

SURREY HISTORY SERVICE  
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

130 GOLDSWORTH ROAD, WOKING

**BRIEF GUIDE TO THE ARCHIVES OF CHARLES  
LUTWIDGE DODGSON (1832-1898) HELD AT SURREY  
HISTORY CENTRE**

There exist several holdings of 'Lewis Carroll' archives at Surrey History Centre, principally: DFC/- the Dodgson Family Collection, G103/- the Manners correspondence, LC/-, the 'Lewis Carroll' -related collection of ephemera made by Surrey History Service, and May Livock Mileham collection, 6968/-. **The following is a summary of the main document groups represented in these holdings, with references to significant items.**

**Background to the deposit of the archives and CLD's connections with Guildford can be found in the introduction to DFC/-.** There is also a pamphlet, Shirley Corke, *Lewis Carroll in Guildford* (Guildford Borough Council, 1988).

**Access restrictions**

The collection can only be accessed with the permission of Surrey History Centre's Public Services Manager.

**Members of the public are not permitted to take photographs of items in DFC/-.** Surrey History Centre is the sole provider of any photographic images to the public and will *only* provide hard copy prints and not files on CD-ROM.

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## 1 PERSONAL ARCHIVE OF CL DODGSON

Diaries

CLD kept a diary from his time as an undergraduate at Christ Church, Oxford (c.1851) until Dec 1897, very shortly before his death. The originals which survive are held in the British Library. A new edition of the diaries by Edward Wakeling is held in the SHC library. Microfilm of the originals is held as DFC/E/5/1-2. Photocopies and an index to the diaries are held as LC/5/1-9 and LC/37.

For records relating to the destruction of diaries and pages from the diaries, see below under family biography, and DFC/F/17/-.

Letters

CLD was a voluminous letter writer, and kept a register of in letters and copy letters for both business and personal correspondence. (The registers do not survive.)

Examples of registered letters are held (DFC/A/15/1, DFC/A/29/1/1, DFC/A/29/4/1-3, DFC/A/29/8, DFC/A/32/1/5, DFC/A/35/1, 3-5, DFC/A/36/1-2); other copy and draft letters by CLD are held in DFC/A/29/- and DFC/A/15/-.

The earliest autograph letter held is to Louisa his sister in 1854 (DFC/A/3/4).

**DFC/- does not contain a very large quantity of autograph letters by CLD (see DFC/A/28-: more substantial is the so-called Manners collection, ref G103/-, an apparently complete accumulation of letters written by CLD to Mary and Charles Manners. LC/7/1-2 is also autograph).**

Two letters from CLD to Mrs Henry Mileham and to May Mileham, 1884 & 1886 are also held, 6968/2 & 4.

## 1/1 RECORDS OF CLD'S CAREER AS OXFORD DON AND MATHEMATICIAN

CLD obtained a first class in mathematics in 1854.

Copies of essays 'read in Hall' at Christchurch, 1852, are DFC/E/2/8. Although he was ordained to deacon's orders in December 1861 (letters of ordination, DFC/A/4/1); he is said to have preached rarely (DFC/A/20/1 is a reprint of a sermon at a children's service).

1/1 RECORDS OF CLD'S CAREER AS OXFORD DON AND MATHEMATICIAN contd

Mathematical work and logic (both ms and galley proofs) is listed as DFC/A/14/1-3. The incomplete work, *Symbolic Logic*, is discussed in a letter by CLD, ref DFC/A/15/2. Puzzles are listed below under Family and social life.

1/2 RECORDS OF CLD'S LITERARY CAREER AS LEWIS CARROLL

**No manuscripts or major first editions of works are held** by SHC, although an original illustration by Tenniel of the 'big puppy' from *Alice in Wonderland* is held as LC/3.

Copies of published works, proofs etc include *Ye Carpette Knyghte* (DFC/A/8/1-3), *A Tangled Tale* (DFC/A/11/1), *Sylvie and Bruno* and *Sylvie and Bruno concluded* (DFC/A/12/1-4), *A Lesson in Latin* poem (DFC/A/13/2), *An Easter Greeting to every child who loves Alice* and *Christmas Greetings from a fairy to a child* (DFC/A/17/1-2), an article, *Alice on the Stage*, 1887 including an account of the genesis of the *Hunting of the Snark* (DFC/A/19/1), *Eight or Nine Wise Words about Letter Writing* (DFC/A/17/5).

DFC/E/2/3 is a typescript copy of *The Rectory Magazine*, edited by CLD in 1850, with a notes of his contributions (other copy works are also held under DFC/E/2/-)

CLD's own remarks on writing appear in DFC/A/36/2/3, copy letter refuting comparison with Tom Hood, and G103/- , letters to the children's author Mary Manners.

Business arising from authorship

Correspondence concerning publication, or translation of his works, and agreements with Macmillans, publishers are held as DFC/A/5/1-2, DFC/A/36/1/1-20 and DFC/A/36/3/1-2.

CLD did not wish his identity as Lewis Carroll to be commonly known. DFC/A/31/2 is a copy of his standard letter disclaiming association with Carroll, referring his correspondant to Macmillans, publishers.

1/2 RECORDS OF CLD'S LITERARY CAREER AS LEWIS CARROLL contd

Business arising from authorship contd

CLD's relationship with Charles Manners, tin box manufacturer, who produced an 'Alice' tin, may be traced in detail in G103/- the archive of the Manners family.

1/3 RECORDS OF CLD AS AN ARTIST AND A PHOTOGRAPHER

8 sketches of children by CLD are held as DFC/A/22/1.

**Original prints of photographs taken or believed to have been taken by CLD are held as DFC/B/2/1-9.** All are of family members except that of Xie Kitchen with a violin. Prints of all photographs are available in an album: original prints may not be issued in the searchroom without special permission.

Some copy prints of CLD's photographs are held as LC/57 (the Haydon children) and LC/42 (Daresbury Parsonage).

**No photographs of Alice Liddell are held.**

Portraits of CLD and his family

Photography was a family interest: CLD records in his diary considering obtaining photographic equipment after seeing that of his Uncle Skeffington in 1855, and he purchased some in 1856.

Aside from DFC/B/5/19, which is endorsed with violet ink, it is not clear that CLD commissioned or ever personally owned the photographs of other family members now held as DFC/B/5/- (this group also includes photographs taken after CLD's death, and photographic copies of sketch and oil portraits). See Zg/100 for other copy family portraits.

CLD had many **photographic portraits of himself** made, from his early twenties until near the end of his life. Provenance of these is more certain: prints held as **DFC/B/1/2-10** include -/-/-/7-10, which appear to have been endorsed with numbers by CLD.

A cutout silhouette made of CLD at the age of 8 is also held, DFC/B/1/1.

2 ESTATE OF CL DODGSON, FAMILY ARCHIVE AND MEMORABILIA

CLD's estate was left to his brothers and sisters to be divided equally (for his will and probate accounts, see DFC/A/7/3, 5). Soon after CLD's death, a large quantity of his papers are known to have been destroyed by his family while sorting out his estate. DFC/A/7/4 is a letter authorising the destruction of sacks of papers found in CLD's rooms in Oxford.

Sales of literary manuscripts occurred almost immediately (newscuttings describing the sales are included in DFC/A/7/7/1 and DFC/F/60/15; records of later sales, including catalogues, are DFC/F/60/1-25).

The surviving documents now held as DFC/- are not always of clear provenance. Most were probably already held by the family at their Guildford home before the dispersal of his personal estate, but others were purchased some considerable time after.

**The family had begun collecting memorabilia of CLD before he died, and after his death they accumulated letters, newscuttings (DFC/H/-), critical analyses, tributes and other papers: much of the latter part of the DFC/- list (DFC/F/- DFC/L) relates to their collection.**

**NB the Dodgson Family still privately hold other archives of CLD: these are sometimes confusingly cited as 'Dodgson Family Collection' in published works on Lewis Carroll, but are not held at Surrey History Centre.**

2/1 FAMILY RECORDS OF CLD'S LIFE

Education and career

Records of CLD's childhood include a religious reading list (DFC/A/1/1) and a ms book of maps (DFC/A/1/4). His schooldays at Richmond School, Yorkshire and Rugby are represented by letters from the schools to family members and letters from CLD's mother to her sister Lucy Lutwidge (DFC/A/2/1-4 and DFC/E/1/1-3). Similar letters concerning his undergraduate career are also held (DFC/3/1-3), as is a letter from Carroll himself to a sister (DFC/A/3/4), announcing his first class in mathematics.

2/1 FAMILY RECORDS OF CLD'S LIFE contd

Family and social life: amateur theatricals, parlour games and logic puzzles

He encouraged his sister Louisa in the study of logic. Letters concerning puzzles are DFC/A/15/1-3, DFC/A/3/1. Puzzles composed by him include DFC/E/3/1-3 and DFC/A/16/1-3. 'Phrenologist's characters' of CLD are DFC/A/6/1-3.

Family letters and business

CLD took responsibility for the family after his father's death in 1868. DFC/A/28/1-4 comprises letters to Aunt Lucy Lutwidge and his sister Louisa. DFC/A/6/4 and DFC/A/32/1-4 are CLD's account of the estate of Aunt Lucy, and letters concerning its administration.

Friends of CLD

In 1900, Frances Dodgson, CLD's eldest sister, wrote to friends of CLD whom he had photographed, or to their relatives, enclosing prints of the photographs, and asking whether they would like the negatives. The replies to her letters, with reminiscences of CLD, are held as DFC/D/1/1-57. (DFC/D/2/- is a collection of published recollections by friends, including one by Alice Liddell in *The Cornhill Magazine*, -/-/7.)

CLD's death, 1898

Records relating to CLD's death are held as DFC/A/7/1-7 (album of accounts of his funeral is DFC/A/7/7/1)

2/2 FAMILY BIOGRAPHY

A biography of CLD was written by his nephew Stuart Dodgson Collingwood (see LC/2/2 and LC/83) in 1899, the year after his

## 2/2 FAMILY BIOGRAPHY contd

death. Collingwood had access to diaries which have subsequently disappeared. For notes and a letter relating to the disappearance of the diaries and missing pages from surviving ones, see DFC/F/17/1-2.

The text of a talk by Violet Dodgson (daughter of CLD's brother Wilfred) entitled 'Lewis Carroll as I knew him', is held as DFC/C/6/2/1-14.

## 2/3 ARCHIVE RELATING TO OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS

DFC/C/- comprises letters, other documents and toys relating to Dodgson family members other than CLD. Photographs and portraits are held in DFC/B/