

Art from children's books displayed

By JUDY PETREE
Of the Emerald

But 'genre's golden age' over

Remember when life was Captain Kangaroo and fantasy heroes? Those were days of childhood games and cookie crumbs on pages of well-read storybooks.

There were books we knew even before we could read just by looking at the illustrations. To children, books were judged not only by their covers, but by the number

of pictures inside. The colors, the action — we couldn't wait to turn the pages!

As a tribute to the creators of these delightful stories and pictures, the University Library is featuring original illustrations from 10 award-winning books for children and young adults. The art-

work is on display until May 1 in the lobby of the Main Library and in the Oregon Collection on the second floor of the old library.

The awards are given annually by the American Library Association in honor of Randolph J. Caldecott, a nineteenth century illustrator, and Hogn Newbery, the first publisher to print books especially for children. The Caldecott Medal is awarded for the most distinguished picture book for children, and the Newbery Medal is given for the best contribution to children's literature.

The artwork on display is from the Special Collections Division of the University Library. The artwork, along with original manuscripts, illustrations and personal correspondence files of 300 authors or illustrators of books for children and young adults, makes up one of the three largest collections of its kind in the country.

All the material was donated to the University by the author/illustrator or heirs. Edward Kemp, special collections librarian, says the collection is currently worth about \$3.5 million, but in terms of its research value, the material is priceless.

Kemp, who is primarily responsible for the size and high caliber of the University's collection, says little effort is needed to persuade a children's author/illustrator to preserve his working material so others can use it.

"In this area, unlike any other, the children's author is anxious to perpetuate his craft." Kemp says only missionaries are as willing to share the details of their lives and work. The library also has a large missionary collection.

Kemp was well acquainted with many of the persons who donated their collections to the University.

"I've never met a more well-adjusted and active group of people than the children's author/illustrator. They are a giving, outgoing, unique people, unusually capable of talking about what they're doing," says Kemp.

Kurt Wiese, author/illustrator of "You Can Write Chinese" which was named the 1946 Caldecott Honor Book, was perfectly at home seated in his fireplace with his sketchbook. Wiese, who was sharply attuned to politics, enjoyed sketching political figures from television. Kemp says Wiese's political views are reflected in the sketchbooks, which are part of the collection.

Berta and Elmer Hader, who gave all their working material to the library, were nature lovers long before it was fashionable to be that way. Books about their furry friends and nature's wonders reflect the Haders' excitement with life. Neither of the Haders is living now, but Kemp remembers them with joy and affection.

"If nature came in the door, whether in the form of leaves or a four-footed creature, it was ac-

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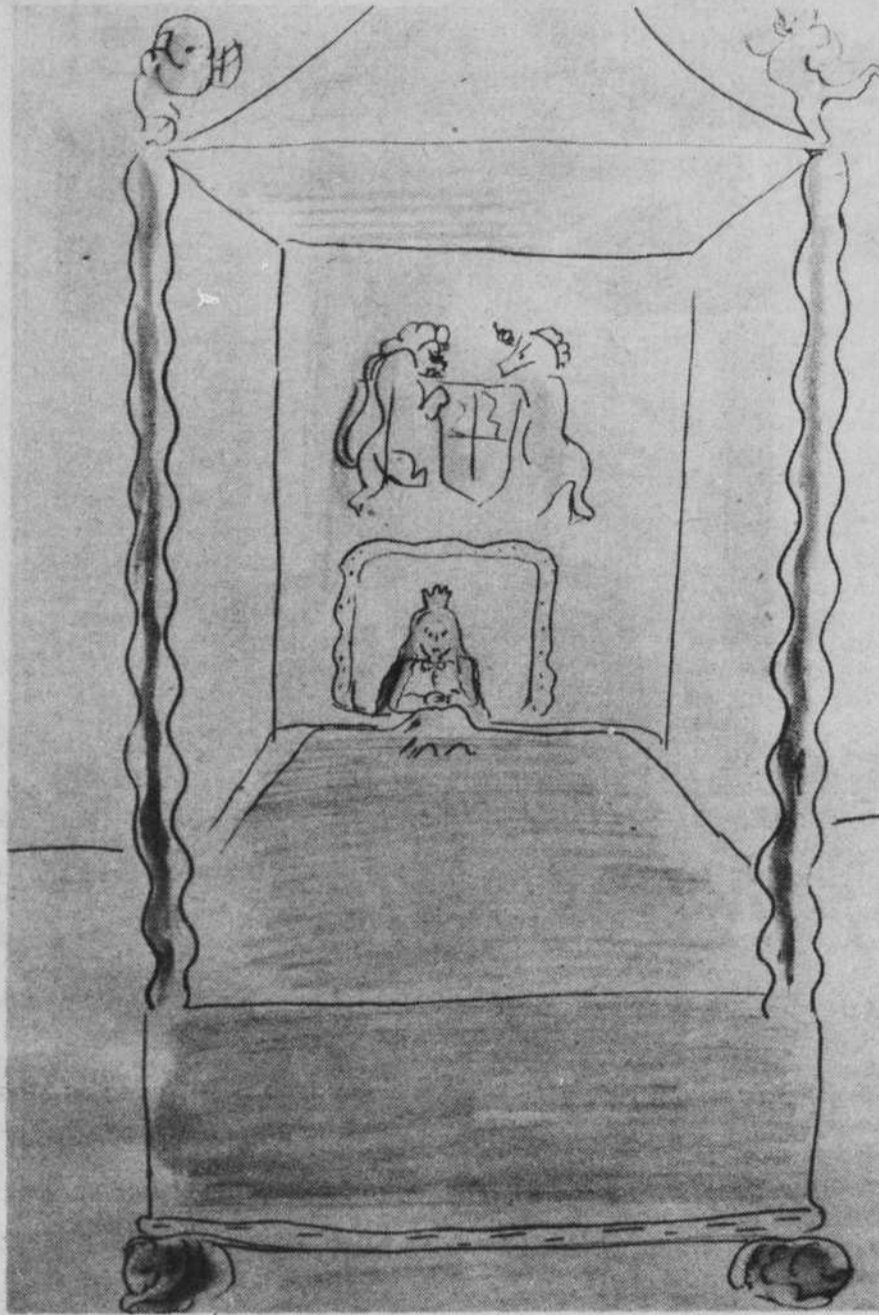
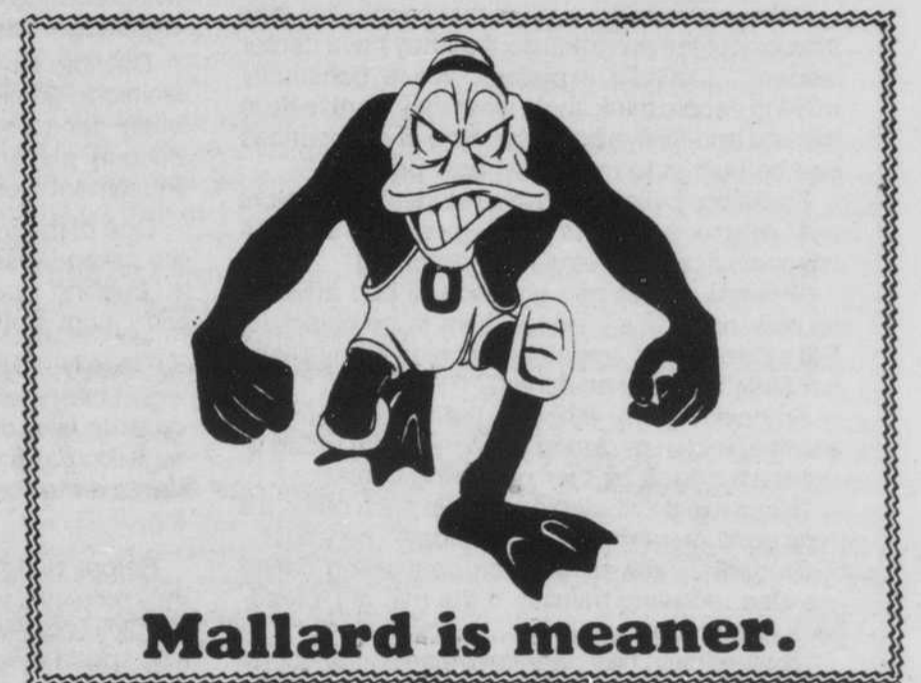


Photo by Dennis Hickok

The University Library is displaying, until May 1, original illustrations from 10 award-winning books for children and young adults, including this drawing by Louis Slobodkin for James Thurber's "Many Moons." Slobodkin is a Caldecott Medal winner.



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