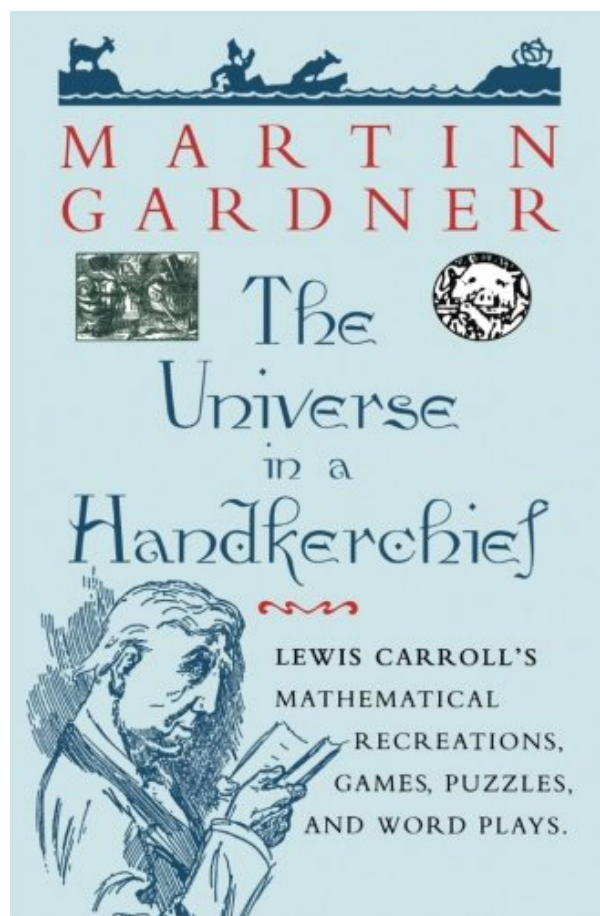
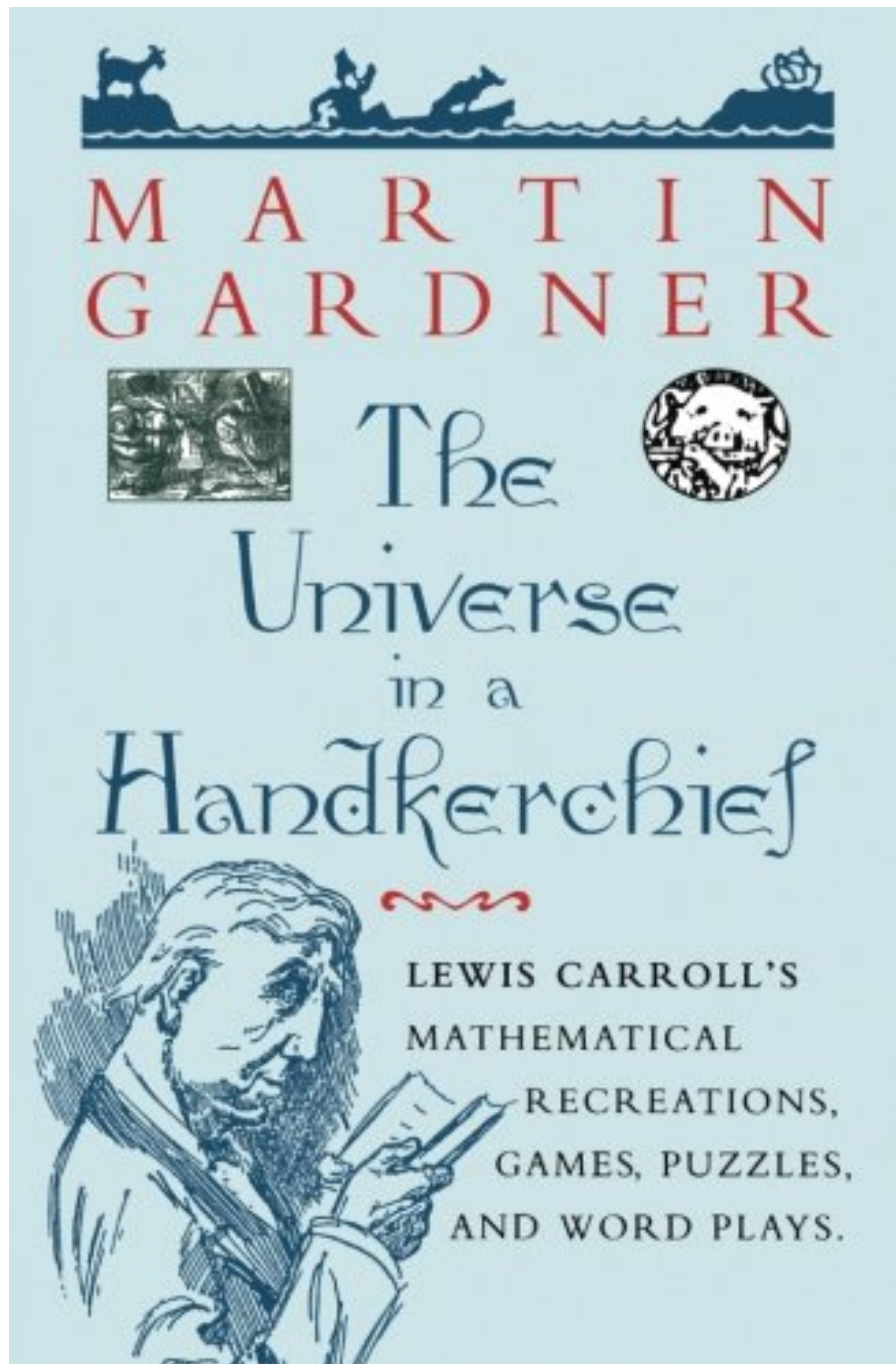


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Review

.."a package tour of Carrolls whimsy, wit and wordplay... a treasure trove of Carrolian oddities...Martin Gardner is of course the only possible author, a kindred spirit who even shares Carrolls love of amateur magic...Enjoy." Ian Stewart in nature

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This book contains scores of intriguing puzzles and paradoxes from Lewis Carroll, the author of *Alice in Wonderland*, whose interests ranged from inventing new games like *Arithmetical Croquet* to important problems in symbolic logic and propositional calculus. Written by Carroll expert and well-known mathematics author Martin Gardner, this tour through Carroll's inventions is both fun and informative.

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Most helpful customer reviews

21 of 23 people found the following review helpful.

Essential for Lewis Carroll fans

By Michael Baxter

Lewis Carroll was in "real life" Charles Dodgson, lecturer in mathematics at Oxford University and author of books on geometry and logic. Mathematics intrudes into his children's books, especially *Sylvie and Bruno*. There is nobody better qualified to explain this side of Lewis Carroll to the non-mathematician than Martin Gardner, author of the *Annotated Alice* and for many years the compiler of the *Mathematical Puzzles* column in *Scientific American*. This book will delight Carroll's many fans and may intrigue many who would not normally be attracted to children's fiction. I also recommend the two books on Lewis Carroll's puzzles by Edward Wakeling; as a professional mathematician, he brings a complementary perspective.

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

What do you really know about that classic book "Alice In Wonderland"?

By Jerry Guild

We have Martin Gardner to thank for his efforts in explaining about the author everyone knows as the author of what they think is a Children's book. Known as Lewis Carroll, the author's real name was Charles Lutwidge Dobson was a competent mathematician and taught mathematics at Christ Church, Oxford.

He had a strong sense of mathematical beauty and entertained many in expressing this fondness in mathematical games, puzzles, logic, paradoxes, magic tricks, riddles, and every variety of word play, especially word games puns, anagrams, anagrams, and acrostic verse; all published under the name of Lewis Carroll. Two of his best known books, "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass" are filled, though somewhat hidden, with puzzles, paradoxes, word play, etc. Words, numbers, games entertained Carroll and those around him throughout his life.

Gardner's book brings all this out to us and shows why he was such an important figure in the world of Mathematical Recreations and as well as other forms of entertainment and games.

One of Carroll's favorite pursuits was what is called Doublets. Most people who like word games of various types will be familiar with these. The object is to take a word such as COLD and by changing one letter at a time, making different words, ending up with the word WARM. The real challenge is to do this in the least number of steps. Thus we have COLD, CORD, CARD, WARM. --4 steps. This can lead to all kinds of interesting posers. Carroll, actually a skeptic of Darwin's theory, "evolved" MAN from APE in six steps:

APE, ARE, ERE, ERR, EAR, MAR, MAN.

Another interesting poser is to change IRON into LEAD:

IRON, ICON, COIN, CORN, CORD, LORD, LOAD, LEAD.

Another of Carroll's interest was Mazes and we are given a very interesting Maze Carroll created in his early twenties. Another of his puzzles, called river-crossing puzzles is given. This type of puzzle has been presented by many other puzzlers over the years.

Even if you've never been interested in numbers as such you will be fascinated with ;

A Magic Number

142857

85714 twice that number,

428571 trice that number

571428 four times that number,

714285 five times that number,

857142 six times that number

Begin at the "1" in each line and it will be the same order of figures as the magic number up to six times that number, while seven times the magic number results in a row of 9's.

If you have any interest or fascination with numbers, words games of various types; you'll be amazed at what interesting things came from the man who wrote a book generally assumed to be a Children's book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent honors Geometry project!

By Math Mom

I use this book as the basis for an honors project for my high school Geometry class. I teach a lesson about Lewis Carroll and his various logic puzzles and word ladders. This book is an excellent source for research and other games/puzzles to use with my students.

See all 4 customer reviews...

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