

Celebration of Mind 2015

honoring Martin Gardner (1914-2010)



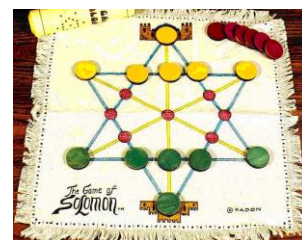
October 24-25, 2015 at Ye Olde Gamery,
Maryland Renaissance Festival
(one of hundreds of official Celebrations of Mind world-wide)

Martin Gardner was one of the most beloved personalities in the areas of recreational mathematics, magic and puzzles. The influence of his work is immeasurable. In a writing career that spanned seven decades, he authored more than 65 books and countless articles, ranging over the fields of science, mathematics, philosophy, literature, and conjuring. His best-selling book was *The Annotated Alice*, an analysis of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, followed by a sequel, *More Annotated Alice*. He wrote two novels—*The Flight of Peter Fromm* and *Visitors from Oz*. His quarter century of *Scientific American* columns are collected in fifteen volumes. *No-Sided Professors* is a collection of his short fiction.



Martin inspired and enlightened three generations of readers with the delights of mathematical recreations, the amazing phenomena of numbers, magic and puzzles, the play of ideas. It was Martin's article on *pentominoes* in 1957 that popularized this set of shapes and led, through an amazing series of events, to the founding of Kadon Enterprises, Inc. We hold him and his life's work in a special place of highest regard.

We were honored when Martin offered us the opportunity to design and publish his two games. The first of them, originally a feature in *Games Magazine*, was the **Game of Solomon**. We enhanced it with additional games and puzzles, and we styled its rule book as a scroll. See more about it in our website, www.gamepuzzles.com, under Historical Games. See a quaint Shakespearean write-up in our Renaissance catalog.



Martin's work on Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* led to his defining suitable rules for a word game alluded to in Carroll's diaries. This became our **Lewis Carroll's Chess Wordgame** where letters move like chess queens to form words. We styled it like a red picnic tablecloth. See full details about it in our website,

www.gamepuzzles.com, under Historical Games, and a whimsical poetic write-up in our Renaissance catalog.



Martin and the Mad Hatter

Martin Gardner, Renaissance Man

Martin Gardner was born October 21, 1914, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the son of a geologist and oil producer. He graduated at the University of Chicago in 1936 with a major in philosophy. Before World War II he was a reporter on the *Tulsa Tribune*, later a writer in the University of Chicago's press relations office.

After four years as a yeoman in the Navy, Martin returned to Chicago where he began his freelance career by selling short stories to *Esquire*. After moving to New York City, he became a contributing editor for eight years to *Humpty Dumpty's Magazine*. This was followed by 25 years as the writer of the "Mathematical Games" column in *Scientific American*.

After living in the western mountains of North Carolina for many years, he returned to Norman, Oklahoma, in 2004, his 90th year. He continued to write until his death on May 22, 2010, at the age of 95. There is an excellent entry about Martin on the Wikiverse website, part of Wikipedia, an ever-growing, open-content, online collection of all of human knowledge.



A bi-annual celebration of Martin Gardner's life and work has been held in Atlanta, Georgia, since 1994, founded and hosted by Tom Rodgers, a businessman, scholar and Renaissance man. Martin himself attended the first gathering. Since then, the Gathering for Gardner continues to be an invitation-only get-together for mathematicians, magicians and puzzlers who enjoy sharing their work and play inspired by Martin's writings. Attendees bring something to share, such as articles, new puzzles, ideas and theories – a joyous grab bag for each participant, and one copy of each would be sent to Martin, and since his death to the Gathering for Gardner Foundation. Contributed articles are anthologized in a souvenir book. Selected articles have been reprinted by A. K. Peters in Tribute books dedicated to Martin Gardner. His memory and inspiration live on.

Kadon's philosophy and artistic vision in designing "gamepuzzles" sum up as a celebration of mind ... the joy of thinking ... playable art ... truth and beauty. And the catalyst for this lifetime of creation was one man: Martin Gardner. We celebrate him and invite all our visitors to join in and get in the spirit of puzzling, gaming, creating and designing with our wonderful collection of original gamepuzzles.

