



HIS MASTER'S VOICE AND ALICE: Eldridge Johnson's Adventure with Lewis Carroll's *Alice* Manuscript

A talk by August A. Imholtz, Jr.
to mark the 150th anniversary of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Tuesday, December 1, 2015
4:30 p.m. Class of 1941 Lecture Room
Morris Library, University of Delaware
181 South College Avenue, Newark, Delaware
Light refreshments

RSVP via email at libraryrsvp@winsor.lib.udel.edu or call 302-831-2231

Born in Delaware in 1867 and a long-time resident of the First State, Eldridge Johnson rose from humble origin as a machine shop apprentice to perfect and patent, with Emile Berliner, the early gramophone, the Victor Talking Machine. Selling 1,696,000 phonograph records in 1902, Johnson became one of the wealthiest Americans in the first decades of the twentieth century. This talk is about not only Eldridge Johnson himself, but also about his love of Lewis Carroll's *Alice* books leading to his purchase in 1928 of the manuscript of Carroll's first draft of his famous *Wonderland* book, originally called *Alice's Adventures Under Ground*. The talk will also address his meeting with the real Alice, not the 10-year-old girl of the book, but the 80-year-old Alice Hargreaves (née Liddell), when she visited the U.S. in 1932 and the interesting fate of the *Under Ground* manuscript while in Johnson's possession and what happened to it after his death in 1945.

August A. Imholtz, Jr. was the Government Documents Vice President of Readex, a digital publishing company. A former president of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America, he is also a past president of the Baltimore Bibliophiles, a member of the American Library Association's Rare and Endangered Government Publications Committee, and a member of the Lewis Carroll Societies of Great Britain, Canada, and Japan. He has written or edited several books and published more than 100 articles on Greek and Latin philology, Lewis Carroll, and other subjects. He has lectured at Cambridge University, the Smithsonian Institution, Princeton University, the Foreign Language Library in Moscow, and other institutions.

This talk is associated with "We are all Mad": The 150th Anniversary of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, an exhibition (November 20–December 18) in the Guenschel Case, located in the University of Delaware Morris Library's Information Room. The display includes a copy of the facsimile of the *Alice* manuscript Eldridge Johnson had printed in Vienna in 1936.

ILLUSTRATION: Lewis Carroll, 1832–1898, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. New York: D. Appleton, 1866.
(Special Collections, University of Delaware Library)



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