



# **Drawn to Enchant: Original Children's Book Art in the Betsy Beinecke Shirley Collection (Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library)**

*Timothy Young*

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## **Drawn to Enchant: Original Children's Book Art in the Betsy Beinecke Shirley Collection (Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library)** Timothy Young

Betsy Beinecke Shirley, one of the great collectors of American children's literature, gathered a peerless collection of books, original illustrations, manuscripts, and ephemera. This gorgeously illustrated book presents over 200 selected original artworks from the enchanting collection she bequeathed to the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library of Yale University.

Guiding the reader on a lively tour through the stages of childhood reading, this volume begins with ABCs and nursery books. It continues through adventure stories, magazines, and more, then concludes with a miscellany section of wonderful odds and ends. The delightfully varied images demonstrate how children's books evolved, from the nation's first days of independence to our own times. Artists whose works are represented include many beloved favorites, among them Ludwig Bemelmans, Maurice Sendak, A. B. Frost, Wanda Gag, Peter Newell, N. C. Wyeth, Tony Sarg, Robert Lawson, and Johnny Gruelle.

From variant illustrations for *Goodnight Moon* and *Where the Wild Things Are* to little-known sketches for nineteenth-century periodicals that delighted generations of children, *Drawn to Enchant* offers a unique opportunity to study the reading lives of children throughout American history. Just as important, it invites each reader to recollect favorite images from the treasured books of his or her own childhood.

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