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## **THE IMPACT OF LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES ON THE CREATIVITY OF BRITISH ILLUSTRATORS**

Each person's destiny depends only on themselves, because everyone has the right to choose. This is what most of our contemporaries think, so we think. But is this true? How do life circumstances influence the choice of hobbies, profession, lifestyle? In this we see the relevance of our work. The novelty of our scientific research is that the subject of British illustrators has been repeatedly explored by historians and art historians, such as T. Bennett, N. Demurova, R. Dale, K. Nudd, J. Love and others, but the researches of different eras, historical events and different figures have not been considered in such a large scale. That is why, the purpose of our article is to investigate the influx of life circumstances on the works of British illustrators George Cruikshank, Charles Wirgman, Christopher "Chris" F. Foss, Edward Lear, Helen Allingham, Louis William Wain, Sidney Edward Paget, Rob Scotton.

Events that are now history to us have been contemporary for many artists. *George Cruikshank (1792 -1878)* is a leading master of book illustration and satirical-political caricature of the 19th century. In the 1820s, his caricatures were ridiculed with equal vigor by Whig and Tory parties. The political and economic situation of Great Britain was a direct impact on the work of the illustrator and cartoonist [1].

Difficult circumstances forced fifteen-year-old *Edward Lear (1812 - 1888)* to make a living on their own: he lived hard, and his talent to draw was very helpful. "I started drawing in 1827," he recalled, "to make bread with cheese. I made some strange drawings for the shops and sold them, receiving from nine pence to four shillings". He painted lithographs, screens, fans, drew scary images of diseased organs for hospitals and doctors. The drawings of the birds, made with great precision and sophistication for the Zoological Society, created him the reputation of a first-rate ornithologist, and further work in this direction confirmed his glory of an ornithologist and an animal artist [5].

*Charles Wirgman (1832 - 1891)* is an English painter and book illustrator. His arrival in Japan, where he lived and worked for the rest of his life, was closely linked to two specific historical events: in 1858, the Shogunate arbitrarily entered into a Japanese-American treaty of friendship and trade. Subsequently, similar agreements were signed with the Netherlands, Russia, the United Kingdom and France. The artist is the author of "The Japan Punch" and the illustrator of "The Illustrated London News". His drawings have a plot theme of life in China and Japan of the Edo period [3].

In 1890 *Helen Allingham (1848 - 1926)* was the first woman accepted as a full member of the British Royal Society of Watercolours. An early age girl had a talent for drawing. Due to the need for housing and daily expenses, during her studies,

Helen began to work as an illustrator in various publishing houses and after a while decided to opt out of further education in favour of a professional artist's career [6].

In the life of the English artist *Louis William Waine (1860 - 1939)* there were many trials, but it was in the drawing that he found a real delight. Since childhood, he had a talent in the visual arts. When Emily, Louis's wife, was diagnosed with cancer, Peter's black-and-white kitten became the woman's only pleasure. At this time Louis began to draw from him numerous sketches. Later Waine wrote of Peter: "It was he who laid the foundation for my career; he gave me the impetus to develop my skills and gave me the foundation for my work". Peter was depicted in many of Waine's early works. In his paintings cats play musical instruments, drink tea, play cards, fish, smoke and listen to opera. He later became known for his numerous anthropomorphic images of cats, cats and kittens [7].

But the British portrait painter and illustrator of the Victorian era *Sidney Edward Paget (1860 - 1908)* became famous for his illustrations of Arthur Conan Doyle's stories about Sherlock Holmes, which were published in Strand Magazine. However, Paget received this work through absurd coincidence. The magazine's art editor actually intended to hire Sidney's brother, Walter Paget. But, he forgot the artist's name and addressed the letter to Paget. He was opened by Sidney. After all, he illustrated stories about Sherlock Holmes since 1891 [8].

*Christopher "Chris" F. Foss (1946)* is a contemporary English artist and illustrator, creating his works primarily in science-fiction subjects. He was born in Guernsey (Channel Islands). During the Second World War, the Nazis built a number of fortifications along the coast. As Chris Foss was born less than a year after the end of the war, the war made a great impression on him. He recalled that the German fortifications on Guernsey were almost entirely new when he studied them. It was a creepy experience, and it mentioned a heavy depressing atmosphere. Many of these memories are now reflected in Christopher's works [4].

Our contemporary *Rob Scotton (1960)* is an English children's writer, one of England's most renowned illustrator artists and one of the world's finest gift industry designers. He is the author of two popular children's book series – "About the Lamb Russell" and "The Cat Splet". He writes about himself this way: "Drawing really intrigued me from the moment I finally realized that it was much easier to get my parents' attention by drawing with pencils rather than poking them in the direction of my younger brother". This man has chosen his own life path and is completely happy [9].

So, the life of each of the British illustrators we have studied has been influenced by certain life circumstances. *George Cruikshank* ridiculed politicians, *Charles Wirgman* adjusted to the current situation, *Christopher Foss*, became a slave to childhood impressions. For *Edward Lear*, *Helen Allingham* drawing became a real salvation because of a lack of funds, *Louis William Waine* found a soul cure in it. To *Sidney Edward Paget*, painting brought him centuries of glory thanks to chance, and *Rob Scotton* just realized that his hobby can be turned into something more, and did not lose.

To conclude, the paper has examined the influence of life circumstances on the works of British illustrators *George Cruikshank*, *Charles Wirgman*, *Christopher*

"Chris" F. Foss, Edward Lear, Helen Allingham, Louis William Wain, Sidney Edward Paget, and Rob Scotton. The present study has analyzed the conditions of their lives, studying and creative careers. The impact of art on the lives of artists and ordinary people should be explored further, as it is necessary for every educated person to know it.

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