



Baum poses with one of his books, a promotional poster and a golden key to the Emerald City, given to him by the cast of the Riverside Children's Theatre production of "The Wizard of Oz."

## *Land of Oz is treasured by originator's descendant*

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was more interested in playing with her terrier, Toto, than in asking pertinent questions about ancestors. "I was so young and Oz was just as mystical to me as it is to any child," he said. "But seeing Toto was naturally a higher priority at that age."

To his knowledge, he is the only Baum writing about Oz today.

"It's a tremendous responsibility," to carry on the

name, he said. "My main concern is to maintain the quality of the Oz books. That's a big order. I'm not trying to follow in great-grand dad's footsteps — they're awfully big. I'm just trying to carry on the love of Oz and to add to the legend."

*For more information about Baum's appearance at the Ray D. Prueter library, call 486-5460. For information about the International Wizard of Oz Club, write to P.O. Box 95, Kinderhook, Ill., 62345.*