

The Lewis Carroll Society of North America met at the Morris Library at the University of Delaware on October 28, 2017, hosted by Baltimore Bibliophiles member, UDel Senior Research Fellow, and Victoriana collector *par excellence* Mark Samuels Lasner. We enjoyed a full day of talks, including three by Bibliophiles, as well as an exhibition of the Carroll items in Mark's collection.

The first Bibs member to talk was David Schaefer, who recapped 20 years of Maxine Schaefer Memorial readings. David's first wife Maxine, who frequently attended Bibliophile meetings with him, thought the LCSNA should do more for children. Ever since her death, to honor Maxine, twice a year LCSNA members read a chapter from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (usually the "Mad Tea Party" chapter) to schoolchildren and give each child a free hardback Books of Wonder edition of either *Alice* or *Looking-Glass*.

The next Bibliophiler lecture was by August Imholtz, who spoke to us about Delawaran Eldridge Johnson—book collector and Victrola inventor, who bought the original manuscript of *Alice* from famed Philadelphia bookseller A. S. W. Rosenbach for \$150,000 in 1928. Johnson produced a fine facsimile of the manuscript, which for years was believed to exist in only 50 copies, and was thus a pricey collectible. August has however uncovered the full story of the printing and distribution of this facsimile—showing that as many as 500 copies were made. He will be publishing an article soon!

Third, Mark Samuels Lasner gave an amusing account, entitled "I am not a Carroll Collector!," of the several Carroll items in his collection, including three photographs by Carroll and a lock of Lizzie Siddal's (wife and muse of Carroll's friend Dante Gabriel Rossetti) hair, all of which he found in a storage locker in British Columbia. Mark also owns, *inter alia*, presentation copies inscribed by Carroll and several pieces of rare ephemera.

In addition, LCSNA members and guests at the meeting heard four other marvelous talks. Dana Richards, Martin Gardner's bibliographer and biographer-to-be, gave a fascinating account of Martin's life, his many interests, his astounding number and range of publications, and of course the many instantiations of his *Annotated Alice*, a seminal text in Carroll studies. Victor Fet, a professor of biology at Marshall University in West Virginia and a Carroll translator, provided a spellbinding description of Russian and Siberian translations of *Alice*, beginning with the first, *Sonia in the Kingdom of Wonder* (1879)—Victor has identified the anonymous translator—and culminating in new translations, all abetted by Victor, just published in the last two years, in the rare languages Shor, Kyrgyz, Altai, and Khakas. For some of these languages, Alice is the first English book translated.

Edna Runnels Ranck, an early childhood education advocate and historian, delved into the nonsense of Gertrude Stein, finding many parallels with Lewis Carroll. Both writers, she said, take readers on a journey into an unknown world, which is precisely what a child does every day. Carroll, Stein, and other writers have made it possible for society to see children in a new way, and to recognize their rights. A final talk—"What Shape is Alice"—was a bit of a romp. Critic and writer Sarah Boxer spoke about her lifelong engagement with Alices: not just Alice in Wonderland, but Alice James, Alice Roosevelt Longworth, Alice Neel, Alice Waters, Alice Walker, Alice Kramden, and so on.

Clare Imholtz
Nov. 28, 2017