

26 July 2016

To the Chairperson of St Petersburg Branch of IBBY Russia,
Director of Central Children's Library named after A.S. Pushkin

Dear Ms Lydmila Secretareva,

On behalf of the IBBY Executive Committee and IBBY members worldwide it is an honour and a pleasure to congratulate you on your 70th anniversary.

For more than three decades you have successfully led the main children's library of St. Petersburg. The Library is an active and important cultural centre not for young people, but also for children's literature and reading specialists from Russia and abroad.

In 1988, following the suggestion of the then IBBY Executive Director Leena Maissen and Sergei Mikhalkov, the St Petersburg Branch of IBBY Russia was established. Thanks to your wise and farsighted policies, the main Russian IBBY projects were included in the plans for the cultural programmes of the Library Department.

Since 2000, a collection of the IBBY Honour List books has been built up as one of your initiatives. This unique collection includes the best books from all IBBY sections selected for their excellence in the three categories of writing, illustration and translation.

The celebration of International Children's Book Day is always well attended and enjoyed by many young readers. Another active and original annual project is the design and publication of a Russian-language calendar highlighting IBBY events, projects and activities that take place each month.

Thanks to you and your colleagues, IBBY Russia and the St Petersburg Branch in particular, have nurtured an international cooperation with the Baltic countries that is very effective. The Library has joint book projects with Denmark, Estonia, Norway and Sweden, to mention just a few.

The St Petersburg branch of Russian IBBY, which is based at the Library, has increased the presence of Russian children's books in the world, while at the same time you have spread international values among young readers and specialists in Russia.

With this letter we are happy to join you and Library staff at this remarkable event to celebrate your anniversary. Birthdays are always a new start: a time for new endeavours with new goals. We wish you many happy returns as you move forward with fresh confidence and courage.

Furthermore, as you continue to attract more young readers and offer them many more good projects and books we wish you every success.

Respectfully,



Wally De Doncker
IBBY President



Angela Lebedeva
Jury President of the 2016 IBBY
Asahi Reading Promotion Award



Liz Page
IBBY Executive Director