A Permanent and Significant Contribution: The Life of May Hill Arbuthnot

Sharon McQueen

Abstract

May Hill Arbuthnot (1884–1969) was not a children’s librarian, nor did she teach children’s librarianship. She was not a scholar of children’s librarianship. How, then, did she come to have an entry in the biographical dictionary Pioneers and Leaders in Library Services to Youth among the pantheon of youth services legends that included Anne Carroll Moore, Augusta Baker, Mildred Batchelder, and Charlemae Rollins? Why did American Libraries include her among one of hundred of the most important leaders of librarianship in the twentieth century? And why did ALA’s Children’s Services Division (now ALSC) agree to administer a lecture series named in Arbuthnot’s honor?

References


Mathew Bolton, Supervisor of Records, Teachers College, Columbia University, e-mail to the author, May 6, 2013.

Anne Mitchell, Michelle Seligson, and Fern Marx, Early Childhood Programs and the Public Schools: Between Promise and Practice (Dover, MA: Aubum House, 1989), 8


“News of the Classes and Associations: School of Education Notes,” The University of Chicago Magazine XV, no.1 (1922): 34.

Sutherland, “ARBUTHNOT, May Hill,” 30

May Hill, “Student Teacher and the Whole Child,” Journal of the National Education Association XVIII (January 1929): 7–8

Helen Conger, Case Western Reserve University Archives, e-mail to the author, April 10, 2013


Modeling adult behaviors that promote emergent literacy in library programs is one example of parental education, or parent education, in libraries today.


WNBA Honors Marchette Chute and May Hill Arbuthnot,” Publishers Weekly CLXXV (March 9, 1959): 24–26


May Hill Arbuthnot, “Content in the Kindergarten Curriculum,” The Journal of the National Education Association 22, no. 2 (February 1933): 41–43

May Hill Arbuthnot. (Contemporary Literary Criticism). print Print. Her happy adjustment to the dual demands of her Chinese-American life makes this an unusually significant book. (p. 228). May Hill Arbuthnot. "Transitions from Juvenile to Adult Reading," in her Children's Reading in the Home (copyright © 1969 by Scott, Foresman and Company; reprinted by permission), Scott, Foresman, 1969, pp. 211-41. Fifth Chinese Daughter—still in print after 25 years—was a deceptively simple memoir of childhood and adolescence in San Francisco's Chinatown during the '30's and '40's.