

13 March 2017

Heath Robinson Museum presents
The Illustrations of Edward Ardizzone
Special Exhibition 1 April – 11 June 2017

For its third Special Exhibition, starting on 1 April, the Heath Robinson Museum in Pinner, north-west London, is delighted to showcase the illustrations of the highly skilled draughtsman and illustrator Edward Ardizzone.

Edward Ardizzone (1900-1979) was one of the best loved and most prolific book artists of the 20th century, illustrating well over 170 books for adults and children. His career overlapped with that of Heath Robinson and they had many qualities in common. Like Heath Robinson, Ardizzone's illustrations are generally concerned with contemporary life untouched by political, religious or ideological conflicts.

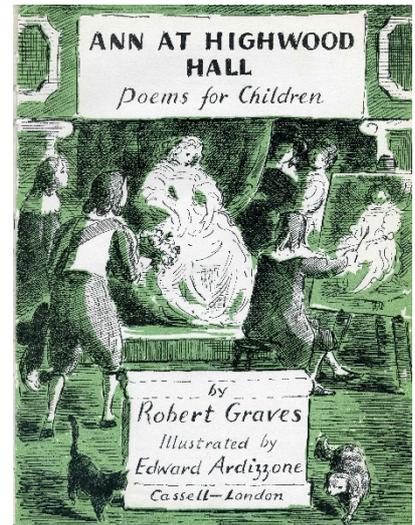


This new exhibition at the Heath Robinson Museum, featuring many of Ardizzone's greatest illustrations, will be divided into two parts. The first focuses on his work for adults, including 25 of his illustrations for Trollope's first two Barchester novels, which have never been exhibited before. There will also be illustrations for Dickens, Hardy and Thackeray.

The second part of the exhibition will showcase Ardizzone's illustrations for children, including the preliminary sketch book for the ever-popular *Little*

Tim – the Hero of the Storm and the title-page design for *Stig of the Dump*. We will also have illustrations for *The Suburban Child*, Graham Greene's *The Little Fire Engine* and Robert Graves's *Ann at Highwood Hall*.

As Geoffrey Beare, curator of the exhibition, explains: "Edward Ardizzone's work displayed wit, originality and a deep humanity. He was strongly opposed to the idea that illustration could be merely decoration or graphic embellishment. In his view, the relationship of drawing and words had to be very close: he felt that the illustrator's task was to create a visual counterpart to the world of the writer. His drawings are representational and humorous and demonstrate his affection for people."



ENDS

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Details of all museum special exhibitions, Curator's Talks, events, activities and workshops can be found on the web site at heathrobinsonmuseum.org/whatson

Notes to Editors

heathrobinsonmuseum.org

The first purpose-built museum in Greater London for over 40 years, dedicated to showcasing the work of the world-renowned artist, illustrator, humorist and social commentator William Heath Robinson (1872-1944), was declared officially open on 15 October 2016 at a ceremony attended by hundreds of people in Pinner Memorial Park, north-west London.

Heath Robinson lived in Pinner from 1908-18, some of the most productive years of his life.

The West House and Heath Robinson Museum Trust is a registered charity which restored West House in Pinner Memorial Park for community use. The Trust is a partnership between local Pinner people and the William Heath Robinson Trust, custodians of the artist's work.

To develop the new Museum, Trustees received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund of £1.3m.

Donations are welcome on <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/heathrobinsonmuseum>

Background to the William Heath Robinson Trust

When Heath Robinson's daughter Joan died, her husband wanted her collection of her father's work to be kept in public ownership. As a result the William Heath Robinson Trust was formed in 1992.

The original collection included about 500 pieces of original art work together with an archive of letters, association copies and special editions of the books that he illustrated, proof prints, advertising booklets and ephemera.

The National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Art Fund grant-aided the William Heath Robinson Trust in 2015 to purchase some 400 additional important works for the Museum, bringing the collection to nearly 1,000. It is the only substantial collection of the artist's work in public ownership.

Use of icons and images

A range of authorised Heath Robinson images are available in jpg format. Please talk to any of our media team below about your requirements.

