

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

A juvenile classic which amused even Queen Victoria, who was more often than not "not amused." It tells of little Alice who dreams herself into a series of fanciful escapades.

It all starts off when Alice spies a snow-white rabbit wearing a pink waistcoat and a wrist watch to boot. Alice having a curious turn of mind cannot help but follow this rabbit down its hole, which incidentally is lined with book-shelves and jam jars.

The peculiar aspect of Alice's dream is that she changes her size a number of times, sometimes getting small enough to drown in a puddle made by her own tears; at others, her neck grows to such an enormous length that the birds in the trees are scared when they see her.

In our illustration, we have Alice consulting the wise caterpillar which smokes a "hooka." Alice wants advice as to how she can change her deplorable size, for she is then as tall as a mushroom.

After a series of experiments with bites from the mushrooms as advised by the caterpillar, Alice stumbles on the Mad Hatter, the March Hare and the Dormouse who are having a "Mad Tea Party" underneath a tree. The Hatter and the Hare are trying to keep the Dormouse awake by pouring tea on him.

Vexed by the pointlessness of the conversation which is brilliant but mad, Alice leaves them only to run into the Queen of Hearts, who is inclined to behead almost anybody on the slightest pretext. The Queen's gardeners find themselves in a quandary for mistakenly planting a white rose bush instead of a red one, and are seen trying to hide their error with red paint. The Queen of Hearts is about to commence the famous trial of the jam-tarts.





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GAUBA'S JOURNEY TO PARADISE.

On a full-moon night whilst Gauba, a temple gardener, was keeping watch, he saw a wonderful white elephant wandering among the banana groves, making a feast of his fruit. Recognising it to be the legendary white elephant of Paradise, Gauba, whose one great wish was to make a journey to Paradise in his mortal form, meekly approached the celestial animal with offerings of fruit and begged jumbo to take him to Paradise. The elephant was impressed by Gauba's request and agreed to do so, on the next full-moon night. Beside himself with joy, Gauba then persuaded the one with the trunk to take his wife and his pet monkey, Kalu, with them.

So after polishing off a mountain of bananas the elephant swiftly and gracefully flew back to Heaven. Gauba was terribly excited and he could not wait to tell his wife of the strange encounter. They both decided to keep their journey a secret, but Mrs. Gauba, being a female, could not contain herself, besides how could she leave the world without saying good-bye to friends and relations?

On the appointed night it was apparent that she had promised to take the whole village. Presently, the white elephant appeared in the garden and was a little surprised to find such a big crowd, but he thought that they must have assembled to bid farewell to the couple. So, the good animal went down on his knees and Gauba held on to the tail. And off they went! Gauba held on to the tail, his wife gripped Gauba's shirt and so it went right down the line as you can see from the picture.

Away they flew over the forests and the snow-capped Himalayas, till Gauba thought that Paradise could not be much further. Meanwhile there was a great chattering among the entourage hanging on the elephant's tail as to what they would find in Paradise, and it was all Gauba could do to keep them quiet. But, when his wife insisted on knowing the size of the celestial water melons, he lost his patience and in his anger, let go of the elephant's tail.

Luckily, protected by the elephant's blessings, the pilgrims suffered only a slight bump on hitting terra firma but that was the end of their dream of reaching Paradise.

Yours
1958
CALENDAR

THE SERPENT WITH THE YELLOW HORN

In a marble palace by the sea there once lived two foster brothers, Emilio and Cannalora. Emilio was heir to the kingdom and Cannalora the son of a poor fisherman, but both had been born in fulfilment of a wizard's prophecy.

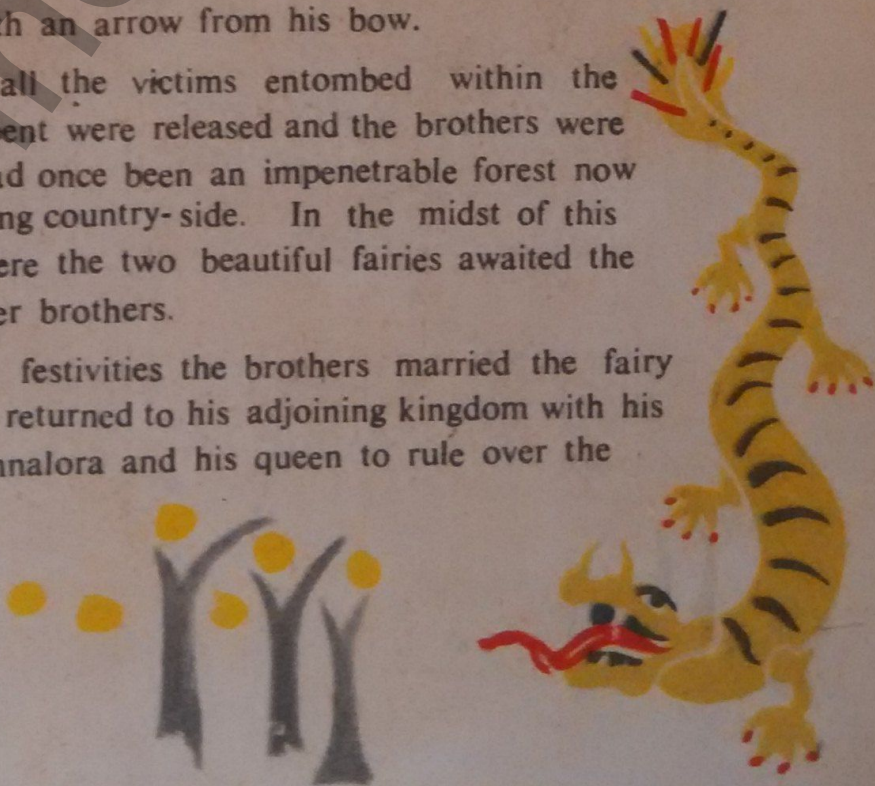
Cannalora was adopted by the Royal couple as a foster brother to prince Emilio, and the two boys grew up like two peas in a pod, so that none could tell them apart. This vexed the queen greatly and Cannalora, saddened by this, decided to go out into the world to seek his fortune.

As he rode along, he came to a wierd forest, where he was sheltered for the night by two beautiful fairies. They warned him of a serpent with a yellow horn which held all the forest in its spell, but unheeding, Cannalora wandered on, and was imprisoned in a rock-cave by the Serpent.

Meanwhile, Emilio, certain that his beloved foster brother had met with some ill-fate, set out to find him. Arriving at the enchanted forest, he also found shelter with the kindly fairies. However, mindful of their warning he stealthily made his way the next day into the forest in search of the evil Serpent. Fortune smiled on him, for, before the Serpent could cast him under its spell, Emilio slew it with an arrow from his bow.

Immediately, all the victims entombed within the rocks by the serpent were released and the brothers were reunited. What had once been an impenetrable forest now became a blossoming country-side. In the midst of this arose a castle where the two beautiful fairies awaited the return of the foster brothers.

With great festivities the brothers married the fairy sisters and Emilio returned to his adjoining kingdom with his bride, leaving Cannalora and his queen to rule over the rejoicing country.



HANASAKA JIJI

This is a Japanese story of a kind old man, his dog and the beautiful cherry blossom.

One day, the little dog led his master to a corner of his field and started digging. The old man understood his pet. So he brought a spade, dug up the earth and found to his surprise and joy a fortune of gold, rubies and diamonds. As he was a good and kind man, he gave large sums to the poor and the story of his good fortune spread quickly.

Now the old man had a greedy neighbour who was very jealous of him. One morning, the neighbour came to him and begged permission to borrow the little dog, with the intention of course, of using him to find gold coins for himself. But the little dog was instinctively afraid of this cruel man, and so refused to be led. At this the neighbour lost his temper and beat the poor animal to death. The old man was heart-broken. With tears in his eyes, he tenderly gathered the remains of his little pet and cremated them. Just as he was collecting the ashes, the wind began to blow and the ashes scattered and wherever they fell, lovely blossoms appeared.

Just then the Governor of the Province passed by and seeing this miracle bade the old man cover all the bare trees with blossoms, and then presented him with a very handsome reward.

Not to be outdone, the greedy neighbour hastily collected the remaining ashes in a basket and then started to blow on them and thus he went to the Governor for a reward.

But as soon as he started sprinkling the ashes, they flew into the Governor's eyes, and made him blink with pain. Enraged, the dignitary ordered him to be severely punished for his misdeeds.



With



Salaams



SINDBAD THE SAILOR

In the days of Haroun-al-Raschid, there once lived a merchant sailor named Sindbad, who had amassed great wealth on seven long voyages that he had made to the far corners of the Earth. One of Sindbad's most extraordinary adventures took place when he mistook the half-submerged back of a giant whale to be an island. Sindbad and his shipmates cheerfully disembarked upon the mammal. Imagine their horror on finding themselves stranded on the body of a sea-monster, and alas, only Sindbad escaped alive.

On another occasion, Sindbad was shipwrecked on a desert island where he found the egg of a gigantic bird called the Roc, an egg that was fifty feet round and looked like a huge, marble dome. When the great Roc returned to its nest, Sindbad saw his chance to escape from the deserted island. Tying himself to one of the Roc's legs, which was as big as a tree-trunk, Sindbad allowed himself to be carried off by the bird until it settled on a distant range of mountains. There, he cautiously untied himself and returned to civilization.

On a subsequent voyage, Sindbad was hunting elephants for ivory. Suddenly, to his great alarm he found a large herd of elephants stampeding towards the tree on which he had climbed. One of the tuskers uprooted the tree and carried the terrified Sindbad away to a lonely valley, and there dropped him on the ground. To his great surprise he found it to be the secret graveyard of the elephants. His eyes danced with joy at the sight of all the ivory that lay around. So, Sindbad returned home laden with his precious white cargo and became wealthier than ever before.

When he was tired of his wanderings, this brave sailor spent the rest of his life in peace and charitable work.

CLEVER BROTHER HARE

Very many years ago in a place in Africa there were no people and all the animals lived together in harmony till one day, a lion made his appearance. From that day onwards, the poor animals knew no peace. The lion was proud of his strength and started to bully them and sometimes he even killed them. One day after proclaiming himself King, he issued an order that each day one animal must supply him with his meal, and whoever failed to do so, would forfeit his life.

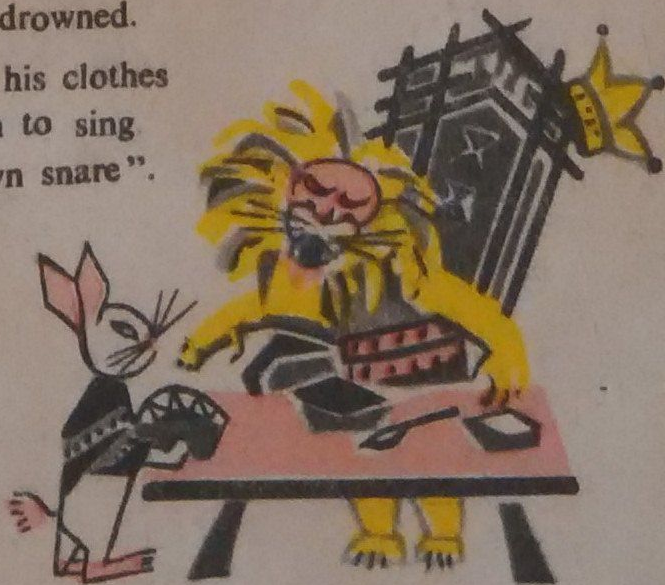
The animals were very indignant but they were afraid and so did as they were told. But when Brother Hare's turn came, he was ready with a plan to outwit the lion. He told his wife and children not to worry and dressed himself in his Sunday best.

When he was a short distance from the Lion's cave, he rolled himself in mud and ruffled his hair, as if he had been set upon and maltreated. Then he went to the lion.

When the lion saw Brother Hare with an empty tray, he was about to devour him, when the little hare jumped on one side and with a voice choking with tears related his story. He said that on his way to the cave, a strange lion had snatched away the food, and pushed him aside. He added that the lion was very ferocious and had talked insultingly about the King.

When the King heard this, he was livid with rage and insisted on being taken to this imposter lion's den. The hare took him to a steep water-hole. When the lion saw his own image in the water, he was blind with rage and not recognizing himself, he jumped into the hole and was drowned.

The Hare straightened his clothes and twisting his whiskers began to sing
"A villain will fall into his own snare".



"FREEDOM OF MARRIAGE"

"Liang San-Pak and Chuk Ing-Tai, are China's Romeo and Juliet. After a very sad death, they were transformed into two beautiful butterflies. The two butterflies were inseparable, and each day they would fly among the sweet-scented flowers, happy in their everlasting love and eternal unity.

These two young lovers set an example of the "Freedom of Marriage", and every year on their anniversary, thousands of young lovers throughout China, offer joss-sticks and sacrifice gifts to commemorate their sweet yet sad memory.



THE BOY THIRTEEN

When the thirteenth child was born to a poor Swiss peasant and his wife, having run short of names, they decided to call him Thirteen.

Thirteen grew up a tiny, delicate lad, but he could play beautifully on his violin and sing like a lark. With such a large family and so little food, Thirteen decided to leave home and seek his fortune elsewhere. Playing his beloved violin and singing, he happened to pass by the palace of the King of France who, enthralled by the music, called for him and made Thirteen his Chief Musician. With his enchanting melodies and quick wit, Thirteen was soon a favourite at Court. But the King's Secretary, jealous of Thirteen's increasing popularity decided to get rid of him.

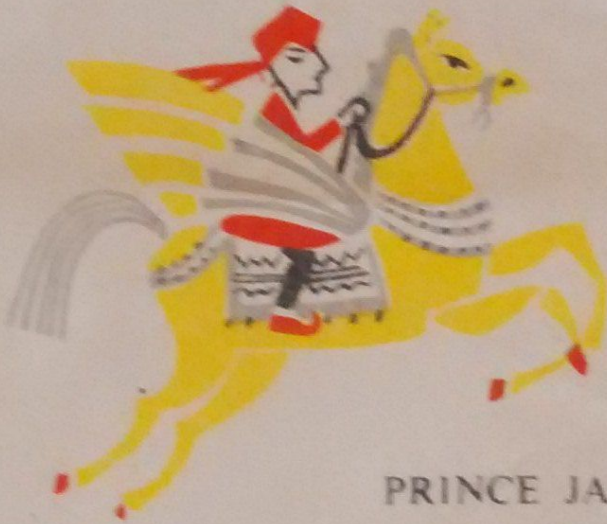
In a nearby kingdom, there lived a giant who had three precious possessions, a beautiful horse which galloped like the wind, a bedspread made of gold and silver, and a wonderful talking bird.

With great cunning, the Secretary raved about the wonders of these prizes to the King, so that His Majesty could not sleep until they were his. Distressed by his Master's sadness, Thirteen decided to find a way to steal the giant's treasures.

Finding his way into the giant's stronghold, he played so beautifully on his violin and sang with such sweetness that the giant sank into a deep slumber. Thirteen then mounted the steed and galloped away, carrying with him the bedspread and the caged bird. The silly bird woke the giant with its cries and he gave chase to Thirteen, but the horse ran like the wind and the giant could not catch them.

The King was so overjoyed to see Thirteen return with the prizes that, to show his gratitude, he made Thirteen his heir and gave him the hand of his beautiful daughter in marriage.





PRINCE JANAKA'S DREAM

In India there once lived a wise and mighty king. Unfortunately, his heir, Prince Janaka, was bone lazy and idled away his time awaiting the fulfilment of a soothsayer's prophecy that he would receive divine guidance in a dream.

One night, he dreamt of a great kingdom across a roaring river, where a beautiful princess called Nileema dwelt in her crystal palace, awaiting the man who would brave that mighty flood to win her hand.

Many had died in the attempt but Janaka was undeterred and set out to seek this prize. In his wanderings, he met a beggar who promised to assist him on condition that Janaka pledged himself to help the poor as long as he lived. The prince readily agreed to this and in return the beggar presented him with a flying horse. Probably the same one STANVAC now use.

Mounted on this magic steed Janaka crossed the great river and married the lovely Nileema.

Meanwhile, the old king died and Janaka returned home with his bride to be proclaimed the new ruler.

Soon, however, Nileema began to long for her crystal palace and Janaka ordered a replica of it to be built, sparing no expense and forgetting his duty to his poor subjects. At last the royal couple moved into their crystal abode. But alas! during the night Janaka awoke from a nightmare to find that his wife had turned to stone. No amount of prayers or offerings could revive her, until one day the beggar once more appeared. He reminded Janaka that in his anxiety to please the Queen, he had forgotten his promise to the poor. Full of remorse, Janaka opened his personal treasury to make recompense, and instantly Nileema returned to life.

CINDERELLA

Cinderella was a beautiful and good-natured girl, whose wicked step mother and ugly step sisters made her work very hard and dressed her in rags.

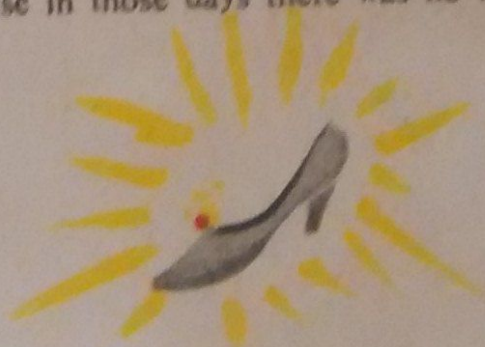
One day a great ball was given in honour of the prince. Everybody in the land was invited, but her step-sisters would not take Cinderella with them; besides she had no party clothes to wear. As the poor little girl was bemoaning her fate, her Fairy Godmother suddenly appeared before her.

Drying Cinderella's tears with a comforting smile, the Fairy Godmother touched her with her wand, and Cinderella found herself arrayed in a shimmering evening gown, with a pair of glass slippers on her dainty feet. Another sweep of the magic wand transformed a humble pumpkin and four fat mice into a splendid coach and four, a stray dog into a footman, and an old horse became a coachman. But her Fairy Godmother warned Cinderella that the magic would last only till midnight.

Cinderella was of course the most beautiful girl at the ball and the handsome Prince never left her side. All too soon the clock began to strike midnight and Cinderella, realising her plight, rushed out of the ball-room. In her hurry she lost a glass slipper on the palace steps. No sooner was she out of sight than at the last stroke of twelve the coach, the horses and the servants vanished into thin air.

The Prince issued a proclamation that he would marry no one but the girl who could wear the tiny glass slipper, and messengers were sent all over the land to look for her. Every girl tried to wear it, and the ugly step-sisters tried the hardest of all, but of course they all failed. Just as the court messenger was giving up the search, he saw Cinderella, and though the stepmother protested, he insisted on Cinderella trying on the slipper, and of course, it fitted her perfectly.

So Cinderella became the Prince's bride and they lived happily ever after, because in those days there was no income-tax!



YONDI LIFTING THE SKY

" Away in the Dream Time, Yondi, the warrior found the flat stick in the magic pool. With this stick, he raised the sky, for in those days the sky was close to the earth, and only shrubs covered the land.

When Yondi, with his great strength, pushed the sky up with the flat stick which he had found in the pool, some of the water was taken up to the heavens and falling back to earth turned into rain and clouds.

The stunted shrubs grew into great trees and the birds, finding no food in the sky, glided back to earth, their shoulders turning into wings.

The kangaroo stood up on his hind legs to see the strange new world and has stood up ever since.

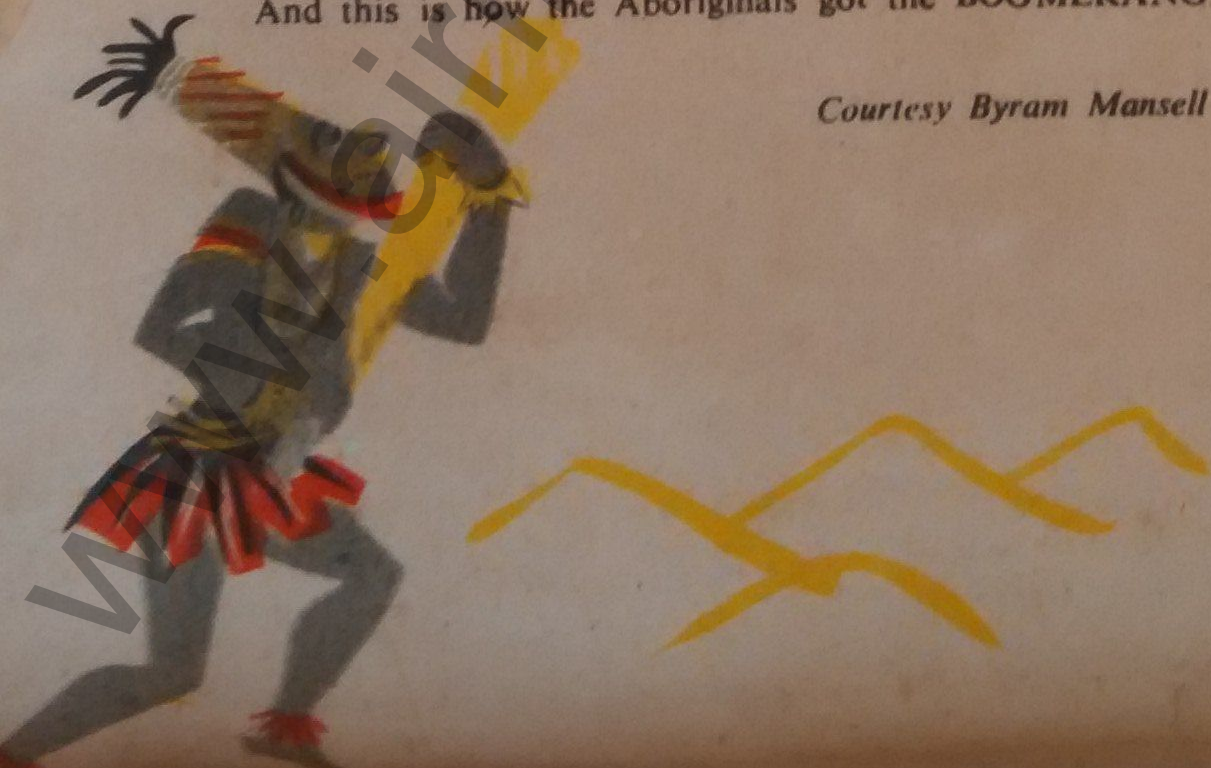
The emu, our largest bird, stretched his neck to see the strange sight that was unfolding before him. He ran so fast that his legs grew very long, and have stayed long to this very day.

Now, all animals who crept and crawled in the beginning were fast asleep when all this was happening, and have crept and crawled ever since.

When Yondi's task was finished, he threw away the flat stick which had become bent under the great weight of the sky; every time he threw the stick away, it would return to him.

And this is how the Aborigines got the BOOMERANG."

Courtesy Byram Mansell



AIR INDIA



International



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THE THREE DANCING GOATS

Long, long ago in India, there lived a young peasant named Sindhu. All he had in the world was a small plot of land and two cows. One day, he met an old woman with three remarkable goats, which, besides being lovely to look at, danced to a flute. Sindhu bargained with her and exchanged his two cows for the three goats and the magic flute.

The fame of the goats soon reached the ears of a rich landlord's daughter who, after seeing the animals, set her heart on owning them. Sindhu, although ready to oblige such a beautiful girl, only agreed to exchange them for the gold ring set with three jewels which the girl wore on her finger, provided she also revealed to him the secret of her ring.

Now the landlord's daughter had a red, a white and a green hair, concealed in her long black tresses, and the ring was set with stones of the same colours. So keen was she to possess the flute and the goats that she told Sindhu the secret without hesitation. Trust a woman to do that!

A few days later, the landlord announced that any man who could guess his daughter's secret, would win her hand in marriage. The wily Sindhu dressed himself in the robes of a rich merchant and entered the wealthy landlord's hall which was filled with suitors. When his turn came, in a loud and solemn voice, Sindhu announced the secret as revealed to him by the girl. Everyone was amazed and more so when Sindhu, throwing off his disguise, related how he had come by the secret, showing the ring as proof.

So, Sindhu married the landlord's beautiful daughter, and of course, they lived happily ever after.

Designed

by

AIR-INDIA'S

ART-STUDIO