

It was Gardner's columns that introduced me to Coxeter's wonderful *Introduction to Geometry*, the work of Maurits Escher, Solomon Golomb's polynominoes, John Conway's The Game of Life, the geometry of anamorphic art, Scott Kim's wonderful creations, and even the fantastic "The Upside-Downs of Little Lady Lovekins and Old Man Muffaroo", something that I spoke about at the 2006 Gathering for Gardner. [Interestingly, Gardner wrote about this comic strip in his Scientific American column of May 1962. Just last year Peter Maresca published a beautiful book that included all of the strips (*The Upside-Down World Of Gustave Verbeek*, Sunday Press, 2009) for which Martin wrote the foreword.]

Each of Gardner's books, ranging among such titles as *In The Name of Science* (Putnam, 1952), *The Annotated Alice* (Clarkson Potter, 1960), *The Ambidextrous Universe* (Basic Books, 1964), his wonderful book on magic, *Martin Gardner Presents* (Kaufman & Greenberg, 1993), and books about G. K. Chesterton and Mary Baker Eddy, revealed his curiosity about an amazing variety of topics and were invariably a delight to read.

I treasure the memory of going with Peter Renz to spend the day with Martin and his wife Charlotte at their home in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Getting to look through Martin's files and seeing him perform astonishing magic tricks was something I shall never forget. And each time I would talk to him on the phone, he would invariably introduce me to something new.

I also think of the many good friends I have made over the years, due in large part to Martin. He made a tremendous difference in my life, something to which I am certain many others would also attest. Thank you, Martin, for being such an inspiration, guide and dear friend.

LIGHT RAY'S

RAYMOND SMULLYAN
Elka Park, New York

An occasional collection from the master of whimsy.



Some definitions:

- 1- Theology--Study of the definite pronoun.
- 2- Deist-One who is formerly a C-ist.
- 3-Oxymoron-Def.1- a stupid ox.
Def. 2- a moron educated at oxford.
- 4-Specialist- One who does everything else worse.