

THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE ©

A Bimonthly Journal about Miniature Books and the Book Arts

Vol. XXXIII, Number 5, Issue 191 September 2014



The cool breezes of September bring nature's brightest smile.....

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The Prize



Charlotte stood in amazement. She was speechless. Despite the smiles and words of admiration from her school chums, she could not fathom having won the coveted prize for the school's annual writing contest. The subject this year had been *How It All Began*.

For as long as she could remember, Charlotte had loved books, had loved to read. Rather than having been born with the proverbial silver spoon in her mouth, she had been privileged to always have books at hand. One of her greatest joys was receiving the little books her dear Papa presented to her each year on her birthday. She now possessed a small and wonderfully lovely collection which she would fondle, turning the pages ever so carefully, always mindful of their delicate nature. Her friends were very aware of her prized possessions for she could scarcely contain herself as each new birthday gift was acquired. Charlotte was thrilled, however, at the idea of having the opportunity to tell how it all began, how she stirred with excitement at the thought of becoming an ardent collector of the tiny tomes, adding to those initially received as gifts from the time she was born. *(continued on page 08)*

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A Bimonthly Journal about Miniature Books and the Book Arts

Robert F. Hanson, Founder, 1977

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The Microbibliophile

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Sherry Mayo, Publisher **James M. Brogan**, Editor

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Greetings from the Squeaky Roll Top Desk:

Summer is something that we wait all year for and then it always seems to fly past us with the speed of an advancing thunder storm. There is still plenty of time to enjoy the bounty of our vegetable gardens but the days have already begun to be noticeably shorter with their daylight hours. Soon we will wake up one morning with that cold wet dew covering everything and we will begin to see the green of the tree leaves yielding to their most colorful time of the year. I hope that everyone has enjoyed the Summer months and you are looking forward to the Fall with its invigorating cool weather. Every season has its joys and special activities, certainly 'back to school' is almost the universal message. Therefore, if you have to gather the pencils and book bags or get a handle on your upcoming projects, good luck to all. Remember, every new day is the 'first day of the rest of your life', enjoy it and do not let it slip away.

The MBS Conclave in Boston was certainly a hit with 82 people attended this year, which is the largest number I have seen in many years. I am not sure if it was a resurgence in miniature book interest, the Boston location, or who knows, but it was a grand time. Thanks to the host, Father Joe Curran and his team. Please be sure to read Joan Knoertzer's detailed account of all of the activities in this issue.

I continue to receive feedback about how much you enjoy the various topics about book collecting. We have a few more for you with this issue. The open question for all of the readers is: 'what do you want the theme to be in 2015?' More about libraries with special collections of miniature books and book collecting, getting young people involved in book collecting, sharing your treasures? Any and all topics are on the table. You tell me which road to take at the fork.

There are three new miniature books reviewed this month, and a few 'older' miniature books that talk about the print shop and 'old time printers'. Pat Sweet and Tony Firman continue to amaze me with their publishing endeavors. *Trouvère* is a classic love story- murder mystery, something that we do not see too often in a miniature book. The story about the origin and development of the piano is another interesting glimpse of history. The 'famous miniature book person' article this month is about Bob Massmann, 'always a smile and a twinkle', just one of my favorite miniature book people.

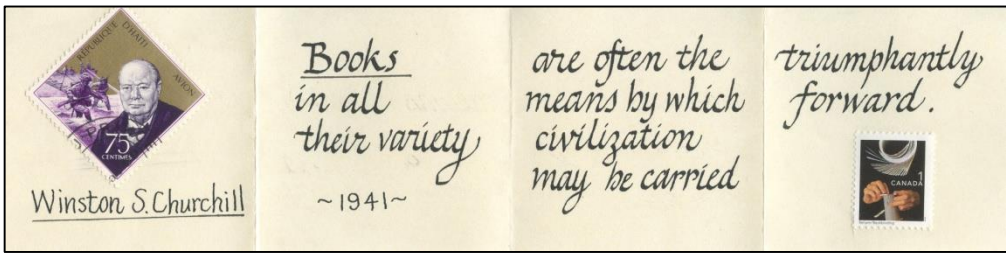
Again, the more eyes, ears, and pens we have the more *The Microbibliophile* becomes your publication. Think about what you may want to say, dip your feathered quill in the ink well, and let it run across the paper. Most people do not think they can write well. However, it really is something that is very natural, many things from many areas can blend together to form a story that is very enjoyable to read and share. I have some feedback about the size of the font we use in *The Microbibliophile*, the general text is a 10 pt Times New Roman and I have increased the size of the editor's notes, captions, footnotes, etc. from a 8 pt to a 9 pt. size. Hope this is helpful. The struggle is to maintain the amount of content within the general mailing weight of 3 ounces, which translates to about 40 pages while using a 20 lb. weight paper. More than that and the costs for mailing are a considerable jump when multiplied by the number of subscriptions. Maybe another small tweak with the next issue.

Please share *The Microbibliophile* with a friend or your librarian, if they like what we offer, I can send them a sample issue as well as a subscription form.

If you would like to submit a review of a favorite book, new or old, or an informative article about a miniature books or a related topic, please do so, I can certainly use your help and the offer is always on the table. My eyes will have a bit of extra sparkle when I open the little brass door of Box 5453, and find your article. Actually electronic docs are easier to handle but whatever is best for you is fine with me. Thank you for the opportunity to bring *The Microbibliophile* into your life. 📖



FOOD FOR THOUGHT:



(created and submitted by Margaret Challenger, a lettering artist and stamp collector)

MINIATURE BOOK REVIEWS and CRITICISM:

Persuasion, Volume II by Jane Austen was originally published in 1818 by John Murray, in London, jointly with *Northanger Abbey*, and now as a miniature, by Plum Park Press. Tony Firman first introduced the readers of *The Microbibliophile* to Jane Austen miniatures with his publications of *Emma* and *Pride and Prejudice* and in our last issue, *Persuasion* Volume I.

As Volume I closed, we had been introduced to many additional characters and a myriad of accessory activities which so delight Austen's readers. The key point with Chapter 12, at the end of Volume I is that Louisa Musgrave, a young girl who seems to

be infatuated with men in uniform, takes a bad fall off a set of steps and injures herself. Up to this point, the novel has been a progression of characters, conversations, explanations, and scenery changes. The fall of Louisa allows Austen to employ the event as a 'dramatic cliffhanger'. As the chapter and volume close, the injured girl is taken to a friend's house to begin a long recuperation. And?



Exactly what the author intended and the contemporary readers expected, where is Volume II, what has happened to Louisa? As Volume II opens, life is proceeding with a developing web of affections and subplots for marriage and control of various family fortunes. Louisa recuperates, Anne confirms her love for a naval officer, Captain Wentworth, whom she was introduced to years earlier but do to the understanding of social order did not want to get involved with the officer. The narrative continues as each of the character's involvement is concluded. The story closes with Anne and Captain Wentworth being

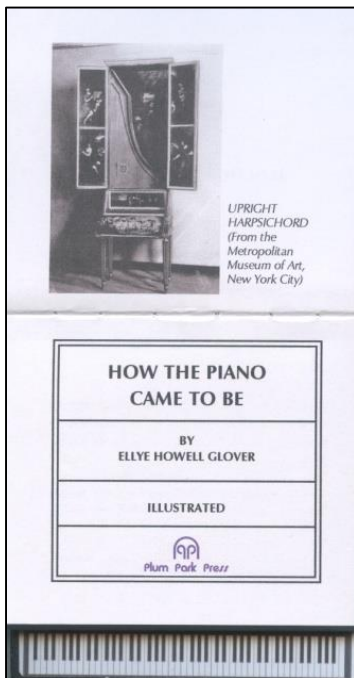
married and 'living happy ever after'. The novel is really a study on understanding one's duty to follow the advice of their family, even if you may not exactly understand the implications at the time. As circumstances change, not from the perspective of family duty, but from that of social order, so do life's choices. The possibility for social mobility is what is being referred to by the

narrator as ‘domestic virtue’. “She [Anne] gloried in being a sailor’s wife, but she must pay the tax of quick alarm for belonging to that profession which is, if possible, more distinguished in its domestic virtues than in its national importance”. The newly accepted social mobility of naval officers is what has permitted Anne and her Captain Wentworth to find happiness in their lives.

Persuasion consists of two volumes (just like the original), in the same format and typeface (Bulmer 6/7.5) as the two previous Austen books by Plum Park Press. *Persuasion* is bound in dark blue faux leather and red spine labels with gilt lettering. The endpapers feature paintings by C.E. Brock, which are related to the story. The Plum Park Press miniature edition consists of 24 copies. Volume I and II are now available. Volume I contained 210 pages, Volume II has 245 pages and each has an overall dimensions of 3” x 2 3/16”. The price for each volume is \$40 plus \$5 for shipping and handling. Each volume is signed and numbered. There is also available, with the two-volume purchase, a decorated slipcase, making a stunning enclosure for the book set. The slipcase is also decorated with illustrations by C.E. Brock.

Tony Firman is an excellent publisher and binder who produces miniature books of outstanding quality. 📖

Contact information: Tony Firman, PO Box 507, Hazel, TX 76052
E-mail: TonyFirman@earthlink.net or www.tonyfirmanbookbinding.com



How The Piano Came To Be, by Ellye Howell Glover, originally published by the Browne & Howell Company, Chicago, 1913. Now published as a miniature by Plum Park Press. Never to be at a loss of presentation or binding talent, Tony Firman has created this miniature bound to the likeness of a piano. The representative keyboard projects from an extra wide rear cover. The book is bound with its spine on the opposite side of the keyboard, which is then always ‘toward you’ as you read the book. A ‘regularly bound book’ would have the spine ‘perpendicular’ to the text lines, in this book, the ‘text lines’ are parallel to the spine and the keyboard would be next to your chest or pointed down (while reading) rather than in the direction of your right arm. The book is also bound in a glossy black bookcloth to resemble the shine of the great instrument. There is a label with gilt lettering affixed to the front cover of the book and it wraps around from the front cover to the spine.

The history of this great instrument is presented from its earliest moments in history. Quoting from the first lines of the book:

“From the dried sinews stretched across the shell of a dead tortoise to the concert-grand piano of the present day is a far flight. Yet to this primitive source, it is said, may be traced the evolution of the stringed instrument

which reached its culmination in the piano. The latter has been aptly called ‘the household orchestra,’ and in tracing its origin, one must go far back into the annals of the past. If we accept the Bible as history, and it is the greatest of all histories, the stringed instrument is of very ancient date. It is recorded that the ambassadors who came to the court of Saul played upon their nebels, and that David, the sweet singer of Israel, wooed the king from his sadness by singing to his harp. We must go back to the civilization of ancient Egypt, more than five hundred years before that morning nearly

two thousand years ago when, it is written, the angelic choir chanted above the historic manger the glorious message, "Peace on earth, good will to men," and the morning stars sang together."

Included are 14 illustrations, which were part of the original publication as well. The illustrations trace the development of the modern piano from its origin through various harpsichords, spinets, and clavichords, which preceded the modern piano in its development. The decorative endpapers are also piano related. The front papers carry a Chopin music score and the rear papers shows a silhouette of a baby grand piano, which is aligned with the projecting keyboard, all done as a clever package.

The text of the 84 page miniature, 3" x 3", is printed with Zapf Humanist 7/8 typeset on a 120 gm. Navigator paper, which is a heavier paper than you would expect in a miniature book. The construction quality is of the highest level with attention to every detail especially with the inclusion of the keyboard. Certainly a fine addition to your collection with its high gloss binding. Presented as an edition of 20, each signed and numbered, \$40 plus shipping, contact Tony Firman for availability. 📖

Contact information: Tony Firman, PO Box 507, Hazlet, TX 76052
E-mail: TonyFirman@earthlink.net or www.tonyfirmanbookbinding.com

Trouvère, by Prue Batten, published by Bo Press Miniature Books, 2014. The story is by the well-known historical novelist Prue Batten, who lives in Tasmania, Australia. The short story is set during the high Middle Ages in the Northern French countryside.

Trouvère by Prue Batten



Trouvères were a 'school' of aristocratic poets and singers who celebrated the ideas of courtly love that was sweeping the regions of Burgundy, Aquitaine, and Provence between the eleventh and fourteenth centuries. The trouvères were supported by the aristocracy as an 'in-house' entertainment staff but were in actuality troubadours who found themselves in the right place at the right time. In some cases, they were actually aristocrats who enjoyed the singing and musical performances that were ingrained into the courtly traditions of the period. The texts of their songs were a natural reflection of the society that created them.

Prue Batten has created an outstanding story of love between the fictional characters of the trouvère Flori de Mazamet and Marie, the daughter of his courtly sponsor. The story is one of romantic activity and suspense. Marie believes her true love is a court knight, Enquirrand of Montparnasse. As you can imagine Marie and the knight have been separated by the family, which noticed that, they had 'glancing eyes' for each other. Marie and Flori meet prior to a family wedding and Marie, in all of her feminine beauty of a flowing red gown, oaken hair, and blue eyes, explains her love for the knight and their forced separation. Flori, wanting to be of service to Marie and possibly gain her affection, is persuaded to find the knight and bring him to the family wedding. Flori finds that the knight is more of a 'street dweller' and not the least bit worthy of Marie. He is pulled between the beauty of courtly life and the brutality of life below the court. In his attempt to aid Marie, he is forced to make a choice between love and pity. He kills the knight on the return trip to the family estate. Marie is lost forever in her sadness and Flori moves on as



Flori playing his vielle for the members of the court

trouvères did. The story closes with a note that there is a rumor that there is a monk at the monastery who sings like the trouvère Flori once did.

The book is bound to resemble a book of the middle ages, with a corded spine made from a soft cream-colored leather attached to actual exposed cherry wood boards. The signatures are all hand sewn in place. Included are four illustrations, two of which cover a ‘two page spread’. Another interesting visual enhancement is the inclusion of picture marginalia on several pages, all depicting small animals playing

musical instruments. There is a spine label attached and the book is held closed by a matching leather bellyband and a brass clasp. The bound book is 2 ³/₄” x 1 ⁷/₈” and contains 46 numbered pages printed on a Mohawk Superfine paper using a ‘old world looking’ font, ‘Macondo Swash Caps’. The edition includes 20 copies, each signed and numbered, \$75, check with Pat for availability and shipping options. 📖

Contact information: Pat Sweet, Bo Press Miniature Books, 231 East Blaine Street, Riverside, CA 92507
E-mail: bopress@charter.net or www.bopressminiaturebooks.com

THE PRIZE:

Frontispiece Article for *The Microbibliophile*, September 2014

By Melinda Brown

(Continued from page 2)

Charlotte described how, at some point in time, she could not recall exactly when, she began to ask her father where he found the precious little gems. Like Alice in *Alice in Wonderland*, she became “curiouser and curiouser”. On her eleventh birthday, Papa announced that they, just the two of them, would be going on a treasure hunt; she would be given the privilege of selecting her birthday book. The horses drawing their carriage trotted smartly, competing with but undisturbed by the honking horns of the motor cars, which her Papa said were now “cluttering the roadways”. As they were carried through the city streets, Charlotte was full of excitement and anticipation.

Finally, the carriage came to rest in front of an establishment bearing the name, in bold letters above the door, David Bryce and Sons, Booksellers. Charlotte was tingling with pleasure, so enthusiastic was she at the thought of viewing the many wondrous little books her father had promised she would see. Upon entering, they were greeted by a gentleman whom Papa introduced to Charlotte as Mr. David Bryce. He explained to Mr. Bryce that she was the young daughter for whom he had purchased birthday gifts of miniature books in the past but whom now, on her eleventh birthday, would be allowed to choose for herself.

Charlotte was not disappointed. The bookshop was magical. It had glass-enclosed cases of beautiful, elegantly bound miniature books: miniature Bibles, the Book of Common Prayer, and other prayer books, dictionaries, gazetteers, books of classical literature and biography and, no doubt, in tribute to the love of their native land, poems in the Scottish dialect. Encouraged by Mr. Bryce, Charlotte gingerly examined several. As difficult as it was to make a choice, she finally came to a decision, *Witty, Humorous and Merry Thoughts*. Measuring only 1 1/16" x 3/4" and bound in red leather with yellow edges, this little mite seemed especially appropriate for an eleventh birthday.

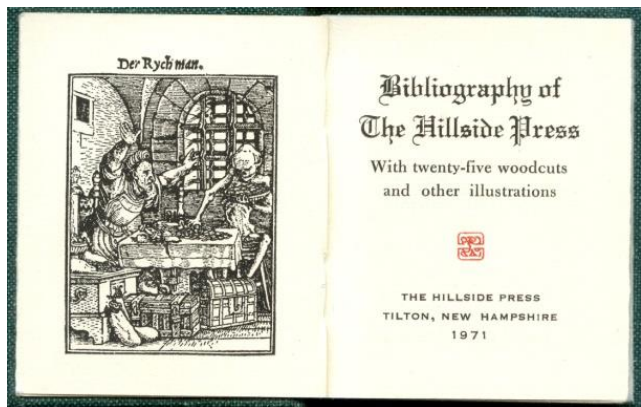
So, this was how it all began. 📖

BOOK COLLECTING A – Z, 'Bibliographies' By Jim Brogan

Bibliographies are in their most basic form, a 'reading list' listing according to some system of reference criteria, publications (generally books), or articles, that have a formal relationship. In their most simple form, a bibliography may be a listing of all of the articles produced by a particular author or a list of all of the books published by a particular press, or a listing of books in a collection.

As with most things, the simple definition gets you off the first page and this is certainly true regarding bibliographies. These lists may take on the form of just a paper list or they may be published in a book form. The bibliography in any form is an invaluable document and an indispensable resource for collectors, booksellers, and even librarians. Today, with the availability of many digital tools, bibliographies are morphing into new types of 'lists' which can be viewed remotely and updated as needed with additional details with little regard for updating all of the information previously distributed. As a digital viewer looks at an electronic copy of a bibliography today, it may have been updated just minutes before his viewing request was entered.

The book, *Book Collecting A Modern Guide*, edited by Jean Peters, has a very good chapter segment, written by Terry Belanger, titled 'Descriptive Bibliography'. Belanger explains that the word bibliography means 'the study of books'; a bibliographer is 'one who studies them'. "Bibliography has many common definitions, and because collectors, scholars, and librarians too often use the word indiscriminately, it lacks precision. For this reason, bibliography generally attaches itself to qualifying adjectives like *enumerative, systematic, analytical, critical, descriptive, historical, or textual*." The two major groups of bibliographies are 'enumerative or systematic bibliographies' and 'analytical or critical bibliographies'. The terms of historical, textual and descriptive further define the analytical bibliographies.



A short summary of the definitions provided by Belanger yields the following:

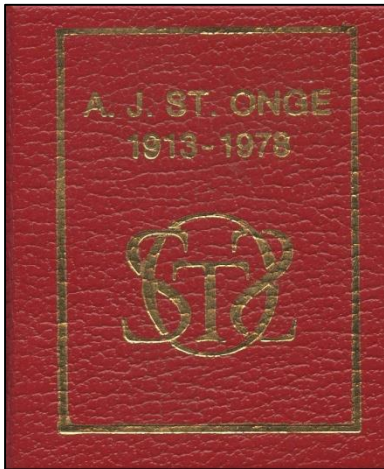
Enumerative bibliography, generally a listing of books according to some schema of author, subject, or date. In keeping the listing short, generally it may include the author's name, book title, date and place of publication. Little additional information dealing with the physical attributes of the book such as paper type, illustration, or bindings are included.

Analytical bibliography: generally a more detailed study of books as physical object, including descriptions of paper types, bindings, printing methods, etc. further defined as:

Historical bibliography: generally provides information about the history of books and persons, institutions, and the machines that produce books.

Textual bibliography: studies the relationship between the printed text as may be currently presented and that originally conceived by an author. This is of particular interest in the study of the relationship of early hand printed books.

Descriptive bibliography: defines the very details of how the book is physically put together, dealing with the type font, how illustrations are incorporated, type of paper and ink, as well as the binding style and technique.



Bibliographies have been available to bibliophiles for years and years, probably since the formation of the first libraries and collections. Coincidentally, there is a very interesting article, recently published in the Summer 2014 issue of the *Fine Books and Collections* magazine, written by Joel Silver, concerning 'author bibliographies'. Joel Silver is the Director and Curator of Books at the Lilly Library.

In our earlier articles, about book collecting, published as part of our ongoing 2014 series in *The Microbibliophile*, the various genres of collecting were discussed. Some collectors choose to focus on collecting books by particular authors, some particular presses, some by subjects, etc. A simple list of titles is not exactly a bibliography but certainly one of the first steps in the information gathering process. That list moves toward a bibliography when

details such as number of pages, press runs, dates, and editions are added. Rather than write the required lengthy article dealing with 'everything there is to know about a bibliography or the history of bibliographies' I want to focus on those bibliographies that are referred to as 'books about books'. More specifically those books that define the published works of various presses, most specifically those presses that are part of the world of miniature books. Julian Edison, Editor of the *Miniature Book News* (MBN) has written more than a few articles, very informative articles about bibliographies and 'books about books'. A particularly interesting article was published in the MBN issue Number 97, June 1998. Edison, while visiting Bromer Booksellers in Boston, discovered a revolving bookcase dedicated to 'books about books'. Those titles included in the article, as well as a few additional items that are specifically miniature book format bibliographies of various miniature book presses and genres are:

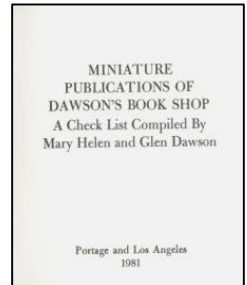
Hillside Press, Illustrated Miniatures, by Frank E. Irwin, 1966
Joys of Collecting Children's Books, by Alla T. Ford, Ford Press, 1968
REM Miniatures, A Record and a Sampler (four volumes), by Robert E. Massmann, 1969
Bibliography of the Hillside Press, by Frank Irwin, 1971
A Bibliography of Cheney Miniatures, by Carey Bliss, 1975
California, A Bibliography of its Miniature Books, by Msgr. Francis J. Weber,
 Junipero Serra Press, 1976
Bibliography of REM Miniatures, by Robert E. Massmann, 1978
Bibliomdgets of Achille J. St. Onge, by Robert E. Massmann, 1979
Discovering Miniature Christmas Books, by Robert F. Orr Hanson, 1980, (a subject bibliography)
Bibliography of the Hillside Press, by Eleanor I. Irwin, 1980
Miniature Publications of Dawson's Book Shop, by Mary Helen and Glen Dawson, 1981
Bibliography of REM Miniatures, First Supplement 1978-1982, by Robert E. Massmann, 1982
A Miniography, by Robert F. Orr Hanson, 1983, (an author bibliography)
*Lilliputia Produced by Robert Massmann Without REM Imprint Or As Ephemera Not Previously
 Recorded*, by Robert E. Massmann, 1983
Miniature Books In Print, by Frank J. Anderson, Kitemaug Press, 1985
*Second Roster of Lilliputia Spewed Out by Robert Massmann As Ephemera Not Previously
 Recorded or Published Jointly With Others*, by Robert E. Massmann, 1990
Bibliography of REM Miniatures, Second Supplement 1982-1987, by Robert E. Massmann, 1987
Bibliography of Amistad Press Miniature Books, by Yolanda C. Carter, 1990
Bibliography of the Ash Ranch Press, 'as written' by Don Hildreth, Miniature book Society, 1993
Bibliography of REM Miniatures, Third Supplement (3 volumes), by Robert E. Massmann, 1994
Miniature Books, Written or Edited by Msgr. Francis J. Weber, by Dawson's Book Shop, 1994
Miniature Books Written or Edited by Msgr. Francis J. Weber, by Dawson's Book Shop, 1994,
 (a author bibliography)
Shape Books and Non-Books Published by REM Miniatures, by Robert E. Massmann, 1995
Miniature Literature: the Stanley Marcus Collection of Miniature Books at the Bridwell Library,
 by Stanley Marcus, Sun Hill Press, 1995
Juniper Von Phitzer Press, A Bibliography, by Robert F. Hanson, Opuscula Press, 1999
Bibliography of REM Miniatures, Forth Supplement, by Robert E. Massmann, 1999
Miniature Books Published by the Press of Ward Schori, by Robert C. Bradbury, 1997 (an exhibit
 bibliography)
A Short Title list of REM Miniatures On Display, by Robert C. Bradbury, 1997 (an exhibit
 bibliography)
Weber's 101 and Counting, by Darleen Cordova, 2013, (an author bibliography)

All of the above reference examples are classified as enumerative bibliographies according to the definition supplied by Terry Belanger. Some provide additional information such as number of copies printed and details such as physical size of the book, number of pages, and/or details about various binding materials. The list is certainly not all-inclusive. As a 'keeper of lists', I would ask that you send me any additional titles that can fit into the above list. The point here is that bibliographies are important tools for the book collector. As you travel the journey of book collecting and your knowledge about the subject increases, you will certainly benefit from bibliographies. Your concerns and areas of specific interest will be expanded with the knowledge gained as well as a resulting increased quality for your collection. Some of the expanded reference materials that you can utilize, should you so desire, to increase your understanding and knowledge about the world of bibliographies are:

Bibliographie des Impressions Microscopiques, by Charles Nauroy, Charavay Frères Editieurs, 1881, a very early reference document, also available as a reprint/facsimile edition
Taste & Technique in Book Collecting, by John Carter, Cambridge University Press, 1949
A World Bibliography of Bibliographies, Theodore Besterman, Societas Bibliographica, 1966
Book Collecting, A Modern Guide, edited by Jean Peters, R. R. Bowker Company, NY & London, 1977
 The Newberry Library, an excellent source of research documentation and bibliographies,
<http://www.newberry.org/bibliographies-reference-sources>

My closing comment is from my personal ‘natural collector perspective’: what an interesting side collection could be built based on the various types of bibliographies that are available as publications. Certainly, they are worth investigating and even purchasing both the actual bibliographies and research books. There certainly appears to be an ample supply available in the ‘second hand market’. Remember that a ‘second hand book’ may contain an interesting bookplate revealing its provenance and put you ‘in touch’ with another famous book collector.

The joys of book collecting, PRICELESS! 📖



Editor's Note: Comments, suggestions, additions, and corrections at your convenience.

BOOK COLLECTING A – Z, ‘Fakes & Forgeries, and other Strangeness’ By Jim Brogan


Unfortunately, when financial value and human nature sometimes come together the result can, at times, be the creation of product versions that appear to be the same but may be very different when held to a close scrutiny or examination by experts. I am by no means an expert in the detection of forgeries and altered books; however, I did want to share with the audience, a brief overview of definitions, possible situations, and things that you, as a knowledgeable collector, should be aware of before you actually need the information. I am not aware that the problem of ‘misrepresentation’ is a large issue with regard to miniature books, maybe more so with antiquarians than more current titles. Even though, if only a small amount of monetary resources is spent, the purchaser is entitled to get what was paid for. With that said, let us move on to some definitions and discuss some possibilities for misrepresentation.

‘Forgeries’ involve the creation of a new ‘copy’ or edition that was not previously produced. An example may be a book that was original produced by the ‘ABC Press’ as the 1908 edition and maybe someone (not an authorized publisher) has decided to produce the 1915 edition. This example is rare and not normally found in the world of printed books. ‘Fakes’ are a more common occurrence; this is an exact copy of a book that was made to be identified, deceptively identified as an original. A ‘facsimile’ is an exact copy of an original produced with the intention of identification as an ‘near-original’. There have been at times ‘facsimiles’ which cross the line and are represented as original, which would then move the book into the classification of a ‘fake’.

The next areas of concern and things that you may actually come in contact with rather than a ‘fake’ or ‘forgery’ are books with ‘made to look like something they are not’, this would include possibly such actions as the addition of ‘pages’ from other volumes to enhance a particular

volume. Take for example the micro miniature created by the Kingsport Press, *Addresses of Abraham Lincoln*. A rare micro miniature produced with ‘three different colophons’, the first with 525 copies for a ‘American Institute of Graphic Arts’ distribution, the second with a colophon specially noting the edition was commissioned for members of the LXIVMOS society. It being a gift from Henderson, the LXIVMOS publisher, meant to serve to ‘take the place of the belated July [1929] edition of the Newsletter’. The third version did not have any printed colophon. Now let us say that you have a ‘battered’ special edition and a ‘good’ general edition, could the colophon page be replaced/substituted from one edition to the other. The ‘LXIVMOS edition’ is the most rare of the three. I hope that my example is not too ‘dark of a tale’. There are a number of different techniques that can be employed to identify ‘fakes and forgeries’. Physical examination of the binding, paper type, the actual type configuration, etc. is all useful methods. Should you have reason to suspect something is wrong it is best to consult an expert, start with your book dealer, and remember bibliographies are a great source of information in this area.

A final word about bindings. As the binding of a book could be a major component of its value to a collector it is again a ‘best practice’ to review all known bibliographies for most complete descriptions and variations as part of a review of authenticity. Sometimes in ‘older’ books, the original bindings could have been replaced if the original was worn or damaged. The discussion of relative value of a damaged original binding in relation to a ‘new binding’ on an old book is a question for another day. However, the point is, be sure that you are able to identify if a binding has been replaced and if that has been properly represented before you buy something that you may not be happy with in the future. A specialized genre of book collecting is focused on bindings and variations or special editions of particular books. Sometimes publishers or binders make use of available materials and produce volumes in multiple colors and materials, sometimes this can be the result more than one binder working to satisfy the needs of the publisher. Again, bibliographies are a good source of information about different bindings for a given title.

Joan Friedman provides a wonderful summation to this subject as part of her published work in *Book Collecting A Modern Guide*: “Knowing the honesty of the seller of a book does not remove the responsibility of knowing about what you collect. As has been seen, the detection of fakes and forgeries requires accumulation of evidence of a number of different sorts – of general appearance, of type, of paper, of provenance, and related circumstances, of bibliographical history – all of which combines to ring true or not. The knowledge that you are dealing with an honest bookseller is but one more piece of evidence that can give you piece of mind.” 

Editor’s Note: Comments, suggestions, additions, and corrections at your convenience.

A LITTLE FREE LIBRARY AND A HOUSE OF TINY BOOKS: by Barbara Williamson

What *does* a Little Free Library have to do with miniature books? What *is* a Little Free Library? A Little Free Library is a “take a book, return a book” gathering place where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories. In its most basic form, a Little Free Library is a box full of books where anyone may stop by, pick up a book (or two), and bring back another book to share. No rules; just a love of books and reading. The Little Free Library (LFL) grassroots movement began in 2009 when Wisconsin native, Todd Bol, built a birdhouse sized, tiny library in memory of his

teacher mother. Quickly this simple gesture mushroomed into a mighty book movement, which today boasts 15,000 Little Free Libraries in 56 countries around the world.



When my husband and I retired to McKinney, Texas, we wanted to meet our neighbors and share our passion for books. We built a Little Free Library that looks like a Texas homestead and installed it on a post in our front yard. We registered it on www.littlefreelibrary.org. We became the official stewards of LFL #2002. Folks can find us on a Google map via the Little Free Library website. Common practice is to hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony when

your LFL is ready for use. We sent out postcards to our neighborhood and invited all to an all day Open House and LFL Ribbon Cutting.

Our Open House was a double duty event that featured our collection of miniature books. Neighbors, friends, and even the media came for our Little Free Library grand opening but were treated to a house full of miniature books! Most had no idea that miniature books existed. Our guests were invited to wander through our home and were treated to surprises in every nook and corner.

We had displays in every room of different kinds of miniature books. Much of our collection is housed in a wall niche outfitted with tons of tiny shelves and hundreds of miniature books.

The dining room had displays of micro miniature books and the one and only miniature book I wrote, illustrated, and published, *Mugsy, the Magnificent Microbibliophile Mouse*. Our wine cabinet featured miniature artists' books and designer bound miniature books



My attorney husband's office featured miniature books on history and political figures. In the living room on the coffee table was an antique book press and reference books on miniature books. In my studio office, a display of antiquarian miniature children's books and artwork created for 'Mugsy'. In the backyard, children could wander into a little cottage, sit down, and make a miniature book to take home

Refreshments were all miniature too – tiny donuts and muffins in the morning. During the afternoon, we offered tiny cups of soups, tiny grilled cheese, and Texas barbecue sandwiches, tiny

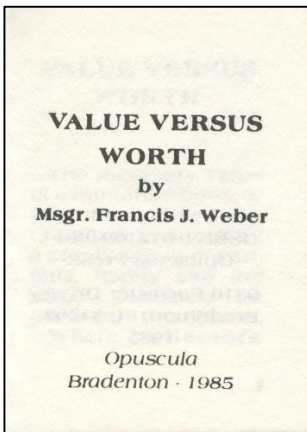
hot dogs and little hamburgers, tiny cookies and mini cupcakes. Serving dishes were even little white plates that look like open books.

Lots of fun, lots of guests, lots of good discussions about books! Best of all was the opportunity to introduce our community to the world of miniature books. The day resulted in two local magazine articles, an invitation to give a public school presentation about miniature books and a ton of new friends. Our **Little Free Library** is a gathering place in our neighborhood almost every day. Books come and books go. It is little. It is free. It is a library. For a wealth of information on the Little Free Library movement, go to www.littlefreelibrary.org. 📖

Editor's Note: 'What a great idea'! Barbara is the editor of the MBS Newsletter, an avid book collector, and a new subscriber of the 'The Microbibliophile'. Well done Barbara!

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BOOK COLLECTING A – Z, 'Value vs. Worth' By Jim Brogan



Early on as a collector of tools, model trains, cars, coins, and books I asked myself the question; “What is the value of what I am looking at? Is it really worth the price that is being asked?” This is the hardest question to answer as a collector, for sure. So as a person with not too much experience in any new field you can do some research, maybe check with other collectors, and begin to form an opinion for yourself about a future or past purchase. Like many things in life, the definition and usage of particular terms is critical to understand exactly what you are saying or for that matter reading. Let me first draw some parameters around the terms. ‘Value and worth’ are two words that are often confused when it comes to their meaning as well as their usage. The word ‘value’ is used to define the sense of ‘importance’ and the word ‘worth’ is used to define the ‘cost’ of a particular thing. Since we are talking about books, we can expand the definitions to say that ‘value’ is

another way of expressing the importance or significance of the book to you, and ‘worth’ is the cost of the book.

Years ago, in 1985 to be exact, a wise book collector, tackled this expression and did a very good job of documenting the terms and conditions of the relationship of value vs. worth. In a miniature book by the same title, *Value Versus Worth*, Msgr. Francis J. Weber unraveled the equation in such a way that makes a lot of sense for a book collector. The ‘Old Country Priest’ explained that the value of a miniature book is really determined by several different variables and that the same variables can rarely be used to solve the equation for different books. I would add that the equation require a different solution for different collectors. The author’s discussion touches on more than sixteen variables that can all be used by book collectors to solve the equation for them. As we move through a discussion on the variables be sure to remember that

there is not one relationship that will work for every book and the relationship for a given book may differ between collectors.

Age in itself is not something that will drive value but the number of copies available, which is more than likely related to age, will be a factor. If a book is part of a numbered edition this is generally considered to be a plus for collectors, the lower the number the more desirable the book. A related fact here is the number of books in the edition, obviously a run of 10 would be of more value than a run of 500. Singularity, the fact that an author may have ‘customized’ a particular book is a factor to consider. Illustrations and in particular hand colored illustrations add value to a book. Tipped-in photographs and or stamps are another desirable feature. Physical condition, the fact that a book is in fine vs. poor condition will obviously play an important part of the collector’s assessment of value.

One-of-a-kind books are a unique variable that generally will appeal to collectors. Books that are signed or inscribed hold a significant value for some collectors. If the book carries multiple signatures, such as both the author and the illustrator, this too will increase value. Place of origin for the printer or publisher is another variable to consider. The binding and slipcase that a book has will be something to be considered as well as favorable reviews of the particular book. Certainly the work of a ‘famous’ person or author will be a factor in determining value. The list goes on to include ‘classic titles’, types of paper, handmade vs. machine created, and the fame of the press are all variables to consider for yourself in solving the equation.

As was said as we started our discussion ‘value vs. worth’ is something that means different things to different people even when the object of the discussion can be the identical book for each collector. The above brief review of the many variables are things that you should consider when you are looking at a book from the perspective of assigning a price for selling a book or while you are entertaining the possibility of purchasing a book. Book collecting is a very large environment to be working within, the joys are many, and sometimes the road traveled is not as clear as we might have first thought. However, the joy is in the chase, enjoy the journey. 📖

Editor’s Note: Comments, suggestions, additions, and corrections at your convenience.

DID YOU KNOW, ‘A BIBLIOGRAPHIC EMPEROR: A Reprint, By Msgr. Francis J. Weber



In 1995, Robert F. Hanson, published, under his press name Opuscula Press, a bibliographical collection of writings by Msgr. Weber, the title of the book is *Little Is Beautiful or Make Mine a Small One*. The following insightful article highlights the collection of miniature books by a historical person; Napoleon Bonaparte. Msgr. Weber has written so many interesting articles about miniature books, but this one is about a famous book collector, I thought it appropriate to share it with everyone. If you have read this before I am sure you will enjoy a trip down ‘memory lane’, if is a new piece for you, enjoy the journey.

With the exception of Abraham Lincoln, Napoleon Bonaparte (1769- 1821) and his exploits probably account for more library shelf space than any other historical personage or event in the English language.

Though military strategists denigrate his battlefield accomplishments and political scientists question his administrative abilities, Napoleon remains a national hero in France. One writer contends that the colorful emperor, were he alive today, could easily win election to the country's presidency.

Though he was autocratic and self-governing, there was something very likable about Napoleon. Surely, he deserves a higher place in historical annals than the role he often gets in comic operas.

He was, for example, an intellectually astute man whose lifetime was consumed by the quest for knowledge. The emperor was an avid reader who devoured several books each week throughout his life. By his own testimony, books were his "sole debauchery".

The distinguished bibliophile, Harry B. Smith, maintained that Napoleon was a truly 'enlightened' despot. He contended that, "he was the only emperor whose interest in books would have qualified him for admission to our brotherhood".


Books were proportionately more expensive in the 18th century than they are today. Being a self-proclaimed emperor, Napoleon always found the sum needed for the purchase of a book and, as a youth, he admitted depriving himself of food to acquire them. All his biographers agree that Napoleon was a true book lover. Napoleon's library was impressive, even by today's standards. It was no exaggeration that merited for his collection the title *Bibliothèque Imperiale!* He once threatened Pope Pius VI that he would move the Vatican Library to Paris. And he almost did!

Because of his great affinity for books, His Majesty of France devised a plan for making certain volumes in his library "portable". Aware of miniature books published by the firm of J. B. Fournier Pere et Fils, Napoleon had his binder construct a *Bibliothèque Portative due Voyageur* (a traveling library) which would accommodate the tiny classical volumes issued by Fournier. Even on his military campaigns, Napoleon would read each evening before retiring.

The original case, from which others were copied, was fabricated of wood and covered by crimson morocco. Measuring 22 by 11 inches, it bore the royal shield along with the letter "N" embossed on the top. Into the case were neatly fitted the twenty-nine volumes which Fournier published between 1802 and 1812. Most of the vellum bound volumes measured 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches tall.

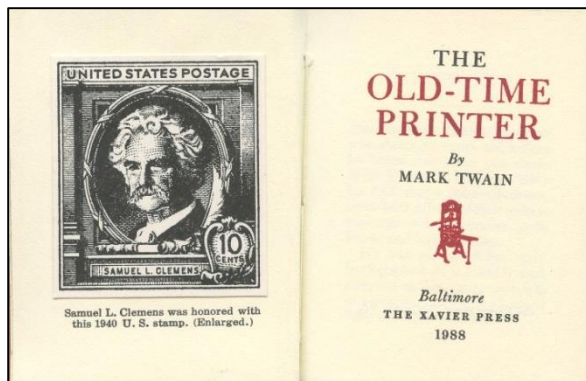
Included among the titles were such prestigious and important works as Racine (four volumes), Voltaire, Theatre (six volumes), Corneille (five volumes), La Sage (four volumes), La Fontaine (two volumes), Piron (two volumes), and Hamilton, Gresset, Tressan, Greccourt, and Bernard. So pleased was Napoleon with his traveling library that he had other cases made which he distributed to his favorite generals, statesmen, and politicians.

Napoleon's original case (without the books) was sold by Maggs Brothers of London in 1928 (catalogue 500, #137) to an unidentified purchaser, possibly James Henderson, the scrivener for *The Newsletter of the LXIVMOS*.

There is an interesting article in the Sunday, May 10, 1885 edition of the New York Times, which further defines the exact details and specifications as set forth by the Emperor for his traveling cases. If you do not have a copy of *Little Is Beautiful or Make Mine a Small One*, look on the aftermarket for a copy, great reading for sure. 

THREE MINIATURES ABOUT PRINTING: The Old Time Printer, by Mark Twain, Women Printers in Early Maryland, & Printshop Nostalgia

Where would we be without printing? We certainly have come a long way since Mr. Johannes Gutenberg perfected the first press with moveable type was back in 1450 or so. Printing has certainly had a large impact on the world and all the progress that civilization has made over all of these years. I thought it would be interesting to visit a few miniature books that deal with the world of printing. Each book is unique in its own relationship to the world of printing.



Frontispiece and title page

The *Old Time Printer*, by Mark Twain. Samuel Clemens was about 27 years old before he began using the pen name of Mark Twain and during this early period he held many different jobs. Everything from a riverboat pilot, to a soldier, to a printer. Clemens always referred to his job as a printer as ‘a poor boy’s college’. A group of New York printers asked Twain to speak at their dinner in 1886 commemorating the birthday of Benjamin Franklin. The *Old Time Printer* is a reprint of the speech that Twain delivered that evening.

Twain started his speech with a recollection of his earliest job as a teenager working in a small printing shop. Needless to say his first task was to light the fire in the morning. The day generally went downhill from there, but as time went on he did learn the trade and was very fond of his vocation. He explained that the world of the printer had changed with technology over the last 35 years since he was a printer and I am sure that there were many laughs and tears in the audience as this masterful man delivered his famous speech. Not wanting to wear out his welcome he concluded his speech with a phrase familiar to everyone in the audience, “But it may be that I am among strangers, [he being an old printer and the audience being modern printers] and sing the glories of a forgotten age to unfamiliar ears, so I will ‘make even’ and stop”. The phrase ‘make even’ refers to the way that a compositor completes the setting of the last line in the composing stick. The Xavier Press published this miniature book in 1988, the type was hand set, and an interesting item which is included in an endpaper pocket is a small piece of type.

Women Printers In Early Maryland, by P. H. Bellas, was published by the Xavier Press, in 1991. The book outlines the work of three women who were printers in colonial North America. The first woman is Dinah Nuthead who is considered the first women printer in the colonies. As a young widow, she was forced to learn the trade to provide for herself and her two children. She more than likely turned out scores of blank document forms, broadsides, and various pamphlets during the time she was a printer. Obviously a creative as well as courageous person. She entered a world where few women had previously dared to tread.

Anne Catherine Green began her life as a printer more than 75 years after Dinah Nuthead. The years of 1767 – 1775 were busy and turbulent times in colonial America. She was also a widow. However, her husband’s business was well established and she being 41 years old, her oldest son was able to help her run the business. In addition to the usual work of printing forms and broadsides ‘Green and Sons’ held several contracts with the government to provide printing services. One such contract in 1770 was to print more than \$300,000 worth of paper money for the Maryland Assembly. Obviously, ‘Green and Sons’ were good at what they did and how they performed their jobs.

Mary Katherine Goddard held the job title of printer from 1774 – 1785. Her entrance into the printer’s world was by design as she apprenticed at her brother’s print shop. She was a shrewd businesswoman and ran a publishing business. Not only did she run the day-to-day business functions but she also regularly had her hand in the type box as well. Another well respect printer



*Courtesy of 'Printshop Nostalgia',
the Schori Press,
Evanston, Illinois, 1962*

The endpapers of both editions are small images of many of the cartoons. The colophon is just as interesting as the book itself, with Schori explaining the production process as well as the various fonts he utilized. What fun would it be if I could not tie the three books together with a cartoon from *Printshop Nostalgia*, remember one of the first jobs that Samuel Clemens had was working in a print shop.

"It took a roaring pot-bellied stove to warm up a shop on a Monday morning in the winter. Stiff fingers slowed any compositor, but if presswork were necessary, stiff gears, hard rollers and static electricity made printing an ordeal."

The joys of book collecting, PRICELESS! 📖

for sure as her greatest coup was the publishing of the first official copy of the 'Declaration of Independence', which included the names of all of the signers; Congress authorized this on January 18, 1777.

Moving from the colonial times into the 20th century, *Printshop Nostalgia*, is a book which shows us the lighter side of the printing business, that being the day to day life activities of printers. Ward Schori published the full size edition of the title in 1962, just 200 copies were made. The miniature book version was published in 1989 again by the Schori Press.

The cartoons were originally published by 'The Inland Printer' magazine, they were drawn by John T. Nolf. The Preface is written by J. L. Frazier who began working at the magazine as an associate editor in 1914. Nolf was already drawing cartoons before Frazier was hired. Schori himself began his term at 'The Inland Printer' in 1951 and while doing some house cleaning, at the shop, came across the original cartoons that so perfectly capsulated the lives of the printers, the idea for the *Printshop Nostalgia*, was born.

MBS CONCLAVE XXXII, 'BOSTON, WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR NAME!' Reported by Joan Knoertzer

CHEERS TO YOU ALL! The Conclave was a resounding success! Thank you to the Chair, Rev. Joseph L. Curran, and his amazing committee: Melinda Brown, Kathy Caple, Ellen Diamond, Loretta Gentile, Shannon Mitchell, David Nicholson, James Reid-Cunningham, Ann St. Onge, David St. Onge, and Grace Scheibner. Now 'EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR NAME' Hopefully, by the end of this Conclave review, everyone who attended will be remembered!

As is tradition, our MBS members are so excited about coming to these events that they arrive a day early! Ellen Diamond arranged for us to dine at '75 Chestnut', an intimate retreat very close to 'Cheers', that has wonderful food...40 of us can attest to that fact. It is just a short walk from our wonderful hotel, 'The Taj'. We started with free gourmet cheese, and a super-waiter whose name was Craig but added "If I screw up, just call me Frank!" We knew more fun was to come just as VP Jim Brogan, hobbled in with his foot in a cast, a walker and Nurse Elaine, who added "This hasn't slowed him down one bit!" Let the fun begin! Our one long table was filled with 'new' and 'old' members alike. Cathie Abney, Judy Moses, Karen Nyman and her sister Tina Auclair (remember the San Diego's Conclave), Rob Fleck (Oak Knoll Press, a newbie), Past-President Mark Palkovic (looking relieved after so many years our noble leader), Twyla Racz (remember the Ann Arbor's Conclave), Melinda Brown (check out her Boston TV video on her collection of miniature books), and David and Ann St. Onge (yes, that very family!). As non-believers left the restaurant, amazed, more MBS'ers filled the tables: Miriam (Founding Mother of MBS and Mosaic Press) and husband Ken Irwin, Darleen Cordova (author of this year's MBS publication), Carolyn Bryant (attending her 32nd Conclave), Ellen and Jonathan Diamond, Maryline Poole Adams (Poole Press) and James Adams, Neale (past president) and Margaret Albert, new president Stephen Byrne (The Final Score) and Marian Byrne (author, writer, artist, embroiderer), Tony Firman (Plum Park Press and MBS Competition Chair) and wife Patricia Caernarven-Smith (MBS Secretary), Nancy and Mike McGuire, Ian and Aidan Kahn (Lux Mentis), Michael (Board Member) and Jeanne Garbett, Arno Gschwendtner, Tom Kershaw, Nina Mazzo (newbee), Cynthia Cosgrove (newbee), Todd Sommerfeld, Angelika Jacek, and me. At this point I stopped taking notes and finished my Raspberry White Chocolate Cheesecake Brulee, while others stopped talking to finish their Molten Chocolate Cake. If I forgot you, and you were there...please forgive me.

Next morning, while others slept in, the MBS Board was hard at work, keeping the business of the MBS going in the right direction. Please give them a nod of appreciation. Cherry Williams, our curator of the MBS Archives at the Lilly Library at Indiana University and Jim Brogan will be looking into a digital project of all miniature books published. Special thanks to Kathy King who is retiring from being our 'CFO, Treasurer'. Discussing rising costs is never an easy subject to solve. The competition entries are down from previous years, but quality holds true. Some unsung heroes are our Newsletter Editor and Photographer, the team of Ray and Barbara Williamson, who continue to produce the finest results. Karen Nyman keeps us informed about membership and oversees the website with careful attention to detail. We tend to forget that we are a completely volunteer organization, situated around the world, which works as smoothly as a fine leather binding. Our thanks go to all who give of their valuable time, so that we can meet once a year with glad hearts and fine memories. When we get our 'MBS Newsletter', we can sit down with toddy in hand, and soak up all the latest in our small world. Thanks again to all of you.

Our conclave registration this year was 82, with several spouses and friends. Jan Becker and Anjelika Jaeck with many helpers put together our beautiful book bags. Inside was all of the necessary information assembled by Karen and other helpers: attendees names, booksellers lists, Boston events, maps, transportation, book store lists, and the ever popular Keepsakes! We can not wait to find out what our clever and creative members gave us to remind us of our trip. So thanks to Rev. Curran's Boston Tea Party, complete with Tea Bag, Inchie Press (Jan Becker), Remembering Our Past (Bromer Booksellers), Lux Mentis (catalog complete with miniature), Tony Firman's Small Change: Obsolete British Banknote Designs, Places of Interest in Boston (Anjelika), Bookmark/Business Card: Kathleen Roberts Fine Books, Books By Bibliography (Todd Sommerfeld), As I Remember, Jim (Robert Bothamley, Lorson's Books), All Hail to Massachusetts (Stephen and Marian Byrne), Hezekiah Usher: America's First Bookseller (Darleen Cordova), Karen Nyman's Miniature Book Catalogue (in miniature), What's in a Name (Todd Summerfeld), The Boston Light (Jim and Elaine Brogan/ Bo Press), Individual Miniature Book Plates (Ray and Barbara Williamson), with a red wooden box with each attendee's name on the spine. You all really outdid yourselves. You know how much we love presents. Thank you!

Our opening reception was held at the ever generous Bromer Booksellers. Refreshments and a grand sale on almost everything was a great way to start the Conclave. Thank you to Anne and David Bromer, and their super staff Phil Salmon, Jessica, and Shannon Mitchell. It is such a pleasure shopping at Bromer's. They love miniatures, and they deal in excellence. We are grateful for your continued support. We did not want to leave. In fact, Carol Anne Kouyoumdjian just missed it due to travel. So, I told her all about it. Just down the street, The Boston Public Library had the very first printed miniature books on display as well. We ended the afternoon with a cocktail reception on the roof of The Taj followed by a fine dinner, as well as silent auction. Bidding was brisk. Additional members arrived; Jarmila Sobota, Robert Orndorff, Jennifer Larson, Beverly and George Panas, Erica and Lillian Clew, Joan Boring, Bill and Nancy Bivona, and Linda and Steve Tosi. There were many bargains to be had, donated by our many wonderful and generous members. The event is a 50/50 event, so the MBS added to its treasury, and some members received a nice check back for their kindness. Neale Albert, Julian Edison, Caroline Brandt, Pat Pistner as well as many others contributed to this event.

On Saturday morning after breakfast, we started our Annual Membership meeting. President Stephen Byrne presided. Some highlights: We need more members. We would like to distribute our yearbooks as a 'pdf file' to as many as possible. Our PR/Social Media committee needs help. Mailing expenses are always going up. Let Karen know if you receive a FABS Newsletter from another source so we don't have to mail it. We will continue to be members of the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies (FABS). We need to add to our renewal form a few new lines offering options for giving such as additional support/sponsor a student for membership or contributions made in the name of a member who has passed. This will help us keep membership dues stable and leave it up to members to help us out with any donations that they can make. This will also mean we can continue to publish a new book every two years for each member. Last but not least, our next Conclave, XXXIII will be abroad, in Amsterdam, August 7-9, 2015. The hotel is the Garden Hotel Bilderberg. If you come on the Sunday before you will be able to attend the largest antiquarian book fair in Europe, on Sunday, August 2, 2015.

Following the Annual Meeting, Christina Amato, prior winner of a Miniature Book Competition award, conservator of the New York Academy of Medicine, and member of the North Bennet Street School, spoke to us about the conservation of miniature books. She provided several solutions for problems that we may have. Paper repairs, spine work, and in general

making sure our books function properly. She has written a book on *How To Make A Miniature Book* and showed some problem examples. Problems with inks and the aging of the book, as well as materials used may be the problem, and a conservator can help. Exhibiting your books properly and even housing those that ‘can not be helped’ in a clamshell box might help to a longer life for them. After the conclusion of Christina’s very informative presentation, Jim Brogan, spoke about the next generation of book lovers: children. How do we get them interested? Barbara and Ray Williamson have produced a PowerPoint presentation, that Jim delivered, appropriate for 2nd-3rd graders. It is built around ‘Mugsy The Miniature Mouse’, and answers the questions: What is a book? What is a miniature book? and Why would people make these? The presentation covers things the children might find interesting: Lego books, pop-ups, flip books, tunnel books, etc. Contact the Williamsons for a copy of their show. Can you say ‘Microbibliophile’?

The afternoon was spent at the Boston Athenaeum, a fascinating place where thousands of historical books reside. There is so much history here, you must see it. The Conservation Lab has the latest equipment and they had several examples of repairs that had been done or is under way with older books. It is truly a beautiful library, with art work that is as stunning as the books.

Saturday evening was most exciting. We had beautiful desserts followed by the live auction with Father Joe presiding. He adds to the fun of bidding by describing some of the books in his own special way. We had over 125 items contributed. It moved along so swiftly, thanks to our runner Nicholas Orndorff, and assistant Anjelika Jaeck, paddles were flying all over the place. The accountants were Jan Becker, Joan Boring and Cathy Reeve. We made close to \$4500, the best ever. Our generous donors were, Neale Albert, Jim Brogan, Jan Becker, The Bromers, Stephen Byrne, Darlene Cordova, Julian Edison, Tracy Fritz, The Goessling Family, Dorothy Hoffman, Janet King, Ingeborg Quitzau, Doris Selmer, Todd Summerfeld, Marge Williford, and Caroline Brandt. How can we ever thank you. We had a special high bidder of over \$800, and several in the \$300 and \$400 range, and everyone got something. The books were of high quality and so were the bidders. Bless you Father Joe! You are the biggest fund-raiser of all. We applaud you, but we missed that dragon that helped you out in Vancouver!

Many members began Sunday with an early breakfast. I dined with Carolyn Knight Dik, Jennifer Larson, Elaine Brogan, Twyla Racz, Erica and Lilian Clew, James Reid-Cunningham, and Nancy and Bill Bivona. I had not seen the Bivonas for several years and it was as if we had never missed a beat. They were excited about the BookFair as it is the one place where you can add many wonderful books to your collections. There were 20 booksellers. The new members, Kathleen Roberts, Margaret Shepherd, Kaitlin Barber, Nina Mazzo, Wendy Painter, and Cynthia Cosgrove were amazed at the sea of miniatures around them. As is the case, MBS members are given the first three hours, and then the public is admitted, but it seemed many members spent the entire day looking, learning, and adding to their collections. At the end of the afternoon, we held a cocktail party with an awards banquet. Our guest speaker was William Wallace, Executive Director of the Worcester Historical Museum, speaking to ‘Memories of St. Onge.’ The tidbits he described about this man, ‘Archie’, to his friends, was intimate and well presented.

President Byrne had asked me to join his table, as he and Marian had the same guests who were with them in Vancouver. We all have a musical background in common so I thought that it was a natural idea and I looked forward to seeing them again. I still took my many notes as we ate, and then Stephen started the meeting. He gave special honors to Jim Brogan, for *The Microbibliophile* and being his VP, Karen Nyman for the MBS website, Kathy King for being treasurer, The Williamsons for the Newsletter, Anjelika Jaeck for the By-laws Committee, Twyla and Julian for the Nominating Committee and countless other contributions, Jim, Nancy, Mark and Darleen for

the Publications Committee, Patricia Caernarven-Smith for being Secretary, Tony Firman for being Competition Chair, and the members-at-large. Tony Firman announced the three winners of the Most Distinguished Book Award: Courtney Maclan: *Toledo's Old West Side*, Ivy Grimes: *Less Than Human*, Caroline Anderson: *Song of the Valkerie*. We observed a moment of silence for the passing of the following MBS members who are dearly missed: Carol Cunningham, David Scott, Frank Anderson, Evron Collins, Margaret Feldman, and Jon Mayo.

'Lifetime Membership' was awarded to Caroline Brandt for her 32 consecutive conclaves and Miriam Irwin for starting the MBS in 1983. The Anderson-Yarnell Award went to Jan Kellett, and the Norman W. Forgue Award went to Dr. Martin Znidersic. The Glasgow Cup, awarded to the person who has a dedicated friendship to the membership of the MBS, was ME! Joan Knoertzer, no kidding! They even spelled my name correctly.

I am forever grateful to you all for this award. You are special people who have enriched each other's lives beyond what you could ever imagine. It is hard for me to understand how something so small as a miniature book, could deliver such a big message. I am the 25th person to be on this silver loving cup and I am loving it! The names before me are giants in our world of miniature books. Thank you for adding me to this distinguished list. I am humbled.

There is always a 'DAY AFTER TRIP' at the MBS Conclaves. The trip this year was one not to be missed. We went to Worcester, MA. Father Joe gave us the 'Chief Tour Guide' view of the area, from famous historic sites to churches and steeples he knew well. We arrived at the Clark University, Robert H. Goddard Library, ready to see the work of the most famous and highly regarded miniature book publisher of the 20th century, Achilles J. St. Onge. William Wallace had given us some intimate details the night before, at our closing banquet, but we were still not prepared for the intensity of the collection, which included the letters of the famous who had ordered St. Onge books, from presidents to the rich and famous. There were 'oohs and aahs' and many words of praise for the staff's presentation, conducted by the special collections curator, Fordyce Williams. The St. Onge collection is just one of many varied subjects in the department. Also on display was a case of small bibles as well. You can do a virtual visit at www.clarku.edu/research/goddard. You really have to put this on your miniature book bucket list.

After leaving the Goddard, we traveled to the Goddard-Douglas Historical Museum to have lunch. We met up with William Wallace and were warmly received with a wonderful indoor picnic lunch arranged by...you must have guessed...Ann and David St. Onge.

Walking across the street, we reached the steps of this U. S. Historic Landmark, which is also on the U. S. National Registry of Historic Places. The American Antiquarian Society was founded in 1812 by printer Isaiah Thomas. It is appropriate that his printing press should be on the second level overlooking the reading room for the many scholars who come to study here. His initial 8000 volume book collection has turned into more than 66% of the U.S. books printed before 1820. Three million books, manuscripts, pamphlets, bookplates and more are archived here. We watched a short video which gives you a hint at what is being researched. We had a short tour through the stacks of the largest collection of newspapers from all 50 states, as we were on our way to 'mecca'...seeing their miniature book collection. We entered a room filled with book cases of chinaware which recorded U. S. history. On the large library table, a specially selected book was placed in front of us, *The Bay Psalm Book* and many others were on view as well. You can visit the collection at americanantiquarian.org/minibooks.htm. What a grand way to end an already exciting trip! The people and their books are like a breath of fresh air.

Joan Knoertzer, from Boston, 'Where Everybody Knows Your Name' (If yours does not appear and you were there, forgive the oversight and I'll see you, my friends, in Amsterdam!) 📖

MINIATURE BOOK SOCIETY, Traveling Exhibit, Location Information:

The Miniature Book Society has an outstanding traveling miniature book exhibit that is available for display at your local library, school, or organization. You can get a sneak preview of the display by visiting the MBS website: www.mbs.org. If you would like to learn about hosting the exhibit, please contact Jim Brogan, E-mail: jbrogan1@verizon.net.

The exhibit will be at the following locations:

October 2014

The Cleveland Public Library
325 Superior Ave N.E.
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
www.cpl.org

November and December 2014

IOWA Center for the BOOK
Des Moines, Iowa



The purpose of the exhibit is to provide people with access to the world of miniature books. You can never tell when a new connoisseur will become interested in miniature books and what may spark that interest. *Please look at the article written by Barbara Williamson in the current issue of the MBS Newsletter, about 'Future Microbibliophiles', page 21.* The exhibit is just such a visual torch that may light the pathway for someone. Stop at your library, call your alma mater, or speak with the librarian, or the person who is in charge of library exhibits. The MBS wants to share their traveling exhibit with everyone.

Check the MBS website www.mbs.org for additional information. 

MEET THE BOOKSELLER: Bromer Booksellers

The creation of Bromer Booksellers more than 45 years ago is almost like a fairy tale. Anne and David Bromer created their business out of their passion for books. Hard work and dedication persevered and they printed their first catalogue in 1968 and have since traveled the world seeking the finest books for their customers. In addition, to the owners of the business, there is a staff of three additional people who help support the operations, Phil, as well as Jessica, and Shannon.

One of their specialties is certainly miniature books. The current inventory of miniatures covers all different price ranges and areas of interest. A simple search on their website can introduce you to *My Early Life*, by Millard Fillmore, Hillside Press, 1987, or if you so choose move into the area of the very rare, *T Oranje Geslagt*, Groningem, H. Spoormaker, 1749. Certainly something for everyone.

As a customer, I have found the staff to be extremely knowledgeable about miniature books and certainly always available to answer a question or a special request. Bromer Booksellers issues several catalogs throughout the year both in electronic and printed format.

As part of the Miniature Book Society Conclave this year, Bromer's hosted a lively reception for the Conclave attendees, a great effort from a great bookseller. Read more about the Bromer story on their website. Be sure to also read Joan Knoertzer's Conclave Recap beginning on page 20 of this issue for more details about Bromer's reception. 📖

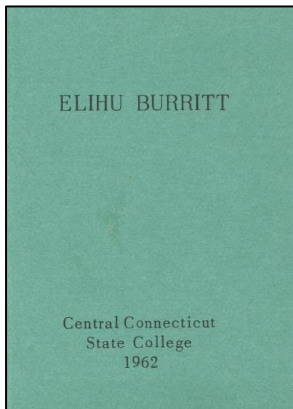
Contact information: Bromer Booksellers, 607 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116, telephone 617.247.2818. E-mail: books@bromer.com, www.bromer.com

FAMOUS PEOPLE IN THE WORLD OF MINIATURE BOOKS:

Robert E. Massmann, (1924 – 2013)

By Jim Brogan

Robert E. Massmann (REM) began his professional career as a law librarian for the legal department of the Federal Reserve System and shortly thereafter moved on to the world of Central Connecticut State College library system in 1951. In 1957, REM became involved in the world of miniature books. A good acquaintance of his, Haddon Klingberg, introduced REM to his [Klingberg's] personal collection of miniature books and according to REM, "The visit turned into an enchanting interlude, as soon as he showed me his other interest – miniature books. Ten minutes in their [the miniature books] company was sufficient: I was irretrievably lost." This instant fascination, interest, and love continued until the day he departed 478 Glen Street in New Britain for the last time. From that introduction to the world of miniature books, grew a collection that exceeded 9,000 volumes. Collecting miniatures is only part of the story, REM was also one of the six 'renaissance publishers' of the 20th century. He along with Ward Schori, James Weygand, Norman Forgue, Frank and Eleanor Irwin, and Glen and Mary Helen Dawson, produced hundreds of miniature titles and fueled a 'rebirth of interest' in miniature books. This period may be referred to as the 'Golden Age of American Miniature Books'.



As a professional librarian, REM was always close to the world of literature and published works. In 1962, he was asked to create a 'small gift' that could be distributed by the college library celebrating the Sesquicentennial celebration of the birth of the person for whom their library was named, Elihu Burritt. Burritt was a resident of New Britain, Connecticut and during the 19th century, he published a wide list of books and articles during his lifetime.

By 1962, REM had become acquainted with A.J. St. Onge and approached St. Onge with the idea of St. Onge publishing a miniature about Burritt. St. Onge, thought the title to be 'too local and not have much opportunity for successful sales' to a larger audience than New Britain. His advice to REM was 'publish it yourself', and the rest is history from that Sunday afternoon conversation in 1962.

Much has been written about REM and he contributed many many articles about miniature books, collecting genres, and publishing miniature books. REM was a very knowledgeable man

and liked by everyone whom he met, one of his passions was to talk with collectors and possibly trade books or matchbooks, or penknives, and or stamps. He was always eager to meet people and share his knowledge. REM was a collector thru and thru. Between *Elihu Burritt*, (1962) and when he retired as the Director of the Central Connecticut State College Library, (1983) REM had published no less than 65 miniature books. He however, did not work alone at this venture; he involved his wife and his two sons in the creative publishing process. Eloise, his wife, supplied the special skills for most of the hand-coloring and the two boys split the tasks of creating artwork and the typography. Robert C. Bradbury, in his book, *20th Century U.S. Miniature Books*, documented the following quotes concerning the work of REM: Glenn Dawson said “Keeping track of the miniatures of Robert E. Massmann is something like collecting butterflies of New Guinea”, Louis Bondy commented, “(Massmann) has created miniature book curiosities of extraordinary character and originality.” Lastly, Ward Schori wrote: “Robert E. Massmann is probably the most ingenious of miniature book publishers in the sort of bindings he invents”. REM’s authored articles as well as many articles about REM can be found with a review of the following publications:

The Miniature Book News, edited by Julian Edison, 1965 – current

The Miniature Book Society Newsletter, various editors, 1983 – current

The Microbibliophile, various editors, 1977 – current

In Search of Miniature Books, Kalman L. Levitan, 1985

20th Century U.S. Miniature Books, Robert C. Bradbury, 2000

4000 Years of Tiny Treasures, Julian I. Edison and Anne C. Bromer, 2007

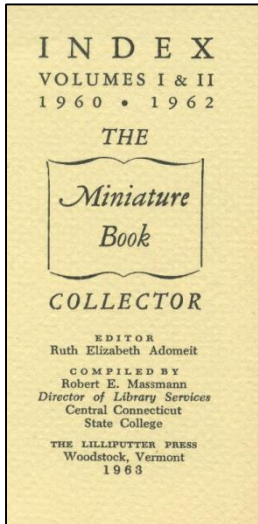
Robert E. Massmann, My Autobiography, Robert E Massmann, 2012

The first two publications are available ‘online’ via the University of North Texas, which also maintains and digital index of the publications: <http://digital.library.unt.edu/explore/collections>.

I had the unique opportunity to work with the REM while helping with the gathering of details that were included in his autobiography. Each visit, each conversation, each follow-up letter was an experience to remember, such a gentleman to work with. The sheer amount and diversity of his creative genius was something that was just unbelievable. One of my first questions was “How did you find time for all of this work”? His quick response was, “Nobody should retire if they do not have something to keep them busy and interested”. He then asked if I had ever seen a ‘peep show’ book. Being a relatively newcomer to the field of miniature books, I admitted I had not. Jumping out of his chair he returned in a moment with two outstanding creations of folded paper. The first copy was a ‘larger format’ (6” x 6”) that when opened revealed the secret view through the ‘peep hole’. He also had the miniature version of the same creation in all of its hand colored wonders. The title of these diminutive gems will remain a secret for a future article. He explained that the larger version was a trial to get the paper folding and cutting to work correctly. As documented by Robert C. Bradbury, REM describes the variety of his creations. “I have always tended toward the unusual. Scrolls, peep shows, a lollipop book on a stick, a besom, a book inside a match book, a pop-up book, a filigree initial on a title page, a megillah, broadsides, spinner cards, books that open up like flowers, shape books, a hold-to-the- light book, a 3-D paper mill, a telescoping foldout title page, etc. etc... I am not a printer, though I have done everything else, from design, typesetting for offset lithography, layouts –including original artwork (by other artists – I am not an artist, either), to binding.” If you have seen a good representation of the work

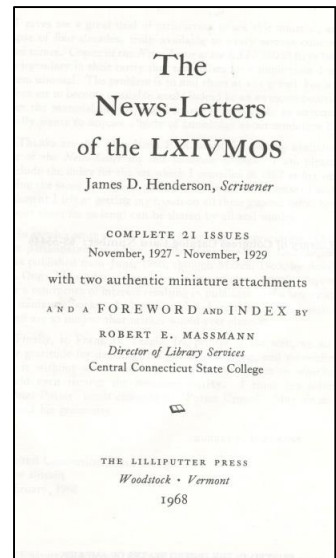
by REM you can certainly understand the enormity of his own description, if not, you are missing the thrill of a lifetime. REM was very much the ‘boy engineer’ always looking at things, always thinking about what would be next, and what the solution might be.

As I have said, much has been written about and by REM. Some additional insight to the creative person he was will be gained as I share with you an interesting paragraph written by REM, as part of an article he wrote, ‘MINIPUBLICA FROM NEW BRITAIN’, published in the *Miniature Book News*, Number 3, March 1966. The article describes the first nine publications that he had completed as well as some of the learning experiences he had along the way. “My private frustrations in attempts to acquire the one or two miniature scrolls which I knew had been produced in this country led me to consider doing one of these little items, which as might be expected, created problems in what sort of spindle to use, etc., My good friend Walter Hart Blumenthal was kind enough to provide a beautiful manuscript, and to gain a little experience, in scroll manufacture, I did a very few copies of Number five on the preceding list, [Miniature scroll, in memory of Paul W. Keiser] at Christmas time in 1964. This was very well received, and in June 1965, I was able to publish the Blumenthal scroll, using a vegetable parchment, with three-color printing. I feel that it was something rather unique.” These are the comments of a man certainly dedicated to his passion.



As part of this passion and probably the result of his professional training as a librarian, REM was a ‘master of detail and organization’. He produced three outstanding ‘indexes of work’ that are of particular interest to the miniature book collector. The first is an index to the *Miniature Book Collector*, which was published by A.J. St. Onge between 1960 and 1962. REM created the index in the same format as the original publications, even employing the original printer to create this compendium of information, in 1963. *The News Letters of the LXIVMOS* is another outstanding work created by REM, this book, published in 1968, reprinted, as a facsimile, all of the 21 newsletters of this effort, originally published by James D. Henderson along with an comprehensive index. The third tool that REM created was a beautiful miniature titled *The Bibliomidgets of Achille J. St. Onge, A Memorial and a Bibliography*. Published in 1979, the book consolidated all of the

information that REM had collected over the years through experience, acquisition, and conversation about the publications of A.J. St. Onge, including miniatures as well as additional larger format publications. These three publications are key research tools for any miniature book collector. Beginning in 1978, REM initiated the publication of a series of bibliographies addressing his own publications; the series contains 11 different components detailing all of his books and ephemera. These are essential to the study of miniatures by REM Miniatures, his press name. As the clock moved forward into the new millennium, REM moved forward as well, publishing more than 110 miniature books by 2006, an outstanding legacy of his work and joy.



Moving on from the realm of REM publishing to collecting there is again a wealth of information published about REM and his collection of miniature books. The collection represented the sum of his interests, knowledge, likes, and personal favorites. REM published a series of article, again in the *Miniature Book News*, beginning with Number 100, March 1999, which are invaluable to collectors, both those new to bibliomania as well as the experienced. The article is titled, 'Basic Miniature Books For Serious Collectors'. The first segment of the article defines a list of 21 different publisher resources, 'Basic Books for the Beginning Collectors'. REM defined his list as: "I think it is important that newcomers to this enchanted endeavor be given choices, so that they can stay within a reasonable guideline, all the while developing good collections of desirable and substantive acquisitions. For that reason the 'Beginner' listing will contain more selections of publishers than specific titles; suggestions rather than mandates". REM, always the teacher, always providing guidance from his years of experience. The article contains two additional lists of considerations for 'intermediate collectors', 32 items, as well as a section highlighting a list of 27 additional items that could be considered for the 'advanced collector'. The closing comment from REM is: "You will decide what is best for you. With these suggestions, plus the many things you will find which are not included here, you can't go far wrong as you build your own version of a serious collection". Certainly sound advice from an advanced collector. Number 102, 103, and 104 of the *Miniature Book News*, beginning in September 1999, expanding the picture to include some items called 'Dream Books' from the REM collection. There is an interesting paragraph where REM talks about his acquisition of a book titled, *The Proclamation of Emancipation by the President of the United States, to take effect January 1st, 1863*. A friend offered it to him for three dollars, little did he know at the time that only seven copies out of thousands printed had been located, REM found another for \$.25 at a garage sale.

REM was a charter member of the Miniature Book Society as well as a past president, giving himself to others for which he was so well known for. Certainly, his membership and leadership help formulate the organization over the years. In closing I will quote from the closing paragraph of his autobiography, "Whether I have done anything of real value I am happy to let others judge. I know that I have had a lot of fun and met a whole world of delightful people, many of whom I count as my dearest friends. Who could ask for more than that?" REM, a man who always wore a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye. 📖

Editors Note: Comments, concerns, corrections, and suggestions at your convenience.

A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL TREAT

Miniature Books from Oak Knoll Press:

By Robert F. Orr Hanson

First Words. It is no surprise that I like to write about books, authors, and anything to do with both subjects. I also like 'books about books' and bibliographies. I like to support independent booksellers. Remember my review of *The Bookman's Tale* in the May issue of this magazine? We, in the miniature book community, have been blessed with several bibliographies concerned with tiny tomes. Among them have been: the *Catalogue of the Library of Miniature Books Collected by Percy Edwin Speilman*, the two reference books by Professor Robert C. Bradbury, as

well as the press bibliographies by the late Frank and Eleanor Irwin (Hillside Press) , and the two volume set from the Black Cat Press.

Now, to my delight, there has been published a two-volume, illustrated and descriptive set of catalogues offered at no charge by Bob Fleck, the book loving owner of Oak Knoll Books and Press based in New Castle, Delaware. Catalogues Number 303 and 304 offer for sale a total of 594 miniature books from the library of the late Donn Sanford (1940-2004) who departed this planet at the too early age of 64 years. Donn was a loyal supporter of my work reporting in *The Microbibliophile* (1977-1997) and the publishing of my books under the Opuscula Press imprint. In addition, he was passionate about letterpress printing and served as President of the Miniature Book Society.

To be direct about it, I think this is one of the finest sets of bookseller catalogues I have seen in over forty years in the book business as a book store owner, book researcher, writer and publisher. Thus, I am very pleased to have added them to my other bibliographic sources. I send my thanks to all of the folks at Oak Knoll Books for contributing to this collectible catalogue set.

The Design of the Catalogues. To begin, each catalogue measures 6” wide and 9” tall. Part One contains 128 pages with 305 miniature books plus 4 pages of Index and another three pages about several ‘books about books’. Part Two includes 122 pages describing 289 tiny tomes plus a two page Index and four pages offering more ‘books about books’.

Inside the books, there are word descriptions of each book accompanied by, in most cases, a black and white illustration, however, not all of the books are illustrated. The description of the book is complete with the size (in cm.), the author, publisher, date, and place of publication, pagination, binding, and price. The second paragraph provides a brief explanation of the book’s subject, limitation, and provenance, if known.

The catalogue covers are printed on glossy stock and there are color pictures of twenty-five beautifully photographed miniature books on the front and rear covers of catalogue Number 303. The front and rear covers of Catalogue 304 carry four equally gorgeous pictures showing little books. Page one of each book carries a photograph and three paragraphs about Donn Sanford. Inside the back cover of each catalogue is a color picture of the Oak Knoll bookshop and several photographs describing its book business, purpose, mission, and the shop location.

The following are a few titles from the miniature books mentioned above:

The Prime Minister’s Broadcast, Achille J. St. Onge 1952. This is Winston Churchill’s address upon the death of King George VI, (\$900). *The Inaugural Address of Thomas Jefferson, March 4, 1801*. This is one of only thirty copies not destroyed by the publisher, (\$1800). *Genesis Prima*, Juniper Von Phitzer, 1995, bound in red leather, the book is chained to a miniature table, with a small chair, (\$225). The list goes on and on for sure. It should be noted, at this point, fuller descriptions are in the catalogues and some of the miniature books carry the bookplate of Kathryn Rickard, a noted miniature book collector and publisher. Most of the prices range from \$100 to \$500, with a number of higher exceptions. In my opinion, all of the books are well worth the offered prices.

Selected Miniature Books. The following represents a ‘miniature number of the tiny tomes which may not be as well known as those books published by St. Onge, Black Cat Press, Press of Ward Schori, Juniper Von Phitzer, and the REM Press. I could not possibly discuss the nearly six hundred titles in the two catalogues; I hope my review will entice you to find a long sought title.

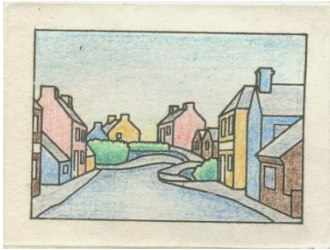
Bromer Booksellers is a long time independent bookshop located in Boston, Massachusetts and has sold miniature books for a number of years. I remember meeting Anne many years ago at a book fair. Catalogue 303 includes seven miniature books published by Anne and David Bromer.

William Roscoe was the author of *Butterfly's Ball and the Grasshopper's Feast*, printed by Sarah Chamberlain in 1977 and bound by Gray Parrot, in full grain leather. The miniature contains 24 pages and was limited to an edition of 150 copies, priced at \$850.

The late Joe D'Ambrosio was a book artist, designer, printer, and binder who moved from Sherman Oaks, California to Phoenix and is represented in the catalogue as well with seven dandy miniatures. One in particular caught my eye, *Jim Lorson Boy Bookseller At 75, April 11, 2003*. Indie bookseller Lorson was a great supporter of miniature books. I remember a number of years ago (please forgive my old memory) on a visit to the 'southlands' Helen and I enjoyed a meal with the Lorsons. This book, bound in cloth, has 31 pages and a color portrait of Jim on the front board. Only 50 copies were printed, it is priced at \$200.

One of the older and more important miniatures is titled *The Smokers's Text Book*, by J. Hamer, 1870, 107 pages, a.e.g. 'blue polished cloth', and Kathryn Rickard's bookplate. This is a collection of essays and poetry concerning smoking tobacco and the history of the plant and habit. Two copies for sale, priced at \$550 (blue binding) and \$500 (green binding).

Turning to catalogue 304, there are several gems that I would like to highlight for you.



'Winding Roads'

published in 1988, bound in 'paper covered board', and housed in a slipcase, price \$125.

The year of publication was 1948 and the place London, England. At that time in history, H.T. Sheringham gave us

A Library in Miniature, bound with 79 parchment pages. There are two parts to the book: the first 'discusses books of the 16th and 17th centuries, while the second part discusses books published in the 18th and 19th centuries. Published by the Java Head Bookshop, it includes Kathryn Rickard's bookplate, priced at \$150.

I could go on and on, but I hope these few highlighted titles persuade you to review your catalogue copies which will assist in 'Discovering Miniature Books' (I had to just sneak in the title of my first book) it was a perfect spot and a perfect title for the closing. I send you my best wishes for your success in locating that long evasive miniature book for your collection.

There you have it!



Contact information: Robert F. Orr Hanson, 12200 Academy Rd. NE #1222,
Albuquerque, NM 87111



TERMS and DEFINITIONS:

When we mention the word ‘book’, most thoughts bring into focus a typical case book with its familiar front and rear covers surrounding the text pages, which in the technical world of a book binder is called a text block.


Besom, a broom made from a collection of twigs, an interesting term that can be applied to a type of book, a good example of this adaption can be found in the bibliographies of the REM Press.

Megillah, a term most widely used for the ‘Book of Esther’, as part of the Hebrew religion, typically the book is presented in a ‘scroll’ format

Scroll, a document or a book that is printed on paper or vellum, sized to fit on a ‘roller ‘or a pair of ‘rollers’ made of wood or some other material, the paper is then ‘rolled’ for storage and ‘unrolled’ for reading

Peepshow or a tunnel book is made with a series of pages that are hinged together to allow the viewer to ‘open’ the book’, expand the page tunnel, and view generally a series of pictures that are part of the various pages, from the front to the back of the book. The format allows the images of each page to form a ‘three dimensional scene’ inside the book which tells or highlights the story.

Shape book, a shape book is a book that has been ‘cut’ into a shape that is different from a typical square or rectangular book shape. First created in the 19th century, to stimulate both the tactile and visual senses of the reader. The shape of the book can resemble anything you can imagine; a fire engine, a balloon, the outline of a state boundary, or even a set of initials. Shape books are popular as a feature in children’s books as well as with novelty presentations of miniature books.

If you knew all of these definitions before reading them then you are either an intellectual or a collector of the books created by Robert E. Massmann. 

A QUESTION FOR ALL SUBSCRIBERS ABOUT KINGSPORT PRESS: Who May Have Seen This Book?

The Kingsport Press of Kingsport, Tennessee was a commercial publishing company that produced millions of books over the years. Established in 1922 in the ‘railroad town’ of Kingsport as part of the Clinchfield Railroad’s vision as part of a planned industrial community. Their initial heavy lifting, in the publishing world, included working with the F.W. Woolworth Company to create millions of small clothbound ‘classics’ for retail distribution. During WWII, they produced Bibles for the U.S. military. As business and the years progressed, Kingsport was acquired by various entities, as is the case with many businesses. However, they still exist as part of Quad/Graphics, an American company based in Sussex, Wisconsin. They still produce millions of books yearly mostly various textbooks related to the education spectrum.

Between 1928 and 1932, Kingsport produced four miniature books that have a special place in the world of miniature books. The first book; *Gettysburg Address*, was created as part of a bookbinders convention. The book was created in an edition of 100 copies. Over the next four years the press created three additional miniatures, these being micro miniatures all being sized at

7/8" x 5/8", all with gilt-leather bindings, and utilizing letterpress photoengraving for their text rather than the 'direct from type' letterpress technique used with the 1928 book. The micro miniatures all have very interesting stories of their own, which is well documented in Robert C. Bradbury's book *20th Century U. S. Miniature Books*. The titles of the micro miniatures are:

Addresses of Abraham Lincoln, 1929, red gilt-leather produced in 'three editions' as presentation books for three different audiences, one edition of 525 copies and another of 150 copies according to the respective different colophon information, the first for the 'American Institute of Graphic Arts' and the second for the 'LXIVMOS Newsletter' subscribers, and a third without a colophon or note about the 'press run'.

Extracts from the Autobiography of Calvin Coolidge, 1930, blue-gilt-leather, no colophon information

Washington, His Farewell Address, 1932, brown gilt-leather no, colophon information

The above listed micro books are certainly in many collections today and available from time to time as single book offerings and or a set of three volumes. The question that I present today is about the first miniature published by the Kingsport Press; *Gettysburg Address*. Who may have a copy of this book, who has even seen this book? This seems to be a very elusive book.

I look forward to your feedback and will include some high res pictures of the various colophons contained within the 'Lincoln' micros as well. 📖

A GENTLE MADNESS: Book Review, by Jim Brogan

A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books, New York: H. Holt and Co., was first published in 1995, written by Nicholas A. Basbanes. Since its initial printing, it has appeared in eight hardcover editions and more than twenty paperback printings as well as being updated with a new edition in 2012. 'Book collecting' is the topic of the book, however, the real focus of the work is 'in fact' human nature, what the author calls the 'gentle madness' of bibliomania. It is a 638-page compendium [1995 edition] organized into two main sections, enhanced with a prolog, a section of illustrations, an epilogue, extensive notes, an extended bibliography, and a comprehensive index. The author is an acknowledged authority on books and their culture. He has written additional books about books as well as many different articles for newspapers, magazines, and literary journals. Currently he writes the 'Gently Mad' column for the 'Fine Books and Collections' magazine.

Readers will be astounded to learn about the passion and expense, both in terms of financial expenditures as well as time that collectors have invested in pursuit of their passion for a book. The book begins with the 2,200 year-old Library of Alexandria, then moves on to the dawn of Western printing in the Middle




Ages, into the Renaissance, and finally into the advances of twentieth-century collecting, including people, places, and books that are contemporary for today's collectors.

Quoting from the opening paragraph of *A Gentle Madness* you can understand where the author is intending to take you on his written journey; "With thought, patience, and discrimination, book passion becomes the signature of a person's character. When out of control and indulged to excess, it lets loose a fury of bizarre behavior. 'The bibliophile is the master of his books, the bibliomaniac their slave,' the German bibliographer Hanns Bohatta steadfastly maintained, though the dividing line can be too blurry to discern".

The book is a collection of stories and details outlining thousands of researched facts that form remarkable stories behind some of the world's famous book collections. The details include the Alexandrian Library, the library of Thomas Cotton, in England, our good friend Thomas Dibdin, J. P. Morgan, Thomas Jefferson's Library, the collections of Henry Folger, and many more, all driven by their love of books. There are even some details about the famous book thief Stephen Blumberg.

The facts are extremely well documented with 35 pages of Notes, a 25 page Index, and a Bibliography, which is 25 pages long. A prodigious amount of research went into creating this book. The fact that the book has continued to be printed in many editions is a testament to its value to book collectors both as a reading adventure as well as a research source.


You can buy a copy of the 1995 edition on the aftermarket or the current edition from your favorite bookseller for about \$20.00, Autumn will be upon us soon and this will be a great book for those cool nights by the fire. Who was it that said, "*A book, too, can be a star, 'explosive material, capable of stirring up fresh life endlessly' a living fire to lighten the darkness, leading out into the expanding universe.*" 

GET THE INK READY, START THE PRESSES:

By Jim Brogan

Next issue, Volume XXXIII, Number 6, Issue 192, (publish date November 1, 2014):

- 'Famous Miniature Book Person', Charlotte Smith
- The wonders of the Goddard Library at Clark University
- Book Collecting, A - Z: 'A Wrap-Up'
- Girdle books, the ultimate traveling companion for ready reference
- A review of *The Wind In The Willows*, by Kenneth Grahame, from Plum Park Press
- A review of the new MBS publication *The Old Country Priest* by Darleen Cordova
- A review of a new book published by Mark Palkovic, *Christmas Amens*, by Mark Saya
- A review of *Comics* by Msgr. Francis Weber, to be reviewed by Darleen Cordova
- Something special, in the holiday spirit
- Revisiting an older miniature book, your choice, please let me know your favorites...
- A new miniature book, from Bo Press, *Fixation*, by Johniene Papandreas
- Hopefully, something special by you and the answer to the quote about the 'book star'

Keep me posted on what is going on at your press or with your collection. Anticipation and searching is half of the fun. We all love the details. 

CATALOGUES RECEIVED:

Karen Nyman Miniature Books, Catalog Number 51, 100 items with color illustrations, organized by publisher within size, less than 1 ¼” tall and then up to 3”, another great catalogue. . Distributed via e-mail, hard copy available upon request. Contact info: 702 Rosecrans Street, San Diego, CA 92106-3013; phone 619-226-4441; website: www.KarenNymanMiniatureBooks.com. E-mail: karennyman2@cox.net

Oak Knoll Books, Special Catalog Number 23, a large format glossy paper catalog, exclusively presenting publications from the ‘Bird and Bull Press’. These are not miniature books but the catalog is a learning experience and a good read. You can look at the catalog online or request a printed copy. Visit their website and enjoy the journey. Contact information: telephone: 800-996-2556; website: www.oakknoll.com, E-mail: oakknoll@oakknoll.com

Bromer Booksellers, E Catalogue Number 41, Twenty-five miniatures, each with their own illustration and in some cases the illustrations of supporting documents. A good selection from a variety of publishers. Contact information: telephone: 617-247-2818; website: www.bromer.com, E-mail: books@bromer.com

These catalogues and the book sellers are wonderful friends and great resources. 📖

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:

Fine Books and Collections Magazine, Summer 2014, A large format, full color, glossy magazine devoted to fine books, collections, and printing. The current issue includes a special section ‘Biblio 360’ that provides a wealth of information about book clubs, libraries, classes, exhibits, and much more. Additionally, the monthly feature ‘How I Got Started’ is about Pat Pistner, a miniature book collector, and frequent contributor to *The Microbibliophile*. The BLOG that is associated with this magazine is a ‘five star production’ loaded with additional information for the bibliophile, like a new issue of the magazine each day. Contact information: Rebecca Rego Barry, Editor, 4905 Pine Cone Drive #2, Durham, NC, 27707, E-mail: Rebecca@finebooksmagazine.com, www.finebooksmagazine

Miniaturbuch Journal, June 2014, a large format, glossy German language publication, edited by Dr. Horst-Diester Branser in Stuttgart, Germany. The publication has a wide diversity of articles and information about the world of miniature books in Germany, including recently published miniature books. Included in this issue is a two-page article about the Miniature Book Society in the United States as well as a short reference to *The Microbibliophile*. As mentioned, the publication and their associated website are only available in the German language. Even though it is time consuming to translate the articles it is fun and informative to read about the world of miniature books in Germany. (‘German translator needed, Inquire Within’)

Mix it up a bit with new subjects...diversity is the spice of life... 📖

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Morgan Library, NYC, Miracles In Miniature, ‘The Art of the Master of Claude de France’, May 18th, thru September 14th, 2014. In 16th-century Europe, smaller was considered better — more beautiful, more precious — when it came to hand-illustrated books. Additional information: <http://themorgan.org/>

Brooklyn Book Festival, September 21st, 2014
Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NH
Additional Information: <http://www.brooklynbookfestival.org/BookendEvents>

Oak Knoll Fest XVIII, October 3rd – 4th, 2014
310 Delaware St. New Castle, DE
Additional Information: <http://www.oakknoll.com/fest/>

Bath Antiquarian Book Fair, October 10th – 11th, 2014
Bath Assembly Rooms, Bath, England
Additional Information: <http://www.bathbookfair.org/>

Cleveland Public Library, ‘Book Talk’, October 18th, 2014
‘Miniature Books by Todd Sommerfeld’, Should be a 5 star event
Additional Information: <http://www.octavofest.com> and or www.cpl.org

Take a day off, see what is going on, say hello and talk about books with someone you do not know. 📖

MICROBIBLIOPHILE Storage Boxes



Protect and organize your copies of The Microbibliophile with handmade slipcases, now available from Greystone Bookworks. These boxes are handmade, and are covered with a high quality natural finish bookcloth, available in a variety of colors. Custom spine labels are also included. The boxes measure about 7 by 9 by 2 1/2 inches, and will hold approximately 20 - 30 issues of The Microbibliophile.

Slipcase boxes - \$30 plus shipping
Other box styles and custom sizes also available

For more information, contact Cathy Reeve at Greystone Bookworks

greystonebookworks@gmail.com

advertisement

THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE FRONTISPIECE: 'Write the Story for the November/December Issue'



Illustration by Thomas Nast, published December 20, 1884, Harper's Weekly Magazine

Here is your opportunity to become an accomplished and published master of the pen. The above image will be used as the frontispiece for the December 2014 issue of *The Microbibliophile*.

There are no particular rules regarding the length of the story, the choice is yours. If you like, 'pass' on writing the story and maybe you have a favorite image that you would like to share for another issue, please submit it.

When I look at the image, I see and hear some things for sure. The new telephone rings with its loud bell, the little girl rushes to push the kitchen chair close, so she can reach the telephone, I can hear the little girl gasping as she listens to the caller, not able to believe that Santa has actually called her on the telephone. 'Who will ever believe that Santa called me?' Well, sometimes a wish can come true, especially at this time of the year. What do you see? What are some of your best holiday memories? Gather your thoughts and weave the tale to share with the readers. What do you see? Fact or fiction, your choice. There is always room for more than one story for sure.

The deadline for submitting articles for the November/December issue will be October 15, electronic or paper submissions, either way, the choice is yours, Email: editor@microbibliophile77.com or 'The Microbibliophile', P. O. Box 5453 North Branch, NJ 08876. 📖

CLASSIFIED WISH LISTS,

Buy, Sell, or Trade:

As a feature for subscribers, *'The Microbibliophile'* will offer a classified listing service with each issue. Each message should be no more than 250 characters. Send your information to the Editor for inclusion in the next issue.



Melinda Brown is seeking, Takebayashi, Tetsu and Zensaku Toyohara. Volumes 3 and 4 of the four volume set entitled Kitō Shōno. Osaka: Aoki Kozaburo, 1880. Contact information: E-mail: Minibks1@verizon.net

Neale Albert is looking for two miniature books by Asao Hoshino -- *Kwaidan* and *Ichiaku No Suna*, and for the special editions of the Asao Hoshino books. "I am thinking of doing a Hoshino bibliography", Contact information: E-mail: nma8156@yahoo.com

Katherine Bakunas is looking for the printed (original paper) copies of the early MBS Newsletters, MAR.'85, JUN.'85 ,FEB.'86, MAR '88 and #36, #45, #60, #63, #65, and #69, for a special indexing project, Contact information: E-mail: kkbakunas@gmail.com

Karen Nyman is looking for 3 volumes she lacks from *The Cabinet of Lilliput*, by John Harris. Here are the missing titles: *Arthur and George*, *Jacob the Fisherman*, etc., and *Julia and the Dog*, etc. Contact information: E-mail: karennyman2@cox.net or call 619-226-4441.

Pat Pistner is looking for 28 Raheb books (*Mudlark Miniatures* and *Littlest Library*) published in 1976 and 1977, and only 19 published through 2000 Contact information: E-mail: Pistner@me.com

Caroline Brandt is looking for two volumes in the Daisy & Dot series by Aunt Fanny (Buffalo: Breed & Lent, 1866): *DOT* also *DAISY PART I*, as my copy has damage to one page of text, also, call 804-200-1260 or write 1500 Westbrook Ct. #1109, Richmond, VA 23227

Darleen Cordova is looking for the following *The Spirit of Gutenberg* by the Phoenix Club of Printing House Craftsmen from 1940. My 1940 boxed set of six books had 2 copies of "*Exploring the Last Frontier*" by George Meredith, Portland, instead of the Gutenberg title.

Contact information: E-mail: c.cordova@sbcglobal.net.


Stephen Byrne is looking for a Gleniffer Press; *3 Point Gill Titling Catalogue*.

Contact information: E-mail: sb@finalscore.demon.co.uk

Jim Brogan would like to find:

Two volumes from REM publications; REM Miniatures, *A Record and A Sampler, Part IV*, 'miniature scroll' with decorative wrapper and tie ribbon, 1 15/16" x 6', and the LXIVMOS Newsletter Number Nine, July 15, 1928, original first edition paper


Contact information: E-mail: jbrogan1@verizon.net

Free for the printing! 

THE BOOKLOVER'S CALENDAR, Looking for Information from You?

Last year *The Microbibliophile* created the first issue, of what we hope to be an annual product, 'The BookLover's Calendar', a miniature calendar, containing bookish quotes, 'food for thought' for all of the miniature bibliophiles in the world. The original idea for the miniature 'BookLover's Calendar' was conceived and initiated by Frank J. Anderson, who was the proprietor of the Kitemaug Press. I have several of Frank's little creative calendars. My run begins with the 1992 calendar and goes through to the 2004 calendar, 2005 is missing, and then I have 2006, 2007, and 2008.

There is a printed note in the 2002 calendar saying that the calendars are in their 'sixteenth year'. Was the first issue done 1987? I would be interested in hearing from anyone who may know. In addition, the last issue I have is 2008, was this last issue that Frank published?

The plan is to offer them for sale to our subscribers and other miniature book bibliophiles, with a price of \$5.00, postpaid. They are ready to be shipped now. Request your copy via E-mail. 

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Fine Books & Collections covers the entire book collecting world. So even if your area of interest is miniature books, you'll find much to enjoy in every issue. Stay connected to the big picture, even if your collecting interests are quite a bit smaller.

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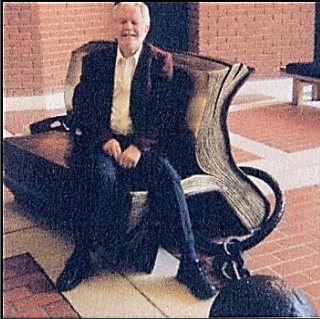


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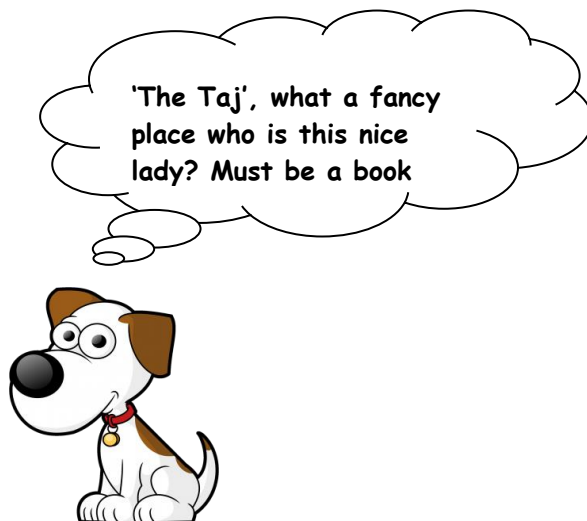
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Email: editor@microbibliophile77.com

(Deadline for November 2014 issue is October 15, 2014)

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