



Knigh**t** Letter

THE LEWIS CARROLL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

NUMBER 34 SUMMER 1990



PROFILE: FRAN ABELES

Knowing Fran's interest in Carroll, a colleague and member of the Modern Language Association showed her an item about the work of Ed Guiliano and the Society's publications. The connection made, Fran became a member of the Society in the late '70's.

She writes, "I think my interest in Carroll was predetermined at the outset of my academic career. Not willing to give up two years, I wrote my doctoral dissertation in Germany while my husband, Ernest, was on active military duty there as a physician. Returning to Columbia University, thesis in hand, I still had course work to complete. So, I was a "looking-glass" student.

By the end of 1975 we had three small children and were absorbed with bedtime reading. Who were some of the children's favorite authors? Beatrix Potter and Lewis Carroll."

Fran writes and speaks about Carroll's mathematical side extensively. She has published articles in professional journals on his linear algebra, mathematics of politics, proportional representation, ranking systems, cryptography, logic, and Alice's multiplication. An essay on his mathematical-political papers appeared in *Lewis Carroll: A Celebration*. Speaking engagements this past year have taken her to Quebec, Cambridge, and

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Osborne Collection Plays Host to Society's First Canadian Meeting

When one thinks of Toronto, many things come to mind: the "Needle" dominating the skyline of this great city on Lake Ontario, the Toronto Blue Jays, the distinguished colleges of the University of Toronto, and much more. For the members of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America, however, Toronto has long held two fascinations: the Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books at the Toronto Public Library and the presence of Joseph A. Brabant, one of our members, of course, had visited Toronto on earlier occasions, but on May 12, 1990, more than fifty members and guests gathered at the Osborne on St. George Street after a delightful lunch, once again in the Janet Jurist tradition, at Gaston's restaurant. And here, in brief, is what happened.

Our president, Prof. Edward Guiliano, opened the general meeting by thanking Ms. Margaret Mahoney, Head of the Osborne Collection, for inviting us. After a very brief summary of the society (financial matters, publications, past & future meetings, etc.) Prof. Guiliano turned the floor over to Ms. Mahoney. She discussed the history of the Osborne Collection beginning with the visit of Edgar Osborne, an Englishman, to the



MARGARET MAHONEY



JOSEPH BRABANT

Toronto Public Library many years ago.

He was so impressed by the services the library provided to its patrons that he decided to give the the library a collection of children's books representative of books read by, or to, children in England. The collection numbers among its treasures a Plantin Aesopus. Later additions to the collection brought works of the Brothers Grimm, Colodi, and, of course, Lewis Carroll.

It is a fine and living collection. Ms. Mahoney concluded her remarks by commenting on some of the items displayed in the cases along the walls of the meeting room. She pointed out many interesting facts about the books, games, letters, and woodblocks (the original blocks for the *Sylvie & Bruno* books and for *The Hunting of the Snark*). The first item exhibited, for example, was an 1874 edition of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* inscribed "May, 1876." On the inside front cover one sees the armorial book-plate of the Duchess of York's library. Ms. Mahoney noted that the word "May" refers not to the month but to the nickname of Princess Victoria Mary of Teck, future wife of King George V.

Our next speaker, Mr. Joseph A. Brabant, who contributed several splendid items from

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FALL
MEETING
1990

Featuring Our
Second Auction
Oct. 20
Enoch Pratt Library
Baltimore, Md.
(Details to follow)

Arthur A. Houghton, Jr. 1906–1990

Arthur Houghton, Jr., the first Honorary Member of the LCSN, passed away on April 4th.

It was at Mr. Houghton's estate on Maryland's Eastern Shore that the LCSNA had one of its first and most significant meetings. Mr. Houghton had invited the members to spend the day at his magnificent house and share in the treasures of his collection, which not only included the marvelous Carroll collection now at the Pierpont Morgan Library, but many other breath-taking books and manuscripts from his English literary trove.

And, it was there that the Society learned of the missing "Wasp in a Wig" chapter from *Through the Looking Glass*, which was in the possession of a collector known only to John Fleming, also present that day. After a few false starts, the Society was given permission to publish the missing chapter, and made its first world-wide news.

Mr. Houghton was generous in time and funds, contributing to many worthwhile causes. He helped create Lincoln Center in New York and was president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. His Lewis Carroll collection at the Morgan is a monument to his love for Carroll and the people who also appreciate his works.

CARROLLIAN NOTES

National Geographic, Oct. 1989, page 540: Julia Margaret Cameron's photo of Alice Liddell as Pamona.

At the end of January, Sotheby's in New York sold the Bradley Martin copy of *TTLG* with two original pencil sketches by Tenniel for the hammer price of \$32,000.

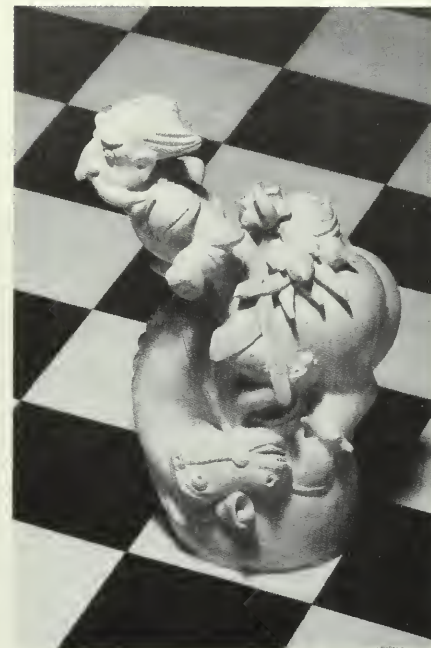
Musician's Committee for Anti-Nuclear Legislation presented a Marathon Musical in Berkeley, CA, on February 18. At 3:30, "Alice, A Cabaret" by Seymour Barab was on schedule: "...verses of Lewis Carroll from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, set as spoken songs in the tradition of European Cabaret. Tom Johnston, Narrator; Nicholas Anderson, Cello; Jeffrey Anderson, Piano."

The College of Notre Dame, Belmont, CA, presented "The Voyeur and His Muse: Lewis Carroll & Alice," a lecture with slides by Professors Shirley and Del Morrison on Feb. 21. "Explore Carroll's personal conflicts and his use of the little girl as a muse for his creativity," said the flyer.

Seattle's municipal subway is scheduled to open next September 15th. Its Westlake station will have a 10 by 35 foot porcelain mural featuring Marilyn Monroe, Liz Taylor, Donald Duck, and Alice.

Beer lovers: Bandersnatch Milk Stout is bottled and sold by the Bandersnatch Brew Pub, 125 E. 5th Street, Tempe, AZ.

—Sandor Burstein



White Knight at the Met

A Wonderland Chess set designed in 1932 was one of the features of an exhibition in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York this spring.

Made of white and tan-tinted pipe clay and painted wood, the pieces were designed and crafted by Sorcha Boru. Each piece is an exact copy of the Tenniel drawings in the *Alice* books, and the set includes Alice, the Red Queen and King, the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter, the White Knight, Father William, Humpty Dumpty, the Dormouse, the Dodo, the Lion, and the Unicorn.

MEETING (continued from page 1)

his private collection to the Osborne exhibit, delivered a most interesting, and perhaps our first, interactive lecture. Its title, "Wouldn't It Be Murder?," comes from Chapter VI, "Pig and Pepper," of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. After Alice catches the child from the fleeing Duchess, she says, "If I don't take this child away with me, they're sure to kill it in a day or two. Wouldn't it be murder to leave it behind?" Would it? Joe Brabant, himself a lawyer by profession, asked us, the audience, to serve as jury and answer that question after he, acting as judge, summed up the case.

If (and there will be a lot of ifs) Alice had left the child behind and if it dies, would Alice be guilty of murder? In order for it to be murder, Alice would have had to have intended to kill the child. If there was an absence of intent, we shall have to consider whether Alice would have been guilty of manslaughter. The key point is that if one accepts the care of someone else's child, then one has a duty to that child and cannot neglect it. Joe illustrated this point by citing an infamous case of neglect (we might say child abuse) decided near Oxford a few years before the creation of *Alice*.

Before reaching our verdict, however, we

were presented by Judge Brabant with two defenses we needed to consider. The first was Alice's age: if she was under seven years of age, she could not be guilty of a crime. This point involved some complicated calculations, natal and otherwise, on the part of our learned judge. The second defense revolves around the question of whether the victim was a human child or a pig—not so simple a question as it might seem. The child does turn into a pig (many, in fact, do), but *when* did the metamorphosis take place? If the victim was still human when Alice obtained him, then she could be guilty; if he has already become a pig, Alice need only fear the RSPCA.

While we considered our verdict (though some called for "sentence first, verdict after"), Judge Brabant reviewed for us some of the more famous quotations from the *Alice* books in the history of English jurisprudence. As could have been anticipated, we found Alice not guilty. A packed jury? Surely—there were 42 of us!

Douglas Chambers, Professor of English at the University of Toronto, concluded our program with a richly illustrated lecture on "Alice and the 'Girl with Lilacs'." The girl in question is the girl in a painting Arthur Hughes, a Pre-Raphaelite, painted for and sold to Lewis Carroll. The painting,

it so happens, is owned by an art museum in Toronto, but is not on permanent display.

Dr. Chambers showed us a great number of illustrations of Hughes' work, focusing on his illustrations of children's literature. He explored the relationship between Hughes, George MacDonald, and Carroll in the artistic world of the Pre-Raphaelites. He covered such topics as the idealistic rendering of children in Hughes' work, his similarities with and differences from Blake, and his influence on Carroll's own drawing, especially his drawings of Alice for the original *Underground* manuscript. Hair style, often highly stylized, offered a consistent point of comparison.

Each of the three speakers showed how much there still is to learn about Carroll's works. And we, as a society, by meeting in Toronto, finally realized the vision Stan Marx had at our first meeting when he insisted that we call ourselves the Lewis Carroll Society of North America.

For members attending the meeting, Joe Brabant generously produced a beautiful keepsake consisting of two pages of the forthcoming Cheshire Cat Press edition of *Through the Looking-Glass* exquisitely printed on hand-made paper by Bill Poole of Poole Hall Press, Grimsby, Ontario, and with illustrations by George Walker.

OF BOOKS



& THINGS

(Editor's Note: There has been such a flood of Carrollian publications in the last year that we find it impossible to do justice to them in the limited space of the Knight Letter. We will try to bring you up to date on the latest—and some we missed).

Alice in Orbit ?

The New York Times Magazine of February 11, 1990, carried a feature article entitled "The Search for The Beginning of Time." It noted that Malcolm Longair, the Astronomer Royal of Scotland, has written, "With respectful apologies to Lewis Carroll, a whimsical (though highly technical) book about the world's most extraordinary looking glass and entitled it *Alice and the Space Telescope*. His Alice encounters Humpty Dumpty, who has been put together again by the people at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration . . ." Available through Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, MD for \$29.95.

Through the Looking-Glass.

Illustrated by Malcolm Ashman.

Published by Dragon's World Ltd., Limpsfield, Surrey, England. Illustrations depict people in Victorian costumes. £9.95.

A recent exhibition in Guildford produced a catalogue entitled *Lewis Carroll in the Guildford Mumiment Room*, compiled by Shirley Cork. £4.50.

The Alice Concordance.

By Daryl Colquhoun.

Published by the Language Laboratory, University of Adelaide, Australia. Every word in the two books has been counted and identified as to place, line, page, etc. Copies may be obtained through the Carroll Foundation, P.O. Box 304 Flemington, 3031 VIC., Melbourne, Australia. \$9.85 plus postage.

Painting the Roses White.

By Barbara Wenzel.

McCulloch Publishing, 348 Drummond

Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053, Australia. \$22.95. A book on gardening.

Once Upon a Recipe.

By Karen Greene.

New Hope Press, New Hope, PA, 18938. A cookbook that includes "Curiouser and Curiouser Casserole" and "Muchness Tomato Biscuits." Illustrated with AIW drawings and quotations.

Terry Descendant Records Alice

Not a book, but a recording: Sir John Gielgud's impeccable rendition in an abridged recording of AIW on two digital compact disks (Nimbus NI 5046-7). Accompanying background music includes Mendelssohn symphonies, with Sir John interpreting all the characters, including singing "Soup of the Evening" and "The Lobster Quadrille." In 1877, Carroll inscribed a copy of *Alice* to Gielgud's mother, Katie Terry (niece to Ellen).

New Essays on Children's Literature

Don't Tell the Grown-Ups.

By Alison Lurie.

Little Brown & Co. \$19.95. A collection of essays that focuses on such writers as Greenaway, Nesbit and others, including Lewis Carroll. The theme is that "Great works of literature . . . express ideas and emotions not generally approved of, even recognized, at the time," according to the author. Lurie shows how the *Alice* books can be seen as political and social satire, and that Carroll's contemporaries failed to recognize the character of Alice as rebellious.

Cartoon from *The New Yorker*
January 15, 1990)

PROFILE (continued from page 1)

Louisville. Accompanied by her husband, who somehow finds time to leave his busy orthopaedic surgical practice, Fran searches out places offering exceptional food and fine wines. Currently, she is editing *The Mathematical Pamphlets of Lewis Carroll* for the Society.

In 1984, Fran accepted an offer from Stevens Institute, her college, and the State of New Jersey to "retool" in computer science, receiving a Master's degree in 1986, the same year her son graduated from high school. A professor of mathematics and computer science at Kean College of New Jersey, where she heads the department's graduate program, Fran is a member of several mathematical and computing societies and a consultant for school districts. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Barnard College, she has been a National Science Foundation Fellow and a Visiting Member of The Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at NYU. Fran is the Book Editor of *Modern Logic* and is currently organizing a conference on the history of mathematics at the University of Victoria, where, she is told, Queen Victoria is alive and well.

Lewis Carroll's Alice.
Charles & Stephanie Lovett
Meckler, 1990. \$65.00.

Alice on Stage.
Charles C. Lovett.
Meckler, 1990. \$42.50.

A review of these two significant volumes will appear in the next issue of *Knight Letter*.





Alice in Wonderland, performed by the Mad Hatters, a group of Hunter College (New York City) drama students under the direction of Pat Sternberg, April–May, 1990.

“Take care of the sense and the sounds will take care of themselves.” This advice by the Duchess was assiduously heeded by The Mad Hatters, a group of Hunter College drama students, as they romped through the scenes of a charming production of *Alice in Wonderland*. Led by Professor Pat Sternberg, the students performed an abridged version of the Eva Le Gallienne *Alice*. Although the script, which was a hodge-podge of AIW and TTLG, left something to be desired, the performance more than compensated. It was obvious that the young thespians were thoroughly enjoying their roles and were playing them in true Carrollian spirit. This pleasure was projected to the audience. In an interview after the play, Professor Sternberg said that each performance was different since the cast members were ever discovering new aspects of the characters they played. Yet another dramatic production of *Alice in Wonderland*, but a delightful one.

—Janet Jurist

The Law Library of the Library of Congress recently received a gift copy of State Slavery Statutes in microfiche and an accompanying 565-page guide from University Publications of America. The gift was presented by August Imholtz, Jr., senior editor of UPA and a past president of the LCSNA.

Boonville, California, is a tiny isolated community in the coastal forest region of northern California. It is so far off the beaten track that the inhabitants have developed their own dialect called Boontling. Nonetheless, on March 29-31, local children performed *Alice in Wonderland*, with a musical background. No reviews, yet.

Fran Abeles is the co-author of “Some Victorian Periodic Polyalphabetic Ciphers,” which appeared in the April issue of *Cryptologia*. It centers on Carroll’s Telegraph Cypher, and its antecedents.

From Japan, via LCSNA member Yoshiyuki Momma, comes the news that a Tokyo bookshop sold Jeffrey Stern’s Carroll collection for over \$800,000.00.

Auction Action

The fall meeting on Oct. 20 will see the Society’s second auction of Carrollian books, ephemera, etc. Be sure to take this chance to clean your closets and weed out duplicates. At the last auction, lots of ephemeral items sold especially well, so remember, no item is too small (or too big). Be creative, be generous, and send your donations (by August 15) to Auction coordinator Alan Tannenbaum at P. O. Box 283, Washington Grove, MD. Bids can be placed by mail, but it’s more fun to be there, so join us in Baltimore !

Australia’s Carroll Foundation is having an Alice Ball this summer, to launch the touring exhibition “Alice 125.” It will include more than 125 translations of *Alice*, a world record for a book by a single author. Alice Liddell’s personal memorabilia will also be shown, along with images of Alice by 125 Australian artists. The date is July 4th, and it will be held at the Melbourne Town Hall. For further information, write to: Carroll Foundation, Flemington Town Hall, 30 Bellair Street, Flemington 3031 VIC, Australia.

For assistance in preparing this issue, we would like to thank Sandor Burstein, Richard M. Boothe, Lucille Posner, Janet Jurist, and Mary Miles Minter.

Knight Letter is the official newsletter of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America and is distributed free to all members. Subscriptions, business correspondence and inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, LCSNA, 617 Rockford Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902. Submissions and editorial correspondence should be sent to: Stan Marx, 15 Sinclair Martin Drive, Roslyn, NY 11576.

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