

## **The Changing Geography of Kensington Gardens: the transformation of the real place in *The Little White Bird* and *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens***

Kensington Gardens became a special place for the Scottish writer J.M. Barrie. It was here that he moved with his new wife Mary in 1895<sup>1</sup> and first met the Davies boys in 1897<sup>2</sup>. Barrie commemorated the place in his novel *The Little White Bird* (1902). In 1906 Peter Pan chapters of the novel were published separately as children-oriented *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens*. Both books featured maps of Kensington Gardens: “The Child’s Map of Kensington Gardens” created by H.J. Ford and “Peter Pan’s Kensington Gardens” by Arthur Rackham. Although the texts were almost identical, the maps demonstrated significant differences partly due to the fact that the 1906 book lost its original context: “a deliberately artificial story told by a middle-aged man to a little boy inside a novel that we later learn the bachelor to be writing<sup>3</sup>”. This article studies and compares the geography of the actual gardens and the cartography of the two maps in order to understand the nature of spatiality in fiction for children.

Key words: cartography, literary map, geography, Peter Pan, J.M. Barrie, children’s literature

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Recent publications:

1. Anti-anniversary of Peter Pan. Children’s readings. 2018. №1. C. 165-177. In Russian
2. The Boys Castaway of Black Lake Island. ANON: The J.M. Barrie Literary Society Journal. Vol.1. 2018. P.41-48.
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5. Literary Cartography: Map as a Paratextual Element In British Children’s Literature. ПИРАΞΗΜΑ. Journal of Visual Semiotics. 2021. – 2(28). C. 28-42. In Russian

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<sup>1</sup> Birkin A. J.M. Barrie and The Lost boys. London: Yale University Press, 2003. P. 34.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. P. 40.

<sup>3</sup> Nash A. Introduction//Barrie J.M. Farewell miss Julie Logan. Edinburgh: Canongate Classic, 2000. p. xii