



THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
5 WASHINGTON STREET, NEWARK, NJ 07102

PRESS RELEASE

May 12, 2015

For Immediate Release

Images available at <http://www.npl.org/Pages/ProgramsExhibits/Exhibits/FantasticTales.html>

Please Contact: Heidi Cramer, (973) 733-7837, hcramer@npl.org

Newark Public Library Features ***Fantastic Tales:*** ***Adventures in Illustrated Children's Books*** ***from the Special Collections Division***

On the 150th anniversary of the publication of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, The Newark Public Library presents a selection of illustrated children's books from the Special Collections Division. The whimsical works on display are magnificent pictorial examples from The Library's holdings. The exhibit explores early fables, fairy tales, and children's literary fantasy from the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries.

Prior to the Victorian Age, stories which contained fantastic elements were considered unacceptable for children. *The Fables of Aesop* were among the earliest tales to be printed in 1484, only for the reason that they conveyed spiritual and moral lessons to children. The first illustrated books were costly to produce. However, the advancement of printing techniques later enabled the affordable production of colorful, vibrant, and fascinating pictures. By the mid-19th century, children's materials began to include illustrations, as to make them more appealing.

The exhibit features delightful pop-ups and intriguing children's books illustrated by notable artists, including Arthur Rackham, Maurice Sendak, Jerry Pinkney, Ashley Bryan, Leo and Diane Dillon, Floyd Cooper, Carole Byard, and many others. Works on view bring attention to clever and curious talking animals, enchanting fairy tales, adaptations of diverse ethnic tales and legends, and mythical creatures. The superb illustrations are significant because they are compelling and effective: they enrich the stories, imbue characters with personalities, provide immediate appeal, encourage dreaming, and enhance the reading experience.

This display gives visitors the opportunity to foster their imagination by exploring enchanted worlds and eccentric creatures while viewing fantastic works of art.

The exhibition is on view in the Main Library's second floor gallery May 15-September 5, 2015 during regular Library hours (Closed on Memorial Day, Independence Day, and every Sunday). For more information, please call 973-733-7779.