

Christ Church Library, Carroll Collection

The Harcourt/Dodgson Papers

Digitised images: *The Blank Cheque* (BXB-02-WK)

Notes and captions by Edward Wakeling

Introductory notes:

The Harcourt/Dodgson Papers, containing various Carrollian items, was donated to Christ Church Library by Robert Vernon Harcourt in 1984. He was the second cousin of Augustus George Vernon Harcourt (1834-1919), Lees Reader in Chemistry at Christ Church, who was a good friend of Dodgson. Many of these items were presented to A. G. V. Harcourt by Dodgson. The items are:

BXB-01-WK, Notes by an Oxford Chiel: The Dynamics of a Parti-cle

BXB-02-WK, The Blank Cheque

BXB-03-WK, The Game of Logic

BXB-04-WK, A Method of Taking Votes on more than Two Issues

BXB-05-LF, Scenes from an Unfinished Drama entitled Phrontisterion

BXB-06-WK, A Discussion of the Various Methods of Procedure in Conducting Elections

BXB-07-WK, The Vision of the Three T's

BXB-08-LE, Letter from Dodgson to Harcourt

BXB-09-LE, Letter from Dodgson to Mrs. Harcourt

BXB-10-LE, Letter from Dodgson to Harcourt written as a poem

BXB-11-WK, A Tangled Tale Knot II, Mad Mathesis

BXB-12-WK, A Tangled Tale, Answers to Knot II

BXB-02-WK. *The Blank Cheque* is the sixth and final item in *Notes by an Oxford Chiel*, first issued in 1874 individually in red-brick covers. Oxford University decided to establish a new building for written examinations and interviews (called "The Schools") prior to awarding University degrees. The plans were drawn up by a nine-man executive committee whose role was to estimate the cost and to put the work in hand without further consultation with the University. Dodgson, who thought that this was a foolhardy decision, lampooned this in his pamphlet, *The Blank Cheque*, by likening this to a family who left all arrangements about where to go for their summer holiday and the ultimate expense of the holiday to their maid. This copy was inscribed by Dodgson to "A. G. V. Harcourt, from the Author. Feb./74." The full text, with notes, was published in *The Oxford Pamphlets, Leaflets, and Circulars of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson*, edited by Edward Wakeling (University Press of Virginia, 1993, pp.109-116).