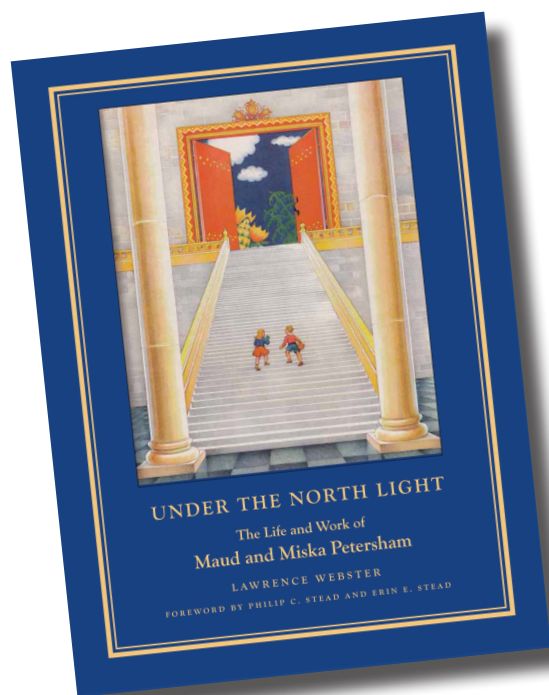


# Lawrence Webster's *Under the North Light: The Life and Work of Maud and Miska Petersham*



Chronicles the award-winning children's book authors/illustrators:

- Considered pioneers in a golden age of children's book publishing
- Awarded a Caldecott Honor in 1942
- Won a Caldecott Medal in 1946

*Under the North Light* is itself a winner of the 2013 Independent Publisher Book Award in biography, the 2013 Benjamin Franklin Award in biography, and it is a finalist for the 2012 ForeWord Book of the Year Award, also in biography.

"This biography looks at the lives of two of the most influential illustrators of children's books in the 20th century and will be of interest to scholars, librarians, and art students. In lively prose, Webster recounts how two artists with disparate beginnings met in a New York art institute in 1912, married, and collaborated on exquisite award-winning children's books for more than 40 years. Comprehensive research including the artists' own correspondence and letters from children; commentary from authors, reviewers, educators, and businessmen; and interviews with family members result in an endearing account of the process, dedication, and joy that went into each project. Numerous texts and illustrations are discussed at length and are accompanied by vibrant colorful reproductions. The author emphasizes the artists' originality and significance, noting that their work presents a picture of the cultural trends of their times."

—*School Library Journal*

## **Favorite Books of 2012**

"Loaded with ravishing illustrations, this is a labor of love, recounting the life and work of Maud and Miska Petersham. If you love children's books, order a copy without delay."

—*Books and Culture*

"Maud and Miska Petersham's annual Christmas cards form a treasured part of the Horn Book archives, and several are reproduced in [this] handsomely designed and bountifully illustrated [book]. This warm tribute to [the Petershams'] collaboration is appropriately introduced by one of today's picture-book power couples, Erin E. and Philip C. Stead."

—*Horn Book Magazine*

"*Under the North Light* belongs on the desk of every illustrator of children's stories, accomplished or aspiring, as well as in the hands of anyone who loves children's books or appreciates biographies of interesting people."

—*ForeWord Reviews*

A related title from WoodstockArts is the award-winning art book edition of Anita M. Smith's *Woodstock History and Hearsay*.

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#### About the author

Lawrence Webster knew the Petershams while growing up in Woodstock during the 1950s and 1960s and has always loved and admired their books and the lives they led. A librarian and nonprofit consultant, Webster lives outside Philadelphia. *Under the North Light* is her first writing for love of the subject rather than to meet a deadline.

#### From the back cover of the book

Maud and Miska Petersham, early 1920s, in front of the large, north-facing window in their Woodstock, New York studio. Artists around the world have always valued the consistency of north light as the ideal for illuminating their work spaces. Maud and Miska worked together across this drawing board for close to forty years.

