

THE CHRYSLER MUSEUM

28 February 1995

Ms. Esphyr Slobodkina
55 Ridgewood Road
West Hartford, CT 06107

Dear Ms. Slobodkina,

The Chrysler Museum is organizing an exhibition entitled, *Myth, Magic and Mystery: One Hundred Years of American Children's Book Illustrations* which will be presented in Norfolk from June to early September 1996. It will then travel to the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, Tennessee from November 1996 to early January 1997 and to The Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, Delaware from mid February to mid April 1997.

The exhibition will span the years 1895-1994, and is the first comprehensive survey of American children's book illustrations over this period. It will begin during the "Golden Age" of illustration in America and will culminate in the illustrations being made today in a time when children's books have seen a great rebirth and must compete against all kinds of electronic media. The show will explore four major themes: Alphabets and Nursery Rhymes; Myths, Fables and Fairy Tales; Stories for Young Listeners and Readers; High Adventures and Mysteries. *Myth, Magic and Mystery* will include classics such as *Cinderella*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Rip van Winkle* and *Mother Goose* to show how these stories and rhymes have been interpreted over time. The exhibit will also present the development of a book, from concept to completion giving the viewer an opportunity to see firsthand the many stages a book undergoes before it reaches the reader. This exhibition is co-organized by guest curator Michael Patrick Hearn, a well-known authority on the subject of children's literature, H. Nichols B. Clark, curator of American art, and Trinkett Clark, curator of twentieth-century art at The Chrysler Museum.

The Museum will publish a fully-illustrated catalogue with essays by the three co-curators that will provide an overview as well as discuss the major categories in a meaningful art-historical and sociological context. The wide range of material will enable children, parents, and grandparents to connect with some of their favorite books and through this experience participate in a shared educational and cultural moment. The catalogue and exhibition are

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made possible, in part, by a generous grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, Inc. Additional funding has been provided by the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation.


I am writing to ask if you would consider lending the following works you created to this exhibition:

1. ^{"Nanny Goat"} ~~Lamb~~ and Horse," from *The Wonderful Feast* [1938] (see photocopy)
2. "F is for feet," from *The Sleepy ABC* [1953] (see photocopy)

Although it is always difficult to part with a cherished work, it goes without saying how crucial your participation is to the success of this undertaking.

In the event that you are able to lend to the exhibition, I have taken the liberty of enclosing the pertinent loan form which you will need to complete, returning the white copy to our Registrar, Catherine Jordan. Your prompt attention in this regard is greatly appreciated. Naturally, The Chrysler Museum will assume all costs of packing, shipping and wall to wall insurance of the work. I hope we can count on your participation in this important exhibition.

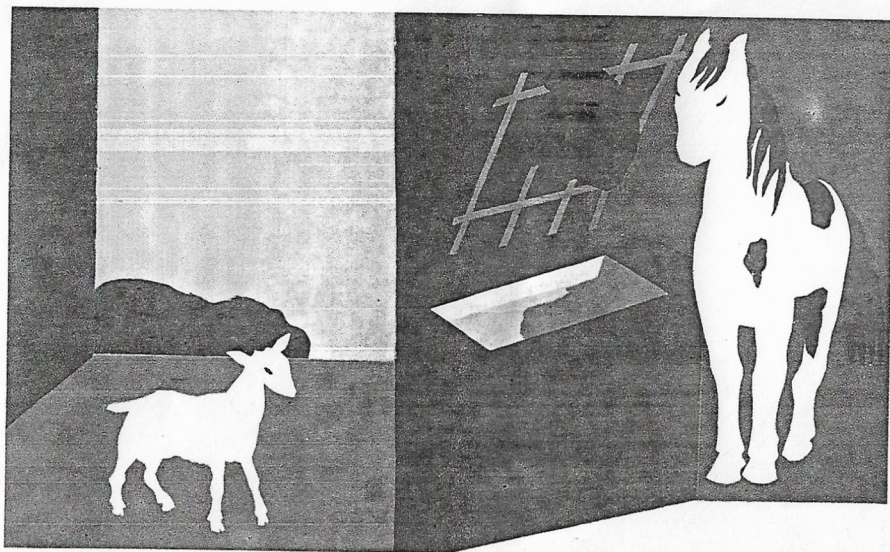
Sincerely,



Robert H. Frankel
Director

Enclosure

#1160



60. ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATION FOR
"THE WONDERFUL FEAST"
1938 (restored by the artist in 1991)
Collage on cardboard

61. ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATION FOR
"THE WONDERFUL FEAST"
1938 (restored by the artist in 1991)
Collage on cardboard



is for Feet that
won't fall asleep