

# THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE®

A Bimonthly Journal about Miniature Books and the Book Arts

Volume XXXV Number 5, Issue 203 September, 2016

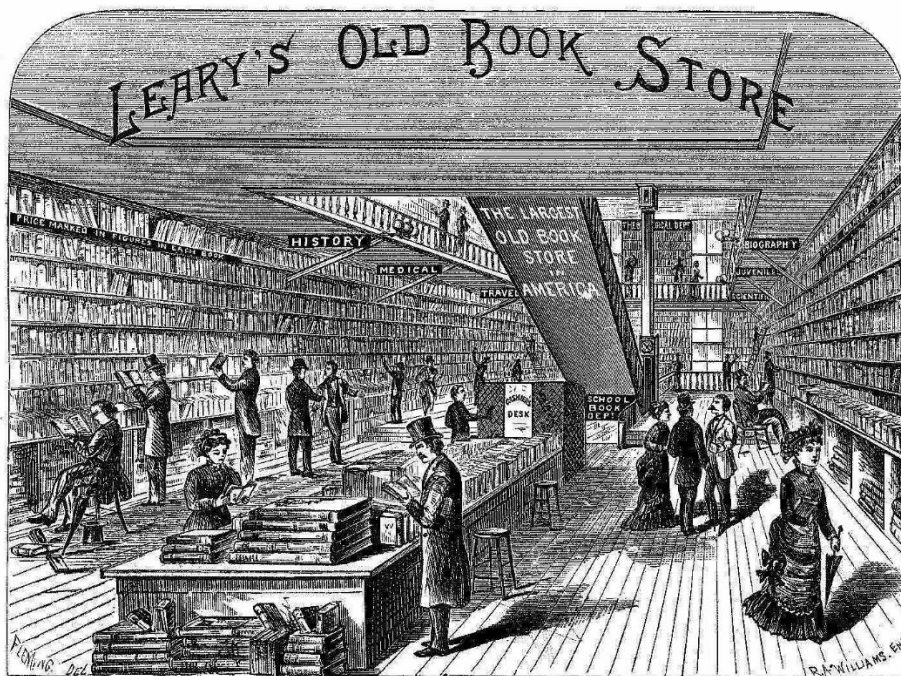


*Down the Home Stretch for Summer*

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"19th Century Book seller, by Nina Mazzo"



EDWIN S. STUART, No. 9 South 9th St., Phila.

A favorite personal mystery novel is *The Haunted Book Shop* and the author Christopher Morley used Leary's Old Book Store as inspiration for his story. Looking at the photo I daydreamed I was able to time travel and woke to find myself wandering the aisles of Leary's, smiling as I gazed at aisles and aisles of books. As a woman living in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, I felt very uncomfortable in the layers of clothing I was stuffed into, not to mention the scratchy fabric. There had been a dramatic increase in literacy in America along with the growth of libraries so it is not surprising that the book publishing business was thriving. Categories of books ranged from religious – big demand for Bibles and religious literature to publications on the temperance movement and anti-slavery leagues. Mark Twain's 'Huckleberry Finn' was published in 1884 and although a library in Massachusetts banned it as "veriest trash", it was well received by the public. There were books about the North American Indians and as I rounded the corner there were books we know as 'penny dreadful' – they were usually serial stories and the books cost one penny.

Time to return to the 21<sup>st</sup> century as I have attracted the attention of the salesclerk as I had kicked off my shoes while sitting in a corner window seat laughing as I read the story of 'Black Bess; or the Knight of the Road'.

Booksellers and publishers, book buyers and grandpas, life is certainly universal. Sell a few, buy a few, cross the bridge, dream on, and continue your journey. Priceless! Good luck my friends. 📖

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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*

P. O. Box 5453, North Branch, NJ 08876 U.S.A.

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

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## Greetings from the Squeaky Roll Top Desk:

**H**azy, Hot, and Humid, how can we forget those three ‘H’ words during July and August? Good thing that someone discovered how to make lemonade and ice tea, and let’s not forget the joy of a cold slice of watermelon. Peas, radishes, cucumber, squash, and onions galore, but we certainly have some competition for the tomatoes with the local woodchuck. Hope your vegetable garden is growing well; it is a lot of work but certainly brings a bounty in the summer and a lot of dreaming in February.

*The Microbibliophile* for September contains reviews of four new miniature books including an interesting pair of Agatha Christie tomes from Plum Park Press. Istanbul, the ‘development of embroidery’, and Irish triads draw a circle around our new miniatures for this issue.

Once again we are able to bring more information to the table regarding the elusive 1<sup>st</sup> edition of ‘Lincoln’ by Kingsport Press. Melinda Brown has provided the readership with an outstanding article about Wilbur Macey Stone. Nina Mazzo continues her journey through the LXIVMOS as well as the Frontispiece for this issue. Todd Sommerfeld begins a new look at ‘bookshelves’. The endless pen of Mr. Robert Hanson takes us into the world of US Presidential Libraries with a reprint of his visit to the Carter Library.

The Miniature Book Society’s Grand XXXIV Conclave was held in McKinney, Texas this past August 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> hosted by Ray and Barbara Williamson. Books and bibliophiles, good friends, and good food, what more can you want in life. A grand time was had by all. Joan Knoertzer has provided the recap for your reading enjoyment. Also included with this issue is a short article about the winners of the miniature book competition that were announced at the Conclave as well as the winners of the three MBS organizational awards that are presented each year. There was an outstanding turnout regarding the keepsakes that were created for the event, some are reproduced for your viewing within this issue, more will follow in the next issue for sure. Hope to see you at the 2017 Conclave, in Oakland, CA.

Please share *The Microbibliophile* with a friend, bibliophile or not, if they like what we offer, I can send them a post-paid sample issue and some good wishes. You can never tell when you may unlock a secret question from someone’s thoughts. So much of the feedback that I receive about *The Microbibliophile* runs along the lines of ‘great diversity of information as well as colorful and many viewpoints and styles from the different contributors’. This is the kitchen where many cooks prepare the banquet without fail, enjoyed by all, and all are welcome. Who can foresee what joy may reside on the next page, especially with a miniature book. I am always looking for articles and information at every turn. Being able to shine some light between the cover boards and your bookshelves; sharing information is always a good thing. Thank you for the opportunity to bring *The Microbibliophile* into your life. 📖



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

“Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost.”

Sixth President of the United States, 1825 -1829

**James Quincy Adams, 1767 - 1848**



## MINIATURE BOOK REVIEWS and CRITICISM:

**Sailing To Istanbul**, by Pat Sweet, published by Bo Press, 2016. What sounds more mysterious or like an adventure than ‘Sailing to Istanbul’? Such an ancient destination. I believe it is truly the only city that is geographically located on two continents, Europe and Asia. The natural physical dividing line is the Bosphorus Strait, which connects the Black Sea on the North to the Sea of Marmara, on the South. Istanbul is the fifth most populated city in the world and has a long historical significance.



*Sailing To Istanbul* is a tome that takes the reader on a historical journey through a series of 28 maps that cover the timeline of the city from the 11<sup>th</sup> century BCE to its present day metropolis. The city was the site of a human settlement for almost three thousand years ago. The settlement was originally founded by the Thracian tribes between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> century BCE, its earliest known name was Lygos. It was renamed as Byzantium with the expansion of the Roman Empire. About 306 AD, Emperor Constantine renamed the city again to Constantinople when he moved the capital of

the Roman Empire.

As you open the tome the mystery begins with the interesting cover designed which employs a ‘fold-over binding’ which latches itself closed with a tiny gold bar which is attached to the front cover. There are twenty-eight tipped-in maps, including the Nuzhat al-mushtāk fī’khtirāq al-āfāq of 1154 to the map of Constantinople by Christoforo Buondelmonte - the first map of the city itself, drawn in 1422. A map by the explorer and artist Piri Reis makes an appearance, and is one

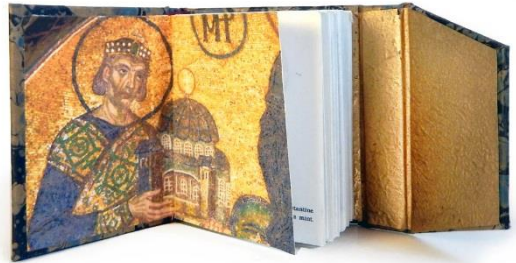
of the loveliest maps, is from the reign of Sultan Abdul Hamid II. The most unsettling map, an Ottoman Empire census map from 1914, shows the proportional population figures of Muslims, Armenians, and Greeks. The verso pages carry the names and dates of the various maps. The recto pages contain the actual maps with some folding out horizontally and some folding down vertically. The front endpapers carry an image of Justinian I holding a model of the Hagia Sophia. The rear endpapers are a map of the present day transit system. Between the front and rear endpapers are 74 pages which contain the historical maps all printed in color. There is also a four-page foldout of the city's timeline from 657 BCE to its modern life documenting several of the important events in the history of the city.

Also presented, as a foldout, is a copy of the poem 'Sailing To Byzantium', by William Butler Yeats, the closing lines:

*Once out of nature I shall never take  
My bodily form from any natural thing,  
But such a form as Grecian goldsmiths make  
Of hammered gold and gold enamelling  
To keep a drowsy Emperor awake,  
Or set upon a golden bough to sing  
To lords and ladies of Byzantium  
Of what is past, or passing, or to come.*

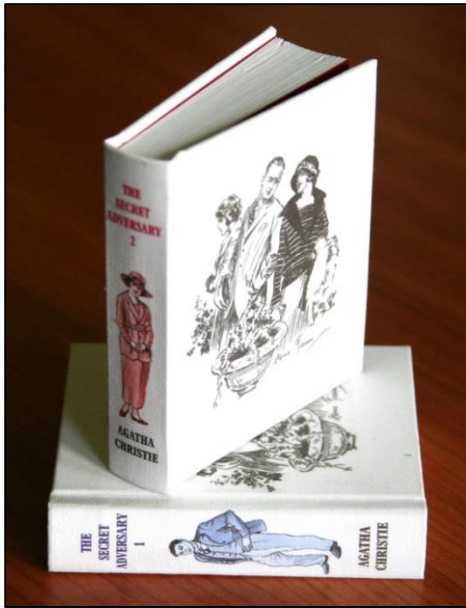
The book is bound in blue and gold Italian marbled paper and lined with speckled gold metallic paper. Affixed to the cover is a stylized title label, another title label is placed on the spine. The tome is an open edition, signed by Pat Sweet. It is 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" x 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>", and certainly a visual treasure that guides us through one of the wonders of history. The selections of fonts and colors employed in *Sailing To Istanbul* are all in concert with the subject of the book and make it a wonderful book. The price is \$85, check with Pat for availability and shipping costs. 📖

Contact information: Pat Sweet, 231 East Blaine Street, Riverside, CA 92507-3230  
E-mail: [bopress@charter.net](mailto:bopress@charter.net) or [www.bopressminiaturebooks.com](http://www.bopressminiaturebooks.com)



*Front endpapers and Title page*





**The Secret Adversary**, by Agatha Christie, [1890-1976] originally published in 1922 by The Bodey Head, London. Tony Firman of Plum Park Press published this 2016 miniature in two volumes, Volume 1 and Volume 2. *The Secret Adversary* is the second book by Agatha Christie and the second detective fiction book by this author published by Plum Park Press, the first being *The Mysterious Affair At Styles*. The original edition is a large book, more than 330 pages, hence the decision to provide the miniature as two volumes

The story introduces the characters of Tommy (Thomas Beresford) and Tuppence (Prudence Cowley). Tommy and Tuppence meet by chance at the exit of the Dover Street Tube. The beginning lines, “Tommy, old thing”, Tuppence, “old bean.” The Great War had ended and these two young people reminisce about their lives, the cost of living, and their need to find some ‘paying employment’. The idea is hatched to start their own business as

‘The Young Adventurers’. They are hired for a job that leads them into many dangerous situations including an American millionaire in search of his cousin, Jane Finn.

The contemporary reviews for the original edition were well received and highlighted the two main characters as refreshing since they were young people new to the world of detective investigations. A book critic for the New York Times Book Review (June 11, 1922) provided the following: “It is safe to assert that unless the reader peers into the last chapter or so of the tale, he will not know who this secret adversary is until the author chooses to reveal him.” The review gave something of a backhanded compliment when it stated that “Christie gives a sense of plausibility to the most preposterous situations and developments.” Christie obviously knew she was on to a good thing with these main characters as they were part of five other books that Christie authored over her career. Needless to say, you must read this book as it is a joy to following the rollicking adventure as it unfolds in only the way that Christie can do. You will not be able to tell the identity of the secret adversary unless you read the last chapter first.

Each of the tomes has been published with 280 pages, printed in a Bulmer 7 point type, which certainly enhances the ‘easy reading’ visual experience of the book. The books are bound with white cloth covered boards. The covers of Volume 1 and Volume 2 both carry an image of Tommy and Tuppence illustrated by Arthur Ferrier. The same illustration is utilized as a frontispiece; I should also mention that the illustration also shows Jane Finn in the background. The illustrations were done in 1923 after the original first edition publication. As pictures are always worth a thousand words, the illustration does set the tone of the book and the characters. The spine of Volume 1 carries an image of Tommy printed in a blue color; Volume 2 carries an image of Tuppence in a red tone, an interesting touch on the part of the publisher to tie the volumes and the characters together.



Each miniature measures 3" x 2½" and is printed on Accent opaque 59 g/m<sup>2</sup> paper. There are 20 copies of each volume in the edition, priced at \$40 each plus shipping of \$5. Once again, Tony Firman has brought us a classic story in miniature format, I especially like the format of the book with the cover illustration printed directly on the bounding cloth. A job well done and deserving of a special place on that special bookshelf for the discerning collector. 📖

Contact information: Tony Firman, PO Box 507, Haslet, TX 76052  
E-mail: [TonyFirman@earthlink.net](mailto:TonyFirman@earthlink.net) or [www.tonyfirmanbookbinding.com](http://www.tonyfirmanbookbinding.com)

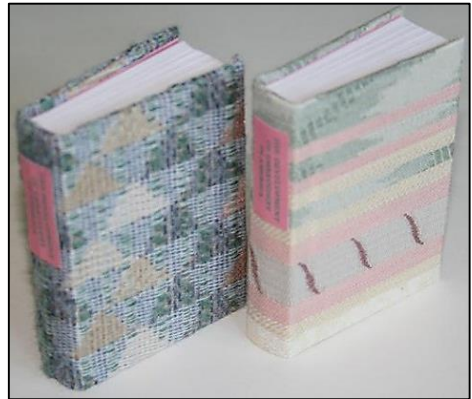
**The Development of Embroidery In America**, by Candace Wheeler, originally published by Harper & Brothers, New York and London 1921. This informative miniature is published by Tony Firman. *The Development of Embroidery In America* is the 4<sup>th</sup> miniature book that Plum Park Press has published related to the various aspects of embroidery. Previously published were *Handbook of Embroidery*, *Jacobean Embroidery*, and *English Embroidered Bookbinding*.

Candace Wheeler [1827 – 1923] is often credited as the ‘mother’ of interior design as she was one of the first women, in the field, of interior and textile designers. Wheeler founded the Society of Decorative Arts in New York City in 1877 as well as several art courses the United States to support her ambitions of making decorative arts affordable.

The tome is published in its complete text from the original edition including 280 pages and 66 original illustrations. The introduction is titled ‘The Story of the Needle’ which is certainly a fitting starting point for the book as the needle is a key component of the tool set one needs to be successful with embroidery. The story explains the development of the needle from its most primitive creation and the changes developed up through the years. The introduction concludes with the sentence: “So the needle lived on through all the civilizations of the old world, in the various forms that they developed, until it was finally inherited by the pilgrims to a new world, and it was brought with them to the wilderness of America”. The eight book chapters start with the pilgrims and move through the development of crewelwork, lacework, and additional types of tapestries. Certainly a wealth of information on the technical aspects of embroidery as well as the application of the skills to the arts.

The book has an overall dimension of 3" x 2½", and my review copy is bound with cloth-covered boards, the cloth being a patterned cloth of cream, green, and pink tones. There is a spine label affixed as well. The color of the endpapers is pink to match the pink of the cover material. An additional cover with blue cloth material is also available. The typeface is Iowan Old Style 6/7 and the text paper is IP Accent Opaque 59 g/m<sup>2</sup>. *The Development of Embroidery In America* is limited to 20 copies, \$50 plus \$5 for shipping. Excellent book construction and workmanship throughout; including page layout, typeface, printing clarity, and operation of the book. 📖

Contact information: Tony Firman, PO Box 507, Haslet, TX 76052  
E-mail: [TonyFirman@earthlink.net](mailto:TonyFirman@earthlink.net) or [www.tonyfirmanbookbinding.com](http://www.tonyfirmanbookbinding.com)



*Image shows two different available cloths*





*Book cover with three raised circles and the slipcase with the triskelion image*

**The Irish Triads**, by Pat Sweet, published by the Bo Press, 2016. Sometimes you learn about things and sometimes the subject moves back into the corners of your mind. This is certainly the case with triads. Having learned about them along the way while studying literature, I cannot even remember when, but it all came back to me when I opened this book from Bo Press.

Those who study the people known collectively as the Celts, must at some time recognized the

importance that the number '3' held for them. From the most mundane to the most arcane, the significance of there being three parts is very evident. Even the laws and wisdom's of Celtic peoples were expressed in a tripartite form. When applied to the art of communication either written or spoken, this form of verse is called triadic, a verse is known as a triad.

Kuno Meyer was a German born scholar [1858 – 1919], distinguished in the fields of Celtic philology and literature. The preface of the tome contains the following quote: “Triads occur sporadically in the literature of most other nations, and have occasionally been collected. But I am not aware that this kind of composition has ever attained the same popularity elsewhere as in Wales and Ireland, where the manufacture of triads seems at times almost to have become a sport.”

*The Irish Triads* is a unique format with regard to the pagination. Each triad requires three pages of the book. The first page on standard white paper contains the words of the triad in the traditional Irish language, ‘Tri Dotcaid Duine’. The second page, a vellum type paper, contains the English translation, ‘Three unfortunate things for a man’. The third page contains the triad itself, ‘*A scant drink of water, thirst in an ale house, a narrow seat upon a field*’. To keep the page format in order and to follow the sequence of the ‘paper changes’ the publisher has inserted small tabs each with three small holes to keep it all interesting and on point with reference to the ‘use of ‘3’. A very clever use of the tab to maintain the page structure and to follow the theme.

There are more than 30 triads in the tome. The publisher’s website notes include the following: “Mr. Meyer collected and translated many of the well-known Irish triads in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but for all we know, he missed thousands of others. The best may have been born and forgotten around campfires and in the pubs, during the last 100 years, but I’ve taken the ones I think best or funniest, or most biting and dipped a small cupful out of this vast and bottomless Celtic well.”

The book is printed on Monarch superfine paper and Schoellershammer Glama Natural clear paper. It is bound in Strathmore Laid White text weight paper. The white binding front has three raised circles that match the three punched holes in tags that turn up randomly through the text, both features echoing the idea of triads that runs so deeply in Celtic thought. There is a label attached to the spine. The book cover size is 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" x 3", there are 148 pages, and the endpapers contain a stylized design that certainly matches the character of the book as well as the triskele image printed as a frontispiece. A lot of thought on the part of the publisher to present the text, maintain the theme of ‘3’ and it is all presented with a translucent slipcase which carries the title

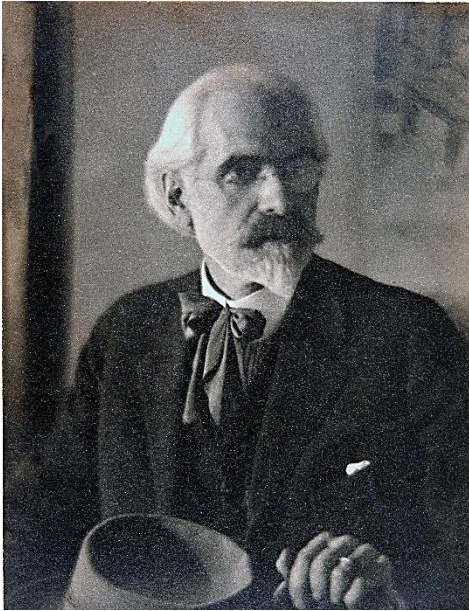
*The Irish Triads* imposed over a triskelion image. The edition is set at 50 copies, each \$65 plus shipping. 📖

Contact information: Pat Sweet, 231 East Blaine Street, Riverside, CA 92507-3230

E-mail: [bopress@charter.net](mailto:bopress@charter.net) or [www.bopressminiaturebooks.com](http://www.bopressminiaturebooks.com)

Editor's Note: Should you wish to investigate a bit of translations on your own the author has supplied the following web address as a resource: [www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/gaeilge/donncha/focal/features/triads/triads.html](http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/gaeilge/donncha/focal/features/triads/triads.html)

## **WILBUR MACEY STONE (WMS), A Collector That We Owe Many Thanks: By Melinda Brown**



At the time of his death, in 1941, Wilbur Macey Stone was the leading collector and authority of children's books and toys in the United States and 'the dean of American miniature book collectors.' He was born November 30, 1862 in Winona, Minnesota to the Reverend George Marvin and Abbie Barnum (Seeley) Stone. His youthful years, however, were spent in Hartford, Connecticut where his father held the pastorate at the Asylum Avenue Baptist Church.

Mr. Stone's early interests led toward the technical, taking courses of study in mechanical engineering and patent law at Steven's Institute (now Steven's Institute of Technology). Nonetheless, his interest in rare books developed early on, and he began collecting to such a degree that Christopher Morley, author of the 1919 "thriller", *The Haunted Bookshop*, described him as "a passionate pilgrim among old bookshops". Their friendship led to Mr. Stone drawing the map used as endpapers for its 1920 edition.

On April 3, 1929, the *Newark Stone-Eagle* published 'Miniature Books, His Hobby.' The article was written on the occasion of an exhibition of his collection at the Paterson New Jersey Public Library that described Mr. Stone as having one of the largest collections of miniature books in this country. Among those exhibited was "what is probably the oldest miniature manuscript in existence", a cuneiform dating back to 2215 B.C. An equally precious item among his collection was the *Hours of the Blessed Virgin* done on velum with full-page illuminations in color and gold.

Noting that many early children's books were miniature in size and fascinated by them, he rather facetiously commented that many of the children's books published during his time were even too large for adults to handle comfortably and extolled those "attractive little volumes of John Newbery". The children's books of that eighteenth century printer-publisher were so popular that it was not too long before they found their way to America. The noted bookman, Isaiah

Thomas of Worcester, Massachusetts duplicated both the illustrations and type the following century that appeared just like the Newbery originals.

Mr. Stone began collecting miniature juveniles of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with special emphasis on those published before 1810 but not after 1860. The collection was especially strong in the American field but also included, in addition to British, European, and Latin classics, books in a variety of languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Cuneiform, Hindustani, Sanskrit, Tamil, and Shorthand.

In 1927, Mr. Stone wrote a 38-page essay by hand entitled *The Verbum Sempiternum of John Taylor*, published by Langel Publishing Company, New York. John Taylor (1580-1653) was an English minor poet who wrote *The Verbum Sempiternum* in verse as a summary of the Bible for children. In the essay, Mr. Stone also listed collectors in the U. S. and Britain who held copies. One copy of the essay was given to James d'Alte Aldridge Welsh, an avid collector of American and British children's books and may be currently found at the American Antiquarian Society. It was also the first publication of the LXIVMOS Club under the title, *The Thumb Bible of John Taylor by Wilbur Macey Stone*. According to James D. Henderson, editor, moving spirit and Scrivener of the *News-Letters of the LXIVMOS*, the initial idea for "a little club for collectors of little books came from Wilbur Macey Stone of New York...". The two had become acquainted when Mr. Henderson purchased the "delightful little book", *A Snuff Boxful of Bibles*. It was during this period that the publication of the *News-Letters of the LXIVMOS* was suggested.

The combination of his ability as a draftsman and the love of books led to the design of bookplates. Between 1896 and 1938, Wilbur Macey Stone designed over sixty bookplates, seven for his own books. He stated that every lover of books or book collector should use bookplates and wrote seven brochures on the subject. Indeed, he was a prolific writer, having over one dozen articles written on the subject of miniature books alone which appeared in *The American Printer*, *the Bookbinding Magazine*, *American Antiquarian Proceedings*, etc. *Books That Never Grew Up* may very well have been his last. It was published in *The Dolphin*, winter, 1941. Wilbur Macey Stone died at his home in East Orange, New Jersey, December 21, 1941.

"What is the use of collecting miniature books? You can't read them." (*an open question to the readers of the LXIVMOS*)

*It's no earthly use but a satisfying delight... Diminutive objects of all kinds have a strong appeal and what is more worthy than to collect books, little ones? WMS*



*One of the many bookplates that WMS utilized over the years*

Resources Utilized:

*American Antiquarian Society*, April 1942, "Obituaries", Wilbur Macey Stone

*American Antiquarian Society Manuscript Collections*, "Welch, d' Alte A., Papers c. 1920s, 1949-1969"

*The American Printer*, New York, April 1909, Vol. 48, No. 2, 'Wee Books of Long Ago'

'Miniature Books His Hobby' in *Newark Star-Eagle* (April, 3, 1929) p.12

*The News-Letter of the LXIVMOS*, November 1, 1927, 'Greetings'

*The News-Letter of the LXIVMOS*, February 1, 1928, 'The Ubiquitous N-L'

*The News Letter of the LXIVMOS*, Numero 9, 15 Juillet, 1928, 'Bookplates for Miniature Books'

*The News Letter of the LXIVMOS*, Number 12, November 15, 1928, 'Why Collect Miniature Books? – they are too small to read'

*Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, 52 (1943) 9-11

University of North Carolina, Charlotte. Wilbur Macey Stone Papers.  
J. Murrey Atkins Library Special collections.

Welsh, Doris V. [The History of Miniature Books](#). Albany, New York, Fort Orange Press, 1987.

*Editor's Note: Well done Melinda. WMS continues to be a source of information and inspiration to all miniature book collectors. I included the full list of Melinda's research sources so that if you so choose you can dig in to the wealth of information that is available and is more often than not a source of enjoyment to peruse.*

*Melinda posed an interesting question with the correspondence that we traded concerning her article research; "I found it rather strange that WMS wrote only one article (that I could find anywhere) after 1928. The one article in 1929 was on the subject of Bahai booklets. He was obviously still active with LXIVMOS, having participated that year in an exhibition at New York Public Library with James Henderson and others and spoke in Boston at the Odd Volumes Club. It could be that he could not fit it into a busy schedule."*

Interesting information, certainly worthy of another article. 

Contact information: Melinda Brown, 145 Lexington Street, Weston, MA 02493  
E-mail: [minibks1@verizon.net](mailto:minibks1@verizon.net)

## MINIATURE BOOK SOCIETY, CONCLAVE XXXIV, RECAP

Reported by Joan Knoertzer

What a hot time in the old town of McKinney! Miniature Books were never more popular! Sixteen brand new attendees! We gave a special welcome to each and every attendee as well as to Caroline Brandt. And what has she done? She is a founding MBS member and has attended each Conclave since 1983...all 34! Additionally, Rebecca Bingham (Rebecca Press), who was there at Tipp City in 1983, came with her husband Reid! Who else was there in 1983, and here in 2016? David St. Onge (Yes! The son of Achille J. St. Onge) and his wife Ann! I could go on, so I will!

One of the highlights was our **early arrival feast!** Those of us who always fly in early usually gather and have dinner the Thursday night before registration day. This has grown into a large group that practically takes over a restaurant. Ray and Barbara Williamson, the Conclave hosts arranged his special dinner at Gregory's Bistro, great food and a great time for all.

Friday morning is free-to-wander the area time for everyone, while the **MBS Board Meeting** is conducted. Since our MBS archives representative from the Lilly Library also attends the Board meetings it is an appropriate time to mention that Cherry Williams, from the Lilly will be moving to a new job in California shortly and Lori Dekydtspotter has taken over her position as archivist for the MBS collection as well as Cherry's MBS board position. Welcome Lori to her first conclave! Thanks for Cherry's years of help and good luck to her.

The next Friday activity was the official **Conclave Registration** process where attendees 'sign in' and get their Conclave information package as well as their keepsakes, which are made by members for all attendees. We all love this part of our trip. We take our bags, open them up to find all of these wonderful keepsake/gifts from members. The conclave location always dictates many ideas, so Texas, lookout!

Jim and Elaine Brogan wrote a miniature cookbook titled *Texas, Lone Star State: Texas Fix'ems*, with a dust jacket from their Red Dog Press

Cathie Abney created a small illustrated booklet on a tack with four facts of Texas

Terrie Grissom gave us each a small linen bag filled with 'Texas Lavender' (Put this little bag inside your pillowcase for sweet dreams of tiny things!)

We had fun with Karen Nyman's *Talkin' Texan*, which was a 22-item quiz where you had to match the definition with the Texan version of a saying.

Patricia Caernarven-Smith wrote and husband Tony Firman (Plum Park Press) produced a hand sewn booklet *The Plum Park Flyway and International Rest Center* with photographed covers, inside and out, of the monarch butterflies' migration through their town in Texas.

Pat Sweet (Bo Press) made a miniature slipcase titled *Songs of Texas* with 22 individual song titles printed on 22 different parts of the Texas map where the songs took place!

Stephen and Marian Byrne were not to be outdone as they chose a small pamphlet of *The Yellow Rose of Texas* sheet music in accordion fold. Now I cannot get the song out of my head.

Todd Sommerfeld made a small envelope keepsake titled *Welcome to Dallas*. The keepsake was a folded flower burst formed with eight color photos of J. R. Ewing to Stanley Marcus, with all eight pictures of things for which things Dallas is known. Clever folding!

It was so good to see Janet and Kathy King back as a duo. Their keepsake was a small blue pamphlet with a white star. It had red printing of Texas State Facts, from bird (Northern Mockingbird) to flag (Blue and Red with White Star). I liked the Motto: Friendship...we should borrow this for the MBS motto!

Who gave us that miniature envelope filled with "Texas Bluebonnet Seeds"? And the free Drink Ticket for the night of the Banquet, hand designed? And the cookie with a 'Welcome To Texas sign'? And the name place cards, and the goodie bag label....you guessed it: Barbara and Ray Williamson!

Our new MBS Newsletter Editor, Rick Hill, presented us with an keepsake book, covered in brown leather titled *Texas to English Dictionary, a basic guide for the foreign traveler to Texas*, the forward by Walter Cronkite, and published by the Capitol Hill Press. Included was a frontispiece picture of Sam Houston, First President of Texas -- and first to say "y'all."

Robert Orndorf, Chair of the Awards Committee, provided a copy of the Pocket Chinese Calendar, each signed by the authors. It was translated and contained daily listing for 2016.

Eileen Cummings, past president of MBS, gave us each a credit card size magnifying sheet (after all, we have to read our tiny books)!

Ken Silverman and Nina Mazzo of Cider Press provided us with the pamphlet *Sunsets & Clouds (from Coast to Coast)*. This is a set of gorgeous photos of American sunsets.

C. Darleen Cardova, MBS board member, wrote another treatise on Monsignor Francis J. Weber, *Enveloped in Mystery, The Printed Envelopes of Miniature Books Written or Edited by Monsignor Francis J. Weber*.

Gabriel Fox, from the American Academy of Bookbinding, could not make it here, but sent us "Cheers MBS 2016", a small sign attached to a miniature metal chair, with a small fox image attached under the seat.

Muriel Underwood also could not travel, but sent us *Greetings* from her publishing company, Miscellaneous Graphics, in Chicago, showing handcolored MBS members waving at us and holding a BOOKS sign. Our best to you, Muriel.

Cynthia Cosgrove presented a small 3-D printed bust of Gutenberg, with a miniature scroll tied with a twine. The original by Josef Anger & Son, in a print run of 75.

Jan Becker, our volunteer supreme, loves to sew, besides helping with the MBS Live Book Auction. She still had time to make us a hexagon of English Paper Piercing with two covers and an explanation in a small white envelope.

New member Charlotte Estep created a booklet of three kinds of beautiful marbled papers.

Todd Sommerfeld wrote a little booklet *Barney* with a purple cover and big eyes, hand sewn, with a miniature bookmark, signed edition of 150. In addition, he added one of his mini-books on *Toad Loves To Read* in an accordion fold.

Neale and Margaret Albert's keepsake was a small eraser made in shape of a mini-book titled *William Shakespeare: The Poet of Them All*.

Patrice Miller (Aredian Press...lil press...big love) announced its first publications: *The Chinese Zodiac*, *RNDM TXT*, *Hinky Haiku*.

Paul Ritscher of Half Penny Press sent us (he could not attend in person) a small accordion folded pamphlet, hand sewn, titled *A Texas Classic: Waltz Across Texas*.

Rebecca Bingham (Rebecca Press) created a keepsake of Coles Phillips *Fadeaway Girls: A Small Gallery* in a series of intricate folds, using color photos, tied with a ribbon. Beautifully crafted.



The end of this list actually promotes the beginning of the Conclave XXXV, to be held in Oakland, CA in 2017. Our hostesses are twins, Susan Hunt Yule and Dorothy Yule. So talented and interesting, a truly dynamic duo they provided us with a beautifully illustrated colored skyline view of the coast of Oakland by Susan Yule with an airplane pulling a banner...MBS 2017. The title *Come Visit Beautiful Oakland in 2017!*, MBS Conclave XXXV, Friday-Sunday, August 11-13.

The final keepsake was by les2twins.com, New York-Oakland, titled *The Twin's Travels*. Presented in a slipcase with a color drawing of the twins on its cover. This is based on a 19th century American Tract Society book called *Dot's Travels* and is published in an edition of 91 signed by the twins.

Bravo to all who braved the world of keepsakes. Keepsakes do take time to design and make, but there is not anyone who does not enjoy these creative projects from our wonderful members and their friends.

Friday evening the **Silent Auction**, a 50/50 affair, organized by Karan Nyman was held after a cocktail hour and during the Texas Barbecue Buffet. The buffet was delicious. We had nearly 100 bids on 18 items. Results: MBS: \$682.50. Members: \$472.50, (some members contributed their profit to MBS). Thank you to all bidders and donors.

On Saturday morning, we held our **Annual General Meeting**. President Stephen Byrne called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. President Byrne and the membership paid special tribute to those members who have passed with several moments of silence: Valentina Cannell, Glen Dawson, James L. Harner, Judi Hoyenski, Alice Miller, and Lloyd L. Nielson. The minutes of Conclave XXXIII were approved, and Karen Nyman followed with a membership report. We had 306 members as of December 31, 2015. We are adding members in 2016, more from foreign countries than the USA. We will be using more Facebook and other social media. Cathie Abney and Lori Dekydspotter have been added to Jim Brogan's Membership Committee with the goal of increasing membership in all countries and for all ages through our various outreach activities. Karen, our Treasurer, reported a checking balance of \$26,957.45, with a CD balance of \$21,508.36. The Publication Committee is planning a new MBS book for 2017. Thanks to the Bromers, who were represented here by Shannon Struble, for the scholarship donation.

The results of the election as of July 31, 2016: Pres: Stephen Byrne; VP: Jim Brogan; and Secretary Gail Faulkner will continue as elected. Cathie Abney is the new Treasurer. Members-at-Large will be Lori Dekydspotter, Melinda Brown, Darleen Cordova and Michael Garbett. Total votes cast were 54.

Tony Firman reported on the MBS Book Competition; 21 people from 7 countries entered this year. The three Distinguished Book Awards went to: *Tsuki Yo No Mahiru* by Miyako Akai, *XI LXIVMOS: Memoirs of a Bibliomidget* by Anne C. Bromer, and *The Twin's Travels* by Dorothy Yule/Susan Hunt Yule. Congratulations to all three. A great applause to all who entered.

The Chairs for Conclave XXXV to be held in Oakland, California, are Dorothy and Susan Hunt Yule. 'Book Artists' will be the main theme. We will venture to the Book Club of California and the San Francisco Public Library for exhibitions. We will stay at the Oakland Marriott. Julie Chen, famous West Coast bookbinder, will be the Awards Banquet speaker.

Two workshops were offered directly after the general meeting. 'Keepsakes: A Shoebox Full of Memories' was presented by Jim Brogan and Todd Sommerfeld. Jim began with the history of MBS keepsakes which began in 1983. The format of the workshop was a 'question and answer' dialogue between all of the participants, the subject being keepsakes. Todd Sommerfeld gave us each a mini keepsake and explained why he had made several for this year's conclave...he just could not stop!

The second workshop was 'The Archeology of Bookbinding' by Tony Firman. He made a quick trip through European bookbinding, then Roman wax tablets, through the development of the codex, early coptic binding, English binding, Carolingian binding and Gothic binding. So many new ways of binding books have popped up with the book artists of today trying to redevelop the meaning of the book just as book artists of yesteryear reinvented bindings. Saturday evening is always reserved for the **Live Auction**. Special thanks go to the Live Auction Committee of Joan Boring, Janet Becker, and Kathy King and new auctioneer who stepped in at the last minute from PBA Galleries in San Francisco, Gregory Jung. Both he and Gregory Krisillas, also representing PBA Galleries, were attending their first conclave. Stephen and Marian Byrne were the go-to helpers for the event this Saturday evening, which includes a Dessert Buffet. The auction netted more than \$4000 for the organization.

The **Book Fair** was held on Sunday. It is our day to buy from the dealers who come to exhibit their wares. There were 22 different member/dealers at the book fair and thousands of miniature books. The event runs from 08:00 AM until 4:00 PM with public being admitted after 12:00 Noon.

After the Book Fair, we gathered for the **Awards Banquet**. It is a great celebration of everything we have done for the MBS over the year. Our menu, beautifully printed and the food was excellent. After desert, Barbara Williamson introduced our guest speakers, Amy Tingle and Maya Stein who have a passion for commercial arts and built a 'Tiny Book Show', a tiny caravan, Called MAUDE, in which they travel around the country giving miniature book-making workshops wherever they stop.

Maya and Amy alternated their addresses. They explained how they fell in love with miniature books by accident. One was left in their studio, so they began making them with friends...'How To Laugh'. Maya had a dollhouse when she was four, made by her grandma, and each time she visited her she played with it...the tiny powder puff, the small chair...Amy had a small cardboard box, and from it made 'How To' books.

To pave the way for the caravan Maya remembers putting a call out to artists (like throwing spaghetti on the walls) out of 325 they received 170 replies, including the Yule Sisters. More than one-half the entrants were under 18 years old. All were interested in the book arts and classes. They reflected on many different stories about their experiences around the country. One library trustee walked into a session in her library and said she had never seen so many generations in one room all working on miniature books. In Cincinnati, they talked with a woman who gave them a copy of a Miniature Book Society miniature, which had been given away at another event. MBS has since inspired Maya and Amy to make more miniatures, and take it journey further.

There is joy and pride in making the miniatures. They do outreach to total strangers through brochures/pamphlets. Because of this, in Salt Lake City 300 people came to their workshop. Maya: "Everyone loves making things together. If they are lost, the touch of an artist helps them regain their purpose. "Our trip to Texas has changed everything, and taught us 'Tiny Matters'. Needless to say, we gave these Maya and Amy a standing ovation.

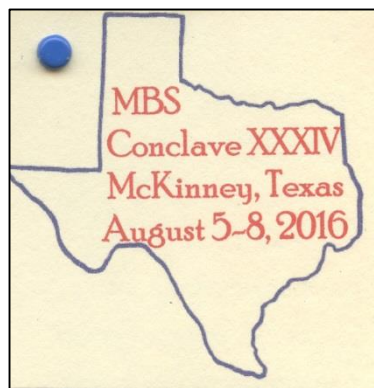
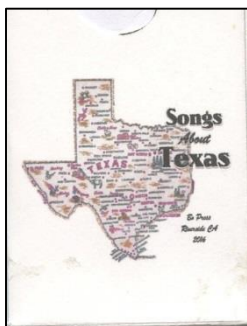
The Awards Chair: Robert Orndorff announced the winners of the Yarnell Award (*significant contribution to the MBS*), Cherry Williams and The Norman Fergie Award (*for contributions to the world of miniature books*), Mariana Blau. Pres. Byrne announced the third award, The Glasgow Cup, is decided by the President only and it is the top honor for the year. The recipient receives the silver cup with their name engraved and a silver pin of a miniature cup.

The winners this year are Barbara and Ray Williamson. Congratulations to all the winners who justly deserved their awards!

If you did not go, I hope you got a nice warm fuzzy feeling for what MBS is and what we do together to help create ideas, design books, organize visions, build collections and interest in books, and bring people together to make the most fabulous new friends from around the world. It is all about people.

Joan Knoertzer, MBS FABS representative and this years (MBS) 'Stand-In Secretary', FABS Vice Chair, Clements Library of Americana Board of Governors, Book Club of Detroit, Florida Bibliophile Society, Innkeeper: The Library Bed and Breakfast. 📖

Contact information: Joan Knoertzer, P O Box 3387, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3387,  
E-mail: librarybandb@gmail.com



*Conclave Keepsakes, Pat Sweet (L) Cathy Abney (R)*

## MINIATURE BOOK SOCIETY BOOK 2016 COMPETITION, Reported by Jim Brogan:

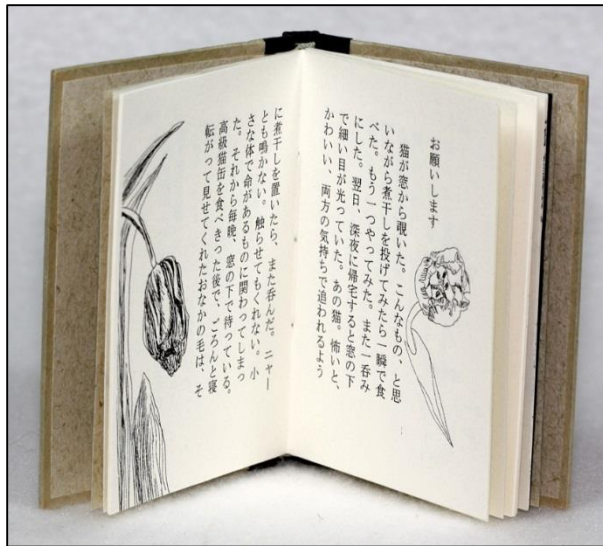
Each year the Miniature Book Society hosts a competition to encourage the publication of high-quality miniature books. All publishers are welcome and the entries are judged by a distinguished panel where the entries are reviewed on creativity, quality of materials used, and the level of skilled craftsmanship.

The competition, in addition to encouraging the publication of miniature books also serves to acknowledge individuals that make miniature books, all new publishers to gain recognition regarding their creativity, and to support and facilitate the collection of miniature books both in private as well as institutional collections. The 2016 competition included entries from 17 publishers with 27 different entries. The three winners and their books are:

### **Tsuki Yo No Mahru**, Distinguished Book Winner

Author and illustrator: Miyako Akai, Publisher: Kototsubo, Ichikawa, Japan

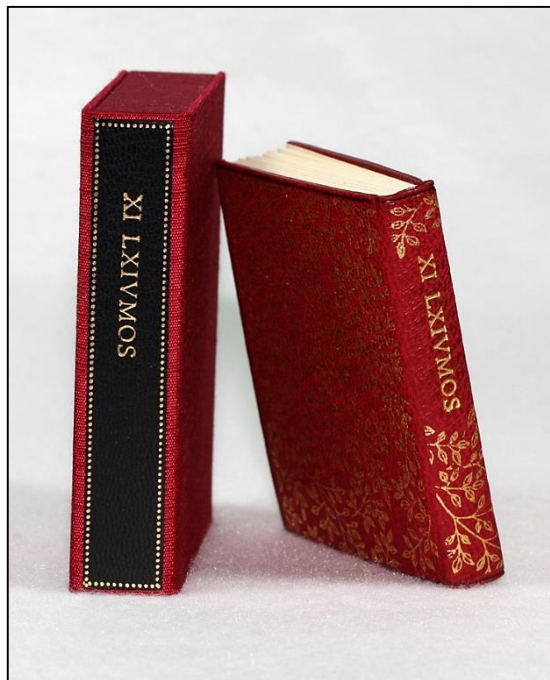
The book consists of a collection of original short stories written in Japanese and illustrated with sketches to support the stories. The book is constructed of handmade papers and includes a combination of letterpress and digital printing. A comment from the judges summarizes the work, “Drawings bleed off the edge, cross the gutter, or fall between parallel lines of text; yet the simple color pallet, delicate line work, and thoughtful sequencing provide a sense of balance and rhythm.”



**XI LXIVMOS: Memoirs of a Bibliomidget**, Distinguished Book Winner

Author: Anne Bromer, Illustrator: Francesca Lohmann, Publisher: Bromer Bookseller & Heavenly Monkey, Boston, MA

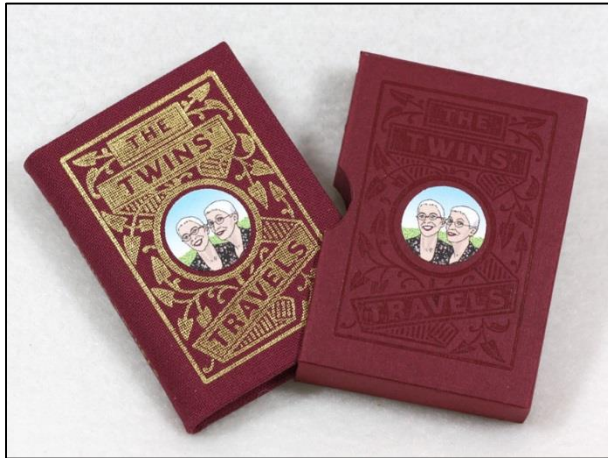
*XI LXIVMOS* is a descriptive bibliography detailing the eleven printed miniature books that were published by Anne and David Bromer between 1977 and 1989. The book is printed on hand-made paper and is highlighted with a vine pattern gold stamped on the full-leather red binding. One of the judges' comments is "It perfectly mirrors the production values of the works it describes, and is produced in the same collaborative manner using a talented pool of printers, calligraphers, illustrators and binders."



## **The Twins' Travels, Distinguished Book Winner**

Author: Dorothy A. Yule, Illustrator: Susan Hunt Yule, Publisher: Left Coast Press (les2twins), Oakland, CA

The Twins' Travels is a 'travel log' of the journey the author and illustrator took in 2015. The format of the book is based on an antiquarian book 'Dot's Travels' that was published in 1874. The antiquarian and the '2016 book both contain a series of small rhymes. The rhymes in the 2016 book were written on the journey as it transpired. The judges' comments, "Together the text and image convey the story of the twins adventures in The Netherlands and England." "Attention to detail and meticulous craftsmanship make this a delightful and satisfying book."



The entire contents of the competition catalogue with all entries will be available on the MBS website, [www.mbs.org](http://www.mbs.org). The actual winning books will be added to the MBS Traveling Exhibit, within the next month and will travel with the exhibit during the remainder of 2016 and 2017. Well done to all of the entries and especially to the three winners. 📖

*Editor's note: Photo images courtesy of the MBS Competition Catalogue, Tony Firman, 2016 Competition and Exhibition Chair.*



## **BOOKSHELVES, A VISIT TO THE LILLY LIBRARY,**

**By Todd Sommerfeld:**

For the miniature book collector there are several institutions that serve as a mecca. The Huntington in California has the amazing Weber collection, the Bridwell in Texas has the Stanley Marcus collection, and Charlotte Smith's books are at the University of Iowa. The 'Grand Dame' of institutional miniature book collections, however, resides in Indiana at the Lilly Library of Indiana University. The collection includes not only the almost 16,000 volumes belonging to Ruth Adomeit and the MBS archives, but the library is also actively collecting miniature books to improve their holdings.

So it was with great longing that I looked west as I dreamt of visiting the Lilly. I was finally able to make the trip this past Fourth of July weekend when my son Wendell and I made the 5 1/2 hour drive from Cleveland to Bloomington.



*Lilly Library, Main Entrance*

The first thing to greet us when we arrived was the striking Art Deco architecture of the library which, I was surprised to learn, was constructed in the 1960's, long after the hay day of such design. Once inside Jim Canary (conservator) and Cherry Williams (manuscript librarian) greeted us. We had a brief conversation about the MBS Traveling Exhibit, which I coordinate and Jim Canary maintains. We were then signed into the reading room to do a little research. The reading room is a wonderful space full of books and tables. I was helped by Isabel Planton. She not only guided me through the state of the art computer catalog, but stayed with me to order items that were stored at an offsite location. Unfortunately, because we arrived too late in the day, we were

unable to see the offsite materials that we went to see, but no matter, I was able to purchase photocopies that were mailed to me later (should make for some additional articles).

Instead of serious research, I was able to conduct a little vanity search in which I was able to photograph a half dozen Massmann items not in my own collection. Two of them are not in any bibliography I have seen!



*Massmann miniatures*

As wonderful as the miniature book collection is, I wanted to know more about the rest of the library so we took the 2 o'clock public tour. The tour not only highlighted the collections, but the amazing policies that govern the use of the collections, which I will get back to later. When we got back to the main exhibit hall where the tour was to begin, there were about a dozen people waiting, most of them tourists who stopped to see the university. In this main hall was the remains of what looked to be an amazing exhibit of early illuminated manuscripts. In the next room was the permanent miniature book exhibit and something I thought was odd for a library... the puzzle collection. The Lilly has over 30,000 mechanical puzzles, several of which are on permanent display in glass cases and a few rotate on and off display. The rotating display is on open tables so anyone who passes through the doors can play with them. In another room, we were told about the very large Lincoln collection that includes a desk used by the young lawyer and his 'death mask', among the many volumes about every aspect of the man. This room also held the library's greatest treasures, including a first printing of the Declaration of Independence, one of John Ford's four Oscars, and, most impressively, a Gutenberg Bible.

It was while hearing about the John Ford archive and his Oscars that I began to understand the Lilly's greatest asset. The library was started by Josiah K. Lilly, Jr. of pharmaceutical fame. Josiah donated books, manuscripts, and the building on the condition of full public access. That's right. You do not have to be a scholar or faculty at the university, or a resident of Bloomington to be able to hold and examine all but the most fragile items in the collection. The Lilly Library is no

dusty shoebox that hides treasure away from the public. In fact, they actually encourage you to interact with the collections!

Before we left, I was curious about the organization of the Adomeit collection because I find it hard to keep track of 1,400 miniature books, and could not imagine keeping 16,000 in order. I was given a short backroom tour and I have to say that I am as impressed with the organization as I am with the books.

As we were leaving through the reading room at the end of our day, we were treated to the scene of a half-dozen white gloved tourists passing around 'Oscar' – priceless.

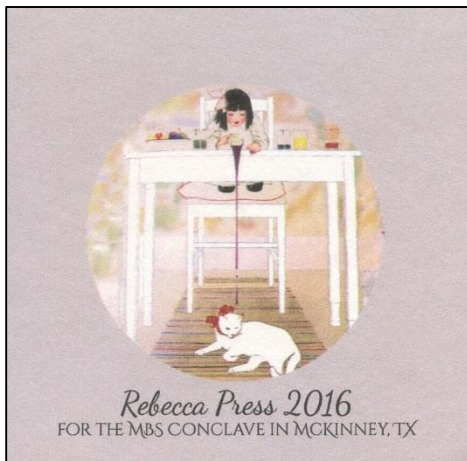
The journey continues... 📖



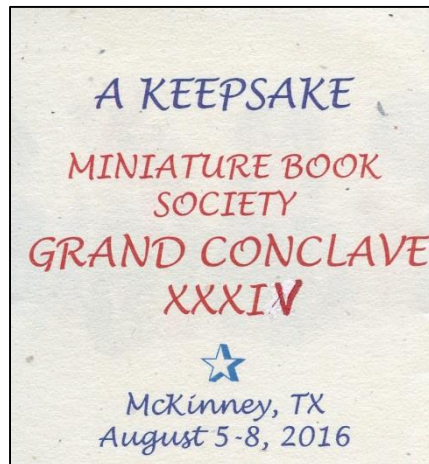
*Rows of cabinets and drawers, 'the treasure chests'*

Contact information: Todd Sommerfeld, 6475 Ridge Road #1, Parma, OH 44129  
E-mail: [contratodd@gmail.com](mailto:contratodd@gmail.com) or [booksbypress.com](http://booksbypress.com)

**Rebecca Bingham**

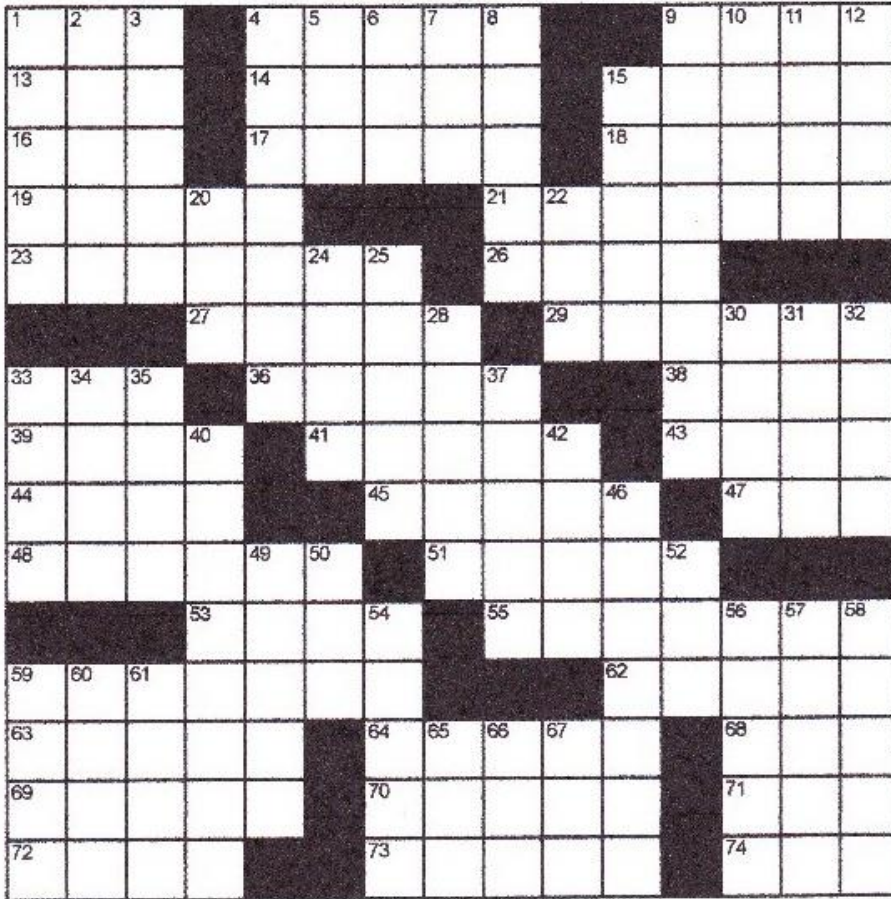


**Muriel Underwood**



# A BIBLIOPHILE'S CONCLAVE PUZZLE

By Karen Nyman:






**Across**

- 1 Author whose first name is 13-Across
- 4 Not minor
- 9 Rum-soaked cake
- 13 \_\_\_ Tingle of New Jersey
- 14 \_\_\_ Clew of California
- 15 Pointer
- 16 Zadora of "Hairspray"
- 17 Geneva's lake
- 18 Cruise ship
- 19 Very, to Vivaldi
- 21 \_\_\_ Jung or Krisilas of California
- 23 \_\_\_ Strubble of Massachusetts
- 26 Bigfoot's Himalayan cousin
- 27 Icelandic literary works
- 29 "One \_\_\_\_, under God..."
- 33 \_\_\_ Becker of Ohio
- 36 Poisonous snake
- 38 \_\_\_ Firman of Texas
- 39 Tina's "30 Rock" costar
- 41 Begets
- 43 Suffix with differ or defer
- 44 \_\_\_ Mazzo of California
- 45 Oohed and \_\_\_
- 47 Collector's quest
- 48 Pied \_\_\_ (city apartment)
- 51 \_\_\_ Kouyoumdjian of Indiana
- 53 Some paintings
- 55 \_\_\_ Williamson of Texas
- 59 Old streetlight
- 62 Prized statuette
- 63 Lubricate again
- 64 Weird Al Yankovic song parody
- 68 Japanese vegetable
- 69 Islands off Ireland
- 70 Computer problem
- 71 \_\_\_ Parks of Texas
- 72 \_\_\_ McGuire of Michigan
- 73 \_\_\_ King of Ohio
- 74 Bambi's aunt

**Down**


- 1 Spanish appetizers
- 2 Mennonite sect
- 3 Lake in SE Africa
- 4 \_\_\_ Brown of Massachusetts
- 5 Exist
- 6 \_\_\_ Brogan of New Jersey
- 7 River to the Volga
- 8 Tall and long-limbed
- 9 \_\_\_ Silvain of France
- 10 \_\_\_ Gschwendtner of Switzerland
- 11 Transvaal settler
- 12 Out of kilter
- 15 Prince Valiant's wife
- 20 "Wheel of Fortune" buy
- 22 Stimp's pal
- 24 Long ones are hard to beat
- 25 Gymnast Comaneci
- 28 Glacial ridge
- 30 Charged particles
- 31 Storybook start
- 32 Putin's refusal
- 33 1998 Wimbledon winner Novotna
- 34 Landed
- 35 Hawaiian goose
- 37 Place to get clean
- 40 \_\_\_ Brandt of Virginia
- 42 Antitoxins
- 46 \_\_\_ Yule of California
- 49 Iranian money
- 50 Nightmarish street of film
- 52 Weights: Abbr.
- 54 Smidgen
- 56 Sharp
- 57 Inert gas
- 58 Kitchen come-on
- 59 Metric measure
- 60 Atmosphere: Prefix
- 61 Washer cycle
- 65 Coach Parseghian
- 66 Make lace
- 67 Suffix with bull or bear

Answers are on page 37 

## **AN ANTIQUARIAN DELIGHT, Doll's Primer, Published by William Washburn Lewis:**

William Lewis Washburn, as we all know, produced miniature books between 1929 and 1941 in the basement of his Collingswood, NJ home on a small hand press. So unique and gentle is his work that they are widely sought after today. They were produced in small numbers of books within each title. They were originally presented in small cardboard boxes with a label attached to the cover of each box.

The *Doll's Primer*, was published in 1931, with 62 pages, letterpress printed and a delicate pale green paper covered boards measuring  $\frac{7}{8}$ " x  $\frac{7}{8}$ ". This title is the second that Washburn produced as he returned to making miniatures after being encouraged by James D. Henderson. The book format is a 'primer' covering the all of the ABC's, the numerals 1-9, and an interesting short story about the little red hen.

The Foreword reads, "HERE, Little Doll Mothers is a Real Book small enough for Dolly's House – done in type large enough to read W.L.W." I am not exactly sure of the font size, maybe a 6pt, but it did take two pages to print the short foreword. The *Doll's Primer* is included in the cover photo for this issue. 

## **KINGSPORT PRESS, THE JOURNEY CONTINUES, Reported by Jim Brogan**

Sometimes we enjoy collecting certain things such as miniature books and the ephemera related to the collecting genre. As we mature and specialize our collecting talents and the quest there is a good possibility that one may become consumed or driven by a particular area of collecting. Maybe 'consumed or driven' is too strong a set of words but I have personally become a collector that is very interested in Kingsport Press. I am not sure it because of the very miniature work they published, the fact that one of their books inspired Ruth Adomeit onward into collecting miniature books, or maybe in the words of Robert K. Shaw, LXIVMOS Number 8, May 15, 1928, "The surprise and delight shown by almost any educated person, on opening a miniature bookcase filled with its collection of bright and cheerful bindings, are spontaneous and emphatic."

I have frequently looked at these tomes bound in red, blue, and brown leathers with gilt edges. So simple but so well done they are almost like candy to the eye. *The Addresses of Abraham Lincoln, Extracts from the Autobiography of Calvin Coolidge, and Washington, His Farewell Address* are not so rare or so expensive that they cannot be added to one's collection, if that is your wish. The more elusive item is the 1928 edition of *The Gettysburg Address*. Here is where the collecting becomes more of a quest than the mere book search. Wanting to understand just how Kingsport created the 1928 edition and how and where they were distributed is a journey.

Recently I have been able to view two pieces of information about the press and perhaps these two documents may be parts of the puzzle. Therefore, I choose to share them with you: I do not think that I am the only collector with a touch of Kingsport Fever.



KINGSPORT PRESS  
SALES AGENCY, INC.

TELEPHONE  
PLAZA 0192



PLANT  
KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE

NEW YORK OFFICE  
578 MADISON AVE.

A. J. BARLOW  
VICE PRESIDENT

May 21st, 1930

Dear Jesse:

I was very pleasantly surprised to see you yesterday and in accord with the promise I made, I am sending you enclosed a copy of the smallest full leather book ever produced. This book embraces four of Abraham Lincoln's most famous addresses. You may be interested to know that this book is smaller than a postage stamp, is no bigger than your thumb, has type as tiny as a pin prick and yet readable and is no thicker than a silver dollar. A copy of this miniature volume is in the hands of all the foreign dignitaries of Europe, as well as many of the most prominent men in our country.

I thought you would be interested in adding this little book to your library.

Sometime next week or the week after, I will stop in to see you at Court before one o'clock noon and hope that we may have an opportunity of lunching together.

Cordially yours

Hon. Jesse Silberman,  
911 Walton Avenue,  
Bronx, New York.

Not a clue about the 1928 edition but interesting from the standpoint that Kingsport highlighted their products as 'gifts' being sent to various foreign dignitaries and prominent men.

# ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S SPEECHES

## MINIATURE EDITION

These miniature Lincolns were produced originally by the students of the Vocational School of the Kingsport Press, Inc., Kingsport, Tennessee, as an educational exercise. It was used by the School as their exhibit in the competition sponsored by the Employing Bookbinders of America at their Annual Convention held at the Parker House, Boston, in 1928, where it was awarded a first prize.

The first edition consisted of slightly more than a hundred copies. It was set in six point type, only a few words to a page, and was printed direct from the type.

The second edition was undertaken on a much more ambitious scale. Instead of merely the Gettysburg Address, it contains three of Lincoln's addresses complete, and a portion of a fourth. It runs into 160 pages of Bible paper, and is complete in its format, with title page, half titles, table of contents, preface, and a dedication "To Student Craftsmen Everywhere." The type again was hand set in ten point size and made up into pages sixteen times larger than it was intended the book would be. These pages were accurately imposed, and proofs pulled on dull coated paper. These proofs were sent to the photoengraver who made the plates in the reduced size.

Presswork called for a very high degree of accuracy, for the slightest variation made register impossible. A sheet  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 12 inches was required for the entire book, and it was run sheet-wise—that is, half the book was printed on one side; the sheet was then turned over and the other half printed.

The pages were imposed for sixteen-page sections, all parallel fold. The original plan was to fold the entire book at one operation, but this was found next to impossible, for again a very slight variation threw margins entirely out of register; so the sections were cut apart and each folded separately by hand. Signature guides had been printed on the trim margins, which solved the problem of collating.

The books were sewed with silk thread without bands and with but two stitches, every stitch being what the bookbinder calls a "kettle stitch." The girls were able to sew about 125 books a day, after several days' practice.

Trimming was a baffling problem, but was finally worked out by means of a wooden gauge—a board with notches accurately cut into it, which positioned the stock exactly for each of the three cuts. Three books were trimmed at a time.

Gilding was accomplished by securing the tiny volumes in a vice-like clamp leaving all three surfaces exposed for the gilder to work upon. About 25 books were clamped up together for this operation.

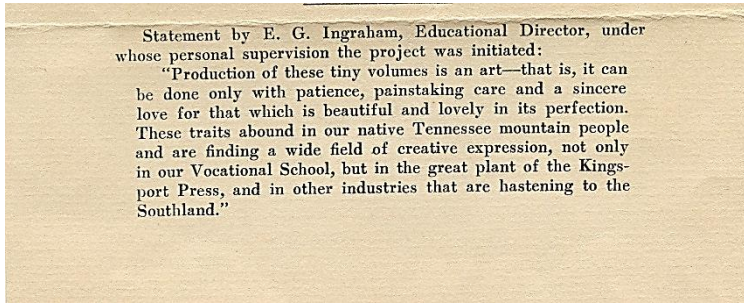
Rounding, backing, headbanding and backlining were the standard operations, such as the bookbinder is accustomed to perform in the binding of ordinary books.

Leather for the cases was cut for gangs of covers, and stamped in gold before the individual covers were cut apart. Careful, accurate work was necessary at every point or they would have been ruined. Fitting the books into the covers was also an operation of extreme delicacy.

Up to the present, the books have been used entirely for presentation purposes. A special presentation edition was prepared under direction of Mr. Edmund Gress for the members of the American Institute of Graphic Arts. A like service was performed for the XLIVMOS; the world-wide club of lovers and collectors of miniature editions. The first edition was produced entirely by the students of the Vocational School. Later editions were produced in such quantities that the School was obliged to enlist the help of the plant, after advancing the project to the point of completion of the original set of plates.

*Continued  
on next page*





Some interesting clues about the first edition (1928) and the fact that the Addresses of Abraham Lincoln were produced in at least three (editions); one colophon noting for the ‘Employing Bookbinders of America, EBOA’ one noting for the ‘LXIVMOS members’, and a later group ‘massed produced in the plant’. So the journey continues. 📖

## **A MINIATURE LOOK AT A PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY, By Robert F. Orr Hanson:**

The April 1981 issue of the *Wilson Library Bulletin* (a professional journal) carried my article titled “Hail to the Chiefs: Our Presidential Libraries”. This eight-page, illustrated piece described six literary monuments to the following presidents of the United States: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Herbert Hoover, Lyndon Baines Johnson, and John Fitzgerald Kennedy. The Gerald R. Ford library was scheduled to open in the spring of 1981. Prior to the writing of this article, my beloved wife Helen and I motored to visit all of the libraries save the Kennedy and Ford depositories. Since that time, there have been six other such creations for the following men: Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush.

I thought this would be an appropriate time to revisit the topic during the 2016 Democratic and Republican campaigns for the presidential election in November.

I understand that the Barack Obama Presidential Center will begin construction in January 2017. It will be located in South Chicago near Lake Michigan.

During the summer of 1988, *Georgia Journal*, a regional publication, included my two-page visit to the James Carter Presidential Center and Library in Atlanta. I thought this one-library look might be of some interest—I certainly hope so.

### **The Carter Presidential Center and Library**

“America did not invent human rights...human rights invented America...The love of liberty is the common blood that flows in our American veins.” Jimmy Carter’s Farewell Address, 1980

One of Jimmy Carter’s major character traits is persistence. He used persistence to become a Georgia state senator. He used persistence to become the governor of Georgia. And, finally, he used persistence to become the 39<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

As a testimonial to his philosophy and belief, in the pursuit of human rights and world peace, he persistently sought the funding to create the 130,000-square foot Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Costing about \$25 million, it was opened to the public on October 1, 1986.

The four circular, ground-hugging structures that comprise the Center are situated on 30 acres of land within sight of the downtown Atlanta skyline of tall steel and glass buildings.

One building is the Carter Library. The other three buildings in the complex house The Carter Center of Emory University, the offices of Global 2000, Inc., and the Carter-Menil Human



Rights Foundation. They all exist to “promote the exploration of important world issues through consultations, research and action”.

The Care Center of Emory University is managed by the University. Within a scholarly atmosphere, space is provide for “research, public forums, and consultations” which address and search for solutions to ‘problems of world peace, health policy in the United States, arms control, conflict resolution, and the Latin American debt crisis...’.

Global 2000, Inc. sprang from the 1980 Global Report to the President of the United States. That project ‘concluded that trends in population, resources, and environment are linked to poverty, injustice, and social conflicts’. It is believed that ‘concerted action by both governments and private individuals can help alleviate human suffering’.

The Carter-Menil Human Rights Foundation is charged with promoting continuing efforts on behalf of human rights-to publicize abuses and to intercede directly on behalf of the victims. Annually, a cash prize is awarded to an individual or group in recognition of outstanding work to further human rights. In 1986, Yuri Orlov, a 62 year-old physicist and Soviet dissident, together with the Guatemalan Group for Mutual Support, split the first award which amounted to \$100,000.

Our tour began as we walked from the large parking lot to the covered walkways. My wife, Helen, snapped photographs on one side as I took notes from the other side of the entrance paths. We were both struck with the simplicity of the buildings and the landscape design, coupled with the balance and symmetry of the overall plan. The entrance circle, beautifully executed with a mixture of green shrubs and red and white begonias, was made more impressive by the many flags that wave in the gentle breeze.

Once inside the building, we oriented ourselves by noticing the rose and sienna-peach color of the carpeting and the walls. The color scheme was chosen to reflect the warmth and dignity of the Jimmy Carter personality. Immediately to the left, is a monumental, floor to ceiling granite wall upon which are inscribed the names of 45 Founders, and even more names of the Sponsors of this eighth Presidential Library.

Some of the more familiar Founders' names include Edgar M. Bronfman, Chairman of Joseph E. Seagrams & Sons, Inc.; Dr. Armand Hammer, Chairman of the Occidental Petroleum Co.; the late Averill Harriman, Former Governor of New York; David Packard, co-founder of Hewlett-Packard Corp.; Thomas J. Watson, Jr., Chairman Emeritus of IBM Corp.; and Anne Cox Chambers, United States Ambassador to Belgium in the Carter Administration and Chairman of 'THE ATLANTA JOURNAL' and 'THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION' newspapers.

After paying the entrance fees, we were invited to view a 30-minute film entitled 'PRESIDENT'. Cliff Robertson, the celebrated actor, narrated the presentation, while President Carter judiciously interjected some personal thoughts and appropriate comments. The movie traces the development of the Presidency from George Washington to the 39<sup>th</sup> President. Not only was this film a presentation a worthwhile look at a particular facet of American history, it also served to frame the entire tour of this magnificent facility.

As we exited from the 140-seat auditorium, a number of full-size, pictorial cutouts of the 20th century Presidents faced us. Those shown, with a text of their political philosophies, were Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson, Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Gerald Ford, and Jimmy Carter.

As in each Presidential Library, and over the years we have toured all of them except the Kennedy and Ford Libraries, a special section is devoted to the former president's early years. Display cases, titled "The Formative Years", hold family photographs and memorabilia which includes Jimmy Carter's Annapolis ring, a diary, a letter to his father, the wedding day (July 7, 1946) picture of Jimmy and Rosalynn and the future president's naval appointment certificate to Annapolis dated November 12, 1943.

Moving further along, we entered a full-scale replica of the Oval Office in the White House. It is complete with the presidential seal on the ceiling to the massive oak desk used by President Carter. Behind the desk is a glass-enclosed ship model. The rest of the room is furnished with two sofas, several chairs, some books in built-in bookcases, a world globe, near the left side of his desk, and an unlighted fireplace. Particularly appealing are the three color window murals showing trees and grounds behind the actual Oval Office at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

A few steps away, we were confronted by a high, curved wall behind which were containers holding the 27 million pages of documents on archival bond paper-said to last for 30,000 years. By comparison, FDR produced only 5.5 million pages during his twelve years in office.

Additionally, there are 1.5 million photographs, motion picture film, 600 hours of video tapes and 300 hours of audio tape. Presently, six million pages of White House material, along with the audio-visual tapes, are open to researchers. There is no fee to do research at the Carter Library.

Another interesting display area consists of political campaign memorabilia. The original manuscript for Jimmy Carter's book, *Why Not the Best?*, published during his presidential campaign, is shown. Many pins, brochures, and posters used to promote the Carter name and platform blend with the fourth draft of Carter's Inaugural Address and the family Bible used in the swearing-in ceremony.

A few feet distant, is the "Town Meeting" where floor-to-ceiling columns circle a bank of video equipment. Here, 120 questions are asked of and answered by President Carter. Nearby, large, poster-type textual and visual displays attest to the foreign policy statements made by the Carter Administration in several world trouble spots...namely, the Panama Canal Treaty, Peace in the Middle East, the Nuclear Threat, the Hostage Crisis in Iran, and Carter's commitment to human rights. Two other display areas highlight the role of Rosalynn Carter as 'Partner of the

President', and in conclusion, entertainment at the White House is remembered by audio-visual presentations of such performers as Leontyne Price and Vladimir Horowitz. 📖

***There you have it!***



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

*Editor's Note: Regardless of any political position, these libraries are always interesting places to visit and reflect on the history of our country and our President(s).*

**BOOKS THAT ARE OUT OF THE BOX,  
Fabergé, published by Joseph L. Curran:**



*Fabergé*, was published by Kurbel Books in 1988, the press run of 50 copies included 15 with a special needlepoint binding. The book, measuring 2<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" x 2<sup>15</sup>/<sub>16</sub>", is a complex combination of format features beginning with the paper slipcase with a small-attached representation of a Fabergé egg. The book itself opens to reveal two sets of accordion bound pages, one attached to the front cover and the second attached to the rear cover. As my copy is one of the 15 with a needlework binding (front, spine, and rear) there is a special note included explaining that this part of the book was done by Gayle Roberts-Cullen and required approximately 35 hours to complete for each book.

The text page set attached to the front cover provide the reader with a very detailed overview about the 'House of *Fabergé*' that was started by Gustav Faberge in 1842, in St. Petersburg, Russia. The story is very informative and concludes with the end of the shimmering world of *Fabergé* at the start of

the Russian Revolution. This section of the book also contains a short narrative guide explaining the 11 small tipped-in photos of various Fabergé creations that are part of Queen Elizabeth's collection as well as the Wernher collection, both in England.

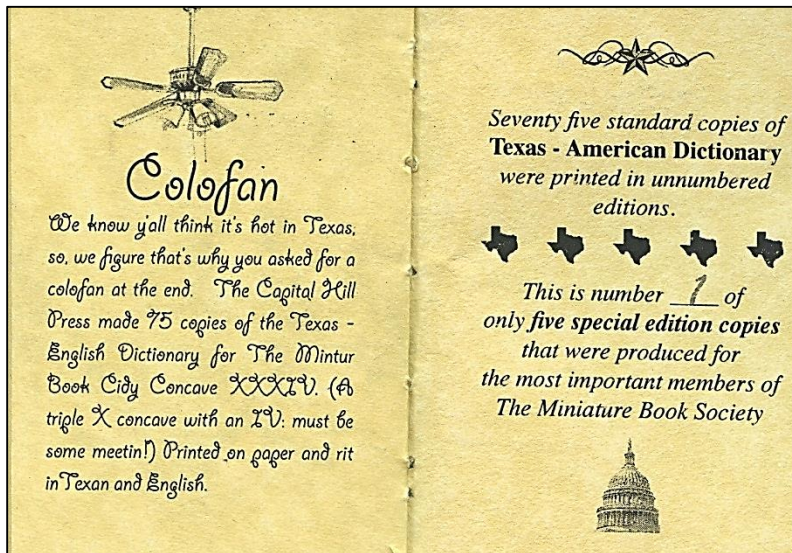
The book is printed on a high quality heavy weight crème paper with excellent text printing, photographic images, and meticulous construction. Quoting Robert Massman, "He [Curran] has an expert's eye for the beautiful and unusual, perhaps in part due to his college major in art, and his pre-existing love and knowledge of books".





*Front (L) cover w/accordion text, Rear (R) cover accordion w/images*

A prize to view and hold in your hand as well as to have as part of your collection. 📖



*Texas-English Dictionary keepsake by Rick Hill (having plenty of fun for sure)*



## BOOKS AND BIDDERS,

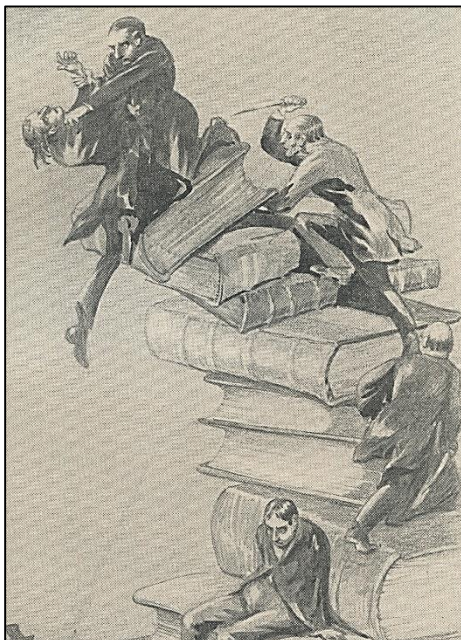
By A.S.W. Rosenbach

*Books and Bidders, The Adventures of a Bibliophile*, was published in 1927 by Little Brown, and Company, Boston. The author was none other than A.S.W. Rosenbach [1876 – 1952]. Abraham Rosenbach was one of the most successful antiquarian book dealers the world has ever known. His home was in Philadelphia and he maintained shops in Philadelphia and New York. He is credited with popularizing the collecting of American literature and the idea of book collecting as an investment. Over the years, he authored several articles and books in order to reinforce public interest in rare books and manuscripts.

*Books and Bidders* opens with a chapter titled ‘Talking of Old Books’ which finds young Abraham working in his uncle’s book shop listening to the clatter of customers talking about the various merits of authors and their published books. This is the scene that ignited the spark that was to drive Abraham throughout his entire life. The shop was a meeting place for publishers, writers, and collectors. The author quickly moves through his years of experience highlighting several important purchases. As the pages unfold Rosenbach moves through several important discussions about acquaintances, one being Harry Elkins Widner, whom Rosenbach predicted would be one of the world’s greatest collectors had he [Widner] not died in the Titanic disaster.

The author goes on to explain the world of book auctions from its beginning in the latter part of the seventeenth century in Holland. From that start, Rosenbach explains that most of the great books of the world have found their way into the auction room at one time or another. “Bibliophiles of renown have sat restlessly out front bidding against each other. It is these rare books and the buyers of them, who have given the auction its illustrious aura.”

Rosenbach, in addition to dealing in rare books was also an expert regarding manuscripts and historical documents. One of his favorites was the early if not the earliest recorded letter from George Washington, dated 1777, known as the ‘Pennypacker’s Mills letter’. There are more than 100 illustrations of famous manuscripts, documents, and letters that the author chose to include, no doubt from the thousands that moved through his hands over his long career. In addition, every one of them



*‘The Biblio-Friends’  
Drawing by Oliver Hereford for  
Dr. Rosenbach’s “unpublished memoirs”*

is annotated with an interesting connection to a buyer or seller. Rosenbach certainly painted a vivid story of his life as a bookseller; the book was published in 1927, 25 years prior to his death. Volume 2 would be an interesting book as well. 📖

## **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. If you would like to learn about hosting the exhibit, please contact Todd Sommerfeld, E-mail: [contratodd@gmail.com](mailto:contratodd@gmail.com). The current itinerary is as listed:

### **October and November 2016**

English Department, Troy University  
Troy, AL

<http://www.troy.edu/>

### **April and May 2017**

New York Society Library  
New York, New York

<http://www.nysoclib.org>

### **June – July 2017**

Moline Public Library  
Moline, IL

<http://www.molinelibrary.com>

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. The exhibit is such a visual torch that it may light the pathway for someone. Stop at your library, call your alma mater, speak with the librarian, or the person who is in charge of library exhibits, ‘**OUTREACH** is our middle name’. Check the MBS website [www.mbs.org](http://www.mbs.org) for additional information. ‘Hit the EASY button’. 📖

**THE TIME MACHINE:  
News-Letter of the LXIVMOS Number 6,  
By Nina Mazzo**



“California Greet You” -notes James D. Henderson, Scrivener in issue #6, printed by Arthur W. Browne of Mountain View, California. I smiled as I once lived in Mountain View, California and am quite sure that in 1928 Mr. Browne worked and lived surrounded by acres and acres of fruit trees. Today, this city is part of the thriving Silicon Valley – hmm – wonder if he would have considered an e-edition of the newsletter?

One of the joys of reading these newsletters is the historical aspect and I would have enjoyed meeting Mr. Henderson who seemed to have a sense of humor yet was an enthusiastic collector and spokesperson for miniature books.

In this issue, he noted the varieties of languages represented in the field of miniature books including manuscripts of devotion in Tamil, Pali and Persian and the New Testament in Shorthand. I read again and thought Shorthand? He adds that Shorthand was included as a language “because of the prominence of little books by Rich”. Hmmmm - who was Rich? I set off to discover in ‘The History of American Machine Shorthand’, that Jeremiah Rich published a shorthand system in the “Arts Rarity” in 1654. Although his uncle William Cartwright invented the shorthand system, Jeremiah popularized it. In 2014, EBay sold one of Rich’s miniature books titled *The Whole Book of Psalms in Meter*, circa 1660 for \$665. They note that he was one of the most famous stenographers of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The American Art Association held an auction on February 15, 1928 when it sold ‘the smallest book in the world’ *Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam* translated into English by Edward Fitzgerald for \$420. Curiosity leads me online to find a current auction estimate but to no avail. Finally, my eye caught a conversation with member d’Alte A. Welch who specialized in “children’s books and miniature volumes of which he possesses upwards of one thousand”. There was an exhibition of his treasures at the Peabody Library, in Baltimore, and the description noted the heading was ‘What Children Read a Century Ago’. Most of Mr. Welch’s books were printed before 1820 and he said he enjoys showing readers and collectors his books. As I write this, I think of the MBS Conclave I just attended where I met several microbibliophiles who also enjoy sharing their collections and discussing their particular areas of interest. 📖

Contact information: Nina Mazzo 1655 Delta Wind Lane, Lincoln, CA 92651,  
E-mail: ninamazzo@me.com



## TERMS AND DEFINITIONS,

### Book Size/Format Definitions:

The traditional common terms, generally used for describing ‘the size of books’, along the spine edge, are derived from the early printing methodology and the ‘size’ of a handmade sheet of paper which when folded derives the sizes defined here. As a simple example; if you started with a paper sheet measuring 19" x 25" and folded it once you would have four printing surfaces, each about 19" x 12½". The size is defined as ‘folio’. Starting again with the same size sheet and folding it twice you would have sheets about 8½" x 12½", the size is defined as ‘quarto’. The size of the sheets and how they are derived by ‘folding’ as well as their historical perspective is an interesting sidebar to the world of books. Some of the more common size names and approximate size parameters are:

Folio – more than 13" tall

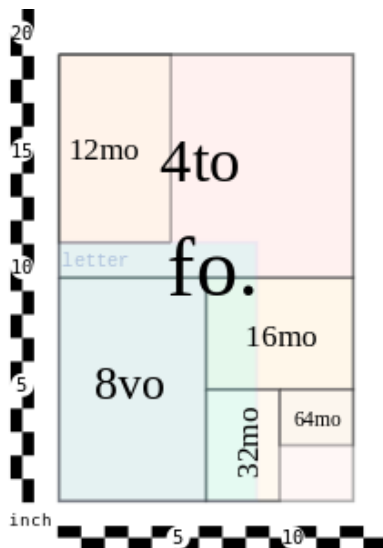
Quarto (4to) approximately 10" – 13" tall

Octavo (8vo), approximately 8" – 10" tall

Duodecimo (12mo), approximately 7" – 8" tall

Sextodecimo (16mo), approximately 6"– 7" tall

SEXAGESIMO or sixty-fourmo, (64mo), 3" tall, (our favorite)



*The chart shows the relationship of the various sizes, overlaid on a large paper sheet, the small black boxes represent 1" increments.*

I hope this is useful information for new readers. Also, be aware that the definitions are really guidelines; they change somewhat when you talk to them in terms of American vs British books and again when you convert the sizes into the metric system. A fun exercise is to take a few sheets of regular newspaper, trim them to the starting point of 19" x 25" and then test your folding skills. The first three of four larger sizes are not much of a problem but then the fun begins. The resulting ‘folded sets’ are the basis for a good conversation to explain the format of books to adults as well as children. 📖

## **SOME INTERESTING BOOK STUFF, INFORMATION SHARING:**

**The Creativity Caravan,** <http://thecreativitycaravan.com/>

The Creativity Caravan, The Tiny Book Show, attended the MBS Conclave, in McKinney, Texas this August 5th – 7th. Amy and Maya and MAUDE were a big hit with the Conclave audience. They are doing great things with miniature books. Please visit their site to learn more about their experiences and concepts.

**ABAA, Newsletter,** <http://www.abaa.org/blog> (sign-up for the newsletter)

The newsletter that is electronically distributed by the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America is a great source of bibliophile related information and ongoing events. The current issue has an interesting installment titled 'Rare Book Catalogs' by Rich Rennicks. Also included is a list of 'new' ABAA member/booksellers. Always something interesting, be it an article or a link.

**FBS, Newsletter,** <http://www.floridabibliophilesociety.org/>

Still summer and still hot, looking for a next newsletter in the September timeframe. The Florida Bibliophile Society's monthly 2016 newsletter is a well-done publication filled with great information and activities within the book world.

**Book Club of Detroit Newsletter,** <http://www.bookclubofdetroit.org/newsletter/>

The newsletter is printed three times a year and edited by Paula Jarvis who does an outstanding job keeping the readers informed about information of interest to the bibliophile. Waiting for the next issue in the Fall.

**Northern Ohio Bibliophilic Society,** <http://www.nobs.nobswed.org>

NOBS is another organization that is jammed pack with events and activities for their members. Upcoming events include the Cleveland Antiquarian Book and Paper Show, September 25, 2016. Check the website for more details

**Sotheby's,** <http://www.sothebys.com/en/auctions>

Want to know something about auctions and books, here is a good place to start.

**PBA Galleries,** <http://www.pbagalleries.com>

Another great auction site for the appraisal, sale and purchase of books. Online auctions are like a completely new world if you have never participated. Maybe you may want to browse 'Sale 603', miniature books, Rico Onuma Memorial Auction, books from the Lilliput Oval Saloon, Tokyo

**LBS/Archival Products,** <http://www.archival.com>

An interesting source of information for book people.



## Gravers and Files, fontscom

Dr. Arno Gschwendtner supplied the above address, the link points to a 45-minute video about the lost art of 'type punch cutting', one of the preliminary steps in the creation of 'type' that can be utilized for printing. The film is a journey into a time capsule of the work of P. H. Radisch at the firm of Joh. Enschedé in the Zonen Type Foundry in Holland. The video/film is historical, informative, and spellbinding. There are not many pieces of history filmed like this. Do not miss this, <https://vimeo.com/165201643>

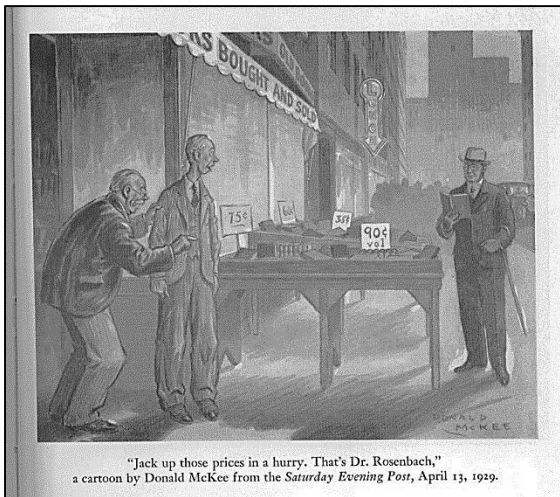
## Miniature Book Society, <http://www.mbs.org>

Be sure to visit this site as there should be some updates with the latest Newsletter as well as a full PDF copy of the 2016 Competition Catalogue.


## Hobart Book Village, <http://www.hobartbookvillage.com/>

Hay-on-Wye established itself as the first book town in the world and remains the most famous thanks to the pioneering efforts and promotional talents of Richard Booth. Book towns are essentially cooperative efforts and the fact that many have been launched to great fanfare and later sometimes fade into oblivion. One success that was featured over the summer in the 'Guardian', [local newspaper], <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/jun/05/hobart-new-york-book-village-hay-on-wye>. delves into the interesting back-story about how the Hobart Book Village came to be and how it continues to thrive. However, this is not the only 'book village' in the world. Do an online search, hit a few keys and you will find some great reading. If you want to read more about a 'book town' go back and look at the July 2012 issue of *The Microbibliophile* for a feature article on a 'book town'.

Collecting is an ever-changing educational experience. Being a miniature book collector can be a full time job. One thing leads to another as we travel the globe through the various publications and the electronic links. Pack your socks, get a map, and HAVE FUN. 📖



## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:

*Fine Books and Collections Magazine*, Summer 2016, a large format, full color, glossy magazine devoted to fine books, collections, and printing. The current issue contains two that were interesting to me: 'A Breath of Jane Eyre, revisiting Haworth' and 'An Introduction to Introductions', by Joel Silver, Director and Curator of Books at the Lilly Library. Contact information: Rebecca Rego Barry, Editor, 4905 Pine Cone Drive #2, Durham, NC, 27707, E-mail: [Rebecca@finebooksmagazine.com](mailto:Rebecca@finebooksmagazine.com), [www.finebooksmagazine](http://www.finebooksmagazine) 

## VISUAL BOOK DESCRIPTION, 'Spine Defective':

*'Reprinted from Slightly Foxed – but still desirable',  
by Ronald Searle,  
published by Souvenir Press 1989,  
43 Great Russell Street, London*

Priceless. 



## UPCOMING EVENT, 2017 Australian National Conference of Bookbinders:

The Canberra Bookbinders Guild is hosting a bookbinding conference in March 2017 in Canberra, the capital of Australia. The conference promises to be an exciting few days all about books and techniques with a jammed packed program with speakers from Australia and overseas. In conjunction to the conference there is an international exhibition of contemporary design bindings as well as an exhibition of miniature books bound by Australian and overseas binders. Both exhibitions will display a variety of techniques and materials used by binders around the world.

The organizing committee has been busy ensuring that the conference is something that all bookbinders will find an enjoyable and exciting experience. It will be a unique opportunity to meet other bookbinders with a passion for binding. The event is for all binders: those who are just starting out, those who are a bit experienced, and of course professional binders. More information about the conference and the exhibition; [www.canberrabookbinders.org.au](http://www.canberrabookbinders.org.au)

# THE ANATOMY OF AN AUCTION, RARE BOOKS AT RUXLEY LODGE

## A Book Review About A Journey Into the Shadows:

By Jim Brogan

There are all sorts of stories about booksellers and book buyers. We have all heard of the ‘great deal’, a ‘steal of a price’, ‘I should have bought it then’ and everything in between. Along our journey into the world of booksellers over this past year, a reader asked me if I had ever read the book *The Anatomy of an Auction, Rare Books at Ruxley Lodge, 1919*. I had not, so being the type of person who is always looking for new information I began to search for a copy of the book. It was originally published by The Book Collector, 1990, London, authored by Arthur Freeman and Jane Ing Freeman. Since the ‘after-market’ prices were a bit more than I wanted to pay for a casual read I was able to find a copy to borrow through the Rutgers University Library. The Freemans have been in the business of books for a long time and did some exhaustive research on the ‘Ruxley Lodge auction and settlement’.

The Introduction provides some interesting background facts about Ruxley Lodge. In October of 1919, the estate was being liquidated by the owner (he inherited the family property). The auction was well-publicized and contained 641 lots comprising about 13,600 volumes. Since the owner apparently had little interest in the estate or the library, the stage was set for some ‘business’. The auctioneers who handled the auction had little experience in the world of books and did not do a very good job on cataloguing the library, which had been accumulated over a three-hundred year period. ‘The Ring’ is formed when an agreement between a group of buyers act in concert with each other at an auction. In this way, the members of a ‘ring’ agree not to bid against one another and so, in the absence of any opposition during the auction, sale prices remain artificially low. After the initial sales are completed, the real work of the ring gets underway. The members then hold an auction ‘the settlement’ amongst themselves to ‘divvy’ up the treasures. At the Ruxley Lodge auction, the book-dealers ring was more than eighty strong and of the 641 lots of books offered, the ‘ring’ would come away with 453 of them, which included all the lots that contained any books of real value.

As the authors were doing their research, they came across an original catalogue that was annotated by one of the more prominent book dealers who was part of the ‘ring’, these notations were key to determining the workings of the ‘ring’.

The marked catalogue recorded both the prices realized in the public auction, at the lodge, and the prices at the ‘settlement’. Using these figures the authors show that prices paid at the public auction represented less than 20% of the actual value that the ring would receive at later sales. Additionally, knowing the outcomes of these various ‘settlements’ it was also possible for the authors to trace the books through the catalogues of the booksellers who participated in the ring and in many case to discover their eventual owners. Many of the best books traced by the authors in this way appear to have been sold to American collectors and have found their way into many institutional libraries as well. It should be remembered that in 1919 operating a ring was not illegal and the operation of such agreements had a history almost as long as public auctions. However so low were the prices at the Ruxley Lodge auction that it resulted in many public news articles. When ‘The Auctions Bidding Agreements Act 1927’ [England] came into law it did not completely do away with the ring, but it drove several nails into the coffins of these dark operations.

Overall, the entire book was written in a factual and investigation manner using many examples of data, which was researched by the authors. The various appendix tables actually chart various books from the public sale through the various ‘settlements’. The obvious question is ‘just how effective and profitable was the ‘ring’? As an example ‘Lot 26’ which was defined in Appendix III, page 144, as ‘*Shakespeare (WM), Comedies, Histories and Tragedies, Published according to the True Original copies First Edition, 1623, A very fine and perfect copy*’. Public auction price = 100 pounds sterling, Third Settlement price, = 1550 pounds sterling. A copy of the ‘First Folio’ for 1550 pounds, ‘I should have bought it’. Another part of the journey. 📖

## WHAT DO YOU WANT TO READ ABOUT NEXT YEAR, *The Microbibliophile 2017*

Each year *The Microbibliophile* has followed a general theme of information, Dickens, St. Onge, book collecting A-Z, famous miniature book people, antiquarian delights and formats, and booksellers. What is your fancy for the coming year? Anything and everything is on the table. Just a few thinking point; books about books, more about book collectors and their collections, the history of books, the future of books, anything and everything is a possibility. The choice is for you to decide and make suggestions, my job is to hit the keys and ‘stuff the envelopes’.

Please feel free to give me a call, send me an email, or snail mail, any format is fine, even a note written on one of last year’s holiday cards is fine with me. 📖

**Old Farmhouse Books** -- offering miniature books and ephemera to the discerning collector. Inquiries are always welcome and current and past catalog lists are available upon request to: [oldfarmhouse@gmail.com](mailto:oldfarmhouse@gmail.com) or [oldfarmhouse@myfairpoint.net](mailto:oldfarmhouse@myfairpoint.net). The newest list contains miniature books themed on the alphabet representing various authors, presses, and publishers. In the works is a listing of miniatures less than 1”x1”. All lists are set-up in Excel format. Thank you for your interest, Sherry 📖



Advertisement 📖

## CATALOGUES RECEIVED:

**Karen Nyman Miniature Books**, Catalog Number 63, Very well done and well organized for easy viewing, 100 items with many pictures, a very good selection of antiquarian, children's, and rare books in an electronic format catalogue. In addition, if you are on Karen's mailing list she also offers the 'special of the week book' at a good sale price.

Contact info: 702 Rosecrans Street, San Diego, CA 92106-3013; telephone 619-226-4441; website: [www.KarenNymanMiniatureBooks.com](http://www.KarenNymanMiniatureBooks.com), E-mail: [karennyman2@cox.net](mailto:karennyman2@cox.net)

**Between the Covers Rare Books**, 'New Arrivals, Catalogue 208, 8½" x 11"', is done on a fine white paper with color covers as well as 62 pages. The catalogue contains nothing about miniature books but provides the details of 146 different offerings many autographed and inscribed items.

Contact info: 112 Nicholson Road, Gloucester City, NJ 08030, telephone 856-456-8008; website: [www.betweenthecovers.com](http://www.betweenthecovers.com), E-mail: [mail@betweenthecovers.com](mailto:mail@betweenthecovers.com)

**Oak Knoll Press**, Catalogue Number 311, Antiquarian Online catalogue. profusly illustrated color online catalogue with 32 miniatures, some very hard to find items included.

The online catalogue is very easy to navigate and offers seven major groups of books. They even have a 'new' feature that will allow you to convert the purchase price to currencies other than the U.S. dollar, if you so choose. Be sure to get included on their mailing list as there is always something new lighting up your screen or mailbox.

Contact info: 310 Delaware Street, New Castle, DE 19720, telephone 800-996-2556; website: [www.oakknoll.com](http://www.oakknoll.com), E-mail: [oakknoll@oakknoll.com](mailto:oakknoll@oakknoll.com)

**Raptis Rare Books**, 2016 Catalogue, illustrated color glossy catalogue of 105 pages, 8½" x 11". Excellent photographic images of each item, as an example, a first edition of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, 1813, or *Tender Is The Night*, by F.Scott Fitzgerald, or maybe *The Winning of the West*, by Theodore Roosevelt. All autographed and or inscribed.

Contact info: 147 Orchard Street, Brattleboro, VT, 05301, telephone 802-579-1580; website: [raptisrarebooks.com/blog-main](http://raptisrarebooks.com/blog-main), E-mail: [mail@raptisrarebooks.com](mailto:mail@raptisrarebooks.com)

**Bromer Booksellers**, E-Catalogue, Children's Books, 76 items, quoted from the catalogue description, "Nothing is extraneous in the material that shapes childhood: the words and pictures in books, the object of games—all these things are designed to teach something about what we are expected to become". Many items offered at 50% sale.

Contact info: 607 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116, telephone 617-247-2818; website: [www.bromer.com](http://www.bromer.com), E-mail: [books@bromer.com](mailto:books@bromer.com)

Catalogues and the booksellers are wonderful friends and great resources. Catalogues are like a bag of penny candy for me, just dig in and do not stop until you finish the last piece. Keep them in a basket next to your reading chair; summer or winter; it is always fun to revisit a catalogue, what more can I say? 📖

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Rochester Antiquarian Book Fair**, Rochester, NY, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Additional information: <http://www.rochesterbooksellers.com/>

**Bloomsbury Book Fair**, London, England, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Additional information: <http://www.bloomsburybookfair.com>

**Papertown, Boxborough, MA**, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Additional information: <http://www.flamingoeventz.com/show-calendar.html>

**Wigtown Book Festival**, Wigtown, Scotland, September, 23<sup>rd</sup>- October 02, 2016

Additional information: <http://www.wigtownbookfestival.com/around-the-festival/accessibility>

**Cleveland Antiquarian Book Show**, Shaker Heights, OH, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Additional information: <http://www.abaa.org/events/details/nobs-cleveland-antiquarian-book-paper-show>

**Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair**, Boston, MA, October 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Additional information: <http://www.abaa.org/events/details/40th-annual-boston-international-antiquarian-book-fair>

**Long Island Antiquarian Book Show**, Brookville, NY, November 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Additional information: <http://www.abaa.org/events/details/the-long-island-book-fair>

**International Miniature Bookbinding Competition**, In the Netherlands, 2016, the competition will be hosted by the Stichting Handboekbinden and exhibited by the Meermanno Museum in The Hague. More information to follow as it becomes available via Tine Krijnen, who is a subscriber located in the Netherlands, E-Mail: [miniaturboekbinden.tinekrijnen@quicknet.nl](mailto:miniaturboekbinden.tinekrijnen@quicknet.nl), you can also check the organization's website [www.stichting-handboekbinden.eu](http://www.stichting-handboekbinden.eu).

**Australian Contemporary Bookbinding Exhibition**, Canberra, Australia,

February 10<sup>th</sup> – March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Additional information: <http://www.canberrabookbinders.org.au/news/conference-2017/australian-contemporary-bookbinding-exhibition-2017/>

**Canberra Craft Bookbinders Guild**, Australian National Conference,

Canberra, Australia, March 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

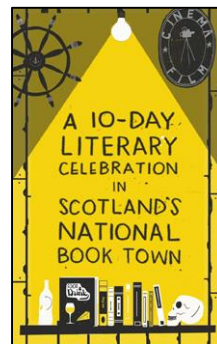
Additional information:

<http://www.canberrabookbinders.org.au/news/conference-2017/programme/overview/>

**MBS Conclave**, Oakland, CA, August 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Additional information: <http://www.mbs.org>

No reason to stay home, pack a lunch, get your hat, get on your bicycle, and meet some new friends! 📖





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***THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE* November 2016 FRONTISPIECE:  
‘Write the Story for the November Issue’:**

Here is your opportunity to become an accomplished and published ‘master of the pen’. The image will be used as the frontispiece for the November 2016 issue of *The Microbibliophile*.

‘Big Books, Small Books, the Journey is Universal’



A pile of books, a cup of coffee, and your favorite chair, what a recipe for ‘naptime’. The old man in the chair is a common scene around the world. After a busy day of working in the shop, answering an endless amount of questions, and looking for your spectacles, it is nice to relax in the chair, look at a few books, and watch the moonbeams twinkle in through the window and feel the glow of the crackling fire on your cheeks. Over the past year, we have featured various frontispieces depicting booksellers across the many centuries. Our selection for this closing issue of 2016 is universal in the timeline of life.

What do you see in the illustration? Is there some story within the picture that you would like to tell? The pen is all yours to match up with the paper. Tell us your story.

The deadline for submitting articles for the November 2016 issue will be October 15, 2016, electronic or paper submissions, either way, the choice is yours,

Email: [editor@microbibliophile77.com](mailto:editor@microbibliophile77.com) or

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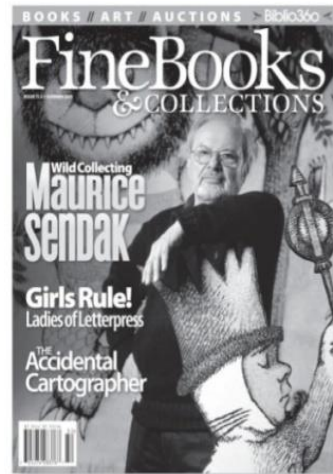
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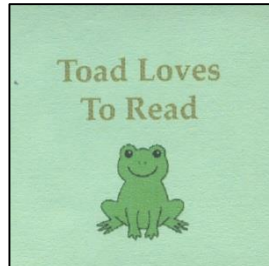
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As a feature for subscribers, *'The Microbibliophile'* will offer a classified listing service with each issue. Each message should be no more than 250 characters. Send your information to the Editor for inclusion in the next issue.

Darleen Cordova is looking for (Hazeltine) Piso Pocket Book Almanac for 1918 to complete her set and two books written by Francis J. Weber: the 1997 regular edition of *Dogs at the California Missions*, (REM Miniatures) and the 1969 vellum bound edition of *What Happened to Junipero Serra?* (Bela Blau).  
Contact information: E-mail: [c.cordova@sbcglobal.net](mailto:c.cordova@sbcglobal.net) or call (714) 808-9648.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:kkbakunas@gmail.com)

Karen Nyman is looking for two volumes she lacks from *The Cabinet of Lilliput*, by John Harris. Here are the missing titles: *Jacob the Fisherman*, etc., and *Julia and the Dog*, etc.  
Contact information: E-mail: [karenynyman2@cox.net](mailto:karenynyman2@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](mailto:Pistner@me.com)


Caroline Brandt would like to find a copy of *Robin Crusoe* and *The Happy Flower* published by Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. Contact information: 1500 Westbrook Court #1109, Richmond, VA 23227, or call 804-200-1260

Stephen Byrne is looking for a Gleniffer Press; *3 Point Gill Titling Catalogue*.  
Contact information: E-mail: [sb@finalscore.demon.co.uk](mailto:sb@finalscore.demon.co.uk)

Arno Gschwendtner is looking for a French miniature book (MB) ca. 1830: Bernardin: Paul et Virginie (printed from Didot) - he wants to write an article about this book - please send pictures (and an offer) of your edition. He is also looking for 'Special Editions' of the Catharijne Press as well as Editions du Capricorne from Anick Butre (France). In addition, for interesting MBs older than 200 years and especially for special bindings.  
Contact information: E-mail: [arno.gschwendtner@gmx.ch](mailto:arno.gschwendtner@gmx.ch) or +41/78/8542422

Jim Brogan is looking for a volume from REM publications; *REM Miniatures, A Record and A Sampler, Part III*, a 'miniature scroll' with decorative wrapper and tie ribbon, 1<sup>15/16</sup>" x 6'  
Contact information: E-mail: [jbrogan1@verizon.net](mailto:jbrogan1@verizon.net)



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Email: editor@microbibliophile77.com

**(Deadline for November issue is October 15<sup>th</sup>)**

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