

## Estate of Rebecca Loncraine

Rebecca Loncraine was born in England and grew up on a hill farm in the Black Mountains of Wales. After attending art school, she studied history and literature, and wrote a doctorate in English literature at Oxford University. A career as a freelance writer followed, with Beccy writing for the national press.

Research for her first book, *THE REAL WIZARD OF OZ: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF L. FRANK BAUM* was funded by fellowship grants from the Leverhulme Trust and the British Academy.



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### Publications

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#### Non-Fiction

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Publication Details	Notes
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**THE REAL  
WIZARD OF  
OZ: THE LIFE  
AND TIMES  
OF L. FRANK  
BAUM**

2009

Gotham Books

In the first major literary biography of L. Frank Baum, Rebecca Loncraine tells the story of Oz as you've never heard it.

THE REAL WIZARD OF OZ is an imaginatively written work that stretches the genre of biography and enriches our understanding of modern fairytales. L. Frank Baum, author of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz and its thirteen sequels, lived during eventful times in American history-- from 1856 to 1919-- that influenced nearly every aspect of his writing, from the Civil War to Hollywood, which was emerging as a modern Emerald City full of broken dreams and humbug wizards, to the gulf between America's prairie heartland, with its wild tornadoes, and its cities teeming with "Tin Man" factory workers. This is a colorful portrait of one man's vivid and eccentric imagination and the world that shaped it. Baum's famous fairytale is filled with the pain of the economic uncertainties of the Gilded Age and with a yearning for real change, ideas which many contemporary Americans will recognize. The Wizard of Oz continues to fascinate and influence us because it explores universal themes of longing for a better world, homesickness and finding inner strength amid the storms.

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