Fairy Tales & The Five-Year Plan

Project Description

Special Collections at the University of Washington recently received a donation of about 150 rare, early twentieth-century Russian children’s books. My task has been to raise public awareness about this collection by creating an online exhibit. I selected fifty historically significant works,危机 these, and write contextual essays. These pages highlight the intricate relation between image and text that was central to the avant-garde movements of the era. The pre-revolutionary illustrations express the Russian version of Art Nouveau, blending symbolic ornament with native folk art traditions. The Soviet books of the 1920s exemplify the artists’ revolutionary attempt to re-educate children by visual means, bearing from Suprematism, Constructivism, and propaganda posters.

Topos Covered

- The illustrated children’s book in Western & Eastern Europe from the Baroque to the 1950s
- Theory of the Picture Book
- Fin-de-Siècle Artistic Movements (Art Nouveau, Neo-Russian Style, “World of Art”)
- Puskin’s Illustrated Fairytales
- The Russian Look (Illustrated Broadsides)
- The Soviet Revolution in Children’s Books
- Marshak & Lebedeva: The Masters of the 1920s
- Constructivist Children’s Book
- The Soviet Production Book