



# Knights Letter

THE LEWIS CARROLL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

NUMBER 44 WINTER 1993

## Society Publishes Carroll's Oxford Pamphlets

### Book Begins Six-Volume Series

When looking through Lewis Carroll's bibliography have you ever wondered who made up the Hebdomadal Council, what Carroll meant by "The Three T's," or how he went about



Edward Wakeling

and recently published by the LCSNA in association with the University Press of Virginia.

Wakeling searched high and low to find 66 items that fit the parameters of this volume. Most have never been reprinted,

the daily business of running the Senior Common Room? These and other fascinating facts about Carroll's involvement in the affairs of his college and university are revealed in *The Oxford Pamphlets of Lewis Carroll*, edited by Edward Wakeling

and many were previously unknown to bibliographers. An introduction to each pamphlet explains the intricacies of Victorian Oxford University affairs to modern readers. Then follows the complete text of the pamphlet with explanatory footnotes. The volume is illustrated and fully indexed.

Those who might think that this volume is only for the serious scholar will be pleased to know that Carroll's sense of humor is quite evident in these sqibs, even on such dry topics as professors' salaries and the installation of heating vents. This is a serious work, and an important contribution to Carroll scholarship, but it is also an enjoyable read.

*The Oxford Pamphlets* is the first volume in a projected six-volume series of *The Complete Pamphlets of Lewis Carroll* which the Society hopes to publish over the next several years. The series was conceived by LCSNA founder Stan Marx, who is the series editor. Former LCSNA President Edward Guiliano has also served as series editor on the first two volumes. The *Pamphlets* series is the most ambitious publishing project ever for the LCSNA and one which will leave a lasting contribution to Carroll scholarship, making the texts of hundreds of rare, and rarely reprinted, items generally available.

Carroll was a prolific writer, but only through his pamphlets do we see the full range of topics which he addressed. Upcoming volumes in the series include *The Mathematical Pamphlets*,

currently in production and edited by LCSNA Treasurer, Fran Abeles; and a book of games and puzzles currently being edited by *Alice* annotator Martin Gardner.

The publication of Lewis Carroll's pamphlets presents an opportunity for the LCSNA to create a lasting tribute to the work of Charles Dodgson, and many people have already contributed hundreds of hours of time and large sums of money towards the success of this project. We urge you, too, to support this effort by ordering your own copy of *The Oxford Pamphlets*, which is available to members for a 20% discount (order form on page 4). Not only will your order help ensure the publication of future volumes, you'll be getting a great book as well!

## Spring Meeting Program Set

The Spring Meeting of the LCSNA will be held in the Trustees' Room of the main branch of the New York Public Library on Saturday May 15. The Library is home to the Berg Collection which includes many Carrollian treasures such as Alice Liddell's own copy of AAIW presented to her by Carroll and a hand-painted print of the photograph of Alice as a beggar maid.

The program, arranged as always by our own Janet Jurist, will include a presentation by composer Susan Botti, whose *Alice*-based opera has just premiered (see page 5). Jeff Spear, professor of English at New York University will speak on Carroll's photography and storytelling.

LCSNA founder Stan Marx will give a brief presentation on the publication of Lewis Carroll's pamphlets, and a report on the recent *Alice* course at the Smithsonian will also be given.



## Editorial— Long & Winding Road

When I attended my first LCSNA meeting in 1985, my friend Stan Marx announced the launching of a new project. The Society would publish the complete pamphlets of Lewis Carroll in six volumes. Even as a neophyte Carrollian I recognized that this was a task of titanic proportions, but I think no one at that meeting realized just how much time, effort, and money would be required to bring Stan's idea to fruition.

In the eight years since that meeting, the pamphlets project has had its ups and downs. The publication of the first volume has been delayed by a wide variety of factors from the death of editors to the malfunctioning of typesetting equipment. During those eight years many members of the Society have given generously of their time and expertise. Stan Marx not only conceived the project, but has also acted as series editor and has assiduously tracked down copies of rare pamphlets. Edward Wakeling, Fran Abeles, and Martin Gardner have each edited a volume of the series. Edward Guiliano, assistant series editor of the first two volumes, has spent hundreds of hours negotiating with editors, book designers, the University Press of Virginia, and others, and certainly without his expertise this project would still be merely an idea instead of a reality. Without the publications trust generously established for the Society by Professor Morton Cohen, the funding of this project would have been impossible.

There are many others who have given time, advice, and copies of pamphlets in their own collections to advance this project. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those people, and to thank the members of the Society for their patience in awaiting this first volume. The philosophy of those hard at work on this series is that, if it cannot be done thoroughly and professionally, it shouldn't be done at all, and I believe that you will find the finished product well worth the wait.

With the first volume now published, we have established a pipeline through which all subsequent volumes can travel, and the waiting period between volumes is likely to be no more than 1-2 years. Stan originally envisioned the Pamphlets as a six-year project, and while it may take closer to 15-20 years from beginning to end, I believe that this lasting tribute to the eclecticism of Charles Dodgson's mind will be an accomplishment of which all in the Society can be proud.

I urge you all to order a copy of *The Oxford Pamphlets*, to give generously to the publications fund, and to take satisfaction in your contribution to this scholarly project.

# Thalia Theater Presents *Alice*

The long promised production of *Alice*, with direction and design by Robert Wilson, opened on December 1 at the Thalia Theater in Hamburg, Germany. Generous German members of the LCSNA sent me scores of reviews of the production, but as my German reading ability is non-existent I can only report that the general critical consensus was not good. From the point of view of the Carrollian, however, the production must be praised if for no other reason than the sumptuous program which was produced.

The sixty-four page booklet includes (in German) excerpts from Carroll's diary and magazine articles about the telling of the *Alice* story; essays by W. H. Auden, Virginia Woolf, Max Beerbohm, and G. K. Chesterton; five different German translations of "Jabberwocky" along with translations of that poem into Latin, Italian, French, Polish, Russian, and Japanese; excerpts from *Symbolic Logic* and *Doublets*; pictures of artwork based on *Alice*; and the complete text of the production (text by Paul Schmidt, music and lyrics by Tom Waits and Kathleen Brennan).

From this last, one can get some sense of the production, much of which is devoted to the songs. Many of these seem only peripherally related to Carroll's characters, and one gets the feeling that the idea here might be to probe aspects of these characters that are not revealed in Carroll's story. Take for instance the Caterpillar's song, "Tabletop Joe":

Well, my Mama didn't want me  
On the day I was born  
Born without a body  
I got nothin' but scorn

But I always loved music  
All I had was my hands  
And I dreamed I'd be famous  
And I'd work the Sands

I had trouble with the pedals  
But I had a strong left hand  
And I could play Stravinsky  
On a baby grand

I said I'm gonna join the circus  
'cause that's where I belong  
And I went to Coney Island  
Singing this song

And they gave me top billing  
In the Dreamland show  
I had my own orchestra  
Starring Tabletop Joe

And so it continues. Other songs are full of surrealism as well as poetry, but

many are just as unrelated to Carroll's original text as this one. Still, the stage directions are enough to intrigue this writer. I don't know about you, but I would be delighted to see "eight Victorian

vicars dance on stage, singing 'Jabberwocky'."

The stage directions in this piece can be as poetic as the song lyrics—the Footmen, for instance, after continually repeating their exchange about the croquet invitation are instructed to "continue this *ad libitum*, tearing both the invitation and the dialogue into ever smaller pieces."

The script makes for an interesting read, but it certainly does not seem to hang together as a dramatic piece. The songs wander in a wide variety of directions, from one about a fallen Altar Boy who is "majoring in crimes that are unspeakable" and "leafing through dirty magazines," to several which don't seem to be about anything. Granted, songs about nothing may be in the Carrollian tradition, but the difference between "Jabberwocky" and many of the other songs in this piece is the difference between a work which is nonsense and a work which simply does not make sense—unless I'm missing something.



Thalia Theater

# OF BOOKS & THINGS



## New & Noteworthy

A new edition of *Alice* retold by David Blair and illustrated by John Bradley has been published by Courage Books, an imprint of Running Press of Philadelphia, PA. Joel Birenbaum writes: "These illustrations match my preconceived notion of what Ralph Steadman's *Alice* would have looked like. I'm not saying that these illustrations are better than Steadman's, just that they are more Steadmanesque. I think this book is a must have."

Camille Paglia's controversial book *Sexual Personae: Art and Decadence from Nefertiti to Emily Dickinson* says of Lewis Carroll that he is "the true poet of childhood, with its mystery, cruelty, and blatant aggressions."

A poetry anthology titled *The Top 500 Poems*, recently published by Columbia University Press ranks poems according to their frequency of appearance in anthologies. "Jabberwocky" is ranked 18th, and several other Carroll poems are included in the volume.

*English Music*, by Peter Ackroyd (A. A. Knopf, \$23.00) is about a young boy, Timothy, and his father. The boy has psychic gifts and in his daydreams he is visited by some of his favorite book characters, including Alice and the Mad Hatter.

## Alice Exhibit Planned in Japan

APT International, a Japanese publishing group which has previously hosted exhibits of children's books from the Bodleian, the Osborne Collection, and the Lilly Library, is planning a major *Alice in Wonderland* exhibition for 1993. The exhibition will include over 300 items from

the collection of LCSNA members Charlie and Stephanie Lovett representing the vast range of *Alice* publications. A copy of the 1865 *Alice* will be on display as well as published editions of the book in 52 foreign languages, illustrated editions, movie memorabilia, novelty editions, ephemera from dramatic productions and advertising, toys, games, puzzles, figurines, posters, and other materials. Also displayed will be an original watercolor by Alice Liddell, and a watercolor of the three Liddell sisters by Lewis Carroll. The exhibit opens at the Takashimaya Exhibition Hall in Tokyo on July 15, 1993, and then travels to Kyoto, Yokohama, and other cities. A color illustrated catalogue will be published and should be available about the time the exhibit opens (watch future KLs for more ordering information).

## Boojum! Now on CD

*Boojum!*, a musical with book and lyrics by Peter Wesley-Smith and music by Martin Wesley-Smith, both of Australia, is now available on a double CD set which includes a 36-page booklet containing the libretto. The disc is available from Sounds Australian (Suite 201, Argyle Centre, 18 Argyle Centre, [PO Box N690 Grosvenor Place] The Rocks, Sydney, NSW 2000 Australia) for AUS \$41.95, including air shipping. *Boojum!* premiered as a musical comedy in 1986 and was later rewritten as a "no-nonsense choral nonsense piece." The *Sydney Morning Herald* called the new recording "An obsessive and dazzling piece of work . . . one of the truest, most moving works of fantasy yet produced by an Australian composer."

## Uncle Sam Wants You !

With the long awaited first volume in the Society's ambitious Pamphlets series finally published and with five more volumes in the pipeline, the LCSNA has more reason than ever to be concerned that sufficient funds are available to meet the needs of our publishing programs. Several members have kindly donated funds to help off-set the cost of producing these volumes and future publications, and we urge you to do the same.

The Lewis Carroll Society of North America is a chari-

(TO GIVE TO THE LCSNA)

table organization, and any donations you make are fully tax deductible. Some members have also included the LCSNA in their estate planning, an ideal way to ensure that the work of the Society will continue into the next generation.

The LCSNA has always struggled to maintain a high standard in both programs and publications, and with your help we will strive towards the type of high professionalism of which Charles Dodgson himself would approve.

# Puzzlers Pay Tribute to Martin Gardner

by Fran Abeles & Stan Isaacs

"Puzzles: Beyond the Borders of the Mind," an exhibit of the largest collection of puzzles ever assembled in the United States, opened at the Atlanta International Museum of Art and Design on January 14 and will run through April 9. Many of the world's leading puzzlemakers, mathematicians, and magicians were on hand for the opening receptions and for Friday and Saturday dinners honoring LCSNA member Martin Gardner. Gardner is the author of *The Annotated Alice*, *More Annotated Alice*, and *The Annotated Snark*, and his popular writings about puzzles and mathematical topics are known around the world and influenced many of those in attendance at the exhibit. Gardner's "Lewis Carroll's Chess Wordgame" (see KL 39, order from Kadon Enterprises, 1227 Lorene Dr., Pasadena, MD, 21122) was on display, and a representative of Rex Games (2001 California St., San Francisco, CA, 94109) previewed a Carroll-inspired game called "Work Trek."

Stan Isaacs, an avid collector of puzzles, and Treasurer Fran Abeles represented the LCSNA at this exciting event. Throughout the long weekend, Stan was actively involved with the puzzlemakers and their hundreds of creations—three-dimensional wooden puzzles, wire sculptures that come apart, tangrams, Rubik cubes, mazes, optical illusions, and more. On Saturday afternoon, Fran's report on "Lewis Carroll's Mathematics: Recent Developments and Work in Progress," included mention of the Society's production of *The Pamphlets*

of Lewis Carroll, which will include her own volume on the mathematical pamphlets and Gardner's volume on Carroll's puzzles. Douglas Hofstadter, author of *Gödel, Escher, Bach*, a work featuring much of Carroll's logic, then discussed "Special Points and Lines of a Triangle: A 'Computer's-Eye' View."

The Saturday evening dinner, billed as "A Gathering for Gardner," was highlighted by the presentation of two books to Gardner: one a set of personal letters written by the participants, the other a collection of articles assembled specially for the event. Several of the articles are about Carroll's work, including Solomon Goloumb's "A Powerful Procedure for Proving Practical Propositions," and Donald Knuth's "Biblical Ladders." Dana Richard contributed "A Martin Gardner Bibliography," the most complete listing of the eclectic works of this prolific scholar. Also on the program that evening were speeches by Raymond Smullyan, author of *Alice in Puzzle-Land*, and Nob Yoshigahara, who has been called "The Martin Gardner of Japan."

A national touring version of the puzzles exhibition is in the planning stage and will travel to 20 cities next year—but don't wait! If you are a parent or grandparent of a young child, we urge you to go to Atlanta for a hands-on introduction to new ways of thinking and learning skills vital to problem solving of all sorts in the real world. For more information, contact Susan Durham at (404) 688-2467.

## *The Pamphlets of Lewis Carroll*

### Volume I: The Oxford Pamphlets

EDITED BY EDWARD WAKELING

#### Order Form

Please Send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of *The Oxford Pamphlets* at the special LCSNA discount price of \$58.00 (20% off list) to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping & Handling (\$3.00 for the first book, \$0.75 for each additional book): \_\_\_\_\_

Virginia Residents add 4 1/2% Sales Tax: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: University Press of Virginia, Box 3608 University Sta., Charlottesville, VA, 22903-0608



# Carrollian Notes

Ms. Botti says, "This is not a children's opera *per se*, but rather an exploration of the ageless territory of imagination." Ms. Botti received her Master's in

music composition from Manhattan School of Music and has performed as a singer at major festivals in the United States, Asia, and the United Kingdom. She will speak about her new opera at the Spring meeting of the LCSNA (see page 1).

## Snark Hunters Ride Again

Richard M. Boothe will once again hold a potluck dinner and recitation/reading of *The Hunting of the Snark* on April 1st. The day is Thursday, the time is 7:00 pm, and the venue is the Picnic Shelter in Burton Chace Park, at the end of Mindanao Way in Marina Del Rey, CA. All LCSNA members in or passing through greater Los Angeles are invited to bring a potluck dish (to feed four people only) and join this annual Carrollian event. Mr. Boothe asked us, "Does the *Snark* take place on an island, as many of us presume, or on an uninhabited coastline of a continent? I cannot find the word 'island' or any of its synonyms in the text, nor 'continent' for that matter." Would any readers care to take stab at this one?

## Wonderglass Premieres

Susan Botti's opera *Wonderglass* received its concert premiere on February 21 at Kingswood Auditorium in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. The premiere of this re-interpretation of the Lewis Carroll stories featured members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and animation by Phil Denslow. In the opera, the unforgettable characters of Wonderland appear in a dream-like world which seeks to capture the essence of Carroll's original visions. Noting that the depth and universality of Carroll's language speak not only to children, but to people of all ages,

## Through the Looking-Glass Darkly

Despite the above mentioned title of Andrew Sellon's one-man play based on Lewis Carroll, the content of the show is not all dark. Sellon succeeded wonderfully in showing many sides of Carroll's character at the premiere of his play in Chapel Hill, NC, in December. Sellon relies heavily, but not too heavily, on Carroll's own words. One who was not intimately familiar with Carroll's writings would never notice the seams between what Sellon has written and what he has taken from Carroll. Sellon's enactment of what might have happened had Rev. Dodgson had tea with the Liddells to propose a match with Alice is wonderful—he never says that this is what happened (even his version of Carroll seems to be uncertain as to whether it was real or only a dream), yet one must believe that, if it did happen, it would have been something like what we saw. Sellon's Dodgson spends the play waiting at the end of his life to be escorted to the hereafter, and when his escort turns out to be a young girl neither the audience nor Rev. Dodgson can resist a smile and, perhaps, a tear.

## Call For Papers

The planning committee for the 1994 International Lewis Carroll Conference would like to invite all members of the LCSNA to submit abstracts for papers to be read at the conference. The tentative theme for the conference is "Lewis Carroll & the World," but abstracts of any topic relevant to Carrollian studies will be considered by the committee. Please limit abstracts to two typed pages and include a brief biographical sketch. Abstracts or other queries concerning the conference should be sent to: International Conference, 1092 West 4th Street, Winston-Salem, NC, 27101.

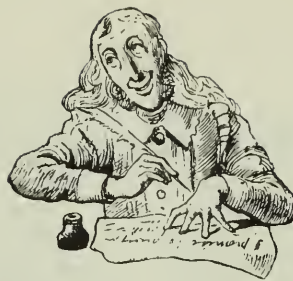
Bibliographer Joel Bir-  
enbaum writes: "Byron  
Sewell's new bibliography

*Much of a Muchness* (see KL 43) has raised almost as many questions as it has answered. Let's start with these: Does anyone have a copy of the Rand McNally *Alice* illustrated by Suzanne Bruce with a code on the last page of other than CS11-50 or CS 4-51? How about a Rand McNally *Alice* illustrated by Janice Holland with a code other than CS 5-51? There appear to be several issues of the Helen Pettes and Julia Greene *Alice* published by Cupples and Leon. I need descriptions of these volumes specifying the characters on the cut-out page (Tea Party, Queen of Hearts, or Dodo), color of the text (black or brown), color of the silhouettes (black, brown, or multi-colored), color of the back board, color of the title on the front cover, and description of the spine and dustwrapper. Also, does anyone have information about the date or country of origin of a set of china figures about 8" tall made by GORT?" Anyone willing to help Joel on his quest should write to him at 2486 Brunswick Circle, Woodridge, IL, 60517.

## BIBLIOGRAPHER'S

C  
O  
R  
N  
E  
R

## From Our Far-flung



## Correspondents

Damon R. Butler has designed and produced a "Lewis Carroll Picture Map" which has been printed in a limited edition in three sets of 42. Each map is personally signed, and copies may be ordered by sending £26.42 (air shipping included) to Mr. Butler at Hillside Cottage, 1 Mount Hill, Halstead, Essex, CO9 1AA, England.

Skiers at the New London, New Hampshire resort of King Ridge are treated to the sight of a giant Mad Hatter skiing down the slopes every Saturday. It seems appropriately Carrollian that this is one of the few mountains where the Lodge is at the top rather than the bottom.

"Sparkling Fruit TeaZer," a mixture of tea and juices in several flavors is distributed in aluminum cans by Knudsen & Sons of Chico, CA. Each flavor is illustrated with a different Wonderland scene on the label.

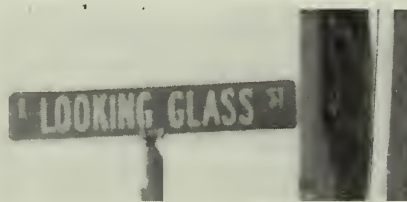
The Music Stand (1 Rockdale Plaza, Lebanon, NH, 03766) offers "Alice's Looking Glass," a framed mirror with Alice and the Cheshire Cat on opposite sides for \$39.95, and an AIW T-shirt or sweatshirt for \$16.95 or \$29.95 respectively.

Grant & Shaw Ltd. (62 West Port, Edinburgh, EH1 2LD, Scotland) recently offered for sale Lewis Carroll's copy of Walter Scott's three volume *Minstrelry of the Scottish Border*. The lengthy catalogue entry details Carroll's parodies of Scott—still one must imagine that Carroll originally bought these books for somewhat less than the current \$4000 price

tag.

The Museum of Modern Art in New York sells a René Magritte Desk Calendar for 1993 for about \$5. The November illustration is Magritte's painting of Alice in Wonderland.

Biologists in Britain are trying to help a struggling Dormouse population by building tree-house shelters for the shy



Street sign spotted by Charles Stats in Summerfield Illinois

UNIVAC (University Vacations) is planning an *Alice in Wonderland* tour of Oxford, England. The tour dates are July 11-16, 1993, and the group will be lead by Mr. Timothy Tubbs. Cost is \$1695 for six nights and seven days. For more information call 1-800-792-0100.

An article on English mazes by Christopher P. Baker appeared in the February 1993 issue of *USAir Magazine*. Baker mentions the *Alice in Wonderland Maze* which opened at Merrittown House in Dorset in May 1992. Wanderers who successfully discover the center of the maze can see the Mad Hatter, the Dodo, and other characters running around a central mound showing the White Rabbit's pocket watch. Baker also states that as a boy Carroll stamped mazes in the snow.

Do you wonder what to do with the duplicates from your Carroll collection or how you can obtain lists of other collectors' excess holdings? Join Joel Birenbaum's Alice Collector's Network to meet other collectors who are interested in buying, selling, and trading *Alice* books and merchandise. Dues are \$2.00 and should be sent to 2486 Brunswick Circle, Woodridge, IL, 60517.

The December 1992/January 1993 issue of *Doll Reader* magazine included an article by Ann Bahan titled "Alice in Wonderland Dolls," which included some history of Alice dolls and numerous illustrations.

The Cottage Shop of Closter, NJ, offers a variety of English enamel pieces, including an Alice picture frame (\$80), Alice cards/box (\$133.50), and an Alice at the Tea Table box (\$143.50). Prices include shipping.

At the opening session of the Smithsonian Institution's Campus on the Mall course titled "All About Alice: The Wonderland of Lewis Carroll" (see KL 43), the coordinator announced that the course enrollment was 42! The class is diverse, enthusiastic, and intelligent, and several members have enquired about joining the LCSNA.

American Greetings offered an *Alice in Wonderland Valentine's Day Card* this year. Included on the back of the card is a brief summary of AAIW and the suggestion that children who would like to know more about Alice find the book at their local library.

For assistance in preparing this issue we would like to thank: Earl Abbe, Fran Abeles, Joel Birenbaum, Richard Boothe, Sandor Burstein, August Imholtz, Stan Isaacs, Janet Jurist, Stephanie Lovett, Stan Marx, Lucille Posner, Rolf Rameder, and David & Maxine Schaefer.

*Knight Letter* is the official newsletter of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America. It is published quarterly and is distributed free to all members. Subscriptions, business correspondence, and inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, LCSNA, 617 Rockford Road, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20902. Annual membership dues are \$20 (regular) & \$50 (sustaining). Submissions and editorial correspondence should be sent to the Editor, Charles C. Lovett, 1092 West Fourth Street, Winston-Salem, N.C., 27101.