

THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE®

A Bimonthly Journal about Miniature Books and the Book Arts

Volume XXXVI Number 2, Issue 206 March, 2017



Spring is In The Air, At Last

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"How The Story Begins..." by Sherry Mayo



As I look upon the smiling faces of our two readers above, my thoughts turn to the factors that begin the journey of reading. What captures one's attention and draws him or her into the author's tale. Is it that oft used introductory line, "Once upon a time" with its promise of fairies, ogres, knights, princesses, and dragons? These are the gentler kind of "make-believe" that leads one down an imaginary path of adventure with a predictable heroic ending.

What were the opening words of the stories that drew you into a book? For me, it was usually the sounds of mystery, "It was a dark and stormy night," "The damp, foggy air was suddenly pierced with a ghostly wail", "The cowboy found himself surrounded by..." The promise of action beckoned me into the story as the images play-out in my mind. Of course, I always identified with the protagonist and each became my ally as we battled the "bad" guys.

Nancy Drew, The Hardy Boys, Tom Swift, and the cowboys of Zane Grey were the playmates of my mind and planted the seeds of a fertile and inquisitive imagination that thrives on the quest to "solve" the mystery! However, there were real life challenges to finding the time and place to join my "playmates" and immerse myself in the unfolding stories. I had younger siblings – pesky little distractions that had yet to acquire a passion for the escape books offer.

Still, my reading brought an expansion of knowledge and sometimes a bit of skull drudgery learned allowed me to out-smart the lesser readers. During certain periods of the year, masses of Tumbleweeds would gather in the field behind our home. If you are not familiar with these prickly round beasts, let me just state that with enough of them formed into an igloo shape, with one pulled into place behind me as a door, I had a fairly impenetrable fortress.

(continued on page 11)

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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:

Tempus Fugit, how does time go by so quickly. Seems like we were just finishing up the Thanksgiving turkey and here we are getting the peas ready to be planted in the garden. Punxsutawney Phil did see his shadow on February 2, which according to the laws of nature means that there will be six more weeks of winter. I am not sure if it is still winter where you live but here in New Jersey we had a string of days in mid February where the temperature climb past 60 degrees. Old Phil must be watching too much late night television since he obviously did not really see his shadow.

The first bit of news is that the new and improved website for *The Microbibliophile* (version 1) has been built and ‘turned on’ for your viewing pleasure. The address of the site is www.themicrobibliophile.com. The site has some interesting features such as a special section for ‘young bibliophiles’, exclusive ‘web’ content, and a ‘blog’ that I hope will prove interesting for everyone. Please visit the site and let me know what you think. I am interested in your suggestions, comments, and criticism. More eyes and ideas are the route to a successful venture.

Sometimes it is fun to revisit the words of favorite books to refresh your mind. A great example is Msgr. Francis Weber’s *Dean of Microbibliophiles*, *Wilbur Macey Stone*. Stone as you may know, was an early 20th century collector and spokesman for miniature books. Weber quotes one of Stone’s writings as he [Stone] “became bogged down in the quagmire of miniature books”. Already a collector of juveniles, Stone began to realize that “little people like little books”. How true the message was when written and how true today. One of the focal points of our new web site will be information and activities for young bibliophiles. Certainly, the printed version of *The Microbibliophile* will continue to bring the readers the diverse set of subjects as all our readers enjoy and look forward to with each issue. However, young people have proven that they prefer their knowledge content to be delivered in forms that change rapidly, sometimes daily, and can be viewed in a mobile format. I do not believe that the printed media will die anytime soon but we have to recognize the fact that a large portion of our audience and future bibliophiles prefers a digital portal for their quest for information.

Our March issue of *The Microbibliophile* provides several new miniature book reviews from Plum Park Press, Bo Press, and the Cider Press with a great selection of journal contributions. You know my feelings about the value of diversity and all of the special benefits that can be brought to the pages of *The Microbibliophile* with some strokes of your pen. Keep sending me your feedback and suggestions as well as articles. I would especially like to request some information about you ‘the collector’. The feature ‘Meet the Collector’ opens the door for both the reader as well as the writer, sharing is certainly part of our culture, so share, and ‘speak’ as if we are at the Sunday dinner table.

Share *The Microbibliophile* with a friend, we all like to talk about miniature books, which is our passion. Please look at your bookshelves, there most certainly is a story there that you will want to share. How about ‘My First Miniature Book’? Thank you for the opportunity to bring *The Microbibliophile* into your life. 📖



FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

“The broad foundation upon which our Constitution rests being the people—a breath of theirs having made, as a breath can unmake, change, or modify it – it can be assigned to none of the great divisions of government but to that of democracy.”

(Inaugural Address March 4, 1841)
Ninth President of the United States, 1841 -1841

William Henry Harrison, 1773 - 1841



MINIATURE BOOK REVIEWS and CRITICISM:



Crown of Aves, by Pat Sweet. The book is a visual feast, a study of the headgear of avian royalty. There are thirty very colorful illustrations and your eyes are permitted to enjoy the images and the colors without any textual distractions.

The images of the birds come from a three-volume set *Bird's Peerage of Aves, A Natural History of the Birds* originally published in 1738 by W. Innys and R. Manby, written and compiled by W. Derham and E. Albin. The collection of bird ‘headgear’ included with the miniature were selected from the original 205 illustrations. The addition of the ‘crowns’, by Pat

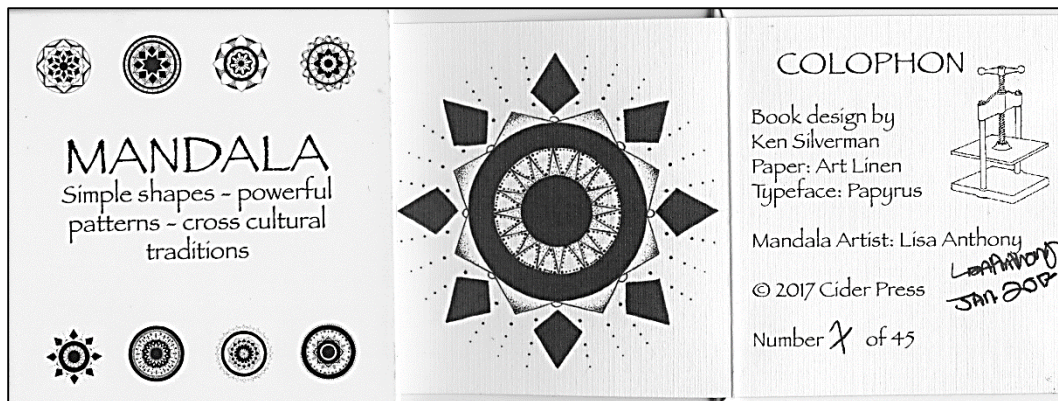
Sweet, brings a bit of contemporary meaning to the 1738 drawings. The publisher’s comment about the amended illustrations is “the still, beady-eyed stare of these aristocrats make the immense pomposity of the crowns fairly comic”.

The *Crowns of Aves* is available in two sizes, 2³/₈" x 2¹/₂" and a micro miniature version, which is 1" x 1", each bound with 48 pages and the same illustration set. Both versions are quarter bound with a cream ‘leather’ and a very decorative paper with a cover and spine label attached. The fonts utilized are



Jensen and Kunstler Script on a Monarch Superfine paper. Both versions are offered at \$36, plus shipping and handling. The *Crowns of Aves* is another fine adaptation and presentation by Bo Press. 📖

Contact information: Pat Sweet, Bo Press, 231 E. Blaine St., Riverside, CA, 92507-3230
E-mail: info@bopressminiaturebooks.com or www.bopressminiaturebooks.com



Cover

Image

Colophon

Mandala, by Ken Silverman, published at his private press, Cider Press, 2017. *Mandala* is the third book that Ken has produced. The first was *Watercolor* and it was followed by *Words*, in 2015. Both were the collaborative efforts of Ken and his wife Nina Mazzo.

Mandala is an accordion format book with nine very intricate circular black and white graphic images that were created by Lisa Anthony. There is an additional image in color on the rear cover. The printing quality is excellent and it allows you to view the fine details of each image. The typeface used is Papyrus and the text page paper is Art Linen, which is a 'bright white' paper with a fine texture. The page size is 3" x 2³/₄" and the total dimension of the finished binding is just a bit larger than 3". The book is bound in a bright white leatherette material, similar to their first two books. The front and back covers have a slight magnetic 'pull' to them that aligns the pages and keeps the accordion neatly in place. There are 45 copies in the edition; the price is \$30, including shipping, my copy was signed by Ken and Lisa.

Mandala is a perfect example of how a creative team with drive and ambition can join together their artistic thoughts and ideas to produce a fine miniature book which reflects their passions as well as show others that 'it can be done'. Congratulations on your efforts. 📖

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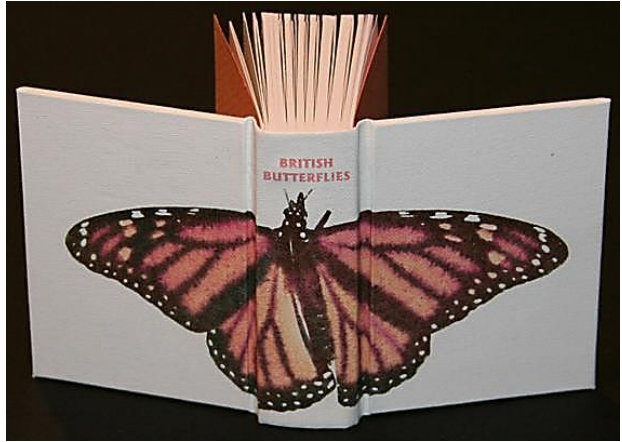
British Butterflies, by William S. Furneaux [1855 – 1940], originally published in 1894 and published as a miniature this year by Tony Firman at his Plum Park Press. Furneaux was a British science teacher and nature writer who wrote five different books dealing with butterflies, animals, and plants found in the English countryside.

I admit this is the first book that I have read about the subject of butterflies. When the original was published, it was actually 'Part III' of a larger book set; *Butterflies and Moths*. We are all familiar with the butterfly as a frequent

visitor to our gardens, but who other than an expert, could imagine that there was so much detail to be documented and learned about butterflies.

The miniature is divided into five major groups, with a subset crossing over eight families. Each group is documented as a major portion of the book with a set of illustrations to guide the reader. The illustrations are printed so that they cross the verso and recto pages of the book and give the reader a very detailed image of each subject. The miniature has eight different family 'fold-out plates', each done as a 'three-page color illustration' showing the various butterflies of the families. The plates are printed and 'fold-out' so that the reader can study the individual pictures along with the documented names of the butterflies. The paper used for these plates is a gloss material, HP Brochure 180 g/m²) which enhances the printed images to a high-resolution image. The names of the groups are as intriguing as the pictures: the Swallowtails, the Purple Emperor, the Browns and the Heaths, the Hairstreaks, and the Duke of Burgundy. *British Butterflies* is an educational journey for the newcomer lepidopterist as well as an excellent reference manual for the study of Lepidoptera, the scientific name for the order of insects that includes moths and butterflies.

The book is bound in a white cloth material on which is printed a color image of a monarch butterfly spanning both the front and rear cover as well as the spine. The publisher explained in the advanced 'publication flier' that the cover monarch is not a 'British' butterfly but the American Monarch which rests in great numbers at the home of Plum Park Press, during their annual migration from the Great Lakes to Central Mexico. The endpapers are a warm orange color to reflect the cover image. *British Butterflies* is 3" x 2³/₈" and encompasses 240 pages with a 7/8 point Garamond font. The text paper is Navigator Platinum 75 g/m². The miniature is part of an edition of 20 copies, \$65 each, plus \$5 shipping and handling. 📖



Contact information: Tony Firman, PO Box 507, Haslet, TX 76052
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Christmas is Coming, by Pat Sweet, published by Bo Press Miniature Books, 2014. Christmas is not coming early this year, but I just saw the little gem on the publisher's website and wanted to be sure that it was not forgotten as many of our readers collect Christmas books. The added bonus is that *Christmas is Coming* is available in both a regular miniature size as well as a micro miniature version.

The nursery rhyme and Christmas carol can more than likely be traced to an early Victorian origin. There are many variations of the words but the lyric to which it is generally sung is attributed to Edith Nesbit Bland [1858 – 1924] an English children's book

author.

The words of the rhyme are:

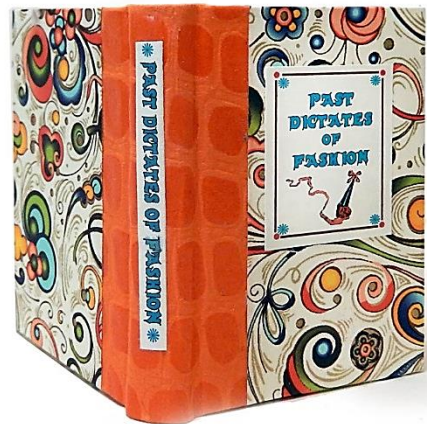
*Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat
Please do put a penny in the old man's hat
If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do
If you haven't got a ha'penny, then God bless you!*

The publisher has illustrated and printed the rhyme on flowing gold color banners across the print pages and the last page contains a playful fold-out to reveal the final line of verse. The miniature is $2\frac{3}{16}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " and the micro miniature is $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $\frac{5}{8}$ ". Each is bound in a festive green and gold marbled paper with a gold title label affixed to the cover. A great addition for your collection of Christmas miniatures, priced at \$24 for either edition. 📖

Past Dictates of Fashion, by Cromwell Q. Snyder, published by Pat Sweet, 2017, Bo Press Miniature Books.

Most readers know that publishing books is a 'second life' for Pat and her first was working in the fashion and movie industry. Hence, this book is a natural for Pat; who else could bring such a subject to the world of miniature books. A long time ago there was the 'Strand Magazine', and in 1893, they published an article by W. Cade Gall, titled 'Future Dictates of Fashion', a spoof which looked forward in time. The timeline is explained with this brief opening line from the Preface;

"An elderly gentleman of our acquaintance, whose reading has been rather desultory than profound, and tending rather to the quaint and speculative, was astonished recently at coming across a



volume in his library of whose very existence he had been completely unaware. This volume was oblong in shape, was bound in mauve morocco, and was called "Past Dictates of Fashion; by Cromwell Q. Snyder, Vestamentorum Doctor".

Pat explains in her Foreword that the illustrations that she selected would be "what the 1893 reader would see as a 'look into the future, 1993. I've selected pieces of Dr. Snyder's text to accompany Mr. Gall's costumes, to further the sensation of dropping down the temporal rabbit hole and possibly back up again".



The first plate in the book is dated 1893 and states "The costumes of the lady and gentleman are familiar enough, although we note with surprise that the gentleman's coat-tails seem to have a crinoline cast, and if the turned-up bottoms of his trousers are a little mortifying, it is atoned for by a triumphant attitude which disarms hypercriticism. Also the lady's posture makes it difficult for us to tell whether it is a stick or an umbrella she is carrying."

Another plate of a lady's costume, which is dated 1922, reveals, "We have presented a very rational and beautiful style of dress. The skirt, it is true, is short enough to alarm prim contemporary dames, and it is scarcely less assuring to find in the whole of the remaining plates only three periods when it seems to have got longer. But doubtless the very ample cloak, which is so long that it even trails upon the ground, extenuated and in some degree justified its shortness."



The journey continues with this whimsical look at how the fashions of our lives may have evolved. The book is 2⁵/₈" x 2" and is printed on 78 pages utilizing 'Mops' and 'Candles' fonts which certainly enhance the many illustrations. It is bound in a brightly colored paper printed with goggles and swirls, which capture the world of Cromwell Q Snyder. The spine is bound in a shiny orange alligator skin paper. There is a title label on the front cover as well as the spine, \$42, contact the publisher for your purchase. 📖



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Eve's Diary, by Mark Twain, originally published in 1905 by 'Harper's Bazaar Magazine', as a book by Harper & Brothers, London and New York, 1906, and this miniature version by Plum Park Press, 2017. Well, here is a book that certainly caused some chafe in the wind when it first appeared almost 112 years ago. Who other than Mark Twain could have obtained the original manuscript, which was purported to be the diary of Eve, written no less than in the Garden of Eden? Twain with all of the magic his pen contained, was able to 'translate' the original document and bring it to his early 20th century readers. When the first book version when it was published is contained 55 illustrations by Lester Ralph, one on each verso page. Things being what they were in 1906, a library in Massachusetts 'banned' the book for the illustrations of Eve in her 'summer costume'. Twain did not make much of it until he was called to testify before the United States Congress about the illustrations. I can just see the image of Twain in the 'halls of congress' in his white suit proclaiming;

"It seems curious to me — some of the incidents in this case. It appears that the pictures in Eve's Diary were first discovered by a lady librarian. When she made the dreadful find, being very careful, she jumped at no hasty conclusions — not she — she examined the horrid things in detail. It took her some time to examine them all, but she did her hateful duty! I don't blame her for this careful examination; the time she spent was, I am sure, enjoyable, for I found considerable fascination in them myself." (reported from the 'Washington Herald', 1906)

The story is in the style of a diary authored by Eve. It is written in a 'first person' account by Eve from her creation up to her burial by Adam, some 40 years later. The book does not have a chapter format but the story unfolds with a text that is supported by the 55 line drawing illustrations.

The first line of the opening text reads; "Saturday, I am almost a whole day old now. I arrived yesterday". Twain was certainly a master of the pen and word. The accounts of Eve's thoughts, explorations, and discoveries go on to guide the reader through the story. The written messages are both witty and whimsical and certainly reflect Twain's thoughts on women and his irreverence toward conventional religion. It is one of those books that you start to read and just keep turning the pages until you are done.

There is some research to suggest that the book may have been written as a posthumous love-letter by Twain to his wife, Olivia Langdon Clemens, who died in 1904. The last illustration of the book is of an aged Adam sitting at the grave of Eve. The closing line of text is: "Wherever she was. THERE was Eden."

As I previously mentioned, the illustrations when originally published caused somewhat of a 'roar', today they are considered just delightful. The tome is published with all of the illustrations that were done for the 1906 edition and the book follows the format of the original as well using the verso pages for the illustrations. The book is bound with boards covered in a dark red faux leather, as one might expect a diary to be. The endpapers are a coordinated red and gray marbled paper, a red ribbon bookmark is included, and the title label is affixed to the spine. The typeface is



The first illustration

a combination of Bible Script 6.5 pt. and Cheltenham 7 pt. The text paper utilized is Navigator Platinum 90 g/m². The edition is set at 20 copies, sized at 2^{15/16}" x 2^{1/4}", each signed by the publisher, and priced at \$45 plus \$5 shipping and handling. The construction and binding of the tome is of excellent quality as is the printing of the text and the intricate line illustrations. Well Done! 📖

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FRONTISPIECE (continued),
By Sherry Mayo

on other occasions, my den was on a side hill covered with prickly cactus plants under which I had rooted tunnels to a center location. From that lofty spot, I could spy on my siblings and satiate my appetite for mysterious adventures with Nancy Drew, et al. Then at other times, when I could not steal away, I would simply climb into the upper branches of a willow or oak tree in the yard.

Another series was introduced to me by my grandparents during my first stay for the summer on their sprawling chicken farm, The Bobbsey Twins. Not quite the mystery and thrill of criminology of the other series, but they still held my attention. Many lazy, summer afternoons were whiled away on an old porch swing immersed in the everyday life of Ned and Nell dreaming of visits to fabulous places.

Transcribing these memories have cause me to ponder, what stories and which protagonist will our children and grandchildren speak about when their children are grown? Did you read to your children or grandchildren? What legacy of literature have we passed along to our progeny? Have you shared your passion for books – real books, and especially miniatures, with the children and young adults in your life and/or community?

The choices one makes today concerning the sharing of books will impact many for generations to come like dominoes falling in cadence through the years. It would be wonderful if you could set aside a bit of time and pen your thoughts and/or experiences to share with the readership for the next issue. 📖

OBITUARY,
Barbara J. Raheb

Barbara [April 29, 1933 – February 25, 2017] was an extraordinary book publisher having completed more than 500 different books through her Pennyweight Press in California. She had said at one time that she had always dreamed of being a child's book illustrator when she was young. Barbara's work with miniature books was sparked by her visit to Queen Mary's Dolls' House in 1972. Affectionately known as 'the biggest little book publisher'. She will be certainly missed by all the members of the miniature book community. 📖

OLD AND RARE, **By Robert F. Orr Hanson:**

Over the years of publishing my miniature books, I have highlighted something about the lives of authors and artists. Writers include: John Steinbeck, Ernest Hemingway, and John London while artists include Georgia O'Keefe and Dr. Seuss. So, when I viewed a recent television episode of Antique Roadshow which featured a literary look at Robert Frost and his book, *A Boy's Will*, I remembered, while living in Florida, a community magazine published my article on the American poet in 1981. Maybe the time has come that someone should publish a miniature book about this New England poet.

Robert Frost - American Poet

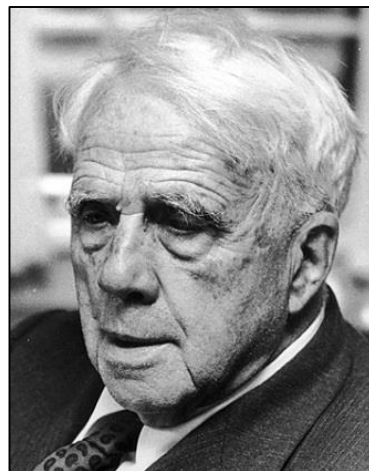
It may be that the only time many people learned about Robert Frost and his poetry was at the Presidential Inauguration of John F. Kennedy on January 20, 1961. At the age of 87, Frost recited his poem, *The Gift Outright*, which he had written 20 years before. However, Robert Frost wrote many other poems and many books of poetry over his long span of years. To some admirers, he comes close to being this country's 'Poet Laureate'.

Born in San Francisco in 1874, Frost and his family moved back to New England after the death of his father when the young Robert was only ten years of age. New England was the land of several generations of the Frost family, and no doubt, his widowed mother felt more secure there.

As a young man, Frost attended Dartmouth College and Harvard University for a short time, but withdrew because of health reasons. From 1906 to 1912, he taught school, and then took his wife and children to England for three years. It was there his first book of poems, *A Boy's Will*, was published and in 1914 it was followed by *North of Boston*. In 1915, he returned to New England and taught at various universities-Amherst, Harvard, Dartmouth, and the University of Michigan-for the remaining years of his life. He died in Boston on January 29, 1963.

Robert Frost received the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry four times: 1924, 1931, 1937, and 1943. His poetry was especially esteemed because he used uncomplicated language, wrote of early New England, and developed, to a high degree, the art of writing rhymed iambic pentameter couplets. Along the way, he was honored with 40 honorary degrees, was an ambassador of Good Will for the State Department of the United States, was a consultant to the Library of Congress, and at the age of 88, was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

Many books have been written about his poetry - books of interpretation, criticism, and biography. In 1981, a collection of letters, *Robert Frost and Sidney Cox - Forty Years of*



Friendship, was released. This book is the third collection of Frost's correspondence to his closest friends: Cox, Louis Untermeyer, and John Bartlett.

Robert Frost wrote countless letters, signed and inscribed many books and manuscripts, and even participated in an annual commercial venture at Christmas, which resulted in thirty-five Robert Frost Christmas pamphlets. However, one book collector tells of the fact that a package of 27 letters Frost wrote to J.J. Lankes (illustrator of *Frost's New Hampshire*) realized \$11,500 at a 1965 auction.

A one page letter written on 12 January, 1936 (Frost to Robert Ballou 'about his writing habits') brought \$400 while another one page letter, written on 24 November, 1939 (Frost to Joseph Auslander, 'about Frost manuscripts bought by the Library of Congress') fetched \$425 at a 1973 auction. Finally an autographed manuscript poem, *On Looking Up by Chance At the Constellations*, brought \$2,000 at a 1969 auction. It contained 16 lines on one page, was signed and dated 1928 and was extensively corrected - with several lines crossed out.

However, there is one little - known fact about the author's first book-(not his first published book, though) that bears mention. In 1894, Frost had just two copies of *Twilight* printed and bound in leather by a job printer in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He kept one copy and gave the other to a girl at St. Lawrence University. The Frost copy was sold for \$5,000 in 1940 to a notable Frost collector. The other copy, who knows, maybe in a trunk or on a bookshelf.

Some Collectors Books by Robert Frost

A Boy's Will (Author's first published book) London, 1913, first edition, first issue. \$700
(current 2017 market price of this book today is \$20,000)

Another copy. Inscribed, first edition, second issue. \$275.

Another copy. Inscribed, first edition, fourth issue. \$130.

A Witness Tree. New York, 1942, first edition, signed. \$80.

Complete Poems, Limited Editions Club, 1/1500 copies, 1950. \$150.
(current 2017 market price of this book today is \$2,500)

New Hampshire. Hanover, NH, 1955, 1/750 copies, signed \$35.

*Note: The above book auction prices were realized in 1976-1977
(current 2017 market price of this book today is \$3,600)*

West Running Brook. New York, 1928, first edition, signed on reark endpaper, torn dust wrapper tucked in, very good condition. \$50.

Steeple Bush. New York, 1947, first edition, dust wrapper, 62 pages, excellent condition. \$22.
*Note: The above book auction prices were realized in 1976-1977
(current 2017 market price of this book today is \$7,500)*

There you have it!



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MEET THE BOOKMAN, James M. Dourgarian, ABAA:

Editor's Note: In the January 2017 issue of 'The Microbibliophile' we published an article written by Nina Mazzo, 'Little Books With A Big Job'. The article described some of the special books that were printed in a small physical size during WWII so that they could be easily distributed and carried by the troops. Nina acquired a few of these books from a bookseller that is located near her home in California. As is true so often in the world of miniature books, one thing leads to another, stories are exchanged, friendships are developed, and the journey continues. The following article is reprinted, with permission, from the blog that James maintains.

Sometimes you get lucky. Other times — not so much.

Not long ago I was this close to acquiring a particularly special book. Oh, I've bought and sold any number of precious items, wonderful books, some of which might even have been unique, but this specific book would have put me in rarified air. I would have purchased (and then hopefully sold) a book that I might never acquire again in my career — at least at my age. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime book. If I was 25 instead of 65, I might have another shot at one, but I can't change my age and when this book slipped through my fingers, I felt a body blow that still hurts. If you think I am being evasive about the particulars, you are correct.

Then I got lucky. And on this occasion I can be specific. Followers of this blog (you know who you are, and I thank you) may remember a post a few months ago where I married together two books that had been separated by decades. To recap, a New York bookseller sold one of my customers a book titled *Nuit Sans Lune*, a French translation of John Steinbeck's *The Moon Is Down*. This was in 1971. This is a book that was dropped by airplane by resistance forces over German-occupied territories during World War II. Why this book? It tells a tale in which a country can be over-run by an evil regime, but wherein its people can never be truly conquered. This same bookseller also sold a signed galley proof of the American edition of *The Moon Is Down*, complete with a clamshell case, to another bookseller in Southern California at the same time. Fast forward a few decades when I acquired that galley proof from the Southern California bookseller, and then sold it and its clamshell case, which had a special section created for *Nuit Sans Lune* — then empty — to my customer. This was a fun transaction and made for a good story. If you like, check my blog archive for Oct. 14, 2013, a piece titled 'A Literary Mystery', for the full story.

Nuit Sans Lune is one of these once-in-a-lifetime books. I was aware of it when I first became acquainted with the customer who owned the book. This was back in the very early 1980s. I had never seen one. I knew of no one who had one. It wasn't listed in the Goldstone & Payne Steinbeck bibliography. It was not part of the historic Bradford Morrow catalogue. The only printed information on the book just came to the marketplace when my customer, Ken Holmes, published his *John Steinbeck A Descriptive Catalogue of the Holmes Collection*. See his D105 entry on page 219. This very tiny book, which doesn't name the author, doesn't name the translator, doesn't give a place of publication, the name of the publisher, or even the date of publication, sold at auction in 1945 for \$65. In that same sale you could have purchased an

immaculate copy of *The Grapes of Wrath* in like jacket for \$8. Does that give you some perspective as to its value and gravitas? It should.

I was sure I would never encounter a copy, but then the skies parted, light shone down upon me, and someone took pity on me and my previous bad experience. The handsome and brilliant (he made me say that) Michael Hollander, also an ABAA member, had read my blog entry, ‘A Literary Mystery’, and managed to acquire a copy of *Nuit Sans Lune* from a German dealer. Would I like to buy it? Damn right! It’s a tiny little thing. It can fit into the palm of your hand, and yet it packs a wallop as to its dollar value. It also packs a wallop as to its historic value. It also packs a wallop as propaganda that helped marshal resistance forces that ultimately helped defeat Hitler and helped save liberty for our democracy. I feel blessed in acquiring a copy. It stayed with me only two days before I sold it to an overjoyed customer who has a title collection for *The Moon Is Down* and now has some serious bragging rights. I’ll probably never see another copy, but for a short time I owned it. I held it. I enjoyed it. It spoke to me in ways that I can describe only as spiritual. It’s truly been a mystical experience. As a bookseller, you live for days like these. Some days are pedestrian. Some are like a religious experience. I like the latter. 📖

Sometimes you get lucky. Other times — not so much.

Title: Once in a While You Get Lucky, posted 1/13/2014

the link: <https://jimbooks.wordpress.com/2014/01/13/once-in-a-while-you-get-lucky/>

Title: Miniature Books, posted 2/23/2015

the link: <https://jimbooks.wordpress.com/2015/02/23/miniature-books/>

<<https://jimbooks.wordpress.com/2015/02/23/miniature-books/>>

(this is an interesting link that also highlights the work of Robert Hanson and his interest in Steinbeck)

Contact information: James M. Dourgarian, Bookman ABAA, 1595-A Third Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94597, telephone; (925)935-5033

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TERMS AND DEFINITIONS,

‘Letterpress’:

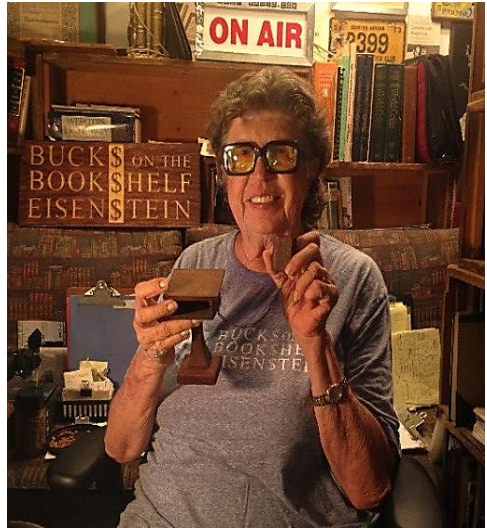
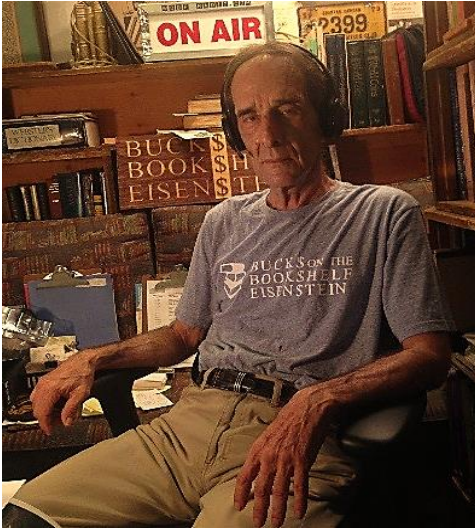
The association of the term letterpress to a particular book immediately defines that the book was printed in a special way. Historically, letterpress printing was done ‘from raised types or blocks as distinct from intaglio or lithographic plates. A feature of letterpress printing is its visual crispness due to the pressure on the type tending to concentrate the ink on the ‘edges’ of the letters’.

Beyond the visual unique attributes of letterpress, depending on the paper, press, and ink used you can, in some books, actually ‘feel’ the printed letters as you move your finger across the page.

Today, a certain type of letterpress printing can be executed with ‘rotary plates’ that work with a specially designed printing press. For an expanded discussion about letterpress printing presses, you can visit the *Encyclopedia of the Book*, by Geoffrey Ashall Glaister, published by the Oak Knoll Press. 📖

MEET THE COLLECTORS, BOOKSELLERS, AND RADIO HOST Steve and Edie Eisenstein:

Editor's Note: Steve and Edie are long time members of the MBS as well as subscribers to 'The Microbibliophile'. I know a lot of subscribers and members but these are the only two people that I know that host a weekly radio program about books. How unique is that! The story seemed to be intriguing and I asked them if they would like to do an article for 'The Microbibliophile'. The following segment serves as the beginning of a series as Steve and Edie have a shelf load of stories.



Steve and Edie, on the set of 'Bucks On The Bookshelf'

The last time I wrote for a periodical was many book sales ago. I hope I have not lost my touch. My entry into the wonderful world of all sizes of rare books began long before I met my wife. It happened on my first trip home from college intersession. The process, at first, was more akin to osmosis than effort. Osmosis grew into obsession. When I realized that 'This Book Collecting Racket' was an un-masterable challenge in any one lifetime. I realized it would be the ultimate lifelong challenge to master just one percent of it. I made my living working in resorts and hotels as a Cabana Manager at first. After a decade at the pool area, I made the change to being an Entertainment Director. The book business was, at the time, a growing hobby. I even had a store in one of the hotels in 1983.

Fast forward through many years of the Antiquarian Bookman's Weekly (RIP) book fairs, appraisals, articles and columns, and a store or two; it was March 1987. I was at a garage sale looking for books. I was the only rare book hunter in the house. A woman's voice rang out "how much are these old beer steins?" About a month before, for eight dollars, I bought a rare beer stein and had sold it for \$350.00 AND there was no competition for the books! We bought the three steins and a few books and have never left each other's side since then.

During the first few years, it was interesting to watch Edie decide on what she wanted to collect. At first it was erotica, then it went to older Judaica, and then to Presidential Autographs, which we still go after if we find a sleeper in a house sale or thrift shop. Not as easy as it once was! Then came that fateful day when Edie met Michael Garbett at the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair. Many great book stories could be told from the events of that day and their meeting. But I would digress and we can tell you those stories in another article. Her first book was a chained bible on the pedestal and she received a 45-minute private introduction to miniature books from Michael. As Edie has said, "no one was allowed to listen" to what Michael was telling her.

So miniature books became her passion. Back in the old A/B days, a dealer had run a box add for many years; 'Anything Cuba or Christopher Columbus'. I wound up buying the collection of the gentleman who paid the bill for this advertisement posted by another Florida dealer at that time. What was never in the advertisement was that this gentleman also had collected miniature books. I brought home the Cuba books I had to take the Columbus books. The 158 miniature books and the two book house bookcases went to form the foundation of Edie's collection.

I remember my first Long Island Antiquarian Book Fair. It took three car trips to set up the booth. About two booths away, at an hour before the show was to open, I noticed an empty booth. I asked why was it empty, the other dealers laughed and said 'watch he will be the last in and the first out'. I saw my first miniature book dealer.

Our first date was the Coral Gables library sale. About three years ago, we sold a book we bought that day for \$3,500. Therefore, it is no surprise that today Edie collects and cares for the books, when as a teacher, she would tell you that she underlined pages and remove dust jackets from books. If you spent a Saturday morning watching this book loving couple, you would see us setting up for two programs, which I hope you can join us for. How they came about is too long a story for this space but we hope to tell it and other stories to you in *The Microbibliophile*. 'BUCKS ON THE BOOKSHELF' is a radio program on Saturdays from 12:00 pm--2:00 PM EST on www.WDBFradio.com. We have been on the air since March of 2015. It is a live call in program. Please join in via the Internet and you too will have a good time. 📖

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E-mail: Edieeisenstein@aol.com or stevenabookabrac@aol.com*

MY FIRST MINIATURE BOOK

By Pat Pisner:

Editor's Note: With this article I would like to start an ongoing feature that is a place where our readers can contribute an article about themselves. While I was recently speaking with Pat about miniature books she provided the seeds for this flower of literature to grow. Please enjoy Pat's experiences and do think of a contribution about

'My First Miniature Book' or 'My First Foray Into the World of Miniature Books'.

I started making mini-books for my dollhouse at age 7, by cutting and pasting magazine pics onto 1" square pages and writing stories around them. The binding process was simple, yet effective, a staple! Unfortunately, my mother did not keep them. My next exposure was in the late 60's when a fascinating article appeared in the Chicago Tribune about Ruth Adomeit and her collection. In the mid 80's, when Steve and I began making a dollhouse for his young granddaughter, I uncovered a few Barbara Raheb books at a doll house fair. Thus began my gathering of Barbara's and other dollhouse scale books at fairs around the world. Putting a library in my miniature French townhouse was a life changing decision that spurred me onto becoming a true collector. However, a 1996 article in 'Miniature Collector' about Kal Levitan's collection led me to the MBS Conclave, which truly opened my eyes to the wonderful world of miniature books. 📖

AN EVENT 'DOWN UNDER', 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 with 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. More information about the conference and the exhibition; www.canberrabookbinders.org.au. 📖

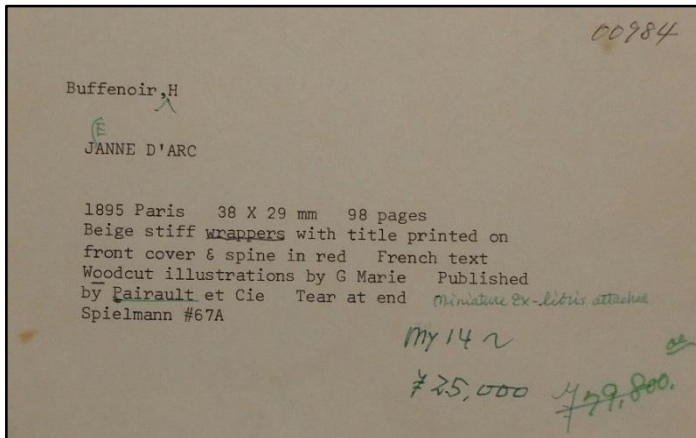


BOOK AUCTIONS, By Todd Sommerfeld:

Although the words ‘Book Auction’ conjure up romantic images of Guttenberg Bibles and First Folios, I had never participated in one before this past December. On December 8th, PBA Galleries held their ‘Miniature Books, Rico Onuma Memorial Auction, Part II’, about 5,000 books in 450+ lots. While I was unable to attend in person, I was able, through the magic of modern technology, to participate via live Internet feed. I was so impressed with the scope of the sale and the cool efficiency with which it was run that I had to find out how it all was put together. I spoke with Greg Jung who is Senior Specialist and Auctioneer at PBA. The details he shared with me are so fascinating that I thought you would like to know as well. Keep in mind that the auction involved about 5,000 miniature books that represented the inventory of a Japanese book dealer. So 5,000 books and at least that many miles separated the books from the dealer and the ultimate buyers.

It all started early in January 2016 when Greg arrived at work to find a fax, from Kazushige Onuma, owner of the Lilliput Oval Saloon miniature book store in Tokyo, inquiring if PBA would be interested in selling his stock and collection of miniature books. It is interesting to note that Mr. Onuma does not speak English, and he doesn't have a computer so all correspondence was conducted through an interpreter via fax. Of course Greg was very happy to handle such a unique sale, and in a week's time terms were agreed to and the books were on their way to San Francisco offices of PBA.

When the 40 boxes of miniature books arrived they were in no particular order so the monumental task of sorting them and estimating their values began. Greg started by separating



original Onuma catalogue card

the antique from the modern books, and then separated further by publisher. While none of the PBA appraisers were specifically miniature book experts (Greg has always had a fascination with them and the odd minis that made their way to PBA in the past always ended up on his desk), they have over 80 years of combined appraisal experience on which to draw on. The original Onuma catalog cards with prices were a big help in determining what was more or less valuable. They also made

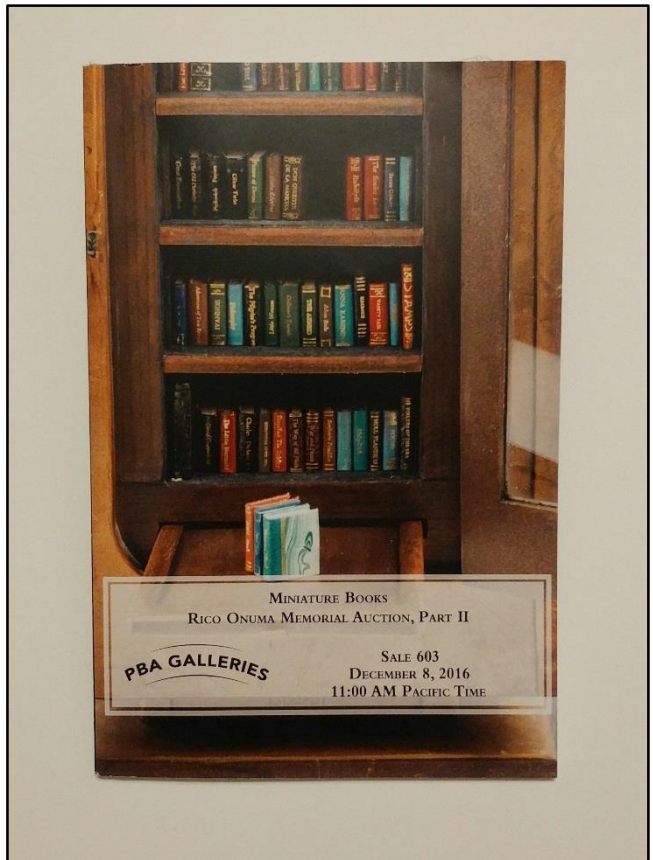
ample use of the ‘Welsh’ and ‘Bradbury’ bibliographies, the same volumes that many miniature book collectors have on their bookshelves.

Once the cream of the crop was identified, it was time to build a sale program and the catalog to accompany it. Descriptions were written and photographs were taken. All the work was done in time to have the catalogs available at the 2016 MBS Conclave in McKinney, Texas. On August 18th, Part I of the sale was held. A massive sale of 500 lots, divided between 262 antique books and 238 modern books. The sale was a great success with a final hammer price of over \$70,000, but this was not the time to rest. Part II of the sale was right around the corner in December, so it was back to sorting and appraising the rest of the collection. This time there were fewer lots but more books (nearly 5,000 books in 391 lots). To move the process along Greg did some of the sorting out at home. It must have been quite a sight to have piles of miniature books sorted by publisher spread out!

The live auction was something to experience online. On your screen was the lot description along with a running log of the bidding activity in real time. There was also live streaming video of the auctioneer as he was ‘calling’. The duty of auctioneer was divided between three people, each ‘calling’ for about two hours each. I was amazed by the seamless efficiency in the way live, online, and absentee bids were handled. In addition to the auctioneer, there were two people at computers handling the online bids and another dealing with absentee bids. There were three more live bidders in the room. The software to keep it all humming smoothly is used by many of the major auction houses today and has been around for more than 15 years.


After all was said and done, almost \$200,000, (including the 20% buyer’s premium) was realized for the Onuma collection. While not the largest dollar figures for book auctions (I think that distinction still belongs to the Houghton sale), this was by far the largest single sale of miniature books ever.

One of the observations Greg made during our conversation was that he was afraid that after handling so many miniature books he would not want to ever see another one. Happily he found



Auction announcement literature

out what we already know... you cannot have too much of a good thing! That is fortunate for us miniature bibliophiles because he has recently consigned another large collection (rumor has it that it fills 18 boxes and weighs 300 pounds). Greg is so taken with the books and the people around the books that his hope is to be able to offer one dedicated miniature book auction a year. Thank you to Greg and Yay to all of us collectors!

As always, questions, comments, and criticisms are welcomed at contratodd@gmail.com. 


Author's Note: The next PBA miniature book auction, which should be titled 'Miniature Books: The Library of a Gentleman Collector, is tentatively scheduled for August 24th 2017. Check the PBA website for specific details, www.pbagalleries.com.

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E-mail: contratodd@gmail.com or booksbypress.com

MINIATURE BOOK SOCIETY, Traveling Exhibit, Status Update:

The Miniature Book Society has an outstanding traveling miniature book exhibit that is available for display at your local library, school, or organization. However, sometimes we all need a bit of maintenance and refurbishing. The exhibit will be returning to the Lilly Library in March for a complete reconfiguration and a new display case. The staff at the Lilly is lending their assistance to do this work and create an exhibit that will 'travel well' and require less maintenance and repair from the perils of its many miles of road touring. Todd Sommerfeld, the MBS Exhibit coordinator, hopes to have the exhibit back on the road sometime during the Fall of 2017. As progress status is available, information will be posted on the MBS website.

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 has been such a visual torch that has lit the pathway for many to the world of miniature books. Check the MBS website www.mbs.org for additional status information.

If you would like to learn about hosting the exhibit, please contact Todd Sommerfeld,
E-mail: contratodd@gmail.com. 

MY VERY FIRST MINIATURE BOOK:

By Msgr. Frances J. Weber,

A reprint from *The Microbibliophile* March 1989, Volume XIII, Number 1

The nights were long and cold in Valley Mills, a suburb of Indiana's capital city, about seven miles along the way to Vincennes. Even after the installation of central heating in our little home on Thompson Road, it was hard to keep one's mind off the cold in the hours before my father came home from work.

Whether there is any scientific justification for it or not, reading seemed to take the chill away. Getting embroiled in another's adventures has always proven a helpful therapy to me, even before I realized the spiritual benefit of being concerned for others.

As best I can recall, the first books I actually owned were about the Bobbsey Twins—their adventures in the country, at the mountains or along the seashore. There was a time when I could rattle off all their relatives, the makers of their automobiles and the addresses of their neighbors. Even then, books were expensive, or at least they seemed so to me. And while our family was anything but poor, except maybe at Christmas time or some other festive occasion.

Whenever I brazenly asked for another book, the standard answer was: "You have a book. Read it again." I recall outfoxing the system once by conning my parents into buying a subscription to Jack and Jill magazine. It was like getting twelve Christmas presents, one each month for a whole year.

Our little home library perhaps had five dozen books, including a complete set (36 volumes) of the works of Honore de Balzac, tomes that had not been read or even opened in human memory. I think they had been acquired in exchange for an unpaid bill at my father's grocery store.

But there was a miniature book, too! I remember it occupied a place of honor atop an old cookie jar at the end of the second shelf. It was a prayer book called *The Sayings of Our Savior* and my mother carefully took it down to read aloud before hauling me off to Mass on Sundays. According to an inscription in the book, it had been presented to my grandfather on his fiftieth birthday by friends at the Hoosier Athletic Club. Like many other things in the living room, the miniscule book was off-limits to me. It was never to be moved or looked at except on stated occasions.

Despite these restrictions, I became an avid fan of the book. Every time I was alone in the room, I paged its leaves. Some of my earliest prayers, which I can still recite from memory, were gleaned from scanning the little tome from one cover to the other. Anyway, when we moved to California in 1945, Balzac came along carefully packed in two cardboard boxes. But, tragedy of tragedies, the miniature book stayed behind. I always thought it was a strange priority that brought Balzac west and left *The Sayings of Our Savior* in Valley Mills. If the mental picture in a person's mind could be developed, I wouldn't have any trouble reproducing that little book down to the year of its publication (1903), the printer's name (Anthony Treherne) and even the funny little design impressed on the book's leather cover.

In the years after I began collecting miniature books, I kept an eye out for another copy of it, hoping eventually to reread and caress that little treasure which so enriched my youthful years. For a long time it was a futile search. On at least one occasion, I asked Glen Dawson to advertise for a copy—none were found. I did, however, find the book described in several old catalogues, so I knew the old country priest's mind wasn't playing games.

Then, one day, as I was browsing through the miniature tomes at Lorson's Book Shop in Fullerton, I came across an almost mint copy of *The Sayings of Our Saviour*. It wasn't overly expensive, certainly not as costly as I would have expected. I purchased the book, took it home, examined it carefully, and then proceeded to misplace it! To this day, it has not surfaced and by now I can only presume it was accidentally discarded or maybe even stolen. Once again, the little book wandered away—again for no apparent reason.

But the story doesn't end there. Years ago, in route home from the Grand Conclave I, I stopped at Indianapolis to see the newly refurbished Union Station and other local haunts of my boyhood. Things had changed drastically in four decades; even little Valley Mills was greatly different than I had remembered. A quick visit to the neighborhood cemetery and several short conversations with the local gentry pretty much exhausted what little I recalled of my birthplace. I knew that the widow of our family doctor was still living, so I drove over to Brownsburg for a short visit. Her husband and my father had been school chums and our mutual family roots were firmly anchored to Indiana's limestone.

After an hour's pleasant conversation, I rose to leave and my eyes somehow fixed on the mantelpiece. There, atop an ancient wooden clock, was a copy of *The Sayings of Our Saviour*. I told her the story as she picked it up to show me. There on the pre-title page was a penciled inscription: "for George Weber from the Booster Club at H.A.C. 1924"

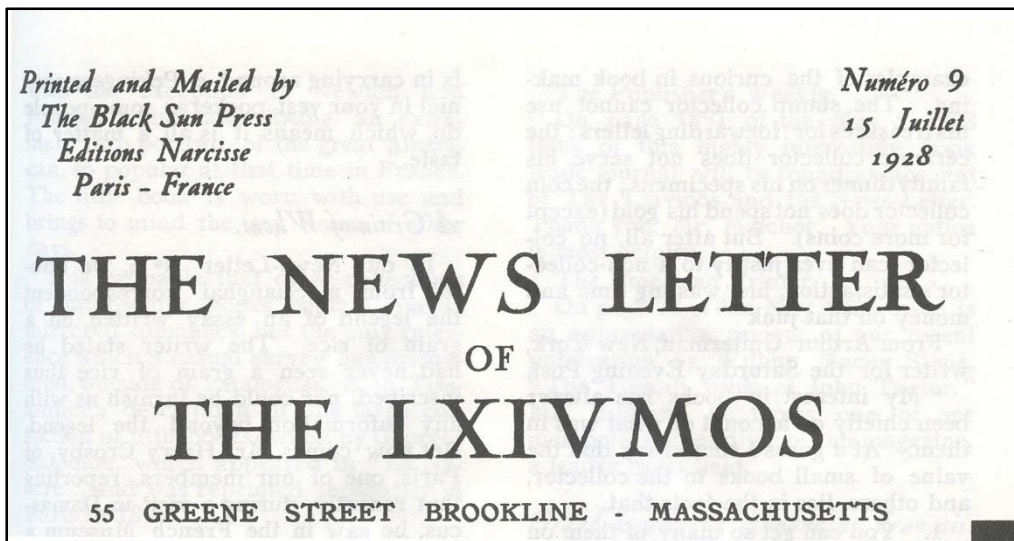
It didn't take a lot of encouragement on her part to convince me that the book belonged in my collection of miniatures. When I arrived home with my new (and old) book, I suspect that even Honore de Balzac must have smiled from his place in heaven to greet his little friend again after an absence of forty-five years. 📖

WHO WAS IT THAT SAID, A Bit of a History Question, for your Research:

"Those who take flight on the magic carpet of the written page gain some of the best travelling companions for this human journey and they too partake of the legacy." 📖

Editor's Note: Certainly one of the pearls of wisdom that we should always remember, send your answer to the editor via email; hello@themicrobibliophile.com or as always P O Box 5453, North Branch, NJ 08876

TIME MACHINE,
The News-Letter of the LXIVMOS, Number 9:
By Nina Mazzo



The Black Sun Press Editions Narcisse in Paris, France was responsible for printing and mailing this issue. Mr. James D. Henderson, Scrivener, noted his appreciation and enjoyment for his time in Paris and the joy of visiting “old bookstalls, your libraries, and your museums.” This issue was packed with intriguing articles and curiosities! Let’s take a closer look at a few.

Why Collect Miniature Books? Arthur Guiterman, a writer for the Saturday Evening Post replies, “You can get so many of the them on the shelf; they ruin the eyes of the censor looking for something to censor; they make it easier for the author to eat his words.” Mr. Richard Wormser of New York said, “We collect miniature books for one reason, because they are interesting examples of the curious in book making.”

Grand-Carteret’s Almanachs Francais - this contains a list and description of French Almanacs from 1600-1895 including a quantity of miniature almanacs. There is a description of this book as having colored illustrations and was instructive for the most ornate class of miniature books.

The first small book published in America was “A Wedding Ring” by William Secker (Boston, 1695). It was noted that the early edition is rare. So I was curious and went “googling” and in an interview with Marcia Dinneen of Maxwell Library, she notes there is a copy in the miniature books collection at the New York Public Library – wondering if anyone has seen this gem?

Have you ever heard of “Quads within Quads”? I found this fascinating!

Andrew W. Tuer, in 1884 said it is “For authors, editors, and devils.” It is described as two books and a box wherein the larger edition of Quads is hollowed out to hold a copy of the miniature Quads. I could not find any further information on this curiosity – perhaps one of our readers knows?

Miniature Play Bills – James Henderson notes he has acquired a volume of miniature London Theatre Play Bills with a date about 1881. What a unique area of collecting.

Finally, I was intrigued with the article about miniature books in manuscript. The writer discusses the works of the monks who were scribes in the 14th and 15th centuries. While they usually worked on large sheets, quarto and folio, he notes that some of these early scribes produced books of devotion in a small size to fit into the pockets of their robes. An English monk around 1450 made one titled *Hours of the Blessed Virgin* and the volume contains miniature paintings with floral borders. Wow! I can only imagine holding such a treasure and studying the brilliant work of those early scribes. 📖

Editor’s Note: *Books of Hours are compendiums of devotional texts designed for the laity to use in private prayer. At their center is a series of prayers and psalms known as 'The Hours of the Virgin'. Directed to Mary, the Mother of God, these prayers were intended to be recited daily at set 'hours' in the day. By placing Mary in the key role as intercessor between man and God in this way, it was believed that salvation could be reached.*

Books of Hours were extremely popular throughout the Middle Ages. Indeed, from the mid-thirteenth century to the mid-sixteenth century, more were produced, both in print and manuscript, than any other type of book. Although comprising a basic set of standard texts, a Book of Hours could be designed and decorated according to the requirements and budget of the purchaser. They are therefore found in copies ranging from the luxuriously illuminated to the more mundane and workaday.

The Microbibliophile published an article in the May 2012 issue (Page 34-36) which brought together various selections of information concerning these early publications. Au Revoir.

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



An example of the ornate decorations and illuminations

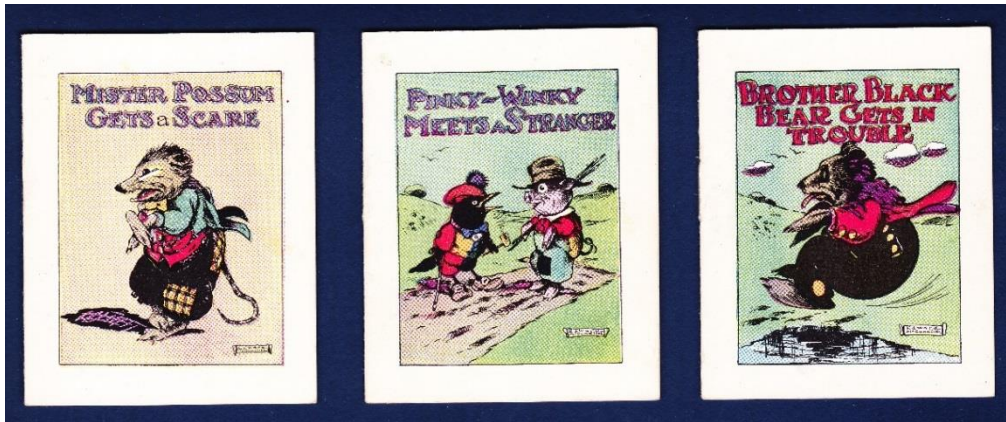
BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, 1920's Stoll & Edwards Miniature Book Set:

What a charming set of eight different children's books published by Stoll & Edwards, New York City. No publication date noted on the books but these have been documented to have been made in the early 1920's. These little books were known as 'Bookmites'.

The books are center stapled, eight pages, plus paper wrappers, 2⁷/₈" by 2¹/₄". Each book has 1 or 2 colored illustrations per page set. The titles in the set pictured are *Mr. Possum Gets A Scare*, *Pinky Winky Meets A Stranger*, *Brother Black Bear Gets In Trouble*, *Mr. Fox Gets His Feet Wet*, *Daddy Turtle And The Well Sweep*, *The Froggies Diving School*, *Little Miss Ducky Paddles*, and *Daddy Rabbit Reaches His Limit*.



images courtesy of Karen Nyman Books



above image shows a 'boxed set'

There is some additional evidence to support the idea that at least two different sets were published. In 'Bradbury's Miniature Book Catalogue Number 25 there is a list, item numbers 167-172 which list various titles in a matching description. The titles are *The Story of The Three Little Kittens*, illustrated by Nana French Bickford *The Three Little Pigs*, illustrated by Nana French Bickford *The Story of Cinderella*, no illustrator listed *Mother Goose Rhymes*, illustrated by Doris Holt *The Story of Peter Rabbit*, illustrated by Nana French Bickford *The Story of Little Black Sambo*, illustrated by Nana French Bickford *The Story of The Little Small Red Hen*, illustrated by Nana French Bickford *The Story of The Three Bears*, illustrated by Nana French Bickford.

My thanks to Karen Nyman and Gail Curry for their help with this article. Can you add anything to the puzzle, just drop me a message and perhaps we can share more information with the readership. 📖

A FEW SELECT WORDS ABOUT LETTERPRESS PRINTING,

By Carl Mario Nudi,

Letterpress Coordinator, Tampa Book Arts Studio, University of Tampa:

(Originally published as part of 'The Florida Bibliophile', Volume 33, No. 6, February 2017, the newsletter of the Florida Bibliophile Society)

The method of how the printed word gets onto a piece of paper has gone through many changes over the centuries.

In Europe, as you probably know, Johannes Gutenberg invented movable type in the 1440s. Prior to that, getting a word onto a piece of paper or vellum was mostly done by monks writing each letter by hand with pen and ink. As you can imagine this was a long and laborious task. There also was the process of carving a reverse image into wood blocks, creating a raised surface, which is coated with ink, and then pressing that image onto the surface of another material, such as paper. This was being done in China more than a thousand years before Gutenberg's inspiration and in Europe a least a century prior.

But carving letters to form words into wood blocks was not done very much. So, when Gutenberg, who was trained as a goldsmith and familiar with the casting of metals, came up with the idea of casting each character of the alphabet in metal on a separate base, this was revolutionary. Gutenberg's system of casting the letters out of a low-melting, but hard, alloy made it possible to create letters by the thousands. Think of the possibilities of arranging and rearranging these characters to form words and columns, or if a mistake is found in the middle of a column of text, the whole page would not have to be rewritten, as some poor monk would have had to do with the calligraphic method, or the wood block would not have to be re-carved.

The first writing systems using alphabets are attributed to the Chinese, Sumerians, and Egyptians as far back as 3300-3200 B.C.E.



A detail from a page in the British Library's copy of the Gutenberg Bible, the first major book printed with Gutenberg's metal type. Gutenberg took great pains to imitate the look of a hand-lettered manuscript. The complexity of his task is staggering. The Latin Bible he produced contains millions of characters. In addition, and as you can see in the sample above, he produced type for a complex character set including the letters of the alphabet, ligatures, accented characters, punctuation, and more. After the printing, each page was illuminated.

(caption information continued as Note 1.)

The Chinese are credited with being the first to print from carved woodblocks sometime between the fourth and seventh centuries C.E.

That process didn't reach Europe until around the beginning of the fourteenth century and Gutenberg's invention didn't happen until the mid-fifteenth century.

As you can see there are large spans of time between these changes in processes: typesetting remained pretty much the same from Gutenberg's time for more than 400 years, until the Industrial Revolution in the middle of the nineteenth century.

Several typesetting machines were invented during that time, but when Ottmar Mergenthaler patented the Linotype in the U.S. in 1855, this particular machine became the leading way of composing large volumes of text in a short amount of time with fewer people.

Prior to newspapers getting these machines, there were armies of men setting type one character at a time to produce a four-page daily newspaper, such as the 'New York Times'. And remember, there were an equal number of men deconstructing those lines of set type back into their proper locations after the newspaper was printed on the press.

With the Linotype, one man can set up to 10-12 lines of type a minute, and the columns of text were locked up into page forms for the press. In the early 1970s, more than 100 years after the Linotype was invented, another revolution in printing began taking hold. Computers were beginning to enter the composing rooms, and type was being produced on paper film, pasted down onto a stiff paperboard in page form to be photographed and turned into metal plates.

Changes to this process happened quickly with the improvement of computers, and by the 1980s, the characters a reporter or editor typed into a computer were captured, manipulated into a page layout, and sent directly to a plate for the printing press. Since the 1980s, the improvements have been exponential, with faster

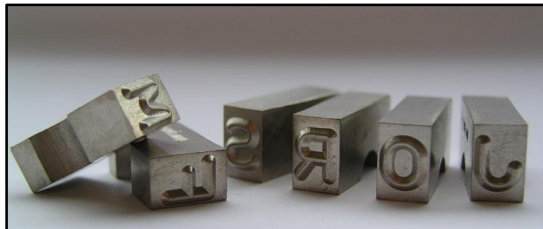


The small pieces of metal type, visible in the background in their typecase, are placed in a small metal tray called a composing stick. Lines of text are composed on the stick and then transferred to a metal frame called a printing form. The form is locked into the press, and pages are printed from it. After printing is complete, the type is removed from the form, cleaned, sorted, and returned to the typecase – ready for the next project.

ff	fl	/	'	k		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	S	-	()	[]		
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The shallow wooden trays with many small compartments that are often seen in antique stores are typecases, actually shallow drawers which were fit by the dozens into tall cabinets. Each drawer held a different font of type organized in a standard arrangement, as shown above, so that, in an analogy to the typewriter, the right letter could be rapidly selected from its location by experienced compositors without looking. There were many, many typecase configurations offered by the many companies that supplied the printing trades; their logic and design is a study in itself. The one above is called the Improved Double Case.

computers and better page design programs. The letterpress method to produce a printed page has become more of an art form and less a manufacturing process. But regardless what method is used to get the word onto a surface, the thing to remember is that with all these processes, its communicating an idea that's important. 📖



Caption Note 1. continued...It is estimated that Gutenberg produced between 150 and 200 copies of this book, of which 49 are known to exist, in whole or in part. The Gutenberg Bible is one of the most valuable of all books, representing as it does a revolution in printing, in book production, in the dissemination of knowledge, and in the publishing of news – Gutenberg's invention was instrumental in creating the modern world. Mass printing is no longer accomplished with individually set pieces of type or hand presses, but modern letterpress printers – like those that work or train at the Tampa Book Arts Studio – keep the many aspects of this printing art, with its hundreds-years-old traditions, alive and growing.

Contact information: Carl Mario Nudi, <http://www.floridabibliophilesociety.org>

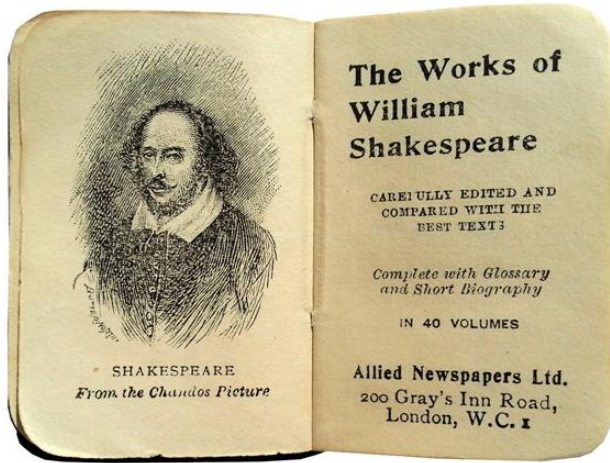
Editor's Note: My thanks to the author Carl Nudi and the FBS who consistently provide a diverse selection of content and high value information to the for the bibliophile community, "it's communicating an idea that's important".

ANTIQUARIAN DELIGHT, A Shakespeare Collection:

One of the most frequently printed genre, in the world of miniature books, is the works of William Shakespeare. There are certainly many examples of his work having been published in various 'sets' beginning with the publishing work of William Pickering in 1825. The efforts continued through the years and in 1904, David Bryce & Son published the smallest set of the works of the Bard, the 'Ellen Terry' edition. *The Microbibliophile* published a short article about the 'Ellen Terry' edition in the January 2016, Issue Number 199. At about the same time that the 'Ellen Terry' edition was published (1904), the Allied Newspapers Ltd., London W. C. published a set of books in the same size as the 'Ellen Terry' edition. Clearly the 'Terry' books' are a set of books that included many points of fine publishing including a 'suede' cover material and the use of India paper. The 'Allied' edition was actually printed by Andersons Edinburgh Ltd. according to the colophon printed in each book, however no date of publication is carried in the actual books.

The 'Allied' edition was printed on regular paper and is a 'thicker' finished book than the 'Terry' edition, however they are the same size being 2" x 1⁵/₁₆", the flexible cover board material is a black 'leatherette type of paper/coated cloth with 'rounded corners'. The spines are decorated to include the title of each volume. The rounded corner design of the covers is also carried across all of the pages of text as well. The decorative endpapers are printed with a size appropriate

design done in a green and light brown ink. There are 40 books in the complete set, 38 books cover the actual Shakespeare plays, an additional volume for the sonnets and poems, and



Frontispiece and title page of the 'Bibliography'

A three tiered bookshelf approx. 8 1/2" x 9 1/4"

the last volume, number 40, is a very complete bibliography and glossary of terms, cross-referencing many of the individual usage points with the original works.

Each of the 40 volumes are printed with a finely detailed frontispiece appropriate for each volume, most being a scene/illustration from the named play. Each volume is printed with a very readable font. There is an excellent article about the various sets of miniature Shakespeare books, from the Pickering set through the 1964 set published by Burgess & Bowes, Ltd (1966), in the March 1966, Issue Number 3 of the *Miniature Book News*, published by Julian I. Edison. According to the article published in the *Miniature Book News* the 'Allied' edition was in some cases supplied with a miniature two-level wooden bookcase. Some period advertisements indicate that the Allied' edition was carried for some years and possibly offered as an ongoing publication series. Some later sets, produced circa 1932, were delivered with a three-tiered bookcase.

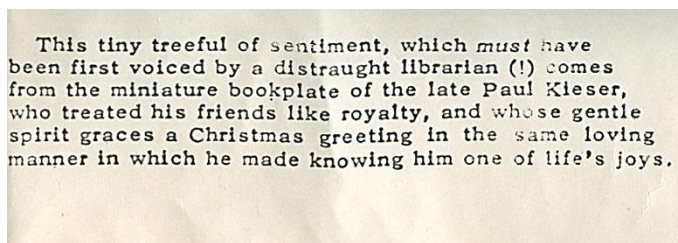
The 'Allied' books, since they were published in very large numbers, are certainly available on the open market. Look for the set that is in the best condition you can find and you will certainly enjoy the acquisition for years to come. 📖

BOOKS THAT ARE OUT OF THE BOX, The Christmas Scroll, In Memory of Paul W. Keiser:

There are so many unique format books that were created and published by Robert E. Massmann that it is possible to ‘write a book’ about them.

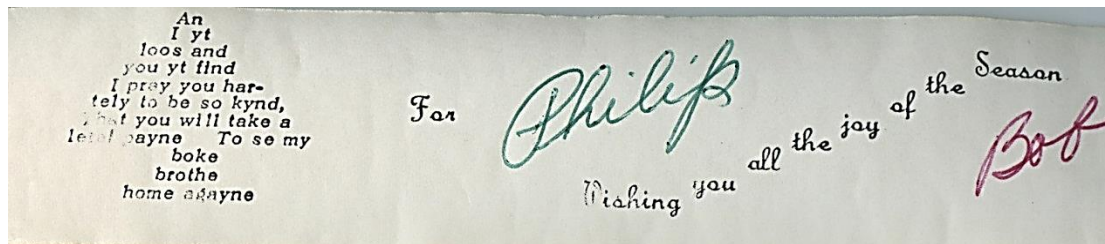
One such tome is the *Christmas Scroll, In Memory of Paul W. Keiser* created and published in 1964. Massmann decided to honor his friend Paul, with this scroll. Keiser published miniature books at his Six Oaks Press in Toledo, Ohio. As you know a scroll is a unique structure for a book that takes a lot of planning and work in order to get things just right for the finished presentation.

‘The Christmas Scroll’ is only 1 1/8” tall mounted on a small wooden spindle with two decorative brass ‘tacks’, one at each end of the spindle. When unrolled, the scroll is very short, only about 9 1/2” long, the leading edge of the scroll paper is a gold foil material to match the gaiety of the season. The text of the scroll is a testament of the librarian (Massmann) to his friend (Keiser).



(left) beginning of the scroll text, enlarged from original size to show detail

(below) center and right end of the scroll text addressed to ‘Phillip’ and signed by ‘Bob’



The original bookplate text reads:

*“An I yt loos and you yt find I pray you hartely to be so kind,
that you will take a letel payne To se my boke brothe home agayne”.*

There were only 40 copies of this special miniature book produced by Massmann. They are certainly ‘not easy to find’, so if you happen to come across a copy ‘grab it up’ as it will be a great tome for any collection. A prize to view and hold in your hand as well as a prize to have as part of your collection. Can you image the expression on the face of a child when you pull open the lid and unroll the scroll to discovery the message of the text? 📖

**A SPECIAL BOOK BY A SPECIAL PERSON,
'Essays of an Old Country Priest' Monsignor Francis J. Weber, 2016:**

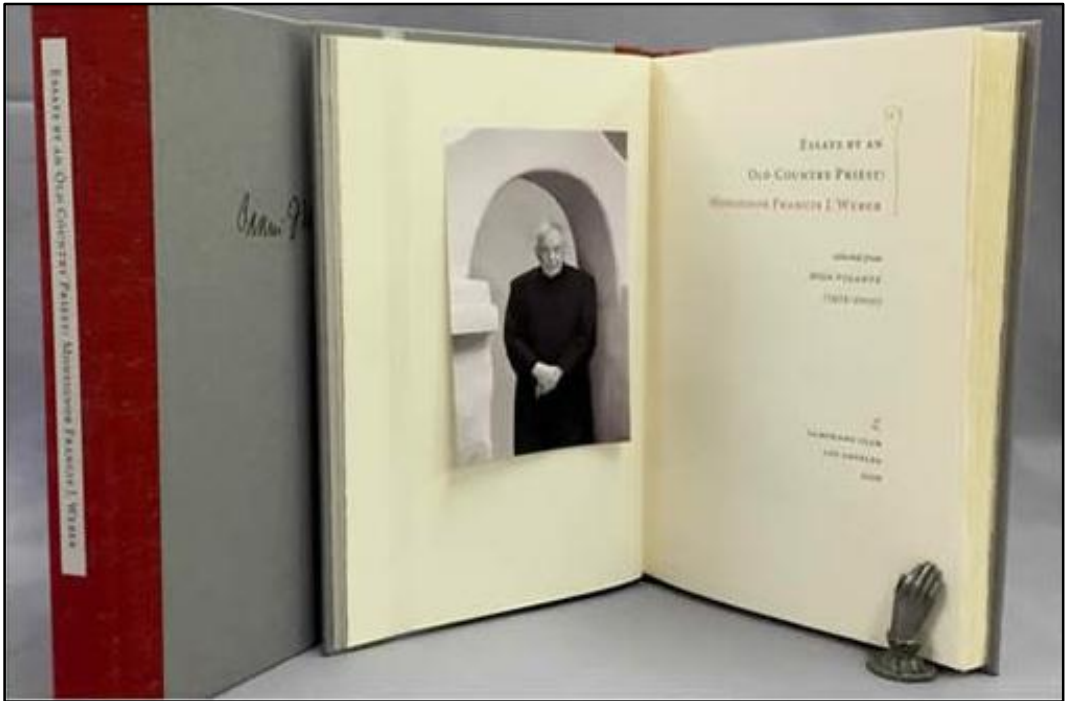


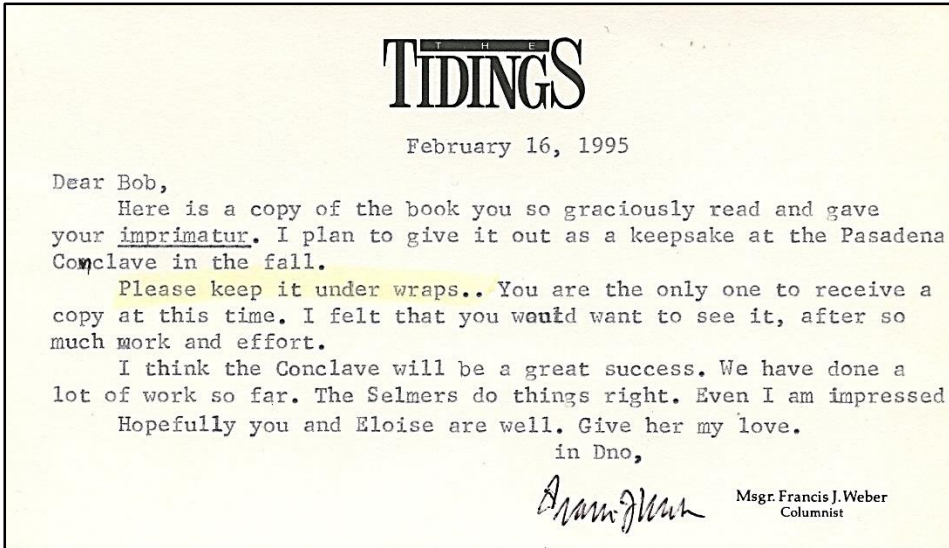
image courtesy of The Zamorano Club

The Zamorano Club of California has published an outstanding hardbound book, which contains forty-five essays authored by Monsignor Francis J. Weber, known as 'the old country priest'. Weber is a prolific author and certainly a master of the pen. He is probably one of the greatest 'story tellers' in the world of miniature books. Msgr. Weber has published over 125 miniature books and innumerable articles and 'stories' which cross the gamut of subjects; people, places, and things all drawn from his experiences as a priest, an archivist, an historian, editor, columnist, and author/publisher.

This book is probably to be defined as the best of the best for sure. One of those books that you open to the first page and do not get up from your chair until you turn to page, number 128. A great collection of 'Weber' to be enjoyed by all. I hope to bring you some of the actual stories in future issues, so please be patience. The book is letterpress printed by Norman Clayton at Classic Letterpress and bound in a most attractive binding by Marian Blau. The finished book is

9½" x 6½" and is available from the Zamorano Club, priced at \$125.00, an edition of 200 copies, each signed by Msgr. Weber.

A similar book was authored by Msgr. Weber, in 1995, *Little is Beautiful*, published by Opuscula Press, Robert F. Hanson which focused on miniature books. I thought it would be interesting to share with you a small card that was included with an early copy of the book that Msgr. Weber had sent to Robert Massmann.

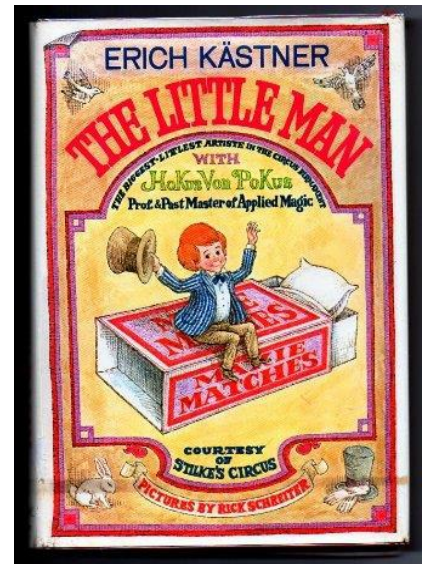
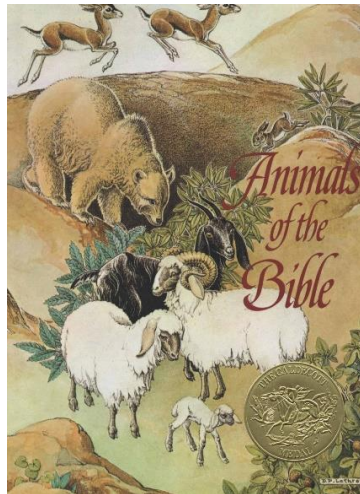
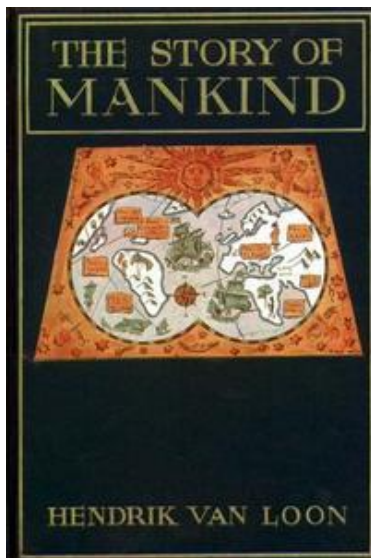


Sometimes a small bit of paper goes a long way to explain things. 📖

ANOTHER BOOK QUOTE:

“There are books of which the backs and covers are by far the best parts”...

Charles Dickens, the man who walked the streets of London, late at night to gather his characters' color which then would be transformed onto paper by his pen... 📖



First Newbery Medal winner (1922): 'The Story of Mankind' by Hendrik Willem van Loon (Liveright); first Caldecott Medal winner (1938): 'Animals of the Bible, A Picture Book', illustrated by Dorothy P. Lathrop; text: selected by Helen Dean Fish (Stokes); first Batchelder Award winner (1968): Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., for 'The Little Man', by Erich Kästner, 1966, translated from the German by James Kirkup.

COLLECTING AWARD-WINNING CHILDREN'S BOOKS

By Paula Jarvis

(Originally published in the February Issue of the 'Printed and Bound', the newsletter of the Book Club of Detroit)

In 1922, the Newbery Medal (named for 18th century English bookseller John Newbery*), sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) to honor the most distinguished American children's book published in the previous year, became the first children's book award in the world. Since then, collecting Newbery Medal-winning books has captivated bibliophiles who love children's literature. Sixteen years later, in 1938, the ALA inaugurated the Caldecott Medal (named for 19th century English illustrator Ralph Caldecott) to honor the artist who created the most distinguished American children's picture book of the previous year. Not surprisingly, Caldecott winners soon joined the Newbery winners as highly collectible items. Finally, in 1968, the ALA recognized foreign children's books that had been translated into English and published in the U.S. with the Batchelder Award. Named for Mildred L. Batchelder, a children's librarian who eventually served as executive director of the Association for Library Service to Children

(part of the ALA), the award pays tribute not only to the author of each winning book but also to a library who promoted the value of children's books throughout the world.

Additional information, as well as complete lists of all Newbery, Caldecott, and Batchelder winners, can be found at the American Library Association website. Go to <http://www.ala.org/alsc/aboutalsc>. 📖

**no connection to Chicago's Newberry Library with two r's*



Editor's Note: My thanks to the author, Paula Jarvis and the Book Club of Detroit who consistently provide a diverse selection of information for the bibliophiles of the world.

GET THE INK READY, START THE PRESSES:

Next issue, Volume XXXVI, Number 3 Issue 207 (expected publish date; May 1, 2016).
Reading is a great experience, sharing what we have read is a calling.

- 'An Antiquarian Delight', TBD, something special, and something very rare...
- *Japanese Colour Prints And Their Designers*, to be published by Tony Firman
- The Young Bibliophile
- Certainly something special from Bo Press
- An article by Msgr. Francis Weber, about Barbara Raheb's diorama, 'The Legacy'
- Maybe something special by Madeline Thoman
- An article showcasing some of the special publications of the NOBS
- More about our new website www.themicrobibliophile.com and the BLOG
- How about something from you? 'Always room at the inn, we will leave the light on.'

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

MINIATURES IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL,

By Joy Tonkin:

An exhibition of over 80 books is on display at the Canberra Civic Library in Australia. The exhibition has been organized to be on display during the 2017 National Conference of Bookbinders to be held at the University of Canberra during March.

The exhibition showcases books from around the world. There is a diversity of materials, designs, and texts which make for a stunning display. There are many books from Private Presses such as Green Chair Press, Plum Park Press, Bookarts Canberra Press, Shoestring Press, Bo Press, and Final Score Press to name just a few. There are many different binding styles such as the French Simplified, concertina, case bindings, piano hinge bindings and laced-in bindings. A variety of materials are used including leather, paper, cloth, and some which have exquisite embroidery by Marian Byrne.

One of the highlights is *List of Wharfedale Flies* by John Swarbrick and published by Fleece Press, which has handmade examples of all the fishing flies described in the text. Another is by local Canberra binder, Terence Uren, with his concertina binding titled *Curtains*. One of Bookarts Canberra Press books is a girdle binding of XXIII Psalm, which is bound in kangaroo leather and is decorated with blind tooling. Another is *Cock Robin*, with vellum boards, exposed sewing, and housed in a vellum box.

Some of the miniature bookbinding equipment made by Australian woodworker Frank Wiesner are displayed. The sewing frame, plough, and press are all made from Australian timbers. They are masterpieces of equipment and a joy to use.



miniature books, 'Cock Robin' in center



a special structure miniature

The exhibition is on until the 1st of April and already there have been many visitors who have commented on the diversity and the intriguing nature of miniatures.

The organizers would like to pay special thanks to Jim Brogan and Stephen Byrne for loaning many of their treasures for this exhibition. 📖



miniature bookbinding equipment

LETTER TO THE EDITOR, From Caroline Y. Brandt., 26 January 2017

Dear Jim:

I've enjoyed the whole January issue of the Micro-B. The article about miniature cookbooks led me to check what I have. My list is enclosed. Many are on your list and many are not. I also have many miniature books about cocktails, but they're not strictly speaking cookbooks. If you would like a list of them, please let me know.

Caroline

Editor's Note: Thank you Caroline, and please do send along the list of miniature cocktail books, it is a genre that I did not know even existed.

Caroline's list of miniature cookbooks included no less than 129 different titles, can you believe 129 miniature cookbooks. The oldest were published in 1905 as a series by the Armour & Company. How about 'Aunt Faith's Receipts', by Mosaic Press, 1981 or 'Cooking Under the Stars', Heston Isle Press, 2001, a good item for an old boy scout or someone with an Airstream Pixie.

The list is certainly inclusive, but a bit too long to publish in 'The Microbibliophile' format. However, if you would like a copy of Caroline's list, please send me a message and I will get one in the snail mail to you.

Always a pleasure to get feedback and information from the readership. 📖

‘RARE BOOK UNCOVERED’, True Stories of Fantastic Finds in Unlikely Places, Reviewed by Jim Brogan:

Rebecca Rego Barry has written this most interesting book that reflects on fifty-two short stories about finding books, sometimes in not the most likely place, I love to read ‘books about books’, there is always something to learn. You may have heard one or two of these stories before but I am sure you will enjoy reading this collection of treasure stories.

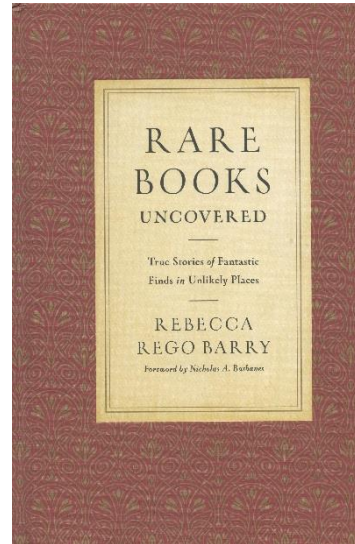
The Foreword is written by Nicholas Basbanes, his opening paragraph starts with the sentence; *“The exhilaration collectors feel when they make a great discovery is by no means unique to books, but rather there is an element to this particular form of determined pursuit that is distinctive unto itself, one best expressed, perhaps, by the noted bibliophile and literary critic Michael Sadlier in the early years of the twentieth century”*. Sadlier opined in a 1930 issue of ‘The Colophon’, *“the bird who gets up earliest catches the most worms, but in book-collecting the prizes fall to the birds who know worms when they see them.”* We all know that in the world of book collecting, good fortune comes to those that are patience and look the hardest.

How about the man who decided to not go golfing and went to the ‘Antiques Roadshow’ instead, dragging his ‘old book’, that had been under his bed along in a white garbage bag. The appraiser opened the bag and pulled out a dis-bound book, a loose folio of illustrated plates. The book was written in German. The appraiser could not make much sense of the book until he came across a particular illustration representing Nuremberg, Germany. Then it ‘clicked’, this was an original copy of the *Nuremberg Chronicle*, printed in 1493.

How about another story, this one about miniature books. As the story goes, the widower of a friend was ‘cleaning up some things in a closet’ she asked if he would like to come over and pick out some of the stuff collecting dust in the closet. Turns out her husband/printer specialized in making miniature versions of previously published regular sized books. So this find ‘matched up’ some of the mother books with the miniature versions.

Each of the short stories is more interesting than the previous one, each is well written and gives the reader a quick lesson in treasure hunting. As I mentioned, there are fifty-two tales of interesting finds in this book along with 16 pages of color photos. Also included is a list of additional reading materials that a collector may find useful as research and instruction volumes.

Overall, a well done book that is interesting and highlights ‘what a worm may look like or where you may find the worm’. *Rare Books Uncovered*, is published as a hardbound book, with an interesting cover design, 6¹/₈" x 9¹/₄", available, as published by Voyageur Press, \$25.00 or from the aftermarket book world for ‘hungry birds looking for worms’. 📖



SOME INTERESTING BOOK STUFF, Information Sharing:

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

The Creativity Caravan, The Tiny Book Show, the adventure continues with many different activities. In addition, take time to visit the ‘Shop’ for a great selection of miniature books with a very diverse subject set

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 article; ‘Early Social Media: Letters, Phamplets, & Newspapers’ by Rich Rennicks traces this communications venue back over 2,000 years to Cicero. Coming forward in the timeline he touches on Tom Paine’s *Common Sense* and then to our contemporary tools such as Facebook and Twitter. A learning experience with every click. Always something interesting, be it an article or a link for a seasoned collector or a young bibliophile.

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

The lights are always burning late into the night at the editorial office of the FBS newsletter. The Florida Bibliophile Society’s monthly 2017 digital newsletter is a well-done publication filled with great information and activities within the book world. The February issue carries a wide range of informative topics about books and literature. How about ‘Printers For A Day’ or ‘Lankes and Frost – The Beginning of A Friendship’.

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

The newsletter is digitally published 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. The February issue of the newsletter, which is titled ‘Printed and Bound’ includes an in-depth article about ‘Tom Sawyer’ and another article about something all book collectors are always looking for, ‘bookshelves’. Much more for your reading pleasure inside the newsletter.

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. There is a special miniature book auction scheduled for August, 2017, check out their website and create an account so you can participate in an auction, great fun for sure.

Eden Workshops, <http://www.edenworkshops.com>

The website is filled with many special offers regarding ‘book making tutorials, book binding articles, and even decorative box making. The list goes on and on.

The Morgan Conservatory, <http://www.morganconservatory.org>

This is the largest arts center in the United States dedicated to every facet of papermaking, book arts, and letterpress printing. It is located in a converted industrial building in Cleveland, OH. In addition to having a studio and display space, they host community events and even have a unique kozo garden that is utilized to grow plant fiber for specialized papers.

Sheppard's Confidential, <http://www.sheppardsconfidential.com>

A site that provides a large selection of information about antiquarian and second-hand books, ephemera, etc. Most importantly there is a good selection of current information about book fairs and auctions. The pages are published weekly as a way to keep things most current. The company headquarters is based in Devon, UK, so the site does provide a slightly different view of things as we see from North American companies.

Northern Ohio Bibliophilic Society, <http://nobs.nobsweb.org/>

I am looking forward to the next newsletter from this organization, Todd Sommerfeld has accepted the position as the new editor and we all know that Todd like to write about books. I did receive an interesting publication from NOBS titled '*Notes on the Structure of a Book*' by William Addison Dwiggins. A professional printed 12 page pamphlet, more about this and additional publications by this group in the next issue of *The Microbibliophile*.

The Book Thinker, <http://www.bookthink.com/>

The Book Thinker is an online resource that is published/updated twice monthly. The main focus is information for 'booksellers', I would mention commercial booksellers but every collector can sell a book now and again. Another site that is rich in the information that it provides; forums about books, additional links for information, book topics, etc. etc. etc.

The 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. Be sure to visit the new 'presentations' section and read all about the 2017 Conclave scheduled for August in Oakland, CA, 'just a BART ride' across the bay from the cable cars.


TIDBIT: According to a BLOG entry on the FB&C site, a man was able to purchase an old wooden 'stage coach trunk' at an auction in Kansas City, in 2015. After a good amount of research and authentication, it turns out that the trunk belonged to Samuel Clemens, that wonder of American literature. Well, we will have to see how this story unfolds.

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

LAURA INGALLS WILDER AWARD, AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION:


Administered by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award was first given to its namesake in 1954. The award, a bronze medal, honors an author or illustrator whose books, published in the United States, have made, over a period of years, a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children.

Wilder's first book, *The Little House in the Big Woods* (1932), was published when she was 65. It began the story of five-year-old Laura and her family in the Wisconsin woods. Her other publications include *Farmer Boy* (1933), *Little House on the Prairie* (1935), *On the Banks of Plum Creek* (1937), and *By the Shores of Silver Lake* (1939). Wilder wrote about home and the family primarily to entertain. She was interested in providing her young readers with information on how life was lived by their ancestors. Wilder's books were not about the country's leaders; they were about the country's people. Winners are announced at the ALA Midwinter Meeting and receive the medal at the Annual Conference in June.

Between 1960 and 1980, the Wilder Award was given every five years. From 1980 to 2001, it was awarded every three years. In 2001, it was awarded every two years. Beginning with the 2016 award year, the medal will be announced annually. You can learn more about this important award for children's literature at www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/wildermedal 



MORE ABOUT COOKBOOKS, Always Something New to Learn:

After an article about miniature cookbooks, written by Bob Hanson, in the January issue of *The Microbibliophile* and receipt of an 'expanded list' of miniature cookbooks, submitted by Caroline Brandt, I decided to do some research about cookbooks in general and see what there was to read. The *Biblio Magazine* ran an interesting article about the subject in their February 1999 issue highlighting the work of Jan and Dan Longone, of Ann Arbor, MI. Their collection includes a copy of the oldest cookbook, a 1530 edition to some of the newest and everything in between. I would bet that there are more than a few miniatures in Jan's collection. Wow, what a story, I am going to ask Joan Knoertzer if she knows about Jan and her cookbook collection. Joan owns and operates a bed and breakfast, how much of a coincidence is this. 

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:

Fine Books and Collections Magazine, Winter 2017, a large format, full color, glossy magazine devoted to fine books, collections, and printing. The staff at the FB&C magazine does an outstanding job in bringing a very diverse set of informative article to the readers. There is a considerable amount of information presented about 'Rare Book Week' in this issue. An item that is particularly close to me is the donation of Phillip Roth's book collection to the Newark, NJ library. The Newark Library is one of those gems that seem to have fallen on hard times over the years. They have a great collection of pop-up and miniature books tucked away, more or less hidden from view. This is the same library that was a favorite place to visit by Wilbur Macey Stone. It is always amazing to read about things such as the article about the 'Wycliffe Bible' and the Ryrie book collection. Certainly well worth the subscription price and their 'online production is equally well done, always bright and always something new for the reader. Contact information: Rebecca Rego Barry, Editor, 4905 Pine Cone Drive #2, Durham, NC, 27707, E-mail: Rebecca@finebooksmagazine.com, www.finebooksmagazine.com. 📖

Miniaturbuch Journal, January 2017. This 32-page journal is printed in German and done on glossy paper with full color, edited by Dr. Horst-Deiter Branser. The website address is http://www.miniaturbuch.de/Journal_Minibuch/journal_minibuch.html. These folks have fun. 📖

Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies, Newsletter (FABS), Winter 2017. Lots of interesting happenings from many bookclubs across the globe. A few high points; a summation article about the 'National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest', a recap of the FISAE Congress which was held in Russia this past August, and an MBS article by Rick Hill highlighting the activities and plans of the MBS in particular their 'outreach initiatives'. 📖

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 or 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" x 1". All lists are set-up in Excel format. Thank you for your interest, Sherry 📖



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CATALOGUES RECEIVED:

Karen Nyman Miniature Books, Catalog Number 66, very well done and well organized for easy viewing, 103 items with many pictures, a very good selection of antiquarian, children's, and rare books in an electronic format catalogue. Two major sections of the catalogue are books up to 1¹/₄" and those over 1¹/₄" tall. Additionally, if you are on Karen's mailing list she also offers the 'special of the week book' with a great sale price.

Contact info: 702 Rosecrans Street, San Diego, CA 92106-3013, telephone 619-226-4441, website: www.KarenNymanMiniatureBooks.com, E-mail: karennyman2@cox.net

Between the Covers Rare Books, 'Miscellany', Catalogue 210, 8¹/₂" x 11", is done on a fine white paper with color covers as well as 64 pages. The catalogue details of the 132 items offered are a storehouse of reading adventures. The cover illustrations are visually intoxicating, many items offered are autographed and inscribed. If you do not get a hardcopy of this catalogue you can visit the website and download a PDF copy for your reading enjoyment. Save some paper and ink, download the PDF to your tablet and carry it out to the gazebo, sit in the sun and have a good time. There online catalogue allows you to 'rotate' a book image so it is almost a good as holding it in your hand, everything but the old book dust and smell, '*the times they are a changing*'.


Contact info: 112 Nicholson Road, Gloucester City, NJ 08030, telephone 856-456-8008; website: www.betweenthecovers.com, E-mail: mail@betweenthecovers.com

William Reese and Company, Catalogue 344, 6" x 9", Literature and Some Miscellany', 400 items listed. Many first editions, signed items, and association copies. How about Item 310, first edition of *The Jungle*, by Upton Sinclair, The Jungle Publishing Company 1906. I remember reading this book as a high school Freshman. It is certainly a work of fiction that once read it is never forgotten.

Contact info: 409 Temple Street, New Haven, CT, 06511, telephone 203-865-7653, website: www.williamreesecompany.com, E-mail: litorder@reese.com

Bromer Booksellers, Catalogue 146, 8¹/₂" x 11", glossy paper and all color illustrations, 61 items, very attractive presentations of many outstanding books. Several antiquarian children's books including a 'trio of early boxed sets; *Bibliothèque Des Enfants*, (c. 1805), *The Children's Library*, (c. 1800), and *The Infant's Library*, (c. 1800). The catalogue offers other minatures as well including *The Earth and It's Inhabitants*, a miniature hand colored globe. A real treasure chest of unique items.

Contact info: 607 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116, telephone 617-247-2818, website: www.bromer.com, E-mail: 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, a great activity for any day but especially a rainy day, what more can I say? What is your favorite catalogue and bookseller? 

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Australian Contemporary Bookbinding Exhibition, Canberra, Australia,
February 10th – March 28th, 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 25th – 26th, 2017

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

Virginia Antiquarian Book Fair, Richmond, VA, April 7th – 8th, 2017

Additional information: <http://www.virginiabooksellers.org/2017-book-fair.html>

Vermont Spring Book & Ephemera Show, Burlington, VT, April 8th, 2017

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

Boston Book & Ephemera Fair, Lexington, MA, April 15th, 2017

Additional information: <https://www.bookandpaperfairs.com/fairs/>

Florida Antiquarian Book Fair. St. Petersburg, FL, April 21th – 23th, 2017

Additional information: <http://floridabooksellers.com>

MBS Conclave, Oakland, CA, August 11th – 13th, 2017

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

PBA GALLERIES, San Francisco, CA, a miniature book auction,⁷

The Library of a Gentleman Collector⁷, August 24th, 2017

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

No reason to stay home; plenty to do and plenty of dates and places...get ready, pack a PB&J for lunch, get your hat, get on your bicycle, or roller skates and meet some new friends! 📖

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***THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE* May 2017 FRONTISPIECE:
‘Write the Story for the MAY 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 May 2017 issue of *The Microbibliophile*.



Imagine for a moment that two young brothers walk by this old house at the end of their street each day on the way to and from school. They hold each other’s hands tightly as someone once told them that the house was haunted. However, on this bright spring afternoon there is an old man sitting on the porch. He waves to the boys and calls their name, “Hello Ryan, Hello Alexander”. They are surprised that he knows their names and then they remember that the old man came to one of their cub scout meeting in the fall, with his old scout hat, to tell them camping stories. They go up to the porch to say hello, and when they peek in through the window, they see a room with books stacked up to the ceiling on every wall. Alexander said’ “Wow, why do you have so many books?” Old Mr. Tome replies, “Well let me tell you a story.” 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 or the keyboard to your email. Tell us your story.

The deadline for submitting articles for the May 2017 issue will be April 15, 2017, electronic or paper submissions, either way, the choice is yours.

Email: hello@themicrobibliophile.com or **(NEW EMAIL ADDRESS)**

Snail-mail: *The Microbibliophile*, P. O. Box 5453, North Branch, NJ 08876. 📖

Big Magazine for Small Collectors

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

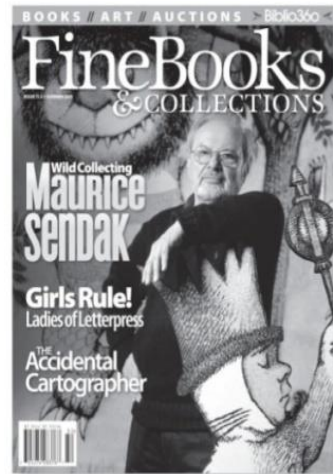
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As a feature for subscribers, *'The Microbibliophile'* will offer a classified listing service with each issue. Each message should be no more than 250 characters. Send your information to the Editor for inclusion in the next issue.

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

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

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

Katherine Bakunas is looking for the printed (original paper) copies of the early MBS Newsletters, MAR.'85, JUN.'85, FEB.'86, MAR '88 and #36, #45, #60, #63, #65, and #69, for a special indexing project,
Contact information: E-mail: kbbakunas@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: karennyman2@cox.net or call 619-226-4441.

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

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 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, 1¹⁵/₁₆" x 6"
Contact information: E-mail: jbrogan1@verizon.net

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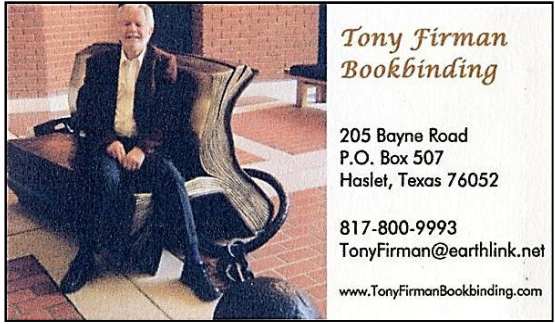


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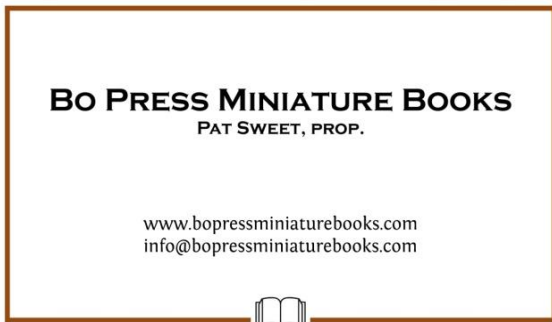
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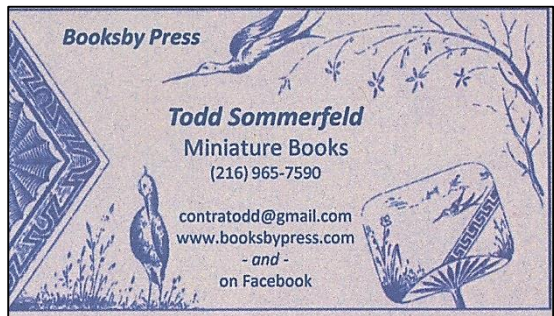
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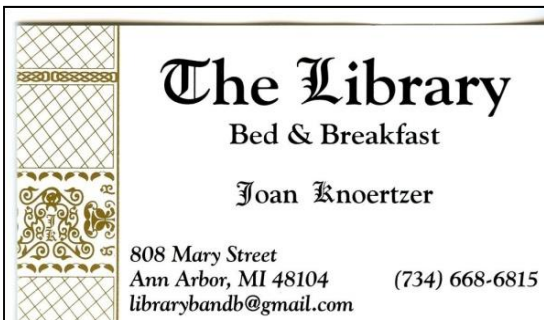
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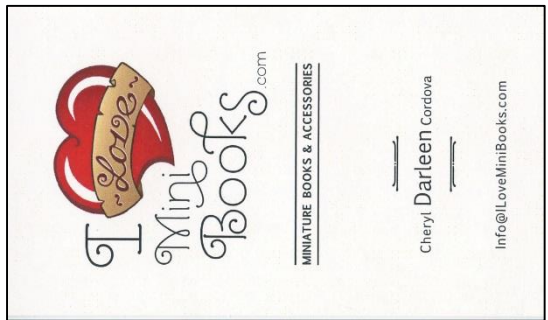
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CLOSING IMAGES, The Last Snow of the Season?




“Well, Kerry, I am glad we have seen the last snow storm of the season.”

“Me too”, says Alby, “Those early morning walks are a bit too much for me. The boss has a big warm coat and gloves, and what do we get, these crazy scarfs and sunglasses.”

“Let’s go get Riley and look at the seed catalogues. Riley is probably taking a nap and dreaming about some big bones, old dogs are so funny.”

“What do you think that new pup next door is doing, it seems like he barks a lot, how am I supposed to take a nap?”

Waking with a yawn, Riley chimes in, “And how are we getting to the Conclave in Oakland?” “I hope not in that old yellow bus 7”. 

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Email: hello@themicrobibliophile.com (NEW EMAIL ADDRESS)

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