



Number 23

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### SPRING 1985 MEETING IN CHICAGO

After more than ten years of holding its semiannual meetings on the East Coast, a series broken only by the exciting Spring 1984 meeting in San Francisco, Calif., the Lewis Carroll Society of North America held its first meeting in the Midwest on Apr. 20, 1985. Our host was the Newberry Library, which is located on Chicago's near-north side. A privately funded independent research library with strong collections concentrating in the humanities, the Newberry was established in 1887 and has occupied its impressive rough brown stone building on West Walton and Randolph Streets since 1893. Before the general meeting about twenty-five LCSNA members and guests, ten or so who had traveled from the East Coast, enjoyed a pleasant lunch at Don Roth's Blackhawk restaurant.

In the high-beamed ceiling and book-lined room of the Newberry Library's Fellows Lounge the general meeting began shortly after 2:00 p.m. The President opened the meeting by thanking the Director of the Newberry for having us and acknowledging our gratitude to LCSNA members Joel Birenbaum and Fred Ost for making all of the arrangements for the meeting. Our Secretary, Maxine Schaefer, read the minutes from our last meeting, which were accepted without revision.

Our first speaker was Dr. Wendy Doniger O'Flaherty, who is Professor of Religion at the University of Chicago, President of the American Academy of Religion, and an internationally recognized authority on Hindu religion and Sanskrit literature. In her lecture, entitled "The Paradox of Dreamer Dreamt—The Red King and the Hindu God," Prof. O'Flaherty compared Alice's musings on dreams and the Red King's dream (and who or what is being dreamt) with the role of dreams, including dreams within dreams, in the ancient Indian interpretation of dream as reality. The dream of Jivata, a Sanskrit text from the tenth century B.C., served as a pivotal text in her explication of the reality perspectives of dreams within dreams. After explaining, albeit in an admittedly abridged version, the dream of Jivata—an intricate story even in its simplified version—she contrasted the Western view of God thinking us into existence with the Hindu idea of God being composed by us. From dream narratives in Sanskrit literature Prof. O'Flaherty turned to modern theologians, including Woody Allen, in her exploration of the differences between Western and Eastern concepts of dream and reality. Exactly how much Carroll knew of Indian thought is difficult to say. He was for many years on very friendly terms with Friedrich Max Muller, the English translator of the *Rig Veda* and one of the greatest Sanskrit scholars. Among the many fascinating points Prof. O'Flaherty made, her comment on the etymological meaning of the word *nirvana* interested your editor most: in Sanskrit *nirvana*, which conceptually refers to the destiny of the soul after death, derives from a verb that means "to blow out" or "to extinguish" like a candle. And we all know what Tweedledum said about that! In the course of her lecture, Prof. O'Flaherty read several of her own translations from the Sanskrit texts and referred to ideas which she has thoroughly analyzed in her book, *Dreams, Illusion, and Other Reality* (available from the University of Chicago Press for \$25.00 in hardback and soon to out in paperback).

Our next speaker was Ms. Susan Dean, a librarian at the Chicago Public Library. She offered us a delightful review of the very different ways in which artists have tried to illustrate the works of Lewis Carroll. In her slide-illustrated presentation she ably covered John Tenniel, Gertrude Thompson, Henry Holiday, Arthur B. Frost, and Harry Furniss. Especially interesting was Ms. Dean's discussion of the sepia illustrations from the Alice books now thought to have been done by the Dalziel brothers, who engraved the woodblocks for Tenniel's illustrations. Those illustrations, now owned by the Newberry Library, were placed on exhibit in the library's entrance hall for our meeting.

Our final speaker was Dr. Phyllis E. Wachter, an English Professor who teaches at the college and secondary school level in Philadelphia, Pa. She addressed us on the very intriguing topic of "Ethel in Carrolland." The Ethel in question was Ethel Arnold—one of Thomas Arnold's daughters. Ethel and her sister Julia were two of Lewis Carroll's child friends at Oxford. Dr. Wachter began her lecture with Ethel's account of her first encounter with the Rev. C. L. Dodgson on a damp, foggy afternoon in the Oxford Parks—so

called because Cromwell stationed his artillery on those grounds. When Ethel and her friends playfully tried to block his path, Carroll changed his pace and charged with umbrella at Ethel and her line of little playmates. From that initial encounter Dr. Wachter investigated Carroll's influence on Ethel Arnold. Ethel's interest in photography and theater are surely ascribable to Carroll's influence. Furthermore, Dr. Wachter pointed out, Carroll maintained his relation with Ethel long after he had broken off similar relations with other child friends. The six-mile walk upon which he took her would attest affection on both sides. When Ethel Arnold published her article "Social Life in Oxford" (*Harpers New Monthly Magazine*, vol LXXI, July 1890, pp. 246-256) in which she identified Carroll as Dodgson, Carroll was hurt by the revelation (though not the first) because of the closeness of their friendship. Dr. Wachter vigorously responded to accusations that Ethel had taken advantage of her relationship with the author of the Alice books.

We were disappointed that Ms. Ruth Page, one of the most distinguished figures in the history of dance in America, was unable to join us at the Newberry Library and share with us her thoughts on the design and performance of her Alice in Wonderland Ballet by the Pittsburgh Ballet Theater in 1971.

At the conclusion of the formal presentations, the President again thanked the Newberry Library, Joel Birenbaum, and Fred Ost for making the first meeting of the LCSNA in the Midwest such a success. As we walked out of the Newberry Library (which, by the way, has nothing to do with the Newberry Medal), the sky had cleared above the small green park in front of the Newberry, locally known as "Bughouse Square."

### THE PRINTED PAGE:

Donald Glaister's bindings make Barry Moser's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking Glass* very special. These are the Pennyroyal sheets with the extra suites of prints bound separately so that there are four volumes in a slip case. Available only through Yerba Buena Books, 882 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA 94108. \$11,300 (CA residents add tax). Postpaid if payment accompanies order.

Willard Espy's *Have a Word on Me* (Touchstone, Simon & Schuster, \$6.95) includes an imaginary conversation with Lewis Carroll.

*Postgraduate Medicine's* issue of May 15, 1985 has a cover picture of a sad-looking lady to call attention to an article on Premenstrual Syndrome. The caption reads "PMS: 'I can't explain myself, I'm afraid,...' said Alice, 'because I'm not myself, you see.'" The article does not mention any more about Alice.

Fredric Brown's classic *Night of the Jabberwock* has been reissued as a Quill Mysterious Classic by William Morrow in paperback complete with a picture of Alice on the cover, \$3.95.

David Langford parodies the "Hunting of the Snark" in *Amazing Science Fiction Stories* for July 1985. "Just the place for a Baker," the Snark exclaimed...

Both *Alice* books have been issued to schoolchildren subscribers to *The Weekly Reader* in one volume, 1983. Weekly Reader Books, 1250 Fairwood Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43216.

Henry Miller observed in *The Colossus of Maroussi* (1941) that his days at Kalami "rolled by like a song" though he had little desire to read anything. "There are," he said, "only a few books which I can read over and over—one is *Mysteries* and another is *The Eternal Husband*. Perhaps I should also add *Alice in Wonderland*."

LCSNA Member Chris "Skip" Stach has published Vol. 1, No. 1 of *The First Annual Christmas Times*. On page 3 is an article, "Christmas Through The Mirror" purportedly sent by Alice and therefore printed in mirror-writing. Alice describes the holiday in mirror-land, and compares it unfavorably with the ones on *this side of the looking-glass*. Address: 3729 Morton, Brookfield, IL 60513.

Noted in passing and not previously described: Clarkson Potter's trade edition of *The Wasp In The Wig* has some interesting bibliographic curiosities. Printing No. 1 left out the Steadman frontispiece altogether. Printing No. 2 included the frontispiece, but printed it backwards, and added another drawing facing page 1. The third printing put the Steadman frontispiece properly, but lower on the page, and also included the drawing opposite page 1. It is not apparent whether a fourth printing was done, and if so, whether any further alterations were made.

John Ashbery's "Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror" has been issued in a limited edition by the Arion Press of San Francisco for \$1400! This is of interest only because Mr. Ashbery's new book, *A Wave*, Viking, \$14.95, includes a long poem in prose, "Description of a Masque." Alice and the Knave of Hearts appear as some of the characters of the drama.

California publisher Carl F. Braun in a work entitled *Two Hundred Good Books: A List and Reviews* (published appropriately by C. F. Braun & Co., Alhambra, Calif. 1951) included *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass* and offered the following discovery: "Lewis Carroll was actually Charles Dodgson, who wrote well-known books on higher mathematics. (The Alice books) were distinctly a side issue, done for his young daughter."

Edward Teller, "Father of the H-Bomb," according to *Discover Magazine* for July 1984, "loses himself in detective stories and Lewis Carroll's nonsense poetry (his favorites: "*Jabberwocky*," which he is fond of reciting in its entirety, and "*The Hunting of The Snark*")."

Pulitzer Prize winning author William Kennedy's article "Jack and the Oyster" (*Esquire*, June 1985) appropriately concludes with Carroll's line beginning " 'It seems a shame,' the Walrus said."

*Cliff Notes*, a series of college "crib sheets" for literature classes, have a 64-page summary of *Alice in Wonderland* prepared by Carl Senna, a lecturer in the English Department at Northeastern University in Boston. Available at all fine college bookstores.

A collection of Alice-inspired poems by Louis Phillips, *Celebrations and Bewilderments*, Fragments 7, with graphics by Neil Greenberg, is available from the author at 447 East 14th Street, Apt. 12-D, New York, N.Y. 10009.

The Continental Historical Society, perpetrators of *Queen Victoria's Alice in Wonderland* last year, announce the completion of *Queen Victoria's Through the Looking-Glass* for early September. They promise the "world's foremost expert in stylometry (the science of determining authorship through computer analysis), Professor A.Q. Morton of the University of Edinburgh will put both the works of Queen Victoria and "Lewis Carroll" into the computer to determine (who) wrote the 'Alice' books." The CHS plans to issue the book coincident with Professor Morton's proposed trip to the U.S. This "sequel is an annotated edition of *Through The Looking-Glass*, interpreting that book as a florid confession by the Queen to having had an illegitimate child by Napoleon III..." Address of the CHS for curiosa collectors: 4411 Geary Blvd, San Francisco, CA 94118. \$10.95 plus \$1.95 P&H.

Watermill Classics, Mahwah, NJ, has released the two adventures in paperback for \$1.95. The author's name, however, in an afterword is spelled "Carrol."

The autumn 1984 issue of *Victorian Studies* contains an article by Helena M. Pycior on symbolical algebra and Lewis Carroll's *Alices*. Available from Victorian Studies, Ballantine Hall 338, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405 for \$6.00.

Crown plans to publish *The Alice Birthday Book* in paper boards at \$3.95, a slightly altered reprint of the Macmillan 4¼ x 5½ book first published in 1980 (London & Milan).

The May 1984 cover of the *Wilson Library Bulletin* was a Catherine O'Neill cartoon of Alice, accompanied by the Tweedles, the Cheshire Cat, and other Wonderland characters as she returns "her" book to a librarian only to learn from him "All the same, your book's one hundred and nineteen years overdue." A free copy of the color cover may still be available from the Wilson Library Bulletin, 950 University Avenue, Bronx, N.Y. 10452.

Joyce Carol Oates has an article "Wonderlands" in *Georgia Review* (Fall 1984). Carroll is one of several writers discussed at length. The Snark comes in for good comments. (See KL No. 20).

The text of Michael Sutton and Cynthia Mandelberg's play *Looking Glass* is available from Broadway Play Publishing Inc., 249 West 29th St., New York, NY 10001 for \$5.50. The cover is said to have been designed by Barry Moser. Copy not yet seen by your Editor, although it sounds interesting.

## SHOPPING GUIDE:

"*She Must Go By Post, As She's Got A Head On Her*," a booklet of illustrated and appropriately postmarked envelopes, on Alician themes, is available from Virginia G. Langlois, 7 North Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701, for \$6.00. The original postmarked covers, of which the booklet contains reproductions, were on display at our Fall 1984 LCSNA meeting at New York University's Fales Library.

A 1986 Alice in Wonderland calendar measuring nearly 10" x 12" with Alice and the Cheshire Cat on the cover and six large pictures within the calendar is available from Alices' Shop, Lewis Carrolls Old Sheep Shop, 83 St. Aldates, Oxford OX1 1RA, England for £5 (please remit in currency or drafts on U.K. banks, U.S. checks are not acceptable).

MathAids of San Carlos, CA, offers a T-shirt with Tweedle/dum/dee saying "If it were so it would be...it ain't."

Muriel Ratcliffe, Llandudno Dolls, 10 St George's Crescent, Promenade, Llandudno, N. Wales, LL30 2LF has produced a wonderful new doll in her Carroll series: The White Rabbit. He is 14½ inches tall, pink and white plush, and authentically costumed by Baroness Jeanne-Marie Willems. Write directly for more data. Mrs. Ratcliffe is very proud that her Alice doll has been chosen to help promote the Thorn-EMI motion picture about Alice Liddell.

Historical Products, Box 222, Cambridge, MA 02238 has issued a Summer Catalogue. The tabloid-sized cover has an enlarged LC portrait of Alice as the beggar maid and the story of the telling of the tale. Inside are various items for sale such as Cheshire Cat aprons, and the back cover has an eclectic calendar with such dates as the auction of CLD's effects at Oxford.

More Christmas ornaments by Kurt Adler: Rabbit Bugler, Alice, Queen of Hearts, and the Hatter, all carved of wood, painted by hand, with movable parts. The set, #393325 is \$25 from Bloomingdale's By Mail, 115 Brand Road, Salem, VA, 24156.

A ceramic Mad Hatter teapot by Tony Wood Studios in Stoke-on-Trent is offered by Adam York, Unique Merchandise Mart, Bldg 6, Hanover, PA 17333. #K924076, \$38 + \$5.90 shipping & insurance. The catalogue photo shows it in red, but it is also available in blue from Alice's Shop in Oxford £15.95 + shipping. And from Downs' Collectors' Showcase, 2200 So. 114th St, Dept 1284, Milwaukee, WI 53227 at \$29.95 + \$3.95 shipping. Item #12440.

Filmstrips, cassettes and teacher's guides to *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* are available from Clearview, Inc., 5711 Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60646. One chapter, strip and cassette, \$25 + \$2 shipping, or twelve chapters for \$210 plus \$8.40.

Three Alice in Wonderland dolls, designed by Faith Wick and produced by R. Dakin and Co., are available from Shirley's Dollhouse, 20509 North Highway 21, Wheeling, IL 60090. The 16" White Rabbit is \$96.50, the 16" Alice is \$87.50, and the 16" Mad Hatter is \$114.00. All come postage paid.

The Salvador Dali Alice in Wonderland "Lithographs" which we mentioned in the last issue of the *Knight Letter* were the subject of a four-page critical, and very negatively so, review in the Apr. 1985 *Who's Mailing What!*—a monthly newsletter of the Direct Marketing Archive. The review concluded by quoting Dali's remark: "Liking money like I like it is nothing less than mysticism...Money is a glory." Not in Humpty Dumpty's opinion.

Shirts with Alice in Wonderland designs are available from David Mink, 22900 Deberry, Grand Terrace, Calif. 92324. Details available on request.

Four photographs of Xie Kitchin by Lewis Carroll, dating from the late 1860s to early 1870s, are for sale by Robert Koch, Inc., P. O. Box 5249, Berkeley, Calif. 94705. Details available on request. Mr. Koch's address unfortunately was listed incorrectly in the last *Knight Letter*.

## KINETIC ARTS AND EXHIBITS:

Robert Chaul's modern opera, "Alice in Wonderland", last heard in California several years ago, opened at the Broque Opera's Triplex Theatre in Manhattan on May 19th. Tim Page in the NY Times gave it a very good review: "a clever, fast-moving 45 minutes of entertainment." He carped a bit at the end, though, saying, "Modified rapture, as one of Carroll's contemporaries might have observed, but rapture all the same."

Horst Muggenburg notes from West Germany that the TV adaptation recently shown in that country was accompanied not only by a series of comic books, but by postcards and eventually by a hard-bound book. The adaptation was by Angela & Andreas Hopf, and the book published by Ueberreuter in Vienna and Munich. The two Alice stories are interwoven with added animal tales and Alice's pursuit of her pet rabbit, Benni Banni. The pictures are very simply drawn, presumably to make animation easier, but they owe much of their character to Disney. For collectors, not purists. ISBN 3-8000-1223-5.

Soviet television, according to a note in the Apr. 1985 *Connoisseur* magazine, has produced a "new and correct interpretation of *Alice in Wonderland*." Cartoon figures of a decidedly Marxist-Leninist bent include a Rabbit wearing a little red worker's cap, an Alice who looks like she stepped out of a propaganda poster—which she probably did—and a *Red* Queen drawn as a capitalist exaggeration!

Anglia Television in Britain has produced and is showing a new version of Alice's Adventures featuring live actors and a variety of puppets and marionettes. Many of the voices used actually belong to some of England's best-known theatrical personages.

*TV Week* for the week of May 13 had a cover story with a photo of Liz Taylor advertising a movie called "Malice in Wonderland."

The Institute of American Music of the University of Rochester has re-issued the Mercury Living Presence recording of Deems Taylor's "Through The Looking Glass, Five Pictures From Lewis Carroll." Mercury Classics, ERA 1008. This was recorded by Howard Hanson and The Eastman Rochester Symphony Orchestra in 1953, and has long been unavailable. It began as a chamber work, premiered in 1921, and was expanded into a full four movement suite for symphony orchestra which opened in New York in 1923. "A classic of the American concert repertoire," it is rarely performed any more.

Seen in passing on Cable-TV's Bravo network, a very short cartoon of Jabberwocky made at Simon Fraser University. In this one, the hero and his father are snake-dinosaur-like monsters, and the creature that is slain has human form!

Helen Kaplow directed a stage adaption of both Alice books at Passage Theater at the Puszh Studios, 82 North Broadway, Chicago, Ill. Alice, according to a review in the *Sun Times*, "does a wrenching soliloquy over Humpty's dead body."

Irwin Allen's lavish, and I think that is the correct "Hollywood" adjective, production of *Alice in Wonderland*—a conflation of the two Alice books—will be presented on CBS television this winter in a four hour two part "special." Mr. Allen has produced fantasy films including "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea" and disaster films such as "Towering Inferno" and "The Poseidon Adventure." The *Alice* cast includes a playbill plethora of stars: Red Buttons as the White Rabbit, Roddy McDowell as the March Hare, Telly Savalas as the Cheshire Cat, Karl Malden and Louis Nye as the Walrus and the Carpenter, Jayne Meadows as the Queen of Hearts, Ringo Starr as the Mock Turtle, Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gormie as Tweedledee and Tweedledum, Sammy Davis, Jr., as the Caterpillar, Ann Jillian as the Red Queen, Anthony Newley as the Mad Hatter, and Natalie Gregory as Alice. The broadcast is eagerly awaited.

Lou Bunin's 1951 *Alice in Wonderland* film in which animated sculptures are paired with a live actress, Carol Marsh, as Alice, has been recently revived in New York, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and in other cities.

Treasures from the New York Public Library, an exhibit on display from Feb. 15 through May 24, at the main branch, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, included Lewis Carroll's photograph of Alice as the beggar maid.

### **CARROLLIAN COMPUTING:**

An Alice in Wonderland game is now available from Windham Classics for Apple and Commodore 64 computers (retail price \$26.95). It is an interesting interactive computer game in which time, conversation ability, logic, and Wonderland fantasy all play a part. Your editor did have a little trouble getting Alice out of the boat in which she and Mr. Dodgson were riding but with the help of his nine-year-old son he managed.

Short notices about Apple Computer's Alice game appeared in the Feb. 1985 issue of *Washington Apple Pi* and in *Electronic Games* Mar. 1985 issue. This game was discussed briefly in the previous *Knight Letter*.

Information about other computer applications—games or other—of Carroll material would be greatly appreciated.

### **NEWS FROM OUR CALIFORNIA CHAPTER:**

On June 9, 1985, the "Outlandish" West Coast Chapter held its ninth meeting at the San Francisco home of LCSNA past-president Dr. Sandor G. Burstein. The meeting, according to Mark Burstein, Warden of Outland, started with several short videotapes: Tom Petty's rock video *Don't Come Around Here No More* which uses surrealistic Alice imagery; a cola commercial; and an episode from the old Danny Thomas TV show *Make Room for Daddy*.

Next Mr. Chet Grycz, Design and Production Manager at the University of California Press, spoke about his close collaboration with Barry Moser in the University's recent editions of his works. He shared with us some of his historical knowledge of the woodblock process and discussed Mr. Moser's works in particular in his talk entitled "The Challenge of a Contemporary Iconography." He also pointed out many intriguing things to look for in the Moser images (e.g., the reflection of the artist in the Rabbit Hole, and that the illustration of the Caterpillar is, indeed, exactly three inches high).

Then Mark Burstein, with many apologies to Charles L. Dodgson, gave a humorous talk/slide show on "Scented Rushes"—the surprising plethora of erotica associated with Carroll's works (a sort of "Alice Does Wonderland"). He delved into the outright obscenity of Freudian interpretations; catalogued literary Alician erotica (from anonymous parodies of "Jabberwocky" to the marvelous *Oedipus in Disneyland* which speculates that the Wonderland books were the pornographic autobiography of Queen Victoria—later toned down and issued as *Queen Victoria's Secret Diary*); reviewed illustrators of Alice from Dodgson's own drawings onward; and concluded with a miscellanea of cartoons, book, comics, and animated shorts lovingly collected (for research purposes,

you understand) over the years. Well, *someone* had to do it. We thank Mark for doing it and for providing such interesting news from the West Coast.

### COLLECTOR'S CORNER:

Notes from LCSNA member Joel Birenbaum: Collecting Alice memorabilia is a formidable task. The main problem for the beginner is the scope of such a project. It's probably wise for the novice to limit the range of collecting by specializing in some particular aspect: possibilities include films, theater, dolls, figurines, games, music, ephemera, and of course books. The last category is limitless and therefore should be further refined. A popular choice is to collect illustrated *Alices* and here an authoritative checklist is of great help. That gives you a finite goal and a list of items to seek. The bibliography in *Illustrators of Alice* by G. Ovenden and J.N.S. Davis contains a list of almost 200 English language editions of Alice books with acknowledged illustrators—a good place to start.

Joel Birenbaum is a collector who thinks it is perfectly reasonable to have 200 or even 1000 copies of Alice. On a recent trip to England he was able, through his LCSNA contacts, to examine some fine Carroll collections and gather much needed bibliographical data. He is compiling a list of additions, corrections, and clarifications to the Ovenden and Davis list. If you have information to contribute or would like a copy of his list, please write to: Joel Birenbaum, 2846 Brunswick Circle, Woodbridge, IL 60517.

### LCSNA CONSTITUTION:

The outcome of the attempt to revise the Constitution of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America will be announced in a forthcoming issue of the *Knight Letter*.

### MEETINGS:

Fall 1985 Meeting: Nov. 9 at the Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin, program details soon. Spring 1986 meeting is being planned in New York City.

*With thanks to all our contributors, especially Earl Abbe, C. Albano, Alice Berkey, Joel Birenbaum, Mark Burstein, Sandor Burstein, Thomas Felt, Edward Guiliano, Joyce Hines, Elree Kellogg, L. Posner, Nancy Willard—and everyone else.*

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