

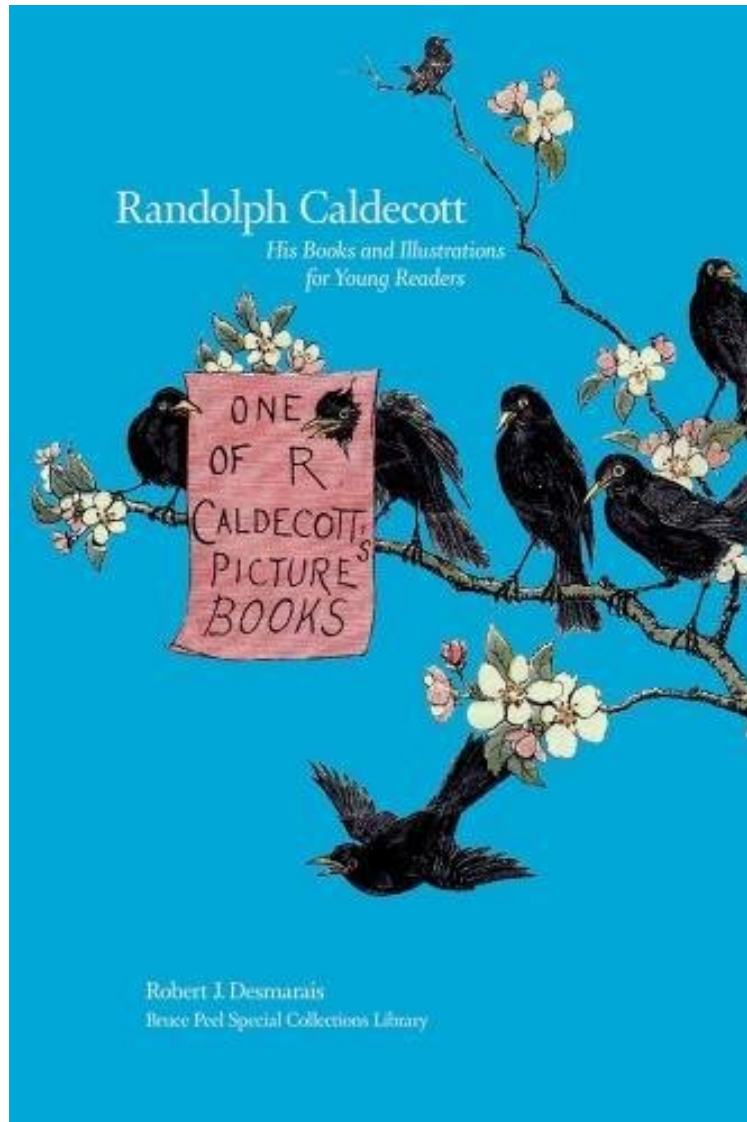
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Robert J. Desmarais

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Randolph Caldecott: His Books and Illustrations for Young Readers (Bruce Peel Special Collections)

Robert J. Desmarais : Randolph Caldecott: His Books and Illustrations for Young Readers (Bruce Peel Special Collections) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Randolph Caldecott: His Books and Illustrations for Young Readers (Bruce Peel Special Collections):

Randolph Caldecott (1846-1886) was a pioneer in the way he charmed his young readers with an innovative and engaging aesthetic approach to the picture book genre. In celebration of this remarkable achievement, Desmarais offers a convincing account of how Caldecott established a new standard of taste in children's picture books. The featured books are from the author's personal collection.

"A fan of Caldecott from boyhood, Desmarais fondly remembers perusing the master illustrator's work when he was in preschool. That oeuvre was broadly reprinted into the 1970s and '80s. Caldecott's impact continues to be felt in the children's book industry. A major industry award is named after him - the Caldecott Medal, presented by the American Library Association - and the themes that he pioneered endure." Gilbert A. Bouchard, the Edmonton Journal, June 16, 2006. "Filled with delicate colour plates of Caldecott's work, the book includes a critical introduction by Desmarais, as well as mini-essays that contextualize each book and point out unique features of the illustrations." Shirley Byers, Prairie Books NOW, Summer 2006 "Caldecott is today associated with the children's book award in his name, but few coverages provide more than a bow to his many achievements: for this you need Randolph Caldecott: His Books and Illustrations for Young Readers..Colour illustrations on nearly every page come from the author's personal collection and spice a strong literary history of not just Caldecott, but of children's picturebooks as a whole." California Bookwatch, November, 2006. "Randolph Caldecott: His Books and Illustrations for Young Readers reads more like a little art book than a catalogue....I hardly ever see trade books put together this way anymore, and certainly not in Canada. One of the virtues of this edition is the genuine simplicity of design...Its approach is fresh and tasteful, with colour plates so clearly reproduced, you can even see the laid paper pattern on which the originals were printed." Charles van Sandwyk, Amphora #145, February 2007 "This is an attractive exhibit catalogue, containing useful information about the production of Caldecott's books..." Leslie McGrath, University of Toronto Quarterly, Winter 2008

From the Back Cover Randolph Caldecott (1846-1886), a remarkable figure in Victorian England, was distinguished by his enormous contribution to the illustration of books for children. Caldecott recognized the need for better quality children's books, and when he introduced his charming Picture Books, using an assortment of classic nursery rhymes and nonsensical tales as the subject material, the British public witnessed a new aesthetic. These coloured, wood-engraved illustrations appeared at a time when children's books desperately needed a transformation from utilitarian fare to objects of magnificent craftsmanship. Caldecott trusted his creative instincts, and he achieved something unique by persuading young readers to find pleasure in seeing mirrors of themselves in magical characters. He provided plenty of scope for the child's imagination by advancing the idea that a picture book should allow children an outlet for unrestricted flights of fancy. Indeed, Caldecott's delightful pictures provide wonderful opportunities for children and adults to truly immerse themselves in spellbinding adventures.

About the Author Robert Desmarais is Head of Special Collections at the University of Alberta. A graduate of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information Studies, with a Book History and Print Culture designation, he also has university degrees in English literature and publishing.