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The Tea Party

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THE TEA PARTY

## By Stephen Bloom and Jeremiah Farrell

Four coins are used in Tea Party magic. First of all, secretly toss one coin and it will now show up which of either heads or tails stands for Yes while the opposite side will stand for No. The magician will not know which is which.

Now choose, again secretly, one of the four characters at the tea party. The depictions are those drawn by the original artist J. Tenniel.

Trick 1. Secretly choose one of two quirks. "Convivial" and tell the truth to four questions or "Contrary" and lie to all four. Place four coins on the four colors according to your appropriate quirk answering the question "Is your chosen character here?"

Trick 2. Chose now between three quirks: "Convivial", "Contrary" or "Confused". If you choose "Confused" alternately answer true, false, true, false OR false, true, false, true in the order pink, blue, green and yellow.

For either Trick tell the magician on which colors the heads occur. The magician can quickly name your character even not knowing your quirk or whether heads means Yes or No.
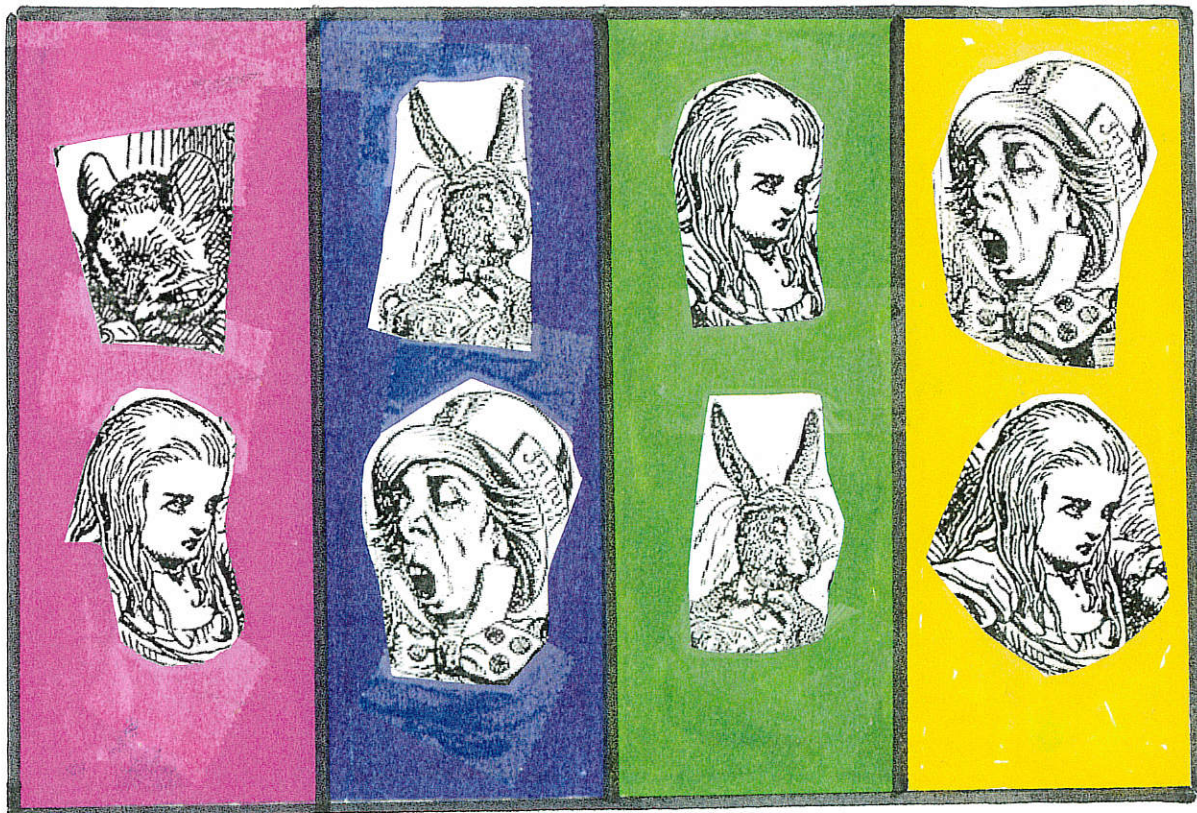
AT THE

TEA PARTY
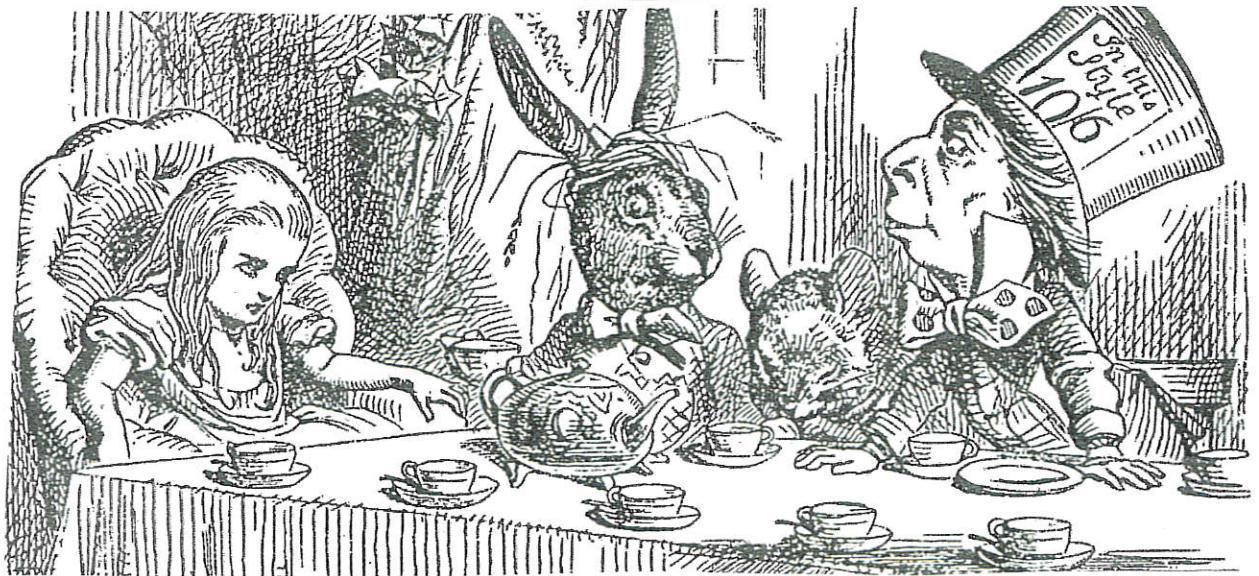
How to determine the character.

On the circular table regard the top and bottom colors to be either pink or green on both. The left and right colors are both either blue or yellow.

Starting at the Mad Hatter on the circle trace either Heads or Tails on the colors. You will always end at the chosen character no matter what quirk was chosen.

CUBIC LOGIC

by Jeremiah Farrell

At the fourth Gathering for Gardner in Atlanta I presented an electronic depiction of a four-dimensional cube on which a magic trick could be performed. The subject was to secretly select a letter from the word ASTEROID and also secretly choose one of two quirks, either CONVIVIAL and always tell the truth or CONTRARY and always lie. After answering each of four questions according to his quirk, the device quickly identified his letter choice. The details are given in my article "Cubist Magic" p. 143 in AK Peters 2002 book *Puzzlers' Tribute, A Feast for the Mind*, edited by David Wolfe and Tom Rodgers.

After my talk Raymond Smullyan, certainly the world's leader in popularizing logic, gently chided me for using CONVIVIAL and CONTRARY as my quirks. He reminded me that mathematicians simply used instead "LIARS" and "TRUTHTELLERS" and these were preferred when talking to them. Of course, I had to agree but when talking to beginning students who have not yet studied logic I still occasionally use CONVIVIAL and CONTRARY.

In fact, I have now added the quirk CONFUSED to my list in which the subject is to alternately lie and tell the truth (starting as he chooses).