
Reed Thomason Mural Characters

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Re-collected
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In 1978, a sixty foot mural, painted by Cleveland resident and Cleveland Institute of Art graduate Reed Thomason, was installed in the Children's Room. Characters from classical and children's literature are depicted in this exquisite painting.

In 1979, Library staff undertook to identify, describe, and annotate the characters depicted in the mural. This annotation, in its original form and order, follows.

MURAL CHARACTERS

1. Mephistopheles
comes possibly from Greek meaning not loving light or Hebrew meaning destroyer and liar the character appears in Shakespeare's Merry Wives Medieval legend-devil to whom Faustus sold his soul.

(English) 16th century - Christopher Marlowe-play, Dr. Faustus
18th-19th century - Goethe-poem-Faust-German
19th century - Gounod-opera-Faust-French
20th century - play-The Year the Yankees Won the Pennant-America

2. Merlin
This character in Arthurian legend is sometimes linked to Myrddin in Welsh legend.

10th century - Geoffrey of Monmouth used a 9th century Welsh legend to make Merlin advisor to Uther Pendragon-Historia regum Britannia

10th century - Libellus told of Merlini, a Celtic druid who moved Stonehenge from Ireland to Amesbury, England-English

13th century - Robert de Borron added Christianity to the tale and made Merlin a prophet of the Holy Grail in Merlin-English

? 15th century - Thomas Malory-Morte D'Arthur-French

19th century - Alfred Lord Tennyson's-Idylls of the King-English. Tennyson inspired Dante Gabriel Rossetti to paint Arthurian legend

20th century - T. H. White's-Book of Merlyn-English

3. Goethe-
full name is Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. He was born on August 28, 1749 in Frankfurt am Main of middle class German parents. Goethe is known as one of the giants in world literature, but was a scientist as well as literary figure. Wrote Faust at the end of his life, completing Faust I in 1808. Goethe died in Weimer, Germany on March 22, 1832.

4. Tiger *The Lady and the Tiger - Stachiton (check) ll*
William Blake's poem-"Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright" comes from his Songs of Experience. 18th century-English. Blake's collection was written to celebrate the mystery and triumph of creation.

5. Heidi
19th century - Johanna Spyri-German translated from German 1881
20th century - film starring Shirley Temple-film made for T.V.

6. Princess, her lover, king
19th century - Frank Stockton-short story. *Tragedy of the King*
This was originally called The King's Arena and was read at a friend's party. Century Magazine published it and it became their most popular story. Stockton never answered the question of which door was chosen.

7. Little Match Girl
19th century - Hans Christian Anderson-short story.
This first appeared in Dansk Folkekalender. The story was written at the request of publisher Mr. Flinch and was taken from a drawing by J. T. Lundbye of a poor girl selling matches.

8. Cyrano de Bergerac
19th century - Edmond de Rostand-play.
The character was based on an actual person who lived in 17th century France. Was a soldier, satirist and dramatist and was known for his long nose.

20th century - film starring Jose Ferrer

9. Dorothy, Tinman, Scarecrow
1903-1st edition of L. Frank Baum's Wizard of Oz
1908-handpainted movie of book
1939-Wizard of Oz movie with Judy Garland. Dorothy was not someone Baum knew, just a name he liked.
The Tinman was a copy of a display in a hardware store window designed by Baum.

10. Mad Hatter
1865-Alice's Adventures in Wonderland-book-Lewis Carroll-English
1933-movie-Edward Everett Horton as Hatter
1951-Disney's film-Ed Wynn was voice of the Hatter
The Mad Hatter was drawn to resemble Theophilus Carter, a furniture dealer near Oxford. He was known as the Mad Hatter-wore a top hat and was eccentric.

11. Icabod Crane
1819-Washington Irving-book of essays-The Sketch Book, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." The essays were taken from Irvings knowledge of the Dutch American community.

12. Three Blind Mice
1609-Thomas Ravenscroft, editor-book.
This version was found in "Pleasant Roundelaus" a part of Deuteromelia or The Seconde Part of Musicks Melodie.
1842-first appeared in children's literature introduced by James O Halliwell.

13. Don Quixote
1605-Miguel de Cervantes Savaadra-book-Spanish
1959-James Reeves-retelling-Exploits of Don Quixote-American
1966-became a musical stage production as Man of La Mancha
The full title of Cervates book was El Ingeniojo Hidalqo Don Quixote de la Mancha.

14. Hiawatha
1855-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow-poem-American. Longfellow was influenced by Henry Rowe Schoolcraft who wrote on Indian legend and religion. Hiawatha was an Oyibway indian.

15. Bottom, Titania, Puck
1594-96-first staging of William Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream
1600-first reliable text printed of play
18th century-various operas were staged
1935-film-using Mendelssohn's music
1954-staged at the Met
The character of Bottom comes from the bottom or core of a skein upon which weaver's yarn was wound.
Titania is unknown in English folklore in Ovid it was another name for Circe.
Puck could have come from old wive's tales that Shakespeare heard in Stratford as a child. These go back to Anglo-Saxon times. An alternate name is Robin Goodfellow and he is found in Scot's Discoveries of Witchcraft-1584.

16. Androcles and the lion
1st century A.D.-Apion-Aiguptiaka
Aelian-De natura animalium
1912-George Bernard Shaw-play of same name
1938-James Daughtery-children's book-Andy and the Lion.
The story teller was Aulus Gellius and tells of Roman slave and the lion who was befriended and remembered at a later time.

17. Clara and the Nutcracker
1818-21-E.T.A. Hoffmann-in Die Serapionsbruder called The Nutcracker and the Mouse King-German
1892-Peter Slich Tchaikovsky-suite and ballet-first performed in St. Petersburg as suite-called Nutcracker Suite
1892-ballet performed called Casse-Noisette

18. Cinderella
850-860 A.D.-Chinese book earliest datable version
1540-could be one of stories in Complaynt of Scotland
1697-retelling in well-known form by Charles or Pierre Perrault-in Histoires ou Contes du temps passé as 'Cendrillon, ou la petite pantouffle de verre' (French)

18. Cinderella (Continued)
 - 1634-'La Gatta Cenerentola' (Italian)
 - 1727-Madame d'Aulnoy's-'Finetta and the Cinder-girl' (English)
 - 1817-Rossini-opera-La Cenerentola (Italian)
 - 1878-found in Scotland by Andrew Lang in another form
 - 1950-Disney animated film
 - 1957-Rodger's and Hammerstein musical for T.V.

19. Jacob and Jacob's ladder
 - Biblical story-Jacob purchased his brother's birthright and served Rachel's father 14 years to win her hand-Genesis 24:34.
 - Jacob's ladder-Seen by Jacob in a dream-Genesis 28:12.

20. The crow and the water jug
 - Aesops Fables-traditionally the author was a Phrygian slave, but some were written before his time.
 - This particular fable tells of a crow who is half dead with thirst and finds a water jug with water in the bottom and adds pebbles to bring the water level up to get a drink and finally succeeds. "Little by little does the trick."

21. Peter Pan, Tinkerbell, Wendy, Nana
 - 1900-J.M. Barrie-book-Tommy and Grizel-mentions little lost boy who is happy not to grow up
 - 1902-Barrie book-The Little White Bird-Peter appears in 6 chapters
 - 1904-Barrie play produced in London-Peter Pan
 - 1911-play Peter and Wendy put into story form
 - 1950-Disney animated film
 - 1955-Movie for T.V. starring Mary Martin
 - 1976-Movie for T.V. starring Mia Farrow
 - It's possible that Barrie considered Peter Pan as autobiographical. His play-life was more real than "reality."

22. Moby Dick
 - 1851-Herman Melville-book-American also called The White Whale. Study of good and evil, whale represents good. The book was forgotten at the time of Melville's death.
 - 1930,1956-film versions of book

23. Captain Ahab
 - The antagonist in Melville's Moby Dick. He dies seeking revenge on the whale.

24. Scheherazade, Sinbad the Sailor and the Old Man of the Sea
 - 9th century-first mention of the stories
 - 9th century-16th century-various translations and additions.

24. Scheherazade, Sinbad the Sailor and the Old Man of the Sea (Continued)

These are medieval stories set in Central Asia. The dates are uncertain and it is thought that there are several authors.

Scheherazade-Shahrazad-King's wife who makes up the stories to keep from being killed.

Sinbad and Old man-characters in stories

1942-movie version of stories

25. Robinson Crusoe

1719-Daniel Defoe-book-The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe of York, Mariner-English

1720-Defoe-In Serious Reflections of Robinson Crusoe. Defoe claimed it was an allegory on his life.

1814-Swiss Family Robinson by Jonathon Wyss-a follower of Defoe.

It is also said that Defoe founded his original story on the adventures of Alexander Selkirk.

7/24/79

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