

Theosophy, Fantasy, and Mary Poppins

by John Algeo – USA

Chapter 5: A Review of the First Three Books and a Look Ahead

This last part of the present series on Mary Poppins offers some comments on books other than the three basic ones and sums up a Theosophical view of the subject. Those first three basic books, considered in chapters 2-4 of this series are *Mary Poppins* (1934), *Mary Poppins Comes Back* (1935), and *Mary Poppins Opens the Door* (1943).

The fourth book in the series, *Mary Poppins in the Park*, 1952, is a collection of six episodes:

Travers, Pamela L. *Mary Poppins in the Park*. San Diego: Harcourt, Odyssey/Harcourt Young Classic, 1997, c. 1952.

In that book, a beginning note tells us that its events “should be understood to have happened during any of the three visits of Mary Poppins to the Banks family. This is a word of warning to anybody who may be expecting they are in for a fourth visit. She cannot forever arrive and depart. And, apart from that, it should be remembered that three is a lucky number.”

For that reason, the present series of commentaries has been limited to the lucky first three volumes, the two last books in which Mary Poppins takes the children at Number 17 Cherry Tree Lane on adventures are, however, also especially worth noting:

Travers, Pamela L. *Mary Poppins in Cherry Tree Lane*. New York: Dell, Yearling Book, 1983, c. 1982.

Travers, Pamela L. *Mary Poppins and the House Next Door*. London: Puffin Books, 1990, c. 1988.

These two, like *Mary Poppins in the Park*, are not stories of additional visits, but episodes to be understood as happening earlier, both during book 2