Lois Lenski works are shown at University of Montana library

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LENSKI WORKS ARE SHOWN AT U LIBRARY

An exhibition of works of Lois Lenski, famed author and illustrator of children's works, is being shown by the University of Montana library. The showing includes first edition books, magazine articles by and about her, a series of her woodcuts and a biographical photograph album.

The display is a gift to the library from Miss Lenski, who now lives in Tarpon Springs, Florida.

Lois Lenski is noted for her works dealing with the hardships of children in different parts of the country.

Among her works are "Cotton in My Sack," the story of cotton growers; "Boom Town Boy," a tale of Oklahoma oil country; "Judy's Journey East," an account of an East Coast migrant-working family; "Blue Ridge Billy," a story of a North Carolina mountain lad; "Bayou Suzette," dealing with the Louisiana bayou region; "Texas Tomboy," tale of the Texas ranch country; "San Francisco Boy," story of a lad in the Golden Gate City and "Strawberry Girl," narrative of a young girl in the Florida lake country. Latest of Miss Lenski's regional works are "We Live in the City" and "We Live in the South."

"Strawberry Girl" was awarded the American Library Association's Newbery Medal for "the most distinguished book of the year" in 1946.

Daughter of a minister, Miss Lenski grew up in Ohio and studied to be a teacher. She was graduated from Ohio State University and studied art in New York and England.

Miss Lenski writes her books "on location" living each of the stories as they unfold.

Speaking of her much lauded regional writings, she says:

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"In this series of regional books, I am trying to present vivid sympathetic pictures of the real life of different localities. We need to know our country better and understand people different from ourselves so that we can say 'This then is the way people live. Because I understand it, I admire and love them.'"

The University of Montana library first came to Miss Lenski's attention through her acquaintance with another Tarpon Springs resident who was attending a UM summer session. The student, a University alumnus, wrote Miss Lenski deploiring the lack of children's books in the University collection.

At that time, Miss Lenski sent UM Library Dean Earle C. Thompson a $100 check with which to purchase additional volumes for the children's book collection.

Dean Thompson had been attempting to increase library holdings in that area for both library science students and for education students.

Some months later, Miss Lenski wrote again to Dean Thompson offering to donate some of her works. This exhibition is the result of that donation.