

# HOW FATHER MOUSE CAME TO VERMONT— AND OTHER STORIES

Proctor, Vermont, is the home of the Vermont Marble Company, and for more than a century immigrants have traveled to Proctor to join the marbleworks and make a new home by the shores of Otter Creek. Families from Italy, Hungary, Poland, France, Russia, Finland, and other lands settled in the community and helped it grow.

The Proctor Free Library was founded in 1881, and part of its purpose was to serve the needs of these new Proctor citizens. Adults and children who had grown up overseas were accustomed to reading books in the languages of their homelands. But where in Proctor were there books for them to read in the languages they knew best?

Someone who understood what was needed was Emily Dutton Proctor. She was the daughter of Redfield Proctor, the founder of the Vermont Marble Company and later U.S. Senator from Vermont. Emily Proctor was born in 1869 and grew up to become a generous donor of funds to help the sick and the poor. She opened a community center called Cavendish House where foreigners studied English, and young people learned cooking, sewing, French, and physical education, and got hot lunches if they needed them.



Father Mouse instructs his children to beware of the hideous “Kot” in this Polish illustration by M. Wisznicki, Warsaw, 1925.



The letter “P” for peacock from *L'Alphabet de Jean-Jean*, published in Paris.



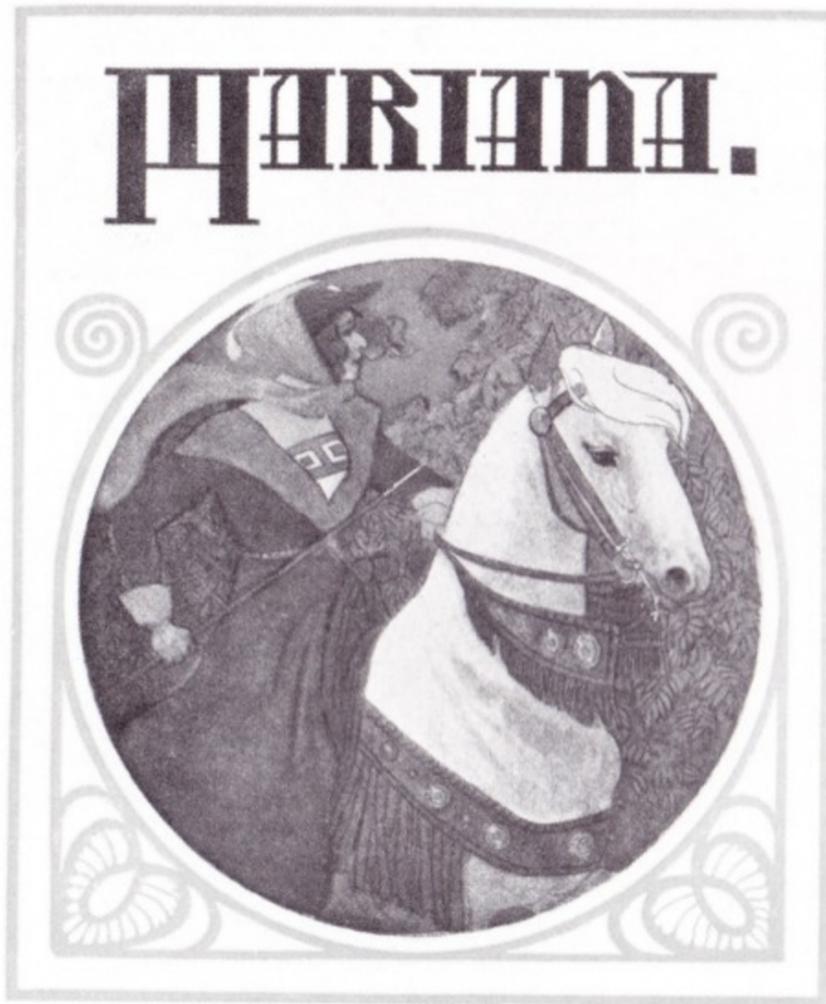
A company of animals shares a summer feast in this illustration from a book published in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1923.

When Emily Proctor realized that the marble-workers and their families missed the languages and culture of their homelands, she acquired for the library a large collection of foreign-language books for adult readers and a wonderful set of picture books for children. The picture books, which date from the 1920s, are full of fanciful illustrations.

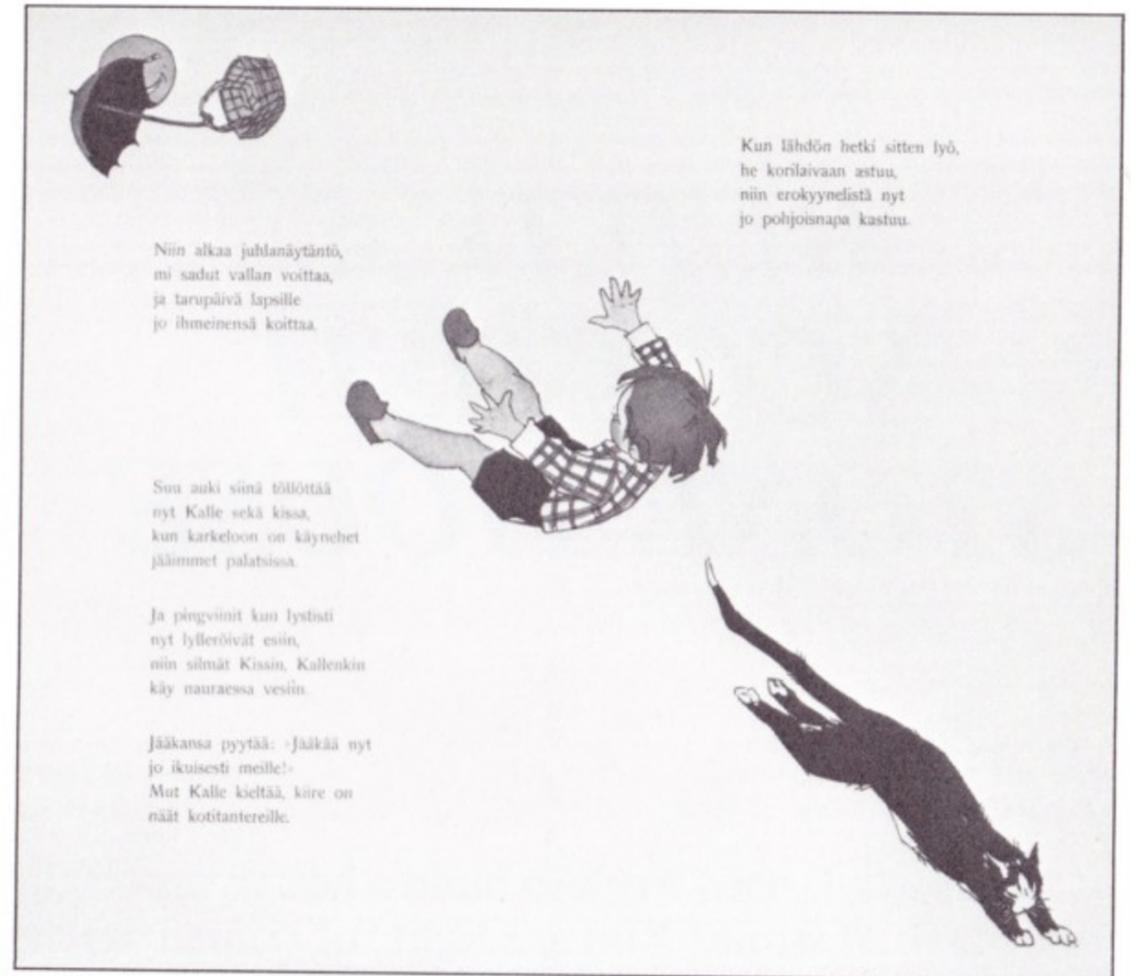
Today Barbara Burns is the director of the Proctor Library. She treasures the books that Emily Proctor gathered for her friends and neighbors and proudly shows them to visitors. If you visit the Proctor Free Library, ask to see these lovely books, which helped a generation of young Vermonters to keep alive their foreign heritage while growing up in the beauty of the Green Mountains.



A drawing by the Italian artist Brunelleschi in *Batocchio e Cavicchio*, a book of three comedies for the marionette theater, ca. 1925.



Mariana, the heroine of a Slovak tale published in 1920, one of the more than one hundred foreign children's books collected by Emily Proctor for the Proctor Free Library.



Drawing by Martta Wendelin for a Finnish storybook published in Helsinki in 1928.



Emily Dutton Proctor, ca. 1930.

птица ночью не прилетала." На третью ночь пошел стеречь яблоки Иванъ-царевичъ. Долго онъ ждалъ; вдругъ весь садъ освѣтился, какъ днемъ, прилетѣла жаръ-птица и стала срывать яблоки. Иванъ-царевичъ подкрался къ ней и поймалъ ее за хвостъ. Но жаръ-птица вырвалась и улетѣла, оставивъ одно перо въ рукахъ у Ивана-царевича. Утромъ Иванъ-царевичъ отдалъ царю перо и рассказалъ, какъ все произошло. Царь очень обрадовался и оставилъ себѣ перо, которое сияло, какъ солнце. Съ тѣхъ поръ жаръ-птица перестала летать въ царскій садъ. Царь опять позвалъ къ себѣ сыновей и сказалъ имъ: „Найдите мнѣ жаръ-птицу. Кто принесетъ мнѣ ее живой, тотъ получитъ полцарства и, когда я умру, будетъ царемъ.“ Димитрій и Василий-царевичи сейчасъ же собрались въ дорогу. Ивана-царевича взять съ собой они не хотѣли, такъ-какъ были сердиты на него за то, что ему удалось вырвать чудесное перо изъ хвоста жаръ-птицы. Пришлось Ивану-царевичу отправиться искать жаръ-птицу одному. Долго ѣхалъ



Ivan Tzarevitch (Prince John) pauses to read an inscription on a boulder. Russia, 1899.