –1959

C.S. Lewis "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"

1960 –1979

Roald Dahl "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"

1980 –1999

J.K. Rowling "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone"

C.S. Lewis "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" was voted Personal Choice of the Century.

### **Banquet of Reading**

A literary lunch for 90 people was held to celebrate reading and to raise funds for the Keith Barker fund, in February 2001. It was planned in cooperation with Puffin Books to also celebrate their 60th birthday. The venue was the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Speakers were Anne Fine, Roger Mc Gough and Chris Riddell.

### **Honorary Membership**

Honorary membership was first conferred in 1955 with the aim of recognising people outside librarianship who have made a major contribution to children's books. This was later expanded to include those who have contributed major services to library services for children and young people. Dr John Masefield, when he was the current poet laureate.

Other recipients include:

H.J.B. Woodfield (children's specialist library supplier)

Edward Ardizzone

David Davies (media-BBC, Children's Hour )

Eleanor Graham (publishing- Methuen)

Eileen Colwell (libraries)

Eleanor Farjeon

Joan Butler (libraries)

Phylis Parrott (libraries)

Marc Crouch (libraries)

Mary F. Thwaite (Children's literature and libraries)

Esme Green



Margaret Marshall McDonald  
Miranda Mc Kearney  
Jonathan Douglas  
Norman Clayton  
Grace Kempster  
Chris Binns  
Tricia Kings

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