1987

The Third BYU Nonfiction Conference

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Thomas Hinckley

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Welcome to the 1987-88 publication year of Brigham Young University Children's Book Review. In addition to critiques of new books, you'll receive the list of top ten nonfiction and fiction books from our reading in 1986-87, what's new in paperback, favorite books by individual reviewers, play reviews, and this year a preview of our third conference on nonfiction books for children, which will be held July 12-15, 1988.

Brigham Young University has sponsored this conference biennially since 1984 because we want to spread the news that nonfiction is undergoing many dynamic changes. When we organized the last conference, a significant part of the nonfiction being published was series titles, mostly in the social sciences; now there are more individual titles with far greater diversity in subject matter. When we started reviewing, most nonfiction was low-budget black-and-white; now there are numerous publishers using full color. The level of biography and history publishing has remained fairly constant, but now there are many books about AIDS, suicide, sex, drugs, and related social issues. While it is painful to be barraged by the ills of our world, it seems to us that most of these books are better written than the nonfiction of even two years ago. When we began reviewing books, nonfiction publications represented only a small percentage of the books available to us; now they occupy two-thirds of the shelf space in our book room. We have organized this conference to let you know what is new, different, important and useful in the fast-growing field of nonfiction.

This third nonfiction conference will be called "Celebrating the Americas," and on the first day, July 12th, we will celebrate our U.S. heritage. Jean Fritz will be here to get you excited about the people and events in those thirteen original colonies who struggled to found the United States.

On the second day, July 13th, we'll be celebrating our English heritage — with Rosemary Davidson of Cambridge, England, telling us about the nonfiction books being published at Cambridge University Press. Barbara Williams, a favorite Utah author (Kevin's Grandma, Albert's Toothache) will also be a presenter and available in small group sessions for those with specific inquiries about her work.

On July 14th we'll celebrate our American neighbors by hearing from Milton Meltzer, whose carefully researched work includes books on the Mexican struggle as well as histories of minorities trying to find freedom in the United States — Black, Chinese, Jewish and Native Americans. That same day, another Utah author, Ivy Ruckman, will tell us about the research she has to do to write books like Night of the Twister (chosen as a "best" science book even though...
it's fiction), and in the afternoon, representatives from Canada and South America will show us what is being published for children in their countries.

Finally, on Friday, July 15th, our theme will be private celebrations, and Byrd Baylor will inspire you to initiate your own unique celebrations by describing the events that impelled her to write *I'm in Charge of Celebrations*. That afternoon William Wilson, an expert on folklore, will talk to us about the folklore of children.

Of course one reason for this conference is to encourage adults to share nonfiction books with children, so we're introducing you to Ad Spofford, a Utah teacher who uses nonfiction in all his teaching. Also, Beverly Kobrin will return for three days of the conference to tell us about new books and new things to do with them; and Harold Oaks will show us some dramatizations taken from nonfiction books.

As we've dedicated this year to a celebration of nonfiction, upcoming articles in the *Children's Book Review* will tell you more about Jean Fritz, Milton Meltzer, Ivy Ruckman, Barbara Williams and Byrd Baylor. Below is a copy of our preliminary schedule, and on the last page of this issue is a registration form. Make this your year to celebrate nonfiction with us.

### Preliminary Schedule

**BYU Third Nonfiction Conference**

**Celebrating the Americas**

**TUESDAY, JULY 12, 1988**

**Celebrating Our U.S. Heritage**

- 8:00–9:00 Registration
- 9:00–10:30 Ad Spofford
  - "Current Trends in Nonfiction"
- 11:00–11:50 Jean Fritz Forum
- 11:50–12:50 Question/Answer
- 1:00–2:30 Lunch on your own
- 2:30–3:30 Harold Oaks
  - "Dramatization of Nonfiction"
- 4:00–5:00 Jean Fritz
  - Autograph party
- 6:30–9:00 Dinner and speaker
  - Jean Fritz
  - (Dinner included with registration)

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 1988**

**Celebrating our English Heritage**

- 7:30–8:00 Registration
- 8:00–10:00 Bev Kobrin
- 10:00–10:15 Break
- 10:15–11:15 Rosemary Davidson
  - Cambridge University Press, England
- 11:15–12:30 Lunch with Rosemary Davidson and Barbara Williams
  - (Limited number — additional cost)
- 12:30–1:30 Bookstore Tour
- 1:30–2:20 Barbara Williams
- 2:20–2:35 Break
- 2:35–3:55 Bev Kobrin
- 4:00–4:45 Small Groups:
  - Barbara Williams
  - Rosemary Davidson
  - Garn Coombs
  - The Text as a Political Instrument
  - Purchasing Nonfiction Books
- 4:45–6:00 Autographing by authors
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<th>FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1988</th>
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<td>11:30-1:00</td>
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<td>1:00-2:00</td>
<td>Ivy Ruckman</td>
<td>12:45-1:45 Autographing by authors</td>
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<td>Break</td>
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<td>3:30-4:15</td>
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