



INSTITUTE OF
ENGLISH
STUDIES

SCHOOL OF
ADVANCED STUDY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

Children's Books, 1450–2000

18–22 June 2018



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Part of the London Rare Books School: a series of five-day, intensive courses on a variety of book-related subjects.

This holistic introduction to the study of children's books examines the book as a physical object, incorporating bibliography, rarity and materiality—the book as a physical object. In all of these categories, children's books offer particular problems. For example, children are hard on their books, which may survive only a single generation. Historically, until the last century, they were considered of little value both by copyright deposit or other libraries and by private collectors. Additionally, books from earlier periods, produced for a cheap, popular market or published under wartime conditions, may be especially scarce.

Full programme and registration details are available from the website: www.ies.sas.ac.uk/lrbs

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7862 8679 | Email: IESEvents@sas.ac.uk

Examining a range of early and modern rare children's books through the lenses of publishing, authorship, illustration, design, printing and reception, this course addresses the following questions: What constitutes a children's book? For how many centuries have children's books been published and marketed? How has their evolution been affected by factors such as religious and educational ideas and practices or cultural norms in a given period? Who has written, purchased or read them? Is there—or should there be—a children's book canon?

Students will have the opportunity to see and handle material in some of London's rare book collections. Discussion will include the roles of collectors, curators, booksellers and academics in the evolution of the field, with a session on the antiquarian trade in children's books.

Students should acquire a sufficient sense of the current state of bibliographical and historical research to enable them to pursue their own professional or personal interests.

Tutors

A bibliographer and historian of education, **Jill Shefrin** has been studying children's books since 1975. A Senior Research Associate at Trinity College, University of Toronto, and an Associate Fellow at the Centre for Study of Play and Recreation, University of Greenwich, she was originally a

librarian with the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books, where she regularly curated exhibitions. Her book *The Dartons: Publishers of Educational Aids, Pastimes and Juvenile Ephemera* (2009) received the Justin G. Schiller Prize and the F. J. Harvey Darton Award.

Brian W. Alderson is a children's book collector, author, critic and bibliographer and book trade historian. He was children's books editor at *The Times* for over twenty years. He received the Eleanor Farjeon Award (1968) for an outstanding contribution to the world of children's books and the F. J. Harvey Darton Award for *Be Merry and Wise: Origins of Children's Book Publishing in England* (2006).

Jean Hedger has been a children's bookseller since 1977. In 1994, she organised and directed 'Childhood Re-Collected', an international conference and specialist book fair at Christchurch, Oxford. She is a founding member of the Imaginative Book Illustration Society, was Chairman of the PBFA from 1999 to 2002 and is Chairman of the ABA Educational Trust.

The Children's Book course is one of the courses offered at the London Rare Books School. It can be taken as a standalone course, or taken for credit and used towards either the Institute's degree (MA History of the Book) or a degree at the student's home institution (if approved by the relevant bodies).