

A FIELD GUIDE TO

vol
2

Wonderland
& BEYOND



April
26
2025

Lewis Carroll Society of North America

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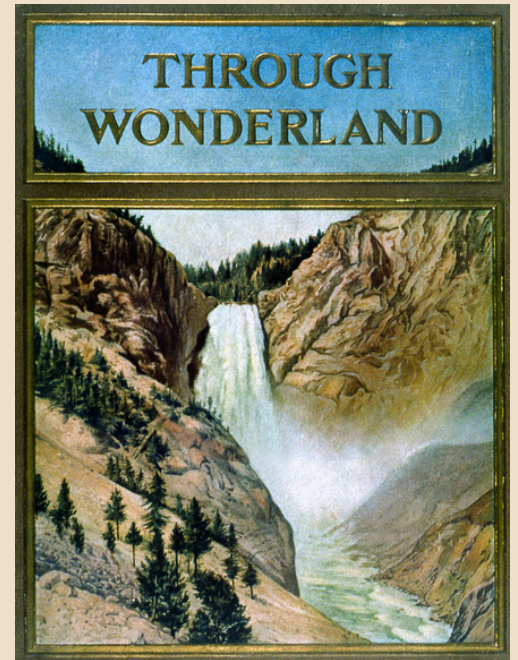
ALL THINGS WISE & WONDERFUL

A Plunge into the Pool of Tears: Aquatic Enchantment in Lewis Carroll's Alice Books

Anna Kérchy, PhD DrHabil Dsc, University of Szeged

My paper reads Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* as a scientific fairy-tale fantasy. I explore how the book's watery imagery reflects the crisis in Victorian England as it seemed that science (e.g., evolution) was undermining traditional knowledge structures.

I then argue that Carroll's aquatic fairy-tale fantasy raises our ecological consciousness. Like Alice in the Pool of Tears, we are not only surrounded by bodies of water, but we ourselves are bodies of water, and we are connected with the larger watery world and the other species in it. What moral and philosophical lessons can we learn from the Pool of Tears and other classic fairy tales that include female tears (Andersen's "The last pearl" or "The Little Mermaid"). How do Alice's tears reemerge in a rich variety of media forms in contemporary adaptations?



The Thursday Hippopotamus and What really Happened to the Baker

Chris Riddell, writer and illustrator

Some illustrated musings on Lewis Carroll and me.

Magic Mushrooms in Wonderland

Mike Jay, author & cultural historian

Is the toadstool that sends Alice on her curious journey intended as a reference to hallucinogenic fungi? Mike Jay discusses the knowledge of intoxicating mushrooms in Victorian Britain, Carroll's probable literary sources, and how this element of the story has been interpreted in the modern psychedelic era.



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ALL CREATURES GREAT & SMALL

Advice from a Caterpillar: Finding One's Place in Nature in Gatty's *A Lesson in Faith* and Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Brittani Allen, PhD student, Cardiff University

Margaret Gatty's *A Lesson in Faith* and Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* employ the caterpillar as a character to convey issues about growth, transformation and the importance of home and place. I will highlight the significance of the caterpillar in both works, particularly emphasizing the connection to notions of home and place and establishing one's sense of belonging in familiar and unfamiliar spaces.

I will make clear how both Gatty and Carroll use the caterpillar characters to underscore the significance of home and place in shaping personal growth and navigating life's uncertainties. Whether as a symbol of spiritual enlightenment or as a mystical mentor, the caterpillar transcends its physical form to embody truths about the human experience and the quest for belonging in life and in nature.



What's Up With the Pup?

Dayna Nuhn Lozinski, Editor, *The Snarkologist*

An in-depth look at the puppy from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, using all four Alice texts. I will share my thoughts on the puppy episode, take a closer look at all the illustrations, as well as presenting other commentators' theories and comments. This is a rarely explored part of the book and has fascinated me for many years.

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ALL THINGS BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL

Wonderland: Curious Nature at the New York Botanical Garden

Jennifer R. Gross, art curator & scholar

This session will share the unique rabbit hole of creating an art exhibition inspired by Lewis Carroll that embraced horticultural displays, contemporary art, and archival displays within the living plant collection that is the New York Botanical Garden. Wonderland: Curious Nature ran from May to October 2024. Artists that participated included: Abelardo Morell, Yoko Ono, Alyson Shotz, Agus Putu Suyadnya, Paula Wilson and Andre Kong Studio.



Electric Wonderland

Boojum

Brooklyn-based Boojum was born when a Beatles jam band decided to do a one-night-only Alice in Wonderland show back in 2023. Join lyricist Tom Mackin as he discusses Boojum's Carroll-inspired songs and performances, with a quick drop-in from band members Josh Santiago and Chris Mackin en route to a gig. Plus, you'll get a sneak peek (listen?) to two songs from Boojum's upcoming *Through the Looking-Glass* EP.



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EXPLORERS

Brittani Allen is a PhD student at Cardiff University. She specialises in Victorian studies and children's literature. Focused on environmental literature for children, her thesis analyzes nineteenth century works depicting fantasy worlds. It explores how these narratives promote sustainability and cohabitation between humans and nonhumans, advocating for a harmonious future.

Boojum is a “theatrical jamband” based in Brooklyn, NY. Members Chris Mackin (guitar/vocals), Josh Santiago (guitar/vocals), Sarah Elaz (bass/vocals) and Mike Coiro (drums) weave elements of jam, EDM, funk, pop, and progressive music, showcasing lyrics crafted by Chris’s brother, Tom Mackin, a poet and translator.

Jennifer R. Gross is a modern and contemporary art curator and scholar whose exhibitions include *Wonderland: Curious Nature*, *Mina Loy: Strangeness is Inevitable*, *Richard Artschwager!* and *The Société Anonyme: Modernism for America*. Previously she was the Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Yale University Art Gallery, Chief Curator and Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs at the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum and the founding Executive Director of the Hauser & Wirth Institute, a not-for-profit institution dedicated to the support of artists’ archives and scholarship. Dr. Gross has written extensively on contemporary art and earned her PhD in Art History from the Graduate Center, City University of New York.

Mike Jay is an author and cultural historian whose subjects include science, medicine, drugs, madness, literature and radical politics. He writes regularly for the *London Review of Books*, the *Literary Review* and *New York Review of Books*. His latest book, *Psychonauts: Drugs and the Making of the Modern Mind*, a history of the scientists and writers, artists and philosophers who took drugs to explore the hidden regions of the mind, is available at Yale University Press and wherever books are sold.

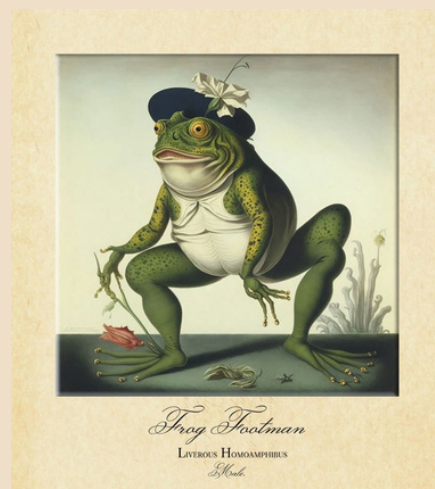
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Anna Kérchy, PhD DrHabil Dsc is a Full Professor of English literature at the University of Szeged in Hungary, where she is the head of the Doctoral Program in Literatures and Cultures in English. Her research areas focus on Victorian and postmodern fantastic imagination, corporeal narratology, humanimal studies, and transmedia storytelling. She authored the monographs *Alice in Transmedia Wonderland* (McFarland, 2016) that won the HUSSE book award and *The Poetics and Politics of Victorian Nonsense: Metamedial Play in Lewis Carroll's Oeuvre* (Hungarian Academy of Sciences Press, 2024), and over a hundred essays.

Dayna Nuhn Lozinski is a long-time Lewis Carroll collector specializing in "Flat Alice." She writes a column on Alice in advertising for *The Knight Letter* and edits *The Snarkologist*, a journal dedicated to *The Hunting of the Snark*. Dayna and her husband Michael publish Carrollian items through their Reeling and Writhing Press.

Chris Riddell OBE is an illustrator and occasional writer of children's books, and a political cartoonist for *The Observer*. His many awards include three Kate Greenaway Medals – the British librarians' annual award for the best-illustrated children's book – and three Nestlé Smarties Book Prizes. In 2015, he was appointed the UK Children's Laureate. His latest, brand-new children's book, *A Mermaid's Diary*, is available now.

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 LCSNA online events since 2020. Her day job is at Sony PlayStation, where she works as a video game Script Supervisor.



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RANGE MAPS



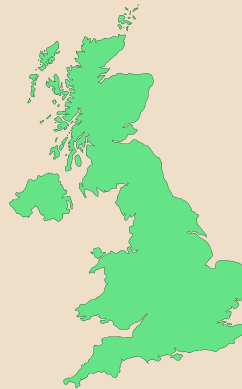
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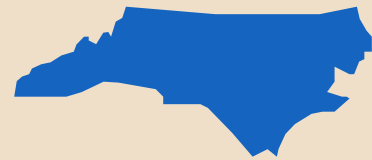
Chris Riddell



Heather Simmons



Brittani Allen



BOOJUM



Jennifer R. Gross



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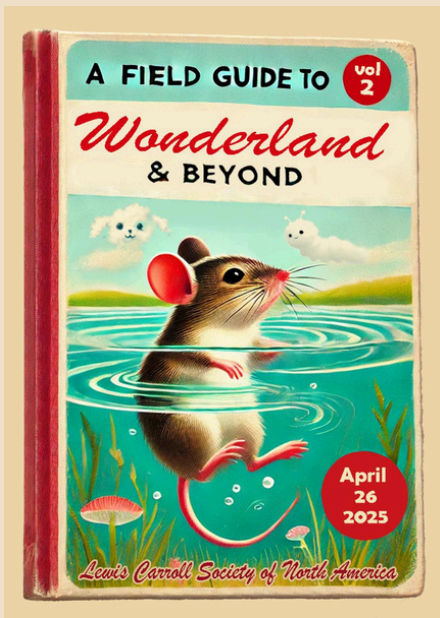
Join Us For Social Hour After the Conference!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89839891898?pwd=ubeFpgaZljVbTWWGhJNpn1ad32otk.1>

Meeting ID: 898 3989 1898

Passcode: 880805

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 Volume II cover, yours for \$10.06.

Cover art by Heather Simmons & Matthew Cappiello

Field Guide images by Lillian Murtonen

Mushroom illustration from James Sowerby's Coloured Figures of English Fungi or Mushrooms (1803)

Vintage Yellowstone images from the National Park Service

THANK YOU

Matthew Cappiello

Brian Sibley

Alan Tannenbaum

Mark Burstein

The Senior Common Room Curators

[The Snarkologist](#) Board



Webinar link for all April 26 Presentations: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83340426271>