



Patricia Storms

CANSCAIP News

Canadian Society of Children's Authors, Illustrators and Performers
La Société canadienne des auteurs, illustrateurs et artistes pour enfants

Introducing ...

Hugh Brewster

by Elizabeth MacLeod

He met with Jackie Kennedy on the twenty-fifth anniversary of JFK's assassination. Later this year, he and a play he wrote are Broadway bound — Broadway, England, that is. And if you've read carefully his CANSCAIP bio, you'll know that the first book he ever published was *The Complete Hoser's Handbook*. Hugh Brewster is obviously *not* your typical children's writer.

You might say Hugh's career as an author started when he was a child and read *With Wolfe in Canada*. Until then, he'd wanted to be a fireman. He even considered being a teacher. However *With Wolfe in Canada* made him fall in love with historical fiction and his new aim was to become a writer.

"But my career in children's publishing just happened - it wasn't planned," says Hugh. "After earning an English degree at the University of



Photo Credit: Ian Brewster

Guelph, I became a freelancer in 1971, reading manuscripts for Pocket Books Canada — they were owned by Simon & Schuster." By July 1972, Hugh had a full-time job at Scholastic Canada.

"I was impressed at how many books Scholastic could sell with little promotion," Hugh continues. "With its book clubs, the company had an unconventional way of selling books. The many ways that they got books to people interested me —

Dealing does not. In each case, it's the personal subjective decision of the court that decides. The courts have leaned toward a broad interpretation of Fair Dealing.

"Economic rights" need no explanation.

"Moral rights" are there to protect the "personality" and "integrity" of the work. Someone cannot use your work in such a way so as to change the integrity of your work. In Toronto's Eaton Centre, there are sculptures of geese that were made by Michael Snow. He objected when, at Christmas time, red ribbons were tied around the necks of the geese. He felt that the ribbons affected the "integrity" of the work. The judge agreed with him, and the ribbons were removed.

In general, the creator of a work is the first owner of the copyright. With photos, the owner is the person who owns the negative. (That's how dated our laws are.) The owner could also be the person who commissioned the photo. Work created in the course of employment belongs to the employer.

In Canada, the copyright lasts for the life of the owner plus fifty years. If there are joint owners, the copyright lasts for fifty years beyond the life of the last living owner. In the USA and Europe, the copyrights generally last for seventy years beyond the life of the owner.

Educational institutions, museums and libraries want more access to copyrighted works. At present, they give money to Access Copyright for the right to copy certain portions of your works. Access Copyright gives the money to you and other creators. Access Copyright wants to increase their fees. The institutions want to decrease those fees. The matter is before the court.

Educational institutions and businesses have been asking the government to relax the laws that protect the creators. Our government has a history of listening to them, and being unfriendly toward authors, illustrators and performers. Hopefully, the new copyright law will strike a fair balance between protecting our intellectual property and allowing our creations to be accessible to everyone. I'll do my best to keep you updated as the new Canadian copyright law is developed.

Reading Liberia:

"It Was Not A Mistake To Have Met You."

by Kathy Stinson

Twice now I've been given the opportunity to work with writers in the west African country of Liberia, while others worked with teachers and illustrators, as part of "Reading Liberia".

The program was initiated by Michael Weah and his wife Yvonne, who founded the We-Care Library in Monrovia and managed to keep it running through the years of civil war that sent many citizens fleeing for their lives. They looked to CODE to support Reading Liberia and through IBBY-Canada, CODE found me. (Thank you, IBBY-Canada!) What follows are excerpts from my blog during my two visits.

February 17, 2009: How do I capture some essence of my time in Liberia so far? Already I know it will be hard to say goodbye to the people I am getting to know here...

February 18, 2009: With teacher educators assessing how well teachers were applying what they were learning about teaching reading, I visited three schools. One had been built as a residence. The small rooms were crowded with more children than there were places to sit. The teachers spent a lot of time having the children recite together words printed on the chalk board or copying them into their copy-books. There was only one book in most classrooms.

A teacher at another school had his students actively thinking about the story they were reading. There were several books in that classroom, each one shared by a group of four or five students. At another school, a teacher who had attended two Reading Liberia workshops for teachers spoke enthusiastically about how his relationship with his students had changed as a result of new strategies he'd learned. He was pleased that he no longer had to use a cane to motivate them to pay attention.

February 20, 2009: Hard to believe that a week ago tonight I'd not yet set foot in Africa, and already my



without electricity in their homes. These essays reveal more. Some pay tribute to someone who raised them and protected them during the years of civil strife – a mother, a grandmother, a foster father. They tell much about their personal lives, the country's history, and what they value. I feel privileged to be getting these insights.

February 9, 2010: The world has seemed a smaller place since last year when Liberia became an extension of my “neighbourhood”. I'd like to

bag is packed, ready for my trip back to Canada, my heart crowded with people I had not even laid eyes on a week ago.

February 22, 2009: While there are similarities between Canadian and Liberian writers - all are avid readers, all feel squeezed for time to write, and most long to see their work in print - I have yet to meet a writer in Canada who has lost all their writing when rebel armies rampaged through their community.

I want to go back to Liberia. I want to be able sit down with each person I meet and find out more about them - about their country, about all they have been through, and all they hope for now.

February 1, 2010: I'm sitting on the fourth floor balcony of the Cape Hotel in Monrovia, reading manuscripts, listening to a mixture of Atlantic surf and hotel generators, the occasional honking of a motorcycle horn, and African music rising from the street below. Who knew that sitting at my dining room table 28 years ago, writing about a girl who likes red, would one day lead to this?!

February 3, 2010: It's way past my usual bedtime. I've been lost in the personal essays written by Liberian writers about people who have been important to them, people who have inspired them in some way. Each day I'm here, I learn more about the remarkable people I'm working with – how they keep their clothes so neatly pressed, for example,

introduce you to a few people I hung out with there last week. Mike Weah is the dynamic mastermind behind the Reading Liberia program. At a meeting last Thursday, after Gord Pronk (who was working with illustrators while I worked with writers) described what needed to happen next with the artwork being created. Mike said, “There is this big river between us. God made a mistake.” I love his sense of humour, and of course his passion, too, for doing whatever it takes to get books, written and illustrated by Liberians, into the hands of Liberia's children and their teachers.

Ade Wede Kekuleh is a writer whose picture book story I was pleased to be given the chance to read last week. I found her a bit elusive last year. She's happier this year, she told me. Robert Kutu-Akoi, a writer I met for the first time this year, emailed me recently, asking if I could help connect him to any drug abuse program in Canada. “That's my dream,” he told me. “I want to save a lot of Liberia youths that are on drugs...” He said, “It was not a mistake to have met you.” And there is a girl I can tell you very little about. Only that she is ten years old and was one of a dozen or so kids who flocked around me and Gord at the beach across from the hotel last Thursday, shortly before sunset. I was riveted by her poise and beauty and she totally captivated my imagination. Does she go to school? Are any of the younger kids on the beach her siblings? What did a man who seemed to be attached to the group mean

when he said the kids were “community kids”? I wonder if this girl will ever read the story by James Dwalu that Chase Walker was illustrating last week, about a boy who, after crossing the monkey bridge, discovers that his father was just as afraid to cross it as he was.

The first books for Liberian children, written by Liberian authors and illustrated by Liberian illustrators, will be published this year. *Varney and the Monkey Bridge* will be among the first books to come out of the Reading Liberia program. And wouldn't I love to be there when James and Chase first hold that book in their hands and when they introduce it to a classroom full of Liberian kids!



KATHY STINSON is the author of more than 25 titles for young people. Visit her website at www.kathystinson.com about her books, to read more of her blog, and to find links to more photos of Liberia.

CANSCAIP Meetings

Toronto

Monthly Meetings 2010

April 14	May 12	June 16*
Sep. 15*	Oct 13	Nov 10

*Note change of meeting dates.

Northern District Library, Room 200, 40 Orchard View Blvd. One block north of Eglinton, west of Yonge Street (take subway to Eglinton Station, then walk north on Yonge St.)

For info, phone Office: (416) 515 - 1559

Edmonton

Meetings begin at 7pm the first Wednesday of October, February and April. In December and June, potluck events, also the first Wednesday of the month, begin at 6:30. All meetings are casual, supportive gatherings that are held in members' homes. For information about CANSCAIP's Edmonton group, please contact Dennis Lee at dennis.lee@edmonton.ca or at 780-929-2018 (evenings).

Ottawa

Ottawa CANSCAIP members meet informally a few times a year to network, socialize and learn. For more information, contact Rachna Gilmore at rachnagilmore@hotmail.com

Montreal

CANSCAIP meetings are held regularly in Montreal. For more information, contact Alastair Reeves at a_reeves@videotron.ca or Carol-Ann Hoyte at kidlit-fan1972@yahoo.ca.



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