

A FIELD GUIDE
—♦♦♦♦— **TO** —♦♦♦♦—
WONDERLAND
...and Beyond

APR20
2024



Lewis Carroll Society of North America

SPRING CONFERENCE

A FIELD GUIDE TO WONDERLAND & BEYOND

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Webinar link for all April 20 Presentations: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86749635682>

FAUNA

As Dead as the Proverbial... the Dodo Lowdown

Mark Carnall, Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Dodos are 'icons of extinction' but what were they and how do we know about them? This talk will give a lowdown on the vanished birds with a history of their discovery, description and demise with an overview on our current knowledge of the birds. Can they be brought back from extinction? Why are they a cultural touchstone 300 years after their extinction? The Oxford University Museum of Natural History is home to one of only a few 'modern' dodo specimens and the only known soft tissue. The 'Oxford dodo' likely inspired the dodo character in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and is one of just a few specimens in the collection with Carrollian links.

The Whimsical World of Paul B. Lotz

Paul B. Lotz, Sculptor

As a young man, Paul B. Lotz was not only inspired by artists of the Renaissance Era depicting tales of the times, but that of the industrial and Lewis Carrollian era. These were times of growth, fashion, formalities, style and creativity. Based on the troubles going on in the world and his personal life, Lotz felt the need to sculpt things to make the world smile. Prepare to enter a whimsical world of bronze sculptures filled with crazy details and short stories to help people understand the hidden meanings in the art.

Quest for the Jabberwock

Brian Sibley, Writer and Broadcaster

A Zoological Exploration in Search for Answers to sundry Obscure Questions such as what is the connection between a Shepherd named Gottschalk, Miss Menella Bute Smedley and a Stanza of Anglo-Saxon Poetry?



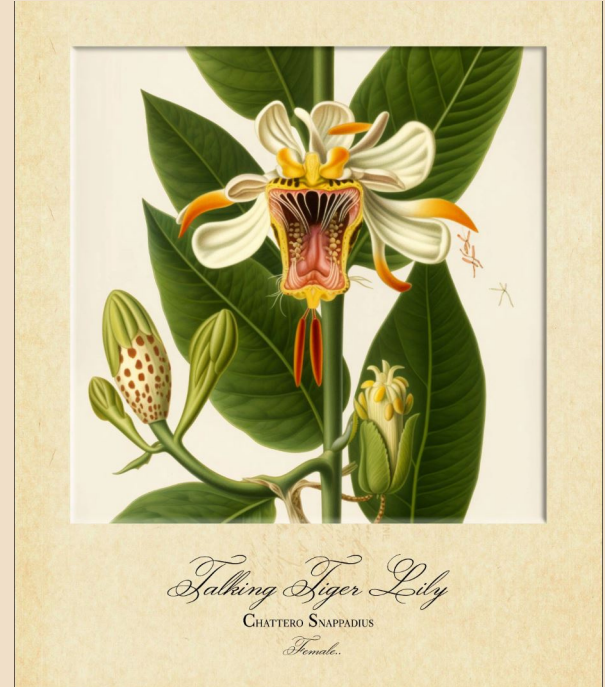
FLORA

The Flora and Fauna of Wonderland

Lillian Murtonen, First Place Winner

2023 USC Wonderland Awards

This award-winning entry was inspired by John James Audubon's ornithological illustrations and the aviation conservation exhibit on display in Doheny Library at the University of Southern California. Carroll's inclusion of the Dodo in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland contributed to its memory and introduced it into pop culture. His frequent visits to the Oxford Museum of Natural History often inspired the flora and fauna of his works. The Cassidy Lewis Carroll collection's digitized copies of John Tenniel's illustrations served as source material to be interpreted by this generative AI model



'the loveliest garden you ever saw':

Lewis Carroll's Botanical and Horticultural Wonders

Laurence Talairach, University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès

Ever since the eighteenth century, women had been instructed in botany and the cultivation of gardens was recommended for young women. Throughout the Victorian period, the children's comparison to plants and 'child rearing to plant nurture' informed many Victorian books for children. Lewis Carroll's Alice books are not exceptions to the rule. However, Carroll radically subverted this idea. In the Alice books, his fantastic gardens trigger Alice's desire and appetite; in Sylvie and Bruno (1889), a Mad Gardener holds the keys of the garden while the child characters tear up flowers to pieces and make magic with bouquets of rare exotic species. This talk will examine the role played by gardens in both the Alice books and Sylvie and Bruno (1889), and explore the way in which Carroll's use of botanical and horticultural metaphors and references revisit contemporary children's fiction.

Curious Collage: Surreal Art Inspired by Wonderland

Katie McCann, Artist

My collage art is grounded in the dream-like state often associated with surreal art. Lewis Carroll's Alice books have inspired my art, whether it is through literal interpretation or simply using symbols from the books to convey a deeper meaning in my work. I love to create pieces that illustrate what is in our mind whether we are sleeping or awake, and I often use reoccurring symbols such as rabbits, flamingos, pigeons, the Dodo and keys. The themes of anthropomorphism, twins and monsters continually show up in my art. From my artist statement: "The collages that I create are places where beauty is strange, creatures are curious and a sense of wonder prevails. Nonsense is never far away and faeries are real."

MENAGERIE

Portraits from Wonderland, Depicting the Characters of Lewis Carroll

Scott Gustafson, Artist

Take a journey through Scott's 40+ year illustration career and learn how he approached visualizing some of the scenes and characters from *Alice*, starting with work in the early 90's with the Bradford Exchange plates, and then revisiting Wonderland 30 years later.

Something's bugging me:

Lewis Carroll and Victorian Entomology

Dr. Franziska Kohlt, University of Leeds,
School of Philosophy, Religion, and History of Science

Entomology, the study of insects, was not only one of the most popular subjects for children's books in Lewis Carroll's time, it was also considered one of the most appropriate for them. Stories about insects not only supposedly modelled ideal behaviours for children (busy bees), and how to organise society, but even how to trust in life after death, or justified Imperialism. These texts about the humble bug give fascinating insights into Victorian literature for children. This talk will approach insects in Lewis Carroll's life and writing through their context in Victorian children's naturalist literature, his own childhood and adult engagement with entomology and entomological literature. It will investigate both how this culture shaped his thought and writing, but how through better understanding this context we can gain a more refined understanding of Carroll's motivations as author, publisher and voice in society.

TBA

Introduced Species



Caterpillar
CYANOUS BLUBBEREXHALINUS
Hook



Cheshire Cat
CATTICUS POLYFANGUS.
Hook

EXPLORERS

Mark Carnall is the curator of the 500,000 specimens held in the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. He has previously worked and volunteered at local authority, national and other university natural history museums.

He is currently the Collections Manager (Life Collections) with responsibilities for the vertebrate and invertebrate (non-entomological collections) material. In addition to managing collections he lectures on biology, palaeobiology and museological topics. His research interests are digitisation in museums, public engagement and natural history, sector wide advocacy for collections, models, casts and replicas as well as the implications on 3D printing on museum collections.

In addition to collections management, Mark contributes to public engagement from stand up about natural history museums through to lectures, informal talks and workshops to all age groups.

Scott Gustafson has been a working illustrator for over 40 years, working primarily in children's book illustration and developing characters from classic children's literature. He studied illustration at the Chicago Academy of Fine Art and Columbia College, Chicago. Scott has had the opportunity to fulfill commissions for a number of varied clients and publishers, including everything from creating tea box artwork for Celestial Seasonings, to covers for The Saturday Evening Post, and character design for the popular kid's TV show, Chugginton. But illustrating children's books stands apart as his favorite creative outlet. For more information and to see a portfolio of Scott's images, please visit: www.scottgustafson.com

Dr. Franziska Kohlt is a Leverhulme Research Fellow in History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Leeds, where she currently researches the history of public science education in early nineteenth-century Britain. She holds a doctorate from the University of Oxford, where her DPhil thesis investigated the historical intersections of the history of psychology and psychiatry and the works of Victorian writers of fantastic literature. She is also the Inaugural Carrollian Fellow at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, where she is currently finishing her book *Through the Wonderglass: The Unexpected Histories of a Children's Classic*, which will appear with Reaktion Press.

A FIELD GUIDE TO WONDERLAND & BEYOND

Paul B. Lotz attended Art College in Philadelphia, where he also spent a semester at their Rome campus. “Although my life steered me into the business world for many years, I continually used my artistic talents solely for myself. Many years after moving to San Diego in 2006, I tried the lost art of bronze sculpting. I was hooked! I taught myself the processes and limitless boundaries I could achieve. I became obsessed with my new found medium, although my styles were taking on a new creative perspective. By 2012, I was invited by a San Diego Gallery to show my works downtown. Still working my full-time business job, my need to sculpt grew deeper. I was gaining a small collector base that sustained my newfound obsession. In 2020, the pandemic hit the world hard, and my business job collapsed. Yet I found art galleries were opening up all around. My collector base boomed and now there was no turning back. Since then, I have been blessed to be represented by so many wonderful galleries around the world. I can say I am gratefully living my childhood dream as an artist.”

Katie McCann is an English artist based in Berkeley, California. “My collages are intricate and often strange reflecting my obsession with the Victorian era. The artworks I create are inspired by Wonderland, Darwin’s discoveries, Lear’s nonsense and William Morris’s wallpaper. My studio and life are full of old books, paper and curiosities. My award-winning work has been exhibited across the USA and Europe. I have illustrated book and album covers and my artwork is part of the 60 Box Public Art Project in the City of Berkeley. I am also one of fifty collage artists to appear in the book *Collage by Women: 50 Essential Contemporary Artists* (Promopress Editions, 2019). Recently my work was in the prestigious de Young Museum Open 2023 in San Francisco.”

Lillian Murtonen is a longtime fan of the Wonderland universe and appreciates Lewis Carroll’s dedication to important nonsense! “In the fourth grade, I thrifted and sewed my own Mad Hatter costume for Halloween, replete with his iconic, larger-than-life top hat (hot glued together) and a hand-dyed, dandyish suit. As I age, I realize how crucial it is to remain open, childlike, and playful. I recently graduated from the University of Southern California, where I studied Cognitive Science. Fun fact: I spent my last semester studying mindfulness in a Buddhist Studies program in Bodh Gaya, India, near the tree of Buddha's enlightenment.”

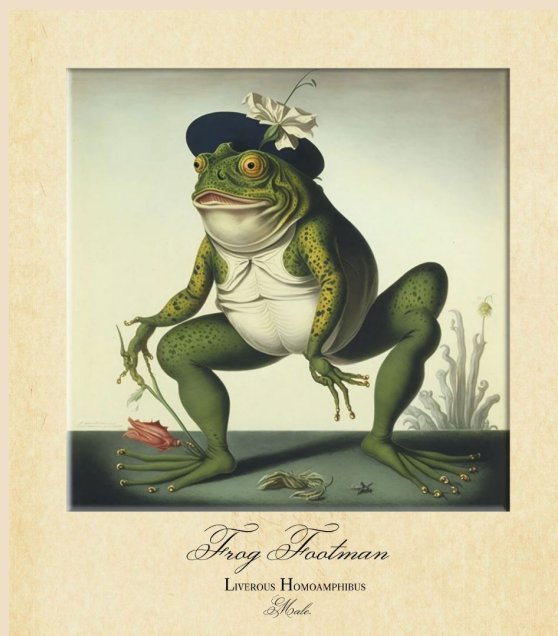
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A FIELD GUIDE TO WONDERLAND & BEYOND

Brian Sibley is Chair of the U.K. Lewis Carroll Society and an author, dramatist and broadcaster with a special interest in writers of children's, fantasy and sci-fi fiction. He has written and lectured widely on, among others, J. R. R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, A. A. Milne, Tove Jansson and, of course, Lewis Carroll.

Heather Simmons first read *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* at the age of seven and has read it every year since. She launched the [Alice is Everywhere](#) blog on July 4, 2015 and a podcast soon after. She has organized and hosted monthly LCSNA online events since 2020 and is the current Vice President. Her day job is at Sony PlayStation, where she works as a Script Supervisor for video games.

Laurence Talairach is a Professor of Victorian Literature at the University of Toulouse Jean Jaurès and an associate researcher at the Alexandre-Koyré Center for the History of Science and Technology (Paris). Her academic interests span medicine, natural history and British literature in the long nineteenth century. Although she would not regard herself as a Carrollian, several of her monographs look at the Alice books, from *Moulding the Female Body in Victorian Fairy Tales and Sensation Fiction* (Ashgate, 2007) and *Fairy Tales, Natural History and Victorian Culture* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), to her most recent *Animals, Museum Culture and Children's Literature in Nineteenth-Century Britain: Curious Beasties* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2021).



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A FIELD GUIDE TO WONDERLAND & BEYOND

RANGE MAPS



Scott Gustafson



Katie McCann



Mark Carnall



Brian Sibley



Heather Simmons



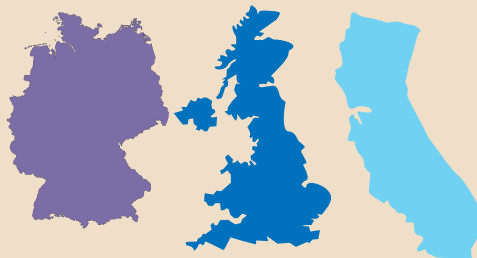
Lillian Murtonen



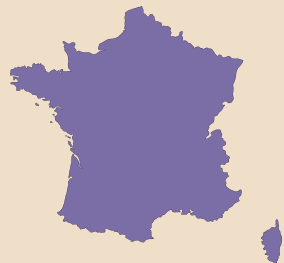
Paul B. Lotz



Franziska Kohlt



Laurence Talairach



A FIELD GUIDE TO WONDERLAND & BEYOND

ETC.

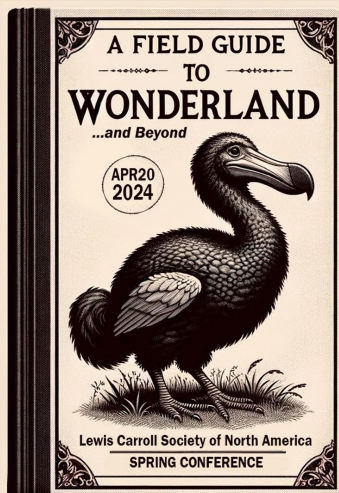
Join Us For Social Hour After the Conference!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81768999431pwd=S0ZETkFtVFM5SUZpMS9lUm9Tc3Vhdz09>

Meeting ID: 817 6899 9431

Passcode: 002092

Please note, this is solely the link for social hour, not for the conference presentations!



Support our Spring Conference Fundraiser!

Support the LCSNA and purchase a 5X7 postcard print of our whimsical Field Guide to Wonderland and Beyond cover, yours for \$10.06.

Cover art by Heather Simmons

Field Guide images by Lillian Murtonen

Scott Gustafson photo by Greg Preston

for Spectrum Fantastic Art Live

Late-Breaking Addition To Our Lineup!

S.J. Tucker is an award-winning singer-songwriter with over fourteen full-length releases to her name, and more in the works. She has toured all over the US, Canada and Europe. She is currently producing an audiobook of short stories of delta lore, *The River Sisters* by Denise White Parkinson.



THANK YOU

Matthew Cappiello

Franziska Kohlt

Alan Tannenbaum

Mark Burstein

Jonathan David Dixon

The Senior Common Room Curators

Lewis Carroll Resources



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