



The Annotated Wizard of Oz (Centennial Edition)

By L. Frank Baum

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In celebration of the 100th anniversary of its publication, a beautifully illustrated annotation of *The Wizard of Oz*, complete with an exact reproduction of the original 1900 edition.

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz is the quintessential American fairy tale. Michael Patrick Hearn, the world's leading Oz scholar, now provides a fascinating new annotation that not only reacquaints readers with the Tin Woodman, Scarecrow, and Cowardly Lion, but also illuminates the colorful background of this treasured American classic. This edition explores numerous contemporary references, provides character sources, and explains the actual meaning of the word "Oz." A facsimile of the rare 1900 first edition appears with the original drawings by W.W. Denslow, as well as 25 previously unpublished illustrations. There is a bibliography of L. Frank Baum's published work, every notable "Oz" edition, and the stage and cinematic productions from 1939's *The Wizard of Oz*, to the 1974 Broadway hit, *The Wiz*. A beautiful, awe-inspiring work, *The Annotated Wizard of Oz* is an enduring tribute to the timeless joy of *The Wizard of Oz*, and a classic to rival Baum's own.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

An updated version of the definitive guide, *The Annotated Wizard of Oz* provides a facsimile color version of the first edition of L. Frank Baum's children's classic along with extensive notes and a thorough history of the immense Oz project. In his excellent introduction, Michael Patrick Hearn describes the author's early life and interests and the development of his collaboration with W.W. Denslow, the original illustrator for his books.

An energetic and excitable fellow, Baum's devotion to make-believe began in his early 20s, when he joined a small touring theatrical troupe on the East Coast. Later attempts to run a general store and a newspaper in South Dakota (then the Wild West) failed miserably. Although few of his business ventures or artistic efforts had met with success, in 1897 Baum's "Father Goose" rhymes (designed and illustrated by Denslow) became a surprise bestseller, and Baum was able to buy his family a summer cottage on Lake Michigan, christened "The Sign of the Goose," for which he made most of the furniture (goose-themed, of course) and stenciled the walls with a frieze of green geese.

The idea for *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, "a modern fairy tale," as he considered it, soon followed, and the book appeared in May 1900. The 10,000-copy first printing sold out in two weeks, and about 90,000 sold within the first year. Hearn goes on to describe the many books that followed, as well as the 1902 musical extravaganza *The Wizard of Oz* and Baum's subsequent, ill-starred attempts to depict the world of Oz on film. (He died long before the 1939 MGM musical made his fairy tale known around the globe.) In 1907, he told a reporter for the Grand Rapids *Herald* why he preferred young readers:

To write fairy stories for children, to amuse them, to divert restless children, sick children, to keep them out of mischief on rainy days, seems of greater importance than to write grown-up novels. Few of the popular novels last the year out, responding as they do to a certain psychological demand, characteristic of the time; whereas, a child's book is, comparatively speaking, the same always, since children are always the same kind of folks with the same needs to be satisfied.

Hearn has gone to great lengths in his notes to this facsimile of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, often referring to subsequent volumes in the series, slowly building a key to the rules and history of Oz, pointing out inconsistencies as well as hints to Baum's literary sources (such as Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*), and providing, among other delights, a mini-treatise on malevolent vegetation in Oz. This is an essential volume for the Oz aficionado or the student of children's literature, and a wonderful resource for parents of young readers. --Regina Marler

From Library Journal

We're off to see the Wizard! Many readers of this annotated version of arguably the most famous American fairy tale will be surprised to learn that the 1939 MGM movie musical was based on a best-selling children's book written 100 years ago; far more readers will be astonished to find out that *The Wizard* was followed by a good 40 sequels, many as popular as the first Oz tale by Baum and illustrator Denslow. This volume reproduces Denslow's color drawings from the first edition (1900) and includes previously unpublished illustrations. Despite the popularity of that work, whose copyright author and illustrator shared, the two never collaborated again. As the self-styled Royal Historian of Oz, Baum went on to write 13 more Oz

adventures; his mantle was then passed to Ruth Plumly Thompson, editor of the Philadelphia Public Ledger's Sunday children's page, who produced an additional 19 titles. John R. Neill, illustrator of all the Oz books but the first, then wrote three more sequels, and since his death in 1943 (Baum died in 1919), numerous others have tried their hand at an Oz story. So powerful was the book's spell that its Russian translator, Aleksandr Volkov, wrote several sequels of his own in Russian for Soviet citizens. Hearn, described by the publisher as "the world's leading Oz scholar," mines *The Wizard* in this wide-ranging assay of the multifarious strands that fed the imaginations of Baum and Denslow. His explanations and conjectures are enhanced by commentary from such luminaries as Salman Rushdie and Gore Vidal. Of comparable weight to the annotations are the extensive biographical sketches of Baum and Denslow, which elucidate the era in which the book was conceived. The annotations can wander at times, perhaps unavoidably, into tenuous speculation or somewhat irrelevant asides, yet the book is invaluable in pointing out discrepancies that generations of children have wondered about (why the Munchkins live in the east of in some of the Oz books, at other times in the west). And those who know both book and film will delight in discovering why, e.g., the book's Silver Shoes became the film's Ruby Slippers. Hearn, unlike Martin Gardner, the author of *The Annotated Alice* (LJ 12/99), had many sequels and a film to treat. His painstaking annotation shows us Baum's Wizard as a whiz of a wiz if ever a wiz there was. Highly recommended.

-*Edward Cone, New York*

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Review

"I have never known or heard of an American man or woman who has started to read *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*? and put it down without finishing it." (James Thurber)

"Seeing *The Wizard of Oz*? made a writer of me." (Salman Rushdie)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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This *The Annotated Wizard of Oz* (Centennial Edition) are generally reliable for you who want to become a successful person, why. The reason why of this *The Annotated Wizard of Oz* (Centennial Edition) can be one of many great books you must have is giving you more than just simple reading through food but feed anyone with information that probably will shock your before knowledge. This book is definitely handy, you can bring it everywhere and whenever your conditions in e-book and printed versions. Beside that this *The Annotated Wizard of Oz* (Centennial Edition) giving you an enormous of experience including rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we understand it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

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yours guide. Your knowledge can inspire the others, make them reading a book.

Maxine Ford:

The reason? Because this The Annotated Wizard of Oz (Centennial Edition) is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap it but latter it will surprise you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who write the book in such incredible way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book get such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I were being you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

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