

The Bald Twit Lion

A006.01 First edition, 1968

Author: Spike Milligan

Publication Details: Dobson Books Ltd.,
London, April 1968

Format: Hardback

Illustrations: Carol Barker

Identifier: ISBN-10 0234771585 ISBN-13: 978-0234771587

Physical Description: 36 pages not numbered,
fo, 310 x 245 x 10 mm 500 gm.

A006.02 Canadian Hardback Edition, 1968

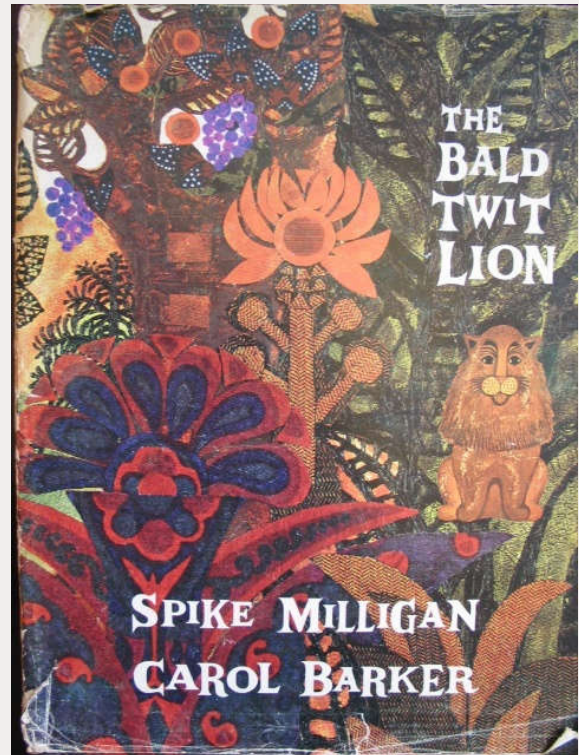
Author: Spike Milligan

Publication Details: General Publishing Co.
Ltd., Ontario

Format: Hardback

Illustrations: Carol Barker

Notes: This Canadian edition is listed in the original edition.



Other media

Television - 1967 - Spike Milligan's Sad/Happy Ending Story of the Bald Twit Lion released 26 December 1967. A LP record was to be released at the same time.

The Bald Twit Lion Revealed

This is currently one of the most expensive of Spike's Books (with the exception of his limited edition books) so here are some of its vibrant pages. It is illustrated by Carol Barker and uses far more colour than his other children's picture books. It has an interesting history.

This statement is on the dust jacket

'The Bald Twit Lion was originally conceived as a picture book but got diverted on the way to make one of the BBC's first colour films. For this purpose Malcolm Williamson joined Carol Barker and Spike Milligan and it is hoped to issue the Milligan/Williamson sound track as a record.'

I have not found such a record listed amongst Spike's or Malcolm Williamson's published recordings but I did find a newspaper reference from June 1967 that says Malcolm's diary for the next few months includes a Christmas piece for television with Spike Milligan called "The Bald Twit Lion", all about a lion whose hair falls off. (Catholic Herald, 1967)

It is described as a animated television film of 30 minutes known as *Spike Milligan's Sad/Happy Ending Story of the*



Bald Twit Lion, and released on 26 December 1967. (IMDb, 2012) (Roxburgh, 2007)

The story, *The Bald Twit Lion* was published in Spike's *Milliganimals* also published in 1968. But there are two versions of the story. The *Milliganimals* version is longer, approximately 1800 words. The Milligan/Barker book version has been reduced to approximately 500 words. The story line is changed significantly too.

There was no paperback edition of this book. The longer story is also included in *A Children's Treasury of Milligan* published in 1999. Carol Barker's illustrations were not used in either. A copy of the book that I found for sale was annotated by Spike in black pen '*This is more Carol Barker's book than mine*' and signed by him. This may explain why the book did not get the full Milligan publishing treatment that his other children's books did.

The book is unique in that it the largest of his books, 310 x 245 mm, folio size. It looks like there has been more attention to its design as a children's picture book than his other three children's picture books.

In my mind the illustrated book is the better version and ideal for reading and showing it to young children.

