Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875): A Bicentennial Selection

ARCHIVED ONLINE EXHIBIT

Originally displayed at the Thomas Cooper Library, University of South Carolina

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Archived Online Exhibit.................................................................................................................. 1
introduction ..................................................................................................................................... 2
Early Writings ................................................................................................................................. 3
The Princess and the Pea.................................................................................................................. 5
Thumbelina ..................................................................................................................................... 7
The Emperor’s New Clothes .......................................................................................................... 9
The Little Mermaid........................................................................................................................11
The Ugly Duckling..........................................................................................................................13
INTRODUCTION

Hans Christian Andersen, Denmark’s best-known author, had a long and diverse career in the world of letters. Most widely recognized for his collections of fairy tales, Andersen was also a novelist, a poet and travel writer, the author of musical works, and a creator of original, whimsical papercuts. His retellings of traditional Danish fairy tales and the many fairy tales he created have been read and reread by generations of young people around the world. From their first publication in the mid-nineteenth century to today, Andersen’s fairy tales have remained continuously in print in numerous languages.

Andersen was born in 1805 in Odense, Denmark, left school at age 11, and moved to Copenhagen at 14, where a series of patrons and friends encouraged his literary talent. His first book of children’s stories, Eventyr fortalte for Børn (“Tales Told for Children”) was published in 1835. He died in Rolighed, Denmark in 1875.

This exhibit has been created for the bicentennial anniversary of Andersen’s birth and displays a representative collection of his writings held by the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. The bulk of the books on display have been taken from the Historical Children’s Literature Collection and the Augusta Baker Collection of African-American Children’s Literature and Folklore.

– Jeffrey Makala
Assistant Librarian
Rare Books and Special Collections
EARLY WRITINGS

The Improvisatore: or, Life in Italy.

Andersen was a well-known Danish literary figure before he achieved wide fame for his fairy tales. The Improvisatore, an autobiographical novel, first appeared in Danish in 1835 and was his first real success after several years of publishing poems, musical dramas, and travel sketches. The first edition of his fairy tales appeared that same year, solidifying his reputation as Denmark’s leading man of letters.

The Shoes of Fortune, and Other Tales.

This volume is the earliest collection of Andersen’s fairy tales in USC’s collections. It was published soon after the first English translations of his work began to appear in 1846 and includes four illustrations by the German artist Otto Specktor, who illustrated many of the original Danish editions.

Andersen, Hans Christian (1805-1870) and Grandfather Drewsen. Christine’s Picture Book.

This is a facsimile edition of a scrapbook created by Danish court magistrate Adolph Drewsen in 1859 for his granddaughter Christine, with assistance from his friend Hans Christian Andersen. The book contains clippings from newspapers and magazines from several countries arranged into pictures and collages. Drewsen and Andersen wrote verse captions for many pages, and the book contains several examples of Andersen’s papercuts, a striking example of which is shown here.

Hans Andersen’s Fairy Tales.
New York: James Miller, 1876. Original red stamped cloth.
The Mud-King's Daughter and Other Stories.
**THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA**

*Stories and Tales by Hans Christian Andersen, author of “Wonder Stories Told For Children.”*
Illustrated by M. L. Stone and V. Pedersen.
New York: Hurd and Houghton, 1876.

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*Stories from Hans Andersen.*
With Illustrations by Edmund Dulac.
*Alfred Chapin Rogers Collection.*

Dulac (1882-1953), along with his English counterpart Arthur Rackham, was one of the two most sought-after book illustrators of the early 20th century. Dulac illustrated one edition each year for Hodder & Stoughton. This arrangement, starting in 1908, continued for several years and included editions of fairy tales, Edgar Allen Poe, and Shakespeare in large, elaborately-produced volumes with illustrations that utilized the latest color printing technologies of the time.

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*Seven Tales by H. C. Andersen.*
Translated from the Danish by Eva Le Galliene. Pictures by Maurice Sendak.

Sendak, best known as the author and illustrator of *Where the Wild Things Are* (1964), illustrated his first book in 1951 at the age of 23. By the early 1960s he had illustrated nearly 50 books, including this volume of Andersen’s works.
Eisen, Armand, ed.  
*A Treasury of Children’s Literature.*  
*Augusta Baker Collection.*

This version of “The Princess and the Pea” was illustrated by Robyn Officer, who has illustrated over 35 books to date in her career.
**THUMBELINA**

*Fairy Tales by Hans Christian Andersen.*  
With Eighty Illustrations.  

*Fairy Tales and Stories by Hans Christian Andersen.*  
Translated by Dr. H. W. Dulcken.  
With Sixty Illustrations by A. W. Bayes.  
London: George Routledge and Sons, 1900.

*Fairy Tales.*  
*Augusta Baker Collection.*  
This set of 12 miniature volumes contains 9 of Andersen's most popular tales, all housed in a miniature paperboard wardrobe cabinet.

*Thumbelina.*  
Illustrated by Adrienne Adams.
 Augusta Baker Collection.

_Thumbeline._
Illustrated by Lissbeth Zwerger. Newly Translated from the Danish by Richard and Clare Winston.
 Augusta Baker Collection.
THE EMPEROR’S NEW CLOTHES

1.1.1 The Emperor's New Clothes

_The Emperor's New Clothes._
Translated and Illustrated by Erik Blegvad.
_Augusta Baker Collection._

The setting for this volume is Denmark during the early nineteenth century, a cityscape that Andersen himself would have found familiar.

Baker, Augusta, ed.
_Best Loved Fairy Tales Including Mother Goose Selections._
_Augusta Baker Collection._

This collection was edited by Baker when she was the Coordinator of Children’s Services at the New York Public Library.

_The Emperor’s New Clothes._
Retold by Anne Rockwell from the Nineteenth-Century Translation by H. W. Dulcken.
Pictures by Anne Rockwell.
_Augusta Baker Collection._

_The Emperor’s New Clothes._
Retold by Riki Levinson. Illustrated by Robert Byrd.
The Emperor’s New Clothes and Other Stories.

This book is part of a 60-volume boxed set of “Penguin 60s,” a series of small editions of classic and contemporary works published on the occasion of Penguin’s 60th anniversary. Andersen, one of only a few “classic” authors chosen, shares shelf space in this collection with Katherine Mansfield, Martin Amis, Isak Dinesen, and Stephen Jay Gould, among others. Individual volumes in the set sold separately for 60 pence, about one dollar.
The Little Mermaid

Tales and Fairy Stories, by Hans Christian Andersen.
Translated by Madame de Chatelain. Illustrated by Henry Warren.

The engravings in this volume are excellent examples of mid-nineteenth century romantic or sentimental illustration style. Each one has been hand-colored with unusually bright watercolors.

Stories from Hans Andersen.
With Illustrations by Edmund Dulac.

This is the first edition of the volume that also appears in Case 2 to illustrate “The Princess and the Pea.” The only significant difference between the two is the different-colored cloth used for the binding.

The Little Mermaid.
Translated by M. R. James. Illustrated by Pamela Bianco.

The illustrations in this volume are good examples of the streamlined classicism of the 1930s that closely overlaps with the art deco movement. The text header to each page changes to provide a synopsis of what happens to the little mermaid in its corresponding passage: “wishes to be mortal,” “visits a sea witch,” and on the last page “finds eternal life.”

Hans Andersen’s Fairy Tales.
A New Translation by Reginald Spink. With 8 Pages of Colour Plates
Extra Item:

The Little Mermaid.
A bronze sculpture of The Little Mermaid by Edvard Eriksen (1876-1959) was installed on the Copenhagen waterfront in 1913. It is now a Danish national symbol and widely reproduced. Collection of Elizabeth Sudduth.
THE UGLY DUCKLING

The Ugly Duck and Other Tales by Hans Christian Andersen. Illustrated.
New York: Allen Brothers, 1869.

This volume has an added title page, shown here, stating the publisher as James Miller. The rolled sheet of tissue paper separating the two engravings has been drawn on, presumably by its former owner, Henry Ficken, who was given this book by his cousin in 1877. Ficken has used the tissue as an overlay to comically alter some of the expressions of the children pictured on the right.

Hans Andersen's Fairy Tales.
Translated by Valdemar Paulsen With Illustrations by Milo Winter.

The Ugly Duckling.
Racine, Wis.?; Whitman?, 1930.
This tiny, cheaply-produced book contains wonderfully expressive linoleum cut illustrations that resemble many of the classic cartoons and comics being produced in America at this time.

Hans Andersen: His Classic Fairy Tales.
From the New Translation by Erik Haugaard. Illustrated by Michael Foreman.
The Ugly Duckling.
English Text by Anne Stewart. Illustrated by Monika Laimgruber.
Augusta Baker Collection.

The Ugly Duckling.
As Told by Marianna Mayer. Illustrations by Thomas Locker.
Augusta Baker Collection.