LEWIS CARROLL

8vo, pp. xxiii, [1 (blank)], 400, [4 (publisher’s advertisements and blank)]; wood-engraved frontispiece and 46 illustrations in the text after drawings by Harry Furniss; a few light spots, frontispiece lacking tissue guard, otherwise very good copies in the original red cloth, lettered and ruled in gilt, upper and lower boards with central gilt vignettes of Sylvie and Bruno, black endpapers, all edges gilt; extremities very lightly rubbed, slight cracking on block, spine a little faded. £1250

First edition, a presentation copy inscribed by the illustrator Harry Furniss on the half-title ‘To Miss Ethel I. Bolton with Harry Furniss’ and Sylvie and Bruno’s Best Wishes New Years Day 1890’, using the printed text of the half-title, with a drawing of Sylvie and Bruno holding up a banner bearing part of the presentation text. Sylvie and Bruno was published on 12 December 1889, so this copy was inscribed in the three weeks following publication.

Williams, Madan, Green and Crutch 217.

PRESENTED BY ILLUSTRATOR
HARRY FURNISS
~ WITH AN ORIGINAL DRAWING ~

2 volumes, 8vo, pp. xxiii, [1 (blank)], 400, [4 (publisher’s advertisements and blank)]; and pp. xxxi, [1 (blank)], 423, [7 (1 blank, 1 leaf lettered ‘TURN OVER’, and publisher’s advertisements)]; wood-engraved frontispiece and 46 illustrations in the text in each volume after drawings by Harry Furniss; very good copies in the original red cloth, lettered and ruled in gilt, upper and lower boards with central gilt vignettes of Sylvie and Bruno respectively and, in Sylvie and Bruno concluded, of the Professor and the Chancellor; black endpapers (slight cracking to hinges), all edges gilt.

First editions, presentation copies inscribed ‘Lizzie Wilcox from her affec Cousin the Author / Dec. 12. 1889’ and ‘Lizzie Wilcox, from her affectionate Cousin the Author / Dec. 27, 1893’ (two days before publication); sold Sotheby’s, 21 February 1927 as ‘The Property of Miss L. Wilcox’, lot 352.

No earlier presentation copy was known to Williams, Madan, Green and Crutch. A fine association:

Lewis Carroll composed ‘Jabberwocky’ (Through the Looking Glass, pp. 21-4) ‘while staying with his cousins, the Misses Wilcox, at Whitburn, near Sunderland. To while away an evening the whole party sat down to a game of verse-making, and “Jabberwocky” was his contribution.’ (Stuart Dodgson Collingwood, The Life and Letters of Lewis Carroll, p. 143n.)

The Preface to Sylvie and Bruno reminds the reader that two chapters reprint ‘a little fairy-tale which I wrote in the year 1867, at the request of the late Mrs Gatty, for “Aunt Judy’s Magazine”… It was in 1874, I believe, that the idea first occurred to me of making it the nucleus of a longer story. As the years went on, I jotted down, at odd moments, all sorts of odd ideas, and fragments of dialogue… I am telling you all this… because I really believe that some of my readers will be interested in these details of the “genesis” of a book, which looks so simple and straight-forward.’ Also in the Preface Carroll praises Furniss for his ‘(to my mind) wonderful pictures.’

Williams, Madan, Green and Crutch 217 and 250.

2 vols., 8vo, pp. xxiii, [1 (blank)], 400, [4 (publisher’s advertisements and blank)]; and pp. xxxi, [1 (blank)], 423, [7 (1 blank, 1 leaf lettered ‘TURN OVER’, and publisher’s advertisements)]; wood-engraved frontispiece (with tissue guards) and 46 illustrations in the text in each volume after drawings by Harry Furniss; occasional light spotting or marking, otherwise very good copies in the original red cloth, lettered and ruled in gilt, upper and lower boards with central gilt vignettes of Sylvie and Bruno respectively and, in Sylvie and Bruno concluded, of the Professor and the Chancellor; black endpapers, all edges gilt, Sylvie and Bruno concluded in pale-green dustwrapper; extremities lightly rubbed and bumped, slight cracking on one hinge, dustwrapper faded on spine and with traces of old label, edges a little chipped. 

First editions, Sylvie and Bruno with ownership inscription of ‘L.C.W.’ dated 13 December 1889 on half-title and Sylvie and Bruno concluded in a later state of the binding. Sylvie and Bruno has an ownership inscription dated 13 December 1889, the day after Carroll inscribed a copy to his cousin Lizzie Wilcox (see previous item), and is one of the earliest issued. Sylvie and Bruno Concluded is here found in the dustwrapper with the price ‘7/6 NET’ on the spine (the price on the title-page is the same); Williams, Madan, Green, and Crutch state that, ‘Some copies are found, frequently in mint condition and in dustwrapper, evidently bound at a later date in red cloth without gilt rules round the borders of the covers’. While this copy does have the triple-rule borders on the upper and lower covers, they are not well-executed and it seems unlikely that Dodgson would have permitted its circulation during his lifetime. Certainly, comparison with a copy inscribed by the author in the year of publication shows that a different block was used on the spine of this copy. Loosely inserted in Sylvie and Bruno concluded is the octavo broadside ‘Advertisement’ (‘For over 25 years …’) (Williams, Madan, Green and Crutch 249: ‘Copies were inserted in most, if not all copies’).

Williams, Madan, Green and Crutch 217 and 250.

8vo, pp. xi, [3], 83, [3]; with nine illustrations within the text; a few small marks, else a very good copy in the original pictorial black and beige cloth; a little light wear, small stain to spine; with An Easter greeting to every child who loves “Alice” (pp. 4) inserted at the beginning; provenance: ownership inscription of C.J.B. Donkin to the front free endpaper.

First edition of this characteristically dark nonsense poem, dedicated to Gertrude Chataway, Carroll’s dearest child friend after Alice. The Easter greeting was inserted into every copy of the first edition after printing at Carroll’s own expense.

Dodgson’s younger brother Wilfred married into the Donkin family when he married Alice Jane Donkin in 1871. She and her sister Alice Emily were two of the child friends photographed by Carroll.

Williams, Madan, Green, and Crutch 115.


8vo, pp. [10], 152, [2], with half-title and frontispiece; occasional light spotting but a good copy in original red cloth with gilt designs to covers, gilt edges; provenance: armorial bookplate of Cyril Frampton and inscription to Lionel Frampton from Aunt Bess (1899) to front pastedown.

First edition. A collection of ten amusing stories, known by Carroll as ‘Knots’, each concealing a mathematical problem, the answers to which are given in the appendix. The charming illustrations are by the American illustrator Arthur Burdett Frost (1851-1928), who also illustrated works by Charles Dickens, Sir Walter Scott, and Mark Twain.

8vo (185 x 121mm), pp. 45, [1 (blank)], [2 (blank)]; facsimile frontispiece and 7 facsimile plates, one with illustrations recto-and-verso; original parchment-covered boards, upper board lettered in red and green and with a gilt design after Carroll, spine lettered in red and green, original cellophane dustwrapper with paper flap; very lightly marked on upper board, dustwrapper chipped and torn with small losses, otherwise a very good copy.

First edition. Useful and Instructive Poetry was Lewis Carroll’s first book, composed in 1845 (when its author was thirteen) and written out for his siblings Wilfred Longley Dodgson and Louisa Fletcher Dodgson. It was the first in a series of family magazines and was inspired in part by W.M. Praed’s Etonian (Windsor and London: 1820-1821), although Carroll’s identity as writer already manifests itself in the poems and watercolours and pencil sketches which illustrate the manuscript, some of which are reproduced here.

As M.N. Cohen comments, Useful and Instructive Poetry ‘shows a sophisticated wit for a thirteen-year-old and an impressive range of literary allusion and influence: the humorist poet W.M. Praed, Shakespeare, Blake, the Romantic poets, Izaak Walton, Tennyson. We see the influence of his religious upbringing and recognize the seeds of a later harvest … [including] some of the words that Humpty Dumpty will utter … Young Charles clearly took pleasure in playing with words, even in coining a few, and delighted in parody and humor … Perhaps most remarkable is the tone, how he treats serious subjects without offending…[:] he dispatches conventional and ponderous Victorian concerns with a fresh and light stroke, with banter, irreverently but endearingly spoofing solemn rubrics’ (Lewis Carroll. A Biography (London: 1995), p. 13).

Williams, Madan, Green, and Crutch 316.


8vo, pp. 58, [2 (blank)]; a very good copy in printed paper boards and glassine wrapper.

First edition, number 149 of 400 copies of this anniversary collection, issued to mark the centenary of Through the Looking-Glass. The political verse satire ‘Who Killed Cock Robin?’ appeared in print for the first time in this pamphlet.

8vo, pp. xxxi, [1 (blank)], 188, [1 (blank)], [3 (advertisements)]; a nice, clean copy in the original publisher’s brown cloth, extremities a trifle rubbed, ‘Common Room’ in manuscript to the front pastedown, ‘presentation copy’ embossed in blind to the title. £1650

First edition. ‘The first part of Symbolic Logic… is a serious attempt to popularize Formal logic and accuracy of thought, largely by the use of diagrams… The novelty of method and fame of the author secured a considerable vogue for this book. Dodgson attached special value to this book, if, as he hoped, it would lead to clearer judgements in people who thought at all’ (Williams et al.).

‘Once master the machinery of Symbolic Logic, and you have a mental occupation always at hand, of absorbing interest, and one that will be of real use to you in any subject you may take up’ (p. xiii).

‘Dodgson was attracted by the contemporary interest in the diagrammatization of the logic of classes, and he had read and appreciated Venn’s seminal contributions. In fact he modified Venn diagrams by making their boundaries linear and by introducing coloured counters that could be moved around to signify class contents – a very simple and effective device’ (DSB).

Church, p. 19 (4th edition); Risse II, 136; Williams, Madan, Green, and Crutch 270.

8vo in 4s (181 x 112mm), pp. [i]-xiii, [1 (blank)], 15-[31], [1 (blank)]; title printed in red and black; a few light spots; original red cloth backed wrappers, upper wrapper lettered in red and black and with decorative border; minimally rubbed at extremities, otherwise a very good copy in the original wrappers. 

First edition in book form, wrappers issue. This posthumous publication is based upon ‘A short paper or lecture delivered in Oct. 1884 in the Derbyshire vicarage of Alfreton before a public audience. It is a comparison of feeding the mind with feeding the body in such points as proper food at proper intervals (a “fat mind”), mastication by thinking over what is read, and mental appetite, all pervaded with quiet humour. Mr. Draper explains that the MS. was handed to him by the author, and occasionally read out at Christmas time to friends’ (Williams, Madan, Green, and Crutch). The following admonition is characteristic of the piece: ‘Mental gluttony, or over-reading, is a dangerous propensity, tending to weakness of digestive power, and in some cases to loss of appetite: we know that bread is a good and wholesome food, but who would like to try the experiment of eating two or three loaves at a sitting?’ (p. 20).

The text was first published in the May 1906 issue of Harper’s Monthly Magazine in New York, before being published in book form in 1907 in wrappers at 1s (as here) and in limp gilt leather covers at 2s.

Williams, Madan, Green, and Crutch 291.

8vo, pp. 23, [1] blank; slightly creased with a short tear repaired at the head of p. 17, else a very good copy in the publisher’s printed brick-red wrappers, slightly creased with chipped extremities and a tear at the base of the spine; pencilled letters, partially erased, and the ownership inscription of ‘M. E. Sadler’ in brown ink dated ‘May 31 1886’ to upper wrapper, preserved in glassine wrappers; a note in Sadler’s hand to the half-title identifies the pamphleteer as the ‘author of “Alice in Wonderland”’. £600

**First issue of the first edition** of Dodgson’s satiric prose attack on the Christ Church College bell tower. Dodgson deplores the cuboid design: ‘we are credibly informed that Borwick’s Baking Powder and Thorley’s Food for Cattle are now sold in no other shape’ (p. 14). He proceeds to offer the tower a starring role in a piece of dramatic parody which draws on *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, and *The Tempest*. The drama ends with the Bodleian’s librarian, Mr Cox, and the Belfry re-united:

Librarian. Ah, tell me […] have you such a thing as a redeeming feature, or the least mark of artistic design, about you?

Belfry. No!

Librarian. Then you are my long-lost-door-scraper!

_They rush into each other’s arms._

(pp. 19-20).

The ownership inscription is presumably that of the educationist Sir Michael Ernest Sadler who was appointed steward of Christ Church in 1886, the year of the inscription to the upper wrapper (*ODNB*).

Williams, Madan, Green, and Crutch 88; Collingwood, pp. 163, 434 (five ‘editions’).

8vo (215 x 135mm), pp. 191, [1 (blank)]; illustrations, facsimiles and diagrams after Carroll et al. in the text; original orange boards, upper board with publisher’s device in gilt, spine lettered in gilt, dustwrapper, retaining original price; dustwrapper spine slightly faded, otherwise a very good copy.

First edition. ‘A recondite enquiry into the Dodgsonian convention of Nonsense and the curious patterns of correspondence and alliteration that the author finds in the Carrollian opus’ (Williams, Madan, Green and Crutch).

Williams, Madan, Green, and Crutch 544.


8vo, pp. xv, [1], 387, [3], with four plates; a good copy in the original cloth.

First edition.