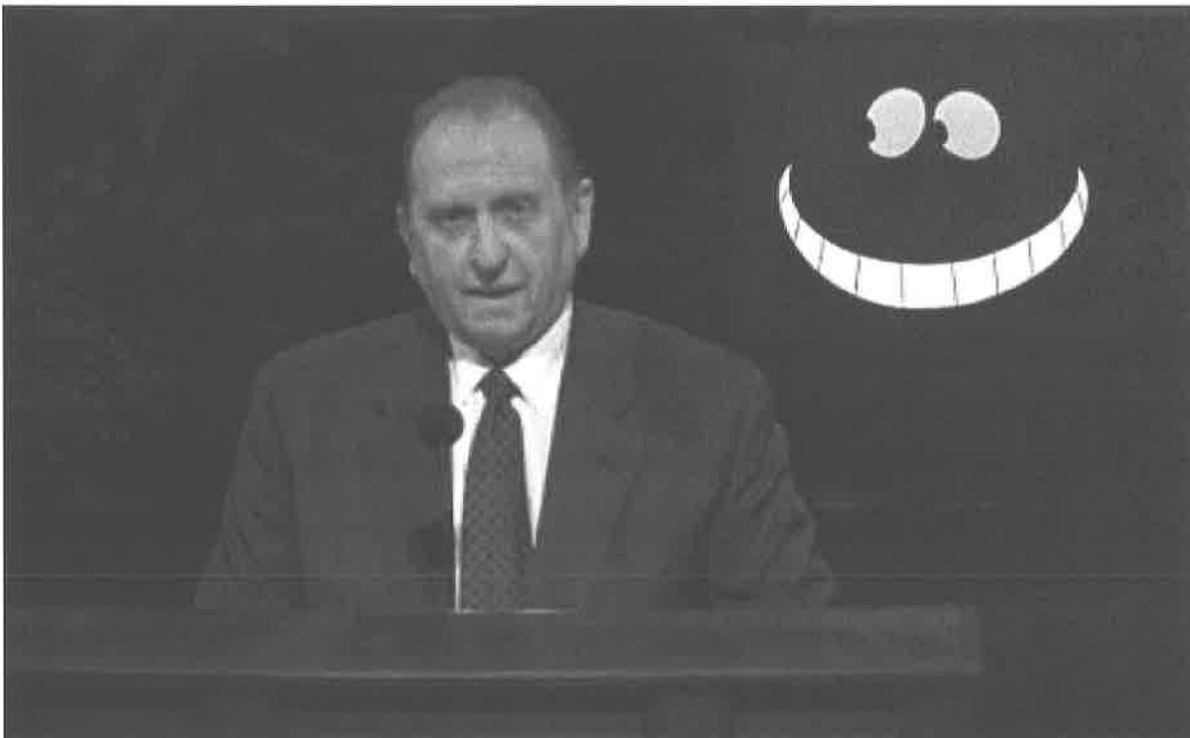


Elder C. S. Lewis or: Thomas in Wonderland

by Geoff Nelson | Oct 25, 2013 | Featured, Mormon Humor | 8 comments



Some time ago, Michael suggested that I write a post looking at the details of C. S. Lewis being quoted in General Conference. So I searched the corpus for all times 'Lewis' was mentioned. It is possible that he was quoted without having his quote attributed to him, however, I would assume that most people wouldn't realize it was his quote. We're interested in Lewis being quoted because many members have called him an unofficial apostle because of the frequency of the quotes, so if he wasn't named with the quote I don't think it would have contributed to this Lewis phenomenon. I also discovered that the corpus includes several Relief Society/Women's conference meetings.

Here are the highlights:

- Lewis was first quoted in General Conference by Paul H. Dunn in 1977.
- Lewis was quoted by 22 people giving talks at General/Relief Society-Women's

Conference.

- 5 of those 22 people were women.
- Since the first quote in 1977, Lewis has been quoted almost once per year.



Number of talks in which C. S. Lewis was quoted/mentioned

- Neil A. Maxwell quoted Lewis the most (4 talks), followed by Marvin J. Ashton (3 talks) and Dallin H. Oaks (2 talks).



This search did lead me to discover something else interesting...

It turns out that while President Monson hasn't mentioned C. S. Lewis in General Conference, he has mentioned Lewis Carroll, author of *Alice in Wonderland*, many times. Henry D. Moyle once mentioned Lewis Carroll during *Music and the Spoken Word* in 1953. Other than that, President Monson has been the only person to mention Lewis Carroll in conference, and he has done so in 7 Conference Talks, in 1986, (twice in) 1995, 1999, 2002, 2004, & 2010.



So C. S. Lewis has become a modern favorite to quote in General Conference, though no one is really a big repeat quoter. Also, President Monson has mentioned Lewis Carroll and *Alice in Wonderland* in at least 7 talks, which I think is awesome.

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Leah Marie Silverman on October 25, 2013 at 10:33 am