

80 DAYS OF BOOK HUNTING IN EUROPE: ILLUSTRATORS, BOOKS, BOOKSTORES, CHILDREN'S BOOK LIBRARIES

歐洲獵書八十天：插畫家× 古繪本×繪本書店×兒童圖 書館，童書尋訪之旅

Two picturebook fanatics spend eighty days in Europe, visiting over sixty cities on an odyssey to know more about children's literature and meet its most celebrated artists in the cosmopolitan centers of the continent.

When most Asian readers think of European children's literature, we focus on Hans Christian Andersen and the Dutch character of Miffy the rabbit. But the field in Europe is much, much wider than that, especially in the less-familiar nations of eastern Europe. With hearts full of hope, picturebook fanatics Su Yi-Chen and Hsieh Yi-Ling take off on an eighty-day tour of Europe's illustration landscape, visiting over sixty cities in an attempt to see all they can see.

Their tour of thirteen countries takes them to Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, the Balkan states, and even further. As we the readers watch them read, buy books, and peruse bookstores, we are treated to stories about writing and illustrating across Europe's dramatic political history as well as to short biographies of famous writers and illustrators. Each new place reveals its own literary wonders, local talent, and rich mythology represented on paper, offering the visitors far more than they could ever hope to take home in a single trip.



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By Su I-Chen & Hsieh Yi-Ling

Translated by Anne Henochowicz

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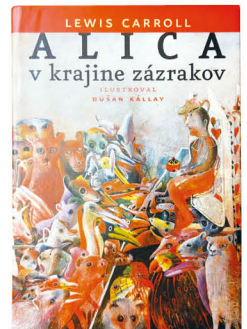
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Magnificent, mysterious, surreal, renowned

At last we come to Dušan Kállay. Compared to Brunovský's intricate background composition and bright colors, Kállay's work feels more dreamlike. He zooms in and out; the outlines of his figures are sometimes bold, sometimes faint; his colors suggest the supernatural. His unique style has earned him more collaborations with foreign publishers than any other Slovak illustrator, not to mention the International Hans Christian Andersen Award, given to Kállay when he was 40 years old. His wife, Kamila Štanclová (b. 1945), is an accomplished illustrator in her own right. In 2001, the couple embarked on the most ambitious project in the history of Slovak children's literature: an illustrated edition of all one hundred fifty-six of Hans Christian Andersen's stories. Kállay once joked in an interview: "Andersen lived with us for four years. We didn't have to cook for him or make his bed, and we didn't worry that he would hog the TV or make long-distance calls, but he dominated our daily life — we ate breakfast and dinner together, we went to bed together; in the morning our first thoughts were of what Little Ida looks like, how the chimney sweeps were doing." Over the course of those four years, husband and wife produced the equivalent of seven hundred and fifty-six pieces. Some they created independent of each other, others as a team. Kállay is also an outstanding mentor. He took over the engraving and illustration curricula at AFAD upon Brunovský's retirement. Peter Uchnár and Iku Dekune are among Kállay's students.



● Illustration by Dušan Kállay.

