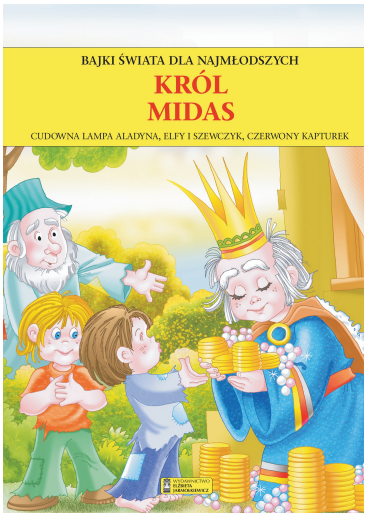
Summary: Małgorzata Glinicka, Analysis: Hanna Paulouskaya, "Entry on: King Midas [Król Midas] by Andrzej Gordziejewicz-Gordziejewski", peer-reviewed by Elżbieta Olechowska and Katarzyna Marciniak. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2022). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/1484. Entry version as of November 07, 2026.

Andrzej Gordziejewicz-Gordziejewski

King Midas [Król Midas]

Poland (2010)

TAGS: Dionysus / Dionysos Midas



Scan of the cover kindly provided by Wydawnictwo Elżbieta Jarmołkiewicz.

General information	
Title of the work	King Midas [Król Midas]
Country of the First Edition	Poland
Country/countries of popularity	Poland
Original Language	Polish
First Edition Date	2010
First Edition Details	Andrzej Gordziejewicz-Gordziejewski, "Król Midas" in Andrzej Gordziejewicz-Gordziejewski, *Król Midas. Cudowna lampa Alladyna. Elfy i szewcy. Czerwony Kapturek*, "Bajki świata dla najmłodszych", okładka i ilustracje Harvinder Mankad. Zielona Góra: Wydawnictwo Elżbieta Jarmołkiewicz, 2010, 43 pp., 3–12.
ISBN	9788377110362
Genre	Adaptations, Myths, Picture books
Target Audience	Children (1–5)
Author of the Entry	Summary: Małgorzata Glinicka, University of Warsaw, muktaa.phala@gmail.com Analysis: Hanna Paulouskaya, University of Warsaw, hannapa@al.uw.edu.pl

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Peer-reviewer of the Entry	Elżbieta Olechowska, University of Warsaw, elzbieta.olechowska@gmail.com Katarzyna Marciniak, University of Warsaw, kamar@al.uw.edu.pl

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Creators



Photograph courtesy of the Author.

Andrzej Gordziejewicz-Gordziejewski , b. 1947 (Author)

Andrzej Gordziejewicz-Gordziejewski was born March 3, 1947, in Warsaw. He has a MA in Slavic Studies (specialization: Czech & Slovak philology). Between 1971–1985 he worked at the Institute of Slavic Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences; from 1985–2009, he was a content editor at the publishing house "Czytelnik". He was also a translator and advocate of Czech and Slovak literature, including literature for children and adolescents; he authored minor publications in the same area of literature, including the series *Bajki świata dla najmłodszych* [Fairy Tales from All Over the World for the Very Young].

Source:

Information for the bio kindly provided by the Author.

Bio prepared by by Małgorzata Glinicka, University of Warsaw, muktaa.phala@gmail.com

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Additional information

Summary

Based on: Katarzyna Marciniak, Elżbieta Olechowska, Joanna Kłos, Michał Kucharski (eds.), *Polish Literature for Children & Young Adults Inspired by Classical Antiquity: A Catalogue*, Faculty of "Artes Liberales", Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2013, 444 pp.

This short story is full of vivid illustrations and descriptions of fabulous creatures; it is made for very young children. It is based on the traditional version of the myth. Midas, King of Phrygia, asks a famous wizard to multiply his treasures using magic. As a result, Midas acquires "the golden touch," the ability to turn everything into gold. This unique gift becomes a terrible curse for him.

Analysis

This picture book is a part of a series, "Fairy Tales from All Over the World for Very Young Children," and presents a simple version of the myth, written in fairy-tale style, full of colourful illustrations.

The king is presented as "powerful" and "very greedy", someone who seeks only gold and pays no attention to the needs of his subjects (p. 4).

Contrary to Ovid, it is not Dionysos' gift, rewarding Midas for his hospitality, that causes problems (*Met.* 11.100–104). Midas asks a wizard to become richer with the help of his magic (p. 5). Similarly to Ovid, the inability to eat and drink is the most distressing for Midas (p. 8; cf. Ovid *Met.* 11.119–130). However, the emphasis is placed on the transformation of the king's daughter into a golden statue (p. 9), a motif used already by Nathaniel Hawthorne in his *A Wonder Book for Boys and Girls* (1851)*, as well as by the Polish author Maria Buyno-Arctowa (Jagmin), *Midas. Złoty król* (1931). This version is very appealing to young children. And the father's reaction and request to take the gift away is an expected development. The king confesses that his daughter means more to him than all his treasures (p. 10). As a result "[t]he wizard waved his magic wand and everything around him reverted to what it was before" ([Mag skinął swoją czarodziejską różdżką i wszystko wokół przybrało swoją dawną postać], p. 11). The story ends with Midas giving his treasures to poor people; it is emphasized by an illustration of children in patched clothes receiving gold coins from the king, a motif rather unusual in the reception of

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this mythical story. The last picture shows the beautiful little princess who is astounded at being transformed into a golden statue. Love for his child was the main reason for Midas' change of heart. Introducing a beautiful princess and a sorcerer brings the Greek myth into the realm of fairy tales.

* For more on the reception of Midas' myth in children's literature see Elizabeth Hale and Miriam Riverlea, *Classical Mythology and Children's Literature: An Alphabetical Odyssey*, Warsaw: Warsaw University Press, 2022, 58–60.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Dionysus / Dionysos Midas
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Desires Magic Morality Princes and princesses Sharing Values
Further Reading	Elizabeth Hale and Miriam Riverlea, *Classical Mythology and Children's Literature: An Alphabetical Odyssey*, Warsaw: Warsaw University Press, 2022.

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