

National College of Art and Design

Faculty of Design Visual Communications

Arthur Rackham - The Grotesque in Nature by Sinéad Mc Kenna

Submitted to the Faculty of History of Art and Design in Candidacy for the Degree in Bachalor of Design 1996

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Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my tutor Niamh O'Sullivan who helped me through my thesis and also Trinity Library for allowing me view Rackham's first editions.

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INTRODUCTION







In dealing with issues of good and evil , pleasure and pain , comfort and misery, the beautiful and the grotesque, Rackham expressed in graphic form, and at their most elemental, feeling and qualities that every human has experienced, and probably always will. (Hamiliton, 1990, p9)

Famous for his illustrations of children's books, Arthur Rackham's talents lay in his ability to produce exciting fantasy images, engaging immediately with the child's imagination. Rackham (1867 - 1939) has been known to both terrify and charm the viewer with his combinations of the graceful and the grotesque. It is his powerful depiction of the grotesque and, in particular, his portrayal of it through nature that fascinates me. This specific aspect of his work is unique, as the grotesque is generally depicted by other illustrators through the characters of the text, and nature is usually depicted in a passive role, but Rackham's portrayal of it is very different, he humanises it, he often places nature in an active role, being either in harmony with the characters or in conflict with them. His constant references to 'imperfect', weathered nature and other negative aspects of age and the passing of time are central features of the grotesque, Rackham's understanding of this theory was unusually focused.

In chapter one I give a brief synopsis of Rackham's life showing that his early work as an illustrator of magazines had little similarities to the more fluid fantasy work of his children's book, and I demonstrate how and why this transition took place. I draw attention to the constant portrayal of the beauty and virtuousness of nature in many children's illustrations and I relate this to Ruskin's similar theories of nature, this highlights the contrast in many of Rackham's grotesque images.

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The grotesque has its roots firmly in the past, dating back as far as Roman civilisation. Throughout the centuries, the word grotesque has changed in meaning, each century emphasising and adapting it's own view point, consequently, this has resulted in the grotesque having different meanings, which must be examined using these several different stand points. I have with reference to <u>The Grotesque in Art and Literature</u>, Kayser (1975) located four different aspects of the grotesque each relating specifically to Rackham's work I wish to demonstrate how he has used them and what effect it had on his illustrations.

The importance of fantasy to children is very often misunderstood. Fantasy is frequently relegated to, the amusement and entertainment of children., but I totally dispute this theory, and with the help of Bettleheim's <u>Uses of</u> <u>Enchantment</u> (1976), I demonstrate how fantasy has the ability to construct inner abstract thoughts and emotions such as fear, disappointment, rivalry, independence and the gaining the of self worth, helping the child to grasp an understanding of these concepts and therefore having a significant role to play in the psychological growth and development of children. Rackham's grotesque images are very closely linked with fantasy, I show that many of his illustrations correlate with Bettleheim's later theories, and that his fantasies always revert back and have significance to the human world of emotions.

Rackham's constant depiction of eerie teutonic forests led me to investigate why they dominated his illustrations, and how his portrayal is typical of the way the forest is surveyed in the landscape. I also want to examine the significance of his humanised trees, and relate this view of trees to the way the primitive ancient Aryian race viewed the tree.

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The importance of further is of history as on, other minimum of the data is targets integrandly released to the environment and one that ment of the data of back totally dispute this theory, and with the only of the fideword, it sets at the backber of 97.61.1 demonstrate from the court of backber is the data by the is not phetron through the and to tablets such as near the dispute the and the morperations and the process from the data of the data proposition are available on the performance and the process and there is not the proposition are available to the psychological grow the and to tablets such as not the total of the and the proposition of the protocol and the process and there from the proposition and the proposition by psychological grow the and development of the tablet of the tablet of the process of the control of the other is not the total of the proposition of the process and the other is the tablet of the tablet of the tablets are to provide and the other is the target of the tablet of the provide table of the other induction of the tablet of the attractable on the target of the tablet of the tablet of the tablet of the tablets and the start field of the tablet of the tablet of the tablets are tablet and the target of the tablet of the tablet of the attractable on the target field of the tablet of the tablet of the tablets of the target of target of the tablet of the tablet of the target of the target of target of the target of the target of target of target of the attractable of target of target of target of the target of target of target of target of target of the target of target of target of target of the target of target of

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Fig 1.2 North Shore Sydney. Watercolour 1884. Fig 1.3 Olive trees above Assisi. Watercolour 1928.



Chapter 1

RACKHAM AND HIS TECHNIQUES



Arthur Rackham was one of the most successful British children's book illustrators, working during the later stages of the Golden Age of children's books at the turn of the century. Although he lived equally in the Edwardian era, he has always been considered a Victorian illustrator, and he remained so, both in style and outlook.

Rackham was born in to a Victorian middle class family of seven children, he lived throughout his childhood in South Lambeth Road, London and studied at the City of London School. At the age of seventeen he made a four month trip to Australia for reasons of health. During his stay there he produced his first substantial body of art work showing his early interest in watercolour and the depiction of nature. On returning home, he enrolled as an evening student at Lambeth School of Art, while earning a living during the day as a clerk in the Westminster Fire Office. In 1892 he left his clerk job, having the confidence that he could earn a comfortable living through his first love, illustration. He was employed full time by the magazine publisher Westminster Budget, and also acquired other commissions from varying periodicals; Pall Mall Gazette, Cassell's Magazine and little folks. Many of his illustrations during this period were conventional black and ink drawings concentrating on both realistic figures and settings. The briefs that he got would have been specific, having to illustrate recognisable people and places, this left little room for his own freedom of expression and as a result his illustrations were often contrived and ridget. He had to deal with titles such as, The struggle for seats at Oxford Circus, Pall Mall Budget (1891), which captured the tension of a typical day at the station with people either standing or running for a carriage. He has divided this illustration into three parts, separating each scene with a line, this crude division, truncated figures in the lower section, and left floating

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Fig 1.4 The struggle for seats at Oxford Circus. Pall Mall Budget 19 March, 1891.





Fig 1.5 Becket at Winsor. Westminster Budget, 24 March 1893.



figures in the upper section. This in my opinion, is not successful as it does not lend itself to the realistic setting. His early works shows one, first, his reliance on the line, secondly his limitations in portraying the facts and thirdly, his experimentation in the construction of the picture plane.

To his utmost benefit he gradually acquired a good reputation for illustrating adventure stories and other children's literature, which helped the conventional be supplanted by the fanciful and by the end of the century he had estab lished himself as an independent illustrator of children's fantasy. This transition was vital for Rackham to survive moving from a journalistic illustrator into the imaginative realm of fantasy;

Rackham could not remain a realist, for realism would destroy all the spirit and meaning of his art. He cannot confine himself to the facts that are before him because plain actuality would never satisfy him and wouldn't allow scope for expression that he so intensely desires. (Gettings, 1975, p 11)

Rackham realised his vocation lay in fantasy book illustrations, and this became his only source of employment for the rest of his life. The first sign of the progression of this style can be seen in <u>Zankiwink and Bletherwitch</u> (1896) by F J Adair Fitzgerald and was an indication of his future grotesque work. In these illustrations Rackham developed a being that was half-ostrich, half-man; this grotesque creatures personality is strikingly vibrant and energetic. The character dominates the illustration, the small children that surround him appear mundane and void of any personality; the depiction of apparently real figures side by side with the bizarre shows Rackham's talent and preference for conveying grotesque beings rather than ordinary figures.

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Fig 1.6 At the gates of shadow land. Zankiwink and Bletherwitch 1896.



Rackham first caught the public's imagination in 1898 with Barham's Ingoldsby Legends, and the following year with his illustrations to Charles and Mary Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare. In 1900 his Grimm Fairy Tales strengthened his reputation but it was Washington Irving's <u>Rip Van Winkle</u> published in 1905, that firmly established Rackham's singular position as a fantasy book illustrator. In this book he portrayed a realistic, harsh, poverty stricken village, this contrasted with the mystical eerie forest where he launched into his own fantasy world. The gnome like characters that he created showed little resemblance to the plump, bearded human like beings that are generally conveyed. In the illustration, The Kaatsberg or Catskill mountains have always been a region full of fable, the main creature being in the centre had more tree/animal characteristics than human. In order for this creature to have impact, as he was the commander of the forest and not to verge away from the text, Irving described them as being "short built, old fellows" (Irving, 1980,p 3) Rackham placed small human like creatures around the central grotesque-like figure that gave the main creature a more striking presence.

The turn of the century saw the introduction of photo mechanical reproduction which revolutionised printing. This technique discovered in 1860, used the camera to photograph a drawing and develop it straight onto the block or plate, so as a result, the art of the engraver became increasingly redundant. It had many advantages, one being the fact that the artist no longer had to draw in reverse or rely on the engraver's interpretation of his work. Before this invention, images were given to the engraver who engraved the illustrations on wood blocks; it was the engraver who dictated the quality of line as it was
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his tools, angle and style of cross-hatching, for example, that resulted in the end product. This mechanical advance was of significant importance to Rackham's work as it was his individualistic and versatile use of line that was the essence of his illustration.

The new three colour printing process was first used in Britain in the 1900's, this unsophisticated process at this early stage, proved to be better in dealing with soft tones, rather than strong vibrant colours, and as Rackham's illustrations were in subtle watercolours, it was an ideal process for his illustrations. In fact, many of his illustrations, lent themselves to dull hues, this helped to create his dark, gloomy images. These overall tones of muted greys and browns gave the illustration an old age earthy appearance; this can be seen in the illustration, <u>They worked themselves into such a rage that they tore up trees by the roots</u>. Here the muddy browns, blend with the weathered trees that the two cave -like men pull out of the earth; his colour choice mirr or the destructive, barbaric atmosphere of the image. One of the drawbacks of the three colour printing process was that the illustrations could not be dispersed throughout the book; all the plates had to be placed at the end of the book, resulting in the story being told once in the words of the author, and again in the illustrations of Rackham.

However, this process lead to the production of deluxe editions allowing for the unprecedented emphasis on fine book reproduction, quality illustrations, binding and typography. This came at an ideal time for Rackham as the gift book flourished in a way that would not have been possible either before, due to to technical limitations, or later, due to the economic constraints of World War I.

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Fig 1.8 They worked themselves into such a rage that they tore up trees by the roots. The Fairy Tale of the Grimm Brothers 1906.



CHAPTER 2

RACKHAM, DULAC AND BEARDSLEY

CHAPTER 2

RACKHAM, DULAC AND BEARDSLEY

In comparing Rackham's work to other contemporary illustrators, I first looked to Edmund Dulac (1882 - 1953) whose work has often been compared to that of Rackham, as they both benefited from the gift book period and illustrated similar book titles - <u>Children's Stories</u> from Hans Anderson, Shakespere's <u>Tempest</u> and fiction by Edgar Allen Poe. Although they both used the medium of watercolour, Dulac was fascinated by strong, vibrant colours to emphasise pattern, whereas Rackham's interest lay in the more muted colours to emphasis line. The difference between them has been summarised succinctly: 'Mr Dulac draws with his brush and Mr. Rackham paints with his pen' (Hamilton pg. 98). For subject matter Rackham seemed to focus on Nordic Teutonic mythology, while Dulac was inspired by eastern traditions especially their brightly jewelled patterns that lent towards the exotic.

Another contemporary illustrator who took inspiration from the East was Aubrey Beardsley (1872 - 1898). Beardsley mainly worked in black and white and was concerned with linear qualities, an aspect he had in common with Rackham. The main elements of eastern art which were very fashionable during the nineteenth century were designs incorporating flat pattern, texture, simplified shapes, the elimination of perspective and symmetrical balance. One can see that Dulac was fascinated by Persian miniatures which stimulated him to experiment in rich shadings of blues - ultramarine, prussian blue, indigo, violet and purples. Beardsley, on the other hand, was interested in Japanese prints which influenced him to illustrate sweeping blocks of bold negative and positive spaces which was quite unlike Dulac's eastern influence. What Dulac's illustrations lacked, both Rackham and Beardlsley successfully

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Fig.2.1 She was a lily among many coloured flowers. By Dulac The Golden Cockerel 1926.



created, was an atmosphere of foulness and depravity: they worked on images that depicted negative aspects of the world rather than the benign qualities of Dulac who never seemed to depict any kind of nastiness or ruthlessness. Beardsley enjoyed controversy and aimed to shock people, ' he enjoyed frightening people with his presumably intuitive knowledge of evil and secret things'. He managed to make a name for himself drawing the attention of many critics who noted ' the charm of degeneration and decay in things that do not belong to the sane in body or mind his work was described as, vulgar in idea and offensive '.....'thoroughly morbid' Gazette (18th April 1894) Beardsley enjoyed the excitement this created; 'I suffer my critics gladly their inconsistency and futile hypocrisies fill me with amusement (Snodgrass, 1995 p. 57). This shows Beardsley's disregard for the critics' opinion contrasts with Rackham's attitude to public opinion which was more nervous and reserved, this is shown in the comment he made about the Ring series by Richard Wagner -' I quite expected to make as many enemies as friends' (Hamilton, 1990 p. 99). The public, however, were more complimentary towards Rackham's work and he showed his appreciation in 1923 when he said 'the Americans have done great things for me in buying my pictures - I have mainly lived on them' (Hamilton p 126)

<u>The Knight took her in his arms and bore her over the narrow space</u> by Rackham, <u>She was a lily among many coloured flowers</u> by Dulac and the title page for <u>Salome</u> by Beardsley can all be categorised as forms of the grotesque. This classification of grotesque was established by Christopher Martin Wieland in 1775. The first category is where an artist reproduces natural distortions as he or she finds them, this is found in Rackham's <u>Undine</u> image,

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c) oted, was an atmosphere of tooloose and dop can itselfing control on mage that depicted negative appets of the world notice then the being equalities or build a discover second to depict any book of our times or cathic second the deby enjoyed control only and sinced to shock people. The enjoried right or sy prople with his presentably infuitive loss dedge or self and second things. If transmig.st to real second for his self darwing the attention or many others who noted to had a mane for his self darwing the attention or react of her who noted. The dearm of degore containing the attention of a not belong, to the same in body or mind to a only was detected as, second to algor in the other same in body or mind. It is only was detected as, second to algor in the reaction of the content of the second of the second of the algor in things that

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Fig 2.0 The knight took her in his arms and bore her over the narrow space. Undine 1909.



where the trees that enclose the courting couple are distorted into dry, brittle, decaying objects. The second category is the exaggeration of the subject matter to either enhance or draw attention to, without destroying its similarity to its original state, Dulac 's large stylised flowers come under this category. Beardsley's image encompasses the third category which related to monstrous, absurd or horrific images that provoke disgust and surprise.

In the illustration <u>She was like a lily among many coloured flowers</u>, Dulac's brightly coloured plants complement the joyous mood of the six women; the plants and women are strategically placed within the picture frame creating a harmonious balance between both nature and the female. Dulac creates in this illustration many analogies between flower trees and women, everything is in symmetry with each other, the three flowers on either side of the trees echo the three figures, the sway of the trees echo the stance of the women; and the stylised carbon copies of the flowers mirror the equally identical appearances of the women.

On the other hand, in Rackham's illustration there is a complete contrast between the harsh surroundings, and the subject matter - the embracing couple. The scene surrounding them is dark and murky and Rackham used only two tones - grey brown and grey green - to give an overall dull dreary ambiance. The terrain on which the couple lie is covered with fallen trees and broken branches portraying great discomfort and danger. Despite these surroundings they remain content and happy, to be in each others arms and appear indifferent to any outward disturbances. The forest symbolises and Show the times that end-see the constitute or up is an distorted of that only initials, decay arguing objects. The second category is the conggeration of the subject matter is either configuration of the second category is the conggeration of the subject matter is either configurated for a subject destroying its second restricts or its original state. Datas 3 large styles of flow ers come tabler this category.
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Fig. 2.2 Title page for Salome. By Beardsley.



creates an unstable, cruel environment that both encapsulates and threaten their relationship and their lives. This theme is typical of many love stories, the usual adversities that many couples experience: the objection of family to their union for a myriad of reasons, such as cultural, age, religion and class difference, Shakespeare's <u>Romeo and Juliet</u> is a good example of this.

Beardsley like Dulac, uses nature to enhance and complement the atmosphere of the image but both achieved this from opposite standpoints; Dulac uses nature to enhance the idealic atmosphere, whereas Beardsley usually uses it to create a sinister atmosphere. Beardsley's front cover design for Salome creates an evil, macabre mood with the rampant wild rose bush playing its part, the illustration is full of contradictory, ironic and unconventional suggestions. Here Beardsley uses the rose to adorn this evil like character setting a tone and prestigious occasion. His image of a glaring hermaphrodite, armless satanic like being, whose lower body forms a pedestal is full of sinister impact and energy. The two burning candles on either side gives a sacrificial atmosphere calling to mind a religious ceremony. The creature in the foreground kneeling pays homage in front of him with hands in a prayer-ful gesture, gives the impression that this satanic figure is all powerful and worthy of being worshiped. The mood and tone of the illustration is to shock and it does this unfailingly by mixing and blurring very cunningly good and evil male and female sacred and profane - those opposites that are usually distinguishable and clearly separated in the arts. This technique leaves the viewer in a state of confusion.

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Chapter 3

RUSKIN AND HIS THEORIES



Fig 2.3 The hawthorn tree. A Wonder Book 1922.



Many illustrators throughout the nineteenth century admired and were inspired by the beauty of nature, concentrating on and expressing the positive and uplifting side of all things in nature. Beatrix Potter, for example illustrated lush and perfectly formed fungi, lichens, grasses and reeds; these plants becoming a setting where her anthropomorphised animals lived in harmony with their habitat. Equally, many of Rackham's most famous de luxe edition books such as, <u>A Midsummer Night's Dream</u> and <u>Peter Pan in Kensington</u> <u>Gardens</u> focus on the delights of nature. In the illustration, <u>Butter is got From</u> the Roots of Old Trees, one can see that the gnomes depend on the natural habitat as they get produce and shelter from the tree, using the flat mushrooms as a table to display the butter. In the illustration, The Hawthorn Tree, the children look up as the tree points to the left with its finger like tendril, as if he was giving out directions, thus displaying humans' direct social contacts with nature and showing the happy interaction between nature and man kind, such illustrations demonstrate nature supporting and helping people and animals, giving a sense of harmony and interdependence between nature and its inhabitants. Rackham usually enhanced this situation by lyrically linking line and colour with each other to create an image that was pleasing to the eye.

These pleasant illustrations of Rackham gave the viewer a glimpse into a Utopian world, where good prevailed and evil was shut out. It was a visual standard of how the world should be, rather than the way it is. Rackham's versions of a more 'perfect' world could be used as a moral tool, illustrating

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the way in which nature is seen to provide support and help for itself and others, highlighting the good and virtuous. John Ruskin the victorian art critic believed that the observation of nature could be used in order to learn moral values, he saw, for example, that the survival of plant forms was due to the reliance the plant had for all its different areas, from the roots to the stems to the leaves, they all had a part to play in the existence of it; and he derived a doctrine which ran through all his work, and that was the 'law of help'. His observation of the plant was that all its parts was interdependent on each other.

the power that causes the several portions of the plant to help each other, we call life.... intensity of helpfulness.... the ceasing of this help is what we call corruption. (Clark, 1964, p. 89)

This quote is consistent with Rackham's illustrations of the benign qualities of nature. Ruskin's acute observation of nature led him to deduce and apply his analogy of nature to art and society. He believed that plant growth systems seemed to illustrate certain laws and he sometimes came up with convincing symbols to show the 'proper' way humans should integrate into society. This is shown in his theory of the 'socialised tree'

the liberty of each bough to seek its own livelihood and happiness according to its needs by irregularities of action, both in its play and its work, either stretching out to get the required nourishment from light and rain, by finding some sufficient breathing-place among the other branches, or knotting and gathering itself up to get strength for any load which its fruitful blossom may lay upon it . . . Imperative requirement of each bough to stop within certain limits, expressive of its kindly fel lowship and fraternity with the boughs in its neighbourhood and to work with them according to its power, magnitude and state of health, to bring out the general perfectness of the great curve and circumferent stateliness of the whole tree. (Clark, 1964 p. 93)

Having put nature on a pedestal, claiming its profound beauty and structural divinity, Ruskin, in 1870 showed a loss in confidence and suffered a change of

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heart in his doctrines, and deduced that the real power of nature depended on subjection. It was as if his eyes were opened to a different side of nature, conflicting with his previous views on which he had worked all his life. This realisation had a devastating effect on him. The first signs of his loss of faith in nature can be seen in a letter he wrote to Charles Eliot Norton.

of all the things that oppress me, this sense of the evil working of nature herself — my disgust at her barbarity, clumsiness and darkness — the bitter mocking of herself, is most desolating. (Clark, 1964, p. 117)

Ruskin's elevating vision of nature led to the reversal of his views late in life. Rackham, who had an overall view of nature, saw both sides of its personality and drew from these two, according to the atmosphere he wanted to create to suit the text he wished to illustrate. One similarity between Ruskin with Rackham is his acute eye to see similarities between man and nature. It is interesting to note that what disgusted Ruskin in nature — its darkness, clumsiness and its sense of evil - are the very qualities which periodically fascinated Rackham.

Rackham's views of nature, and the way he could distinguish between its good and evil aspects led him to divide these issues employing stereotypical devices such as using youth and beauty to demonstrate good, and using old and ugly to demonstrate evil, a device which is synonymous with fairy tales in the form of maiden versus the witch. The trees in, <u>The Witches Meeting</u> and the tree in <u>Freya</u>, exemplify this point effectively, 'the witches' trees are weathered, there is no fresh, new growth, the witches facial wrinkles blend in with the equally wrinkled trees. The tree in Freya's image is characterised by luscious green foliage and ripe fruit that complement her soft, supple skin. Fraction its doctrines, and deduced dual the real prover of nature depended an subjection. It was as if his eyes were opened to a different side of nature, copdicting with his previous views on which he had meshed all his life. Etils realration had a devastating effect on hims. The tirst applied his lass of tash of nature out baseen in a fefter he wrote lock bartes. That Nation.

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Chapter 4

THE GROTESQUE

THE CROTESON

Many critics of Arthur Rackam's work, such as Hudson, Hamilton and Gettings, have all recognised the use of the grotesque in Rackham's illustrations, and have used it to describe his work generally, but they have failed to verify specifically where when and why he used it.

The word *grotesque* originally came from the Italian *La Grottesca* referring to grotta, meaning cave, and was used first to describe a certain ornamental style which came to light during the late fifteenth century excavations in Rome. It was soon discovered that this style was by no means native to the Romans, that it had reached Italy relatively late, originating in the early Christian era. During the excavations of the the palace of Titus, actual documents were found describing this new style. Vasari quotes the following passage from Vitruvius <u>De Architectura</u> in which a contemporary of Augustus characterises and condemns the new barbarian manner:

All these motifs taken from reality are now rejected by an unreasonable fashion. For our contemporary artists decorate the walls with monstrous forms rather than reproducing clear images of the familiar world. Instead of columns they paint fluted stems with oddly shaped leaves and volutes The little stem supports half figures crowned by human or animal heads. Such things,however, never existed, do not now exist and shall never come into being. How can forms composed of flowers and human bodies grow out of roots and tendrils? (Kayser, 198,1 p, 20)

From this quote one can see the dominant role plant life played in the actual meaning of the word, and how Rackham's work, in particular his humanised

Many orthog of Arthur Radoon's cost, such and todeon Hendton and Celtingst have all recognised the use of the proto-que in Racidiam's **illustra**tion-, and have used at to describe his work generally, but they have failed to certs specifically refere when and why he used at

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Liom this quote one can see the dominant only plant life played in the actual meaning of the word, and how flactdiam seconds in particular his human-ed.



Fig. 2.6 Agostino Vineziano Grotesque. From a late fifteenth century excavation.

tree, resemble this fusion of plant and human forms. This type of art was condemned and criticised by Augustus, so too was it discredited by the art critics of the sixteenth century and again by the classicist of the eighteenth century demonstrating considerable fluctuations in its popularity.

The Italian painters of the Renaissance had eagerly used this type of ornamentation; Raphael, for example has been noted for his influential, ornamental grotesque that he applied to the pillars of the papal loggia in 1515. These designs were described in very much the same manner as Vitruvius' description - "curled and involute shoots from whose foliage animals emerge and causes the difference between animal and vegetable forms to be eliminated" (Kasyer, 1981 p. 23).

Raphael injected into his grotesque ornamentation was an undercurrent of a sinister quality, even though the overall atmosphere seemed to be of a whimsical, playful nature. Thus, during the Renaissance the word grotesque came to mean -

designate a specific ornamental style suggested by antiquity, understood not only something playfully gay and carelessly fantastic, in which the realm of inanimate things is no longer separated from those of plants, animals and human beings (Kayser 1981 p. 20).

It is hard to imagine portraying these two contradictory worlds of playfulness and evilness in the one image, but it is exactly this sense of the combination of these throws into question the separation of evil and good. In, <u>They will cer-</u> <u>tainly mischief you</u>, one can see clearly this combination. Although it is amusing to see the little creatures playfully pull at the girls clothes and shoe laces, tion resemble this rusion of plant and bianap toons. This is procleart was considered and entirized by Augustus, so too was it discredited by the art calues as too was it discredited by the art calues as too was it discredited by the art calues as to be was it to restrict and example the tasses of the cases of the right entity entity and example the tasses of the right entity entity and example the tasses of the cases of the right entity art of the right entity entity.

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Fig 2.7 They will certainly mischief you. Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens 1906.



her expression shows that she is not enjoying this game, this amusement becomes frightening as the thorn branches take on the form of finger like structures which grab onto the her hair causing her great torment and fear. Even though we ultimately frown on the creatures behaviour there is a basic dualism going on which causes one, to laugh one minute, and the next to feel disturbed.

like the uncanny, which is both comic and disturbing, the grotesque pro duces in the viewer an emotional civil war of attraction and repulsive. It is both "sportive" and "terrible", combining "ludicrous" and "fearful" elements and evoking in the viewer a violent clash of opposite feelings (Snodgrass,1995. p 173)

During the seventeenth century in Italy, dictionaries used the word *grotesque*, first, to indicate a distinct style of art, and secondly adjectivally as' silly, bizarre, extravagant, with a grotesque costume, and a grotesque facial expression', (Kayser 1981pg 29). It was used to describe the exaggeration of certain features in order to ridicule or make fun of someone. In <u>They came at last to their poor old friend named the nose tree</u> from <u>Grimm Fairy Tales</u>, one's attention is drawn to the ridiculous situation in which this man finds himself in, his nose has grown out of all proportion so that he falls over with the weight of it. Here the emphasis is on the comical aspect of the grotesque, and we laugh at this man's predicament, this extension of the grotesque which reveals the way humans expose their sense of superiority over alien nature

he who laughs is powerful, strong and superior it represents aggression and seduction simultaneously. Laughter seeks to ridicule or bite even as it suborns others to join in, because human laughter is intimately connected with the accident fall of physical and moral degradation' (Snodgrass, 1995 p. 173) her expression shows that she is not care, ing the game, this antisement becomes frightening as the fibera bearches take of the form of trager like structures which grab onto the her bar causing her grad bornent and teac. Even though we ultimately frown on the creatures beb when there is haste dualism going on which causes one, to laugh one minute, and the next to feel disturbed

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we laugh at this man's predication, this extension of the grotesque which reveals the way humans expose their sense of superiority over sheet nature.



Fig 2.8 They came at last to their poor old friend, "The Nose Tree" Little Brother and Little Sister 1917.



Some critics of the eighteenth century tried to narrowly define the wordgrotesque.. Many of them turned to caricature based art to verify their point of view and looked to the newly read works of Don Quixote and to Swift's Guilliver's Travel to point out the way in which the grotesque could be used to convey important underlying messages. Rackham illustrated both of these two works but the illustrations for it were never accepted for publication. It was probably Rackham's lack of experience in illustrating barren southern European landscapes, and surroundings void of trees, that brought this about.

The illustrations for <u>Guilliver 's Travel'</u>s were published in 1909, at a time when Rackham's fantasy style had reached its peak, yet here he used a more realistic style which was reminiscent of his early work, where his whimsical style was abandoned and the work treated in a more journalistic manner, avoiding all humour, obviously aware of Swift's intended moral message. Swift, in particular, worked the grotesque to convey his message and did this very successfully through his allegorical literature.

Rackham in 1935 illustrated <u>Tales of the Imagination</u> by Edgar Allen Poe. This author's vivid visual descriptions of sadistic horror proved to lend itself to the portrayal of many grotesque images grotesque, his first book published, and in this mode being, <u>Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque</u> (1840). He based many stories on the pessimistic, gloomy side of life, drawing inspiration from torture, murder and disaster, exploring ghastly and repulsive fantasy worlds. In the <u>Tales of the Imagination</u>, Rackham was faced with a brief that communicated a high level of gruesomness, he was afraid that he would not be able to make the illustrations sufficiently horrific, but he succeeded in depicting them

Some critical of the eightcenth concern what to non-outh define the constrgenerated. Many of them turned to canadative build act to version built peak or new and looked to the model contracts of Dem. Jurnete and to swritt's fulfilled's Travel to policy and the way in which the grate-que could be used to conversing policitant underlying messages. Rack, an illustrated both of these two works but the illustrations for the way in ever accepted for both of these two policities funded and a constraints of the traver accepted for publication. It fundpean land supervised so countings void of tools, this about function land supervised so countings void of tools, this about it is subtracted for this about?

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Eachbom in 1975. Illustrated: <u>Laiss of the Imagination</u> by Udgar Aller Poe, This methods wind visual de criptions of sedistic former, proved to lend itself to the permated of many grotescies images grotes provide the next book published, and in this mode framg. <u>Laiss of the Crotesque and Acabasque</u> (E-46). The based many stores on the pestemetic gloomy side of life, crowing in piration from tor the <u>indexof the Imagination</u>. Radiham was associated to public to the the <u>indexof the Imagination</u>. Radiham was associated to the order to the ed a high level of groce-owness. The was attaid that her multi not be able to make the line to the owned to be the termine the theory of the first sectors of the rest of the Imagination.



Fig 2.9 Gulliver released from the strings raises and stretches himself. Gulliver's Travels 1909.

Fig. 2.6 Collinson bound from the strategy rules and materies bitwark. Cullicons Travels 1969 in a typical Beardsley- like fashion. An example of this is seen in, <u>A descent</u> into the mall- strum, <u>In less than half a minute the whole eight were burning</u> fiercely, <u>The eight corpses swung in their chains</u>.

Rackham's reliance on nature came into play during this period of working on Poe's tales and this is evident in, <u>I at length found myself within view of the</u> <u>melancholy house of Ushe</u>r, the image assimilates Poe's nocturnal and ghost like atmosphere, as the man on horse back appears translucent and seems to merge with the background. The subject matter is the melancholy house but Rackham concentrates on the detail of the stunted charred trees that surrounds the house, again nature plays the major role as it is the trees that convey the whole solemnity of the situation. in a typical Detailates. Like fashion. An even pic of this is soon inc. <u>A descent</u> into the mails strum. In less tion half a minute the *n* hole eight were burning tiereds. The eight corpsect of the in their chartes.

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Fig 3.1 I at length I found myself within view of melancholy house of Usher. Tales of Mystery and Imagination 1935.

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Chapter 5

FANTASY



Humans have the capacity to escape from present experience into a cosmos that offers alternative images of the world around us. Fantasy takes us out of the real world, as Shelley put it, 'It awakens and enlarges the mind itself by rendering it the receptacle of a thousand unapprehended combinations of thought'. This has major relevance for children as the importance of development and growth lies in the ability to adapt and change to ones circumstances.

The value of escape and withdrawal from everyday life and its assumption was also recognised by Morse Peckham who believed that the arts are "an adaptational mechanism which acts as a rehearsal for those real situations in which it is vital for our survival to endure cognitive tension, to refuse the comforts of validation . . . when such validation is inappropriate because vital interests are at stake (Schlobin, 1982, p.141).

In many ways, the use of fantasy is at the heart of the adult-child relationship in children's literature. Fantasy offers children different modes of experience characters from our world, enter or leave other worlds, <u>Alice's Adventure in</u> <u>Wonderland</u>, for example help children to visualise alternative views. In folk stories and fairy tales children are exposed to images of young characters who emerge triumphant in a variety of extreme situations - <u>Hansel and Gretal</u> gives children a solid example of how possible it is for children to overcome problems.

The role of fairy tales and fantasy also plays a very important role in the psychological and mental development of children, in helping to lay a foundation for dealing with specific problems of growing up - anger, jeal-ousy, disappointment, rivalry, dependency, self worth and dealing with moral obligations (Bettelheim, 1991 p.7).

Fantasy gives the artist freedom to break the basic ground rules associated with reality, such as relationships between people, places and the elements around them. It alters how we know things and changes the basic assumptions we make. In Rackham's illustrations throughout his career he explored ¹² - correction of the organication concepts from pressure expressions where only a subsection of the organication integration. The workful action of the charactery dafter income of the reaction of the reacter of the reaction of the reaction of the reaction of the reacter of

The value of composited which the accordant life and its assumpation was also recognised to Morse Feckbase who believed that the arts are "an adaptational mothamism which act as a rehearcal for those real satuations in which it is vital for our survival to endure cognitive tension, to refuse the conferment validation ... whereach validation is inappice prate because retal intensity are at state (% triobin 1982, p.141).

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The role of fairs takes and fautasy also plays a very important role in the prochological and mental development of children, in helping to lay a foundation for dealing with specific problems of growing up - anger, jeal oasy, disappointment, rivality, dependency, self worth and dealing with moral obligations (Bettelbeim, 1991, p.7).

A matery gives the actual freedom to broad the actual propagation device esociated with multiply such as relationships between property places and the elements around them. It alters here the tensor things and danges the basic as unit room weimake. In Kardiann - It atomics throughout his career breedsheed. these abstract emotions - such as struggle, violence, deprivation and confinement difficult - for children to comprehend, and places these real issues in an imaginary world thus preparing children to cope with life. He uses his illustrations to convey these complex situations and translates them into easily understood concise images. An example of how Rackham saw nature as being the aggressor, and its ability to cause suffering and personal destruction is shown in the image of the illustration, <u>Sweetheart Roland</u>, here is a woman caught in the middle of a prickly bramble bush, her hair and clothes are sharply caught on the thorns of the bush. her struggle causes her, not only pain, but annoyance and frustration. Nature has clasped its power upon her and is preventing her from advancing. The more she tries to get away from it the more she gets tied in a knot. This element of struggle is symptomatic of everyday it is an issue that many people can relate to, and Rackham presents it in a clear concise way.

The image of <u>Imprisoned Ariel</u> from Shakespeare's play <u>The Tempest</u>, is one that shows nature again taking on a violent role: "she did confine thee . . . into a cloven pine, with which rift imprisoned thou didst painfully remain a dozen years". We see a woman being consumed by nature and her freedom being taken away. The addition of colour in the <u>Ariel</u> image detracts from the characters suffering, while the black and white vignette of the bramble bush created a centifrugal quality which causes one to focus on the character's predicament. Ariel is immobilised while she suffocates, the stifling helplessness of her situation as the tree has complete power over her is more suggestively handled than in many of Rackham's other illustrations.

A device Rackham uses to sharpen the contrast between fantasy and reality is

Elsee distinct enotion — such as struggis, contract, dop evidion and confirm municification for chalatree to comprehend, and phases there call issues in a crassinary world there preparing children to cope with the list of the transmitter world there complex situations and transdotes them into a usity but a structure there complex situations and transdotes them into a usity calcebrated comove there complex situations and transdotes them into a usity of a superstand comove there complex situations and transdotes them into a usity and encoder and to aming taxanste suffering and generated estimation is been in the image of the Reading taxanste suffering and generated estimation is shown in the image of the Reading taxanste back the struggle and complex are pain, but anney after the physical termine back to the struggle and the term origin to the multile of a structure. Succeipende to the term of year pain, but anney after a structure. Succeipende to the terms of year into the preventing the result of the back the estimagile and the term of year and the power upon into the structure. This struggies are to the to be to be then into the norm the gets tool in a funct. This shear of the top and factham present of the condition on the structure of the structure of the top and factham present of the condition on the structure of the structure of the top and factham present of the original terms to the structure of the top and factham present of the top of the structure of the structure of the top and factham present of the original terms and the structure of the structure of the top and factham present of the structure of the structure of the structure of the top and factham present of the terms of the structure of the structure of the top and factham present of the top and fact

The mage of <u>Impressed Aproj</u> from Shale periods play <u>The Jompes</u>t, is one the choics nature again taking on a violent role with doordine thee countries a device plate with which art imprisoned the unlider pointally remain a doverplane." We see a woman being consumed by factors and her freedom being "their away. The addition of colour in the <u>Appl</u> image dotracts from the charotters suffering while the black and white togenetic of the brandle bish created a centifying quality while the black and white togenetic of the brandle bish creatities and the dimension of the same set of the addition to the brandle bish creattent in any of the the black and white the state of the brandle bish creattent in any of Rechard while the black and white the set of the distribute bish creattent in many of Rechard to hile she sation are the stifting helphesness of herstantion as the two has complete power or class is more actively handled then in many of Rechard to the tilterations.

), device Reckham uses to sharpen the centrast between funiar y and reality an







Fig. 3.4 She was scratched and torn before she won her way. English Fairy Tales 1918.Fig. 3.5 But when the thorn hedge no life stirred and neither flower nor tree answeredSleeping Beauty 1920.







Fig 3.0 A decent into the Maelstrom, in less that a minute the eight were burning fiercely. The eight corpses swung in their chains. Tales of Mystery and Imagination. 1935.

Fig 3.3 Imprisoned Ariel. The Tempest 1926.



to juxtapose elements of each in the same image. This helps us to gradually disassociate ourselves from the world we are familiar with, and to identify with the bizarre world of the illustrator. This skill of Rackham's led the child gradually from the known into the unknown, and this is clearly shown in the illustration <u>There's a Whispering from Tree to Tree</u>. The trees progressive become more animated as they draw closer to the viewer. Rackham shows us that as humans withdraw from the forest, its hidden, fantastic life comes into being. He has transformed this potentially static image into a more exciting and narrative one. The eye of the spectator becomes more active as it is drawn through this sequential progression. We therefore see this scene through the personal eyes of the artist.

Rackham believed that one of the roles of an illustrator was to add something more to the text, perhaps something the author had failed to see. He also believed that illustrators should be regarded as a partner and not a servant of the author or used as an aid 'like gold leaf on the cover' to sell more books.

Any attempt to coerce (the illustrator) into a tool in the author's hands can only result in the most dismal failure. Illustration is as capable of varied appeal, as is literature itself ; and the only real essential is an association that shall not be at variance or unsympathetic.(Hamiliton, 1990 p78).

Rackham described three main roles of illustration; first to say what the author failed to say clearly, secondly to add some fresh aspect of interest to a subject which the author has already treated interestingly from his (the illustrator's) point of view and thirdly, the expression of the artist of his individual sense of delight or emotion aroused by the accompanying passage.
b) its improve elements of out on the setter are get This helps as its gradually disassociate our alies from the social contrainants with and to identify of the bloom would of the flocificate to coldine shell of Radihan's led, the child coalities from the known rate the unknown coal, this is clearly shown in the flow ratios. <u>Energy a Winspernag from increased in the collection shows us</u> that a human with day from the forest of the view or. Radiham shows us flow a human with draw from the forest or bidden, tankstiche ones into being of the has transformed this potential collection are being entry in the dust as human with draw from the forest or bidden, tankstiche ones into being of the has transformed this potential collection are not exciting and narratic cone. The eye of the spectator because more active as it is drawn through the couplential progression. We therefore see this see of the previous the ordential.

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Any attempt to correc (the illustrator) into a tool in the author's hands can only result in the most dismal failure. Illustration is as capable of varied appeal, as is literature itself, and the only stal essential is an association that shall not be at variance or unsympathetic.(Elimitition, 1920 p78). Rackham described three main roles of illustrations, this to say what the nethor figled to say clearly, secondly to add some tresh aspect of interest to a subject which the anthor has already troated afters lingly from his the iffustion toris) point of view and thirdly, the expression of the artist of instinction toris) point of view and thirdly, the expression of the artist of instinction toris) point of view and thirdly, the expression of the artist of instinction. The real value of fantasy is its ability to return us to everyday life with our imagination exercised and strengthened. Fantasies can entertain, instruct and exercise the mind and sprit but moreover, as Piaget discovered until a children can understand abstract concepts they can only come to terms with them through subjective experience.

The real value of fantancies is its ability to activity us to every lay life with our unagination exercised and strongthened. Fontasies can entertain, instruct and evertise the mind and sprit but moreover, as Plagot discovered, until a children con understand ab truct concepts they can only come to terms with them

Chapter 6

WOODLANDS



Many of Rackham's illustrations are set in or around woodlands, <u>Wind in the</u> <u>Willows</u>, <u>Hansel and Gretal</u> and <u>Peter Pan in Kensington Garden</u>s to name but a few. One may ask why such a setting? One obvious reason for this is that the source of most of these fairy tales comes from the Eurasian continent at a time when it was covered with immense forests. The stories that we know today, are decedents of versions that go back into the mists of time, that were passed on from one generation to another through the oral tradition. The first written, recorded version was by Charles Perrault in 1697 called <u>Histoire ou</u> <u>Contes du Temps Passé avec des Moralitiés</u>. His tales were collected in France and written down to amuse the courtiers of the king Louis XIV. Perrault's tales reached England in 1729; they were written in the style of the period and adorned with morals.

When one examines Rackham's depiction of woodlands their predominant feature is their surrounding mystery. They are always approached in a cautious way, the people entering them are always on guard and where there is danger, there is fear. This conveyance of terror and fear is an element of the grotesque style, leading inevitability to chaos and inexplicable happenings. It was very appropriate, therefore, for Rackham to use forests as his symbol to conjure fear and terror in his readers.

If a child's vision of nature can already be loaded with complicated memories, myths and meaning, how elaborately wrought is the frame through which our adult eyes survey the landscape. For although we are accustomed to separate nature and human perception into realms, they are, in fact indivisible. Before it can ever be a repose for the sens es, landscape is built up as much from the strata of memory as from lay ers of rock. (Schama 1995 p.15) Anne of Kaddram's dimetrations are set to see at models and bodd of 12 and 12 dimetrations of and 12 dimetrations are set of 12 and 12 dimetration (and and 12 dimetration) and the set of 12 and 12 dimetration (and 12 dimetration) and the set of 12 dimetration (and 12 dimetration) and 12 dimetration (and 12 dimetration) and 12 dimetration (and 12 dimetration) and 12 dimetration (and 12 dimetration) (and 12 dimetration) and 12 dimetration (and 12 dimetration) and 12 dimetration (and 12 dimetration) (and 12 dimetration) and 12 dimetration) (and 12 dimetration) (an

When one examines Rechmin's depiction of woodlands theo predominant telare is their surroundary mystery. They are always approacted in a cautionyear, the people entering them are ato at the state part of and to here there is danger, there is form. This converties are of terries and fear is an element of the gratesque style, heading mey tability to chaos and treas to consider to be the gratesque appropriate, therefore, to the chaos and to terries to be proved to conjure

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If a child's vision of nature can already by k olded with complicated memories myths and meaning, how sloberately wrought is the frame through which our adult ever survey the land-cape. For although we s are accustomed to separate nature and human perception into realms, they are, in fact indivesible. Before a can ever be a repose for the senstes of nodecape is built up as much from the strate of memory as from lay ters of node (Schoma 1993 p.15).



Fig 3.7 They clambered up a narrow gully. Rip Van Winkle 1905.



The forest in many fairy tales is usually set in the centre of the plot, and divides it in two halves. It is a place where one can see a marked transformation of the main characters, before and after they have entered the forest. They are introduced as unsure and immature before entering it, they usually have to overcome an obstacle or an adversity there and finally, leave the forest contented and confident ready to face the real world. This formula can be seen in a number of fairy tales Rackham has illustrated, Little Brother and Little Sister, Hansel and Gretel and Sweetheart Roland, but where this is most explicit is in Rip Van Winkle. The forest is a place where Rip's strength of character is tested to the full as he has to overcome a set of obstacles. It's a place in which 'inner darkness is confronted' and where one resolves things about oneself. At the end of Rip's ordeal in the forest, he comes to realise that his priorities in life were wrong and he is now going to resolve it by participating and cooperating in society to the full.

If we have lost the framework which gave structure to our past life and must now find our own way to become ourselves, and if we have entered this wilderness with an as yet undeveloped personality, when we succeed in finding our way out, we shall emerge with a much more highly developed humanity. (Bettelheim, 1991 p. 217) (a) to to sets in many fairy takes is to obly or inclus control of the plot, and even de ritim two halves. It is a place where one can see a marked transformato obly the main characters, before and after they have entered the forest. They are roted used as unsure and amendment betwee entering it they retaily have to eccome an obstacle or an adversity there and finally, leave the forest contented and dentident ready to face the real corter. This term to can be seen in a ref. and dentident ready to face the real corter. This term to can be seen in a

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Housel and Cretel and Succeivent Koland, but where this is most explicit is in Rip Yan Winkle. The torowtex a place where h p's strongth of character is test-out to the full as incluse to overcome a set of shekelos. If 's a place in which the strong the data must enset in the context of the full as incluse to overcome a set of shekelos. If 's a place in which the strong the data must enset in the full as incluse to overcome a set of shekelos. If 's a place in which the context of the participating and cooper-the strong and the is non-spring to resolvent of the participating and cooper-thick in society to the full.

If we have lest the numerousk which gove structure to our post life and must new find our own way to become ourselves, and if we have entered this wildences with an asset of undeveloped personality, when we succeed in finding our way out, we shall emerge with a much more highly developed humanity. (Beltelivia), 1991 p. 2173

Chapter 7

THE WORSHIP OF TREES



Fig 2.4 Sometimes a thousand twanging instruments will hum about mine ears. The Tempest 1926.



Since time inmemoriam there have been strong links between man and trees, they are part of our heritage and are valued and treated depending on how one perceives them. Anthropologists can reveal human behaviour in their observation of how people treat trees; economists can see them solely in monetary terms, artists can see them as aesthetically stimulating structures; writers and poets can perceive them as an inspiration for their work, seeing in them human metaphors. These attitudes, vary from the exploitative and authoritative to the admired and glorified.

A contemporary of Rackham, Sir James Frazer an anthropologist, studied the behaviour pattern of man in relation to man's attitude and treatment of nature. Frazer's area of specialty was the way ancient primitive people, namely, Celts, Druids and Ayrians worshiped nature. He recorded his findings in <u>The</u> <u>Golden Bough</u> (1890) in which he explored the concept that nature during this period was regarded as a sacred element. This ritual culture can be traced back in the latin language, as the word for *sanctuary* is identical in origin and meaning to the latin word nemus which means grove or woodland'. In the chapter on The Worship of Trees, Frazer locates exactly where these sacred groves were, one being in Upsala (the old religious capital of Sweden) where every tree was regarded as divine, another in Aesculapius on the island of Cos where it was forbidden to cut down the cypress tree under penalty of a thousand drachmas.

The basis to the culture of worshipping trees is the fact that these primitive

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The basis to the culture of processing trees is the fact that these primitive

peoples believed that trees were animated and possessed a spirit like their own, they were convinced that trees had magical powers which controlled the weather, which in turn controlled the crop growth, and therefore, was an intrinsical part of society.

Trees considered as animated beings are credited with the power of making the rain to fall, the sun to shine, flock and herds to multiply that the very same powers are attributed to tree - gods conceived as anthropomorphic beings or as actually incarnate in living men. (Frazer, 1890 p. 118)

This idea of trees being animated and having their own spirit is very clear in Rackham's depiction of his humanised trees, the foundation for this principle being found in Frazer's findings.

Walter Starkie, a young nephew of Rackham often came to visit his home in London. On one such occasion during the time Rackham was illustrating Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens, Walter accompanied him on his painting expeditions and recorded the memories and conversations he had with his uncle. Starkie remembered Rackham making him gaze at the majestic trees and telling him fairy tales, about the gnomes who lived under the roots of trees and the little men who churned butter by extracting the sap from trees. He made him use his imagination to see all kinds of strange animals and birds in the branches of trees, and magical doors below the trunks which Rackham told him was the entrance to fairyland. He also told him about the primitive religions of man, as revealed in The Golden Bough, and the historic evidence of the cult of trees. On one such occasion he made Starkie's blood run cold when he told him of the punishments that were imposed on those who injured trees. These included of the culprit's navel being pinned to the bark of the tree and his guts wrapped around the trunk. Walter was told by Rackham to - 'warn any boy he noticed cutting the bark of a tree of the punishment that en ples pairwed that these three attimuted and preservation park, tiple there such they were constanced that mereical startical preservation for controlled the confluence tack in turns control of the energy grantific and therefore twasam entrovidad part of society.

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We can should a county reprint of Backbarr stort carrie to exit his home in Lorder, whome such necessor during the tare Recklam should in a **marking**. Each fracta backsingten to exact during the tare Recklam should in a **marking** or pointing exploition (and backsingten to exact less and a store stateme by inducting or each during the counter back for them making and good with his and relating from target take, about the grownes in both or the recksitic trees and relating from target take, about the grownes in both reck or different trees there are the lattle mean who channed builter by restruction to the sequentian trees. It has been been also a boot the grownes in both or the sequent trees there and relating from target take, about the grownes in both and built there are the truther mean who channed builter by restruction to be ap from trees to the branches of takes, and magnetic the second to the transportant of built the branches of the second or <u>The Coldenticing to</u> and the feature evidence of the curit of the prior three being the restruction to be apprecial when the tote brance of the end of the construction of the feature evidence of the curit of the prior three back of the composed of the feature evidence is the toted back of the prior three back of the transport of the back of ended trees. These predicted of the curit the curit back primes the back of the target and the guilty the prior of the curit back the back of ended trees. These predicted of the curit the curit back primes to the back of the target and the guilty the prior of the curit to the curit back the transport back of the prior of the prior ended the second the back of the curit of a tries of the curit back the would be inflicted upon him for his barbarism' (Hamiliton, 1990, p72).

This account of the punishment comes directly from <u>The Golden Bough</u> which Frazer fails to date, giving an old German Law as the source of this punishment. This account of Starkies is proof that Rackham used this myth to demonstrate a moral lesson, and it also reflects the sinister mood that obsessed him in the execution of his illustrations. When one looks closely at Rackham's work one can see some similarity between the rituals practiced and the way he visualises his illustrations. In, <u>The Kensington Gardens are in London where</u> <u>the King lives</u>, here we see a man greeting a tree as he walks by it, this form of respect is similar to the respect the Philipine islanders make, as they believe their dead are transformed into 'tall' 'stately' trees and when they pass near them they bow, "respectfully and asking pardon of the spirit for disturbing his repose" (Frazer, 1890 p. 115).

Frazer's main argument was that as societies progressed and scientific knowledge developed people became aware of the biological function of natural process, which resulted in a direct decline in the power and supremacy of nature.

Instead of regarding each tree as a living and conscious being, man now sees in it merely a lifeless, inert mass, tenanted for a longer or shorter time by a supernatural being who, as he can pass freely from tree to tree, thereby enjoy a certain right of possession or lordship (Frazer, 1890 p. 120).

He dismissed the possibly that myths might be a complex system of understanding, with the power to generate and determine social behaviour. He had the opinion that myths were mistakes that people made of the world around them, "mistakes made in the grip of fear and ignorance" (Schama, 1995,p209). His attitude can be viewed as being condescending, as he subscribed to biased ere's be all dealers and a contract of the adjust of the adjust of the adjust of the second second second second

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Frazen's mani-argument is as that as societic pregnessed and scientific knowlreduction developed people became an arcset for molegical participum of natural process, which resulted as a direct decline in the power and eap emary of p

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¹ Is dismissed the possible that myths might be a complex system of undersected during, with the power to generate and documents with the power to generate and documents with the power to generate and documents of a dual to commence with the power to generate and documents of the field of the optiment that a with a conduct of the field documents of the field document of the field document



Fig 3.6 The Kensington Gardens are in London, where the King lives. Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens 1906.

Fig.3.6 The Keyeloghon Garders are in Louders where the Surg Beese Peter Perty Repairington Gardens FRG. social and cultural theories, claiming authority over many ancient, native rituals which mirrored the confidence of British imperialism during that period. This one sided attitude that these old beliefs belong only to antiquity or to a "backward" modern tribe and are irrelevant to the complexities of modern life, was challenged by Jung, the psychologist who believed that the myths of ancient peoples endure the test of time and are transported from century to century through various different symbolic forms. Jung pointed out and believed that the human mind has its own history, and the psyche retains many traces left from previous generations and stages of its development.

There is a correlation here between Jung's beliefs in the subconscious and its connections with mythical/magical rituals and Rackham's depiction of his humanised trees, <u>The Hawthorne Tree</u>, <u>Suddenly the branches twined around</u> <u>her and turned into two arms</u>, and <u>Peer and the Threadballs</u> are testimony of this. Rackham's successful use of humanised trees when the text referred to them but he often places them peeping through a forest scene or being part of a background detail as in, <u>The man in the wilderness asked me how many</u> <u>strawberries grew in the sea</u>; this interest even extended to his private work as he painted many of these images that were not related to any specific text as in <u>Landscape in Houghton</u>, an oil painting on canvas, given to his friend and neighbour Sir Henry Royce.

Significantly, Rackham is supposed to have remembered saying to his nurse one fine summer day while he was lying in the garden, 'how nice it would be if I could die here under the trees' (Hudson, 1960, p.149). This was the summer of 1939, World War II was just about to be declared, he was seventy-one years of age. The previous year he was admitted to hospital for an operation

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even and cultural threeless charaing antifacely over many ascenti, native ettaalse thich microard the contridence of Bustele imperiation during that period. The one added altitude their these old holder feelong only to articlarly or to a "the second" modern trible and are index and to the complexity or that is a challenged by Jung, the psychologies who believed that the myths of a cost hallenged by Jung, the psychologies who believed that the myths of a cost period. The psychologies who believed that the myths of a cost period thread are index and are transported that the myths of a cost period by Jung. The psychologies who believed that the myths of a cost cost peoples and are index to be the antipation of the data of a cost people of the test of time and are transported (non-cost and a cost of the data of time and a second second of the people of the second of the data of the test of time and are transported (non-cost and a cost of the data of the second second second (non-ported the second second of the data of the test of time and and a second second the second second second the second of the second second second second second second second the second se

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Seguinearthy, Rackham is supposed to have concentered signing to his nurse, one fine submer day within to was bung or the good are their mount would be or troubling her under the trees. (Flack one 2001, p. 1490 – 11): A submer sumever of 1939, Workf Wardt, was just about to the declar of the type seventy one cars of age. The previous cour be was admisted to her colar for an emeration.



Fig 3.9 Landscape in Houghton. Oil on canvas 1925.







for internal cancer and, as time showed, he was not to recover. The last book to be illustrated by Rackham was, <u>The Wind in the Willows</u> a commission which he welcomed with open arms but one which he had turned down thirty years previously. It is a strange paradox, but one revealing of the man and his character that these last drawings should have been perhaps the happiest of all his illustrations, for the work was rendered most difficult for him because of his failing health. No element of the grotesque was visible here when he was himself in such poor health and in a depressed state of mind. Arhur Rackham died on the 6th September 1939, three months after the completion of the illustrations for <u>The Wind in the Willows</u>. tor internal cancer and as time shorted, he can not to recorrect The Tast boot, to be illustrated by Raddonin way, <u>The Wind in the Willows</u> a commission

non he weicomed a childpen annichus once which he had harred down thirty cents previously. It is a shange paradox but one revealing of the man and he cheracter that these last drawings should have been perhaps the happiest of alhe illustrations, for the cost, was rendered most difficult of him because of us tailing health. No element of the gode-que was visible here whet he was himself in such poor health and in a degree of state of most. Arbur Racchim

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CONCLUSION





Fig 4.0 The Indians consider them the abodes of the spirits. Rip Van Winkle 1905.



In my thesis I have explored the way Rackham has presented nature, I have discovered that the grotesque style had a major influence on this portrayal. This combination of the grotesque and nature is unusual as it is generally conveyed through characters in a text and not through nature.

I have demonstrated how Rackham had a leniency towards the grotesque, which is expressed in his exaggeration of elements, the humanised tree, and sinister atmospheres, all these elements came to full fruition in his later works after abandoning his journalistic subject matter. Adapting his talent and his free spirit to illustrating children's literature gave Rackham the freedom to extend his imagination in the grotesque to the fullest.

Many fairy tales are inherently horrific and bizarre in themselves, so much so that the use of the grotesque style was an excellent form of communication. Rackham as an illustrator translates this very successfully, but being sensitive to the potential traumatic fear of a frozen image, he often portrayed horrifying subjects through his animated plant forms, rather than threatening human forms, thus, allowing children to step back from the actions and to make judgements in their own terms. Many parents believe that children should only be exposed to the sunny side of things, they want to believe that children are inherently good and that the dark side of man does not exist. Rackham's illustrations presents children with basic truths, while, evil is omni present, in equilities a financies phoned the way for shorthan presented matures, I have bey covered that the grober prototole had a map or influence on the postrayal. One combination of the proto-que and nature is unusual cost in gravitally consupport through characters in a text and not thengh achters.

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Many fairy takes are indeed pith herritic and the argo in their level, so much so that takes are at the grotesty and the way an excertent form or communication. Reakhorn as an iterative translator this very concertably that being sensitive to the powerful transmate out of a traven integer the other powerful transmate out of a traven integer the action being minima in the powerful transmate out of a traven integer the actions the powerful transmate out of a traven integer to be the powerful transmate out of plant forms or the three powerful transmate out of a traven integer to be the powerful transmate out of a traven integer to be the powerful transmate out of a traven integer to the actions and to make solution is a distance to the powerful transman. Some, these allocation provides to the step back in so the actions and to make out provide the sum of things of a trings of a transmate of things of a finite out things of a transmate out things of a state of the sum of additions and things of a state of the sum of the second transmate of the sum of things of a state of the sum of the second to the second transmate of good eventually wins over evil, it is this conflicting structure that is important for children, enabling them to form concepts of good and evil and eventually find their own solutions. The forest is constantly used throughout Rackham's work as a symbol where conflicts are resolved and renewal takes place.

In the course of my thesis I explored the way the tree was viewed during the nineteenth century by closely linking the work of Ruskin and his socialised tree, Frazer's and his <u>Golden Bough</u> with Rackham's and his humanised tree. Individually they had their own unique stand points but their common ground was that they wanted to find in nature a consolation for mankind's morality.

The grotesque has its roots in Roman civilisation,, as had fairy tales and the worship of trees their roots in ancient times, Rackham tapped into all three of these inextricably linked subjects renewing our perception of them.

Interestingly, in the new 1980 abridged edition of the <u>Grimm Brothers</u>, <u>Rip Van</u> <u>Winkle</u> and <u>Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens</u>, many grotesque illustrations have been omitted. Is this because of changing attitudes, or censorship, or is the grotesque no longer fashionable (as happened during the sixteenth century and the eighteenth century)?

To the vast majority of viewers, Rackham is known as the 'beloved enchanter', but in my opinion his unique portrayal of the 'grotesque,' is his cutting edge and sets him apart from other illustrators of children's literature of the nineteenth century. good eventually vane over exit fick the conflicting structure that is important for diskiren, enabling them to team encorption good and colload eventually and their averabilities. The forest is comparity to oddiverginent flackham's cost as a symbol where conducts are recover land even rai takes place.

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