



SpyGlass

tHe MaD hAtTeR, editor



Sitting around the tea table can be quite delightful -- especially if you've got some good dirt to dish. I keep my mouth shut and my ears open hoping to find some interesting tidbits that I can pass around

DRIVE, SHE SAID

Legend has it that Jella Lepman, founder of IBBY and the International Youth Library, used to have her driver, Herr Winter, take her to the airport in Munich and then race to meet her plane wherever it was going -- for example, Zurich -- so that she wouldn't have to ride in a taxi with a driver she didn't trust. Jella died in 1971 and her driver passed away in the mid-80s, but Karl-Heinz Winter, his son, inherited the position as facilities manager of the International Youth Library in Blutenburg Castle. Last December, he and his wife Anna had their first child, Josephine. Will history repeat itself? What the MaD hAtTeR wants to know, is how soon will this little princess want Daddy's services as a chauffeur?

CALLING ALL CRITICS

In a delightful poke at academia, in the July/August 1997 issue of *The Horn Book*, writer and children's book consultant Brian Alderson as much as admitted that he faked a paper for a very "prestigious" conference on modern critical approaches to children's literature. Under the androgynous pseudonym F. Quashi-Idun, a somewhat farcical paper entitled, "Envisioning Hegemony" was submitted and accepted, to Alderson's great glee. To see what he has to say about the dangers of post-modernist critical approaches to children's literature, you'll have to read it yourself.

GOING, GOING, GONE

At the 1997 Annual General Meeting of the Toronto Centre for the Study of Children's Literature, which took place very recently, the evening's piece de resistance was a rather unusual auction. Author and storyteller Aubrey Davis had the privilege of auctioning off several very full bags of vegetables, crackers, bagels and desserts (not all in the same bag!!!). TCSCCL surprisingly raised \$68.40. Are vegetable auctions going to become a fundraising trend in the children's literature community? TCSCCL Coordinator (and our Publisher), Sue Eason, has promised the MaD hAtTeR that she will send Davis a copy of *When Vegetables Go Bad*, by Don Gillmor, in lasting gratitude.

AND SPEAKING OF TCSCCL'S AGM...

Members of TCSCCL were rather surprised to see The Looking Glass designer Katherine Matthews! To the best of our knowledge, Katherine was supposed to be in France with her husband, Rob Lee. Katherine's presence was, of course, welcomed by all and sundry -- but talk about dropping in unexpectedly!