2006

Portfolio of Ruth E. Engle Memorial Collection of Children’s Book Illustration

Murray Library

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Sharpening Intellect | Deepening Christian Faith | Inspiring Action

Messiah College is a Christian college of the liberal and applied arts and sciences. Our mission is to educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.
THE RUTH E. ENGLE MEMORIAL COLLECTION OF CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATION
The Ruth E. Engle Memorial Collection of Children’s Book Illustration celebrates the art we first met as children, and recalls our enchantment with the magical pairing of story and picture. Libraries have traditionally collected and displayed art and illustration, particularly the latter because of its affinity to literature.

With the installation of these original artworks, Murray Library embraces that tradition.

In addition to benefiting Messiah’s students, especially education and art majors, the Ruth E. Engle Memorial Collection is certain to delight all Library patrons and visitors to the campus and is expected to become a regional attraction.
Child of God, daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, educator, entrepreneur, psychologist, consultant. In addition to this sampling of the diverse roles that defined Ruth Engle’s life, she was a friend to libraries, particularly Murray Library at Messiah College. Both a charter and board member of Friends of Murray Library, Ruth contributed vision and vitality to the organization from its founding in 1993. Further evidence of Ruth’s dedication and support of Friends mission was her selection of the group as a recipient for memorial contributions. The Ruth E. Engle Memorial Collection of Children’s Book Illustration honors her abiding love for children, books, and libraries. It is but one legacy she leaves to Murray Library and to Messiah College.
From its beginning in 1993, *Friends* has promoted the mission of Murray Library with a variety of purchases, projects, and programs. In addition to providing resources and services that extend beyond the library’s regular budget, *Friends* helps form a link between the campus and the community of readers and learners.

We invite you to join us in our efforts to enrich the resources of Murray Library, a central component in the education of Messiah students. Memberships also make great gifts. Honor a family member or friend, while supporting Messiah College’s educational ministry. Or, celebrate the life and legacy of a loved one with a special memorial gift.

*Friends make a difference*
Gennady Spirin came to international attention in 1979, through his compelling illustrations for a variety of children’s books. Soon after, the Russian-born illustrator was gaining honors throughout the world, fascinating readers with his complex images and lush environments.

Spirin left his home at age eleven to begin classical training at the Surikov Art School, but it was not until he graduated from the Stroganov Art Institute that he began exploring the world of illustration. Children’s literature, Spirin discovered, provided the ideal framework for his expressive imagination. He has illustrated more than twenty-five books in his chosen medium of watercolor.

Among the numerous awards Spirin has received for excellence in illustration, are three gold medals in three successive years from the Society of Illustrators, followed by a fourth two years later.

Spirin’s illustrations in Kashtanka won first prize in the 1994 “Premi Internacional Catalonia D’ Illustracio” in Barcelona. Kashtanka also was named a New York Times Best Illustrated Book of the Year, an IRA-CBC Children’s Choice, and a 1995 Parents’ Choice Award winner.

“Now then, let’s start with the Egyptian pyramid,” the master began. “One . . . two . . . three!”

From Kashtanka by Anton Chekhov

Gift of Friends of Murray Library, 2003
Ruth E. Engle Memorial Collection
Alice and Martin Provensen were both born in Chicago, Illinois, and both moved to California at about twelve years of age, where they both attended high school and college. Martin worked in the Story Department at the Disney Studio, and Alice worked in animated films at Walter Lantz’s Studio in Hollywood. Eventually they married, pooling their considerable talents as illustrators and writers.

The Provensens began illustrating children’s books in 1946 and have done more than fifty books since. The two worked so closely together that their styles were indistinguishable, producing drawings that captivate with their clarity and delight with their quirkiness.

In addition to appearing nine times on the New York Times Best Illustrated Books of the Year list, the Provensens won a Caldecott Award and a Gold Medal from the Society of Illustrators.

Martin Provensen died in 1987, but Alice continues to write and illustrate children’s books at Maple Hill Farm, where she and Martin enjoyed a pleasant, productive life together.


Oh, the monkeys with muttering maws!
How I long for retractable claws
and a comforting chat / with the shipmaster’s cat
as she scours the pads of her paws!

From The Voyage of the Ludgate Hill: Travels with Robert Louis Stevenson by Nancy Willard

Gift of Family and Friends of Ruth E. Engle and Friends of Murray Library, 2004
Ruth E. Engle Memorial Collection
Jerry Pinkney is the only illustrator to have won the Coretta Scott King Award four times, and has the equally rare distinction of receiving four Caldecott Honor Medals. Pinkney has also received awards for his body of work, a significant part of which has been drawn from African-American culture.

A Philadelphia native, Pinkney took an interest in drawing at an early age and soon realized he would “rather sit and draw than do almost anything else.” His family supported his interest in art, helping him get into art classes. Later, he received a full scholarship to attend the Philadelphia Museum College of Art (now University of the Arts).

Pinkney began illustrating children’s books in 1964, a process that he finds thoroughly engaging. “When I’m working on a book, I wish the phone would never ring,” he admits. “I love doing it. My satisfaction comes from the actual marks on the paper, and when it sings, it’s magic.”

*In for Winter, Out for Spring* was a Booklist Editors’ Choice and an American Bookseller’s “Pick of the Lists.”
Gerald McDermott has been called a dream weaver, tale spinner, portrayer of visions, and interpreter of the human spirit. He is best known for his bold, graphic renderings of timeless tales from around the world.

McDermott was just four years old when he was admitted to class at the Detroit Institute of Arts. His passion for the visual arts continued through high school, where the art curriculum was based on Bauhaus principles. Upon graduation, he was awarded a scholarship to New York's Pratt Institute. After finishing his degree, McDermott began producing and directing a series of animated films on folklore. Intrigued by the transformative power of myth and by the possibilities of integrating cultural and archetypal symbols into his art, McDermott began to adapt his films into picture books. His first illustrated retelling of a West African folktale received a Caldecott Honor Medal in 1973; a Pueblo folktale received the Caldecott Award in 1975.

McDermott's vivid colors and playful interpretation of Carlo Collodi's Pinocchio distinguish this handsome edition of a classic favorite.
Michael McCurdy's wood engravings and illustrations may be found in over 190 books for both children and adults, and in fine limited editions. An author, as well as an illustrator and printmaker, McCurdy also has published significant small-press first editions by leading American and European writers and poets.

Born in New York City, McCurdy grew up in Marblehead, Massachusetts. As a boy, he wanted above all to print things. “I wanted to set type, smell printers’ ink, hear the clank of presses,” he explains. Later, after studying art at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and at Tufts University, and then teaching it, he started his own press, where he made fine books by hand.

Today, McCurdy still designs and illustrates both his own books and books written by others. He has designed cover and jacket art for books and magazines and has produced posters and prints. His art has been exhibited in close to 200 one-person and group shows.

Hannah’s Farm brings to life the seasonal activities of a family on a typical nineteenth-century homestead in New England. The McCurdy family lives on Morgan Farm in Massachusetts, the model for Hannah’s Farm.
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*Lucy's Summer* was named a *Smithsonian* magazine “Notable Book for Children, 1995,” a *Yankee* magazine “Top 100 New England Book,” and a 1995 *Parents' Choice* Honor Award Winner.

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**Michael McCurdy**

1995

Scratchboard and watercolor

*Then one hot night there was a terrible thunderstorm.*

*Lucy and Caroline hugged each other in bed as lightning flashed around them.*

From *Lucy's Summer* by Donald Hall

Gift of Family and Friends of Ruth E. Engle, 2003

Ruth E. Engle Memorial Collection
Thomas Locker acknowledges two great passions—painting and nature. Born in New York, Locker began his career as a landscape painter. His paintings have been featured in more than fifty exhibitions in major galleries throughout the United States and abroad.

Locker began illustrating books for children when he discovered that few of the books published for young readers were dedicated to teaching them an appreciation for the type of landscape paintings one might find in the National Galleries of the world.

Today, Locker's paintings and illustrations grace the pages of thirty books, several of which he also wrote. These unique books, expressing Locker's profound love of and respect for the natural world, have been honored with numerous awards, including the Christopher Award, the John Burroughs Award, and a New York Times Award for best illustration.

The strength of *Cloud Dance*, as with many of Locker's works, “is the way Locker lets his paintings do most of the talking,” writes *Booklist* reviewer Tim Arnold. “Austere lines of text are complemented by art that goes beyond the call of illustrative duty to reveal the wonder and beauty of the sky in different seasons . . . .”
Earl Bradley Lewis, a Philadelphia native, was inspired to study art by two artist uncles. As a child, Lewis attended the Saturday morning Temple University School Art League, run by his uncle, until his enrollment in Temple’s Tyler School of Art.

During Lewis’s Tyler years, watercolor became his medium of preference. After graduation, he taught art, and continued to create and exhibit his own artwork. Currently he teaches illustration at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and has illustrated more than twenty-five books.

Illustrating children’s books, says Lewis, “combines my two passions. I’m an educator and an artist, so what better way to bring art and literature together than in children’s books?”

Lewis won the 2003 Coretta Scott King Award for his illustrations in Talkin’ About Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman. The King Award honors authors and illustrators of African descent whose books promote an understanding and appreciation of the “American Dream.” Prior to this distinction, Lewis had won three King Honor Book recognitions.

Sometimes, she would smile and gaze out the window at the wondrous, man-made birds of wood and wire silently waiting to lift her up, and up, into the endless blue over Paris, and she would sigh.

From Talkin’ About Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman by Nikki Grimes

Gift of the David and Jean Byer Family, 2004
In honor of Lydia and Mary E. Byer
Ruth E. Engle Memorial Collection
Stephen Fieser knew at an early age that he wanted to be an artist and began working as a commercial artist while in high school. He then worked as a book designer and cover illustrator for fifteen years, before beginning graduate studies in illustration at Syracuse University.

After graduation, Fieser began teaching illustration and drawing at the Pennsylvania School of Art and Design, at Messiah College, and for Marywood University’s MFA Program. He also began illustrating children’s books.

Fieser’s picture books, published by HarperCollins and Henry Holt, feature specific geographic and historical settings, and often portray Jewish history and folklore. Although the subject matter frequently requires extensive research, Fieser enjoys this part of the process.


Wider Than the Sky: Poems to Grow Up With offers works by a diversity of poets from Shakespeare to Seuss!

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Wynken, Blynken, and Nod one night
Sailed off in a wooden shoe—
Sailed on a river of crystal light, Into a sea of dew.

From Wider Than the Sky: Poems to Grow Up With, collected and edited by Scott Elledge

Gift of Stephen and Cherie Fieser, 2004
Ruth E. Engle Memorial Collection
Leo and Diane Dillon met at Parsons School of Design, and spent four years competing with each other. After graduation, they decided to join forces, becoming husband and wife as well as a collaborative team.

The Dillons have produced illustrations for books, posters, advertisements, and other media, employing a stunning range of techniques. They have favorite media, but don’t hesitate to learn new skills if they feel an assignment demands it, or to invent a technique if no existing one is satisfactory.

Collaborative art requires flexibility, and the Dillons believe it is important to “take advantage of accidents and surprises.” A work in progress will pass back and forth between them countless times during production, with each continuing and improving upon the work. The finished product is a unique blend that cannot be separated into “his” or “her” contributions.

The Dillons have illustrated over forty books and are the recipients of numerous awards, including both the 1976 and 1977 Caldecott Awards. Leo Dillon was the first African-American artist to win that award.

*The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks* is a winner of the *Boston Globe/Horn Book* Award for Illustration, and a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Children’s Book of the Year.
Robert Ingpen studied art and illustration at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and has written and illustrated more than 100 books.

In 1986, he became the only Australian to be awarded the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Medal for Illustration, followed by the Australian Dromkeen Medal in 1989 for his lasting contributions to children's literature.

Ingpen has painted murals on public buildings and he designed the flag and coat of arms for the Northern Territory. He also has designed postage stamps, including commemorative issues for the Captain Cook Bicentenary and the 50th anniversary of the Australian Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organization.

In 2004, Ingpen was commissioned to illustrate the centenary edition of *Peter Pan and Wendy*. Like Barrie's immortal creation, Ingpen's illustrations celebrate imagination and are “full of humour, glamour, mischief, and a dancelike movement and energy.”

Exhibitions of Ingpen's work have been held in both Europe and America, and a retrospective catalogue of his work was published in 2005: *Pictures Telling Stories—The Art of Robert Ingpen*.

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*Robert Ingpen*

2004

Watercolor

*When Wendy returned diffidently she found Peter sitting on the bedpost crowing gloriously, while Jane in her nighty was flying around the room in solemn ecstasy.*

From *Peter Pan and Wendy*, Centenary Edition, by J. M. Barrie

Gift of the David and Jean Byer Family, 2005
In honor of Everett and Adela Byer
Ruth E. Engle Memorial Collection
“By the time I was in fourth grade, I knew I would be an artist someday,” claims Wendell Minor, who was born and raised in Aurora, Illinois, where he inherited his love for the country.

After completing studies at the Ringling School of Art and Design in Florida, Minor found a niche creating original designs for book publishers in New York. His cover illustrations have enhanced nearly 2,000 works, and he has illustrated more than thirty children’s picture books. Over the years, his paintings and cover art have garnered more than 200 awards.

Minor believes his illustrations benefit by direct contact with nature and travels to research the subject of each book he illustrates—making sketches, shooting photographs, taking copious notes. His travels have taken him throughout the United States, from the tropical Everglades of Florida to Barrow, Alaska, in the Arctic Circle.

One of several collaborations with author Jean Craighead George, Snow Bear captures the fanciful encounter between a polar bear cub and a young Inuit girl who frolic together in the frozen twilight of an Arctic spring.

Nanuq and Snow Bear walk farther inland. They will eat sedges and lemmings until Snow Bear is so big no male bear will hurt him

From Snow Bear by Jean Craighead George

Gift of Friends of Murray Library, 2005
Ruth E. Engle Memorial Collection
Trina Schart Hyman illustrated more than 150 books. Her watercolors, oils, and drawings have enlivened everything from collected stories to novels to poetry, and such classics as *Rapunzel* and the Arthurian legends.

A native Pennsylvanian, Hyman studied at the Philadelphia Museum College of Art, the Boston Museum School of Art, and at Konstfackskolan, the Swedish state art school in Stockholm. Her first work was published in Sweden in 1961, but by the end of the 1960s, she had illustrated more than two dozen books from major American publishers.

In 1985, Hyman received the Caldecott Medal for *Saint George and the Dragon*. A three-time recipient of Caldecott Honors, she also has been widely recognized for her influence on the children’s literary magazine *Cricket*, for which she was the first art director.

*Sense Pass King*, a lively West African folktale about a clever young girl who outwits the king, is retold by Hyman’s daughter, Katrin Tchana. Tchana first heard the tale from her husband, Eugene, who heard it when he was growing up in Cameroon.

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Sentry Pass King became very popular. People came to ask her for advice whenever they had a problem.

From *Sense Pass King: A Story from Cameroon* by Katrin Tchana

Gift of the David and Jean Byer Family, 2005
In honor of Charles and Mary Alice Jordan
Ruth E. Engle Memorial Collection
Megan Lloyd-Thompson is a native of south central Pennsylvania. As a child, she was encouraged by her teacher-parents and her grandparents to read, draw, and paint. Not until she was in college, however, did she realize that illustrating children’s books was the ideal way to combine her love of story and the written word with her desire to make pictures. She transferred to Parsons School of Design, graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration.

After working for one year as a book designer in New York, Lloyd-Thompson returned to Pennsylvania with a contract to produce her first picture book. Since that time, she has illustrated thirty-six books, many of which have received honors. Reminiscent of American primitives, the paintings in Pioneer Church were featured in a one-woman exhibition at the Cumberland County Historical Society in 2003–04. One of the paintings was selected by the Meridian International Center to represent the state of Pennsylvania in the exhibition: “This Is Our Land: Exploring America and the World Through Original Illustrations from Children’s Books.”

Pioneer Church is based on the history of a real church in Brickerville, Pennsylvania. It is the story of one of America’s first churches and the community that built it.
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