

# Notes

## Kathleen Lines: Obituary

Kathleen Lines, who died last Christmas Eve at the age of 86, devoted her professional life to literature for young people.

Eldest in a family of four, Kathleen Mary Lines was born in Edmonton in 1902. After moving to Toronto she began working in the public library system there in association with Lillian Smith, an American who at that time was the only trained children's librarian in the British commonwealth. "K," as she was known to all her friends, assisted Smith in setting up Boys and Girls House, the Commonwealth's first children's library. This was at a time when literature for children was given a low priority by librarians and publishers alike.

Before the Second World War K moved to England, where she stayed for the rest of her life. After joining the Oxford University Press in its Children's Department, she used her Canadian training to issue "Four to Fourteen." This, the first list of recommended children's books produced in Britain, had considerable influence on the subsequent development of the field.

In the 1950s and 60s K worked at Faber & Faber and the Bodley Head, becoming friends with authors such as Walter de la Mare, Rosemary Sutcliffe, Lucy Boston, Arthur Ransome, Noel Streatfield and Edward Artizzone. She became increasingly well-known as an editor, her name appearing on a growing list of children's books that include standards such as "Lavender's Blue" and a series of anthologies from Faber & Faber.

K was a strong personality who, encouraging high standards in everyone she worked with, achieved a considerable influence in her area.

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## *Governor-General's Award*

Welwyn Wilton Katz of London, Ontario, won the **Governor-General's Literary Award** in the children's literature, English text category. Her winning novel, *The Third Magic*, published by Groundwood is reviewed in this issue of CCL.