



*Morning Has Broken:
The Farjeon Family Collection*



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Item List

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*'Morning has broken, like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the word'.*

Gallery visitors (and readers afar) might recognise the above as coming from the voice of 1970s English pop musician and folk singer Cat Stevens. Yet, some may be unfamiliar with the woman behind the lyrics: celebrated children's author and poet Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965). Farjeon was a highly prolific writer who published over eighty books of stories, novels and poems for adults and children. She became friends with such literary lights as D. H. Lawrence, Robert Frost and Walter de la Mare. Farjeon developed a close friendship with the poet Edward Thomas, who was killed in the First World War in 1917, and she later published a memoir of their friendship called *Edward Thomas: The Last Four years* (1958; reprinted 1979). Farjeon was also the recipient of three major literary awards: the Carnegie Medal of the British Library Association, the Hans Christian Andersen Award and the Regina Medal of the American Catholic Library Association. Created in 1966 the Eleanor Farjeon Award is given annually in her memory to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to children's literature.

In late 1959 Eleanor Farjeon decided to make an important donation of books and manuscripts to the Dunedin Public Library. It is, therefore, with great pleasure that the Library is able to commemorate this act of generosity in the latest Reed Gallery exhibition 'Morning Has Broken: The Farjeon Family Collection'. Why, however, did an English author donate material to a library on the other side of the world? The answer lies with Eleanor's father and the great Victorian novelist Charles Dickens.

Eleanor's father, Benjamin Farjeon (1838–1903), emigrated from England to Australia in 1854 and then New Zealand in 1861. He settled in Dunedin, New Zealand's largest and wealthiest city at the time, and became manager and sub-editor of the fledgling *Otago Daily Times* newspaper. In the early 1860s Benjamin began writing plays and novels, including



two of the earliest to be printed and published in New Zealand *Shadows on the Snow: A Christmas Story* (1865) and *Grif: A Story of Australian Life* (1866). He posted a copy of *Shadows* to his most admired author, Charles Dickens, in the hope that the story could be published in his periodical *All the Year Round*. Dickens replied on 29 May 1866. Though he did not accept the story for publication, the letter was enough to encourage Benjamin to leave a successful career in Dunedin and pursue the life of a writer. Farjeon returned to England in 1868 and, before his death in 1903, published a further sixty novels from his home in London.

It was the Dunedin connection that caused A. H. Reed to write to Eleanor Farjeon in 1926. Reed, an avid collector of autograph letters, hoped to secure Farjeon's signature for inclusion in a copy of her book *Trees* (London, ca. 1914). Farjeon, in her reply letter of 13 April 1926, reminisced about her father's ties to New Zealand, about which Farjeon wished she knew more, and offered to send some items of interest. More than thirty-three years would pass before their next communication.

In February 1959 Reed wrote to Eleanor expressing the interest in the material by a visiting scholar. He also took the opportunity to ask for a portrait of her father and for a facsimile of the Dickens letter (Reed was a keen collector of Dickensiana). This letter generated a lengthy correspondence between Reed and Farjeon. It was due to this friendship, and also in memory of her father no doubt, that Eleanor decided to donate more than 200 books, several boxes of manuscript material and related ephemera to the Dunedin Public Library. She wrote in June 1959 that she had 'been busy thinking about a suggestion I want to make, collecting material if you and Mr Lucas [the Town Clerk] approve'. In July, after a brief exchange of letters, Farjeon wrote to Reed that 'This is only to tell you ... that a first budget was posted to you last week – photographs, MSS., old letters ... carefully annotated and docketed ... but no late photograph of me – I am allergic to being photographed'.

Over the next few months Eleanor sent material related not only to her father and herself, but to her three brothers as well: Harry, Joseph Jefferson and Herbert.



The eldest, Harry (1878–1948), was born in the United States and attended the Royal Academy of Music in London, later becoming its youngest professor at the age of twenty-five. He was a fine composer, writing mostly for piano; and he was also a music correspondent for the *Musical Times* and *The Telegraph*.

Joseph Jefferson (1883–1955) was a crime fiction novelist with more than eighty publications to his credit. His works were known for their wit, humour, and literary blend of mystery and romance, in such ‘pulp noir’ sounding titles as *Death in the Inkwell* (1942), *Prelude to Crime* (1948) and *Cause Unknown* (1950). A number of his plays were developed for the cinema, including ‘Number Seventeen’, which was adapted by Alfred Hitchcock in 1932.

The youngest of the Farjeon children, Herbert (1887–1945), was a major figure in the British theatre from 1910 until his death. Indeed he was involved in nearly every aspect of the stage from writing plays and theatre management to presenting revues in London’s West End. He was also a theatre critic for the *Daily Mirror*, the *Listener* (London), *Radio Times* and *Vogue*, as well as being a keen lyricist who wrote the delightful ‘I’ve danced with a man, who danced with a girl, who’s danced with the Prince of Wales’ in 1927.

Each member of this talented family is represented among the more than seventy-five items on display, the majority which have never been exhibited until now. The material includes a selection of published works (many with presentation inscriptions from one member of the Farjeon family to another), original manuscripts, ephemera, photographs, and personal correspondence.

Anthony Tedeschi
Rare Books Librarian



Item List

Cases 1 through 4: First Contact & Establishing the Collection

Case 1

Letter. Eleanor Farjeon to A. H. Reed. 137 Fellows Rd, London, 13 April 1926.

Letter. A. H. Reed to Eleanor Farjeon. Dunedin, 27 February 1959.

Letter. Eleanor Farjeon to A. H. Reed. 20 Perrins Walk, London, 22 April 1959.

Case 2

Letter. Eleanor Farjeon to A. H. Reed, 20 Perrins Walk, London, 9 June 1959.

Letter. A. H. Reed to Eleanor Farjeon. 153 Glenpark Avenue, Dunedin, 20 July 1959.

Letter. Eleanor Farjeon to A. H. Reed. 20 Perrins Walk, London, 28 July 1959.

Case 3

Letter. Eleanor Farjeon to A. H. Reed. 20 Perrins, Walk, London, 6 August 1959.

Letter. A. H. Reed to Eleanor Farjeon. Care of Public Library, Dunedin, 19 August 1959.

Letter. J. C. Lucas (Town Clerk) to Eleanor Farjeon. Dunedin City Council, 4 August 1960.

A. H. Reed. *Ben and Eleanor Farjeon and Dunedin*. Wellington: Reed for the Dunedin Public Library, 1973.

Case 4

Letter. Eleanor Farjeon to A. H. Reed. 20 Perrins Walk, London, 11 February 1964.

Sketch by Eleanor Farjeon of the proposed Farjeon Collection bookplate, 1964.

Printing Block of the Farjeon Collection bookplate.

B. L. Farjeon. *Miser Farebrother: A Novel*. London: Ward & Downey, 1889; exhibiting bookplate.



Case 5: ‘Morning Has Broken’

Songs of Praise: With Music. London: Oxford University Press, 1931.

Sheet music. ‘Morning Has Broken’, words by Eleanor Farjeon, arrangement Cat Stevens. Sydney: Island Music of Australia; London: Freshwater Music, ca. 1972.

Recording. Cat Stevens Single of ‘Morning Has Broken’. Auckland: Festival Records / Island Records, ca. 1972.

Cases 6 through 11: Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965)

Case 6: Childhood Writings

Photograph. Eleanor Farjeon. The Stodart Studio, Margate, ca. 1890.

Manuscript. ‘Dolly’s Party Christmas’ and other stories. Written by Eleanor Farjeon when about five years of age.

Photograph. Eleanor Farjeon. Paul Corder, ca. 1899.

Eleanor Farjeon. ‘The Cardboard Angel’ in *The Girls Realm*. December 1898, Vol. 1, No. 2.

Case 7: Early Publications

Eleanor Farjeon. *Pan-Worship: And Other Poems*. London: E. Mathews, 1908.

Eleanor Farjeon. *Nursery Rhymes of London Town; Illustrated by Macdonald Gill*. London: Duckworth, 1973.

Case 8: Martin Pippin

Eleanor Farjeon. *Martin Pippin in the Apple Orchard; Illustrated by C. E. Brock*. London: W Collins Sons & Co., 1922.

Eleanor Farjeon. *Martin Pippin in the Daisy-Field; Illustrated by Isobel and John Morton-Sale*. [London]: Oxford University Press, 1954.



Case 9: Collaboration & Conservation

Eleanor and Herbert Farjeon. *Kings and Queens; With 38 Coloured Plates by Rosalind Thornycroft*. London: Victor Gollancz Ltd, 1932.

Eleanor Farjeon. *Pannychis*. Shaftesbury, Dorset: The High House Press, 1933.

Case 10: Reminiscences

Manuscript. First draft of pages 240 to 244 of Eleanor Farjeon's *A Nursery in the Nineties* (1935).

Eleanor Farjeon. *A Nursery in the Nineties*. London: Victor Gollancz Ltd, 1935.

Case 11: Collected Works & Posthumous Publication

Eleanor Farjeon. *The Little Bookroom: Eleanor Farjeon's Short Stories for Children Chosen by Herself; Illustrated by Edward Ardizzone*. London: Oxford University Press, 1955 (1957 reprint).

Eleanor Farjeon. *The Children's Bells: A Selection of Poems by Eleanor Farjeon; Illustrated by Peggy Fortnum*. London: Oxford University Press, 1957.

Eleanor Farjeon. *Mr Garden; Illustrated by Jane Paton*. London: Hamish Hamilton, 1965.

Cases 12 through 14: Herbert Farjeon (1887–1945)

Case 12: The London Theatre

Programme. *The Glass Slipper*. Saint James's Theatre, King Street, [London]. London: Printed by Henry Good & Son, [n.d.]

Programme. *Robert Donat Presents ... The Glass Slipper by Herbert and Eleanor Farjeon: A Fairy Tale with Music ... Music by Clifton Parker, Conductor Gideon Fagan, Ballet and Harlequinade by the Ballet Rambert ... The Play directed by William Armstrong*. Saint James's Theatre, King Street, [London]. London: Printed by Henry Good & Son, [n.d.]

Advertisement card. 'Robert Donat presents The Glass Slipper by Herbert & Eleanor Farjeon: A Fairy Tale with Music. The Play directed by William Armstrong. Saint James's Theatre, King Street, [London].



Eleanor Farjeon. *The Glass Slipper: From the play of the same name by Eleanor and Herbert Farjeon; Illustrated by Ernest H. Shepard.* London: Oxford University Press, 1955.

Programme. *Howard Wyndam and Bronson Albery present Diversion: A Mixture. Devised and Supervised by Herbert Farjeon, Music by Walter Leigh.* Wyndam's Theatre, [London]. London: Payne-Jennings Publicity Ltd., [n.d.]

Advertisement slip. "Nine Sharp". Little Theatre, [London], 1938.

Programme. *Light and Shade. Book and Lyrics by Herbert Farjeon with assistance from Eleanor Farjeon ... Music by Clifton Parker ... Additional Music by Alfred Reynolds and Geoffrey Wright, Produced by Reginald Beigh.* Ambassadors Theatre, West Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, [London]. London: Payne-Jennings & Killick Ltd, [ca. 1940.]

Case 13: The London Theatre

Programme. *Sydney W. Carroll Presents The Two Bouquets: A Comedy with Music by Eleanor and Herbert Farjeon. The Music selected by Eleanor Farjeon, arranged, orchestrated and directed by Ernest Irving.* Ambassadors Theatre, West Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, [London]. London: Printed by Henry Good & Son, 1936.

Advertisement card. 'Sydney W. Carroll presents The Two Bouquets: A Victorian Comedy with Music by Eleanor & Herbert Farjeon'. Ambassadors Theatre, West Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, [London], [ca. 1936]

Programme. *An Elephant in Arcady. Book and Lyrics by Herbert Farjeon, Music adapted by Ernest Irving ... Produced by Stephen Thomas.* Kingsway Theatre, Great Queen Street, [London]. London: [Printed by] Cockayne & Co. Ltd., 1938.

Advertisement card. 'Herbert Farjeon's Musical Production An Elephant in Arcady', Kingsway Theatre, Great Queen Street, Adelphi, [London], [ca. 1938].

Programme. *Little Revue: Book and Lyrics by Herbert Farjeon; Music by Walter Leigh; Produced and Designed by Hedley Briggs.* Little Theatre, John Street, Adelphi, London. London: [Printed by] Cockayne & Co. Ltd., 1939.

Advertisement card. 'Herbert Farjeon's Little Revue Commencing December 11th', Little Theatre, John Street, Adelphi [London], [ca. 1939].



Case 14: Other Writings

Herbert Farjeon's Cricket Bag: With an Introduction by J. Jefferson Farjeon; Illustrated by Dennis Mallet. London: MacDonald & Co., 1946.

Herbert Farjeon, editor. *The Works of Shakespeare: The Text of the First Folio with Quarto Variants and a Selection of Modern Readings.* London: The Nonesuch Press, 1929. Seven volumes.

Cases 15 and 16: Harry Farjeon (1878–1948)

Case 15: Childhood & Royal Academy of Music

Postcard. Portrait of Harry Farjeon, [n. d.]

Manuscript. 'A Book of Tales'. Written by Harry Farjeon when a child, ca. mid 1880s.

Harry Farjeon's Application to the Royal Academy of Music, co-signed by Benjamin Farjeon, 10 January 1895.

Programme. *Royal Academy of Music ... Students' Chamber Concert, St James's Hall, on Thursday, July 21st 1898.* London: [Printed by] Novello & Co., 1898.

Case 16: Selection of Early Compositions

Manuscript, sheet music. Harry Farjeon. 'To Adeline'(words by N. Farjeon). First Composition Performed, Royal Academy of Music, 14 March 1896.

Manuscript, sheet music. Harry Farjeon. 'Happy Wind'(words by N. Farjeon). First Composition Performed, Royal Academy of Music, 14 March 1896.

Harry Farjeon. *Bric-A-Brac Songs. The Words by Eleanor Farjeon.* London: Boosey & Co., 1901.

Compositions by H. Farjeon: Pianoforte [and] Violin and Pianoforte. London: Augener Ltd., 1906.



Case 17: Joseph Jefferson Farjeon (1883–1955)

J. Jefferson Farjeon. *Shadows by the Sea*. London: George G. Harrap & Company Ltd., 1928.

J. Jefferson Farjeon. *Holiday Express*. London: Collins, 1935.

J. Jefferson Farjeon. *The Judge Sums Up*. New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1942.

J. Jefferson Farjeon. *Death in the Inkwell*. New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1942.

J. Jefferson Farjeon. *Rona Runs Away*. London: Macdonald & Co. Ltd., [ca. 1945].

J. Jefferson Farjeon. *Prelude to Crime*. London: Published for the Crime Club by Collins, 1948.

J. Jefferson Farjeon. *Cause Unknown*. London: Published for the Crime Club by Collins, 1950.

Wall Carrels: Benjamin Farjeon (1838–1903)

Carrel 1: Early Writings

B. L. Farjeon. *Shadows on the Snow: A Christmas Story*. Dunedin: William Hay, [1865].

B. L. Farjeon. *Grif: A Story of Colonial Life*. Dunedin: William Hay, 1866.

Manuscript. Draft of Benjamin Farjeon's *A Theatre in a Stable*, ca. 1878.

Carrel 2: Benjamin Farjeon & Charles Dickens

Photostat and Typescript. Charles Dickens to Benjamin Farjeon, Gads Hill Place, Higham, Kent, 29 May 1866.

Photograph. Portrait of Charles Dickens, n. d. Property of Eleanor Farjeon's mother.

Letter. Charles Dickens, Jr. to Benjamin Farjeon. N. 12 St Bride St, Ludgate, 17 October 1893.

Seating card. The Silver Wedding Anniversary of Charles and Elizabeth Dickens, 19 November 1886.



Carrel 3: Benjamin & Margaret

Photograph. Benjamin Farjeon. London: Lock & Whitfield, [n. d.]

Photograph. Margaret Jane Jefferson. New York: Napoleon Sarony, ca. 1872.

Marriage certificate. Benjamin Farjeon and Margaret Jefferson. Hampstead, Middlesex, 1877.

Passport. Permit for Benjamin and Margaret Farjeon to travel to the Continent. Signed by Edward Henry Stanley, Lord Derby, 6 June 1877.

Carrel 4: Christmas Tale ‘Blade O’ Grass’

Manuscript. Partial draft of Benjamin Farjeon’s *Blade-o’-Grass*, ca. 1871.

B. L. Farjeon. *Blade-o’-Grass*. London: Hutchinson & Co., 1899.

Carrel 5: Detective Fiction & London Life

B. L. Farjeon. *Great Porter Square: A Mystery*. London: Ward and Downey, 1885. Three volumes.

B. L. Farjeon. *Joshua Marvel*. London: Tinsley Bros., 1871. Three volumes.

Carrel 6: Jewish Heritage & Last Wishes

B. L. Farjeon. *Aaron the Jew: A Novel*. London: Hutchinson & Co, 1896. Three volumes.

Manuscript. Informal Last Will & Testament of Benjamin Farjeon, 21 March 1899.



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