

ROSS
KILPATRICK

Winnie-the-Pooh and the Canadian Connection

Lately, there have been increasingly strident claims by both British and Americans for ownership of Christopher Robin's

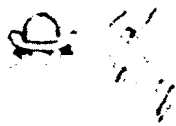
original sketch for Pooh, Kanga, Eeyore, Tigger, and Piglet.

CANADIANS are reminded frequently on national television (and by Canada Post, which issued four commemorative Winnie-the-Pooh stamps in 1996) that a bear cub dubbed "Winnie" who would later captivate the five-year-old

Christopher Robin Milne at the London Zoo had originally come from White River, Ontario, in 1914. She had been bought at the station from a trapper by Lieutenant Harry Colbourne, a native of Winnipeg and a veterinarian, who was on his way overseas with the Fort Garry Horse. Winnie served as mascot of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade in England until it embarked for France, when she was left in the care of the London Zoo. She remained there, a great

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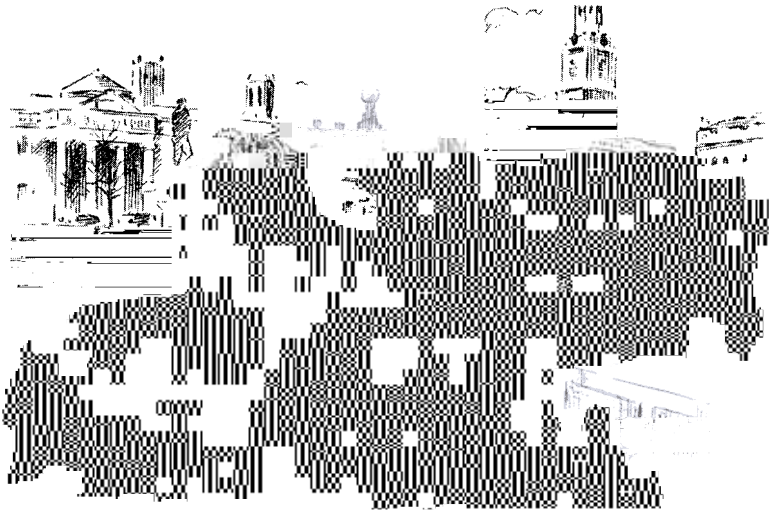
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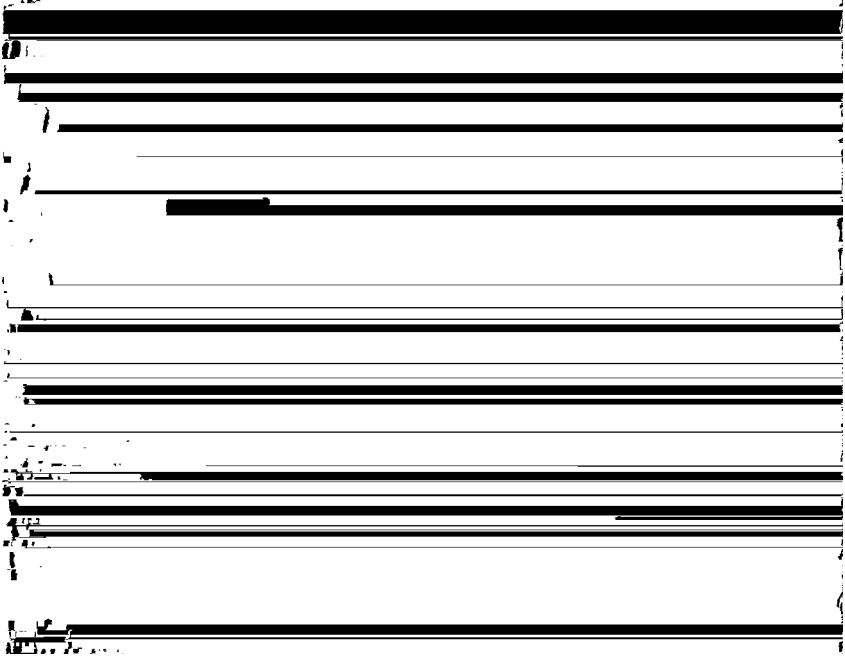
DRAWING
THE LINE
IN MISSISSIPPI



II III

instance, is classified as a Farnell "Alpha Bear" (a line manufactured during the '20s), and was purchased by Mrs Milne at Harrods in 1921.⁴

In England, the Teddy Roosevelt connection became less clear, of course, but the popularity of King Edward VII helped establish "Teddy Bear" as a



On 29 June 1910 *Punch* also published a poem by W.H. Ogilvie, "The bear garden that I love." It begins:

The house is full of Teddy bears;
They creep upon me unawares;
They catch my feet upon the mat
And make me think I've squashed the cat;
I sit upon them during meals
And shiver at their long-drawn squeals;

These three items would have been approved by the assistant editor of *Punch* none other than A.A. Milne "Teddy Bears" and "Teddy's



DUT there is one eminent young people's nature-writer conspicuous from this list: New

erary fraternity were publicized through an interview with Edward

Clark (and Roosevelt's own subsequent article) in *Everybody's Magazine*. Roosevelt took issue with Roberts on one detail of his short story, "Night Trail" (1907), in which he has a single lynx rout a pack of

Teddy is eventually driven back down the tree by the bees' assaults,

He goes up the tree again slowly and deliberately, pulls away "a strip of rotten wood" and gorges himself to bursting while the bees scurry to save what they can of their precious honey.

Then, very slowly and heavily, grunting all the time, he climbed down the bee-tree. ... He just waddled over to a nook between the roots of the nest tree, curled up his sticky nose between his sticky jaws and was

IN Christmas Eve of 1925, the

Evening News published a

Colophon
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We immediately meet an "Edward Bear" bumping down the stairs.

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Roberts had suggested that...

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the same circles as Roberts, himself a member of the Authors' Club and Poets' Club in London. They both shared an interest



in the views of Teddy Roosevelt. (Roberts was in New York in 1902 when the Berryman cartoon appeared, at the time when Milne was at Cambridge

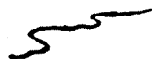
He was writing rather

S the

schian" tired by this time, so
felt tiff that is why he sang a
s car- Complaining Song. He
Milne was nearly there now,
and if he just stood on
that branch

Crack!

O this charming tale is perhaps more Canadian than either of the feuding parties in New York or London would care to admit. Pooh's namesake, a Northern Ontario black bear named "Winnie" (after her first owner's hometown of




Notes

Charles Gordon, *Ottawa Citizen*, 11 March 1908

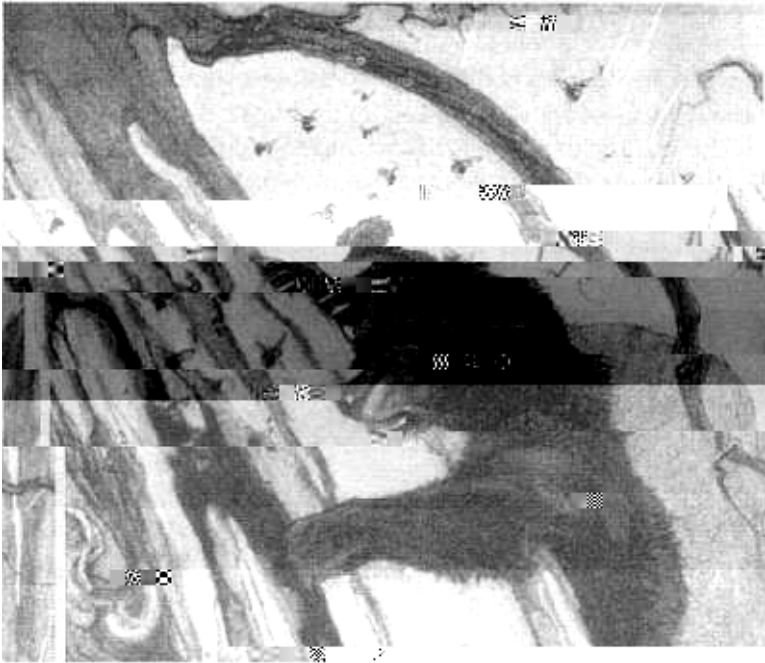
line, *When We Were Very Young*, illustrated by E.H. Shepard (London: Methuen, 1924).

- 3 The hunt was extensively covered in the press. See the *New York Times* for 14, 15, 19 November 1902. The true story of how the president "refused to make an unsportsmanlike shot" is given on page 1 of the *Washington Post* of 15 November. The exhausted bear had been run down and trapped in a water-hole by the dogs. Holt Collier jumped from his horse and dazed it with a blow from his rifle-butt, whereupon it was tied to a tree: "When the resident arrived he would neither shoot it nor permit it to be put, 'Put it out of its misery,' said he to Mr. Parker, and the latter

- 4 See Pauline Cockrill, *The Teddy Bear Encyclopedia* (London: Dorling Kindersly, 1993), p. 50; C. R. Milne, *The Enchanted Wood* (London: Furo Methuen, 1924), p. 77.



Isn't it funny
How a bear likes honey?
Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!
I wonder why he does?



“It’s a very funny thing,”
said Bear,
“but there seem to be *two* animals now.”
Winnie-the-Pooh