

Title: Adaptation or Appropriation: How *The Wizard of Oz* was transformed into *The Wizard of Emerald City*

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In the mid 1930s, A.M. Volkov, a Soviet professor of mathematics in Moscow, decided to translate into Russian L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (1900). Published in 1939 as *The Wizard of Emerald City* (Волшебник Изумрудного города), Volkov's edition enjoyed considerable popularity. As a result, Volkov revised and expanded his version further in 1959. Beginning in 1963, he wrote five more books in this series, which were translated into thirteen languages, including English. Plays, TV shows, cartoons, audio CDs, and DVD versions soon followed so that multiple generations of children, especially in the Eastern bloc, have grown up with Volkov's creations. Ironically, few knew that the original source was an American fairy tale.

In the afterword to his first volume, Volkov admits that he based his work on the Baum original, but remarks elsewhere that he turned to classical Russian fairy tales for additional inspiration. Is Volkov's *The Wizard of Emerald City* a Russian fairy tale or a translation of an American classic? By examining the literary/stylistic, cultural, and political roots of Volkov's series, I hope to explain the appeal of these works in Soviet Russia and the Eastern bloc countries.

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