

Christ Church Library, Carroll Collection

Digitised images: *Alice's Wonderland Birthday Book* (Carroll E2-26-DF)

Notes and captions by Edward Wakeling

Introductory notes:

Alice's Wonderland Birthday Book was compiled by E. Stanley Leathes and published by Griffin and Farran, London, in 1884, and this copy was given to Dodgson's brother, Wilfred Longley Dodgson (1838-1914). It is inscribed "W. L. D. from C. L. D. July 29, 1896." It has been used by Wilfred and contains 37 entries; some family members and some friends and acquaintances. But the real mystery is the compiler.

A thorough search has not found a writer by the name of "E. Stanley Leathes." Griffin and Farran was a publisher which specialised in books for children. No other work written by this person has been found. A search of the Macmillan and Company letters (British Library), who was Dodgson's publisher, has found a clue to the identity. Alexander Macmillan wrote to Dodgson on January 30, 1883:

My dear Mr. Dodgson,

A Mrs or Miss E. Stanbury Leathes writes to say that you have given her leave to make a *Birthday Book* out of *Alice* and the *Looking-Glass* and says that you have referred her to us about the publication. I am writing to tell her that the property in the book is yours and that whatever leave you give in regard to reproduction she is free to do. But that we have so often refused to publish the things called Birthday Books that we must continue to do so. I have no doubt that she will find another publisher willing to do it.

Yours very sincerely,

Alex. Macmillan

The letter from Dodgson giving Miss Leathes permission to compile the books using quotations from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass* has not come to light, but Alexander Macmillan's letter does identify the gender of the writer as female. A search of the 1881 Census has discovered three unmarried women with this family name living together at Lyme Regis, Dorset, the youngest being Emma Stanyer Leathes (b. 1833). At this time, female writers were at a disadvantage when it came to publishing a work, so it is possible that Emma chose to use "Stanley" instead of "Stanyer" or possibly it was an error which she chose to ignore. Clearly there is some difficulty in reading the word since Macmillan has yet another alternative.

The illustrator is only identified by the initials J. P. M. One possible contender is James Pittendrigh MacGillivray (1856-1938) who would have been 28 years old at the time; i.e. at the beginning of his career as an illustrator. However, no evidence exists to confirm this commission. It may have been arranged by the publisher.

The book is dedicated to "Weenie and KT" who are unidentified. Emma's two sisters also listed in the 1881 Census were Fanny Stanyer Leathes (b. 1827) and Sophia Stanyer Leathes (b. 1831), together with three servants.

Wilfred's family names in the book include (some names inserted by other family members after Wilfred died in 1914):

His wife, Alice Jane Dodgson née Donkin: 22 February 1851
His cousin, Ernest Shepley Wilcox: 5 March 1854
His sister-in-law, Mary Elinor "Polly" Smith née Donkin: 30 March 1857
His cousin, William Melville Wilcox: 22 May 1866
His daughter, Frances Menella Dodgson: 14 June 1877
His grand-daughter, Antoinette Carroll Dodgson: 18 July 1924
His son, Reginald Henry Lutwidge Dodgson: 13 August 1880
His brother-in-law, George Herbert Smith: 31 August 1851
His daughter, Edith Alice Dodgson: 18 September 1872
His cousin, Margaret Frances Wilcox: 6 November 1883
His nephew (?), Philip Henry Donkin: 28 November
His daughter, Lucy Margaret Dodgson: 11 December 1874
His daughter, Mary Evangeline "Eva" Dodgson: 27 December 1873

Other entries are as follows (I am grateful to Beth Mead, Dodgson's great grandniece, for help in identifying some of these names):

Stephen Follett Leadley Brown: 14 January 1876 (MA Keble College, Oxford, ordained cleric, vicar of St. James the Less, Liverpool)

T. Gowans: 29 January

Percy M. (Mann) Horsfall: 2 March 1876 (pupil-surveyor with Wilfred when at The Court, Cleobury North, later gentleman farmer living at The Hall, Sleights, formerly the home of Edward Donkin, Wilfred's father-in-law, died at Whitby aged 75 in 1951)

Margaret F. (Frances) Malim: 10 March 1878, private tutor, authoress and health visitor for the City of Westminster Health Society, died in 1942)

Peter Wynn Simpson: 29 March 1932

M. (Mary) Maude Hodges: 4 April 1870 (born at Aston Botterell, Cleobury Mortimer, daughter of George Hodges, surgeon and general practitioner, died in 1939)

Joalyn Marie Howard: 5 April

Jane Mackenzie: 8 April

Kenneth R. (Rossin) Berol: 16 April 1925 (son of Alfred C. Berol, the great Carrollian collector, and his wife, Madeline Rossin)

C. (Clement) Charlton Palmer: 26 April 1871 (non-collegiate at Oxford, organist and music teacher at Canterbury Cathedral, died in 1944)

Alice Githa Durham Marshall: 17 May 1876? (daughter of Henry Marshall, vicar of Norton Canon, Weobley, Herefordshire)

Inez Wray: 27 May

V. (Vincent) A. O'Connor: 5 June 1887 (born in New York of Irish parents, lawyer in general practice, died in 1971 aged 83)

Mabel Clare Tallmadge Delahay: 24 June 1874 (born in Wisconsin, USA, married James Sherratt in 1901, and farmed at Peterchurch, Herefordshire)

Bertha Bateman: 8 August

Christina Reice or Reace: 30 August

Francis Hercke: 1 September

Thomas Edlerton Rylands: 23 September 1872? (son of Thomas Samuel Rylands, gentleman and landed proprietor, worked for British Burman Teak Company)

Frida Ackermann: 26 September

E. Richard W. Partridge: 7 October

Gillian ??: October 9

June W. (Waterous) Berol: 28 October 1925 (wife of Kenneth Berol - see above - born at Ramsey County, Minnesota, and died in 1983)

Roger Lancelyn Green: 2 November 1918 (first editor of the *Lewis Carroll Diaries*)

Rosamond Florence Starling: 30 November 1863 (born Osmaston, married Rev. William Henshaw Starling in 1892, died 1938)

This book belongs to the Dodgson Family Collection is on deposit at Christ Church Library.