



**The German Book Office New York**

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## **Eight children's and young adult book editors travelled to Germany**

**The 14<sup>th</sup> GBO New York Editors' Trip took place in Hamburg, Würzburg and Frankfurt from June 26 to July 1.**

Germany was the Guest of Honor at this year's Children's Book Fair in Bologna, presenting its literature with the slogan "LOOK!". At the core of their book fair exhibition was an extensive display of illustrators, of which Riky Stock, director of the German Book Office New York, speaks very fondly: "Germany presented a wide range of art by its illustrators. It has so much to offer in the arena of children's books, and so we chose the children's book as our overall theme of this year's Editors' Trip in order to take advantage of its current visibility in the industry. We wanted to assist international editors in building a network with German publishers in order to learn about the German children's book market." From June 26 to July 1, eight members of the publishing world, representing four English-speaking countries, travelled to Germany:

Paula Ayer (project manager at Annick Press in Vancouver, Canada)

Julie Bliven (editor at Charlesbridge in Watertown, MA)

Hilary Van Dusen (editor at Candlewick Press in Somerville, MA)

Anthony Hinton (editor at David Fickling Press in Oxford, England)

Greg Hunter (editor at Lerner Publishing Group in Minneapolis, MN)

Rachel Lawson (publisher at Gecko Press in Wellington, New Zealand)

Traci Todd (editor at ABRAMS Books in New York)

Kristin Zelazko (editor at Albert Whitman & Company in Park Ridge, IL)

This Editors' Trip aimed to facilitate networking between international editors and publishers and German publishing houses, informing the participants on current trends, books, and ideas in the German children's book industry.

The participants, accompanied by Riky Stock, began their travels in Hamburg, where they visited several publishing houses, including Oetinger and Aladin Verlag. They also visited the aforementioned "LOOK!" exhibition at Fabrik der Künste. The trip's next stop was Frankfurt, where participants paid a visit to S. Fischer Verlag and took part in intriguing discussions at

Haus des Buches. Other stops on the trip included Arena Verlag in Würzburg and Loewe in Bindlach.

The participating editors were enthusiastic about this year's trip to Germany and felt it was an interesting and rewarding experience. They did not just get a detailed and multifaceted picture of the German children's book market, but also made valuable new contacts with German publishers. The trip laid a solid foundation for future collaborations and acquisitions of German-language books. The English-speaking guests evaluated the journey as a "fascinating and detailed window into German publishing" and a "thought-provoking and immensely enjoyable week" (Anthony Hinton).

### **About the German Book Office**

The German Book Office New York (GBO) was founded in 1998 as a non-profit organization. It is one of four foreign offices of the Frankfurt Book Fair. It aims to connect American publishers with German rights managers, editors, translators and readers. One of the office's many projects is the annual Editors' Trip. The GBO also promotes translations of German literature through publications including the bi-annual *New Books in German* and the GBO Rights List. The GBO is one of the partner organizations of the annual Festival Neue Literatur, and organizes other literary events and workshops throughout the year. The GBO also promotes new books in translation with its "Book of the Month" selection and the BookExpo America. The GBO is funded by the German Foreign Office on a by-project basis.