

Christ Church Library, Carroll Collection

Digitised image notes and captions by Edward Wakeling

Carroll D - Zincographs from *The Rectory Umbrella*

Introductory notes:

The Rectory Umbrella was the seventh of a series of family magazines compiled by the Dodgson family, with C. L. Dodgson being the instigator, editor, and chief contributor to these magazines. In the preface to the final magazine, entitled *Mischmasch*, Dodgson summarised the various magazines that had been created, describing *The Rectory Umbrella* as follows: "This we started, we believe, in 1849 or 1850, in a ready-bound square volume...and it took us a year or more to fill the volume by our own unaided efforts." Hence, it covered the period when Dodgson completed his last year at Rugby School, until the time Dodgson was studying at Christ Church as an undergraduate. The magazine, in six parts, was entirely written and illustrated by Dodgson, and is the third of the magazines to survive.

In July 1885, Dodgson considered the idea of publishing *The Rectory Umbrella* as a facsimile, at the same time publishing likewise the manuscript of *Alice's Adventures Under Ground*. He engaged a photographer to make zincographs of the pages ready for printing. His diary recorded for 13 July on his return to Christ Church after a day in London: "...found the photographer who is to do the 92 'facsimile' photos, Mr. Noad, of Hawthorne Cottage, Eastham, Essex." James Noad (b. 1861) of 33 Hawthorn Cottage, East Ham, Essex, was listed in the 1881 Census as an engine fitter living with his parents, James (b. 1834), a steel smelter, and his wife, Sarah (b. 1837), and a younger brother, William (b. 1867). Clearly, he had taken up photography as a career, but being self-employed, he had limited funds available. As a result, Dodgson wrote to Alice Hargreaves explaining the situation: "Mr. Noad, an excellent photographer, but in so small a way of business that I should have to *prepay* him, bit by bit, for the zinc-blocks...was willing to come to Oxford, and do it here. So it was all done in my studio, I remaining in waiting all the time, to turn over the pages." On 18 July, Dodgson noted: "Mr. Noad left, taking with him *The Rectory Umbrella*, which I am thinking of getting him to facsimile for me, but whether for 'private circulation,' or publication, I have not yet made up my mind." On 24 August 1885, Dodgson noted: "Heard from Mr. Noad that he has finished the zinc-blocks for *Alice's Adventures Under Ground*, and the photos (for zinc) of *The Rectory Umbrella*." On 17 October 1885, Dodgson wrote in his diary: "Received some proofs of *Alice Under Ground* and *Rectory Umbrella*, from Mr. Noad. They seem to be a great success." But all did not proceed according to plan as subsequent diary entries revealed.

Almost a year later, on 30 September 1886, Dodgson wrote: "Went to Guildford in evening, as Messrs. Hastie and Co. are getting a Police Summons against Noad, at

the Stratford Court, and I have to appear in person at 9½ on 1st.” A letter from Dodgson to Alice Hargreaves, dated 11 November, explained the difficulty with James Noad: “I having prepaid for the whole of the zinc-blocks – the supply suddenly ceased, while 22 pages were still due, and Mr. Noad disappeared! My belief is that he was in hiding from his creditors.... At one time I thought of employing a detective to find him.... In April he called at Macmillan’s and left 8 blocks, and again vanished into obscurity. This left us with 14 pages...still missing. I waited awhile longer, and then put the thing into the hands of a Solicitor [Messrs. Hastie and Company], who soon found the man, but could get nothing but promises from him. ‘You will never get the blocks,’ said the Solicitor, ‘unless you frighten him by a summons before a Magistrate.’ To this at last I unwillingly consented; the summons had to be taken out at Stratford-le-Bow (that is where this aggravating man is living), and this entailed 2 journeys from Eastbourne – one to get the summons (my *personal* presence being necessary), and the other to attend in Court with the Solicitor on the day fixed for hearing the case.” Mr. Noad did not attend the hearing. The case was adjourned for a week, and in the meantime, a warrant was issued to arrest Mr. Noad so that he would appear in court at the next hearing. However, the news of this was sufficiently worrying for Mr. Noad for him to deliver the 14 remaining negatives. Dodgson then dropped the case against Mr. Noad.

Dodgson never proceeded with the idea of getting a facsimile of *The Rectory Umbrella* produced, and the following sheets appear to be the only facsimile proofs to have survived. In October 1932, *The Rectory Umbrella and Mischmasch* was published with a Foreword by Florence Milner, by Cassell and Company. The manuscript is now part of the Harcourt Amory Collection at Harvard College Library.

Carroll-D1_r

A facsimile proof page from *The Rectory Umbrella* taken from the first chapter of “The Walking-Stick of Destiny” including a drawing by Dodgson. This is page 4, and the text indicates that the second chapter continues on page 8.

Carroll-D1_v

The verso is blank.

Carroll-D2_r

This facsimile proof sheet is the subsequent page of the magazine containing Dodgson’s poem in mock early English, “Ye Fatalle Cheyse” with footnotes. The surrounding drawings are also by Dodgson.

Carroll-D2_v

The verso is blank.

Carroll-D3_r

The facsimile proof sheet indicates page 19 of the magazine that contains the ending of chapter three of "The Walking-Stick of Destiny" (to be continued on page 25), and the first stanza of a poem in mock old English entitled "The Storm" with footnotes. The three illustrations are by Dodgson.

Carroll-D3_v

The verso is blank.

Carroll-D4_r

The facsimile proof sheet indicates page 23 of the magazine that contains one of four sections that Dodgson entitled "Zoological Papers," this being number two, "The Lory." This brightly plumed species of parrot reappears in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* in 1865 as the character of Lorina Liddell, Alice's older sister.

Carroll-D4_v

The verso is blank.