



EDITION DETAILS

Artist David Esslemont drew each line of the poem with a broad-nibbed pen on linoleum blocks and cut around the letters. When printed, the text is in reverse, just as Alice found it.

Esslemont has illustrated the poem with linocuts, creating unique images, ignoring Sir John Tenniel's original drawings and Humpty Dumpty's later explanation of the meaning of such words as 'brillig, toves & borogoves.' However, they transpire to be quite similar to Humpty's notions . . .

Jabberwocky

In Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass*, Alice climbs through a mirror into another world and finds many strange things:

"There was a book lying near Alice on the table . . . she turned over the leaves to find some part that she could read, 'for it's all in some language I don't know,' she said to herself. It was like this:

JABBERWOCKY
Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

She puzzled over this for some time, but at last a bright thought struck her. 'Why, it's a Looking-glass book, of course! And if I hold it up to a glass, the words will all go the right way again.'

This was the poem that Alice read:

JABBERWOCKY
Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe

'It seems very pretty,' she said when she had finished it, 'but it's *rather hard* to understand!' (You see she didn't like to confess, even to herself, that she couldn't make it out at all.) 'Somehow it seems to fill my head with ideas – only I don't exactly know what they are! However, *somebody* killed *something*: that's clear, at any rate.'

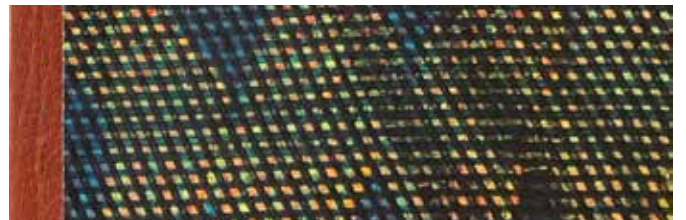


The linocuts are mostly color 'reduction linocuts' – they are printed from the same block cut several times.

Esslemont identifies the narrator in the poem with simple black and white illustrations.

Printed on an iron handpress in an edition of thirty-five copies: five copies in a deluxe, full-leather binding, and thirty in quarter leather with paste paper boards, both editions are presented in cloth-covered drop back boxes, together with a mirror. The books are trimmed flush, and the images bleed off the edges.

8.5 x 5.5 inches, 60 pp, 60 linocuts: 34 text and illustrations b&w, 26 in color. Deluxe – \$4800, regular – \$1800



DESIGNED, ILLUSTRATED & HAND PRINTED AND BOUND BY DAVID ESLEMONT IN
A LIMITED EDITION OF THIRTY-FIVE COPIES