

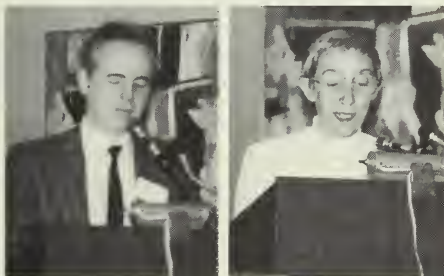


# Knights Letter

THE LEWIS CARROLL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

NUMBER 28 SPRING 1988

## Fall Meeting of LCSNA Features Exciting Program



Dr. Bernard McTigue Dr. Genevieve Smith

The Fall meeting of the LCSNA was held on Saturday, October 24, in the Gallery of the Century Association on West 43rd Street in New York. More than fifty members and guests attended.

President Ed Guiliano thanked Dr. Morton Cohen and Janet Jurist for arranging the meeting and the luncheon. The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as read, and the Treasurer's report summarized. Mention was made of the new format of the Knight Letter and its scheduling as a quarterly, with Stan Marx as the new editor, a position he first filled in 1974 when the LCSNA started.

Morton Cohen then read a moving tribute to the recently-deceased Roger Lancelyn Green (see page two). A resolution, passed at the Executive Committee meeting, to write to Mrs. Green expressing our sorrow at her husband's passing, was the final announcement in the brief business meeting which preceded the program.

The first speaker was Dr. Bernard McTigue, Curator of the Arents



Collection at the New York Public Library. He presented an illustrated lecture, entitled "Lewis Carroll in the New York Public Library: Profile of a Research Collection." It included a summary of the rare materials at the Library, amounting to almost 1700 items. Dr. McTigue pointed out that Lewis Carroll is one of very few authors collected in translation by the Library.

From the physical artifacts of Lewis Carroll to an interpretation of the Alice texts was accomplished by the next speaker, Dr. Genevieve Brunet Smith of Virginia Commonwealth University, who spoke on "Lewis Carroll, Ionesco, and the Theatre of the Absurd." After tracing the history of the Theatre of the Absurd from its French beginnings in the 1950's to its decline in the 1960's, Dr. Smith also pointed out that Ionesco, in his memoirs, acknowledged his debt to Carroll. This was illustrated by a series of dramatic readings by four actors, who presented scenes from Ionesco's *The Professor*, followed by readings from the Alice books.

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## Joyce Rose Hines 1929-1987

We are deeply grieved to report that Dr. Joyce Rose Hines, a founder and former vice-president of the LCSNA, passed away on November 26th of last year.

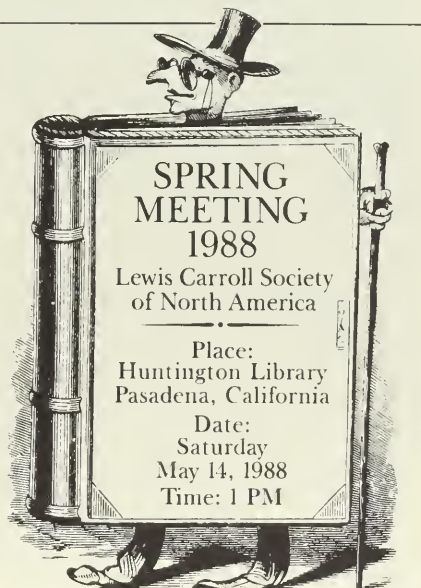
Born in Poughkeepsie, New York in 1929, and educated in New York City's schools, she established herself as a superb student, excelling in French, Latin and English at Hunter College High School and went on to graduate Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa at Hunter College.

The following year, she joined the staff of the United Nations and soon exhibited the same creativity, organizational genius and punctilious attention to detail that had marked her educational career. She rose through the ranks to the level of staff officer in the Population Division and was chosen to represent it at conferences in Denmark, Switzerland and the Soviet Union. Dr. Hines earned her Master's Degree in English Literature at Columbia University and her Doctorate in the same field at the Graduate Center of City University of New York. Her dissertation, *Getting Home*, traced Christian influences in the works of George MacDonald and Charles Williams. She was a member of both the MacDonald and Williams Societies.

Joyce had a particular appreciation for old books and the crockery and figurines of 19th century England, along with Rackham, Steinlen and Peake.

A lifelong friend of the theatre, she was a member of Actor's Equity, and performed,

*Continued on Page 3*



# Roger Lancelyn Green

## Foremost Lewis Carroll Scholar



Roger Lancelyn Green at the time of the publication of his edition of "The Diaries of Lewis Carroll" (1954)

Roger Lancelyn Green, foremost Lewis Carroll scholar of our age, died on October 8, 1987, at the age of 68. His mellifluous name elicits praise in both nurseries and halls of academe. With his passing, we lose not only a great expert on Lewis Carroll but one of the most varied writers in English, a Renaissance figure, a landed gentleman who, with pen and ink (never a typewriter), produced nearly a hundred volumes of literature and history, both scholarly and popular, for young and old.

Educated at Liverpool College and Merton College, Oxford, he was, for a time, Assistant Librarian at Merton. He came under the spell of Neville Coghill, entered the world of amateur theatricals, and acted for the Oxford University Dramatic Society. While at University, he met a vivacious undergraduate, June Burdett, whom he later married. For his B. Litt., he wrote on Andrew Lang, and out of this thesis grew his biography of Lang, which remains the definitive study to this day. After Oxford, Roger Green went to London, where he played on both the legitimate stage (including a part in Peter Pan) and in pantomime.

In 1947, his father, a retired major who held the Military Cross, died and Green became Lord of the Manors of Poulton-Lancelyn and Lower Bebington of the Wirral in Cheshire. He and his wife settled into Poulton Hall, where the Lancelyn Greens had lived since before the Norman Conquest, a spacious, secluded manor house surrounded by manicured lawns that lead the eye to an unobstructed view of the mountains of North Wales.

At Poulton, Green took easily to the long, cloister-like library with arched cubicles filled with books, and set to work writing volume after volume, on the Classics, on A.E.W. Mason, Mrs. Molesworth, Stanley Weyman, J. M. Barrie, C. S. Lewis, and his special favorites, Rudyard Kipling and Lewis Carroll. He attended to his estates and

carried on a vast correspondence with literary figures the world over. His wife, meanwhile, raised their three children, refurbished Poulton Hall, and taught drama at a local college.

Poulton Hall gradually became a Mecca for friends of the Greens: Neville Coghill came, as did C. S. Lewis, with whom Green shared a love of Greece, and stage personalities, too, including Harry Andrews, Tommy Trinder and Joyce Redman. The theater remained a dominant force in Green's life and Poulton Hall, inside, outside, and sometimes both, was, from season to season, turned into a theatrical stage set. Among the productions they staged there was a remarkable *Midsummer Night's Dream* on the front lawn that used real horses and flights of doves. Both Green and his wife played parts in it. There was a production of *Cobnus*; a Greek play; and a magnificent *Through the Looking-Glass*, where the audience sat in a carousel that, thanks to the sinews of dozens of Boy Scouts, was pushed on its axle to allow the seated audience to revolve from scene to scene.

None of these community efforts diminished Green's literary output. From his pen poured forth biographies, critical studies, short stories, books of poetry, edited texts, translations of the Classics, and anthologies. For 23 years he edited the quarterly *Kipling Journal*. His reputation as a scholar acquired new force with his two-volume edition of Lewis Carroll's diaries and his revision of *The Lewis Carroll Handbook*, even as he achieved considerable popular renown by his retelling of Greek and Norse myths and Arthurian legends. His *Tellers of Tales*, essays on children's authors since 1800, has gone into numerous editions and is a classic blend of scholarship and popular writing.

When Green first came to the United States, he had a number of speaking engagements before him. The first took place at Barnard College a bare two hours after his scheduled arrival at Kennedy airport. His host rushed him from the airport towards Manhattan. Sirens blared (though not on their account), traffic was thick, and the famous skyline loomed ahead. When they arrived at Barnard and Green stepped up to the dais, he began, whimsically, by confiding to a sea of undergraduates that he then really knew, for the first time in his life, what it meant to step through the looking-glass and come out on the other side. He went on to talk eloquently about Lewis Carroll, without any notes, sparkling with Carrollian quips and quiddities and a good many anecdotes of his own. The audience was ecstatic: it seemed to many there that they had actually encountered Lewis Carroll himself.

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## PROFILE: Maxine Schaefer Secretary, LCSNA



Maxine Schaefer, a Washington, D.C. native and Secretary of LCSNA since its founding, spends her days working for the National Institutes of Health, and her nights laboring for LCSNA. Her fascination with Lewis Carroll started with her exposure to her future mother-in-law's Lewis Carroll collection (started in 1891). On her honeymoon, she insisted that her new husband perform parental duties by purchasing a Mexican "Alice" for the collection. After her mother-in-law's death, Maxine kept the collection alive, long distance, by purchasing books in Washington, and inserting them into the New York collection. The collection has now been inherited by the Schaefers, and Maxine's speciality is Lewis Carroll parodies.

Maxine's busiest time as Secretary was caused by a wasp who wore a wig. She handled approximately five thousand pieces of correspondence after the Society published the book. She claims that one of the biggest thrills of her life was representing LCSNA at the laying of the Lewis Carroll memorial stone at Westminster Abbey in 1982.

She never believes six impossible things before breakfast, but often accomplishes them.

## John Fleming Prominent Book Dealer

John Fleming, who, as a teenager, became a protege of Dr. Rosenbach and carried the *Alice* manuscript to the office after it was sold to Dr. R in 1927, passed away shortly after the new year.

Mr. Fleming was instrumental in urging his client, who owned the original unused proofs, to allow the LCSNA to issue *The Wasp in the Wig*.



## Pamphlet Project Editors Seeking "Lost" Items

The LCSNA project to issue a series of books on all the pamphlets of Lewis Carroll has good news and bad. The good news is that the first volume on the Oxford pamphlets is expected to be issued within the year, with the second volume, the mathematical pamphlets following on its heels. In all, six volumes are projected.

The "bad" news is that there are some elusive pamphlets which are being diligently searched for, and it is hoped that members can be of help. These pamphlets are:  
*Notes on the First Part of Algebra* - 1861.  
*General List of Subjects* - 1863  
*Algebraical Formulae* - 1868 & 1870

*Arithmetical Formulae and Rules* - 1870  
*Symbols to be Used in Euclid* - 1872  
*Purity of Election* - 1881  
*Rules for Reckoning Postage* - 1883  
*Profits of Authorship* - 1884  
*Circular & Prospectus About a House* - 1885  
*Circular About Counters* - 1886

Should anyone know of the whereabouts of the above pamphlets, please write to the Editor of the Knight Letter. All help will be acknowledged. If anyone has information about pamphlets *not* mentioned in the LC Handbook, the editors will be grateful beyond words.

Wendy Lesser's first book, *The Life Below the Ground*, a study of the subterranean in literature and history, was recently published by Faber and Faber. Replete with Alician underground references, Alice's experiences are called analogous to some drug-induced symptoms in patients suffering from Paralysis Agitans. \$19.95.

*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Gravity's Rainbow: A Study in Duplex Fiction*. Danuta Zadworna-Fjellestad. *Stockholm Studies in English*, Vol. 68, 1986. Published by Almqwesta-Wiksell Books. \$20.00

Audio Language Studies, Niagara Falls, NY 14305, offers a "sight and sound" *Alice*—a cassette accompanied by a transcript book, designed for classroom use.

Belated notice: The September 1986 issue of *Amazing* contained a story by member Ruth Berman. Called "In a Season of Calm Weather", it brings together those three lovely child heroines, Alice, Dorothy of Oz and Wendy of *Peter Pan*.

*Explorations in the Field of Nonsense*. Edited by Wim Tigges. Amsterdam 1987. Distributed in the US by Humanities Press, 171 First Avenue, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716. Contains an essay on Lear and Carroll by Lisa Ede.

*The Walrus and the Carpenter*. Lewis Carroll. Illustrations by Jane Breskin Zalben. NY: Henry Holt. \$13.95. Once

again, the illustrator who gave us a colorful, spirited *Jabberwocky*, takes on another Carroll gem, *The Walrus and the Carpenter*. The portly walrus and the solemn carpenter again eat their way through the innocent oysters, who, in Ms. Zalben's unusual style, wear little shoes and have children's heads. In the end, only the shoes are left. Never have oysters looked so delightful; never has there been two crueller gourmands!

*Very Truly Yours, Charles L. Dodgson, Alias Lewis Carroll*. Lisa Bassett. NY: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. \$15.95.

As an introduction to Lewis Carroll, this book, which probably has the longest title in the Dodgson canon, captures the spirit that is most delightful in Carroll. It brings together many of his most charming letters to children, along with the games, puzzles, rhymes and riddles that he created for his most appreciative audience.

### Hines *Continued from Page 1*

mainly in musicals off-Broadway, at Princeton University and in summer stock.

Her interest in Lewis Carroll began with *The Walrus and the Carpenter* in fourth grade. Lewis Carroll continued to delight her throughout her life. She immersed herself in *Alice* lore, and lectured on her favorite topic with all the enthusiasm, humor and whimsy of the man she so wholeheartedly appreciated.

(The above was written by Jane and Myron Reis, sister and brother-in-law of Joyce Hines).

Charles and Stephanie Lovett, bookdealers in Winston-Salem, NC, and members of the LCSNA have assembled a book of their Lewis Carroll collection. The volume, which will probably be issued this Fall, will be 400 or so pages in size, containing numerous illustrations and a comprehensive index, as well as frontispiece of Alice and her sisters done by Carroll in 1862 and previously unrecorded. The dust jacket design will contain a portrait of Lewis Carroll done by Barry Moser.

### Green *Continued from Page 2*

The books kept coming — but then they stopped. Green was ill and could not put pen to paper. His mind, though, remained as clear and sharp as ever. Only five weeks before he died, a Carroll scholar put a difficult Lewis Carroll problem to him in hospital near his home, and though at least two other Carroll experts had struggled unsuccessfully with it, Green solved it.

He was exceptional in many ways. Deeply religious, he subscribed to traditional values that many now think belong to a bygone age. But he possessed a rare character and a unique talent that transcended time. He was generous to a fault, a welcoming man who loved good food, good drink, good conversation, and good books. He had a quick wit and laughed easily. His sharp turn of phrase, his sense of humor, his elegant, enthusiastic yet modest style of address won him many friends on both sides of the Atlantic.

His work will live on, certainly, and will speak for itself to future generations. But those who were fortunate enough to know him will remember him for his friendly warmth, his sense of fun, and his magnanimous spirit. *Morton Cohen*



*Barry Moser*  
Audubon Magazine

from our far-flung



correspondents

*The Theatre Wing:* Two important productions were staged recently - the Manhattan Project's *Alice*, last produced in New York almost twenty years ago, was performed from March 18 through April 3 at the Sanford Meisner Theater. Local LCSNA members were alerted to the production, which was directed by Eric Keith and starred a varied cast of off-off-off Broadway actors. . .



*The cast of the Manhattan Project's Alice. Each actor acted out several roles.*

David Del Tredici's music accompanied the production of *Haddock's Eye's*, which arrived on Broadway at the end of December. Tom Hulce, moving from his role of Mozart in the film production of *Amadeus*, quoted from Carroll's diaries and letters "with precise diction and understanding," according to the critic of the New York Times, who felt the

performance should be "marked with a white stone". . .

An exhibit at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento displayed a rich variety of Lewis Carroll material, a good part of it from the collection of former LCSNA president Dr. Sandor Burstein. The exhibition ran from November 24 to January 11. . . In answer to our query in the last issue concerning the Cleveland Public Library's ownership of Alice Liddell material, Joel Birenbaum writes to tell us that during a recent visit to the library, the librarian whom he questioned could find no trace of either Alice's birthday book or LC's bible. . . Joel runs the Alice Collector's Network, which acts as a clearing house for members who wish to dispose of LC material. Joel's address is 2486 Brunswick Circle, Woodridge, IL 60517. . . Earl Abbe tells us that on a recent trip to King Ridge ski resort in New London, NH had him skiing through Wonderland. The ski trails and slopes had such names as The Lobster Quadrille, The Jabberwocky and Brillig's Run — twenty in all, and all named after LC people and places. . . Al Lum, a mathematics teacher at a Houston, Texas intermediate school, uses episodes from *Alice* to introduce math concepts to his honor classes. . . As a symbol, the *Alice* books continue to trigger

the imagination no matter what the occasion. Recent issues of Barron's and Forbes, well-known financial journals, used *Alice* imagery to comment on the financial scene.

The recent rash of mail order catalogues reveals the amazing amount of *Alice* figurines, dolls, ornaments and statuary available to collectors who are ready to stock a museum of these collectibles. . . An AIW clock, for \$58.00 from Montege, Edison, NJ 08820. . . Painted pewter Tenniel figurines from My Favorite Pastimes, \$67.50 to \$98.00, from My Favorite Pastimes, Oak Park, IL 60303. . .

### Fall Meeting *Continued from Page 1*

The final presentation was Pat Griffin's "Rhyming Alice," a sequence of dramatized episodes from the *Alice* books directed to a children's audience. Pat is a major participant of the Anyplace theatre, the group which presents the program.

Following the meeting, some of the members went to see a performance of a musical play, *Alice in America* by Jaz Dorsey. Presented at the Greek Orthodox Church on the upper West Side, the play used some *Alice* characters in the colorful, amusing action. *August A. Imholtz, Jr.*

For assistance in preparing this issue, we would like to thank Earl Abbe, Joel Birenbaum, Richard Boothe, Elizabeth Erickson, Johanna Hurwitz, V.A. Lanza, Nancy Lindblom, Lucille Posner, Larry Wilson, and Zenobia Zyk. Special thanks to Dr. Sandor Burstein for his many contributions.

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