



# THE GRYPHON

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE OSBORNE  
AND LILLIAN H. SMITH COLLECTIONS

Fall 2018

Patron: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra,  
The Hon. Lady Ogilvy



## FROM THE CHAIR

2018 IS PROVING TO BE A BUSY YEAR for the Friends, working with the Osborne's new Senior Department Head Sephora Hosein and the new Osborne Services Specialist Martha Scott.

Last spring, at the 15th Albert Lahmer Memorial Lecture, we enjoyed Judith Dawson's informative and delightful talk on early children's advertising booklets. Judith led us through some of the treasures of her children's ephemera collection that she has donated to the Osborne and we thank her for a fascinating presentation ([see photos on page 10](#)).

At the AGM before the lecture, Sylvia Murray performed her last duty as an Executive member in presenting the Nominating Committee report. Sylvia has served many terms as a tireless and cheerful member of the Friends Executive and we thank her for all her work.

As you will see in Sephora's message, we are saying farewell to Lori McLeod, longtime staff member who retired in August. On behalf of all the Friends, we thank Lori for her many contributions to the Osborne Collection over the years.

For many years, Masako Yanagimoto has ably assisted the Friends on a freelance basis—handling membership lists and orders and doing the design, layout and mailing of *The Gryphon*. She stepped down this summer. We thank her for all her work

over many years and know that, while her work and studies will keep her busy, we will see her at Osborne events.

We will also say goodbye to Mary Rae Shantz, TPL's Manager, Service Development, Special Collections, when she retires in early October. Mary Rae has always shown a passion and enthusiasm for special collections and we thank her for all her work.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our Pantazzi and Stubbs lectures this fall; [see pages 3 and 5](#) for details on our two award-winning speakers. We hope that those of you in or visiting Toronto will have a chance to explore the fall exhibits listed on the back page.

The Friends have been working on our electronic mailing list in order to better communicate with you between issues of *The Gryphon*. If we have your email address already, you will be receiving information from us requesting that you authorize us to continue emailing (this is a legal requirement). If you are not receiving our e-messages and want to be on the

list, please make sure your email address and authorization are on the membership form enclosed.

Make sure to check our [Friends Facebook](#) page and our Friends website ([www.osbornecollection.ca](http://www.osbornecollection.ca)) for updates as well.

**Gillian O'Reilly**



*Gift of Judith and Tom Dawson*

# NEWS FROM THE COLLECTION

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THIS IS MY FIRST MESSAGE AS SENIOR DEPARTMENT HEAD of the Osborne Collection. I am delighted for this opportunity to share news of the staff and collection with you, and to thank you for your ongoing and generous support, dear Friends.

Having administrative responsibility for both the Osborne Collection and the Merril Collection is a tall order, but one that I have undertaken earnestly and with enthusiasm. To ensure the steadfast quality of subject matter specialization for which Osborne is renowned, the position of Services Specialist was created, and Osborne's very own resident expert, Martha C. Scott, was the successful candidate. Martha brings many years of expert knowledge to her new role, having worked as a General Librarian in Osborne from 1999 to March 2018. She continues to endow the collection with her talent and strengths.

We are immensely pleased to welcome Jennifer Yan as our newest addition to the staff as of June 2018, and congratulate her on her position as General Librarian, Osborne Collection. Jennifer is an experienced and enthusiastic children's librarian, who most recently worked at Toronto Public Library's Riverdale branch.

Warmest congratulations are extended to Librarian Lori McLeod on her retirement. After thirty-three years with Toronto Public Library, which included twenty-three years at Osborne, Lori retired in August, 2018. Between 2001 and 2005, Lori filled the cataloguer position that was generously funded by the Friends. Our sincere thanks for many dedicated years of service and our best wishes go with her.

In an age of social media and endless information-sharing possibilities, the Osborne Collection is proud to support a continuously active digitization program, aimed at making the rare and unique

reserves of the collection increasingly accessible to all. In late June 2018, the web services team at Toronto Public Library unveiled a brand-new "skin" or front page of the Digital Archive, the appearance of which now has much greater visual impact and is much more mobile-friendly. Digitized content from the Osborne Collection is highlighted prominently as a featured collection, and offers an instantaneous link to over 3700 items that are currently in the archive.



*Gift of Judith and Tom Dawson*

My first eight months have been full of learning opportunities. My intention is to help the collection grow and thrive, while continuing to cultivate a welcoming and inclusive space. With the help of the dedicated staff and the generosity and support of the Friends, we will continue to develop and promote innovative programs and events, and

expand what are already renowned and world-class resources.

*Sephora Hosein*

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## Welcome to Our New Editor

Welcome to Chandra Wohleber, the incoming editor of *The Gryphon*. Chandra is a longtime Friends volunteer and frequent contributor to this publication. If you have suggestions and ideas for future issues, please contact her at [ciwohleber@gmail.com](mailto:ciwohleber@gmail.com).

THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SYBILLE PANTAZZI MEMORIAL LECTURE



Photo credit: Steve Farmer

Images from Sidewalk Flowers by Jan Arno Lawson, illustrated by Sydney Smith, copyright © 2015. Reproduced with permission from Groundwood Books Ltd., Toronto. www.groundwoodbooks.com

# Small in the City: Building a Picture Book

With Sydney Smith

Using his forthcoming book *Small in the City*, Governor General's Award-winning children's book artist Sydney Smith reveals his process of illustration and discusses the influences and inspiration behind his work.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 7-8pm**

Community Room



The Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books • Lillian H. Smith Branch, 4th floor • 239 College Street  
(416) 393-7753 • Monday-Friday, 10-6; Saturdays 9-5, closed Sundays and Holidays • Admittance is free.

[torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://torontopubliclibrary.ca)



## WHO VISITS THE OSBORNE – GROUP VISITS JANUARY TO JULY 2018

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We thought all of our members would be interested in seeing the range of groups visiting the Osborne Collection to discover its treasures and enjoy the expertise of the staff.

- ▶ York University, Faculty of Education class on “Picture Books and Children’s Culture”
  - ▶ A group of Toronto-based children’s book illustrators
  - ▶ Morse Street Junior PS, Toronto District School Board – Grade 5/6
  - ▶ A group of students from Urawa University, Japan
  - ▶ A drop-in visit by an ESL class from University Settlement House University of Toronto, Faculty of Information (iSchool) class on Rare Books and Manuscripts (taught by former Osborne Department Head Leslie McGrath)
  - ▶ University of Western Ontario, Faculty of Information and Media Studies class
  - ▶ Birchfield Heights, Toronto District School Board – two classes, Grades 5 and 6
  - ▶ Dare Arts brought a group of 30 Grade 5 students from across Toronto for an introduction to historical and modern children’s books
  - ▶ Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts, Toronto Catholic District School Board – Grade 9 class for a tour of “The Adventures of Little Red Riding Hood” exhibit
  - ▶ Western Tech, Toronto District School Board – Grade 11 class on “Living and Working with Children”
  - ▶ Seneca College, class on illustration
  - ▶ A group of artists/graphic novelists from the Toronto Comics Arts Festival
- John G. Althouse Middle School, Toronto District School Board – Grade 5/6*
- York University, Children’s Studies “Canadian Children’s Literature and Culture” class*
- Kid’s Lit Quiz Team Canada – for a program on fairy tales in advance of the World Final Competition held in New Zealand on July 4*

*Storytelling Toronto, Summer Intensive course*  
*Cornerstone Montessori Prep School – Grades 1 to 5 – drop-in program*

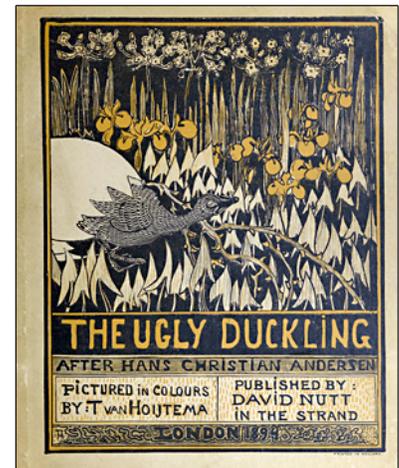
*Plus many organized programs offered by Osborne staff member Yuka Kajihara-Nolan to groups of Japanese Canadians and visitors from Japan*

As well, Osborne librarian Michal Calder participated in a very successful “Story Design Jam” held at the Toronto Reference Library on March 17. This was a co-sponsored program offered by Toronto Public Library and Ryerson University’s Transmedia Zone in which participants adapted a story for diverse groups using various formats and media platforms. The story chosen was an 1894 version of **Hans Christian Andersen’s “The Ugly Duckling”**

**illustrated by T.**

**Van Hoytema.**

Michal read aloud a facsimile of this beautifully-illustrated volume and spoke briefly about the Osborne Collection to an appreciative group of storytellers, designers and creators.



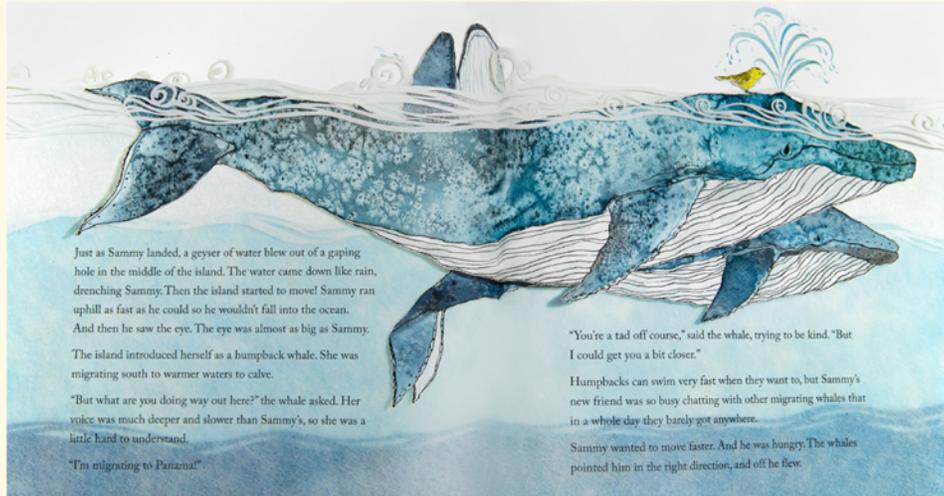
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## CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of:

Eddie Garret  
E.J. Revell  
Helen Smith  
Mary Smith  
Evelyn Margaret Waddell (Lyn Cook)  
Helen Younger

## THE 31<sup>ST</sup> HELEN E. STUBBS MEMORIAL LECTURE



Just as Sammy landed, a geyser of water blew out of a gaping hole in the middle of the island. The water came down like rain, drenching Sammy. Then the island started to move! Sammy ran uphill as fast as he could so he wouldn't fall into the ocean. And then he saw the eye. The eye was almost as big as Sammy. The island introduced herself as a humpback whale. She was migrating south to warmer waters to calve.

"But what are you doing way out here?" the whale asked. Her voice was much deeper and slower than Sammy's, so she was a little hard to understand.

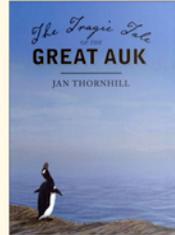
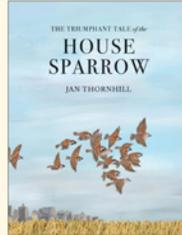
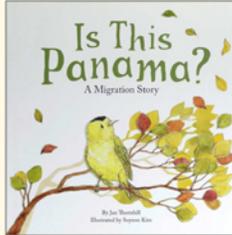
"I'm migrating to Panama!"

"You're a tad off course," said the whale, trying to be kind. "But I could get you a bit closer."

Humpbacks can swim very fast when they want to, but Sammy's new friend was so busy chatting with other migrating whales that in a whole day they barely got anywhere.

Sammy wanted to move faster. And he was hungry. The whales pointed him in the right direction, and off he flew.

Illustration by Soyeon Kim, from *Is This Panama? A Migration Story* by Jan Thornhill, Owlkids Books, 2013.



# On Capturing Children's Ecological Imagination

With Jan Thornhill

Award-winning author and illustrator Jan Thornhill speaks about the multiple methods she has used in her nature-based children's books to encourage young minds to appreciate the natural world and to see the interconnections of life on our planet.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 7-8pm**

Community Room



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# NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS

LAST YEAR, WHEN THE COUNTRY OBSERVED its sesquicentennial, the Collection sought out unique Canadiana to add to its holdings. Two letters written by Lucy Maud Montgomery were subsequently purchased and a Montgomery scholar referred staff to a bookseller who had another letter available. It is fitting that the Collection, with the assistance of the Osborne and Lillian H. Smith Trust Fund, should acquire these letters as 2018 marks the 110th anniversary of the publication of Montgomery's beloved *Anne of Green Gables*.

In the letter dated August 3, 1939, and addressed to Miss Webber, Montgomery writes that the film studio RKO will soon bring her book *Anne of Windy Poplars* to the big screen and that "[p]erhaps you—like myself—don't care for screen versions of books you like. But a writer 'has to live' and at least the hard cash 'movie rights' bring in is very welcome." She goes on to request that Miss Webber write a note to the 20th Century Fox film studio to ask it to cast the actress Shirley Temple in a film adaptation of her book *Magic for Marigold*. The date of this letter is significant because Montgomery had stopped writing in her journals but still took time to respond candidly to an admirer.

THE OSBORNE AND LILLIAN H. SMITH TRUST FUND also enabled the purchase of a rhyme book that fell



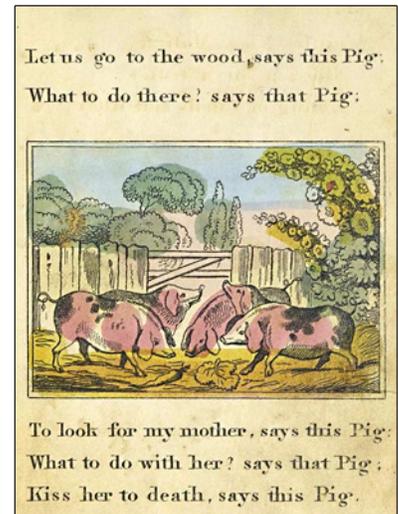
beyond the Collection's regular library budget. *The Noble, Prancing, Canterng Horse: A New Game of Questions and Commands* (London: John Marshall, 1819), an accumulative tale

similar in structure to "The House that Jack Built," was first published in 1818. The hand-coloured frontispiece, title-page vignette and twelve text illustrations that include "eight monkeys in an air-

balloon" are by Isaac Robert Cruikshank, the brother of George Cruikshank.

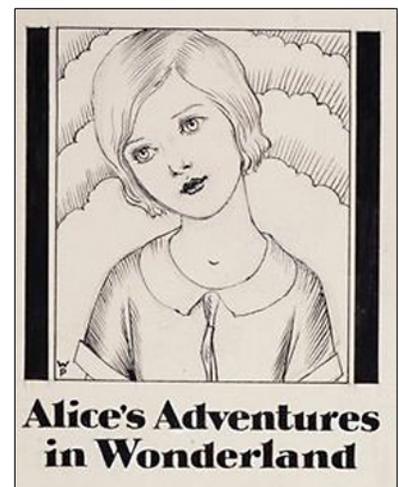
THE FRIENDS OF THE OSBORNE and Lillian H. Smith Collection are delighted to announce a purchase in honour of Osborne's former Head, Leslie McGrath, who retired in

January of this year. **Fairburn's New Picture Book: Nursery Songs** (London: J. Fairburn, ca. 1820s) is a rare chapbook containing eight nursery rhymes, each with a hand-coloured illustration.



Several of the rhymes, such as "Little Boy Blue" and "Little Miss Muffet," are familiar to today's readers, others, including "Robert Barnes, fellow fine" and the charming "Let us go to the wood, says this Pig" are lesser known. This appears to be the only known copy of this title. Please stay tuned for news of additional purchases in Leslie's honour to be announced in the Spring 2019 issue of *The Gryphon*.

HELEN E. STUBBS (1907–1987), a Toronto Public Library children's librarian, who served as the Acting Head of Boys and Girls Services from 1969 until her retirement in 1970, had a special interest in finely illustrated

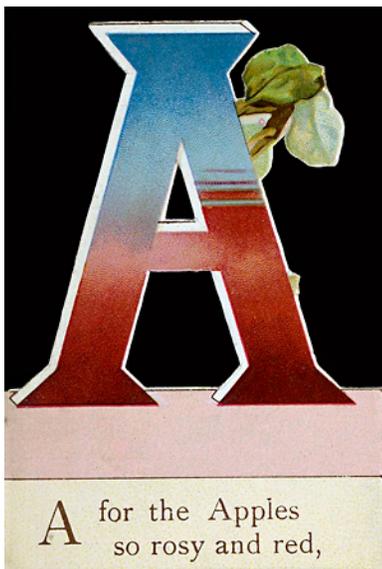


children's books. As a generous benefactor of the

Osborne and Lillian H. Smith Collections, Miss Stubbs would have been pleased with the use of the trust fund that she established to purchase an **original frontispiece portrait of Alice by Willy Pogány from his illustrated edition of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*** (previous page) published in New York by E.P. Dutton in 1929. This pen-and-ink illustration will be shown at Osborne's *Alice Opens the Door* exhibit at the TD Gallery November 17 to January 27.

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE of *The Gryphon* the Collection has acquired a variety of attractive and interesting material through its regular library budget. *Hide and Seek* (London: F. Warne & Co., [1899]) features the story of a little girl named Elsie, who during a game of hide and seek, ventures into the woods where she meets some nursery friends including the Seven Dwarfs, Mother Goose, Little Bear from "The Three Bears," Alice, Tweedledum and Tweedledee and the Babes in the Woods. The story booklet is accompanied by two small double-sided jigsaw puzzles.

DURING THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY, the alphabet offered popular source material for beautifully illustrated picture books by artists such as Kate Greenaway and Walter Crane. Numerous alphabet



books based on various subjects, including animals, birds, trains and the Bible, flooded the British and American juvenile market. The Collection has acquired an **untitled set of die-cut alphabet cards** (London: Raphael Tuck and Sons, [ca. 1900]) to add to its large selection of ABC books. Each of the twenty-six folded free-standing cards features a letter of the alphabet and a conjugate illustration above a four-line verse starting

with "A for the Apples so rosy and red, / one for you, one for me, one for good Ted."

with "A for the Apples so rosy and red, / one for you, one for me, one for good Ted."

WITH A PULL OF A TAB OR A TURN OF A WHEEL, movable books offer a delightful surprise to the reader.

***Surprising Comical Characters: Transforming Picture Book***

(London: Dean & Son, ca. 1875) is a most welcome addition to the Collection's array of pop-up and movable books.

This metamorphic book contains two short children's stories on twelve pages with another twelve chromolithographed pages bound in the centre, each divided into three sections, allowing for the creation of over five hundred different characters.



In brief, here is a partial list of the Collection's other noteworthy acquisitions (illustrations accompany titles shown in boldface):

- a chapbook edition of *The Comic Adventures of Old Mother Hubbard. Part II* (York: James Kendrew, [ca. 1820]), illustrated with seventeen woodcuts;

- *Géographie*, a forty-eight-page miniature book by Augustin

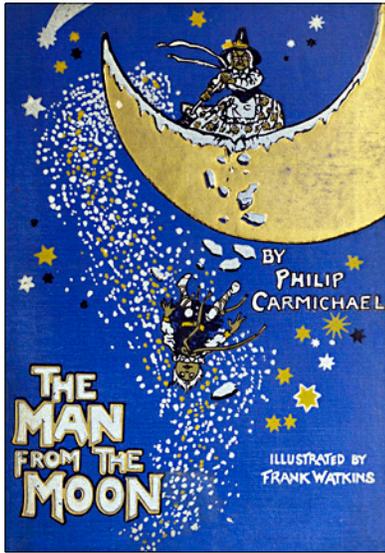
Legrand (Paris: [Publisher not identified], 1823), illustrated with a folding map of the globe and two plates;

- *Les Récits Amusants: Album de la Jeunesse et du Foyer* (Paris: Amable Rigaud, 1860), an unusual volume of cautionary tales that



encourage children to behave themselves lest they be disfigured with fire or mauled by a bear;

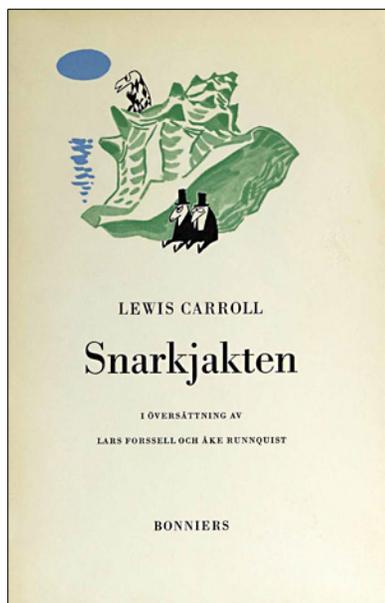
- an American edition of Catharine Parr Traill's *The Canadian Crusoes: A Tale of the Rice Lake Plains* (Boston: Woolworth, Ainsworth, [ca. 1869]), regarded as the first notable work of Canadian children's fiction;



- Philip Carmichael's *The Man From The Moon* (London: Grant Richards, 1909), a whimsical fantasy about a character who falls off the moon and lands on earth, illustrated by Frank Watkins and featuring a fine pictorial binding;

- *The Story of the Five-Year Plan* (Moscow: Co-operative Publishing Society of Foreign Workers in the USSR, 1932) by M. Ilyin, designed for use in schools to explain Stalin's planned economy to children;

- *Alice au Pays des Merveilles* (Paris: Éditions G.P., 1952), a French edition of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, illustrated by André Jourcin;

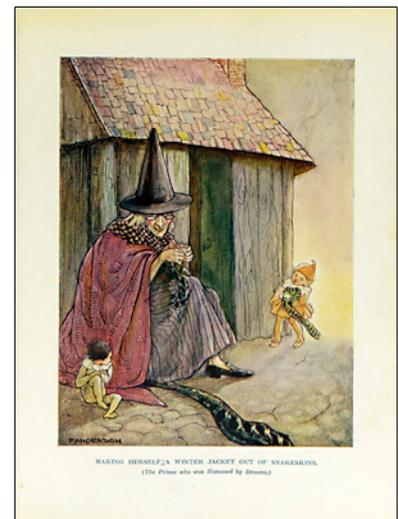


- *Snarkjakten* (Stockholm: Albert Bonners Forlag, 1959), a Swedish edition of Lewis Carroll's nonsense poem *The Hunting of the Snark* with

- illustrations by Tove Jansson who is best known for her "Moomin" books;
- a first edition of Roald Dahl's *The Witches* (London: Jonathan Cape, 1983) illustrated by Quentin Blake with its original dust-jacket;
- and three pieces of striking original art by Vladyana Krykorka—two from *Arctic Stories* by Michael Kusugak (Toronto: Annick Press, 1998) and one from *My Arctic 1,2,3* (Toronto: Annick Press, 1996), also by Michael Kusugak.

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, the Collection has been the recipient of many wonderful gift-in-kind donations. Bridget Revell of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, donated materials, including books, periodicals, postcards and original art, related to her mother's great-aunt Florence Mary Anderson. Anderson studied art at the Glasgow School of Art, the Bradford College of Art and the Slade School of Fine Art where she had won a scholarship. She began her career as a contributor to the children's magazine *Little Folks* and other periodicals published by Cassells.

Anderson had also presented her portfolio to the publishing house of Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co. where she was given a trial commission. Pleased with her work the publisher commissioned her to illustrate *The Dream Pedlar*. The book, a very high-quality production, brought Anderson's work to the attention of other publishers, and thus more commissions followed.

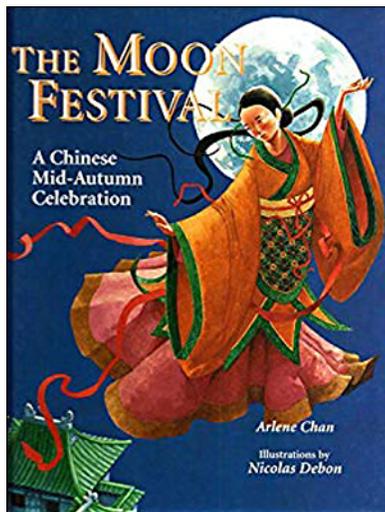


Many of Anderson's illustrations feature portraits of herself and family members. An original painting titled "Three Jolly Bachelors," which is part of the donation, shows three gnomes, each sitting on a toadstool: the finished illustration appeared in a 1921

issue of *Little Folks*. According to family lore, the gnomes are caricatures of Anderson's siblings Muriel, Alfred and Ernest. Herbert D. Williams, the editor of *Little Folks*, wrote "Florence Mary Anderson is well beloved of my readers. Her fairies, gnomes and elves carry us right into the centre of fairyland."

FROM A BRITISH ILLUSTRATOR who made her name in the early twentieth century, we move to Canadian illustrator Sydney Smith, who will deliver this year's Sybille Pantazzi Memorial Lecture. The Collection is delighted that Sydney has chosen to donate artwork from JonArno Lawson's *Sidewalk Flowers* (Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2015) for which he won the 2015 Governor General's Award for Young People's Literature for Illustrated Books.

ARLENE CHAN DONATED a work of original art, signed by the illustrator Nicolas Debon, that appeared in her

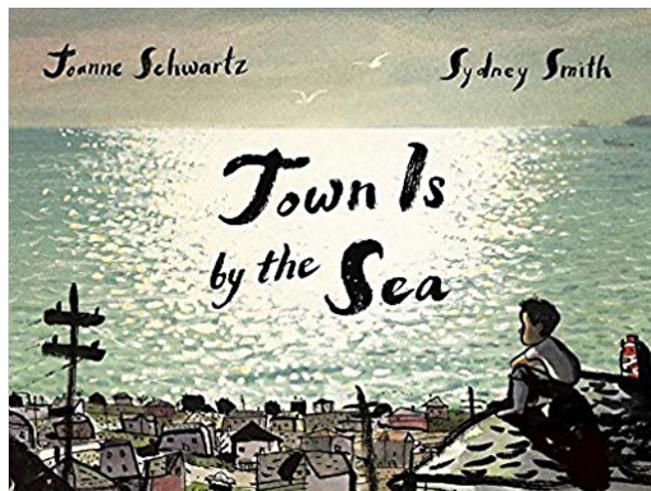


book *The Moon Festival: A Chinese Mid-Autumn Celebration* (Toronto: Umbrella Press, 1999). Jane Dobell donated a collection of various children's books, reference books, foreign language books, posters, ephemeral

items and an original animation cel from *Snoopy, Come Home*, an animated film written by Charles M. Schulz based on the "Peanuts" comic strip.

Other gifts-in-kind were presented by: Sandra Albrecht, Pat Cleary, Georgia Gerring, Stephen Gerring, Linda Granfield, Heather-Jane Moore, Sylvia Murray, Gillian O'Reilly, Anne Partridge, Norman Perrin, Kathryn Quan, Ralph Reid, Michah Rynor, Kathleen Satchell, Mary Rae Shantz, Jennifer Smith, Christina Duff Stewart, Vico Truant and William Westfall. We would like to thank all of these generous donors, and express appreciation of our colleagues for directing suitable donations to the Osborne Collection.

## CONGRATULATIONS



Sydney Smith for winning the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal for *Town Is by the Sea*, written by Joanne Schwartz (Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2017). The CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals) Kate Greenaway Medal awards the best-illustrated children's book published in the United Kingdom in a given year.

Joanne Schwartz, on winning the Atlantic Independent Booksellers Choice Award for *Town Is by the Sea*, illustrated by Sydney Smith (Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2017).

## PAST EVENTS

The 15th Albert Lahmer Memorial Lecture, held on April 26, 2018, saw a lively and intriguing presentation by collector and donor **Judith Dawson** on early children's advertising ephemera. The lecture, generously sponsored by Mrs. Clara Lahmer, was preceded by the Friends Annual General Meeting and followed by a reception at the Osborne Collection, where guests also had the opportunity to see the "Little Red Riding Hood" exhibit on display.



*Judith Dawson, collector and donor*



*Judith Dawson, Gillian O'Reilly and Sephora Hosein*



*Friends Treasurer Geoff Seaborn, TPL's Mary Rae Shantz and former Treasurer Peter Lewis*



*Sylvia Murray (centre), in one of her final tasks as Marketing Chair, with Kathleen Bailey at the merchandise sales table before the Lahmer Lecture*



*Leslie McGrath, former Senior Collection Head, and Betsy Palmer Eldridge, book restoration expert*

## Fundraising Report

As our members know, the Osborne has been gradually digitizing those materials in the collection that are out of copyright. To date, Aesop's fables, fairy tales and myths, and some books of instruction and religious instruction have been scanned. Scheduled next are natural science, travel and geography, biography and history, stories pre- and post-1850.

Last spring, the Friends approved an ambitious plan to speed the digitization of our oldest materials by matching the TPL half-time funding on a one to one basis to ensure full-time staffing for a period of twelve months.

Digitization allows many treasures of the Osborne to be shared around the world and helps book lovers everywhere discover the wonders of the collection. Your continued support for digitization helps us in this important task.

Thanks to the Friends' generous contributions, we have also been able to support the hiring of a full-time conservator for six months to deal with a backlog of projects. We will have a detailed report on this work in our next issue.

### ABOUT THE OSBORNE COLLECTION

The Osborne Collection originated with a 1949 gift of 2,000 volumes of children's literature to the Toronto Public Library. British librarian Edgar Osborne donated his private collection in recognition of the outstanding children's library services in Toronto.

There are now over 90,000 items in the collection, including books, manuscripts, ephemera, archival materials and an outstanding collection of original illustration art. It is one of the world's great collections of children's literature and, as part of the public library system, it is open and available to all.

A Friends organization was formed in 1966 to support the Collection, making it the oldest Friends organization within TPL. Becoming a Friend of the Osborne Collection requires only a modest fee (charitable receipt provided) and a love of stories, pictures and books for children.

## Marketing News

Shopping from a distance? Yearning for a Sendak Gryphon bag or a Tenniel tea towel? A technical issue made the Friends of the Osborne Collection website inoperable for a few weeks last June, but all is up and running again. Please check out the Friends website ([www.osbornecollection.ca](http://www.osbornecollection.ca)) for convenient membership renewals, donations and shopping.

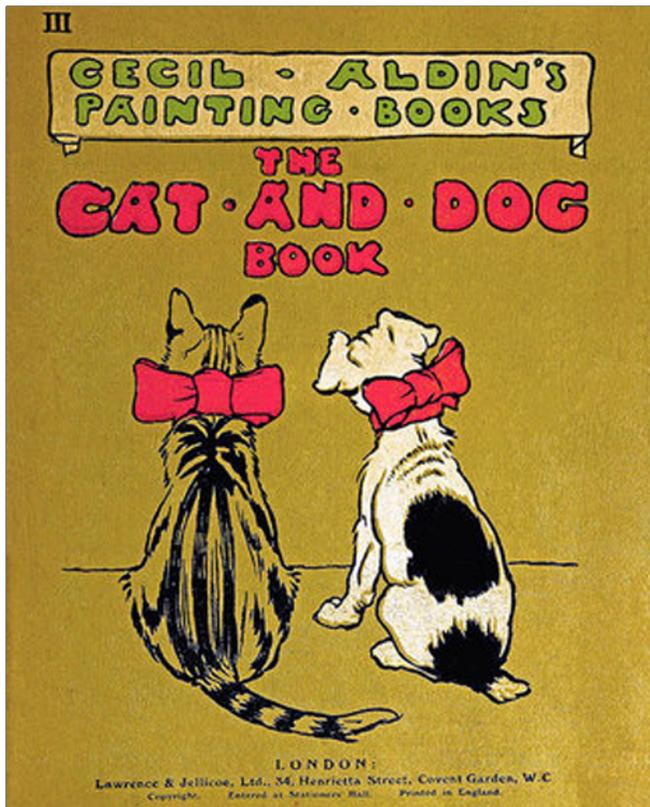


# UPCOMING EXHIBITS

**September 8, 2018 to December 1, 2018**

## **The Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat: Companion Animals in Children's Literature**

From *Beautiful Joe* to *The Velveteen Rabbit* to *Winnie-the-Pooh*, they are our childhood comforters, the animals that console us. Be they real-life, toy, or imagined, these are creatures dear to our hearts long after childhood has been put aside. An exhibit that explores the many kinds of animals we call friends.



(Pictured here: *The Cat and Dog Book* by Cecil Aldin. London: Lawrence and Jellicoe, ca. 1910)

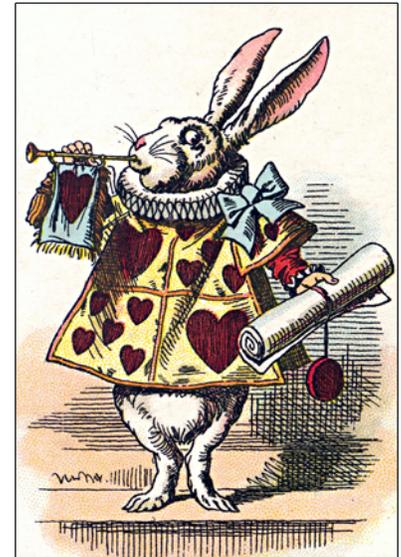
**December 8, 2018 to March 2, 2019**

## **Alice Adjacent: Lewis Carroll and His Victorian World**

In conjunction with “Alice Opens the Door” (see below), the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books presents a companion exhibit featuring works by Lewis Carroll and the many children's authors and illustrators of the Victorian Period.

(Pictured here: *The New and Diverting Game of Alice in Wonderland*.

Illustrated by John Tenniel. London: Thomas De La Rue, ca. 1900)



**November 17, 2018 to January 27, 2019**

## **Alice Opens the Door** at the Toronto Reference Library's TD Gallery

Follow Alice into the mixed-up world of Wonderland! Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* has opened the door to fun and reading for generations of children and their parents. Enjoy this lively exhibit of early editions, artwork, toys, games and memorabilia from

the library's [Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books](#). Meet a cast of colourful characters: talking caterpillars, vanishing cats, mad hatters and, of course, Alice!

(Pictured here: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll. Illustrated by John Tenniel. London: Macmillan, 1866)

