

Edited by Thierry Martin and Sophie Roux
Œuvres d'Ernest Coumet, volume 1
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This volume contains all the articles published by French Carrollian scholar and historian of science Ernest Coumet (1933–2003). Coumet is a well-known historian of mathematics who influenced generations of scholars in France and beyond. This volume consists of 25 articles on various topics in the history and philosophy of science, with a focus on the early writings on the history of logic and probabilities. It is introduced by Sophie Roux with a beautiful essay that traces Coumet's intellectual development. To Carrollians, two sets of articles will be of interest: those related to the history of logic diagrams and those concerned with British logicians in the nineteenth century. Coumet's interest in these two areas inevitably led him to Lewis Carroll. Two articles in this volume are specifically devoted to Carroll's logic. We are told that it was his meeting with famous Carrollian scholar Jean Gattégno that motivated Coumet to write them.

Gattégno and Coumet notoriously translated, edited and annotated a collection of Carroll's logic writings titled *Logique sans Peine*. First published in 1966, it has been regularly reprinted and is now a classic introductory text to logic in France. The book included a postface by Coumet on 'Lewis Carroll logicien' (reprinted in the volume under review). This is certainly one of the earliest detailed studies of Carroll's logic. It contains an appreciation of Carroll's position in the history of logic, a discussion of his logic diagrams and his doctrine of existential import and finally a review of Carroll's two paradoxes in the journal *Mind*: the barbershop paradox and the paradox of inference.

Coumet's second article on Carroll's logic, 'Jeux de logique, jeux d'univers' (also reprinted in the volume under review), was first published in *Cahiers de l'Herne* in 1971. This paper is familiar to the readers of Edward Guiliano's collection of essays *Lewis Carroll Observed* (1976), which contains a translation of it. In this paper, Coumet analyzed the concept of 'Universe of discourse'. He argued that it allowed Carroll to introduce uncommon examples and problems in his logic books that make them readable as literary pieces as well.

Coumet generally considered in his articles that Carroll's work belonged to what he called the pre-Boolean period. However, he

refuted the idea that Carroll's effort was a failure. He rather invited one to read this work in its historical, philosophical and social contexts. He depicted Carroll as a traditional logician who tried to learn from the new logic in order to reform the old one, and he insisted on Carroll's effort to promote logic to a wide audience. Coumet's assessment certainly needs to be revisited in light of recent research and new material made accessible by Carrollian scholars such as Warren W. Bartley III, Edward Wakeling and Francine Abeles, but Coumet's writings are still rich of ideas and always well argued.

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Lewis Carroll

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Illustrated by John Tenniel

Charles Winthrop & Sons, Inc., 2014

Hardback, \$79.99USD

(Notes: This book is a facsimile of the 1865 first edition (recalled). It is sold exclusively the Bradford Exchange USA. Although the copyright date is 2014, the book became available for purchase in the summer of 2016. There is no ISBN given.)

This is the first facsimile of the rare 1865 *Alice* that has ever been published. There has been one facsimile of the Appleton *Alice* (D. Appleton and Co., New York 1927). Until now it was the only means, outside visiting certain public libraries and personal holdings, by which one could read the original text of the 1865 *Alice*. So this enterprise by the Bradford Exchange is most welcome. Unfortunately for British collectors, the Exchange will not sell items overseas, so one needs a relative or friend living in America to obtain a copy.

The book comes handsomely encased in an all-gold dust-jacket and with an interesting note from Robert Graham, the publisher. The purist may baulk slightly at some of his assertions. For example, 'The page edges of the original edition were gilded on all sides'. This is not true. To the best of my knowledge the edges of the 1865 *Alice* are plain; the edges of the Appleton *Alice* are indeed gilded (as, of course, was the 1866 *Alice*). Graham says, 'we have similarly treated the edges of our replica with the correct tone of gold leaf.' Certainly the effect in this facsimile is impressive.