

ABSTRACT

HERO IN DRAG: VICTORIAN GENDER-IDENTITY AND THE FAIRY TALES OF ANDREW LANG

The **Hero in Drag** discusses the progression of the passive princess into an individualized hero, accomplished through the metaphor of “drag,” whereby the female heroes usurp the character traits and garments symbolizing the freedoms enjoyed by male Victorian society.

Andrew Lang’s Color Fairy Books openly acknowledge the work of his female translators and narrators, allowing for the subtle inclusion of female messages of cultural and social equality that reflect the emerging consciousness of women during this era.

By utilizing fairy tale tradition and the happy ending construct, the female narrators’ subversive acknowledgment of the heroic abilities of women culminates in the usurpation of the role of Prince Charming, the chivalric cultural ideal for masculine Victorian society.

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