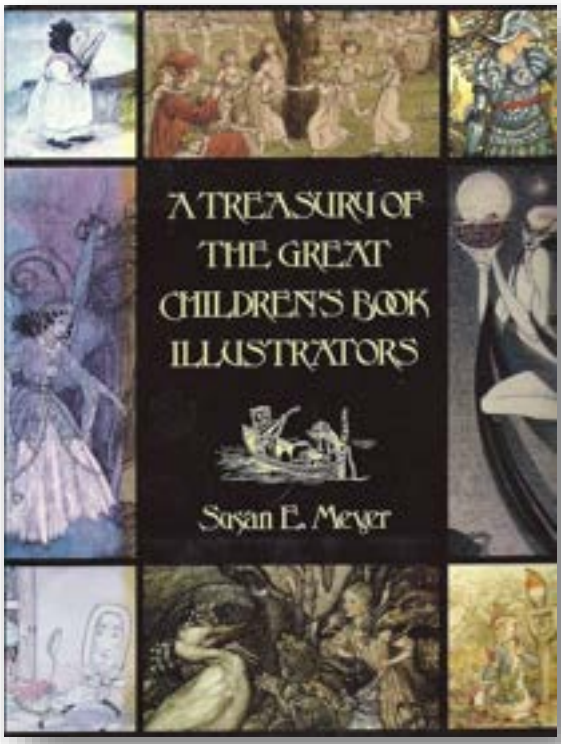
The Illustrated Book Collection

~ The Golden Age of Illustration Artists ~

~ A Reading Guide ~



The Gibson Library

Illustration is a form of communication, usually enhancing text, such as in an information book or simply as decoration; telling a complementary story alongside the main tale, as in children's books; or creating an eye catching background to simple information, as for a poster. Illustration can be broadly categorised into four main branches: Editorial, Commercial, Fine Art, and Technical. Being a functional art, illustration is regarded as a craft rather than High Art, which is to deny its ability to be highly sophisticated and rich, as well as provide astute social comment and visual humour.

The illustrations within the genre of the Golden Age, were reproduced thanks to the printing revolution from the 1850s to the 1930s. This period of intense growth in mass market reproduction and printing methods, gave rise to the golden era of high-quality beautifully illustrated gift books for the increasing middle classes.

Daniel Vierge and other pioneers developed printing technology to the point that drawings and paintings could be reproduced with reasonable accuracy. Thereby introducing the most talented artists to a medium that, at last, had the ability to reproduce the exquisite detail of their work as they originally envisaged.

The first widely distributed gift book was published in 1905, Washington Irving's short story Rip Van Winkle with the addition of 51 colour plates by a true master of illustration, Arthur Rackham. Well known Illustrators such as Randolph Caldecott, Walter Crane, Edmund Dulac and Kate Greenaway are just a few of the popular Golden Age artists represented in the Gibson Library Collection.

The titles on this reading list are a mix of reference only* and items that can be borrowed on an Essex Libraries card. Reference books can only be viewed in the Reading Room, please enquire in advance.

GENERAL

When We Were Young: Two Centuries of Children's Book Illustration, 1977, William Feaver
A comprehensive survey of art in children's books from William Blake to the advent of the television era in the 1950s.

A History of Children's Book Illustration, 1988, Joyce Irene. Whalley and Tessa Rose Chester

A Treasury of the Great Children's Book Illustrators / 1983 / Susan E. Meyer

The illustrators: the British art of illustration 1800 - 1992 / 1992 / J. Cornelissen

The Dictionary of 19th Century British Book Illustrators and Caricaturists / 1996 / Simon Houfe

The Dictionary of 20th Century: British Book Illustrators / 2003 / Alan Horne

The Age of Enchantment: Beardsley, Dulac and their Contemporaries, 1890-1930 / *2007* / *Rodney K. Engen*

SIGNIFICANT ILLUSTRATORS FROM THE LATE 1800s

RANDOLPH CALDECOTT (1846 – 1886)

Greatly influenced illustration of children's books during the 19th century. The Caldecott Medal was named in his honour.

R. Caldecott's Picture Book, etc. (no. 2.), 1879, R. Caldecott

Randolph Caldecott: 'lord of the nursery', 1976, R. Caldecott

The Randolph Caldecott treasury, 1978, R. Caldecott

WALTER CRANE (1845 – 1915)

One of the strongest contributors to the child's nursery motif, and highly influential, along with Greenaway and Caldecott.

An Artist's Reminiscences, 1907, W. Crane

Walter Crane*,* 1975, Isobel Spencer

A Bibliography of First Editions of Books Illustrated by Walter Crane, 1977, Gertrude Masse

Walter Crane, 1845-1915 : artist, designer and socialists, 1989, Greg Smith and Sarah Hyde

Chattering Jack, 1875, W. Crane

Beauty and the Beast and other stories, 1982, W. Crane

Walter Crane and the rhetoric of art, 1999, David Gerard

Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush, 1993, W. Crane

The adventures of Robin Hood, 1994, Roger Lancelyn Green

KATE GREENAWAY (1846 – 1901)

Greenaway's depictions of children in imaginary 18th-century costumes in a Queen Anne style were extremely popular. The Kate Greenaway Medal was established in her honour in 1955.

The Royal Progress of King Pepito ... Illustrated by Kate Greenway, etc. [A tale for children.], *Beatrix Feodore Cresswell, 1889*

Kate Greenaway, 1806-1901: an exhibition of prints, engravings, watercolours and drawings: Bolton Art Gallery, 6 December 1975 - 31 January 1976, 1976

Kate Greenaway: catalogue of an exhibition of original artworks and related materials selected from the Frances Hooper Collection at the Hunt Institute: with essays by Miss Hooper, Rodney Engen, and John Brindle, and a summary register of the full collection, 1980

Kate Greenaway: a biography 1981, Rodney Engen

Printed Kate Greenaway: a catalogue raisonné**,** 1986, Thomas Schuster, Rodney Engen

The Art of Kate Greenaway: a Nostalgic Portrait of Childhood, 1991, Ina Taylor

THE GREAT GOLDEN AGE ILLUSTRATORS

ARTHUR RACKHAM (1867 – 1939)

An English book illustrator, Arthur Rackham is recognised as one of the leading figures during the Golden Age of British book illustration.

Arthur Rackham in East Anglia : forty of his pen & ink drawings, 2005, A. Rackham

Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens, 1906, J. M. Barrie

The Arthur Rackham fairy book, 1933, A. Rackham

The Arthur Rackham His Life and Work, 1960, Dereck Hudson

Family diaries, letters and personal belongings provide a picture of the artist. Features both his more famous paintings of fairies and goblins, enchanted kingdoms and dark forests, alongside his portraits and watercolours.

Arthur Rackham Treasury, 2005, A. Rackham

A stunning treasury of 86 full-page plates span the famed English artist's career.

The Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm, 1996, Lucas

Fairy Tales from many lands, 1916, A. Rackham 1974

Cinderella, Perrault***,*** 1919; retold by C.S. Evans,1972

Queen Mab's Fairy Realm, 1901

HARRY CLARKE (1889 – 1931)

An Irish stained-glass artist and book illustrator, Harry Clarke was a leading figure in the Irish Arts and Crafts Movement. His work was influenced by both the Art Nouveau and Art Deco movements, while his stained glass was particularly informed by the French Symbolist movement.

Harry Clarke: an imaginative genius in illustrations and stained-glass arts, 2014, Hiroshi Umino

Fairy tales by Hans Christian Andersen, 1916, H. C. Andersen, 2017

Nightmares in Decay: the Edgar Allan Poe illustrations, 2010

EDMUND DULAC (1882 – 1953)

A French-British magazine book illustrator and stamp designer. Dulac's illustrations are recognisable by the pronounced influence of Orientalism infusing his palette with brighter coloration, and his style won high praise for its exquisite use of detail and colour.

Dulac, 1975, edited by David Larkin

Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, 1914, E. Fitzgerald

The Green Lacquer Pavilion, 1973, H. Beauclerk

The Fairy Tales of Charles Perrault, 1998, C. Perrault

The Sleeping Beauty and other fairy tales, 1910, Retold by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, 1985

KAY NIELSEN (1886 – 1957)

Kay Rasmus Nielsen was a Danish illustrator who was popular in the early 20th century. Nielsen is also known for his collaborations with Disney for whom he contributed many story sketches and illustrations, not least for *Fantasia*.

Kay Nielsen, 1975, Introduction by Keith Nicholson

East of the Sun and West of the Moon: Old Tales from the north, 1914, Peter Christen Asbjørnsen, 1976

The Fairy Tales of Hans Andersen, 1924, H. C. Andersen, H. C., 1986

Hansel and Gretel and other stories by The Brothers Grimm, 1925, Grimm, 1985

WILLIAM HEATH ROBINSON (1872 – 1944)

William Heath Robinson is an English artist whose work, whether in his well-known humorous drawings or his illustrations for Kipling, Shakespeare or children's stories, is integral to British cultural heritage. His name entered the language as early as 1912 and is still in daily use to describe the kind of ad hoc contraptions that featured in many of his cartoons.

Hans Andersen's Fairy Tales. With illustrations by W. Heath Robinson, 1995

AUBREY BEARDSLEY (1872 – 1898)

An English illustrator and author known for his black ink drawings influenced by Japanese woodcuts, depicted the grotesque, the decadent, and the erotic. Aubrey Beardsley was a leading figure in the aesthetic movement alongside Oscar Wilde and James McNeill Whistler.

The Letters of Aubrey Beardsley, 1970, Aubrey Beardsley, Henry Maas, John Lindsay Duncan, Walter George Good

Aubrey Beardsley, 1987/1998, Brian Reade

Aubrey Beardsley, 1998, Stephen Calloway

The artwork of Aubrey Beardsley was highly regarded by many Avant Garde collectors including Robert Mapplethorpe and Andy Warhol.

Aubrey Beardsley and Victorian sexual politics, 1990, Linda Gertner Zatlin

Passionate attitudes: the English decadence of the 1890s, 1995, Matthew Sturgis

The early work of Aubrey Beardsley, 1967, A. Beardsley

The later work of Aubrey Beardsley, 1967, A. Beardsley

Beardsley and his world, 1976, Brigid Brophy

Beardsley, 1976, Aubrey Beardsley

The art of Aubrey Beardsley, 2004, Catherine Slessor

Mort DArthur: The birth, life and acts of King Arthur of his noble knights of the round table, their marvellous enquests and adventures, the achieving of the San Greal and, in the end, le morte d'Arthur with the dolourous death and departing out of this world of them all, 1893, Sir Thomas Malory, Sir John Rhys, A. Beardsley

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A "microcosm of the world's great libraries"

The Gibson Library was founded in 1832 as the Saffron Walden Literary & Scientific Institution, and the Library is still housed in the Grade II listed building that became the home of the Institution in the 1850s. The collections, which are continually added to, consist of more than 40,000 volumes, old maps, photographs, newspapers, directories, periodicals and local ephemera.

Whether you are interested in local history, Victorian studies, medieval manuscripts, academic research or just looking for a quiet place to study, the Gibson Library is open to everyone. Visitors come from all over the world to make use of the Library's resources. All are welcome.

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A Gibson Library Reading Guide, 2025