

Curriculum Librarian Participates in International Children's Literature Travel Course

During the latter part of the summer, ESU's Curriculum Resources Librarian, Professor Elaine Ackroyd-Kelly, participated in a three and half-week long European Children's Literature program conducted by Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland. The group of 28 students, professors and librarians traveled through many of the countries of northern Europe – Iceland, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Poland & Sweden -- visiting important youth libraries, children's literature-related museums and other collections, and meeting with noted European authors, illustrators and translators who specialize in books for children and young adults.

After leaving from Baltimore-Washington International Airport, the group first traveled to Iceland where they spent three days meeting with illustrators Aslaug Johnsdottir, Ragnheiour Gestsdottir and author Kristin Steindottir and doing a little sightseeing. From there it was on to Denmark, home of the famous author Hans Christian Andersen, where they had meetings with authors Lene Kaaberbol (Copenhagen) and Bodil Bredsdorff (at Fredericksborg Castle), and toured the Hans Christian Andersen Museum in Copenhagen. Upon the return to Copenhagen at the end of the trip the group took a quick trip across the Kattegat to Malmo, Sweden, the site of one of Scandinavia's oldest universities.

The group also traveled extensively throughout Germany with stops in the large cities such as Frankfurt, Munich, Heidelberg, Stuttgart, Hamburg and Berlin and also small, quiet out-of-the-way villages that were the home to such noted children's authors as Hannah Jansen (Cologne), Gudrun Pausewang (Schlitz) and Inge Bart-Grotinger, Ellwangen, a medieval city where the contingent was officially welcomed by the mayor and presented with a book about

the city. The group also visited Bremen, home of the fabled "Bremen Town Musicians" whose statue appears in the town square. While in Bavaria, the opportunity was taken to cross over into adjacent Austria visiting the fabled old city of Salzburg where they met Austrian children's authors Werner Thuswaldner and Kate Westerlund, and where ESU ran a summer program for many years. Gudrun Alertsmeir, editor, and Minedition, the Austrian publisher, sponsored a side trip to Oberndorf, Austria to visit St. Nicholas Church -- the "Silent Night Chapel" -- where the famous Christmas carol was composed and first performed in 1818.

A connection with ESU on this trip came in Berlin where Professor Ackroyd-Kelly encountered Dr. Maureen McLaughlin of the Reading Department at "*Checkpoint Literacy*", the *International Reading Conference* where the latter was a presenter.



The easternmost leg of the journey took the students and librarians to Poland where they toured the Museum of Children's Literature at the Cultural Palace in Warsaw and had visits and discussions with well-known Polish author/illustrator Anna Onichimowska.

One of many highlights of the trip was the opportunity to spend the day at the International Youth Library located in Blutenburg Castle, Munich, Germany; that is the largest youth library in the world. All

books acquired by the Youth Library are by the donations of publishers and individuals from all countries of the world. On behalf of Kemp Library and the University Bookstore, Prof. Ackroyd-Kelly donated Pennsylvania children's author, Kristin Kane's, *K Is for Keystone* to the Youth Library.

The final stop on the "International Children's Literature" course was the amazing "Children's Literature Center" housed in the Library at the Danish University of Education, Copenhagen.

Twelve fiction books were required reading for the International Children's Literature course and were autographed in Europe by the respective authors and illustrators, and these copies have been donated to Kemp Library's ever-increasing international juvenile literature collection.