

Melissa M. Terras

The Professor in Children's Literature: An Anthology

- Assembles for the first time a wide range of original material, now available for public use, featuring the 'professor' figure in books marketed to a young audience between 1871 and 1933.
- Features extensive black and white illustrations, throwing light on the real-world contexts of the texts and their treatment of women and race.
- Showcases the resources on which research monographs depend, such as the digitisation of rare primary historical sources, and the work of collation and editing—resources that also potentially provide a means for supporting open scholarship in the arts and humanities.

Although professors feature in many popular and enduring works of children's literature (from *The Water Babies* to Harry Potter), their role has been so far unexamined. Academics are routinely illustrated as old, white, scientific men with unruly hair, who settle into the stereotype of the male, mad, muddlehead. Published to coincide with Professor Terras's monograph *Picture-Book Professors: Academia and Children's Literature* (2018)—which shows how such a trope emerged—this anthology gathers together a selection of material that illustrates it in action. From the ineffectual and baffled Professor Ptthmlnsprts in Charles Kingsley's *The Water Babies* to the conceited Professor Wogglebug in Frank Baum's *The Emerald City of Oz*—and other less well-known characters rediscovered here—the image of the professor in children's books indicates that the suspicion of experts and the mistrust of science has a long history.

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