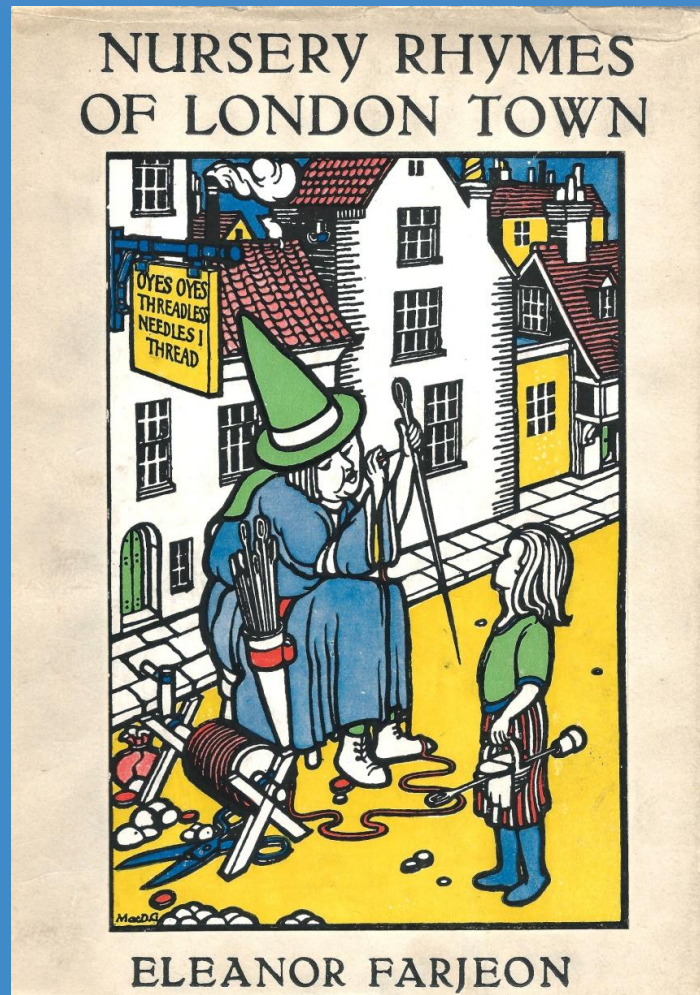


NURSERY RHYMES OF LONDON TOWN:

A Miscellany of Poem, Picture and Anecdote



"There is an Old Lady in Threadneedle Street

Sits threading of needles so deft and so neat ..."

Threadneedle Street is just one of the many delightful verses
which make play of the capital's place names in *Nursery*
Rhymes of London Town

This entertaining talk by Caroline Walker includes poetry,
pictures and poignant anecdotes relating to the book, its
author Eleanor Farjeon and its illustrator MacDonald Gill.



About the lecture

Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965) was an immensely popular writer of her time best known today for her words to the hymn 'Morning has Broken'. She had 'a talent akin to genius' and used her 'perceptive wit' to create a host of much-loved children's stories and verse, topical satire, musical plays and biography. Published in 1916, *Nursery Rhymes of London Town* is a collection of whimsical verses that play on the

capital's place names including Highgate, Hammersmith, Richmond, Parson's Green and dozens more. The book was Eleanor's first major success and its instant popularity with both adults and children led to a sequel the following year. The book was also highly praised for its comic illustrations, drawn by the graphic artist MacDonald 'Max' Gill, younger brother of sculptor Eric Gill.

My talk tells the story of the creation of this delightful book and includes a magical miscellany of poems and pictures interwoven with tales of the talented Farjeon family and the artist Max Gill, as well as Eleanor's poignant reminiscences of her close friend, the poet Edward Thomas.

About Caroline Walker

In 2006 I became fascinated in the life and work of my great-uncle 'Max', an architect and graphic designer best known for his comic pictorial poster maps for London Underground. My quest uncovered a body of work remarkable for its quality, quantity and diversity as well as diaries, documents and other memorabilia, enabling me to piece together his colourful life story, now told in my book *MacDonald Gill: Charting a Life* (Unicorn 2020).



I've co-curated exhibitions of Max's work at venues such as the University of Brighton and Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft, and in 2016 organised a series of displays in London to celebrate the centenary of the *Nursery Rhymes of London Town*. I've written articles for numerous publications including *The Arts Society* magazine, *Country Life* and the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. An accredited speaker for The Arts Society since 2016, I've lectured for numerous other organisations including the Art Workers' Guild, U3A and Christie's. Based in West London, I'm also a freelance English tutor and run the MacDonald Gill website.

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