



## SpyGlass

*tHe MaD hAtTeR, editor*



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*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*

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### **A-Tisket, A-Tasket, Another Doyleist in the Basket!**

Perhaps **Sarah Ellis** was right and the CanLit world is just brimming over with secret admirers of children's writer **Brian Doyle!**

A friend of Spyglass recently pointed out that in **Mordecai Richler's** latest offering, *Barney's Version*, Barney frequents a drinking establishment called "Dink's". Since Montreal isn't all that far from Ottawa, could Mr. Richler be referring to Brian Doyle's Dink the Thinker? Nothing would surprise the Mad Hatter - but where is the International Doyle Brigade?

### **And Now A Word From Our Sponsor...**

When author **Linda Granfield** dedicated her most recent book, *The Legend of the Panda*, to **Jeffrey Canton**, former Program Coordinator at the **Canadian Children's Book Centre**, author and illustrator **Robin Muller** and **Ken Setterington**, Children's Coordinator for **Scarborough Public Library**, she planned to tell each dedicatee in person. Imagine her surprise when Ken Setterington received his copy from publisher Tundra's publicity department, Jeffrey Canton received his in a batch of books to review from the *Ottawa Citizen* and Robin Muller saw the book in a Toronto bookstore! All three were certainly delighted with Linda's gift, but The Mad Hatter wonders what ever happened to authorial control!

### **Flight of the Children's Librarians**

Holy Snowbirds, Batman! What is happening, The Mad Hatter wants to know, when two of our children's librarians flee from Toronto the Good's children's literature community to the orange groves of Florida?

*The Looking Glass* editor **Annette Goldsmith** departed from these shores earlier this year and has been seen wandering through the streets of Miami searching for a copy of **Sheila Egoff** and **Judith Saltman's** *The New Republic of Childhood*. **Doug Crane** who is a staff member of the Toronto Centre for the Study of Children's Literature and TLG publishing assistant, has ended up in Palm Beach at the County Library. It comes as no surprise to the Mad Hatter that when Doug was being shown around the Main Library, he was asked if he was The Doug Crane of *Looking Glass* fame. What the Mad Hatter wants to know is -- who's next?

### **Riddle Me, Riddle Me, Riddle Me This**

The Mad Hatter loves a good riddle - here's one that you kidlit lovers will appreciate!

What middle-aged children's writer was given to public nudity and wrote, "It seems to me in Nature's name/ All forms of dress might be to blame,/Except the pure and perfect dress/Of Adam's God-made nakedness."

Answer: **Eleanor Farjeon.**

Source: *Morning Has Broken: A Biography of Eleanor Farjeon* by Annabel Farjeon.



### Remembrance of Things Past

The Mad Hatter recently received an interesting tidbit regarding the life and times of children's writer **Louisa May Alcott**, gleaned from Lissa Paul's new book, *Reading Other Ways*. As the Alcott family's primary breadwinner, Louisa May penned not only her famous children's novels, but earned her living writing hospital sketches, gothic thrillers, abolitionist tracts as well as "moral pap for the young". In order to produce the more than 270 works she created, she taught herself to be ambidextrous so that she could switch hands when she got tired -- you'd need to be ambidextrous when you often spent up to fourteen hours a day writing, every day for a month! What the Mad Hatter wants to know is why she didn't write with both hands at once -- just think what she could have produced!

*Have you got something you want to share among friends? Something you might not want just anyone to know? Contact me, the MaD hAtTeR, c/o The Looking Glass. I promise to be really discreet and it'll be for my eyes only!*