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Alice in Wonderland items under the hammer



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LONDON (Reuters) - Books, pictures and personal items once owned by the "real" Alice in Wonderland, Alice Liddell, are expected to fetch up to 2 million pounds at a Sotheby's auction today.

The well-preserved collection, being put on the block by the Alice Family Trust, includes photographs "Wonderland" author Lewis Carroll took of Alice and her sisters and Alice's personal copy of the Wonderland story.

That book, an early version of Carroll's masterwork called "Alice's Adventures Under Ground", was given to Liddell by the author himself and is inscribed: "To her whose namesake one happy summer day inspired his story".

It was sold by Sotheby's for 15,000 pounds in 1928 but is expected to fetch as much as 300,000 pounds at today's sale.

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"This collection is the largest and most significant of its kind in existence and was carefully preserved by Alice herself and her family over several generations," Sotheby's said in a statement.

"The items are expected to fetch in the region of 2 million pounds".

Other lots include autographed letters written by Carroll, whose real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, several portraits of the author and Alice's gold wedding ring.

An album of photographs taken by Carroll, who was also a mathematics lecturer at Oxford and a keen photographer, is estimated to fetch between 500,000 and 800,000 pounds.

"Alice in Wonderland", a magical tale that has enchanted children and perplexed critics since its 1865 publication, was inspired by and written for Liddell in 1862.

Carroll, who wrote more than 10 books, including children's stories and volumes of math and logic, died in 1898 at 66.

Alice, the impish inspiration for his most famous works, died in 1934.

The auction takes place in London at 6:30 p.m.



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