Imagine two large gallery spaces - and they are filled with works of art, elegantly and effectively displayed, not on the walls so that the viewer has to stand in ranks to look at them, but on interesting frameworks that stood down the centre of these spaces. We were not being invited to look at Old Masters or Contemporary installations. Contemporary, yes, but all the art on display was the work of illustrators - artists whose work was to create the visual excitement in books; this was the Biennale de Illustration, Bratislava.

From the very beginning BIB has been held under the auspices of UNESCO and the International Board on Books for Young People, IBBY, with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Slovakia, so it was wonderful to be invited as the Executive Committee to combine meeting with the celebration of its 50th anniversary. To be part of the Award giving ceremony was impressive since it took place in the Old Theatre in Bratislava and it was exciting to hear the winners being read out - congratulations to all those commended and those who won.

We had been invited by IBBY Slovakia who made sure we were welcome. Of course the days were spent on IBBY business, but we were given the opportunity to visit the Red Stone Castle with its spacious cellars designed by Albrecht Durer as well as attend the opening of the exhibition of work by previous winners of the Biennale Grand Prix in Bratislava Castle. Then there was the visit to Medzinárodiný Dom Umenia Pre Deti - International House of art for Children. Here we walked through rooms that had been transformed by artists such as Peter Uchnár and Albin Brunovsky into wonderlands for children to delight in and explore - as we adults did. The rooms were all based on books illustrated by these artists - Gulliver’s Travels, Grimm’s Fairytales. Here the book, the illustrator and the "audience" worked together to create that special imaginative journey.

Ferelith Horden, 2015