



Illinois Wesleyan University
Digital Commons @ IWU

John Wesley Powell Student Research
Conference

1999, 10th Annual JWP Conference

Apr 17th, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

The Perpetual Today: The Use of Time in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Taryn L. Hettlinger
Illinois Wesleyan University

Mary Ann Bushman, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

Hettlinger, Taryn L. and Bushman, Faculty Advisor, Mary Ann, "The Perpetual Today: The Use of Time in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*" (1999). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 1.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/1999/oralpres4/1>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Oral Presentation 4.4

**THE PERPETUAL TODAY: THE USE OF TIME IN
*ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND***

Taryn L. Hettlinger and Mary Ann Bushman*
Department of English, Illinois Wesleyan University

The Victorian era was a period obsessed with Time and all things related to it. While Time and time measurement were by no means new concepts, current developments in science, industry, and society raised serious questions about the actual nature and meaning of time. The popular interest in Time is reflected in the literature of the period. Frequently, Time, as a symbol, was used to evoke images of hopelessness, death, and decay, yet in Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Time is manipulated for a different effect. In Wonderland, a different concept of time is created. The characters are removed from "rational" time, yet paradoxically, obsessed with its passage. While this passage is associated with only negative events, Carroll manages to reduce Time to nonsense, thus appealing to children through his creation of a perpetual today.