

UK Copyright and Lewis Carroll (C. L. Dodgson)

This paper is an attempt to clarify the position with regard to the publication in the UK of Lewis Carroll's works, letters, photographs, diaries and manuscripts.

All works published during the lifetime of Lewis Carroll are out of copyright (also known as "in the public domain") throughout the world. Any reference below to the expiration of copyright means the end of the year in question, not the actual anniversary of death or publication which takes place within that year.

In the UK, anything by Carroll published after his death is now in copyright for 70 years from the year of first publication or 2039, whichever earlier. (The outside date of 2039 derives from transitional arrangements agreed under a revision of the copyright law). Therefore *A Selection from the Letters of Lewis Carroll* edited by Evelyn M Hatch and published in 1933 has been in the public domain in the UK since 2003 but *The Letters of Lewis Carroll* edited by Morton Cohen with the assistance of Roger Lancelyn Green, published in 1979, is protected until 2039. And *Lewis Carroll Diaries* edited by Edward Wakeling are likewise protected until 2039.

(Please note that the US has different copyright rules. A work first published before 1923 is in the public domain there. If first published between 1923 and 1977, protection is for 95 years from publication. If first published between 1978 and 2002, protection is until 2047. For an author who died more than 70 years ago, there is no protection for works published in or after 2003. So the Hatch letters will still be protected in the US until 2028 and the Cohen/Green letters are protected there until 2047.)

A holograph manuscript (i.e. in Lewis Carroll's hand) also has copyright protection if not published in that format during Carroll's lifetime. So the image of one of the letters from the 1933 *Selection* will still be in copyright in the UK until 2039, unless the image was published more than 70 years ago.

The black and white illustrations commissioned by Lewis Carroll for his works are also out of copyright. This applies to John Tenniel's illustrations for *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865), *Through the Looking-Glass* (1871), and *The Nursery "Alice"* (1889). Henry Holiday's illustrations for *The Hunting of the Snark* (1876) are out of copyright, so too are the illustrations for *Rhyme? and Reason?* (1883) and *A Tangled Tale* (1885) by Arthur B. Frost. Harry Furniss's illustrations for *Sylvie and Bruno* (1889) and *Sylvie and Bruno Concluded* (1893) are out of copyright. Finally, the illustrations by E. Gertrude Thomson for *Three Sunsets and Other Poems* (1898) are out of copyright.

The copyright in works which are still protected is owned by the Executors of the C. L. Dodgson Estate. Nothing which is still in copyright may be quoted without permission from their Literary Agent (details below) unless they are covered by fair dealing.

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As a matter of common courtesy, quotations from Lewis Carroll's published diaries, letters and manuscripts should protect the copyright, and a statement to the effect that the material is under copyright to the Executors of the C. L. Dodgson Estate should be included.

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