Dear Beatrix Potter Admirers,

The gem of a photo, above, was taken by one of our readers, Teresa Glover, in Cobourg, ON, Canada. Priceless. It must have taken a lot of patience, Teresa, but well worth the effort.

Welcome to Lynne Moriarty, who is joining “Pottering About” as proofreader. Discussions over format and conventions brought up the topic of spelling, and the patchwork of variations appearing in the newsletter. It seems a good opportunity to explain, in case you are also finding it confusing. When “Pottering About” first started, it was intended to keep the geographically spread-out North American Members up-to-date on the smaller events, teas, and

The Beatrix Potter Society

Interested in learning more about Beatrix Potter? Consider joining the Society. Meet others who are passionate about Beatrix Potter, her life and works. You will also receive the quarterly Journal and
readings in the US and, naturally, American spellings were used. When
the distribution list became quite international (and a
Canadian who couldn't bear to drop a "u" became editor), habits
changed. Quotes from contributors remain in their own "language"
and appropriate spellings are used for the country of origin of the
report with the intent of finding a middle ground - hopefully most
people will be happy, most of the time.
  By the way, Lynne is in Australia, adding to the international
flavour (yes, there's a "u" sneaking in) - and reminding us that it isn't
summer everywhere!
  So, find some shade for your deck chair in the summer heat, or
curl up somewhere warm out of the winter chill, and have a read....

Society News

  With the Connecticut Symposium just over, the next event is the
Autumn Meeting in the Lake District, September 9 - 10 - time to put
your travel plans in place! A brief outline can be found on the
Society's website and the flyer will soon be available, there, and in
the July Journal and Newsletter.

  Planning is underway to make necessary changes to the way the
Society is run. Please read your next J&N carefully to keep up to
date.

  Lloyd Cotsen of the Cotsen Collection and Cotsen Children's
Library at Princeton University died in May. His collection of Potter
material was but a fraction of what he had amassed. Many will
know the enormous red book (almost as unwieldy as Marseilles,
Genoa & Pisa) that documents the Beatrix Potter portion of his
collection. For more on the life of a remarkable man, see the

Recently:

  The Symposium in New London, CT, was a stimulating weekend
of discussions around the biographies on Beatrix, her North
American friends, and the importance of archives and how to make
use of them to conduct your own research. Mark Samuels Lasner
gave a fascinating talk on the need for a complete Potter
bibliography (it would be no small undertaking), and Mandy
Marshall entertained with a glimpse of life behind "Timmy Willy's

Newsletter, full of interesting articles about Miss Potter
and the Society's efforts and events.

Find the Membership form for download, and more
information about the Society here.

Save the Date:

December 2, 2017:
Festive Gathering, Sloane
Club, London.

Quick Links

Email us at: potteringabout1@gmail.com

Read the previous issue of "Pottering About" here.

Visit the Society's web page: The Beatrix Potter Society

Stay Connected
The exhibit at the Linda Lear Center for Special Collections and Archives, "The Passion for Animals in Victorian Children's Literature and Beyond", had many Potter treasures, including a copy of Hildesheimer & Faulkner's *A Happy Pair*.

The *J&N* will have a longer report to satisfy you. Meanwhile, here are some highlights of the fun:

What could be more perfect?! Linda Lear (author of *Beatrix Potter: A Life in Nature*) with Peter Rabbit (Meredith McClung), and Beatrix Potter (Fran Gray).

The "Silent Partners" panel on the behind-the-scenes work on *Beatrix Potter: A Life in Nature*, and the resulting Archive.
Barbara Heike won the devilishly difficult quiz, with a near-perfect score.
Photo: Betsy Bray

Ben Panciera and Mandy Marshall examine a detail in a photo from the exhibit that revealed clues about the Castle Cottage verandah in Beatrix's time.

Laura Jackson sends this photo and the caption: "How many BPS Members does it take to...?"
Yasuko Fujiwara came all the way from Hiroshima, Japan, for the event. At the Saturday night dinner, she gathered her courage to stand in front of the group to say thanks for the weekend. Everyone there says thank you, Yasuko, for gracing us with your gentle presence!

Yasuko writes of her weekend experience: "Beatrix Potter was a multi-talented person. The US Members must be carrying her DNA fibres of being a business person - the Symposium was run smoothly and perfectly. My highlight was the Linda Lear Archive".

A shout out to Frederick Warne-Penguin Books USA for providing a copy of *Appley Dapply's Nursery Rhymes* (celebrating its centenary this year) for all at the closing dinner, and to the Society for the key ring.

Coins:

The *Jeremy Fisher coin* was released a week ago (early June) and the silver proof coin with the coloured image of Jeremy is selling well, though not crashing the Royal Mint website the way the Peter Rabbit coin did. At the time of writing, the coin is over 85% sold so the chance of getting one is good if you don't delay.
With all the interest in these coins, it seems a good moment to add in [this article](https://www.which.co.uk) from *Which?* in the UK about the rarity of some of the 50p pieces that were put in general circulation. The article notes that the Beatrix Potter series is one of the most popular.

Coming Up:

*In France:*

On until July 24, *"Jardins"*, an exhibit at the Grand Palais, Paris. Of special interest are Beatrix's illustrations from six pages of *The Tale of the Flopsy Bunnies*. (Thanks to Sarah Jardine-Willoughby and Amanda Davidson for confirming that they are indeed there!) The entire exhibit looks glorious. Francine Denizart has sent some video links to give a taste: [this one](https://www.grandpalais.fr), on the Grand Palais website (four minutes long), and a quick, one-minute YouTube video, below.
In the UK:

Kendal Museum, July 1 - September 30. An exhibit, "Into the Light - 300 Years of Freemasonry in Cumbria". 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday; Freemasons will be on hand to answer questions between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. every Saturday. Hardwicke Rawnsley and William Heelis are named as local members - this is news to the Society, so there may be more in a future J&N article!

The River & Rowing Museum (Henley on Thames) exhibit, "Peter Rabbit: Mischief and Mayhem", opens June 24 and runs until September 24. From the original tales to the current television animation, the exhibit will focus on the development of Peter Rabbit as a character. On display will be original artworks, first editions, early Peter Rabbit merchandise, and more recent memorabilia produced as part of the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of Beatrix Potter's birth in 2016. In addition, there will be a family trail around the Museum's permanent galleries, and local school children are growing vegetables for Mr. McGregor's garden outside the Museum.

Also at the River and Rowing Museum this summer:

Thursday, July 13, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m, Dr Selwyn Goodacre, a Member of the BPS, tells the story of the original letter that Beatrix Potter wrote to Noel Moore in 1893, the origin of The Tale of Peter Rabbit. The talk covers the history of its first publication in 1900, the reprints and re-issues over the years, and the use of the image in merchandise from games to dolls and
the famous Beswick figures. Be sure to book in advance, details here.

Saturday, September 16, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m,
Anney Harris, a co-founder of the Society, will give a lecture on Beatrix's life, covering all aspects of her life, from her privileged upbringing in London to her Lake District home. Advance booking is a must. Details on booking can be found here.

At the Theatre:

In the UK:

The Old Laundry Theatre, Bowness-on-Windermere, Cumbria

"Beatrix Potter's Victorian Magic Lantern Show"
This theatrical performance documents Beatrix's life from childhood to conservationist and farmer, accompanied by a slide show with Lake District scenes and original footage of Victorian London. Tickets include tea and entrance to the World of Beatrix Potter Attraction.

Performance dates:
September 13, October 4.

Also at the Old Laundry Theatre,
"Where is Peter Rabbit?", the play that delighted those at the 2016 Summer Conference.

Performance dates:
now to July 3.

Tickets for both shows can be purchased through the Old Laundry Theatre's website.
For the Crafters:

Biscuiteers website has instructions for icing Peter Rabbit biscuits. One suspects this is far more difficult than it is made to appear, but lovely to look at all the same. If anyone manages the feat, please send a photo to go in this space next time!

Perhaps a bit of a stretch to relate to Beatrix, but we plead the case because they are Herdwicks; the Herdy company in the UK has knitting patterns to download. The hot water bottle cover is currently free.
Tidbits:

The Lingholm Estate has had several mentions over the last months, with the discovery of the plans for the walled garden from Beatrix's time, and its reconstruction. Here's a video (four minutes long) with beautiful interior and exterior images of the house and its grounds. Included are a number of pictures of Beatrix with her father and brother at Lingholm. Perfect for the armchair traveller, and to whet the appetite for those who will be at the Autumn Meeting in September. The Estate's website has a page devoted to Beatrix and her summer stays.

An Erica Sturla greeting card featuring Beatrix Potter, found on the Holy Mackerel website.
The students in Year 6 at Maltman's Green School in Buckinghamshire, UK undertook an elaborate project as they learned about Beatrix's life and work, including her time as a farmer and conservationist. They wrote and illustrated their own Potter-style stories in their English and Art lessons, researching the animals' behaviour and using that knowledge in the stories, which were to have rural settings. After editing and planning the layout of text and the watercolour illustrations, the completed books were read to younger students in the school. A lot of work, but how satisfying to have a completed book at the end!

Recently while doing follow-up research on the White House Rose Garden at Rachel Lambert Mellon's Oak Spring Garden Library in Upperville, Virginia, Marta McDowell was able to see the two Beatrix Potter paintings in its collection. One is a study of onions, similar to one in the Victoria & Albert that appears to be a study for The Tale of Benjamin Bunny. The other is a garden scene, possibly Melford Hall. Records can be found through the Oak Spring digitized manuscript artwork database (use the dropdown menu to find Beatrix's name and search) though images of the two artworks are not available online at this time. More information about Oak Spring can be found here.

One last video; a bit of fun to finish on. One of a series of "Historical Crushes" filmed by staff at the University of Iowa's Special Collections and University Archives. Also only four minutes
long it is bound to give a smile, especially to a few of the collectors out there. Thanks to Connie Neumann for sending it!

**In Closing:**

Thank you for reading, and for all the contributions. Please continue to send news of upcoming events, stories, photos and items of interest on all things Potter-related (in 100 to 150 words). The next issue of "Pottering About" is scheduled for the end of July. Send submissions by **July 23**.

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