Event Details

When: February 22, 2012 from 11:00am - 1:00pm

Where: Doheny Library, Room 240

Organized by the USC Academy for Polymathic Study and the USC Libraries, which present the Wonderland Award—a multidisciplinary competition that encourages new scholarship and creative work related to Lewis Carroll. More information about the Wonderland Award is available online at www.usc.edu/libraries/wonderland.

Comments (0)

Event Description

From the Vision & Voices website:

Along with the Mad Hatter, the Rabbit, the Mock Turtle and other beloved characters from Alice in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll created a surprising world in which the normal rules don't apply. This world has inspired filmmakers like Tim Burton and Jan Svankmajer, visual artists like Salvador Dalí and the creators of numerous graphic novels, video games and works of science fiction. A polymath and inventor with an eclectic mind, Carroll also taught math at Oxford. He drew inspiration from his pioneering studies of logic and geometry while creating the fictional world of Alice. Join us for a multidisciplinary discussion featuring science writer Margaret Wertheim, mathematics professor Francis Bonahon and English professor Jim Kincaid. Following the discussion, Wertheim and Bonahon will lead an experimental play/workshop where participants can make and play with absurd mathematical objects, such as the Möbius strip and the hyperbolic plane, dating from the mathematical revolution of Carroll's time.

Speaker Bios:

Margaret Wertheim is the author of Pythagoras' Trousers, a history of the relationship between physics and religion, and The Pearly Gates of Cyberspace: A History of Space from Dante to the Internet. Her articles have appeared in numerous publications, including the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times Magazine, The Sciences, New Scientist, the Times Literary Supplement, the Guardian, Salon and Wired. In 2003, Wertheim and her twin sister, Christine, founded the Institute For Figuring, an innovative Los Angeles-based organization devoted to enhancing public engagement with the aesthetic and poetic dimensions of science and mathematics.

Francis Bonahon is a professor of mathematics at the USC Dornsife College. His research focuses on topology and geometry, with an emphasis on two- and three-dimensional spaces. His work includes publications on hyperbolic geometry and quantum topology, and his research is supported by the National Science Foundation.

Jim Kincaid is the Aerol Arnold Chair in English and a professor of English at the USC Dornsife College. He researches critical theory, American studies and queer studies. He teaches classes in criminality, lunacy and perversion, age studies, censorship and other areas of literary, political and cultural studies.

Comments (0)

Related Research Guides

- English Language & Literature
- Mathematics
- Nineteenth Century Literary Studies
- Special Collections

Comments (0)

Your Research Soundtrack

"Now, I give you fair warning," shouted the Queen, stamping on the ground as she spoke; 'either you or your 'ed must be off, and that in about half no time! Take your choice!"
Selected Articles - Vision & Voices: Wonderland and the Mathematical Imaginary - LibGuides at University of Southern California

Vision & Voices: Wonderland and the Mathematical Imaginary

Research guide for the February 22, 2012 event.

Last Updated: Dec 6, 2013

URL: http://libguides.usc.edu/wonderland

Selected Articles

Recommended Articles

  New Scientist, 204, 38-41.

- At the intersection of mathematics and humor: Lewis Carroll's "Alices" and
  symbolic algebra, by Helena M. Pycior (1984)
  Victorian Studies, 28(1), 149-170.

  Math Horizons, 6(4), 18-23.

- For tea two for tea, by John Bibby (1997)
  Times Educational Supplement, (4221), VI-VII.

- Fraudulent dissection puzzles : a tour of the mathematics of bamboozlement, by
  John Sharp (2002)
  Mathematics In School, 31(4), 7-13.

- Lewis Carroll's visual logic, by Francine F. Abeles (2007)
  History and Philosophy of Logic, 28(1), 1-17.

- Mathematics: Alice in time, by Gillian Beer (2011)

  Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School, 11(4), 165-171.

- “Shutting up like a telescope”: Lewis Carroll's “curious” condensation method for
  evaluating determinants, by Adrian Rice and Eve Torrence (2007)
  College Mathematics Journal, 38(2), 82-95.

Comments (0)
Recommended Books

Most of our books about Alice in Wonderland are held in Special Collections as part of our G. Edward Cassady, M.D., and Margaret Elizabeth Cassady, R.N., Lewis Carroll Collection. Contact Special Collections (specol@usc.edu) for more information.

A mathematical approach to proportional representation: Duncan Black on Lewis Carroll - Black, Duncan.
Call Number: JF1071.B53 1996
ISBN: 0792396200
Publication Date: 1996
Held by VKC.

Lewis Carroll's Alice's adventures in wonderland (Bloom's modern critical interpretations) - Bloom, Harold.
Call Number: PR4611.A73L49 2006
ISBN: 0791085864
Publication Date: 2006
Held by Doheny.

Alice' s adventures : Lewis Carroll and Alice in popular culture - Brooker, Will, 1970-
Call Number: PR4611.A73B76 2004
ISBN: 0826414338
Publication Date: 2004
Held by Doheny.

The original Alice : from manuscript to Wonderland - Brown, Sally
Call Number: PR4611.A73B76 1997
ISBN: 0712345337
Publication Date: 1997
Held by Doheny.

Alice's adventures in Wonderland ; and, Through the looking-glass - Carroll, Lewis, 1832-1898.
Call Number: PR4611.A7 1983b
Publication Date: 1983
Held by Doheny in Reference.

The annotated Alice : Alice's adventures in Wonderland & Through the looking-glass - Carroll, Lewis, 1832-1898.
Call Number: PR4611.A7 2000
ISBN: 0393048470
Publication Date: 2000
Held by Doheny.
The mathematical pamphlets of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson and related pieces - Carroll, Lewis, 1832-1898.
Call Number: QA3.C295 1994
ISBN: 0930326091
Publication Date: 1994
Held by Doheny and Science.

The logic of Alice: clear thinking in Wonderland - Patten, Bernard M.
Call Number: PR4611.A73P38 2009
ISBN: 9781591026754
Publication Date: 2009
Held by Doheny.

Lewis Carroll in Numberland: his fantastical mathematical logical life; an agony in eight fits - Wilson, Robin J.
Call Number: PR4612.W55 2008
ISBN: 9780713997576
Publication Date: 2008
Held by Doheny.

The Alice behind wonderland - Winchester, Simon.
Call Number: PR4611.A73W56 2011
ISBN: 9780195396195
Publication Date: 2011
Held by Doheny.
Internet Resources - Vision & Voices: Wonderland and the Mathematical Imaginary

Research guide for the February 22, 2012 event.

Tags: literature, mathematics, visions_voices

Library Quick Search

Quick search for articles, books, and other library resources.

Resources Online

Some of the best resources on the web for discovering more about Alice in Wonderland...

- Full Texts of Carroll's Works at Project Gutenberg
  Read or download the text of many of Carroll's works, as .txt, .epub, pdf, and other formats.

- The Harry Ransom Center's Lewis Carroll Exhibition
  A web exhibition from the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

- The Lewis Carroll Scrapbook
  A digitization of an original scrapbook kept by Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. The scrapbook contains approximately 130 items, including newspaper clippings, photographs, and a limited number of manuscript materials, collected between 1855-72.

- The Lewis Carroll Society (U.K.)
  Society formed in 1969 with the aim of encouraging research into the life and works of Lewis Carroll.

- The Lewis Carroll Society of North America
  Resources from the Lewis Carroll Society of North America, a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering study of the life and works of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson.

- Turning the Pages, the British Library
  Flip through the pages of a digitized facsimile of the original Alice manuscript.

Subject Guide

Web Support

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