

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-48726-0 - Children's Books of Yesterday
John Masefield
Frontmatter
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***Children's
Books
of
Yesterday***

*A Catalogue of an Exhibition
held at 7 Albemarle Street
London during May 1946
Compiled by Percy H. Muir
With a Foreword by
John Masefield*



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NOTE

The Council of the National Book League wishes to thank the National Magazine Company, Ltd., for the loan of the collection of children's books which forms the greater part of this Exhibition, and Mr. Percy H. Muir for arranging the Exhibition and preparing the catalogue. Thanks are also due to Messrs. Warne and Mr. K. W. G. Duke for the exhibits they have kindly lent

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Foreword

I am glad that the first peace-time Exhibition to be held by the National Book League, and the first in its own home, will be of books for children.

If children use books at all, it is for the marrow of enjoyment to be found in them. What they seek in books is delight. In their search for delight they often ignore the teaching which the cunning elder thought to impart when he wrote the book. The child may think that the powder of instruction only shows the author's failure to keep up the quality of jelly throughout his work.

The books here displayed should be of the deepest interest to the National Book League and to the nation. We do not now hold the view that "All Children are by Nature evil"; but we do believe that children, like adults, should be lured and coaxed into the use of books. Here are the devices which the genius of four centuries has invented to lure some dozen generations of the young into civility. Here are a thousand hints for coaxing the young of this world into a new humanity.

JOHN MASEFIELD