Bookbird: A Flight through Time
Edited by Valerie Coghlan and Evelyn B. Freeman
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“Bookbird is a miniature United Nations in print.”
Akoss Ofori-Mensah, Ghana

Bookbird: A Flight through Time
captures in words and images the story of Bookbird:
A Journal of International Children’s Literature, the official publication of the International Board on Books
for Young People, from its beginning as a modest bulletin to an internationally acclaimed quarterly publication. Through the
voices of many involved with Bookbird, this book tells the story of an important part of children’s literature in an international context
over more than sixty years.
Bookbird: A Flight through Time is essential reading for teachers and students at all levels, librarians, authors, illustrators, publishers, historians of children’s books and childhood, and anyone interested in the development of children’s literature in the 20th and 21st centuries. It is an authoritative, accessible, and informative history of children’s literature internationally.

Some key features of the book include:
- Foreword by Hans Christian Andersen Award recipient, Katherine Paterson.
- Five chronological sections: The Early Years, The Story Continues, New Beginnings, Into the 21st century, & Still Flying High.
- Twenty-two articles by contributors from seven countries.
- An Overview and photo montage for each section.
- A poem by a Hans Christian Andersen recipient in English and the poem’s original language in each section.
- Archival photos of IBBY, Bookbird, and the International Youth Library throughout.

The history of Bookbird is intertwined with that of IBBY and the International Youth Library in Munich, all founded by the extraordinary Jella Lepman in the years following World War II.

“I highly recommend Bookbird: A Flight Through Time. Bookbird is not only an advocate for innovation— it serves as IBBY’s memory and is the guardian of Jella Lepman’s legacy. Anyone dealing with children’s literature should read this book.”

Wally De Doncker, Belgium, author and past-President of IBBY

Roger Mello, Brazilian author/illustrator and recipient of the 2014 Hans Christian Andersen Award for Illustration, praised the book: “...a fabulous book, fundamental, indispensable! A gift and a right for those who understand that characters and books through time are the possibility of creating a new future.”