

# Alice At 150



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By Alexander Baron



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On November 26, 1865, the mathematician Charles Dodgson published a work that was to outshine his contributions in his field of expertise; *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland*, usually shortened to *Alice In Wonderland*, has been translated into over a hundred and fifty languages leaving a cultural footprint arguably deeper than any other children's book. Among other things it has inspired songs, such as *White Rabbit*, whose composer, *Grace Slick*, celebrated her 76<sup>th</sup> birthday recently. Its character the Mad Hatter will be familiar to most people – you probably know at least one person who is as mad as a hatter – although the phrase actually predates *Alice...*

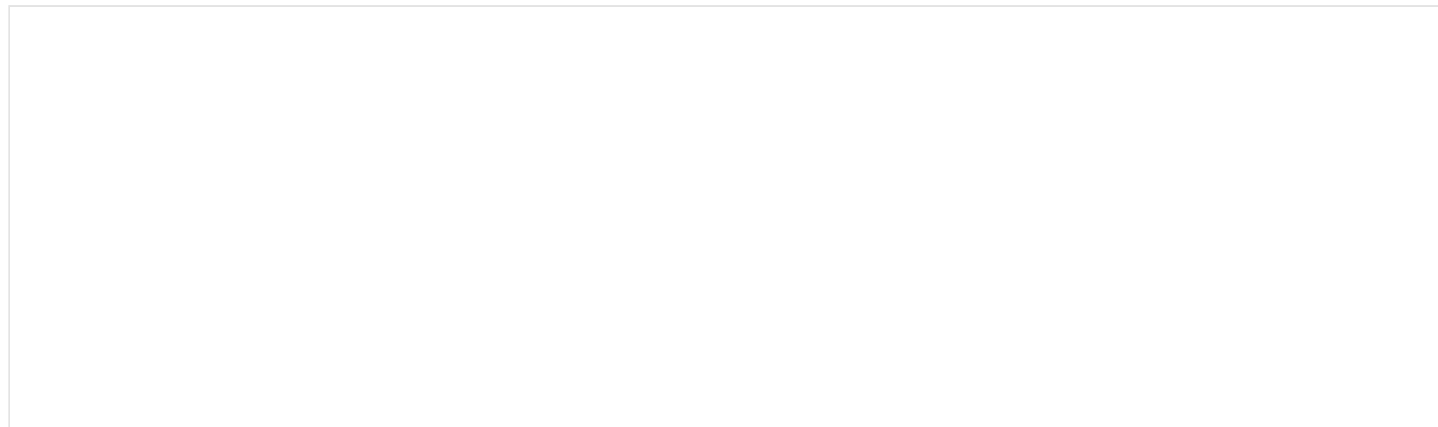
How about “Curiouser and curiouser!”, “Sentence First–verdict Afterward” and “...sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.” All these phrases come from *Alice...*

Later this month a **major exhibition** will be opening at the British Library to celebrate 150 years of *Alice...*; it runs until April next year, entrance is free but there will be some special events beginning with a panel discussion on November 20, entry fee £20.00.

If you can't make this event, or don't want to shell out your hard earned dosh in this era of austerity, the good news is that *Alice...* has long been out of copyright, so you can **read it free**, courtesy of the University of Adelaide.

You might also like to visit the website of **The Lewis Carroll Society** which contains massive documentation on the book's author and his other works.

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