



Knighth Letter

THE LEWIS CARROLL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA NUMBER 53 WINTER 1996

In Memory of Maxine

by Joel Birenbaum

It is my sad duty to report that Maxine Schaefer passed away on October 17, 1996. I could say Maxine Schaefer, secretary of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America for the first twenty years, but I know I don't have to say that, because we all knew Maxine. She was the one person with whom every member of the LCSNA for the first 20 of our 22 years came in contact. From 1974, when she was a founding member, to 1994 when she retired as Secretary, she was the recipient of all correspondence, including new membership forms. I think sometimes that few of us understood the importance of this position.

Maxine was a one-person welcoming committee. She was responsible for each member's initial impression of the Society. Luckily she didn't think of it that way. She just acted naturally. She treated new members like she treated everyone, with respect and interest, answering their questions and making them feel as if they had always belonged. After all, we were all Carroll enthusiasts of one sort or another and I don't think she differentiated in her treatment of anyone, whether newcomers, authors of great reputation, or collectors of Alice memorabilia. She instinctively knew we all had a place in the LCSNA. Maxine was the human face of our Society.

One of the reasons I was so fond of Maxine was her views on Carroll collecting. Where some folks feel they must have high-minded reasons for collecting, Maxine did it for the sheer joy of it—her passions were translations, parodies, and memorabilia. It brought her pleasure and thereby enriched her life and the lives of her family and indirectly the lives of those kindred spirits with whom she came in contact. How honest and refreshing this was! She had that true collector's belief that one's collection had an independent

existence and—even when it *was* your own—was something at which to marvel. She understood that she was just the current caretaker of these many items and she followed the one rule of collecting—never stop.

The idea of doing things non-stop was a recurrent theme in Maxine's life. At the time of her death, she had been a member of the LCSNA board for 22 years, had been an employee of the National Health Institute for over 23 years, and had been married to David Schaefer, past president of the LCSNA and also a founding member, for 40 years. This was clearly a woman with a work ethic not often seen these days and an unparalleled sense of commitment. In all areas of her life she was a constant, the person who was always there, the one who could be counted on.

It is very difficult to lose a person like her. We have learned all too well to expect her presence. She has given our Society a sense of continuity. Luckily, we still have several of our founding members who are active in the Society and can preserve a direct connection to our past, but there is nobody else who has had as much to do with our day-to-day activities as Maxine had. She will be missed in a very personal way. If we are blessed, Maxine's soul will remain with us like the grin of the Cheshire cat that remained long after the cat itself had disappeared.

Maxine is survived by her husband, David Schaefer; her children, Edward and Philip Schaefer and Ellen Schaefer-Salins; and her grandchildren, Gregory and Laurel Schaefer, and Mickey and Lena Salins.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the LCSNA, 18 Fitzharding Place, Owings Mills, MD 21117-4416.



Ravings from the Writing Desk of Joel Birenbaum

This issue I will be positively raving. That is, I will rave in a *positive* manner. I really want to thank those who took the time to fill out and return the survey from the last issue. I was pleasantly surprised to get significantly more than the one response I had expected (not that I didn't still appreciate your response, August). Here are the results:

Thirteen people declared themselves to be academics, 16 collectors and 15 devotees. We even had two who were casually interested (another surprise). We thought we had a diverse group and indeed we do.

Twenty-four wanted information on new publications, 21 wanted academic articles, 19 wanted to keep abreast of new collectibles and 17 wished for contact and discourse with people with similar interests. Again, our diversity in members' profiles result in a diversity in member needs. This is not earth-shattering news either. I was a bit amazed that everyone wasn't necessarily looking for interaction with others of a similar bent. This could mean that we have some members with the touch of the hermit in them, or perhaps they are members who are so over-burdened in their schedules that they just have no extra time for this. I'm sure there are other interpretations. Feel free to mail them in.

The *Knight Letter* should have:

	<u>Less</u>	<u>The same</u>	<u>More</u>
Academic content	3	12	12
Collectibles data	4	17	6
Personal accounts	6	11	10

I take these answers to give a relative indication of which type of information the respondent likes best. I hope when someone answers that they want less of something they don't really mean that they are intolerant of the appearance of that content in the newsletter. I don't expect everyone to want to read everything in the *Knight Letter*, even though I do. Just think of it as a delightful *smörgåsbord* where you take what you like and leave the rest. If the quality of the information is the problem, then tell us immediately.

Here are some of the comments that were included:

I don't know what I expected when I joined the LCSNA. I just knew that his books gave me great joy. I started

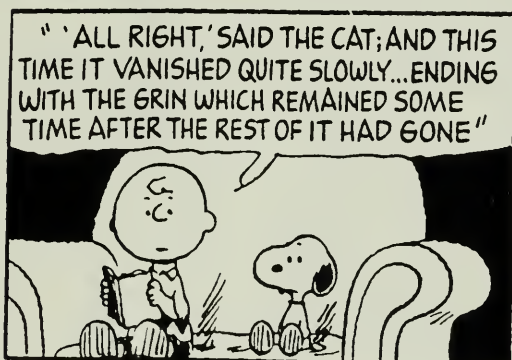
collecting Alice things about three years ago and it is now an obsession. I have a mild interest in the academic aspects of the Society, but sometimes feel intimidated by it. I would like to see a listing of all Lewis Carroll Societies. I wish we could have a book, booklet or map of all the Lewis Carroll historic sites. I wish we could leave our Lewis Carroll collections to the Society. Couldn't the president hold these items and offer to sell them to other members? I enjoy the newsletter and your "ravings".

This sounds like a letter I could have written when I first joined. This intimidation theme is one that I hear more often than I would like to. There are two ways to attack this issue: we could ask everyone to be less intimidating, or we could ask everyone to stop feeling intimidated. For myself, I chose the latter. As for the information you requested, it is indeed in progress on the World Wide Web. See URL <http://www.students.uiuc.edu/~jbirenba/carroll>, which has a listing of societies. There is also a link to a page of Carroll sites, although the list is far from complete at this time.

In 1983, I did my doctoral dissertation at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. The title was "Lewis Carroll's Through the Looking-Glass as a Kaleidoscope of English History: A Critical Approach to Scripting Interpreter's Theatre." It was fun! I went to NY for the sesquicentennial celebration and research. Stan Marx, may he rest in peace, took me under his wing and into his home. I gave him a copy of the completed work. Where it landed I know not. The depth and breadth of his works still amazes me!

I think that this points out the best aspect of our organization, older members (or members in long standing if you prefer) helping newer members. I can't think of a better example than this one about our late founder, Stan Marx. Stan isn't the only member who selflessly gave of himself. The list is a long and distinguished one. I think this is the essence of the LCSNA and the reason why Lewis Carroll would mark the LCSNA with a white stone. Having been the recipient of a couple of Carroll theses lately, I can tell you that it is a pleasure to read the papers written by new- or future members and realize that we were in some way an influence on them. I am sure this is the way Stan felt.

PEANUTS/Charles Schulz



I would like to buy transcripts, audio or video recordings of meetings which I cannot attend. Unfortunately, I've little time and less money, being 30 years old with a mild income and family. Perhaps when the next membership list is published, you might ask members for their internet address so that they can appear on the list. I haven't got a computer, yet, but I soon will. Or make the list available on the LCSNA web page.

Only two people have asked for tapes of meetings. So far nobody has volunteered to take on this chore. As for e-mail addresses, please send them to me at joel.birenbaum@lucent.com and state whether you want it included on our Web page. Note that is a new e-mail address for me. While I'm at it, my area code has been changed. My phone number is now 630.637.8530. Feel free to call me, I enjoy hearing from members.

I enjoy reading about member profiles. You are doing such a GOOD job!

Thanks, Mom.

Personally, I wouldn't mind seeing articles of important Carroll criticism or biographical information, even if reprints of old ones. Such would be for the benefit of those who are not thorough Carroll experts.

Yes, sometimes we forget that not everybody knows everything about Carroll. As far as reprinting old criticisms, we can only do our own as the others are protected under copyright.

The Knight Letter is terrific – suggest adding more bits of entertaining filler – file stuff, quotes or snippets from CLD's Life and Letters, bits of artwork/ cartoons, etc. in little boxes. Also, how about a brief "member's profile" in each issue - one or two of the "nobodies" who make up our diverse membership. Ask everyone to fill out a profile form, then contact the member when you're ready to use it.

I always thought we needed more snippets. Here's one now.

"I see nobody on the road," said Alice.

"I only wish I had such eyes," the king remarked in a fretful tone. "To be able to see Nobody! And at that distance too!"

How Carrollian to use the word nobody to such advantage and so cleverly as not to offend. This could be a good way for all of us to better understand the nature of our membership (and what a good ship it is – always floating on top of the water instead of the other way around).

I have attended several meetings, but will probably not again – not very friendly welcome.

Thank you for your honesty. I would beg you for one more chance. I think we have become a friendlier, more receptive group over the years. At least we try to be. If there are any recent experiences at meetings that others would like to relate, please do. If they are also negative we can work on

fixing the problems. If they are positive, perhaps they can help encourage people who have abandoned us to return.

(K)night Letter = telegram sent at night. Why not (K)night Mail = e-mail to members or on the WWW page?

Maybe someday, if people wish it, but for now "They must go by the carrier." Be happy that they are not addressed to Your Right Foot, Esq.

I collect Alice in Wonderland Christmas ornaments. I would be interested in information on that subject. Would any other members be interested?

Might I suggest that you write an article with a listing of your ornaments and see what happens.

Keep putting in as much as you can of everything.

A member after my own heart.

We are always interested in the views of our members. If a survey is a good way to elicit your views, then we will continue to send out surveys. I encourage you all to simply drop us a line or give us a call whenever you have something to say. We will better serve you if we know what you want.

Let's end this column with an answer to a riddle. Why is a raven like a writing desk? Each in its own way is a dark wing site. If you need an explanation of the answer you'll have to wait for the next issue.



A poem and two limericks

Lewis Carroll's innovative verse which follows combines his love of nonsense with his facility in mathematics. It is a verse first published in *Phantasmagoria* (1869) and later reworked into a double acrostic in *Rhyme? and Reason?* (1883).

The second two are of unknown authorship, but very much in this spirit. Answers on p. 9.

- 1) Yet what are all such thoughts to him
Whose thoughts are full of indices and surds?

$$x^2 + 7x + 53 = \frac{11}{3}$$

2)
$$\int_1^{\sqrt[3]{3}} z^2 dz \times \cos \frac{3\pi}{9} = \ln \sqrt[3]{e}$$

- 3) 8,365,259,471.98450263

Leaves from the Deanery Garden

Just a note to let you know that interest in Lewis Carroll is alive and well in Southern New Jersey.

Robert Mitchell
Mathematics and Computer Science Dept.
Glassboro NJ 08028



Professor Mitchell enclosed brochures advising of his lecture "Lewis Carroll's Contribution to Mathematics" at various venues including The British Society for the History of Mathematics conference at St. Martin's college in Lancaster. The LCSNA is conspicuous in its absence (hint, hint).

I am sending my congratulations on a very fine Spring issue of the *Knight Leter* and an addendum to its "Serendipity".

Toward the end of Nabokov's *Strong Opinions* (McGraw Hill, 1973), one comes upon another unforeseen reference to Alice, namely to his Russian translation of *Alice* ("Anya") in *Wonderland* and the fortunes it played in his life: "I recall with pleasure that one of the accidents that prompted Wellesley College to engage me as lecturer in the early forties was the presence of my rare *Anya* in the Wellesley collection of Lewis Carroll editions."

Best regards,



Fran Parker, Ph.D.
Rockville Centre, New York

I recently found, and bought, a beautiful set of Great Britain stamps commemorating children's stories for "The Year of the Child." The 13p stamp ending the series features *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. The set is Scott's numbers 867-870, and was issued July 11, 1979. After consulting Scott's Stamp Catalog further, I discovered another, which I do not have, in an issue of February 6, 1990, Scott's number 1307, featuring "Smiles". The Cheshire Cat's is the smile commemorated. These are the only two stamps I have found, from any country, having anything to do with Alice or Lewis Carroll. Does anyone know of others? There should be many, considering the enduring and widespread popularity of "Alice". Maybe some will be issued in 1998, commemorating the death of Lewis Carroll.

Sincerely,



Lester Dickey
85 High Holborn Street
Gardiner ME 04345

First of all, be generous about my English style! A moment ago I was reading "To Stop a Bandersnatch", and I decided to write you with a good pretext: I think Borges and Carroll are a good combination, and I am the author of the *Alice's* books translation into Spanish, for which Borges wrote a beautiful, but short foreword (as all that he wrote, by the

way) many years ago. I also wrote about some (light) associations between Borges and Carroll (and surely I'll do again, because I'm working in an annotated translation of the *Alice* books, the *Snark* and the *Letters*, that must be out at the end of 1997). I am very interested in what you say, and in authors as Nabokov (I am a devoted reader of almost all his literature, but specially of the short stories and of a very curious book named *Poems and Problems* (bilingual poetry and chess problems)), which some years ago gave me a friend of mine, the late argentine poet Alberto Girri. I fear I'm not as communicative as "the other" Burstein about myself, but I'm also a short stories author, who obtained some important awards. By the way, do you know "the other Borges" story (by Borges)? It's a pity I can't write English as I can read it, and I beg your pardon again for all misspelled words of this and next letters.

Eduardo Stilman
stilman@overnet.com.ar



I am deeply honored by your kind words on my article (on the web at the LCSNA site). Sr. Stilman has also sent me a copy of the foreword containing Borges' thoughts on Carroll, which I am having translated and hope to secure permission to have in the next KL.

In 1990 our small American publishing company, White Rabbit Press, brought out a series of four posters, entitled the "1890-1990 John Tenniel/Lewis Carroll Centennial Edition", drawn from *The Nursery Alice* (Cheshire Cat, Dodo, Mad Tea Party, Caterpillar), with the assistance of Charles Lovett of the Lewis Carroll Society (USA).

We have now decided to republish the "posters" as a serigraphic limited edition, printed by one of the greatest experts in the world in France.

As limited editions, more often than not, are S/N, that is to say "signed and numbered", I wondered if you might have any idea who might "sign" the prints in a "significant" and meaningful way.

My ideas on this are: someone from the family of John Tenniel, Lewis Carroll or perhaps Alice Liddell, or perhaps someone from the Lewis Carroll Society. Of course I would be happy to receive any further suggestions outside of these four possibilities.

As a first step, we will be bringing out just "The Cheshire Cat" being by far the most popular of the original 4 posters, probably in the neighborhood of 1000 prints, to be followed by the others based on the success (or failure) of the first.

Thanking you very much for consideration and prompt reply,

Sincerely,

Jonathan Gontar
(33 1) 30 80 47 62
gontar@club-internet.fr



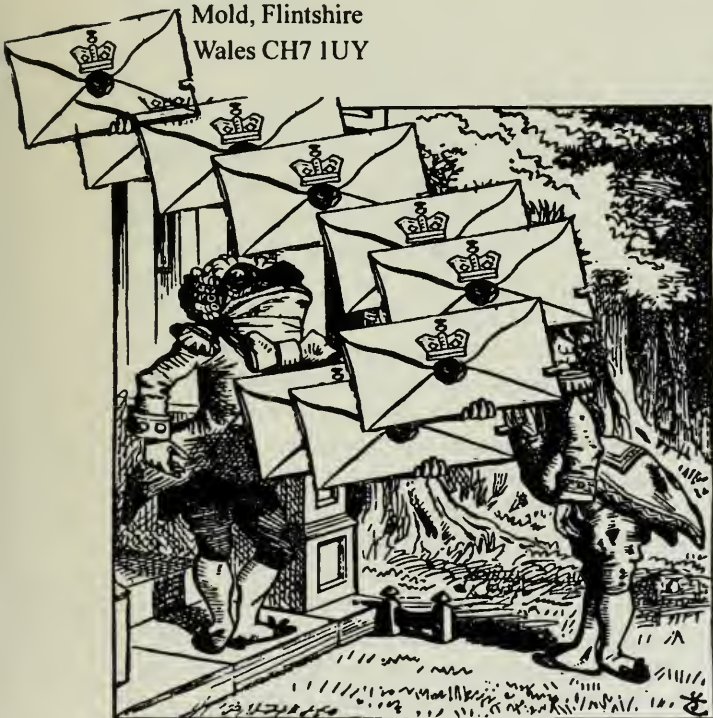
A bit of correspondence has been going forth between Joel and Alan Holland, founder of the "Dodo Club, the only Club in the world for children who love Alice and the Lewis Carroll stories". Alan was a bit out of sorts over Joel's neglecting to mention the Club under "Lewis Carroll Related Organizations" on the Lewis Carroll Home Page (an oversight which has since been corrected). The Dodo Club was formed in October 1990 "for the purpose of interesting and informing young people about Lewis Carroll, his life and times." Alan has been in touch for all these years with a Miss Alexandra (Xie) Fye, who, when she was ten, inspired him to start it – he calls her the "Cheshire Catalyst" as she lives near Daresbury. She is now, at the tender age of seventeen, taking over the Club, and the "Dodo News", which is sent out every two months with "sixteen pages of pictures, articles, puzzles, jokes – all sorts of things. Although the club is for children, adults are allowed to join as Associates. The Dodo year is from October to September and whenever you join, you will be sent all the issues of the News for the current year."

<u>Subscriptions</u>	<u>16 and under</u>	<u>Adult</u>
U.K.	£3.50	£9.00
Europe	£5.00	£10.00
Other	£12.00	£12.00

All prices are in British Pounds Sterling. U.K. cheques should be made out to The Dodo Club. U.S. checks should be made out to The Lewis Carroll Society. If you send currency other than U.K. please add about one fifth extra to cover Bank charges.

Send cheques to Xie Fye, 22 Brian Avenue, Stockton Heath, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 2BG, England.

Alan Holland
89, Ffordd Pentre
Mold, Flintshire
Wales CH7 1UY



Morton Cohen Made a Fellow

Our own Morton Cohen has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in London. This is a great accolade and the Society heartily congratulates Morton on this well deserved honor. Here is the text of the press release:

Morton N. Cohen, Professor Emeritus of the City University of New York, has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in London. Cohen has written and edited more than a dozen books on Victorian literature, among them a biography of H. Rider Haggard, a volume of Rudyard Kipling's letters, and eight books on Lewis Carroll. His biography of Carroll, published recently by Alfred Knopf in the U.S.A. and MacMillan in the U.K., is in its second printing in both countries. Paperback versions are to appear this autumn. Cohen has also written children's books and dozens of scholarly and popular articles in newspapers and journals.

Born in Calgary, Canada, Cohen grew up on the North Shore of Massachusetts, was graduated from Chelsea High School and earned his B.A. at Tufts University. He holds an M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University. He taught for over thirty years at the City College and in the Ph.D. program at the Graduate Center of the City University. He has held two Fulbright Fellowships, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and two Fellowships from the National Endowment of the Humanities. He lives in New York.

The Royal Society of Literature was founded by King George IV in 1823. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is patron.

Whilst we're on the subject, congratulations are also due to Edward Wakeling for his honorary M.A. from the University of Luton for his work on the diaries.

LCSNA Meeting Plans

Here are some sketchy notes about upcoming meetings. Further details in the next *Knight Letter*.

Spring '97 – Fales Library Reading Room at New York University, April 19. Speakers: Fran Abeles on Martin Gardner, Jeff Ellis on the Victorian photographic process with an emphasis on Carroll's photo of Agnes Weld, and Chatham Ewing on humor. Lunch at the Knickerbocker.

Fall '97 – Minnesota. We will combine efforts with St. Johns University as part of their first annual Creativity Conference. There may be an Alice production, music recital, and exhibit as well.

Spring '98 – New York. This will be a two-day meeting with events throughout the week, in honor of the centennial of Carroll's death. Saturday at the Morgan, Saturday night dinner in honor of Morton Cohen at the Century Club. Sunday at NYU. We may have trips to Princeton and the Rosenbach during the week. Readings at the statue in Central Park.

Fall '98 – L.A. Two-day meeting. Huntington Library and UCLA. Exhibit.

OF BOOKS & THINGS

Or was it Ina?

The (London) *Times Literary Supplement* of 3 May 1996 carried a speculative article by one Karoline Leach purporting to solve the primary mystery in our canon – why, in late June of 1863, a year after the boating expedition, was there a sudden breach in the relations between Dodgson and the Liddell family? Conventional wisdom (and Morton Cohen’s superb recent biography) has it that he may have proposed some sort of engagement to Alice, who was eleven at the time. Of course, since the four volumes of his diary disappeared and the others were excised by some well-meaning but misguided relative, the mystery will never be truly solved. Ms. Leach claims to have found a scrap of paper written in the hand of Violet Dodgson, Carroll’s niece, “tucked away among a mass of Dodgson family records in the archive at Guildford.” Entitled “Cut pages to Diary”, it contains the curious note “Vol.8. Page 92. L.C. learns from Mrs. Liddell that he is supposed to be using the children as a means of paying court to the governess – He is also supposed (illegible) to be courting Ina.” We can summarily dismiss the rumors of Mr. Dodgson and the governess, Miss Prickett, which had been dealt with in his diaries of 1857 (May 17) as “groundless”. But Lorina, “Ina”, was a tall, precociously developed fourteen-year-old in an age when girls were legally marriageable at twelve. On 17 April 1863, Dodgson comments on her advanced development and notes that Mrs. Liddell had, for the first time, insisted on a chaperone. And in June? Ms. Leach fortunately draws no firm conclusions, but presents us with a tantalizing riddle.

Sherlock Holmes in Orbit

Review by Richard M. Boothe

I write to bring to the LCSNA’s attention three tales linking the Great Detective with Alice in a recent anthology, edited by Mike Resnick and Martin H. Greenberg (New York: DAW Books, c1995). The editors commissioned twenty-seven contemporary science fiction and fantasy authors to compose pastiches placing Holmes (and Watson, mostly) in sundry fantastic and/or science fictional situations.

In Mark Bourne’s charming “The Case of the Detective’s Smile”, a nameless lady of a certain age calls on Holmes to present him with an intricate cut-glass case. From hints that both she and Holmes let drop, the reader (if not Bourne’s Watson) soon deduces that she is Alice Hargreaves, née Liddell, and that Sherlock Holmes spent part of the Great Hiatus in Wonderland! (He was also, it emerges, a promising student under a certain math lecturer at Oxford). She has just returned from a visit to what must be Wonderland, occasioned by a dear friend’s death. Bourne’s Alice (for it is indeed she) confides that she narrated her childhood

adventures to this friend (in reality it was vice versa; this is artistic license on Bourne’s part). Under a *nom de plume* he revised them for public consumption, even as Watson revises Holmes’ adventures. Anyway, the inhabitants of Wonderland, the Queen of Hearts in particular, have commissioned her to present Holmes with a token of their appreciation for this brilliant solution to the Case of the Stolen Tarts. The glass case contained a never-fading smile from the Cheshire Cat.

The second story has Alice as a bit player. In “Mouse and the Master”, Brian M. Thompson’s P.I. narrator is hired by Holmes to infiltrate a (fraudulent) seance attended by Dr. Watson and other famous fictional characters. The contacts they seek “on the other side” are obviously their creators (Henry Jekyll hopes to reach “Robert”, *etc.*) Alice Liddell seeks to ask both “Lewis” and “Charles” about an antique mirror in her father’s study. Thompson passes in silence over their replies from the other side.

So far, so harmless. It is the third pastiche that contains errors that must offend every decent Carrollian. Lawrence Schimel’s “Alimentary, My Dear Watson” has Mrs. Hudson [*Holmes’ landlady*] cooking the White Rabbit, or possibly the March Hare, for Holmes and Watson’s day-after-Christmas dinner (offstage, thank God). Meanwhile, Watson draws accurate inferences from the Mad Hatter’s hat. Said hat and Rabbit (its neck broken) were brought to Holmes by Mrs. Bugle, Charles Dodgson’s landlady, as two clues to his mysterious disappearance from his London residence (!). She also saw a cracked looking-glass. Mrs. Bugle fears no one will care for Alice, Dodgson’s niece (!), who lives with him(!) in London. Holmes and Watson visit the residence and find Alice playing tea-time with imaginary companions and her cat. She identifies a pocket-watch set fifteen minutes fast as the March Hare’s(!) Holmes spots the “Drink Me” bottle (confirmed by a taste test that shrinks him several inches), which Alice admits she had the Hatter and Hare bring to her. Why? Brace yourselves. Shimel puts words in Alice’s mouth accusing Dodgson of sexually molesting her (!!!), shameful words that I dare not repeat here. Alice cries a puddle of tears. Soon she quotes almost verbatim the phrase about her cat Dinah’s mouse- and bird-eating. “Or a man,” Holmes asks, “shrunk down to the size of a mouse?” At that, Dinah vanishes in the manner of the Cheshire Cat. Back at Baker Street, Holmes suggests that Watson’s notes show Dodgson died of “consumptions”.

Whether these errors are due to artistic license or poor research, I am sure you will agree that Mr. Schimel goes beyond the pale. I recommend that we dispatch a Victorian schoolmistress to give him a firm tongue-lashing.



[Richard - are you familiar with In Pursuit of Lewis Carroll by Raphael Shaberman, in which "Sherlock Holmes and the Author uncover new evidence in their investigation into the mysterious life and writings of Lewis Carroll"? Greenwich Exchange Ltd., 1994, 1-871551-13-7. I'd be interested in your reaction.]

The Universe in a Handkerchief, Lewis Carroll's Mathematical Recreations, Games, Puzzles, and Word Plays by Martin Gardner

This book has an lamentable history, as it was supposed to come out under the imprint of our Society. While Fran Abeles has done an excellent job for us in producing *The Mathematical Pamphlets of Charles Ludwidge Dodgson* (LCSNA, \$65. 0-930326-09-1), Martin elected to go off on his own, and this is the result. It is filled with puzzles and games, most of which have seen the light of day before, and facsimiles of some of Carroll's more obscure pamphlets. The book has the feeling of being done in haste, as where Gardner quotes the verse which includes the quadratic equation published elsewhere in this issue and notes "unfortunately, no value of x will solve the quadratic equation." He means no *real* value of x , a careless omission. Complex numbers were quite familiar to Dodgson (having gained acceptance since the pioneering work of Girolamo Cardan's *Ars Magna*, first published in 1545) and surely Mr. Carroll would have no problems in the realm of the imaginary. Furthermore, that verse was first published in *Phantasmagoria* (1869) and then reprinted in *Rhyme? and Reason?* (1883), which is Gardener's cited source. Copernicus (Springer-Verlag) 0-387-94673-X, \$19.

Oh, Doctor!

Whilst perusing *James Thurber: His Life and Times* by Harrison Kinney (Henry Holt), August Imholtz found reference to an article defending Carroll against the onslaught of psychiatric interpretations which had been published in *Forum* magazine (March 1937). Intrepid researcher that he is, he found a copy of the *Forum* article "Tempest in a Looking Glass", where Thurber takes to task one Dr. Paul Schilder who delivered a lecture to the American Psychoanalytic Institute finding the *Alice* books "so full of cruelty, fear, and 'sadistic trends of cannibalism' that he questioned its wholesomeness as literature for children." Thurber's passionately protective arguments for Carroll ended with the quotation in "Serendipity", above.

A Mathematical Approach to Proportional Representation: Duncan Black on Lewis Carroll

edited by Iain McLean, Alistair McMillan and Burt L. Monroe, Boston/Dordrecht/London: Kluwer, 1996, 189 pp.

Review by Francine F. Abeles

The editors of this book are responsible for the preservation of Duncan Black's (1908-1991) papers now at the University of Glasgow. Black, an economist with a strong interest in political science best known for his classic book *The Theory of Committees and Elections* (1958), left an immense store of documents, books and papers, including chapter plans and versions of chapters for a book on Lewis Carroll's theory of proportional representation (PR). The book under review is the completion of this project which occupied the final thirty years of Black's life.

McLean *et al.* provide a rich description of the nineteenth century political scene when England was evolving from an aristocracy to a democracy. The setting for Carroll's ideas has as backdrop the Reform Acts of 1832, 1867 and 1884, and the Ballot Act of 1872. Politically, one and two member constituencies were at were the rule, each voter having as many noncumulative votes as there were seats in Parliament. The two political parties were the Conservatives and the Liberals, and each party usually polled to within five percent of its pre-election predictions. Until 1872, open voting that showed how each elector cast

his votes made this possible. The Reform Acts successively extended the franchise to the merchant and industrial classes, urban workers, agricultural workers and miners, but in a way that did not increase representation fairly. Some members of Parliament were elected by fifty thousand voters; other by only a thousand. Some large cities had three member constituencies where voters had only two votes and consequently they felt cheated. The redistribution of Parliament's seats in June 1885 to districts of roughly equal population addressed these problems.

It was the atmosphere surrounding the 1884 bill, passed in December, that between May and November motivated Carroll to write a pamphlet and six letters to the *St. James Gazette*. As he saw it, using a plurality voting rule in single member districts (the bill was proposing this change) with roughly an equal number of supporters for each party, could produce a disproportionate number of seats being allotted to the larger Liberal party at the expense of the smaller Conservative party.

The editors explain that in the USA representation has a physical meaning whereas in England the meaning is

Serendipity

"[I should like to quote] Dr. Morton Prince, a truly intelligent psychologist. He was speaking of multiple personality when he wrote it but he might have been speaking of the folk tales of the world or of the creatures and creations of Lewis Carroll: 'Far from being mere freaks, monstrosities of consciousness, they are in fact shown to be manifestations of the very constitution of life'"

James Thurber

political. A legislative body is *physically representative* if each major group in the population is proportionally represented, and it is *politically representative* if the political parties have the same percentage of seats as the percentage of votes given them in the election.

Black planned a book in four parts. McLean *et al.* have followed his wishes, confining their own overview to a thirty page Introduction with a list of ninety-nine references. They write, "*The Principles (of Parliamentary Representation)* is the earliest known work to discuss both the assignment of seats to each of a number of multi-member districts (the apportionment problem) and the assignment of seats within each district to the parties (the PR problem)."

Part I, "The Life and Logic of Lewis Carroll", includes the major subsection, "Government by Logic". Here Black revisits Carroll's work on majority rule theory in the three pamphlets he published between 1873 and 1876, gives his quite negative view of Carroll as a mathematician, and his opinions about the influence of Carroll's intensive dislike of H.G.Liddell, Dean of Christ Church and Alice's father, on Carroll's own writings. For example, Black argues that in *The Hunting of the Snark*, the Bellman is Liddell, and the Baker, not the Beaver, is Carroll.

The editors have added Black's further thought on Carroll's logical thinking gleaned from the records he kept as Curator of the Christ Church Common Room, and in three letters to the Editor of *The Times*, concerning "frogs in coal" which Black uses to explain the origin of the Frog-Footman in the "Pig and Pepper" chapter of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Part II, "The Principles of Parliamentary Representation", is an edited version of Black's previously published work on Carroll's theory of PR, three articles that appeared between 1967 and 1970 that included his understanding of Carroll's arguments in an historical and psychological setting. For example, Black believed that Carroll's interest in the PR issue stemmed from a division in himself over his love for Edith Denman (1855-1884).

The third and longest part is Black's analysis of Carroll's theory of PR, his unpublished material providing the *raison d'être* for this book. Here we have Black's view on Carroll's three pamphlets on PR, and Black's formulation and proof of Carroll's theorem on quota which he shows to be equivalent to d'Hondt's quota for allocating seats in a legislative body to the political parties. (Victor d'Hondt (1841-1901), Belgian mathematician)

The final section of this part, dealing with the allocation of parliamentary member to each district in proportion to its number of voter, Black left incomplete. The editors have continued with the exposition they believe he intended, and added their own evaluation of the result.

Part IV contains the reprints of Carroll's pamphlets on PR and the main sources Black thought influenced them, by Garth Marshall (1802-1873) and Walter Bailey (1837-1917), together with comments. These are rare pieces, difficult to

locate, and we should be grateful to the editors for making them available.

Both Black and Carroll wrote about voting theory: Black, the professional, because it was his work; Carroll, the dilettante, because he was responding to external events that required the support of fundamental principles to guarantee fairness of application. Black experienced much difficulty getting his work published; Carroll's serious work went unrecognized. Black established Carroll's high reputation in the theory of majority rule (social choice) in his 1958 book, and the editors lay out the reasons. By presenting the fruits of Black's continued quest to establish the importance of Carroll's contributions to PR, they have shown for both of them the originality of their thinking and the priority of their work.

Regrettably, Black did not keep up with modern interpretations of Carroll's life and work which mars much of his evaluation of Carroll's intellectual and psychological sides. Surprising too, is that Black did not seem to know the work of Peter Fishburn who has written extensively on Carroll's theory of majority rule (*The Theory of Social Choice*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1973)

As this review establishes, much more than PR is discussed which the title of the book does not reflect. Also, Black wrote an article on Carroll's theory of PR in *Jabberwocky* that the editors inexplicably have not mentioned ("Evaluating Carroll's Theory of Parliamentary Representation", Vol. 1, no. 4, Summer 1970). In their discussion of the maximin criterion (Nash equilibrium strategy), the editors have not accurately described the contribution to game theory by the mathematician John F. Nash. They write, "As game theory had not been invented and Nash not born, it was not surprising that Carroll's pamphlet (*The Principles of Parliamentary Representation*) had not been understood." Nash did not define the concept of an equilibrium point – that had been done early in the nineteenth century by A.A.Cournot (*Researches into the Mathematical Principles of the Theory of Wealth*, 2nd ed., translated from the original French edition (1838) by N.T.Bacon, New York: Kelley 1971 {1st ed. Macmillan 1929}.) What Nash achieved was the proof that equilibrium points actually exist in a wide variety of non-cooperative games. ("Non-Cooperative Games", *Annals of Mathematics* {2} 54 {1951})

There is a number of typographical errors, none important, the most egregious being the duplicated section on pp. 72-3. However, Kluwer, a well-respected publisher of academic books, could have expended greater effort in producing the index which lacks sufficient depth and omits pages that ought to be listed under existing headings.

This book will be appreciated by the informed reader as an addition to the opera of both Black and Carroll, and by the specialist in voting theory interested in aspects of its history. But it cannot be considered a completely reliable addition to our understanding of the intellectual and psychological dimensions of Lewis Carroll.

Alice at Fry's

by Hilda Bohem

Prompted by chagrin at not having visited Alice, even though I live 400 miles closer to Fry's Electronics than our editor, I hastened to Woodland Hills – at a pace befitting my years – to make sure his reported wonders of Fry's Wonderland weren't an exaggeration.

I had been reluctant to go because I was afraid they might have Disneyed it up; but, no, they've been faithful to Tenniel. As Mark told you, Fry's Woodland Hills is a hundred-thousand square foot electronics emporium designed around a Wonderland theme. Still, he didn't begin to convey – and I can't either – the almost breath-stopping excitement of it all. Enumerating the giant figures certainly doesn't do it justice. Each aisle produces such a delicious surprise that you can scarcely look at the merchandise. You turn a corner and – “Oh, there's the Red Queen!” Or the White Knight, or just about anyone you can think of. Have they forgotten anyone? You need only to explore a little further and you're sure to find him. As is fitting, an enormous Alice greets you at the entrance. Beside her is an equally enormous book opened to a page of Wonderland complete with annotations by Martin Gardner. Appearing throughout the store, such books are suspended from the ceiling at an angle that makes them easily readable, and each has text chosen to amplify, explain, or embellish nearby figures.

It is essential to share the thrill of discovery with someone, someone who can help you marvel and wonder and enjoy. I went with Stan Kurman, a true Carroll devotee, who used to have (until he sold it) an extraordinary Carroll collection. He was the perfect companion to share such an adventure, positively exploding with appreciation and delight at the inventive use of the Alice theme. When I had seen the obvious, Stan saw an additional nuance, as, for instance, in the chandeliers. I was so busy admiring their delightful oyster and hookah and tea-set embellishments, I missed seeing the chess pawns shading the light bulbs. And the playing cards! I was so involved with what was under my nose (well, not really under, you know) that I never lifted my eyes ceilingward – the ceiling is miles above eye-level – to see the great pack of cards scattered in wildly undulating flight.

We both felt frustrated by the absence of an informative brochure with pictures and some history, if not about Alice, at least about this incredible exhibition and about whom to credit for such an extravagance of taste and imagination. Finally, we found the store manager and he was able to answer a few of our questions, like why Alice, why not Mr. Toad or Pooh and Piglet; and he told us that Alice had a very personal meaning for the Fry brothers. Not only is their mother's name Alice, she was devoted to the Alice books and read them to her children as they were growing up. When they built their store here in Woodland Hills and wanted to dedicate it to their mother, they could think of no better tribute than to decorate it with her favorite book. This information partly satisfied our curiosity but we still didn't know

who deserved credit for the cleverness and excellence of the theme's execution. The trouble is, no one thinks of this store as a work of art or an exhibition. It's just one more of the many Fry enterprises, each with its own unique decorations. None of the others has a children's theme, and yet the only indication that somebody realizes how special it is is that picture taking is not allowed.

Frustrated or not, we left with the intention of returning the very next time either of us had a youngster in tow – perhaps even sooner than that. And just so it shouldn't be a total loss, should you go and not agree with me, you can at least buy, at discount prices, the latest in electronic equipment.

[Although Fry's is frightfully possessive about its designer for no apparent reason, Eric Christensen of Christensen Designs in Sausalito, California (as mentioned in KL #50) is responsible for all Fry's productions – whether of outer space, ancient Egypt, or what-have-you – for their themed retail outlets.]

Signs of the times: an elderly Carrollian went into a San Francisco toy and book store looking for Edward Wakeling's *Alice* card game. The young lady sales clerk looked at him in a superior manner and sneered, “We do not carry any Disney items.”! - Sandor Burstein

Answers to limericks on p.3:

1. Lewis Carroll's poetic quadratic equation has the solution $x = -3.5 \pm \sqrt{\frac{445}{3}}i$ or $-3.5 \pm 6.0896085i$, which is complex (containing the square root of -1), somewhat irrelevant, and has nary a 42 in sight (except in the proof). The fun is in the pronunciation, as it is in the other two “limericks”.

2. Integral z squared dz
From 1 to the cube root of 3
Times the cosine
Of 3π over 9
Is the log of the cube root of e

[the equation is mathematically correct, by the way]

3. Eight billion three hundred and sixty-
Five million two hundred and fifty-
Nine thousand four hun-
Dred and seventy one
Point nine eight four five oh two six three

From Our Far-flung

Books

The Natural History of Make-Believe by John Goldthwaite. "A literary history is a chronicle of how books have be-gotten books" and thus the author traces the connections which have in-tertwined in the history of children's lit-erature. Arguing that *Alice* did not spring Athena-like from Carroll's brow on that "golden afternoon" but rather that this tale of its creation was promoted by Carroll himself to disguise the debt he owed to his great rival, Charles Kingsley, the clergyman-author of *The Water Babies*. Oxford University Press, \$30.

Edward Wakeling's *Alice in Wonderland Puzzle Book* (Cove Press, ISBN 1-57281-006-8) contains both Lewis Carroll puzzles and new ones invented by the author. The Alice in Wonderland House of Cards Deck has Tenniel designs and some additional ones by Brian Partridge (0-88079-702-9). They are packaged as a "Deck and Book Set" and are avail-able from U.S.Games Systems at 179 Ludlow Street, Stamford CT 06902. 203.353.8400 or 800.544.2637. Also from Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (below).

The End of Alice by A.M.Homes. Ac-cording to reviews, this "reptilian" bit of pornography about an aging sex of-fender in prison and his correspondents slogs through a thoroughly disgusting sexual obsession while liberally quot-ing from the *Alice* books. Scribner, 1996

Alice in Bed, a play by Susan Sontag, "a free dramatic fantasy on the life of Alice James, the brilliant sister of Will-iam and Henry" wherein she "merges imaginatively with the other great Alice of her period [*Miss Liddell*]... is a play about the anguish and grief and rage of women." Farrar, Straus, Giroux, \$25. 0-374-10273-2.

The Jade Cabinet by Rikki Ducornet. "Made speechless by her eccentric fa-ther, the beautiful Etheria is traded for a piece of precious jade. Memory, her sis-ter, tells her story, that of a childhood enlivened by Lewis Carroll and an oran-



gutan named Dr. Johnson... Curiouser and curiouser. Dalkey Archive Press, \$20.1-56478-021-X.

The New Bedside, Bathtub & Armchair Companion to Agatha Christie con-tains "A Macabre Tea Party" satire with sleuths Poirot and Marple. Ungar Pub-lishing, 1993. 0-8044-5803-0, 0-8044-6725-0 (pbk).

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, with Paintings by Angel Dominguez was re-cently published by Artisan (Workman Publishing). The 75 watercolors by the Spanish master are whimsical and sur-real. \$25. 1885183-47-x.

Jeff Noon's *Automated Alice* (illustrated by Harry Trumbore), a line-by-line, inci-dent-by incident parody of *Alice's Ad-ventures* is a futuristic, farcical, postmodernist mystery abounding with puns and puzzles. Crown Publishers, \$21. 0-517-70490-0.

Dreamhouse by Alison Habens. A re-view states: "think Alice in Wonderland presented not by Masterpiece Theatre but through Benny Hill sketches, if Benny Hill were a twentysomething femi-nist woman," an interesting stretch of the imagination. The book traces the engagement of Celia (anagramatic) and her drug-fueled adventures with her neighbor Dodge. An erotic, satiric com-ing-of-age murder mystery. Picador, \$23.

The Wonderland Gambit by Jack Chalker (Del Rey Science Fiction). Book Two, *The March Hare Network*, has been recently published, following Book One, *The Cybernetic Walrus*, and an-ticipating Book Three, *The Hot-Wired Dodo*.

Articles

In a story in *Art News*, March 1996, men-tion is made of Charles Carpenter's in-heritance of Charles Shaw's estate in 1974. Among the items was Alice

Correspondents

Liddell's looking-glass "which she had decorated as a child with Sir John Tenniel's illustrations for the books she inspired."

Discover Magazine, July 1996, has an article "Alice in Yttriumland" which de-scribes a mirror which becomes trans-parent in the presence of hydrogen gas. Under the heading of "Through the Looking Glass" descriptions are given of a reflecting sheet of paladium-coated yttrium a few millionths of an inch thick which becomes transparent in an atmo-sphere of hydrogen. When the gas is pumped out of the jar, the "window" becomes a mirror again. While Philips, the Dutch company, has patented the material, they have not yet developed a practical application for it. Perhaps they should consult an 1872 travel book, well-known to readers of this journal.

Journal of Combinatorial Theory, Se-ries B 67, 34-47 (1996) contains the ar-ticle "Snarks without Small Cycles" by Martin Kochol. Snarks are nontrivial cubic graphs whose edges cannot be colored with three colors. They discuss the "girth conjecture" of these objects which were named by Martin Gardner.

Computers and Cyberspace

Synergy Interactive has an adventure game CD-ROM titled "Alice" derived from the books. \$50 from Educorp Mul-timedia. 800.843.9497.

"Perseus" is an evolving digital library which currently focuses upon the an-cient Greek world. Its website, <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/lexica.html>, con-tains a hyperlinked version of the *Inter-mediate Liddell-Scott Greek Lexicon*, written by Alice's father.

Art and Artifacts

"Sir John Tenniel's wonderful drawings have, on the whole, remained uncoloured in black and white except for sixteen illustrations which were coloured by Harry Theaker in 1911." So begins a press release. Redundancy aside, I do not understand this asser-

tion. There have been dozens, if not hundreds, of colorings of this material, including the well-known Fritz Kredel ones. In any case, Macmillan has embarked on a licencing and merchandizing program using these illustrations and commissioned Francine Black to paint the 72 remaining illustrations in the style of Harry Theaker. Her original watercolorings are now available for sale at £200 framed or £150 mounted. Contact Francine Blake (*nee* Black), P.O.Box 939, Devizes, Wiltshire, England SN10 3TA. 011.441.380.860000.

Fitz & Floyd's "Mad Hatter" teapot is available from Horchow's for around \$60. 800.456.7000.

Cityboy Studios presented a showcase "The Madness of Alice" featuring seven original acrylic-on-canvas interpretations of the characters, and associated limited-edition prints. For information contact Brian Woldman at 300 Brannan Street, Suite 605, San Francisco CA 94117. 415.546.3139.

"The Knave of Heart's Trial" scene from *The Nursery Alice* is now a miniature "Jigsaw-for-the-Bookshelf" puzzle #JM01. The Museums and Galleries Collection at better games and puzzles shops.

The Postal Commemorative Society is offering a "captivating treasury of international Disney stamps matched with authentic Disney art panels," including one of Alice from Grenada. 47 Richards Ave., Norwalk CT 06857. 800.641.8026.

The second in the Hallmark Alice series of "Keepsake Ornament Collector's" thimbles is the Mad Hatter. \$7.

The "Upstart" catalog for teachers features the Alice characters in a bookmark (\$6.25 for a package of 200) and a poster (\$4) with the slogan "So Many Books, So Little Time". 800.448.4887.

The hookah-smoking caterpillar is available on a Zippo lighter. \$25 in chrome or \$30 in solid brass. 888.564.5797 or <http://www.axiscom.com/cloud/zippo6.html>.

Bizarrely humorous renderings of the characters on T-shirts can be found at <http://www.over-the-edge.com/alice/test.htm> These shirts can be ordered via

the web or by calling 888.828.4321. They said they would give LCSNA members a 10% discount. Also available from What on Earth, 800.945.2552.

The McDonald's chain offers a Disney Alice doll with a Cheshire Cat stand (in purple plastic) with its Happy Meal #7 as part of a cross-promotion for the Disney videotape.

Hand-blown glass Alice Xmas ornaments from the Smithsonian catalog. \$27 apiece or \$125 for the set. 800.322.0344.

A "pillowy-soft" 18" Alice doll from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston \$28. 800.225.5592.

Die-cut note cards that become stand-up figures, colored from the Tenniel drawings. Twelve cards (four characters). \$13 from the Metropolitan Museum of Art catalog. 800.468.7386.

Rex Games has repackaged its WordTrek® (Carroll's Doublets) game with the Alice characters on the box. \$10 for LCSNA members. 800.542.6375.

Christopher Radko: the First Decade 1986-1995 is a book that tells of how he set out to recapture the art form of creating European glass-blown Christmas Ornaments. His first Alice ornaments were a set of three called "Dream Alice", produced in 1987 and consisting of simple balls with primitive drawings of the Duchess with pig baby, Alice, and the Cheshire Cat. I would have to say they were pretty awful. He didn't do another until 1994 when he did the "Queen's Hare" (White Rabbit as Herald) which was a shaped ornament and the one I liked best. (Still available for \$28.) Recently he has done several ornaments of blown glass in the Italian style. In 1985 he did "Into Mischief", a Disneyesque Cheshire Cat. This year he added an Alice, White Rabbit, and Painter Cards. They run about \$45 each. A limited edition Tweedle Dee/Tweedle Dum is available from one store only, the Glass Pheasant in San Francisco, which can be ordered over the toll free number 800.255.7179. This is also a shaped ornament with both Tweedles connected along one side like Siamese twins. Actually this one is not bad either. - Joel

Audio and Video

A four CD album entitled "Enclosure Two: Historic Speech-Music Recordings from the Harry Partch Archives" (Innova 401) featuring the work of the eccentric visionary Harry Partch includes a setting of *Jabberwocky*. American Composers Forum, 325 Minnesota St. #E-145, St.Paul MN 55101/612.228.1407.

The Princess Collection videos at the Disney stores contain a story about Belle, and involves some mischief wrought by two bookworms named Lewis and Carroll.

Places and Events

The Groton Bulletin, Vol.14 #2, February 1996 (Groton School, Groton MA) was primarily about the students' January production of AIW. Mentioned in the cast was one student who played "The Rock" in the Mock Turtle scene and an eight-year old who was the "Squash who turned into a door".

A big-budget special effects extravaganza of *Alice Through the Looking Glass* played at the Avon Theatre in Stratford through November 2nd. No, not *that* one. The Stratford in Ontario, Canada.

Eve Le Galleine's stage adaptation will be presented in the Westhoff Theatre of Illinois State Universtiy in Normal, IL Nov 22 - Dec 7.

An adaptation by the Omaha Theatre Company will be presented at the Paramount Theater in Austin TX February 9-10, 1997.

The National Theatre of the Deaf's touring production of "Curiouser & Curiouser" plays around the country through March. For tour dates call 860.526.4971 or see our web site.

Alice in Opera Land will be presented by Donald Pippin's Pocket Opera in Walnut Creek CA on December 14th and in San Francisco on December 22nd. Alice learns about the world of opera, sung in English, through the music of Offenbach, Verdi, Rossini, Mozart and others. For children or adults. Call 510.943.7469 (Walnut Creek tickets) or 415.575.1102 for San Francisco tickets and information.

What am I to do?" exclaimed Alice, looking about in great perplexity, as first one round head, and then the other, rolled down from her shoulder, and lay like a heavy lump in her lap. "I don't think it ever happened before, that any one had to take care of two Queens asleep at once! No, not in all the History of England — it couldn't, you know, because there never was more than one Queen at a time. Do wake up, you heavy things!" she went on in an impatient tone; but there was no answer but a gentle snoring.



This is the fourth in a series of special illustrations for the *Knight Letter* by the versatile Leslie Allen.

For help in preparing this issue thanks are due to: Earl Abbe, Leslie Allen, Hilda Bohem, Sandor Burstein, Morton Cohen, Johanna Hurwitz, August Imholtz, Vito Lanza, Lucille Posner, Stephanie Stoffel, and Jan Susina.

Knight Letter is the official newsletter of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America. It is published several times a year and is distributed free to all members. Subscriptions, business correspondence, and inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, 18 Fitzharding Place, Owing Mills MD 21117. Annual membership dues are U.S. \$20 (regular) and \$50 (sustaining). Submissions and editorial correspondence should be sent to the Editor, Box 2006, Mill Valley CA 94942.

President: Joel Birenbaum, joel.birenbaum@lucent.com Secretary: Ellie Luchinsky, eluchin@epfl1.epflbalto.org

Editor: Mark Burstein, wrabbit@worldpassage.net

Lewis Carroll Society of North America Home Page: <http://www.students.uiuc.edu/~jbirenba/lcsnaph.html>

The Lewis Carroll Home Page: <http://www.students.uiuc.edu/~jbirenba/carroll.html>