The Annotated Transcription of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson's Clarendon Press Ledger

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*The Lewis Carroll Handbook* (1979) contains a page of facsimile of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson's, also known as Lewis Carroll's personal Clarendon Press ledger (Fig. 1) which shows expenses and receipts concerning the printing of *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* (1865). Handwritten and printed “much reduced,” it is very hard to read, but with the help of digital equipment, I was able to restore the contents. The following table is the transcription of this ledger with notes.

![Clarendon Press Ledger](image-url)

Fig. 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1866</td>
<td>Brought forward</td>
<td>£11 10 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1866</td>
<td>To Printing 250 Copies of page with rules across, arithmetical scheme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>To Printing 2000 Copies of &quot;Alice's Adventures in Wonderland,&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>To Printing 130 Copies of Title &amp; Preface to &quot;Guides to the Mathematical Student,&quot; &amp; Doing up 250 Copies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Mathematical Examination Papers</td>
<td>£10 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Copies of Exam Papers &quot;mathematics&quot;</td>
<td>£7 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>30 Copies of 'S?[?] Pure Math'</td>
<td>£10 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>May 22 100 Copies of one, &amp; 50 of another</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mathematical Examination Papers</td>
<td>£10 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>May 26 1000 Titles to Alice, American Edition</td>
<td>£13 6 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Jan 17 1000 Copies of Exam Papers &quot;mathematics&quot;</td>
<td>£7 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Mar 21 30 Copies of 'S?[?] Pure Math'</td>
<td>£10 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Bill, Sep 27, '67</td>
<td>£2 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>To Printing 250 Copies of &quot;Determinants&quot; = 9½ sheets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Paper, Press &amp; Corrections</td>
<td>£104 5 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Feb 13 By Cash</td>
<td>£101 1 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>&quot;Determinants&quot; = 9½ sheets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>To Printing 600 Sticking Titles for &quot;Determinants&quot;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Bill, June 27, 68</td>
<td>£17 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>£106 6 0</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Table 1
Notes A (mainly on the Dr. side)

l. 2 “Dr.” stands for “Debtor” and “Cr.” stands for “Creditor.” As for the form of the personal ledger, see John Southward’s Practical Printing: A Handbook of the Art of Typography (1911), vol. II, pp. 591-2. The same topic is also handled in the 1884 edition (pp. 606-7), but the 1911 edition is much more detailed and comprehensible. Both editions are available on the net.

l. 5 (Dr. side) “To Printing ~”: this is the way to enter the transaction. See Southward above.

ll. 5-7 (Dr. side) “250 copies of page with rules across, arithmetical scheme”: Dodgson wrote in his diary of Oct. 16, 1863, “Had some Arithmetic papers printed in blank.” It was usual for him to prepare the exam papers by himself.

l. 9 “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland”: This is the first (recalled) issue of the First Edition which was printed in 1865 in the U.K. and published in 1866 in the U.S.A. from D. Appleton and Co. with a new title-page inserted. See The Lewis Carroll Handbook (hereafter mentioned as LCH) pp. 29-32 and also see l. 29 (Dr. side) for the title page of the American Edition.

l. 11 (Dr. side) “12 ¾ Sheets at £5.15.6”: In LCH, the first (recalled) edition of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland (hereafter mentioned as AAW) is described as 8vo: [xii] + 192. This means that the first AAW consists of 192 pages of text and 12 pages of preliminary parts such as a frontispiece or a title-page. So the whole book has 204 pages. The form of this book is octavo, and that means 16 pages were printed on a sheet. The necessary number of sheets to print a copy of this book is available by dividing 204 by 16. The answer is 12.75 (= 12 ¾). The cost of printing 2,000 sheets being £5.15.6, £73 12s 7.5d is necessary for printing 12 ¾ sheets. The figure on the ledger is £73.12.6. Its last digit is not correct.

l. 12 (Dr. side) “Paper, 52 Reams at 2/”: “Ream” is a unit to count sheets of paper. We may assume a “ream” in this ledger has 516 sheets: “Some Printing Papers are made up into reams of 480 sheets, and some into reams of 500 sheets; but the majority are in reams of 516 sheets, and such are called ‘perfect reams’” (Southward, 1911, Vol. I, Bk. 1, p. 21). Therefore, the number of sheets prepared for printing the first AAW is: 52 x 516 = 26,832. The number of sheets necessary for printing 2,000 copies of AAW is: 2,000 x 12 ¾ = 25,500. Paper was sufficiently prepared.

l. 13 (Dr. side) “Rolling 52 Reams at 2/”: “Rolling” is another way of saying “calendering.”
“There is another method of preparing paper for being printed on; by “rolling” or calendering it. The compression of the textile fibre, caused by being subjected to great pressure, not only gives the paper a fine glossy appearance, but adapts it to receive the impression from the types. Much of the fine bookwork now produced is done on paper that has been merely “rolled,” and printed dry...” (Southward, 1884, pp. 417-8).

l. 14 (Dr. side) “Carriage of Sheets to London”: Selwyn Goodacre mentions a U.K. place-name in his article “The 1865 Alice: A New Appraisal and a Revised Census” in Soaring with the Dodo (1982) (p. 81) as evidence to prove that AAW (1865), although it was published in the U.S.A., was bound in the U.K., not in the U.S.A. He writes that “a printed London address (Old Kent Road)” was found in “the remnants of the paper liner reinforcing the backs of the sewn gatherings” of David Schaefer’s “Appleton Alice.” However, as he writes, “No one so far has adduced any evidence for” the place where AAW (1865) was bound.

LCH writes: “The first issue of the first edition of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, of which 2,000 copies were printed at the Clarendon Press in Oxford, was bound by Burn, of 37-38 Kirby Street, London E.C.” (p. 30). And the editors of Lewis Carroll and the House of Macmillan (p. 37, n. 1) repeats this information about the binder. But they show no evidence for this statement. However, since Macmillan highly appreciated Burn: “Burn is the finest binder in England and we believe altogether unmatched by any other...” (ibid. p. 221, n. 1), it may be reasonable to assume that Burn bound AAW (1865) for Appleton.

The address of Burn at that time was slightly different from LCH’s description. According to Maurice Packer’s Bookbinders of Victorian London, the address of Burn from 1859 to 1868 was “36-38 Kirby Street and 35 Hatton Garden, E.C.” (p. 26).

l. 17 (Dr. side) “Bill delivered July 15, 1865”: The total sum of the bill, £142 19s 2d, includes amounts for several items. The cost of printing AAW is available by deducing £11 10s 2d and 8s (ll. 4-7) from this sum, which is £131 1s.

ll. 19-23 (Dr. side) “1864 Jan 31...Title and Preface to ‘Guides to the Mathematical Student’”: This should be A Guide to the Mathematical Student in Reading, Reviewing, and Working Examples which is described in LCH pp. 25-6. The publication date on the title page is MDCCCLXIV (= 1864). Edward Wakeling (Diaries Vol. 5, p. 28, n. 28) and the editors of LCH (p. 26) suggest that Dodgson’s remarks in his diary of 9 Dec 1864, “A day or two ago I cut up 2 copies of my ‘Syllabus.’ and filed the whole, with some additional MS. to serve as scaffolding for the book. It seems an excellent plan,” refer to this book.

l. 29 (Dr. side) “1000 Titles to Alice, American Edition”: American Edition of AAW
which has the new title page tipped-in is described in LCH as No. 44 (p. 33). LCH also counts another edition of American AAW which has a title page slightly different from it as No. 45. As for these minutely different title pages of American Alice, see Plate II and Plate III in Flodden W. Heron’s *The 1866 Appleton Alice*, in *The Colophon: New Series*, Nr. 3, Vol. I (pp. 424-5). Heron believes that “the title page shown in Plate II is the earlier of the two, that this appeared in the first thousand Appleton copies, and that it is the title-page for which Dodgson was charged on the printers’ books” (p. 426).

However, as Selwyn Goodacre writes in his article “The 1865 Alice: A New Appraisal and a Revised Census” in *Soaring with the Dodo* (1982), citing W. H. Bond, “the two variants were closer to each other than either were to the 1865 titles. It seems virtually certain that the cancel page was set up in duplicate” [italics mine] (p. 81). This solves the problem why only 1,000 titles were printed for 2,000 copies of AAW.

l. 32 (Dr. side) “Pure Math”: This seems to be the shortened title of “A Guide to the Mathematical Student” referred to in ll. 19-23 because LCH describes its full title as *A Guide to the Mathematical Student in Reading, Reviewing, and Working Examples. By Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, M.A. Student and Mathematical Lecturer of Christ Church, Oxford. Part I. Pure Mathematics*. [underline mine] (p. 25)

l. 36 (Dr. side) “Determinants”: This is *An Elementary Treatise on Determinants* (1867) described in LCH p. 43. “Corrigenda : vii-viii” described in LCH is the “Corrections” in l. 38.

l. 42 (Dr. side) “Sticking Titles for ‘Determinants’”: No information has been found about this item.

l. 45-7 (Dr. side) “Euclid Book V., treated Algebraically in Wrapper”: This is *The Fifth Book of Euclid Treated Algebraically, So Far As It Relates to Commensurable Magnitudes, With Notes by Charles L. Dodgson, M.A.* (1868) described in LCH pp. 47-8. As for the “Wrapper,” LCH describes: “Issued in brown paper wrappers, the first page of which reproduces the title-page.” LCH also says of this book: “As early as 16 Jan. 1868 Dodgson wrote in his Diary : ‘I have written almost all of the pamphlet on Euclid V by Algebra, with notes’, but there is no mention of completion or publication dates.” However, the entry of the ledger almost certainly establishes the publication date as around February 19, 1868.

l. 48 (Dr. side) “Algebraical Formulae for Responsions”: This is *Algebraical Formulae for Responsions* (1868) described in LCH p. 48.

Notes B (mainly on the Cr. side)
ll. 14-5 (Cr. side) “On Alice = 70.0.0 / Various = 13.8.2”: These figures are written in very small letters as memoranda. As is easily inferred, these are the details for July 6 payment of £83 8s 2d. “Various = £13 8s 2d” is the sum total of items in l. 4, l. 5, and l. 20 on the Dr. side. Therefore, the amount Dodgson paid for the printing of AAW is £104 which is the sum of “On Alice” £70 and £34 paid on Jan 4, 1867 (l. 21) . Since the actual amount of printing of AAW is £131 1s as calculated in the note to l. 17 (Dr. side), the difference is £27 1s. This is just the amount entered as “Loss on Alice” in l. 23 (Cr. side). The word “Loss” indicates that it is not a discount made by the Clarendon Press, for a discount is clearly described as “Disct” like in l. 38. Jenny Woolf, in The Mystery of Lewis Carroll, writes the amount as £27 11s 0d, but it is not correct (p. 170) .

It is not until a year and a half had past since the bill for AAW was delivered to Dodgson (l. 17, Dr. side) that he paid money which is short of the amount charged. It is true that the poor quality of printing of 1865 AAW caused Dodgson great physical and mental distress, but the fact that he made them reduce the amount after a long negotiation shows that he was a tough negotiator.

l. 19 (Cr. side) “July 6 By Cash £83 8s 2d”: The payment is of course made by cheque. A cheque for £83 8s 2d made out to “Combe & Co.” was cashed on July 7, 1866 at Dodgson’s main bank, Parsons Thomson. See Jenny Woolf (2005), p. 48.

l. 21 (Cr. side) “Jan 4 By Cash £34”: A cheque for £34 made out to “Combe” was cashed on Jan 5, 1867. See Woolf (2005), p. 49.

l. 36 (Cr. side) “Feb 13 By Cash £101 1s 6d”: A cheque for £101 1s 6d made out to “Combe & Co.” was cashed on 14 Feb 1868. See Woolf (2005), p. 50.

l. 43 (Cr. side) “Mar 18 By Cash £17”: A cheque for £17 made out to “Combe & Co.” was cashed on 20 March 1869. See Woolf (2005), p. 52.

Books Referenced


<http://digitalcollections.library.cmu.edu/portal/main.jsp?flag=browse&smd=1&awdid=6>  
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抄録

The Lewis Carroll Handbook にはイギリスでは出版されなかった Alice's Adventures in Wonderland 初版本（1865）印刷時のC.L.ドジソン（＝ルイス・キャロル）のClarendon Pressにおける個人口座の帳簿が掲載されている。かなりの縮刷でしかもハンドライティングなので読み取りづらいのだが、デジタル的な手法により相当精細に解読することができた。さらにこの帳簿から読み取れるAAW印刷に関する様々な情報を注の形で記述した。

また、収支の面では、ドジソン宛ての初版本の請求書が1865年7月に送られているのにもかかわらず、彼がようやくその費用£131 1sのうち計£104のみを支払ったのがその1年半後であったことが見て取れる。Clarendon Press側はその差£27 1sを "Loss on Alice" としている。同じ帳簿内に "Disct (= Discount) " という言葉が見えることから、これは明らかにドジソンがその分の支払いを拒否したために「回収不能」となったことを意味する。たしかに初版本の印刷が不首尾であったためドジソンはかなりの肉体的、精神的な苦痛を受けていたのであるが、その代償としてこれだけの額を長期の交渉により会社側から引き出した彼はやはりかなりの "tough negotiator" であったと言えるだろう。
The Lewis Carroll Handbook contains a page of facsimile of C. L. Dodgson’s personal Clarendon Press Ledger which shows expenses and receipts concerning the printing of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland (1865). Handwritten and printed “much reduced,” it is very hard to read, but with the help of digital equipment, I was able to restore the contents. Consulting books on printing published in the Victorian era, I elucidated some complicated points about the printing of 1865 Alice.

The figures of the ledger show that although the bill of 1865 Alice was delivered to Dodgson on 15 July 1865, it was not until January 4 1867 that he paid only £104, which is £27 1s short. Clarendon Press described the difference as “Loss on Alice” to make it clear that it was not a discount but a loss due to Dodgson’s refusal to pay. Although the inferior quality of printing of 1865 Alice caused Dodgson great physical and mental distress, the fact that he was able to get the amount from the printer with a long negotiation shows that he was a tough negotiator.