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A Checklist of the Separately Published Works of Laura E. Richards

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A real bibliography or even a complete checklist of the writings of this indefatigable lady would be a well-nigh impossible task. Her daughter (Rosalind) tells us that during her ninety-three years she composed literally hundreds of verses, songs, fables, stories, vignettes, eulogies, appeals, criticisms, memorials, on every conceivable subject, from the conduct of World War I to the local library drive. Some of these were printed only in newspapers in Gardiner and elsewhere, some in Youth’s Companion or St. Nicholas, others in children’s magazines both in America and abroad, many of them long since extinct. A goodly number were privately printed, others never saw the light except in family letters or personal notebooks. Miss Richards has quite sensibly assumed that such of these as her mother thought worth preserving were incorporated in one or more of the published volumes listed below, and has been reluctant to encourage any attempt to extend this list to include publications in periodicals or even collections to which her mother contributed pieces which, in many instances, were later included in her own books.

We have of course excluded also republications, including selections from the books not only in English but in translations ranging as far afield as Armenian and Turkish.

We believe this to be the first published checklist of Mrs. Richards’ books which has attempted to include more than her principal works, and like all first lists it must be permitted a generous margin of error, both of commission and omission. After all, the lady wrote more books than both Dickens and Thackeray combined, and more than one bibliographer has grown gray in pursuit of elusive rarities in the works of these gentlemen.

We started with a printed list probably prepared by one of the author’s publishers in the middle thirties, to which L.E.R. had made handwritten additions. This was supplemented by a preliminary and unpublished list of her books for children, prepared and kindly made available by Mr. Jacob Blanck. Miss
Rosalind Richards and Mr. John Richards not only permitted us access to the books and papers which they had presented to Harvard, but most generously supplied corrections and additions from family books and records and from material in the Gardiner Public Library.

We have examined all entries under the author's name in the *American Catalogue of Books* for the years 1876 through 1910, *The United States Catalog*, in its editions and supplements, for the period 1899 through June, 1961, and the catalogues of the Library of Congress and the National Union Catalog. Titles and imprints gathered from these sources have been checked in most cases against copies of the books, some in the library of one of the compilers of this list, but chiefly in the collections presented to Harvard by the Richards family, and the Sarah Orne Jewett library bequeathed to Harvard by Theodore Jewett Eastman. Where known dated copies or copyright information have indicated publication at the end of the year preceding the date on the title-page, we have so indicated.

We gratefully acknowledge also the kind assistance of Mr. W. H. Bond of the Houghton Library at Harvard and the staff of its reading-room, Mr. Johannes L. Dewton, Assistant Chief, Union Catalog Division of the Library of Congress, Mr. William H. Runge, Curator of Rare Books at the University of Virginia, and Mr. Roger E. Stoddard, Assistant Curator of the Harris Collection at Brown University.

The checklist:

3. *Five Mice in a Mouse-Trap.* Boston, Estes & Lauriat, 1881 [1880].
7. *Joyous Story of Toto.* Boston, Roberts Brothers, 1885.
8. *Beauty and the Beast... The Story Retold.* London, Blackie & Son [1886] and Boston, Roberts Brothers [1886]. (Gordon Browne's Series of Old Fairy Tales, No. 2.)

9. *Hop o' My Thumb... The Story Retold.* London, Blackie & Son [1886] and Boston, Roberts Brothers, 1886. (Gordon Browne's Series of Old Fairy Tales, No. 1.)


12. *Tell-Tale from Hill and Dale.* Troy, N. Y., Nims & Knight [1886].


15. *Queen Hildegarde.* Boston, Estes & Lauriat [1889].


17. *In My Nursery.* Boston, Roberts Brothers, 1890.


22. *When I Was Your Age.* Boston, Estes & Lauriat, 1894 [1893].


29. *Isla Heron.* Boston, Estes & Lauriat [1896].
340 Colby Library Quarterly

33. Three Margarets. Boston, Estes & Lauriat [1897].
34. Love and Rocks. Boston, Estes & Lauriat, 1898.
35. Margaret Montfort. Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1898].
36. Rosin the Beau. Boston, Estes & Lauriat [1898].
42. For Tommy and Other Stories. Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1900].
43. Rita. Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1900].
44. Snow-White; or, The House in the Wood. Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1900].
45. Fernley House. Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1901].
46. Geoffrey Strong. Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1901].
47. The Hurdy-Gurdy. Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1902].
48. Mrs. Tree. Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1902].
51. More Five Minute Stories. Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1903].
52. The Tree in the City. [Newark, N. J., Newark Shade Tree Commission, 1903].
53. The Merryweathers. Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1904].
54. The Armstrongs. Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1905].
55. Mrs. Tree’s Will. Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1905].
Colby Library Quarterly 341

57. The Piccolo. Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1906].
60. Grandmother. Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1907].
63. The Wooing of Calvin Parks. Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1908].
67. "Up to Calvin's." Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1910].
68. On Board the Mary Sands. Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1911].
70. The Little Master. Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1913].
71. Miss Jimmy. Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1913].
342 Colby Library Quarterly

102. *Merryweather Songs.* [Gardiner, Me., Privately Printed, no date.]
103. *Song of the Maine Progressive.* [Gardiner, Me., no date, but before 1912.] Broadside.

**NOTES:** Copies of the books listed above are in the collections at Harvard or the Library of Congress, with the exceptions noted below.

1. Copy at the New York Public Library.
2. Copy at the New York Public Library. Mrs. Richards’ name appeared on the title-page in the edition published by Peter G. Thomson at Cincinnati in 1886. A copy of that rare edition was discovered by Mr. Blanck.
3. No copies of the Boston editions of Nos. 8 and 9 located. Entered from The American Catalogue . . . 1884-1890. The English edition of No. 9 entered from the advertisement in the copy of the English edition of No. 8 at Harvard. No further numbers in the series were published.
4. Copy at the University of Virginia.
5. Copy at the New York Public Library.
6. Separately printed from No. 7.
7. Mr. Stoddard reports that the copy of *JOLLY JINGLES* (Boston, Dana Estes & Co. [1912?]) at Brown “was imposed from a mixture of plates” from Nos. 47 and 57. It has accordingly been omitted here since it is a republication.
8. Estes’ catalogue for 1907 offers AT GREGORY’S HOUSE and lists Ten Ghost Stories as “In Preparation,” both are listed in the Cumulative Book Index for 1907, but no copy of either has been located. Both may be bibliographical “ghosts.” Mr. Richards was able to lay one such ghost for us, THE COMPLETE STORY OF MRS. TREE, planned by L. C. Page & Co. of Boston to include Nos. 46-48 and 55. It is listed in the Cumulative Book Index for 1933-1934, but was never published.
9. Republished in 1922 by The Page Company of Boston in “The Little Cousins of Long Ago Series” with title OUR LITTLE FEUDAL COUSIN OF LONG AGO.
10. Title continues: Extracts from Mrs. Howe’s Private Journals, together with Some Verses Hitherto (with a Few Exceptions) Unpublished; and an Essay on Immortality Entitled “Beyond the Veil.”
11. Papers by Mrs. Richards collected and printed by her friends in honor of her ninetieth birthday.
12. Reported by Mr. Richards.