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NEW MUSEUM NAMED BENEFICIARY OF IMPORTANT CHILDREN'S LITERATURE RESEARCH COLLECTION

**Former Editor-in-Chief of the American Library Association's *Book Links* Magazine
helps Museum establish major research library**

Amherst, Mass. (November 12, 2003) – The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art announced today that it will receive a 700-plus reference book library focusing on children's literature from author and critic Barbara Elleman, whose collection is the result of a thirty year association with the field of children's literature. The gift, to be called the *Barbara Elleman Research Library*, includes financial support from Barbara and her husband Don. Museum Director Nick Clark stated, "We are delighted that Barbara Elleman has chosen the Museum as the recipient of this vast and important collection. Her generous gift has quickly helped to establish the Museum as a premier resource for the in-depth study of children's illustrated literature."

The significant donation includes subjects ranging from the history of children's books (Jane Bingham's *Fifteen Centuries of Children's Literature*), to explorations of the art of the picture book (Perry Nodelman's *Words about Pictures* and Henry Pitz's *Illustrating Children's Books*), and biographies on A.A. Milne, Laurent deBrunhoff, William Steig, Jessie Wilcox Smith, Ezra Jack Keats, Wanda Gág, and Leonard Everett Fisher. Also included are two books authored by Elleman: *Tomie dePaola: His Art and His Stories* (Putnam, 1999) and *Virginia Lee Burton: A Life in Art* (Houghton, 2002).

Elleman, who received her Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and her Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of Denver, worked as a school and public librarian before accepting a position in 1975 as reviewer and an editor for the American Library Association's *Booklist* magazine; in 1990 she created and became editor-in-chief of *Book Links*. After leaving ALA in 1996, Elleman was named Distinguished Scholar of Children's Literature at Marquette University in Milwaukee where she lectured and promoted the use of children's books in the School of Education. In 2002 she guest curated a highly acclaimed exhibit of original work by Massachusetts picture book author and illustrator Virginia Lee Burton, most famous for her classic story *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*.

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During her career, Elleman was particularly attracted to the art of the picture book and her collection reflects that interest--books about the illustrated book as well as picture books themselves. The extensive collection includes first editions (many signed) of works by Beatrix Potter, A.A. Milne, Tasha Tudor, Leonard Weisgard, Robert McCloskey, Virginia Lee Burton, Maurice Sendak, Chris Van Allsburg, Steven Kellogg, Tomie dePaola, Wendell Minor, and Eric Carle. Elleman's gift begins what will be a continuing transfer of her book collection to the Museum. The non-circulating archival library will be cataloged and will be eventually available to scholars at the Museum.

The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art is the first full-scale museum in this country devoted to national and international picture book art, conceived and built with the aim of celebrating the art that we are first exposed to as children. Through the exploration of images that are familiar and beloved, it is the Museum's goal to foster connections between visual and verbal literacy and to provide visitors of all ages and backgrounds with the confidence to appreciate and enjoy art of every kind.

The Museum—which houses three galleries dedicated to rotating exhibitions of picture book art, a hands-on Art Studio, a Reading Library, an Auditorium, and a popular Café and Museum Shop—is located at 125 West Bay Road, Amherst, MA. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon to 4 p.m. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$2 for children under 18, and \$10 for a family of six. For further information and directions, call 413-658-1100 or visit the Museum's website at www.picturebookart.org.

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