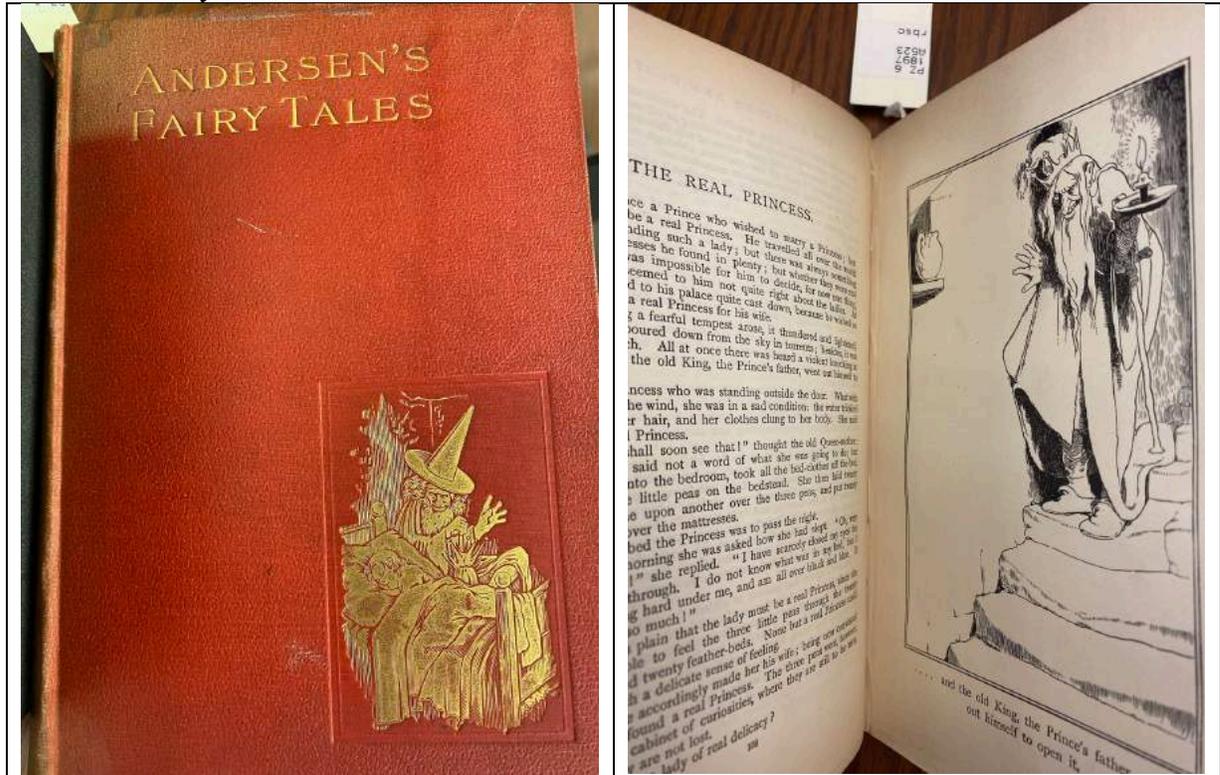


Rare Books and Special Collections Research Assignment

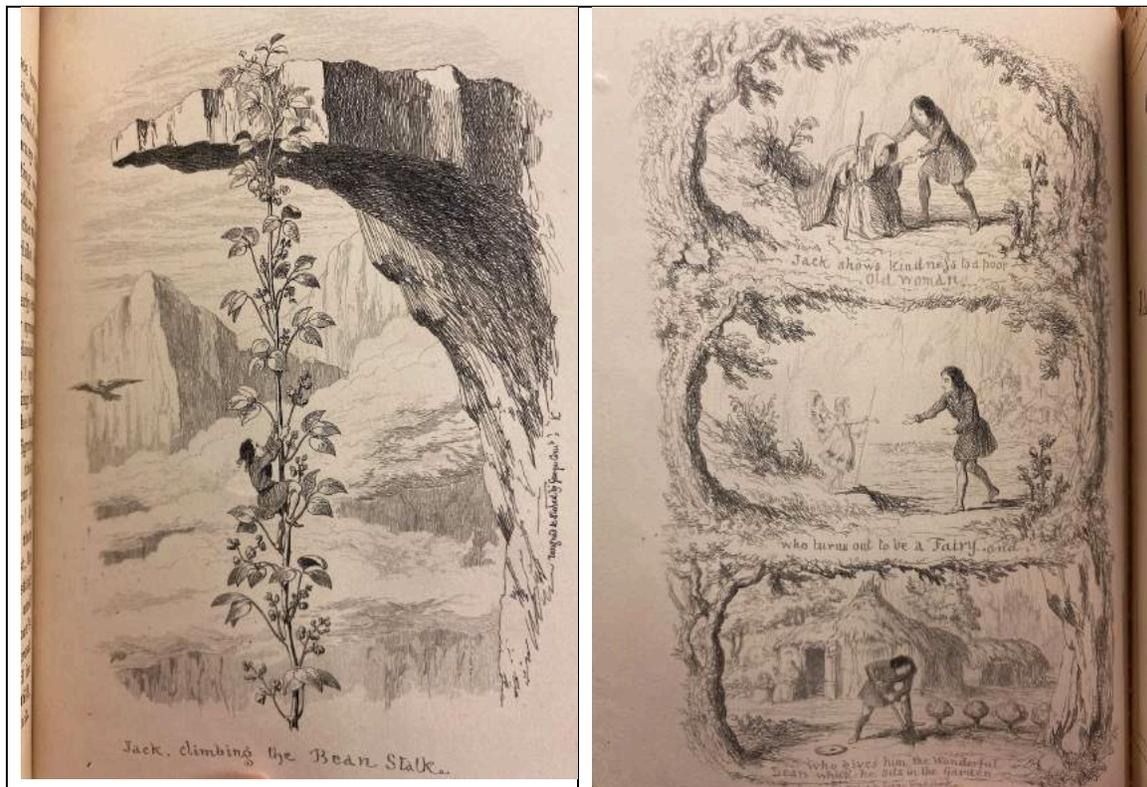
1. **The Real Princess** from *Danish Fairy Tales and Legends* by Hans Christian Anderson. Published in London by Bliss, Sands & Co in 1897. Call # PZ6 1897 .A523 <http://resolve.library.ubc.ca/cgi-bin/catsearch?bid=1083474>

I picked this one to be in my collection because it is one of my all time favourite stories, it is a classic that I knew to be “Princess and the Pea”, and it has been rewritten many times but this one is the original written by the original author. I never knew that this story was Danish, but now that I know that, I like that it adds a bit of culture to my collection. The illustration for this story was a little strange to me, as it depicts the King walking down the stairs to open the door for the Princess, but he has a somewhat sinister look on his face although the story says nothing about that whatsoever. Perhaps it was the way that they drew old people back then, but that was just something interesting and somewhat odd that I would like to point out. Other than that, the story is short and to the point, and is a nice quick read to children before bedtime or even just to yourself to escape into the world of Victorian fairytales. The leather hard cover of the book also gives a somewhat classic feel, complete with gold font and also an illustration done in gold as well in contrast to the bright red. I think if I had this book in my collection, it would definitely stand out on the bookshelf.



2. **Jack and the Beanstalk** from *Cinderella and the Glass Slipper* by George Cruikshank. Published in London by George Routledge and sons in 1854. Call # PZ6 1854 .C562:1 <http://resolve.library.ubc.ca/cgi-bin/catsearch?bid=1070939>

Jack and the Beanstalk is such a fun little story, I love the magical elements from beginning to end, truly immersing the reader into the fairy tale world. It is more of a “boyish” story, without all the princesses and princes typical of a fairy tale, but rather a fun adventure of a curious and mischievous boy. The images in this version are very detailed, as expected from Cruikshank's works, and it would be absolutely amazing to own one of his pieces in my collection. I particularly love the first two illustrations, with the first one being a little comic made of 3 strips detailing his initial encounter with the old woman and how he came to obtaining the magic beans. The trees acting as a border to separate the three small illustrations are so beautiful to me and also a fun and creative way to fit the most onto one page. I also love the second drawing, mostly because of the attention to detail in the background. The clouds in the background, along with the mountains and the bird, bring about an ethereal and also otherworldly feeling to the illustration as well as to the story. When looking at this illustration, you are either looking at the gorgeous background or the beanstalk, but not necessarily directly at Jack himself. When I first looked at this illustration, I couldn't even see Jack. I think Cruikshank was trying to unite Jack and the beanstalk as one in this illustration, to demonstrate how the beanstalk was now an extension of Jack himself rather than just being a plain old beanstalk that was Jack's. Owning this version of Jack and the Beanstalk would allow the reader to further analyze the illustrations along with the story itself, making it an entirely different experience especially because they are Cruikshank's work.

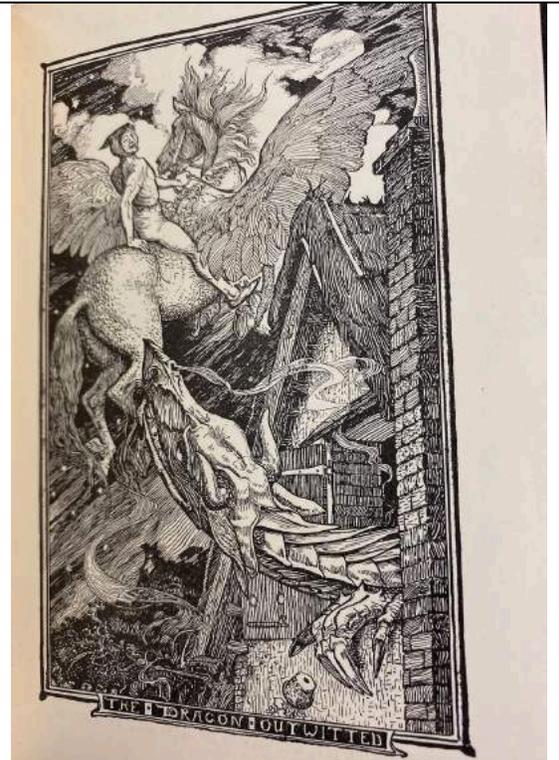
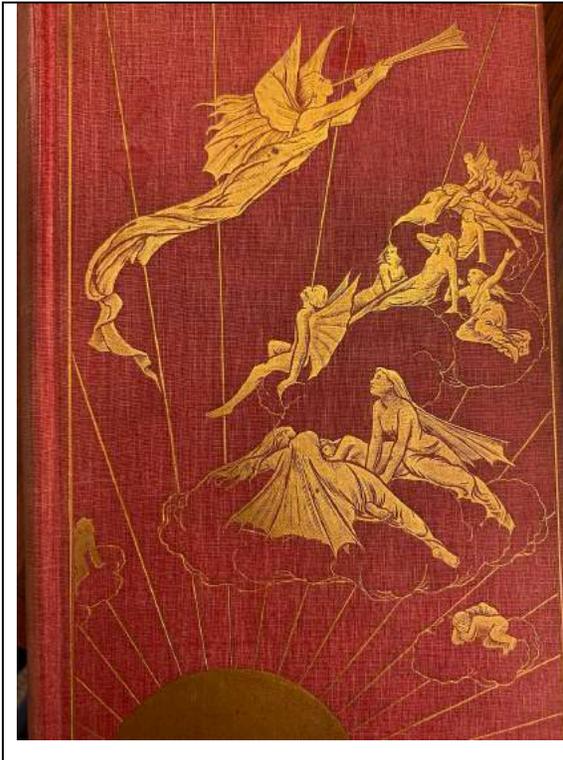


3. **How the Dragon was Tricked** from The Pink Fairy Book by Andrew Lang.

Published in London by Longmans in 1897. Call # PZ6 1897 .L353

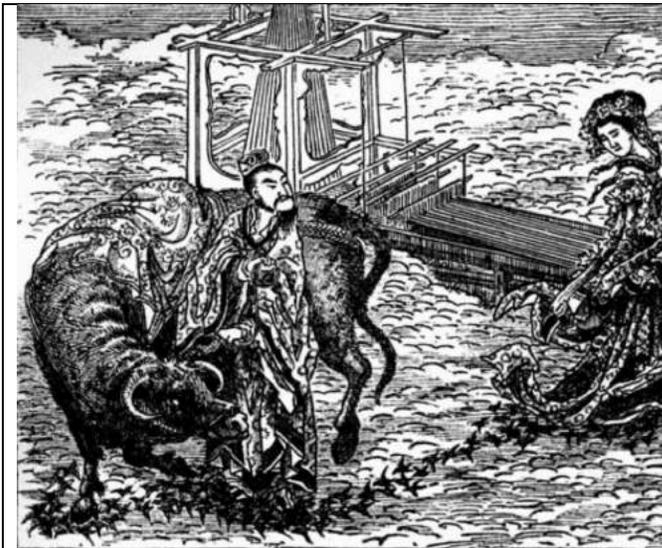
<http://resolve.library.ubc.ca/cgi-bin/catsearch?bid=13779>

I thought this story was very fun when I first read it. I liked how it illustrated the sibling rivalry that is present in almost all sibling relationships, although the fairy tale takes it to an extreme, one that includes dragons. The story is quite funny in the way the protagonist tricks the dragon, and pretty smart as well. The illustration for this story is chaotic in nature, because I feel like there is a lot to look at but I'm unsure on what to really focus on. The shading is more one dimensional, and there is something happening in every corner of the illustration, therefore making it chaotic in nature. I really like the idea of the coloured fairy books that Andrew Lang compiled, and I picked the pink one because I personally love the colour pink. However, one thing that I absolutely loved about this book is how it allows readers to explore different fairy tales from around the world, with The Pink Fairy Book focusing on Japanese and Scandinavian tales. The beautiful cover of the book drew me in, and it allowed me to discover many fairy tales that I would have otherwise never have come into contact with, and it allowed me to find the cute tale of How the Dragon was Tricked.



4. **The Meeting of the Star-Lovers** from *Japanese Fairy World* by William Elliot Griffis. Published in London by Trubner in 1887. Call # PZ6 1887 .G753
<http://resolve.library.ubc.ca/cgi-bin/catsearch?bid=2173577>

I picked this story because I liked how it was a Japanese folk tale detailing how the *Tanabata* (or *Star Festival*) came to be. Japanese folk tales have always intrigued me, and I liked that this story linked to a celebration that is still being held every year. I think that it is very cool that perhaps Japanese students grew up with this tale as we North Americans did with tales such as Cinderella, but most of us that are not Japanese or did not grow up surrounded with Japanese culture would have never even heard of this tale that is such a big part of Asian culture. I liked that the illustration for this story had very traditional Asian aspects, such as the dress and the hair and even the background with the way that the clouds are drawn. Even the cover of the book has Asian notes, such as the gold koi fish (I think) and the samurai on his back carrying a rock with Chinese characters, also known as Kanji in Japanese. (*note: I did not take a photo of this illustration, so this photo was taken from the internet. I did, however, take the photo of the book itself.*)



5. **The Old Woman who Lost her Dumpling** from Japanese Fairy Tales by Lafcadio Hearn. Published in Tokyo by T. Hasegawa in 1898. Call # PZ6 1898 H427
<http://resolve.library.ubc.ca/cgi-bin/catsearch?bid=940351>

This entire collection by Lafcadio Hearn was absolutely beautiful. It was difficult to choose which tale was my favourite, but at the end I ultimately picked The Old Woman who Lost her Dumpling. I found the story to be so obscure and strange, and the illustrations for it were adorable! The Old Woman constantly has a little grin on her face, and the story even narrates her laughter with a little “he he he” that just made me laugh. I loved how this tale had an illustration to accompany the text on every page, and it was unlike any of the other fairy tales I mentioned earlier. The use of crepe paper and silk threads was a very innovative way to tie in the Japanese culture, and the illustrations, although printed onto the paper, seem to have been done with the techniques of calligraphy.

