



PRESS RELEASE

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One Hundred Books Famous in Children's Literature

AT THE GROLIER CLUB

December 10, 2014 – February 7, 2015

Powerful narrative, unforgettable characters, illustration that stirs the imagination, and insights that engage the mind and heart – literature for children is forged from the same enduring elements as literature for adults. Children's books with these qualities often shine for generations, with some achieving landmark fame. A few such books ultimately go on to enter the canon of classics of children's literature.

The Grolier Club exhibition *One Hundred Books Famous in Children's Literature* showcases one hundred books of this caliber, printed from 1600 to 2000. Some of the beloved books on view are *Robinson Crusoe*, *Grimms' Fairy Tales*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Tom Sawyer*, *Treasure Island*, *Peter Rabbit*, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, *Peter and Wendy*, *Winnie-the-Pooh*, *Charlotte's Web*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, and *Harry Potter*. These classics and others – many famous today, some only in their time – will delight adults and children alike.

The books are organized according to key themes in children's literature: Fairy Tales & Fables, Faith, Learning, Nursery Rhymes, Poetry, Girls & Boys, Animals, Fantasy, Adventure, Novelties, and Toys. This organization allows viewers to see genres of literature for children ranging from early forms of instructional and devotional primers to exuberant expressions of rhymes, tales, stories, novels, and picture books. First or early editions are displayed wherever possible, some of them extremely rare.

Selected by the curator, children's book authority Chris Loker, with advice from an international team of children's book scholars and experts, the books in the exhibition are those deemed famous because they were widely known at the time of their creation, and admired over following generations – in the process demonstrating literary merit and unparalleled popularity.

Over fifty historic related artifacts in the exhibition demonstrate the inter-relationships between these famous books and the culture of their eras. The artifacts include original book art and illustration, autograph letters, manuscript drafts, antique toys, early dolls and games, antique hornbooks, ivory alphabet discs, and other children's objects, all of great interest in their own right.

One Hundred Books Famous in Children's Literature is part of what is known as the *Grolier Hundred* series. The Grolier Club has previously organized only five such exhibitions in its 130-year history, on English literature (1903), American literature (1946), science (1958), medicine (1994), and fine printed books (1999).



Accompanying the exhibition are:

- 📖 CATALOGUE – 320-page, hardbound catalogue with extensive notes about, and color photographs of, all one hundred famous children's books, plus four scholarly essays. The catalogue is available for purchase at The Grolier Club and through Oak Knoll Books (<http://www.oakknoll.com>), exclusive distributors of Grolier Club publications.
- 📖 COLLOQUIUM – Tuesday, January 20, 2015 – “Journeys Through Bookland: Explorations in Children's Literature” will be presented in the exhibition hall of The Grolier Club from 1-5 pm, with a cocktail reception to follow. This colloquium will bring together six children's literary experts who will guide participants through highlights in the past, present and future of the book for children.
- 📖 CURATOR'S TOURS OF THE EXHIBITION:
Wednesday, December 10, 2014, 1-2 pm / Thursday, December 11, 2014, 1-2 pm
Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 1-2 pm / Wednesday, February 4, 1-2 pm

VISITING THE GROLIER CLUB

The Grolier Club, founded in 1884, is America's oldest bibliophile society, with a mission to foster appreciation for the art, history and production of the book and graphic arts.

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HOURS: Monday – Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm

ADMISSION: *Exhibitions are open to the public free of charge*



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