

Number 7

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☐ Forthcoming Book Merits NY Times Page One Story

The Society's forthcoming book concerning the suppressed chapter from *Through The Looking Glass* received page one treatment in the Sunday, May 29th issue of the New York Times. Illustrated with photos of Lewis Carroll, John Tenniel and a portion of the galley proof that will appear in the book, the article gave an accurate account of the surfacing of the proofs at auction, their purchase and the Society's involvement in having the "lost" chapter being made available at last. A shortened version of the article appeared the following day in the Washington Post, followed by an illustrated article in the June 6th issue of Time magazine.

Members of the Society were besieged by phone calls and messages, indicating that the small projected press run will be rapidly exhausted. Due to be published in August, the book will be printed in two versions: in wrappers, free to Society members, and in boards, at \$10.00 per copy, for general distribution. Members who wish to purchase the latter version are urged to send a check for the number of copies wanted to Maxine Schaefer, 617 Rockford Road, Silver Spring, Md. 20902. We suggest this be done quickly to insure receiving copies before the supply is exhausted.

☐ Five More Unresolved Puzzles From Carroll's Letters

Allow me to thank those readers of *Knight Letter* who sent in answers to the unsolved quotations that appear in Dodgson's letters. May I now appeal to your readers to help me solve the five remaining unsolved puzzles from Dodgson's letters. Again I shall acknowledge in print the help of the first person to offer a reasonable solution for each puzzle. Please send replies to Morton N. Cohen, 72 Barrow St., Apt. 3-N, New York, N.Y. 10014.

1. [? Summer 1870] to the Watson girls:

Tell me truly, Maidens three, Where can all these wonders be? Where the tooth of lion, eye of ox, And foot of cat and tail of fox, With ear of mouse and tongue of hound And beard of goat, together bound With hair of Maiden, strew the ground.

- S.H. Williams in *Some Rare Carrolliana* (p. 8) suggests that the ingredients of this witch's brew are 'literal rendering[s] of the fanciful names of some old-fashioned flowers and grasses, e.g., dandelion, oxeyedaisy, etc.; and doubtless. . .[Dodgson] refers to some sunny glade or garden with which the children were familiar." But I suspect there is a riddle hidden in the verse. Can anyone spy it?
- 2. January 28, 1874 to George du Maurier: "I repent me that I have left Beatrix so long without the answer to the 'robbers and gentlemen.'" Can anyone identify this puzzle?

- 3. December 6, 1881 to Frances Hardman: "Your description of the puzzle is quite clear, and needs no addition, except the statement that the walls dividing the field among the 3 men must be so built that each can get to his own bridge and to no other." Can anyone identify with some certainty which bridge puzzle Dodgson alludes to here?
- 4. September 1, 1888 to Ellen Knight: "I'm rather puzzled which book to send Sydney. He looks so young for *Through the Looking Glass*. However, he found out one puzzle (I forget which it was now: I think the '4 poor men') that I don't remember any one of his age ever guessing before. . . ." Can anyone identify the "4 poor men" puzzle with any certainty?
- 5. December 29, 1892 to Olive, Ruth and Violet Butler: "I send you (over leaf) a specimen of a sort of a kind of a species of Charade:

VIOLET VIOLET VIOLET VIOLET VIOLET My First is a berry:
My second is sorrow:
My third from the cherry
Its sweetness doth borrow:
My whole is too merry
To care for the morrow!"

To find the eldest of the pets, Go search among the violets!

Reading down from the top letter O, we get the eldest, Olive. His First is Olive, his Second is Ruth, his Third is Violet, but what is his Whole?

☐ Alice "Most Quoted" In Media

An article, *Children's Literature and Mass Media*," by A.P. Nilsen, in the March 1977 issue of the School Library Journal, pointed out that the books most often referred to in mass media are the two Alice books.

"Over 20 advertisements, articles, or jokes were collected. Among the more interesting were comparisons between Wonderland and Watergate. One parody entitled, 'Malice in Wonderland,' took 14 quotes from key Watergate figures and compared them to statements in *Alice*. For example, Ron Ziegler was shown as Humpty Dumpty. Ziegler's quote was 'All previous statements on Watergate are 'inoperable,' and Humpty Dumpty's quote was, 'When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean — neither more nor less.'

"Alice comparisons were also made to the Patty Hearst case. A 1975 Marlette cartoon in the Charlotte Observer showed the Press, the SLA, and FBI all at the Mad Hatter's tea party zeroing in on Alice and saying, 'Okay, Patty, start from the beginning when you slipped and fell into the rabbit hole. . .' Rolling Stone had a several page feature 'Beyond the Looking Glass,' April 8, 1976, p. 44-51, comparing the Patty Hearst trial with the Lewis Carroll trial in which the Queen says such things as 'Sentence first — verdict afterwards!', and Alice remembers, 'It was much pleasanter at home when one wasn't always growing larger and smaller and being ordered about by mice and rabbits.'

"Less complicated references include an inflatable hair dryer by Gillette named the Max Hatter, an article in a women's magazine on washing machines entitled 'Alice in Launderland,' a news magazine article about Alice M. Rivlin's role as Congressional Budget Economist with the title, 'Alice's Adventures in Budgetland,' and several pictures of the White Rabbit with his watch."

☐ Alice In Austin

Zachary Scott Theatre (Austin Community Theatre), a non-profit community theatre, has received grants from The Texas Commission for Arts and Humanities and The National Endowment for the Arts, to produce Alice in Wonderland. The production has been done through the group's Fun Theatre, a theatre for young people under the age of 19. Directed by Ms. Margaret Becker, it features a combination of prerecorded video tapes projected onto a screen at the back of the stage, live video projection, and traditional live action on the stage. The script has been adapted by Gordon Thomas and Margaret Becker, and is accompanied by a musical score by Robert "Dude" Skiles. Auditions were held in March, and the cast stars Miss Karen Bollinger as Alice. Set design is by Mike Sullivan, costumes by Ann Lind and Kathy Gieswein. The show opened in mid June and runs for three consecutive weekends.







LEWIS CARROLL -- The Wasp in a Wig: A "suppressed" episode of Through the Looking-Glass and what Alice found there. With a preface, introduction and notes by Martin Gardner.

This first publication of the "suppressed" wasp-in-a-wig episode of Through the Looking-Glass is an event of major significance in the literary world. It was not known until recently that Alice's encounter with an aged, bad-tempered wasp in a yellow wig had been preserved. In 1974 galley slips of the wasp-in-a-wig episode were sold at auction to an American book collector. He has granted the Lewis Carroll Society of North America permission to publish the episode, which is rich in Carrollian humor, nonsense, word play, and contains a five-stanza poem.

The Society has published a deluxe edition limited to 750 numbered copies, and a paperback edition. The editions have been designed by Dennis Grastorf and printed by the Angelica Press. The text type is 11 pt. Mono No. 8 with Caslon Italic for the display. The books have been printed letterpress on Mohawk Superfine. Both editions contain fold-out facsimile reproductions of the suppressed galley slips with Carroll's autograph revisions. The limited edition is case bound, printed in two colors and contains French marbled endpapers.

The limited edition is available at a price of \$10.00 on a first-come-first-serve basis with priority given to members of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America whose prepaid orders are received before July 15, 1977. Members of the Society will receive a free copy of the paperback edition and can purchase additional copies of the paperback edition at \$5.50. The Society reserves the right to limit the number of copies sold to individuals and organizations. Books will be shipped beginning in late August.

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http://www.archive.org/details/knightletterno700lewi

☐ Society Meets, Elects New Officers

The meeting of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America was held on May 7, 1977 at the Grolier Club, New York City.

The following slate of officers was approved for the coming year: President — Peter Heath; Vice President — David Schaefer; Secretary — Maxine Schaefer; Treasurer → Ray Wapner. Outgoing President Stan Marx, was given a rousing vote of thanks for his excellent job in organizing and carrying the Society forward.

Ed Guiliano reported that the lost episode from *Looking Glass*, "The Wasp in a Wig," will be published in August by the Society in a limited edition of 750 hard cover copies, and 250 in paperback. Martin Gardner was extended a vote of thanks for his efforts in obtaining the lost episode and for his comprehensive preface and annotations.

Morton Cohen announced his book "Letters of Lewis Carroll" will be published in 1978 and be available to Society members at a reduced cost.

Peter Heath presented an extremely fascinating talk on symbolic logic. He was followed by composer David del Tredici, who explained his musical interpretations of the various chapters and verses of "Alice." He played a tape of his buoyant "Final Alice" which had been performed by the Chicago and New York Philharmonic Orchestras.

The next meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday, November 5th, at the University of Maryland. *Mark your calendar now.* Further details will be forthcoming.



Front Row, L. to R. — Maxine Schaefer, Stan Marx, Morton Cohen. Back Row, L. to R. — Ed Guiliano, Martin Gardner, David Schaefer, Peter Heath.

David del Tredici



□ Del Tredici's Final Alice Performed By Philharmonic

Following its premier performance by the Chicago Symphony last year, David del Tredici's Final Alice was given its New York debut at Lincoln Center on Thursday, March 24th. Played by the New York Philharmonic with Barbara Hendricks as soprano soloist, it was "a tour de force and a triumph." Final Alice is the seventh and latest in a series of musical compositions based on Alice, which del Tredici said was initially inspired by reading Martin Gardner's Annotated Alice.

☐ Silver Spring Meeting

On April 23, eight members of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America who live in the Silver Spring, Maryland vicinity gathered at the home of the Schaefers for an evening of Lewis Carroll discussions.

The evening started with a few words from Mrs. Alice Hargreaves (via a film), followed by a discussion on Mrs. Hargreaves' 1932 trip to the United States and the journey of the "Underground" manuscript. Following this, Dr. Charles Farwell gave a paper about the illnesses of Lewis Carroll. His paper drew heavily on the works of Dr. Selwyn Goodacre and Dr. Phyllis Greenacre. August Immholtz then presented his findings concerning investigations of the Latin and classical Greek translations of the Jabberwocky poem.

The program concluded with a film of Joan Bennett dancing in an "Alice in Wonderland" sequence made in 1930, and the evening ended with lively discussion and feasting on tarts.

☐ Of Further Interest

Producers Sid and Marty Krofft have announced that they plan a two-hour black version of Alice, to be telecast by ABC next December. . .The Newberry Library of Chicago lists three Alice posters for sale at \$8.00 for the set, plus 50¢ postage. . . Miller-Brody Productions, 342 Madison Avenue, NY 10017, is an audio-visual distributor whose catalog lists two filmstrips of Alice. One is the regular version, the other is called Alice in Consumerland. . .Xerox University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan, lists three currentlyavailable dissertations which are available: The Meaning of Nonsense, by Deborah Bacon; Enduring Alice by Jane Page; and Alice in Two Wonderlands by Susan Mango. Prices vary. . . If you like herbal tea and want to help a good cause, send for Mad Hatter's Party Tea, a product of Fox Mountain Farms, Box 408, Taos, New Mexico 87571. Price is \$1.50 per packet, and all profits go to a children's research hospital in Memphis, Tenn. . . . Jabberwocky, "a monster film with heart" (to quote the NY Times), opened on April 15. The Times' Vincent Canby called it "a wickedly literate spoof. . .a monster film with heart.". . .The Franklin Mint is issuing twelve crystal paperweights, each depicting a character from Alice. If you can't get the set, perhaps you can get the brochure which is beautifully designed and printed. . . An interesting Alice poster, designed by artist Charles Santore, was produced for Roerig-Pfizer, New York. The original painting; showing Alice falling down the rabbit hole, was part of the History of Illustration exhibit recently held at the New York Historical Society.

The Knight Letter is the official newsletter of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America and is distributed free to all members. The newsletter is edited by Stan Marx in cooperation with the Society's Editorial Board. Subscriptions, business correspondence, and inquiries about membership in the Society (\$10 annually) should be addressed to: The Secretary, The Lewis Carroll Society of North America, 617 Rockford Road, Silver Spring, Md. 20902. Submissions and editorial correspondence should be addressed to: The Editor, The Knight Letter, 15 Sinclair Martin Drive, Roslyn, N.Y. 11576.