

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll. Illustrated by Salvador Dalí

Coinciding with the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, the present edition of Lewis Carroll's classic, illustrated by Salvador Dalí, is launched. In such a way Mark Burstein carries out his dream of offering the readers this combination between text and images that had been restricted till now to a limited and very expensive circulation. The support of The National Museum of Mathematics, New York, and Princeton University Press, has made possible this beautiful edition, based on the final text (1897) and considered, as the proper Lewis Carroll did, the most authentic and correct one.

Mark Burstein's documented and appealing introduction is focussed on the connection of the surrealism with Carroll's texts and on the analysis of Dalí's original engravings, here reproduced. He devotes special attention to the figure of the little girl skipping rope, authentic leitmotiv in these illustrations by Dalí: a subject created by the painter in 1935, developed for a decade and revised a quarter of a century later, so as to insert it into the illustration of each chapter.

As for Thomas Banchoff, the mathematician completes the introduction depicting his encounters with Salvador Dali and the influence of Mathematics on the artist's work and thinking. Banchoff details his special interest towards Dalí's paintings with representations specifically mathematical, without forgetting the deep literary, philosophical and scientific references that enriched his creations.

The present edition is a sample of the appreciation of the work well done, with many details of composition that add value to the illustrations and to the proper plot of Alice's adventures, such as the dialogues, the humour, the irony, the play on words and the paradoxical situations that characterize this book. We cite, as an example, two of these small details: on the one hand, the discrete ornament that divides sections and chapters - that reminds of the little girl skipping rope- and, on the other hand, the fine whirlwind (the conical helix) which every chapter begins with, on recalling at the same time the calligram of the third chapter and the representation that Dali made of Don Quixote in the mid-sixties.

The typography is clear and the paper, high quality. The format of this book lets us appreciate adequately Dalí's representations. The motifs selected by the painter reveal the creative freedom of the artist when choosing the subjects in each chapter, without submitting himself to the canon of Tennel's illustrations. This edition is worth taking up a place not only in the home library of any person keen on Carroll's work but also in the one of all those who love illustrated books.