



City of Cambridge

22.

IN CITY COUNCIL

January 6, 1997

MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR REEVES
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of **Margret Rey** at the age of ninety on Saturday, December 21, 1996; and

WHEREAS: Margret and her late husband H.A. Rey were the co-authors of seven books about Curious George, the curious monkey loved by generations of children; Margret wrote the text and her husband did the drawings; and

WHEREAS: Margret was born in Hamburg she studied art in Dusseldorf; she later married H.A. Rey and they moved to Paris; and

WHEREAS: This union led to the children's book entitled "Raffy and the Nine Monkeys" in 1938; and in 1939 the Rey's moved to New York City where, under contract, the first Curious George Book was written; and

WHEREAS: Margret will be sorely missed by all she touched and loved, especially the children; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of Margret Rey at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Rey family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council January 6, 1997

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

D. Margaret Drury

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk

22.
Mayor Russell

Councillor Trimble

Councillor Sullivan

Whereas:

This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Margaret Rey at the age of ninety ~~years~~ on Saturday, December 21, 1996, and

Whereas:

Margaret and her late husband H. A. Rey were the co-authors of seven books about ~~the~~ Curious George ~~books~~, Margaret wrote the text and her husband ~~did~~ the drawings; and

Whereas:

~~Margaret~~ Margaret was born in Hamburg where she studied art in Dusseldorf ^{she} later ~~she~~ married H. A. Rey and they moved to Paris; ~~and~~ And

Whereas:

This union led to the children's book entitled "Raffy and the Nine Monkeys" in 1938; and in 1939 the Rey's moved to New York City, ~~and~~ where under contract the first Curious George Book was written; and

Still back still

WHEREAS: Margaret will be sorely missed by all ~~he~~ she
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RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family
of MARGARET REY at this time of such personal loss; and
be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed
copy of this resolution to the Rey family on behalf of
the entire City Council.



GLOBE FILE PHOTO

Margret Rey celebrates Curious George's 50th birthday in 1991.

Margret Rey, at 90; co-authored Curious George children's books

By Tom Long
GLOBE STAFF

Margret Rey of Cambridge, co-author of the Curious George children's books, died at her home Saturday. She was 90.

Mrs. Rey and her late husband, H.A. Rey, wrote seven books about the misadventures of Curious George, the monkey, and the Man in the Yellow Hat who led him out of the jungle. Mr. Rey did the drawings and Mrs. Rey wrote the text.

The books are seldom on the critics' lists of recommended reading, but generations of children have loved them. There are now more than 50 million in print.

In a story published in the Globe on Nov. 22, 1987, in honor of George's 50th birthday, one reader summed up the attraction. "Each of us grows older every year, but George remains forever the same, living in a delightful state of suspended animation."

Like the adventures of the monkey she made famous, Mrs. Rey's adventures in children's publishing were purely unintentional. "We never had any intention of doing children's books," she said in a profile published in the Globe on Sept. 7, 1991.

A native of Hamburg, she was born Margret Waldstein. She studied art in Dusseldorf and became a photographer and copywriter for an advertising firm.

In 1935, she went to Rio de Janeiro to visit H.A. Rey, a fellow German, who once dated her sister and moved to Brazil to operate an export firm. Shortly afterward they were married. The couple lived in Paris. That's where Curious George was born.

"My husband did some funny drawings for a newspaper about a giraffe with a very long neck," she said. "The French publisher Gallimard saw them and asked him to do a children's book."

The result was "Raffy and the Nine Monkeys," published in France in 1938. In the book, ZoZo, the character on which George is based, first appeared.

The Reys' Paris sojourn ended in 1939, when the Germans occupied the city. The couple eventually made it to New York City. A month after

their arrival, they had a contract to publish a Curious George book.

The first book was set in Paris, subsequent books in New York and Boston, where George got a job, learned to fly a kite, flew into space and had to go to the hospital.

The book that required the most research, she said, was "Curious George Goes to the Hospital," the last in the series. The book was written in collaboration with Children's Hospital in Boston and was intended to make hospitals less frightening to children.

"I still hear from mothers who tell me how much the book helped their child. That makes me feel good," she said.

The couple, whose books were so popular with children, never had children themselves. They liked to travel too much, Mrs. Rey said.

Mrs. Rey remained very protective of Curious George. In 1993, she took a case to the Supreme Court to halt a company from selling poor-quality Curious George products. "Curious George is not Strawberry Shortcake," she said.

Earlier this year, on her 90th birthday, she donated \$1 million to the Boston Public Library and \$1 million to the Beth Israel Hospital's Center for Alternative Medicine.

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Councillor Trantafellow
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author of Curious

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Consent Order #22

*Entire
membership*

Mayor Russell, Councillors Triantafillou,
Sullivan, Reeves and entire membership
re: Resolution on the death of
Margret Rey.

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In City Council January 6, 1997

ORDER ADOPTED