

Index to the C. L. Dodgson's Private Journals¹

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Introduction

Creating a detailed index to the manuscript Journals of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (better known as Lewis Carroll) has been a 'dream' project which we have cherished since 1997.

Dodgson's journals originally consisted of thirteen notebooks, all of which were available to his nephew/biographer, Stuart Dodgson Collingwood, who published *The Life and Letters of Lewis Carroll* in 1898, the year of his uncle's death. The importance of the journals to posterity was not fully appreciated by the family, and by 1932, when the centenary of Dodgson's birth was celebrated, four of the diaries had unfortunately been lost. It was thanks to the foresight of Dodgson's great-nephew, the late Philip Dodgson Jaques, who became the senior trustee of the Dodgson family estate in 1961, that the surviving nine diaries were offered to the British Library for acquisition, and there they remain to this day.

Regrettably the first journal, which dates from at least October 1853, is one of the four which are missing. The first six of the surviving journals have been printed and published⁵. The work of the present Index Project

¹ This paper is a report of the Index project organized in 2002 and supported by Bunkyo University Women's College. The Project members' specialities are varied from English Linguistics, Mathematics and Logic, and English Philology.

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⁵ *Lewis Carroll's Diaries* Volumes 1-6, published by The Lewis Carroll Society 1993-2001.

is based exclusively on the manuscripts, not on the printed books. This is mainly for two reasons. One reason is that in the event of future revisions to the printed *Diaries*, the reference page numbers are likely to become useless. One other possible difficulty is that there are several misprints and editorial amendments in the printed books, so it was considered better to prepare the index direct from the original texts.

The printed books of Dodgson's Journals, which are called the *Lewis Carroll Diaries*, have their own index at the end of each volume. These indices mainly consist of the names of people and places, titles of books, articles, poems and plays, etc. The index to the printed *Diary Number 1* contains approximately 870 entries and that to *Diary Number 2* about 1300. Of these, about two thirds are from the items in the footnotes. Thus the index to Dodgson's original text itself is reduced in number to roughly one third or less of the total 2,170 items. In our index we present over 3,700 items of the Journal 1855 and 1856 including 350 mathematical items. As our index is exclusively based on Dodgson's original text, our index include nothing which does not appear in Dodgson's original manuscript journals.

Individual researchers have differing needs and expectations, and most will have experienced the frustrations of consulting an inadequately conceived index. A carefully prepared index would be a classified body of words in the text, and would naturally reveal important characteristics from the writer's choice of words. If an index limits the selection of the items to the names of the places, persons, titles of books, articles, music or plays &c., it would reveal that particular aspect of the writer's interest or concern. In this project, we throw lights on and include some verbs, adjectives, or adverbs as well as common nouns and proper nouns,

looking at a wider range of the writer's world through the window of an index.

Charles L. Dodgson's handwriting is readable and seldom gives the reader difficulties in figuring out the spellings. In the published *Lewis Carroll's Diaries*, however, there are to be found some examples of misspelling which do not coincide with the original manuscript text. We illustrate this with a few examples.

'... who bought him to the Library' (June 5, 1856) or 'There names are most unpoetical' (June 26, 1856)' are simple printing mistakes for '... who brought him to the Library', 'Their names are most unpoetical' which are found in the manuscript. Anyone writing a diary can make a spelling mistake. In Dodgson's manuscripts there are a few. One example is the name of his friend and colleague. Dodgson spelt this as 'Tyrwhit' (Januray 7, 1856), 'Tyrwhitt' (January 10, 1856), and 'Tyrrwhit' (December 22, 1856), as in the ordered list below.

Tyrwhit, 1-7* /56; (January 7, 1856)

Tyrwhitt, 5-1 /56 and 5-10 /56;

Tyrrwhit's photograph, took, 10-22 /56;

Tyrrwhit, breakfast with, 12-22 /56;

Tyrrwhit's, went to, 12-23 /56

This example is amusing for readers but this beamish treat is denied to the readers of the printed *Diaries* as it is consistently spelt 'Tyrwhitt' throughout the *Diaries*. There is another and less discreet case of 'misspelling', which occurred to dates. July 18, 1856 and July 23, 1856 are not found in the manuscript.

As is natural in a private journal, Dodgson often used only their initials for the names of his brothers and sisters, and also for his very

close relatives, aunts and uncles. In some cases he spelt their names in full, and in others he wrote down just their plain initials. For watchful readers the abridged forms are easy to identify, and it is always predictable when he would write in unabridged form. A kind, considerate editorial principle sometimes robs the wings of imagination, for initials are all spelt out in full in the published *Diaries*.

Our index includes such items as 'walked', 'dined', 'wrote', 'breakfasted', 'bought', etc. syntactically classified as verbs, and 'litttle', 'sweet', 'beautiful', 'lovely', &c., syntactically classified as adjectives, and the words like 'theatre', 'school', 'children', which we encountered a number of times when reading through the journals. Groups of 'verbs' may reveal something about Dodgson's friendly attitude and sociable nature, and words such as 'litttle', 'beautiful', 'pretty', 'wonderful' etc. may reveal other aspects of his character.

Notation

Items of the index were picked up and recorded on the principle that the index would be prepared, as much as possible, in the original form relating to the transcriptions. Thus the quotation marks, both single and double, go with the word or phrase exactly as they are found in the text. In some cases abridged forms of words produce difficulties. In the case of titles Dodgson placed small letters 'r' or 'rs' in writing 'Mr' or 'Mrs' followed by a dot to the right shoulder of the word. These small letters placed on the right shoulder of words are transcribed in the ordinary way in the present representation. Some items are underlined in Dodgson's writing, which will be represented with underlines in the future version.

Some inconsistencies in manuscript writings are inevitable especially

in private journals, and we keep all his original forms without inserting any interpretations. If a form is spelt irregularly, the readers must judge for themselves.

Each item is referred to the original text by way of the date given in the order of month, day, and year. Thus 3-1 /56 is March 1st, 1856.

A comma in an item like 'Deanery, to the' or 'Acland, met Dr.' reads 'to the Deanery' or 'met Dr. Acland'.

An asterisk on the right shoulder of a date signals that the item is found on the left-hand page of the text under the date. Dodgson kept his usual record on the right-hand page. He kept the opposite side blank for any additional record.

In some cases, but not always, Dodgson used the ampersand symbol '&' for 'and'. It looks strange to see items beginning with this symbol like '& I, Frank'. The manuscript journal reads as 'Frank & I'. There may be a few people who may take interest in looking at the name following after a comma in the items like '& I, ..'.

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson was almost twenty-three years old when he started writing his journals. This was prior to his being given a Lectureship at Christ Church, but as a tutor he was beginning to take pupils to give lectures in one of his large rooms reserved for the purpose (4-24 /56). He was teaching students, few of whom were interested in learning Mathematics, so that the work was often tedious and unrewarding.

The index of Mathematics and Logic to all the surviving Journals is prepared by Hosoi⁶ and in the present report the index to Mathematics in

⁶ All the neat and precise form of the present Index was prepared and finished by untiring and dedicated work by Hosoi.

the Journal of 1855 and 1856 are incorporated and shown in the General Index to Charles L. Dodgson's Private Journal of 1855 and 1856.

The general Index of the Journals in the years 1855 and 1856 is prepared by Kasai. The general index of the Journals from January 1857 to April 1858, and from May 1862 through September 1863 is now being prepared by Shimogasa.

More work is necessary to complete the index to all the surviving journals including 'Tour in 1867' in Russia. The project will continue till the end of March, 2004, but meanwhile we take this opportunity to present some of our finished work and we should welcome comments and also encouragement from the readers. Our Index is printed separately because of the large quantity of information we need to convey.

Insights into the Life of C. L. Dodgson through Window of Index to the 1855 & 56 Journals – (1)

The Index is useful for finding the original paragraphs or particular items in C. L. Dodgson's Journals. This research material gives a direct source of information about the life of C. L. Dodgson in the period 1855 and 1856.

'Pie-lot' (8-27 /55), 'Fair-eye' (8-27 /55), 'Den-mark' (9-3, 9-4 /55), were played during his summer holidays in 1855, and 'Win-dough' (7-11 /56) in the next year. They were titles of charades acted by his family and friends of all ages, including children.

Some words are in abbreviated form and all except the first large letter the rest are placed on the right shoulder of each form followed by a dot which is also in the upper position. Mr., Mrs., Mdme., Bp. (or Bp) , are some examples.

Breakfasts, lunches, and dinners offered good opportunities for Dodgson to be with friends or relatives. These would be observed in 'breakfast with' or 'breakfasted with', 'lunch' or 'luncheon' (not as often as 'breakfast' or 'breakfasted'), and 'to dinner'. More often we find 'dined with', 'to dinner', 'dining with', 'dining at', 'dine at', and 'dine with'. He was a sociable and friendly Oxford man in those years.

The items under 'father', 'aunt', 'uncle' and their following names, and the names of his brothers and sisters and their initials tell how closely Dodgson related with his family and relatives. Those who are not familiar with their names could look them up in the Family Tree in *The Letters of Lewis Carroll* edited by Morton N. Cohen. Dodgson's favourite Uncle, Skeffington Lutwidge comes under 'Uncle', where some other uncles who appear in the Journals are also listed; for instance, 'Uncle & Aunt Lutwidge' (not to be confused with Skeffington Lutwidge), Uncle & Aunt T. Raikes, Uncle Hassard, Uncle Henry, and Uncle William. His brother Skeffington Hume appear as either S. H. or Skeffington, while another younger brother Wilfred Longley appears as W. L..

Skeffington Hume is three years younger than Dodgson and two years older than Wilfred Longley. 'S. H.' counts more often than 'W. L.' in these Journals.

It is easy to see from the Index that in these years Dodgson was often with his friends such as Southey (19 instances), Collyns (17 instances), his cousin Frank (19 instances), or colleagues like Price (13 instances), Liddon (9 instances), Lloyd (8 instances), and family friends such as Longley (12 instances). 'The Dean', 'Liddell', 'the Library', 'lecture', 'book', 'read' and 'reading' are the items most closely related to his daily life and are more often found than other items.

Smedley (Frank or Menella), and Yates (19 instances) gave Dodgson the opportunity of publication of his writing for a wider readership as well as for his private circle. When he began to contribute to 'The Train', and his articles were 'inserted' and a brief entry in the left-hand side page is found no less than six instances, and each time it is enough to tell us his satisfaction as a writer.

He made a trip from Oxford to London, for a change; he returned to Croft, from there he visited places such as Whitby and Whitburn, as well as Ripon. There are a number of entries under 'photograph', 'picture', 'poem' and 'poetry'. The 'read' or 'reading' are essential to his life. The 'school', 'teach' and 'teaching', 'work', and 'wrote to', are also in good numbers. In mathematics his interest could be found mainly in 'Euclid' and 'Geometry'.

His habit of taking long and tireless walks in later life was already well developed in his early years. Thus 'walked over to' and 'walked with' various friends and colleagues, each time with a friend, took place quite frequently.

Dodgson's love of children is well-known. He liked to entertain children to give them happiness and joy, and adored them for their simple, loving-hearted nature. Each child was remembered by its own name. It was almost always 'children' and seldom 'child' in the form that appears in his journals. Often he referred to groups of children, but sometimes a particular child is singled out and referred to by its own name.

These are just a few examples to show how an Index could be a guide to looking at Dodgson's life in these years. Many more examples may have been overlooked, and not been included in this version. We hope to

revise and complete it in full in the near future.

Acknowledgements

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⁷ The sad news of his death arrived on the day when the basic index for the two years had been finished. His self-sacrificing patience and love for other people had been extended even to one of the present project members. We had hoped to visit him with the result of our work in early July, 2003.