

Maciej Skowera

Museum of Children's Books in Warsaw (Poland)

**The Impact of the Controversial Elements of Children's Authors' Mythobiographies
on the Reception and Transformation of Their Works
(Lewis Carroll, J. M. Barrie, L. Frank Baum)**

The lives of famous children's authors are often more interesting for adults than for young readers (Orlińska, 2010), and the most interesting issues seem to be not 'official' aspects of a particular writer's existence, but 'dark,' 'secret,' 'suspicious' elements of their so-called mythobiographies (discursively created beliefs about one's life, based on both the facts and gossips, half-truths, common and unconfirmed courts, and popular narrative patterns – as it was proposed by Jarosław Ławski, 2010, & Marta Białobrzeska, 2016). The paper aims to present the meanings of these factual-imaginary biographies in the context of the reception and transformation of specific stories, therefore, to answer the question: How does controversial dimensions of one's mythobiography affect the perception of their works in the imaginarium of popular culture? By 'controversial,' the author of the paper means – in this particular context – those that conflict with romanticized ideals of what childhood and children's fiction should be (Skowera, 2017). As this issue is particularly visible in how 'classic' authors and their books circulate in the common cultural imagination (Orlińska, 2010), the paper would focus on three famous figures of British and American children's literature: Lewis Carroll, imagined both as a great writer and a paedophile (a belief discussed by, *inter alia*, Will Brooker, 2004, & Karoline Leach, 1999), J. M. Barrie, seen as not only a friend but also an abuser of the Llewelyn Davies boys (a conviction mentioned by, among others, Allison B. Kavey, 2009, and Maria Tatar, 2011), and L. Frank Baum, the 'father' of American children's literature, accused of racism, imperialist worldview, etc. (as stated by Joshua Ostroff, 2017). The research material would include the writers' literary and film biographies as well as analyses, interpretations and rewritings of their works, and the allusions to the mentioned controversies in unprofessional discourse.

Keywords: children's writers, J. M. Barrie, L. Frank Baum, Lewis Carroll, mythobiography

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Maciej Skowera – PhD, works as a curator at the Museum of Children's Books in Warsaw. His research interests include history and the theory of children's and young adult fantasy fiction, adult reworkings of juvenile classics, and popular culture. He is a member of the University of Warsaw's Laboratory of Literature for Children and Young People, IRSCL, and the Polish Section of IBBY, and a managing editor of the *Dzieciństwo. Literatura i Kultura* [Childhood: Literature and Culture] scholarly journal. In 2019, he was a participant of the fellowship programme conducted by the Internationale Jugendbibliothek [International Youth Library] in Munich. Contact: maciej.skowera@koszykowa.pl.