

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## CHILDREN'S BOOKS FEATURED IN NEW LIBRARY EXHIBIT

*Downtown Library's New Exhibit Celebrates Four Centuries of Literature for Children*

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The Brothers Grimm, *Alice in Wonderland*, Dr. Seuss, *Charlotte's Web*, or Dick and Jane? Many of us fondly remember the books we were first introduced to as young children, and which we in turn may have shared with our own children later on. Stories sparking imagination or teaching lessons alongside glorious illustrations are the hallmarks of children's books today – but what were children reading 200 years ago? And how does that compare to what children are reading today?

A visually stunning overview of 400 years of publishing for children is now on view at the Downtown Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square in Buffalo, in the exhibition ***B is for Book: Children's Stories through the Centuries***. **This exhibition is free and open to the public during all Library operating hours.**

Early editions of *Aesop's Fables*, beloved fairy tales, pop-up mechanical and picture books, hornbooks and early instructional texts, ABC and Mother Goose editions, and first editions of *Gulliver's Travels* (1726), Dr. Seuss' very first book *And To Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street* (1937), L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (1899), and many more examples of children's publishing showcase the Library's extensive collection, established in 1896. The Buffalo Public Library gained national attention at that time for opening one of the first reading rooms designed specifically for children.

***B is for Book*** is a visual delight (and likely a nostalgic journey) for all ages. Cozy reading areas with copies of children's books that can be browsed and borrowed are adjacent to the exhibition.

This exhibition is made possible through the generosity of Dr. Grant S. Golden & Ms. Deborah A. Goldman, Harmac Medical Products, Greyline Outdoor Advertising, Donald MacDavid Trust, Raymond M. Melancon Annuity Fund, The Weissman Family Foundation, Rand Capital Corporation, Western New York Family Magazine and The Wisbaum Family.

This is the third major exhibit inspired by the Library's extensive collections and produced by the Library's Grosvenor Room librarians and design team, following *Milestones of Science: Books that Shook the World* (2015 – 2017) and *Buffalo Never Fails: The Queen City and World War I* (2017 – 2020).

Visitors to the Library are advised that face coverings must be worn by everyone over the age of two and social distancing is required.

For further information on the ***B is for Book*** exhibit visit:

<https://www.buffalolib.org/whats-happening/b-book> or by phone at (716) 858-8900. The Library System website is [www.BuffaloLib.org](http://www.BuffaloLib.org).

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