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Juvenile Miscellany

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Spring 2021

## **Juvenile Miscellany - Spring 2021**

de Grummond Children's Literature Collection

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# JUVENILE MISCELLANY



SPRING 2021 • VOLUME 30 - NUMBER 1



Ellen Ruffin

**I** didn't want to begin this *Juvenile Miscellany* with a statement about this past year. I figure everyone is tired of hearing about "what a year this has been," but it's impossible to ignore the enormity of what the world has experienced. It **has** been a year!

Just as we were preparing for our annual children's book festival last spring, our doors

were closed. The University sent us home. Never did I expect us to be cloistered as we were! I know we've grown tired of Zoom and Crowdcast and all of the other communication venues, but wow! They allowed us to continue. The virtual world became real. We were able to attend concerts, live performances, and book festivals.

The de Grummond Book Group continued to meet, we continued our library meetings, and we discovered it was possible to be productive despite our isolation. The de Grummond Book Group has been meeting virtually on the third Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m. CST. The plus has been people joining us from all over the country – even a children's literature scholar from Egypt! We just finished reading Sharon Draper's *Out of My Mind*, which prompted a fascinating discussion. I hope you were able to catch Sharon's de Grummond Lecture.

The Keats Foundation was the first to embrace the virtual possibilities by hosting the EJK Award Ceremony in June. It was the breakthrough we all needed. We saw a virtual experience could be possible and meaningful. And **that's** when Karen Rowell decided we would have the 2020 Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival—in November.

The 2020 de Grummond Lecture was given by Emma Walton Hamilton. She did a perfect job. Emma and her mother, Julie Andrews (yes, **that** Julie Andrews), have a

podcast titled "Julie's Library," and if you have not heard it, give yourself that treat. They manage to make a 20-minute podcast into something that is interesting, fun, informative, and often touching.

In her speech, Emma included pictures of the homemade studio from which their broadcasts originate. Emma's son, Sam, is a tech guru. He created soundproof areas for his mom in her house, and he did the same in his grandmother's house. The room he fixed for his grandmother is a closet. So...to think of what was able to happen during the pandemic is amazing. In "normal times," Emma and Julie would have been in a recording booth together. Now, however, they speak to one another from their little closet studios.

"Julie's Library" invites special guests "in" to visit the library. Authors like Meg Medina, Jacqueline Woodson, and other notables "appear." Occasionally, the authors read their own books. When Meg Medina "dropped in," she read *Tia Isa Wants a Car*. Children even "phone in" to discuss some of their favorite words. The podcast is something to turn on in the car with your toddler or teenager.

This issue of *Juvenile Miscellany* will give you a glimpse of what has been happening at de Grummond. We have articles about specific collections, and we have a few newsworthy items for you to enjoy. Here's hoping for a less complex year. My hope is that we are able to take the lessons learned and apply them to this "new normal."



Emma Walton Hamilton

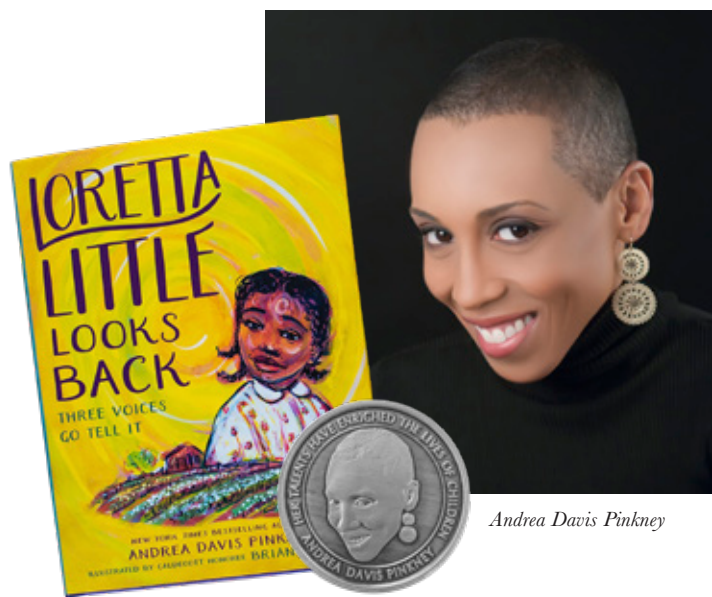




# Fay B. Kaigler Virtual Children's Book Festival

By David Tisdale

One of America's most popular children's literature-themed events returned when The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) hosted its annual Fay B. Kaigler Virtual Children's Book Festival and Ezra Jack Keats Award Ceremony online April 12-16. The festival continued, as it did after being rescheduled last year, in a virtual format in keeping with safety precautions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Andrea Davis Pinkney

Each year, the festival presents its highest honor, the Southern Miss Medallion, to a children's literature author or illustrator who has made significant contributions to the field. This year's recipient was Andrea Davis Pinkney, who has had an illustrious 30-year career in various facets of the publishing industry and is a *New York Times* bestselling and award-winning author of numerous books for children and young adults. She is also a previous keynote speaker for the festival.

Davis Pinkney's work has garnered multiple Coretta Scott King Book Awards, the Boston Globe/Horn Book Honor, and the Parenting Publications gold medal, among other citations. She is a four-time NAACP Image Award nominee, recipient of both the Regina Medal and the Arbuthnot Honor Award, for her singular body of work and distinguished contribution to the field of literature, and an inductee in the New York State Writers Hall of Fame. Her most acclaimed works include *Martin Rising: Requiem for a King*, *The Red Pencil*, and *Rhythm Ride: A Trip Through the Motown Sound*.

"We're beyond thrilled to have Andrea Davis Pinkney as our medallion winner this year. More than just an author, she is a true force for change and good in publishing," said Karen Rowell, coordinator of the festival. "Besides being a multiple award-winning author, Ms. Davis Pinkney is also the co-founder and was first senior editor at Jump at the Sun books, which is the first African American children's book imprint at a major publishing company. She is a one-of-a-kind author, editor, innovator, and talent, and we're very happy to be honoring her multitudes of talent."

"I'm also personally excited Ms. Davis Pinkney will be connecting with the Festival and the USM de Grummond Children's Book Collection this year as our medallion winner because one of her recent titles, *A Poem for Peter*, is a picture book in verse about Ezra Jack Keats and his work *The Snowy Day*. Of course this title is beloved by us here at USM, and we think it's a perfect connection, especially as we celebrate the Ezra Jack Keats Award's 35th anniversary."

Although organizers of the festival missed the personal interaction that the event was known for pre-pandemic, Rowell says there have been upsides to holding the event online, including the opportunity to view sessions, which are both live and recorded, at a later time. Last year's rescheduled festival, also held online, drew approximately 1,000 participants from across the U.S. and as far away as Egypt, India, the United Kingdom, and Turkey.

"The festival is composed of a tight-knit community of followers, so it's very hard not seeing everyone face-to-face," Rowell continued. "But I've been pleasantly surprised with the benefits of the online setup, including the opportunity through the chat feature for one-on-one interaction between participants and our guest speakers and workshop presenters."

Winifred Boyd of New York, a past attendee of the festival who attended this year's virtual event, said, "If a librarian, bibliophile, or children's book enthusiast only ever gets to go to a children's book festival but once, the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival should be the one." Boyd is also a graduate student in USM's online Master of Library and Information Science program.

"The 2020 Virtual Kaigler Children's Book Festival provided me with a chance to be in the same room with some of the most influential writers of young literature today," Boyd continued. "Being able to listen and see the reactions of the writers talking about their works or influences up close and personal gave it a

very intimate feel. Audience participation or input at most book festivals is at a premium, and questions asked often aren't heard. The Kaigler Festival, through the chat feature and an excellent question moderation, gave the audience an opportunity to feel integrally involved, making the experience especially memorable and nice.

"Overall, the Kaigler Festival had a feeling of professionalism deeply combined with intimacy, making it feel extraordinarily safe and welcoming. Accomplishing any one of these goals would be no small feat for any book festival or convention, but the Kaigler Children's Book Festival did them all with aplomb."

Beckie Nieman, an educator with the North Pike School District in Summit, Mississippi, loves how the festival brings authors and readers together.

"I missed the crowded rooms from the past in-person festivals, but felt like the [online] sessions last year were so personal," Neiman said. "Even though we are not able to be in person again this year, we celebrated the power of literature in our community, state, and country. We're able to stay connected through our love of books and reading. I encourage anyone to attend and take it all in."

Among the festival's unique events this year was a storytelling hour pajama party for children featuring author Mitali Perkins (*Between Us and Abuela*). Participants brought their favorite stuffed animals and prizes were awarded for the most creative pajamas.



THE FAY B. KAIGLER  
CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL  
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

In addition to Andrea Davis Pinkney and Mitali Perkins, other keynote presenters for this year's festival included Sharon Draper (*Copper Sun*); Colleen Salley Storytelling Award

winner Elizabeth Ellis; Ezra Jack Keats Lecturer Meg Medina (*Evelyn del Rey Is Moving Away / Evelyn del Rey se muda*); and illustrator Dan Santat (*The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend*).



Sharon Draper



Mitali Perkins



Elizabeth Ellis



Meg Medina



Dan Santat



# A Tasha Tudor Spring



By Brooke Cruthirds

Spanning over 70 years, Tasha Tudor's career as an illustrator anchored her as one of the most prolific American watercolorists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Tudor's work is emblematic of times gone by, most often depicting late 19<sup>th</sup> century ways of life.

She is known for her florals, idyllic scenery, children, animals and traditional celebrations. Beginning with the publication of *Pumpkin Moonshine* in 1938, Tudor began her focus on festive seasonal celebrations. In 1988, the Reagan administration commissioned Tasha Tudor to illustrate their Easter celebration at the White House, a

long-standing tradition dating back to the first Easter Egg Roll in 1878. Tasha Tudor produced a stunning 22"x17" Easter scene watercolor used as the official artwork for the White House event. In keeping with tradition, children are invited to the White House lawn for an Easter Egg Hunt. Wooden commemorative eggs are hidden over the grounds to be found and kept as a memento of the occasion. They also participate in the Easter Egg Roll, rolling their eggs down the slope of the south lawn. The event paused last year for the first time in over 100 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 1988 official event program is housed in the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, along with the original artwork commissioned by the White House. The collection also houses the papers of Tasha Tudor, books, rarely seen photographs, original artwork, as well as merchandise branded by Tasha Tudor's work.



Official artwork for the White House event and welcome message from former first lady Nancy Reagan.

Children participating in the Easter Egg Roll on the White House lawn.

# The de Grummond and the EJK Foundation Celebrate the EJK Award's 35<sup>th</sup>!



By Deborah Pope

The de Grummond Children's Literature Collection and the EJK Foundation are in the homestretch of a yearlong celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ezra Jack Keats Award with the culminating events happening here, as part of this year's Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival.

The EJK Award moved to de Grummond in 2012, from the New York Public Library. We correctly felt the award could become more prominent on the national stage if based at USM. In fact, there are many people who think the award came into being 10 years ago, when we came to Hattiesburg. While this reflects well on our partnership, it made celebrating our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary quite important. Especially now, when social justice and equity have become critical issues, we want it known that we've been working on advancing diversity in children's literature for 35 years! Why, the EJK Award was created to nurture illustrators and writers early in their careers, who produce extraordinary books that reflect our diverse population, the universal experience of childhood, and the strength of family.

Since 1986, we've celebrated books by Faith Ringgold, Deborah Wiles, Juan Felipe Herrera, Sophie Blackall, Shadra Strickland, Meg Medina, Christian Robinson, Bryan Collier, Don Tate and Oge Mora, to name only a few. Winning an EJK is now considered an indication of great things to come. In 35 years, 51 EJK Awards and 51 EJK Award Honors have been bestowed.

During this anniversary year, the EJK Foundation and de Grummond have produced the 2020 Virtual EJK Award Ceremony, and three webinars (Latinx Kidlit: Meet the Makers, Children's Book Creation: Passion, Craft, Commitment, and the Mock EJK Award Panel); we've participated in three national conferences and created reading guides, themed EJK Award book guides, and a Mock EJK Award Toolkit. As a result of our Mock EJK Award Panel, the program has been picked up by schools and libraries across the country. We're proud to say that there will be a second Mock EJK Award Panel based on Lessons Learned, streamed as part of this year's Children's Book Festival!

In addition to the EJK Award Ceremony, we're able to hold the Luminary Silent Auction at the Children's Book Festival to benefit the cash prizes won by the winners and honorees each year. Twenty-eight EJK Award alumni illustrators donated original artwork to make this auction a reality. We are grateful to them for their great generosity. Finally, as the closing event of our year, on May 24, we premiered an original documentary about the evolution of diversity in American children's literature and the role played by Ezra Jack Keats and the EJK Award.

We are extraordinarily proud to celebrate this EJK Award anniversary in partnership with the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival, and The University of Southern Mississippi. No one could have known when Ezra arrived in 1980 to receive his Southern Miss Medallion that this union of goals would be the result. What incredible luck that it did!



## THE EJK AWARD IS UNIQUE

- ➡ It is the only award that celebrates books that embrace all ethnic and social groups.
- ➡ The Award and Honor books constitute the kind of diverse library of outstanding children's books for which we are all working.
- ➡ Winners and honorees are themselves a more diverse group than any other children's book award.
- ➡ The 35th Anniversary EJK Award Committee includes rock star authors and illustrators, as well as scholars and librarians, making it an award bestowed by peers, as well as appreciators.



# Ezra Jack Keats Award Winners for 2021



By Claire Thompson

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the Ezra Jack Keats Award deliberations were conducted via Zoom meetings on January 29–31. Though all went well, and technology cooperated, the committee

members agreed that they were looking forward to discussing the books in person and in the same room in 2022, fingers crossed! At the conclusion of the deliberations, the winning publishers were notified via conference call so that everyone could share in the excitement of the moment.

## EZRA JACK KEATS AWARD COMMITTEE FOR 2021

**Rita Auerbach**, chair, librarian and active advocate of diverse children's literature

**Jenny Brown**, senior editor, "Shelf Awareness"

**Pat Cummings**, author/illustrator, teacher and mentor

**Carmen Agra Deedy**, author and storyteller

**Claudette McLinn**, executive director, Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature

**Chris Raschka**, author/illustrator and an early career EJK Award winner

**Melissa Sweet**, author/illustrator

**Vaunda Nelson**, author and Youth Services librarian

**Deb Taylor**, librarian and next chair of the EJK Award Committee

**Ellen Ruffin**, curator of de Grummond Collection, ex-officio member of the EJK Award Committee and co-producer of the EJK Award

Now celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Ezra Jack Keats Award was created to nurture illustrators and writers early in their careers, who create extraordinary books that reflect our diverse population, the universal experience of childhood, and the strength of family. Over the years, the EJK has succeeded in fostering the early careers of many of our country's leading children's book makers. The 2021 winners were publicly announced on March 9, by the EJK Foundation.



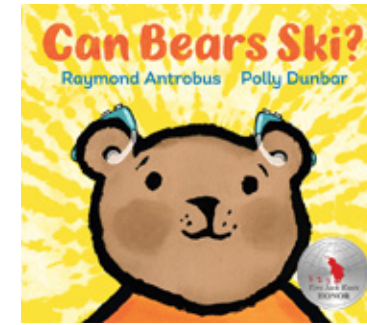
The winner of the 2021 Ezra Jack Keats Award for Writer was **Tricia Elam Walker**, for *Nana Akua Goes to School*, illustrated by April Harrison, published by Schwartz & Wade.



It's Grandparents Day for Zura's class! Her classmates brag about their grandparents. But Zura worries her friends will be alarmed by the traditional West African marks on her beloved Nana's face. This story focuses on how differences can inspire fear and how fear can be dispelled with understanding.

The winner of the 2021 Ezra Jack Keats Award for Illustrator was **Heidi Woodward Sheffield**, for *Brick by Brick*, published by Nancy Paulsen Books.

Luis's papi builds the buildings that make the city. Luis is proud of his papi's strength and his family's goals. This joyous story is beautifully told through clear, poetic text and vivid illustrations. The story's culminating event confirms everything Luis has said about his papi and family.



**Raymond Antrobus**, for *Can Bears Ski?* illustrated by Polly Dunbar, published by Candlewick

Little Bear knows when his bed shakes his father is nearby and it's time to dress for school. He likes clothes with LOUD colors. But why is everyone asking him, "Can Bears Ski?" What a silly question! Then his dad brings him for a hearing test and the answer is revealed.



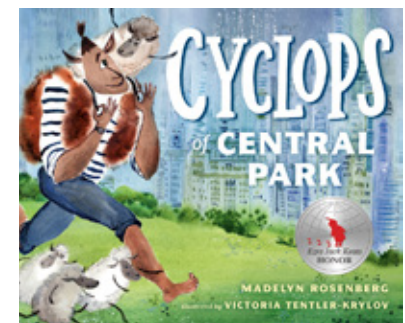
**Jarrett Pumphrey** and **Jerome Pumphrey**, for *The Old Truck*, published by Norton Young Readers

An old truck helps a family farm flourish as a young girl grows up. But the truck grows and breaks down. This book joins the love of tradition and old things to an embrace of the new by centering on a woman farmer who brings an old rusty truck back to life.



**Steve Small**, for *I'm Sticking with You*, written by Smriti Prasad-Halls, published by Godwin

Bear and Squirrel are inseparable friends. This suits Bear fine, Squirrel not so much. Bear tends to break Squirrel's favorite things. Squirrel becomes impatient and rude with Bear, but Bear remains faithful. After Squirrel has told Bear to go away, Squirrel has a realization about Bear that will warm your heart.



**Victoria Tentler-Krylov**, for *Cyclops of Central Park*, written by Madelyn Rosenberg, published by G. P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

His hometown of New York City frightens Cyclops, but when Eugene, his lovable but mischievous sheep, goes missing, Cyclops must find him. Bright, colorful illustrations convey the density and playfulness of the Big Apple, leading to Cyclops finding Eugene and falling in love with adventure.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the winners who made their first public appearance at the 2021 Virtual Award Ceremony from The University of Southern Mississippi during the Kaigler Children's Book Festival on April 13.



# A de Grummond Primer: Highlights of the Children's Literature Collection

Edited by Carolyn J. Brown, Ellen Hunter Ruffin, and Eric L. Tribunella

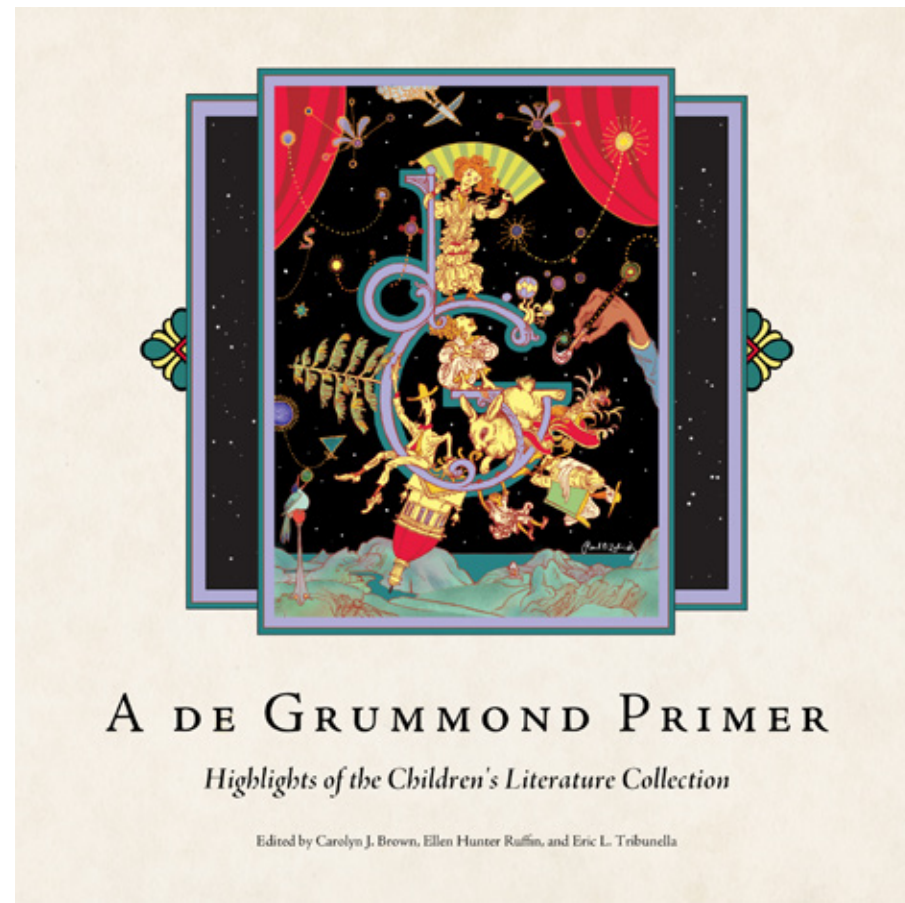
**Finally** – a book about the de Grummond Collection was made available beginning April 2021. This is the first book-length project on the collection. Unique aspects of the holdings appear in the scholarly essays written by children's literature "notables." Along with over 90 full-color images, the book examines the collection's strengths: fairy tales, 19th century periodicals, African American children's literature, the Golden Age of illustrated books, early books for children, and many more.

A particular treat is the story of Lena Y. de Grummond and how she happened to arrive in Hattiesburg. The contributors are Ann Mulloy Ashmore, Rudine Sims Bishop, Ruth B. Bottigheimer, Jennifer Brannock, Carolyn J. Brown, Ramona Caponegro, Lorinda Cohoon, Carol Edmonston, Paige Gray, Laura Hakala, Andrew Haley, Wm John Hare, Dee Jones, Allison Kaplan, Megan Norcia, Nathalie op de Beeck, Amy Pattee, Deborah Pope, Anita Silvey, Danielle Bishop Stoulig, Roger Sutton, Deborah D. Taylor, Laura Wasosicz, Alexandra Valint, Eric L. Tribunella and Ellen Hunter Ruffin.

Carolyn Brown, in the first part of the book, tells how Lena Y. de Grummond came to Southern Miss in 1966. That was the time de Grummond had finished her career in Louisiana, where she had served as the director of school libraries at the Department of Education. In her "retirement," she planned to teach courses to graduate students—in children's literature.

As the story goes, Dr. de Grummond wanted her teaching to be "more than a textbook." She wanted her students to *experience* her classes. Most of the students were working in school systems as teachers and driving to Hattiesburg at night in order to attain a master's degree in library science.

It was then that Dr. de Grummond decided to begin a children's literature collection. So, she began writing letters to authors and illustrators, asking for "bits and pieces of their work." The response to her query was impressive. Elmer and Berta

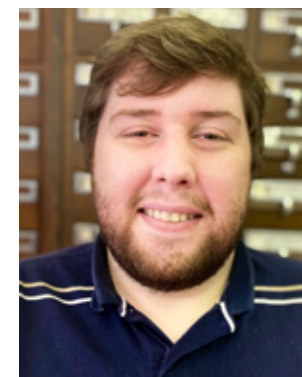


Hader were the first respondents, but it wasn't long before de Grummond began hearing from others: Madeleine L'Engle, J.R.R. Tolkien, Lois Lenski, H.A. and Margret Rey. Each class meeting contained something new for the lucky students.

Along with de Grummond's decision to request original materials from authors and illustrators was her commitment to building a library of books—containing children's books and books about children's books. Not only would the books reflect and support the holdings of original work, they would also provide scholarly research opportunities.

Published by University Press of Mississippi, the 2021 spring/summer catalog cover highlights one of the original works in the book—it's Wendell Minor's art from *Trapped! A Whale's Rescue*, a book written by Robert Burleigh and illustrated by Wendell Minor (copyright 2015), Charlesbridge. For a better description, go to [upress.state.ms.us](http://upress.state.ms.us), where you will be able to see the catalog and more images from the book.

# The de Grummond Experience



By Matthew Fillingame, Graduate Assistant

Having an on-campus job to earn a little extra cash is always nice for every student who attends college, but having an on-campus job that also acts as an official experience for a student's career path is absolutely priceless. As a Library and Information Science (LIS)

student, having the opportunity to work in the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection is possibly the most ideal position any LIS student could ask for while attending USM. Not only do you get paid for your work, but you also gain valuable experience in your field of study in library school.

I started out at de Grummond as a practicum student during my final semester as an undergraduate. I was pretty nervous on my first day, but I was welcomed with open arms into the archive. Before entering de Grummond, I was not sure what path I wanted to take in librarianship, but as I continued working through my practicum hours, I discovered that I enjoyed the work of an archivist. I had such a fascinating time viewing so many famous collections and magnificent works of art. The workspace was very lively and fun as well. I have learned a lot from everyone here.

That first experience as a practicum student encouraged me to want to continue my work at de Grummond, as I soon took on the MLIS program. With the title of graduate assistant, I was able to gain much more experience from different tasks assigned to me with one of my main tasks, and the one that I feel a lot of pride in personally, being the processing of collections held



within de Grummond. This allowed me to really get a good grasp of what exactly the de Grummond Collection held, as well as allowing me to gain an understanding of how to access and retrieve these collections. This, along with pulling and shelving books, gave me the practice needed to navigate the manuscript room and stacks with ease, allowing me to locate materials quickly over time. This also provided me with an idea that, perhaps for librarians coming in that are new to a library/archive, pulling and shelving books, along with being tasked to process collections, can be great training for them to get familiar with the library/archive they just started working for.

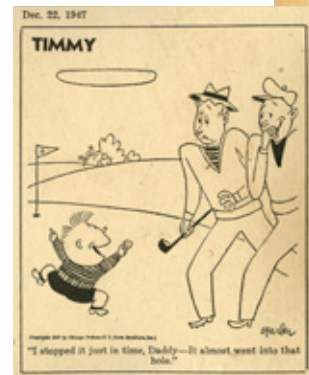
I am very grateful for the opportunity that I have been given, as it will help pave the way for me to obtain a position within my field of study. I want to thank everyone at de Grummond for providing me with such a great experience within the field of archives that I will keep with me on my career path. Thank you, all of you.







1953 Academy Award for Little Fugitive screenplay



Timmy comic from 1947 and sketch of the title character on a paper scrap



## Raymond Abrashkin

By Brooke Cruthirds

One of de Grummond's most recent acquisitions is the papers of Mr. Raymond Abrashkin. Raymond Abrashkin was a first-generation American born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, in 1911. He and his wife, Evelyn, had two sons, John and Hank. He served in the Merchant Marines in the early 1940s and later devoted his entire career to the education and entertainment of children. He was the education editor of *PM* newspaper, which ran from 1940-48. He also wrote the syndicated comic strip, *Timmy*, illustrated by Howard Sparber. A talented writer, he went on to become a noted playwright, screenwriter, and writer of both children's books and children's music. His screenplay for the movie, *Little Fugitive*, which he penned under the name Ray Ashley, was nominated for an Academy Award in 1953. Included in his papers are dozens of manuscripts, royalty checks, contracts, copyright registrations, correspondences, and handwritten notes detailing his varied commercial successes. His biggest contribution in the world of children's literature was the *Danny Dunn* series of children's science fiction and adventure books (1956-77), which he co-wrote with Jay Williams.



Abrashkin and his sons, John and Hank.

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Abrashkin had collaborated on five of the 15 titles when he died but continued to receive author recognition for the enduring characters he helped create. Interestingly, four of the *Danny Dunn* titles were illustrated by the one and only Ezra Jack Keats! According to Dr. Deborah Pope, executive director of The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, “[*Danny Dunn and the Homework Machine*] is prescient in its depiction of what computers do and ahead of its time in portraying a strong, smart, unapologetic female central character.” Disney acquired the screen rights to the *Danny Dunn* series and based a teenage Danny and Professor Euclid Bullfinch roles in *The Absent-Minded Professor* (1961) and *Son of Flubber* (1962) on the Abrashkin characters. Many of the correspondences and contracts recently acquired by the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection highlight these dealings.

Most notable, however, is the children's music written by Mr. Abrashkin. Dozens of children's songs and performance programs are included in his materials. His work with The Young People's Records and the American Young People's Theater was prevalent throughout the 1950s. Recording scripts for tunes like *Hey, Hey: Out of My Way!*, *Robin Hood*, *Hot Cross Buns*, and *Hiccoughs* (1951) are included in the collection.

Mr. Abrashkin's life was cut short in 1960 as a result of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). It is with many thanks to the heirs of his estate that his cherished materials have found their way to us.

## The Letters of Constance Savery

By Dr. Eric Schonblom

Constance Savery (1897-1999) was an English author of children's stories whose lifetime coincided almost exactly with the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Born in a Wiltshire vicarage, the eldest of five sisters, she wrote 50 books, of which *Enemy Brothers* (1943), *Emeralds for the King* (1945), and *Emma* (1980) were the best known. She was highly regarded by librarians and teachers in mid-century. Before she died, she was remembered only by her Oxford college, Somerville, which honored her in 1995 while celebrating their 1920 decision to award degrees to women. Savery was one of that first group of graduates. Her love for Oxford and its university are evident in her stories, many published in *The Oxford Annual for Girls* periodicals.

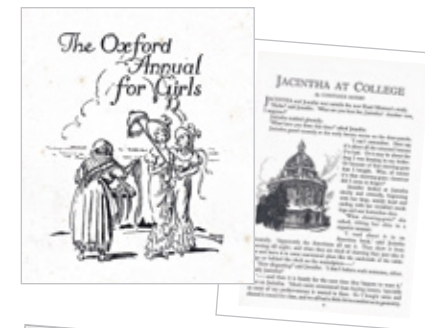
One of our donors, Dr. Eric Schonblom, writes how he discovered the work of Constance Savery:

“When I was about 13, Savery's *Emeralds for the King* was, perhaps, my favorite book. A year or so later, there was a fire in a school library somewhere in the Midwest, and my mother requested I donate three good books to that school. *Emeralds* was one of them. Years passed. Like many who read books as kids, I recalled the title but didn't remember the author. Around 1985, I asked a librarian who wrote *Emeralds*, and he was able to tell me. After I retired, in 1997, I recalled *Emeralds* and wondered if I would still like the book as well as I did as a child. There was no copy available on the used book market, but a bookseller offered to find it for me. He got back to me after a while, but he was asking, I think, \$240, which was too much. Six months later, he reduced the price by half, but that was still too much. At this point, I was sufficiently interested to buy some other Savery titles. I think *Peter of Yellow Gates* was the first, and *Enemy Brothers* was the second. I liked them both, and when the price dropped to \$80, I reacquired *Emeralds* and was pleased to find it just as good as I had remembered.

About that time, I began collecting Savery's books, and like most collectors, wouldn't be satisfied until I had read them all. A visit to my brother in Oregon brought me to the Savery collection in the archives of the University of Oregon, and among the items there was a true copy of Savery's work diary, which listed most of her short stories and other short works, so I started collecting those as well. An inquiry at Somerville College, Oxford, led to my meeting Savery's goddaughter, Clarissa Hummerstone, who invited me to her home, where she, as Savery's literary heir, had boxes and suitcases full of original manuscripts, letters, newspaper clipping, and thousands of other things. By 2005, I was managing a website, [constancesavery.com](http://constancesavery.com), to which I uploaded my annotations of everything she wrote, published or unpublished. By the time I had acquired all the shorter works and copied all the unpublished material, I was ready to propose writing Savery's biography. Mrs. Hummerstone, sadly, died in 2011, but her husband and new literary heir, the Rev. Jeremy Hummerstone, continued to help me, finding, among other things, three large shoeboxes crammed with letters written by members of the Savery family. I began transcribing letters, and in the end, those thousands of letters, together with my digital transcriptions, were in the USM library. The biography, titled *Another Lady*, was published on Savery's birthday in 2017. The ebook edition can be found at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

I regret that it took me so long to rediscover Constance Savery. The year I began reading her books again was 2000, and she died in 1999. She was an avid correspondent, and had I thought to inquire earlier, we might have exchanged letters or met.”

The Constance Savery holdings in the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection include rare books, original manuscripts, handwritten letters, galleys, chapbooks, and a variety of other materials pertaining to her work and life. Many of her letters can be accessed via our Digital Collections at [digitalcollections.usm.edu](http://digitalcollections.usm.edu). For more information about Constance Savery or to make an appointment, contact Brooke Cruthirds at [Brooke.Cruthirds@usm.edu](mailto:Brooke.Cruthirds@usm.edu).



Samples of the Savery family letters.



# de Grummond's Digital Collections



By Amanda McRaney

Did you know that you can view thousands of items from the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection online? Whether you are researching a particular topic or simply interested in browsing archival materials for the pure

joy of it, our digital collection is always available to you, wherever you may be.

We have digitized hundreds of full-length books and periodicals, including fairy tales, nursery rhymes, alphabet books, fables, and more. Among our vast collections of books is a 1900 edition of *The Wizard of Oz* illustrated by W.W. Denslow. You will find multiple versions of beloved fairy tales, such as *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Tom Thumb*. We have also included several foreign language books, including a beautifully illustrated German version of *Little Red Riding Hood*, titled *Rotkäppchen*, and a Croatian book of poetry, titled *Kitica iz Pučkoga Pjesništva Našoj Djeci*.

For those who are interested in original artwork, you can spend hours upon hours exploring the sketches, paintings, drawings, and pottery. Of particular note are the illustrations and sketch studies drawn by the Victorian era artist, Kate Greenaway, and the paintings of Ezra Jack Keats.

Take a look behind the scenes of the editorial process with images of original manuscripts, galley proofs, typescripts, design layouts, and so much more. Read the personal and professional correspondence of authors, illustrators, and publishers.

If you are enjoying this edition of *Juvenile Miscellany*, you can read previous editions of the newsletter in our digital collections. We have also included decades of programs, medallion awards, and photographs from our annual Children's Book Festival.

Visit us online at [digitalcollections.usm.edu](http://digitalcollections.usm.edu) and enjoy your virtual experience of the de Grummond Children's Literature Collections!



Photograph of attendees examining books from foreign embassies at the first Children's Book Festival in 1968.



Ceramic two-faced figure designed by H.A. Rey and created by Margret Rey in 1972. Over a hundred pieces of Margret's pottery are available to view online.



Rotkäppchen, or Little Red Riding Hood illustrated by Arpad Schmidhammer and published in Germany circa 1900-20.



A pen and ink illustration on tracing paper for page 34 of *Pinkie the Piggy Who Never Hurried* written by Lydia Scott and illustrated by Pru Heric in 1945. From the McLoughlin Brothers Papers.



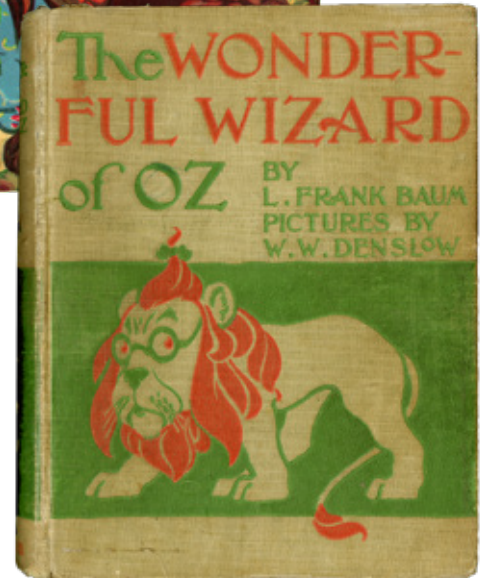
This signed watercolor was designed for an edition of *Gulliver's Travels* but was never used in a publication. From the Kate Greenaway Papers.



A handmade block print Christmas card sent from John Steptoe to Burmah Burris.



Kachi Kachi Yama, which loosely translates to *Fire-Crackle Mountain*, is a picture book published in Japan in the early 1900s.



A 1900 edition of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* written by L. Frank Baum and illustrated by W.W. Denslow. The de Grummond digital collection contains hundreds of full-length books and periodicals.



# The de Grummond Shop



Curious George



Ezra Jack Keats

## T-shirts

Infant and Toddler | \$10  
6m, 12m, 18m, 2T, 3T, 4T

Youth | \$15  
S, M, L

Adult | \$15  
S, M, L, XL, XXL



Ezra Jack Keats Multi-Pack  
Set of 8

## Ezra Jack Keats Notecards

—  
\$8 per set

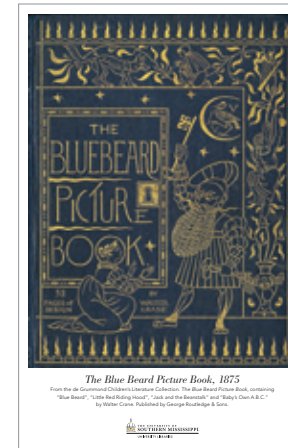


Ezra Jack Keats Snowy Day  
Set of 8

## Notecards

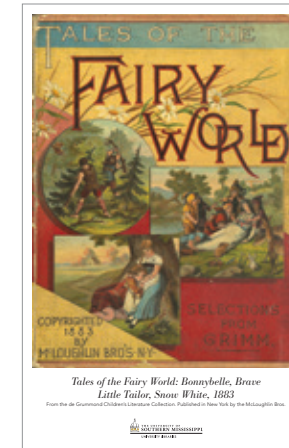
Early Children's Books  
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To make a purchase, contact Andrew Rhodes at [Andrew.Rhodes@usm.edu](mailto:Andrew.Rhodes@usm.edu) or 601.266.6765.

## Join the de Grummond Book Group



Each month, the de Grummond Book Group meets virtually to discuss influential works of children's and young adult literature.

The de Grummond Book Group meets on the third Thursday of each month. Adults interested in reading and discussing children's and young adult literature are welcome.

For more information about the de Grummond Book Group, contact assistant curator Brooke Cruthirds at 601.266.6182. To receive emails about the meeting schedule and book selections, subscribe to the book group's listserv at [mailman.usm.edu/mailman/listinfo/degrummondbookgroup](mailto:mailman.usm.edu/mailman/listinfo/degrummondbookgroup).

## Upcoming Events

June 8  
7:30 p.m.

Festival South/  
*Monkey Business:*  
*The True Story of the  
Creators of Curious  
George* Screening

TBD

Curious George's  
80th Birthday  
Celebration

August 21

The Mississippi  
Book Festival





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Hattiesburg, MS 39406



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