

THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE®

A Bimonthly Journal about Miniature Books and the Book Arts

Volume XXXVI Number 5, Issue 209, September 2017

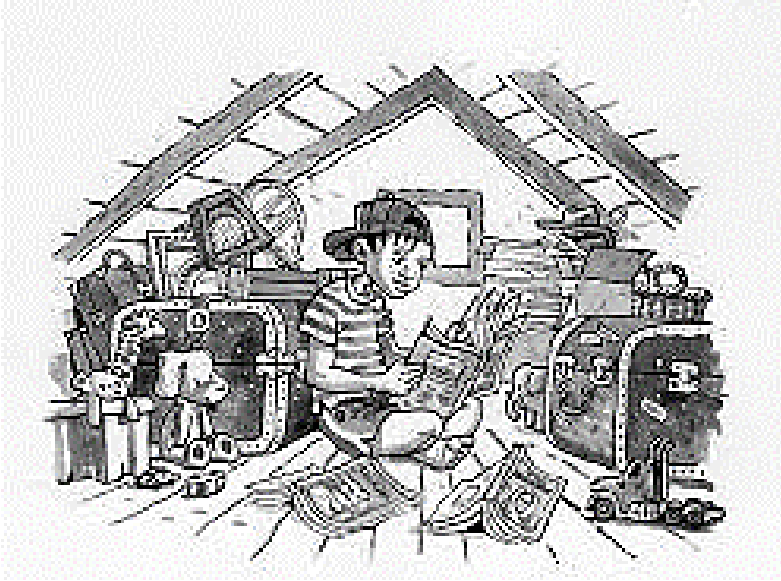


Summer Is Over, Time to Go Back To School

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*Reminiscing in the Twilight of His Years,
By Sherry Mayo*



Ages ago, during the years of Peter's youth, his dad's job for "Uncle Sam" required the family to roam like gypsies across America. They travelled in a caravan of vehicles, with his dad, as supervisor for the team, leading the way in a big utility style box truck filled with a myriad of instruments and tools that fascinated young Peter. His mom, with he and his siblings in tow followed along in the family station wagon. The two men who worked with Pete's dad and their families followed closely behind in their own vehicles.

Since this troupe of nomads were wandering across the country from one radar outpost installation to another, the families joined together to rent a large home for the time required to complete the work scheduled for the radar facility. Every stay was a sojourn of a few weeks or a few months depending on the work schedule of the crew.

The team's job was to upgrade and "bring on line" each radar station along a defensive line built during the "cold war". Pete's dad was the lead engineer and

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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:

The hazy, hot, and humid days of August have begun to fade with the length of the day. There has been a breath of cool air here in New Jersey and you can even hear the crickets chirping by early afternoon. I hope that we can move through this season without any more hurricane storms. Soon the sunflowers will bow their heads and those bright orange balls known as pumpkins will begin to take over the gardens and fields. The bright red tomatoes will give way to these orange monsters that will be lit on October 31. Great yellow land cruisers ply the roads each morning and afternoon carrying their young cargo from home to school and back again. Maybe miniature books will make it to the school curriculum this year, please do what you can to make it happen. Each season is as grand as the previous and brings us the anticipation of the next. We are mere time travelers; from flowers, to pumpkins, to snowmen, and back to flowers, the cycle is endless. It is up to each and every one of us to make a difference to ourselves and everyone with whom we share our day.



The MBS Conclave was held in Oakland and was a wonderful time for all. Rick Hill has provided our readership with a recap of the events in this issue. Do plan on attending the Conclave XXXVI in Virginia next August, visit the website, www.mbs.org for some of the advance information. If you are not already a member, join up.

Once again, the diversity of topic subjects for *The Microbibliophile* crosses from old books to new books, book reviews, reference notes, including *Three Centuries of Thumb Bibles* and *A Lilliputian Library*, by James Henderson and much more. The index will help you through the contents. Be sure to read some of the ephemera that we were able to discover as the contents of the 'Warburton Archives'. Start on the first page, or the last, or even in the middle, all pages lead to miniature books.

I am most committed to helping young bibliophiles enter the world of miniature books and help them enjoy all that is available and all that is to be experienced.

Share *The Microbibliophile* with a friend or use it as a key to open a new door. Maybe that new friend can be the subject of a short story. Take a look at your books, most certainly there is a story there that you have always wanted to share. Thank you for the opportunity to bring *The Microbibliophile* into your life.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

“The only ground of hope for the continuance of our free institutions is in the proper moral and religious training of the children, that they may be prepared to discharge aright the duties of men and citizens.”

Twelfth President of the United States, 1849 -1850
Zachary Taylor, 1784 - 1850



MINIATURE BOOK REVIEWS and CRITICISM:

Greatest Show on Earth, by Msgr. Francis J. Weber published by El Camino Real Press, Mission Hills, CA, 2017, is the latest tiny tome by ‘The Old Country Priest’, reviewed by Darleen Cordova



I have at least one copy of all the Weber minis and can now say that this is my favorite. Why? Two reasons. One, it brought to mind my own happy trips to the circus. Two, I love how the binding, endpapers and colors on the title page all beautifully match the frontispiece.

Msgr. Weber begins this little book by relating an incident in the 1940’s while he was a teenager in the seminary. Sent to the rector’s office for a now-forgotten offense, instead of being reprimanded, he was asked to run an errand, and was then rewarded with a ticket to the circus, becoming the envy of all the other students. He moves on to discuss early circuses and how they evolved into today’s modern circus. Philip Astley opened the first circus in England in 1768 and by the mid-nineteenth century, ‘Big Tops’ were introduced. Touring circuses replaced the static ones. Big and bold posters gave audiences a small taste of what awaited them under the “Big Top” and were plastered all over the towns to

encourage attendance. These joyful posters welcomed the masses and proved P. T. Barnum's dictum that "The noblest art is that of making others happy."

In 2014, the United States Postal Service issued eight commemorative stamps, reproducing vintage circus posters. One of these commemorative stamps is utilized as a frontispiece for the tome. Printed in a limited edition of 200 copies, this miniature book measures 2⁷/₈" x 2¹/₈" and consists of 12 numbered pages, letterpress in three colors (black, red and blue) on soft white Mohawk Superfine paper, printed by Patrick Reagh in Sebastopol, California. The typefaces used were Janson for the text and Franklin Gothic for the title. Thin double lines border the top of each page, matching the crimson red endpapers.

This book is bound in an attractive teal blue (petroleum blue) leatherette ("calf" finish) by Mariana Blau, with the title gilt-stamped on the front cover. The frontispiece in each book is one of the eight 2014 USPS circus poster stamps. Patrick Reagh was given the Barnum and Bailey "Greatest Show on Earth" stamp picturing a tiger and used that stamp to closely match the blue and red on the title page. (He was unaware that seven other stamps were also to be used as different images for the frontispiece).

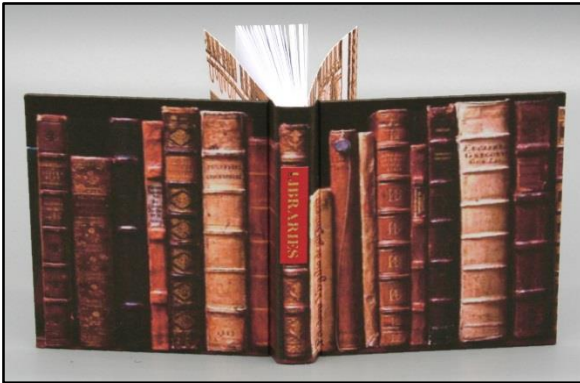
For those of you keeping track of Msgr. Weber's miniature books, this is Number 137, and is a wonderful example of the talents and teamwork of Msgr. Weber, Patrick Reagh and Mariana Blau.

Copies are available from Karen Nyman. Contact information: Karen Nyman Miniature Books, 7835 Rush Rose Drive #124, Carlsbad CA 92009, (760) 944-3019 or karennyman2@gmail.com.



What will the next book from the 'The Old Country Priest' be? 📖

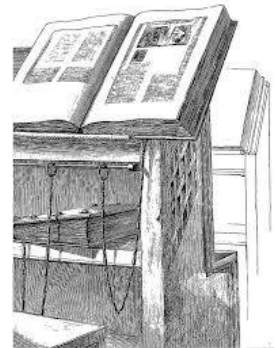
*Editor's Note: Darleen mentioned that her collection includes at least one copy of each book Msgr. Weber has published over his long career. Darleen is a personal friend of the Msgr. and an 'expert' in the many books published by the Msgr. including variant copies as well as those published with small delivery envelopes. Additionally, Darleen has published two documents/pamphlets that are excellent bibliographies of Weber's many books. Quoting from the last page of this mini, "Joyful posters beckoned the masses toward the grand show, thus proving P.T. Barnum's dictum that **The noblest art is that of making others happy**".*



Libraries, In The Medieval and Renaissance Periods, by John Willis Clark. Macmillan and Bowes, Cambridge. It was originally published in in 1894. Tony Firman published this miniature edition in 2017 through his Plum Park Press. John Clark was a Cambridge University historian whose specialty was architecture. He also authored a book 'The Care of Books', in 1902

which is still available as a printed book from the Cambridge Library Collection, (<http://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/cambridge-library-collection>). 'Libraries' researches what we may now describe as the material culture of libraries.

'Libraries' contains the complete text and the seven illustrations from a lecture that Clark delivered in 1894 on the subject of medieval libraries. The book traces the development of libraries from two very different points of view: the library as a workshop and the library as a museum. As the art of printing was developed, the use of the library grew. Clark also refers to the Roman libraries as well; "because their methods influenced the Middle Ages, and are in fact the precursors of those in fashion in our own time. The Romans preserved their books in two ways: either in a small closet, for reading elsewhere; or in a large apartment, fitted up with greater or less splendor, according to the taste of the possessor...". The various illustrations depict just how medieval libraries were outfitted. Take notice of the 'ever present' chains.



workshop or museum ?

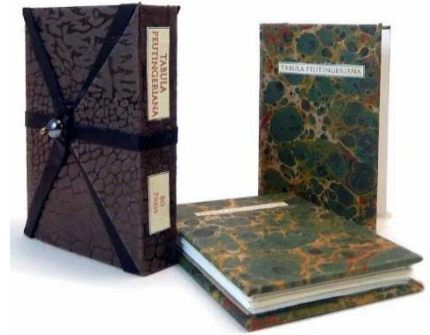


'Libraries' is set in 9/11 pt. Caslon type font. The paper is Navigator Platinum 90 g/m². The front and rear endpapers carry a 'sepia toned' illustration colored to complement the front and rear covers. An interesting detail applied by the publisher to each of the text pages is a 'margin' picture of old books.

Libraries consists of 102 numbered pages and is bound to the size of 3" x 3", it is available directly from the publisher, \$40, plus \$5 shipping, only 20 copies in the edition. 📖

Contact information: Tony Firman, PO Box 77883, Fort Worth, TX 76177
E-mail: TonyFirman@earthlink.net or www.tonyfirmanbookbinding.com

The Tabula Peutingeriana, by Pat Sweet, Bo Press 2017. As the Romans expanded their empire, they needed roads to get from one place to another. To make the roads work for the masses, they developed a unique type of map to facilitate travel from 'Point A to Point Z'. 'Tabula Peutingeriana' (Latin for "The Peutinger Map"), also referred to as the Peutinger Table, is an illustrated itinerarium (an ancient Roman road map) showing the layout of *cursus publicus*, the road network in the Roman Empire.



Emperor Augustus used Rome's magnificent system of roads to tie the empire together with a mail and courier communication system called the *cursus publicus*. The last surviving map of this system was discovered in 1265 in Germany by a monk named Colmar, who made a copy of it. The original was then lost, but the copy was found by Conrad Celtes in 1494, who bequeathed it to Konrad Peutinger. The original map is now in the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek in Vienna. It is a very schematic map, designed to give a practical overview of the road network, as opposed to an accurate representation of geographic features: the land masses shown are distorted, especially in the east-west direction. The map shows many Roman settlements and the roads connecting them, as well as other features such as rivers, mountains, forests, and seas. This is an image of the map segments, the sort of map the Romans called an *itinerarium*, not what we would think of as a map, but a list of destinations and routes, like a modern subway map.



It is not easy to read the fine detail points but I am sure the travelers of the Roman Empire must have been glad that they had this aid. You can certainly see the value with the displays of rivers, mountains, and villages. I am not exactly sure that I would want to

pack up my horse cart and set off on a journey from Rome to the northern border of Gaul with this in hand. But as a good scout I would give it a try, probably a lot of interesting people along the way and good restaurants as well. The miniature Bo Press copy of the map is 42 inches long, the map and an explanatory booklet are bound in a hand-marbled green and ochre paper, similar to the colors in the map. Each booklet also carries a title label. The two tomes are housed in a brown and red textured paper slipcase. The slipcase is constructed with a dark brown leather banding, inspired by a Roman *loculus*.

The publisher is to be commended for adhering to the highest standards for the printing and assembling of the booklets, the maps, and the storage slipcase. The map is very detailed and the alignment of the various page sections, to maintain the visual integrity, was critical. The slipcase is $2\frac{3}{4}$ " x 2" x $\frac{1}{2}$ " and housing the booklets which are $2\frac{5}{8}$ " x $2\frac{1}{4}$ ". *The Tabula Peutingeriana* is available directly from the publisher, \$120, plus shipping, only 20 copies in the edition. 📖

Contact information: Pat Sweet, 231 E. Blaine Street, Riverside, CA 92507

E-mail: info@bopressminiaturebooks.com or www.bopressminiaturebooks.com



Steampunk, assembled by Barbara Brear, published by BB Miniatures, 2014.

If you have not heard of 'steampunk' then the best way to familiarize yourself with the movement is to go to Google / Images and type in "Steampunk". But as the quote in the book says - "It is Victorian/Industrial but with more whimsy and fewer orphans!" Wikipedia defines 'steampunk' as a subgenre of science fiction or science fantasy that incorporates technology and aesthetic designs inspired by 19th century steam-powered machinery.

The miniature book has some special features - the cover is bound in a gloss black leather with small watch parts impressed into the leather, creating the 'steampunk' design. The text contents are eighteen images of 'steampunk' creations on the recto page and the verso page gives the credits to the original designers.

The book measures $\frac{5}{8}$ " x $\frac{7}{8}$ ". It is printed on Munken Pure 90g paper with Garamond 4 pt. typeface. Certainly a well-done book, in the category of micro-miniatures and a great talking piece for your dollhouse bookcase. The cost is \$30 plus \$6 shipping, contact Barbara for additional details and any questions. 📖

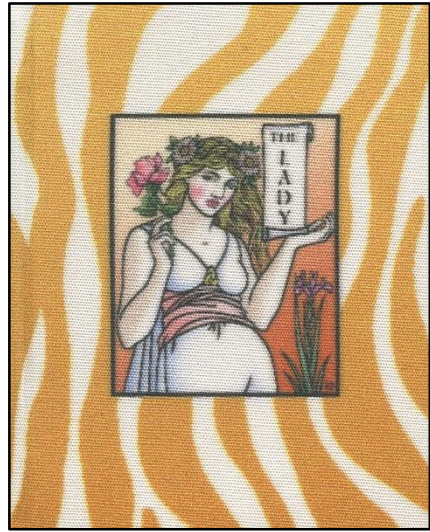
Contact information: Barbara Brear, 3 Uitgift Street, Somerset West 7130, South Africa

E-mail: bbminiatures@yahoo.com or <http://bbminiatures.homestead.com/mybooks.html>

The Lady or The Tiger, by Frank R. Stockton, published by Rebecca Saady Bingham, Rebecca Press, 2016. The original story was written in 1882 and published in 'The Century' magazine. Stockton was an American writer, who was very popular during the last decades of the 19th century. Some things in life are deemed 'unsolvable'. The expression; 'the lady or the tiger' is such a thing and is more properly known as an allegorical expression.

As I opened the book, I was captivated by the rich illustrations prior to reading the story and quickly saw that there was a 'Publisher's Note' before the actual colophon. The information is certainly very interesting and I thought it would be a good idea to share it as part of the review.

Rebecca actually began this project 28 years prior to her actual publication. The metal type was set ready for printing but as often happens in life, things intercede. The 45 pounds of type sat in the garage unused for all those years. Things move along and in Rebecca's case her husband Reid encouraged her to attend an MBS Conclave and the spark to publish was rekindled. Neale Albert introduced Rebecca to Leonard Seastone who printed *The Lady Or The Tiger*, using a Vandercook hand press. Robert M. Place provided the illustrations that add that vibrant touch to the story and Wesley Carpenter utilized his binding skills to make the tome a finished project. Rebecca's press name is Rebecca Press and it has published 32 books since 1980.



Front cover, Regular Edition



The actual story takes place in a kingdom ruled by a somewhat barbaric king. The king was one who believed that certain justification in 'trial by ordeal' for those accused of a crime. The 'ordeal' was a public event where the accused would be brought to an arena to make a choice between 'two doors'. Behind one door would be a lady chosen by the king to be appropriate for the accused and if this door was selected the accused would

be considered 'innocent'. Needless to say the tiger was behind the other door, selection of this door would solidify the ultimate punishment for the guilty person. The king learns that his daughter has a 'lover'; the king has the man brought to the arena for a 'trial by ordeal'. Here lies the 'unsolvable facet' of the *The Lady Or The Tiger*. Should the lover of the princess perish with the tiger or spend his life with the lady rather than the princess.

The narrator of the story does not answer the question. Which door that was selected is not revealed. The princess has learned just what is behind each door. She must examine her 'heart' and her decision on how to direct the accused to either fate, neither of which is a good outcome for the princess. The text of the story concludes with; 'Which came out of the door, the lady or the tiger? Certainly, 'food for thought' as one of those parts of life that we all have all faced over time, if not yesterday, maybe today, or even tomorrow.

The Lady Or The Tiger, I learned from the prospectus, includes full-color illustrations by Robert Place, a world renowned tarot scholar as well as illustrator. The illustrations in the tome were especially done for the book in the style of his tarot cards. The book incorporates two different printing processes: letterpress text from metal type and full-color digital illustrations. The book is 53 pages typeset in a monotype Goudy 38 Light with Lombardic Initials. The regular edition is bound with a printed book cloth material carrying an illustration of the 'lady'. The endpapers, both

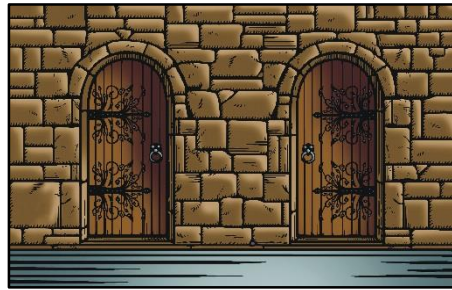


Image of front and rear endpapers



front and rear are printed images of the 'two doors'. The total edition contains 201 copies, 150 are numbered. There is a deluxe edition as well, containing 26 lettered copies, (A-Z). The remaining 'out of series' copies are reserved for special use. The book is 2¹/₄" x 2⁷/₈" and is provided with a printed cardboard slipcase (regular edition), \$139.

The deluxe edition is bound in black leather. The blind-stamped leather doublures on both inside covers have 'doors' that open. Edges are gilded and gauffered. The slipcase is leather and a

special folder contains a 'set of cards' with the book illustrations as well as additional artwork not included with the text of the book. The deluxe edition is \$805.



*left and right, front and rear cover, standard edition
center, deluxe edition with slipcase box*

As a 'flashback' to our standard miniature book reference volume, there is an interesting comment [1999] included by Bradbury about Rebecca and the work she has done. Quoting from a newspaper reporter, Elizabeth Lazarus, "She loves having control over the complete process, from the choice of subject to book design to the materials used." In closing, it is exciting to see Rebecca return to the realm of miniature book

publishing and bringing forth all of her thoughts and skills that make such a wonderful book as the *The Lady Or The Tiger* for us all to enjoy. 📖

Contact information: Rebecca Bingham
E-mail: serous39202@mypacks.net

FRONTISPIECE: *(continued)* **By Sherry Mayo**

responsible for the projects. Therefore, he spent long days away from home at the remote sites. This schedule did not leave much family time for any of the dads. However, each home and the neighborhood in which it resided did bring certain adventures for a young boy.

At a home in central NJ, one dreary day, Pete discovered an odd maroon colored cabinet with a dome style top and gold trim in the far corner of a basement area that adjoined the area designated as the children's playroom. It had an "L" shaped handle protruding from its side and two cabinet doors on its front. Behind the doors, Pete found

several records in tannish paper covers that were much bigger than the little records his parents had given him.

Pete eagerly tried to find the “player” for these records because he was curious to hear what they held in store. He tried moving the “L” shaped handle and it slide out of the box. In a panic, he worked feverishly to get it back into place. Pete knew the cardinal rule set down by his parents with each new home they rented – “treat everything here as though it was ours, or else. . . .” Pete knew what the last part of that admonition meant all too well.

Finally, the handle slipped back into its waiting slot and Pete sighed with relief. Still, he was so curious about those records and this box, he knew they had to be related somehow. “Ah”, thought Peter, as he attempted to remove the top and it budged slightly. Another try revealed that the top could be lifted and two brass hinges help hold it in place. There before him was the familiar turntable for records, though very different from his box case one stored back home – his real home.

Pete carefully slipped one of the records out of its paper sleeve and noticed a dog sitting on the label. He placed the record on the turntable being sure to center the hole. Then he looked for the “on” switch but didn’t find one. “This certainly is an odd record player”, thought Peter. “How can it work without a switch?” Then Pete remembered his mom’s music box; it played without a switch, but he had to wind it up with its small “key”. “That’s it”, Pete said aloud. Now he knew the reason for the “handle” on the side of the box.

He gave it a turn, and another, and another, the record began to spin around. Elated, Pete cranked some more but remembered to stop, just as with the music box, when it began to “feel tight”. Soon the basement air was filled with the voices and music of Dinah Shore, Ella Fitzgerald, Glenn Miller, Rosemary Clooney, Patti Page, Frankie Lane, Bing Crosby, and many others.

Suddenly, as the final notes of “Don’t Fence Me In” faded away, the basement filled with a brilliant shaft of light – at last, the sun had returned and there was much to enjoy outdoors. Pete grabbed his baseball glove and headed back upstairs.

Three months later, the families were staying in a very large, old, rambling home on the east end of Long Island near a place called Montauk Point. It was fancier than any house Peter had ever seen. It had a swimming pool (but it was covered because it was now winter), a tennis court, a huge yard with pathways leading to benches and statues and maybe fountains when they weren’t covered with snow. So much for a young boy to explore and his imagination ran wild with adventures.

Yet, the grounds surrounding this home were only the beginning of the opulence in Peter’s eyes for the inside was as grand as the movie theater in his hometown. A grand staircase leading to the second and third floors greeted anyone entering onto the foyer

through the massive front door. The butler's quarters had plenty of space for the youngest couple traveling in this troupe for they were expecting their first child. The maid's quarters were larger because there was likely more than one maid to attend to the chores and needs of the family that spent their summers here. This is where the second family with their two kids decided to live during our stay.

Peter and his siblings, along with their parents decided to use the second floor area with its many bedrooms with baths, plus a spacious sitting area with a large window encircled with stained glass panels. On sunny days, the room resembled the inside of a kaleidoscope with bright splotches of color accenting the ceiling and walls. However, it was the library surrounded the landing at the top of the stairs that attracted Pete's curiosity on this cold winter's day.

Pete was a voracious reader, even at his young age, and the many ornate built-in bookcases were an invitation to discovery. His eyes scanned the shelves looking for familiar covers and titles, but there were no "Hardy Boys" or "Hop-A-Long Cassidy" or "Johnny Danger". Still, he did spy a group of books with covers that looked vaguely similar to ones he had seen at the library back home in the "older kids" section.

He gently took the first volume off the shelf and read the title, *The Redheaded Outfield and Other Baseball Stories*. Baseball – that was something dear to Pete's heart! He took the book with him into the sun lit sitting room and plopped down in one of the oversized chairs. He opened this new adventure to the first page and began reading; filling in with his imagination when he encountered a word he didn't know yet. Pete sat enthralled in the story but then he had an unexpected shock when he turned to page 34. There between the pages 34 and 35 was a twenty-dollar bill. Pete just stared at it because that was a whole lot of money. Then he thought possibly since this house was so big and grand, the people were very rich and someone used the twenty as a bookmark, so he would do the same.

After another twenty pages or so was a ten-dollar bill, then another twenty and all thoughts of the story were completely forgotten as Pete's quest for money took hold. He found more money in that book and then began looking at others. One by one he began emptying the shelves as the money pile grew larger. When his two sisters and brother came upstairs and saw the books stacked on the floor they told Peter he was going to be in big trouble with dad when he saw the mess. "But", Peter stammered, "Look" as he held the wad of bills up for them to see.

Soon there was a frenzy of activity as four young children amassed a fortune among the pages of the library. However, the joy and excitement soon caught the attention of the adults downstairs who came to investigate. Peter's dad and mom were flabbergasted by the sight that greeted them as they rounded the top of the stairs. Nary a book was left on the shelves but were stacked ever so carefully about the floor.

“Ahem”, came a loud tone behind them and all four children turned in unison to see the scowling faces of their parents. “Exactly what is going on here?” asked dad - at which all fingers pointed to Peter. “Money”, Peter blurted out, “lots of money, we’re rich”. “Where did you find this money” Mom inquired. “In all these books”, chimed the siblings. “Then it’s not yours is it?” stated dad.

Pete’s mom and dad gathered up all the money and put it in a large manila envelope for safe keeping to be returned to the homeowners. Pete and his siblings were then given the not quite so glamorous task of placing all those books back upon the shelves in a neat and tidy fashion. A few hours later, the task was complete, but the day was ending and dinner beckoned.

Over that winter, Peter finished many wonderful stories from that comfy chair and although Pete’s thrill at being rich was a fleeting moment, the discovery of so many adventures within the pages of those books was never lost. 📖

CATALOGUES RECEIVED:

Karen Nyman Miniature Books, Catalog Number 68, very well done and well organized for easy viewing, 100 items with many pictures, a very good selection of antiquarian, children’s, and rare books in an electronic PDF format catalogue. The 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. This catalogue has a very good selection of patriotic books as well as Msgr. Weber’s latest book, *Gregory Peck*. **NEW ADDRESS INFORMATION**

Contact info: 7835 Rush Rose Drive, # 124, Carlsbad, CA 92009, telephone 760-944-3019, website: www.KarenNymanMiniatureBooks.com, E-mail: karennyman2@cox.net

Between the Covers Rare Books, ‘Miscellany’, E Catalogue 15, is their latest catalog, contains 20 items truly miscellany. Try their website it is also a great reference site for various articles and a glossary of terms.

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

Catalogues and the booksellers are wonderful friends and great resources. Catalogues are like a bag of sugar doughnuts on a Sunday morning, do not tell anyone you are home, and just quietly open the bag. Keep the catalogues 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? Let me know your favorites so I can share it with everyone. 📖

**MBS CONCLAVE XXXV,
'IN A NUT SHELL',
By Rick Hill:**

For 35 years, the Miniature Book Society has found time once every year to come together as a Conclave. First, in a hot field, on an Ohio farm, and in 2017 a luxury hotel in Oakland, California.

Six of the original MBS members who were present in 1983 were also present in 2017: Caroline Brandt, Peter and Donna Thomas, Rebecca Bingham, Rev. Joseph Curran and Msgr. Francis J. Weber. All are still interested in miniature books.



*(L to R;
Msgr. Weber, Fr. Curran, Rebecca Bingham, Donna Thomas, Caroline Brandt, and Peter Thomas)*

Dorothy and Susan Yule were the hosts of the Oakland Conclave which was held August 11-14. They wowed each of the 66 attendees with their keepsake of *Bay Bridges in a Nutshell*, which was also a MBS Distinguished Book Award Winner.



The Conclave was kicked off with a pre-Conclave dinner at Scott's Seafood Restaurant. On Friday, the Board held their annual meeting and members began the registration process. The Yules offered each member an early afternoon option of either taking the BART to the Book Club of California or attending a workshop with Alisa Golden titled 'A Bay Area Herbarium.' The official Friday activities concluded with a silent auction and a dinner, members visited and reminisced with old friends into the night hours. As each member went to their individual rooms, they were able to look through their keepsake bag and found a delightful miniature program, list of attendees, several maps of Oakland and San Francisco (one drawn by Susan Yule), a list of local sights, and other pertinent information all miraculously contained in one foldout miniature book confined in its own neat little case. This was just one example of the many creative touches that made this Conclave special.

Saturday was a busy day for all the members. It began with the annual meeting led by President of the MBS, Stephen Byrne. At the meeting the 2017 MBS members-only book, *A to Z of Small Creations* by Susan and Dorothy Yule, was distributed to each member. Members were also introduced to the MBS's first Student Grant Recipient, Asa Nakata. Our first workshop of the day was presented by Judith Serebrin: 'Miniature Pamphlet and Decorative Sewing on the Spine.' The afternoon activities included a BART trip to the San Francisco Library and to the legendary PBA Galleries. The PBA Galleries was able to preview the next miniature book auction, which was held on August 24th. PBA Galleries loaned the MBS professional auctioneer, Greg Jung, to preside over the MBS Auction on Saturday evening.


The excitement of the final day's activities began with very successful miniature book fair began. Members were allowed to browse and purchase their treasures for two hours before the public was admitted. WOW, and did the public ever show up! The attendance in the afternoon was said to be record-breaking by several long-time members. Dorothy Yule was responsible for getting a full-page article about the book fair and the miniature book Conclave in the San Francisco Chronicle. Yule was assisted by Darleen Cordova in securing a Mayoral Proclamation.

The Conclave was topped off with the Awards Banquet. Before the banquet began, all of the past and present presidents of the MBS, in attendance, were gathered together for a picture.



*(L to R; front row; Msgr. Weber, Caroline Brandt, and Eileen Cummings)
(L to R; rear row; Neale Albert, Jim Brogan, Mark Palkovic, Stephen Byrne, and Fr. Curran)*

The banquet activities included a guest speaker, Julie Chen. Chen is a world-class book designer. The Yules added their own fun-touch to the banquet with a ‘miniature souvenir photo booth.’ Members were encouraged to use props, hats, boa-feathers and mustaches to add to the fun of their pictures. Distinguished Book Awards included: *Bay Bridges in a Nutshell* by Dorothy and Susan Yule, *Silver Brocaded Satin Damask* by Rie Sato, and *Yellow* by Sue Higgins Leopard. The Glasgow Cup was awarded to Tony Firman, The Anderson-Yarnell Award was presented to Cathie Abney, and The Norman J. Forgue Award was given to Caroline Brandt.

The first Conclave was held on September 3, 1983 and was meant to bring miniature book publishers, printers, and collectors together to celebrate their shared passion. However, over the 35 years of the Conclave, something more is celebrated and Marian Byrne said it best in a private conversation during the Awards Banquet, “we are all interested in miniature books, for sure, but it is the friendships that make the Conclave something special”. 

THE WARBURTON ARCHIVE, **Reported by Jim Brogan:**

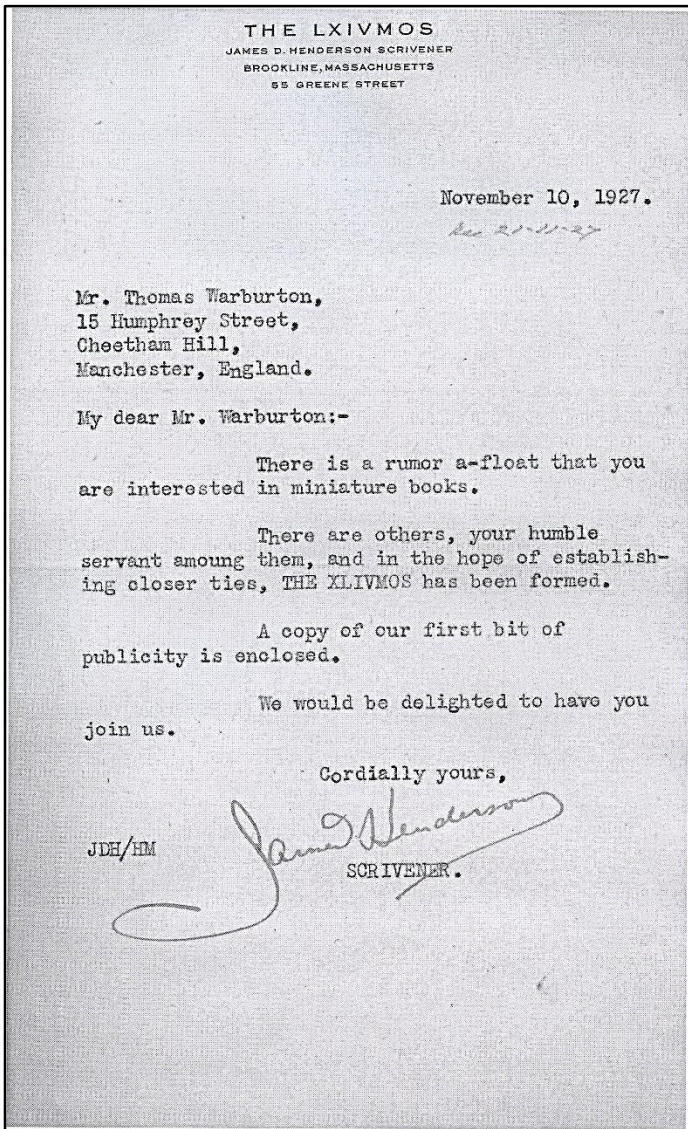
In our last issue of *The Microibliophile* I reprinted an article originally written by Msgr. Francis Weber about the ‘Warburton Archive’. As a bit of a refresher, the ‘archive was a trunk full of miniature books and related ephemera that made its way to the shop of Louis Bondy, many years ago. They were sold to ‘who knows’ but the Msgr. being a man always looking for a story or the unusual was able to purchase the ephemera items, mostly letters from and to the likes of James Henderson and Wilber Macey Stone, Achilles J. St. Onge, and Thomas Warburton, a bookdealer of significant position in England.

Msgr. Weber did mention in his article that the letters that he did purchase went to the Huntington Library with his collection of miniature books in the 1990’s. Myself not being one to wait another 20-30 years to unravel the mystery of what information was talked about in these letters, I contacted the Director of the Huntington about the ‘Warburton Archive’ materials. The director knew of the materials and said that they had not been digitized but he would investigate just what it would take to make the information available short of an onsite visit. A few days passed and I had the answers. The library could digitize the letters for a ‘per page fee’. My response was ‘to whom do I give the credit card number?’ Well I now have all of the information, some 180 pages of data, that

I am in the process of reviewing and will share with the readers as I can lace things together.

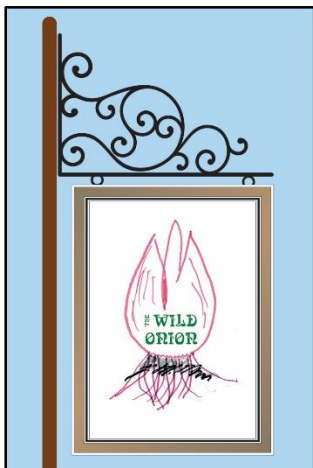
I can say that most of the correspondence talks about the day to day things of book collecting. Funds available for new purchases, new books being published, and the fact that one of these famous 'pioneers of the miniature book world' was having his wife sew up his pants. The depths of the 1929 depression, gripped the world, money was scarce and 'they had to make' due with what they had'. How universal life is over time.

So I will share the following document, written by Mr. James Henderson, of the 'LXIVMOS' fame to Mr. Thomas Warburton, inviting him to join the select group of 'LXIVMOS' subscribers.



As time and pages permit, I will share more of these glimpses into the past days of the world of miniature books. 📖

**MEET A NEW PUBLISHER,
'THE WILD ONION PRESS',
A New Press For Miniature Books:**



Everyone enjoys meeting a new neighbor who moves into the neighborhood and so it is for sure with a new press and the plans to bring more books to more bibliophiles. Pat Caernaraven-Smith, who we know as 'being associated' with the Plum Park Press as the wife of Tony Firman, has decided to put her pen to work and create two new series of miniature books.

While at the recent MBS Conclave, I received a detailed outline of just what Pat has planned for The Wild Onion Press. She describes herself as the 'author, editor, and dreamer-in-charge'. What could be more fun. The self-proclaimed 'promise' from Pat is:

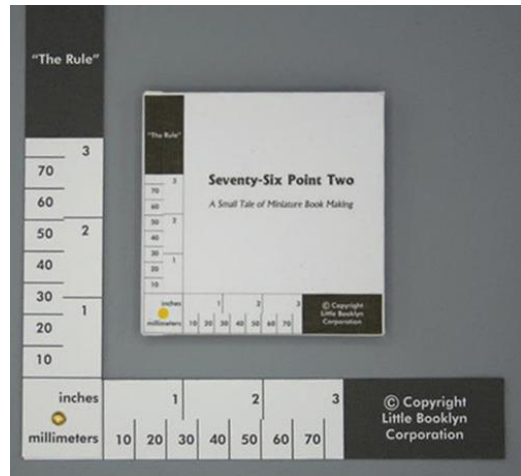
*Readable, teachable, books in miniature,
A way to dream,
A way to laugh,
A way to explore.
New fiction in our favorite size.
Some of it, directly, happily, about us.*

The 'Little Booklyn Series' and the 'Tiny Book Series' both published under the imprint name of The Wild Onion Press promise to be a new facet of miniature books that will follow the backbone of the series and provide the reader with an enjoyable reading experience with a continuum of characters and subjects. Both series are fiction and both are connected with the world of miniature books.

The Little Booklyn Series is "about a mythical town where miniature book lovers all live, work, love, fight, and produce beautiful miniature books." Again Pat is the author and Barbara Williamson, another MBS member, is the illustrator according to the advanced information I received. The combination of these two talented people should work well to create a great series of books. Pat provided a 'three page' outline of the 'Who's Who' list of characters for the series. Starting with 'Lillian Alexander, MFA, Fine Books,' Rosalyn Breadwaite, the senior chemist and proprietor at The Write Colour Ink', 'William Skinner,

Goat farmer and provider of fine skins', and the list goes on and on. The Little Booklyn Series is scheduled to contain the following titles: *Seventy-Six Point Two*, *Booklyn en Fete*, *It's Convolutud*, *Papering Little Booklyn*, *Adventures In Morocco*, *The Great Booklyn Spa Development Plan*, *Timothy Bolt*, *Mrs. Skellinghamton's Press*, *The Booklyn Bible Lady*, *Adventures In Match-making*, *Aphrodite Glue Works*, and *The Complete Little Booklyn Reader's Guide*.

The first book *Seventy-Six Point Two* has been produced. The story opens with a brief introduction about just where Little Booklyn is and the origin of the town name, which is related to the 'upper' size limitations of the miniature books that are create in this interesting community. We are introduced to David, the town mayor who meets a 'stranger in town' at the local eatery and begins the lengthy explanation of the 'purpose of the town'. The story goes on over a period of about six years with various visitors coming to Booklyn to see how things were done and just



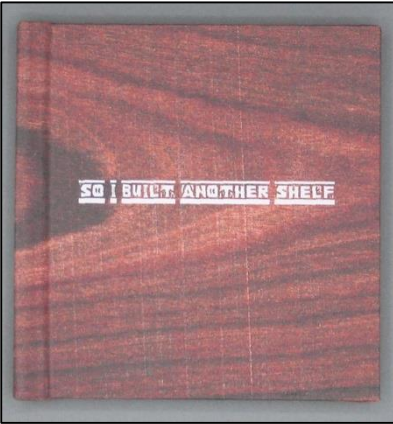
what made the citizens such a happy group. The front endpaper carries the message "Welcome To Little Booklyn". The rear endpaper concludes the tome with the message 'Farewell From Little Booklyn'. The text is an easy read of 72 numbered pages presented in 9/13 pt. Bernhard Modern typeface. The white book cloth cover is printed with the title and 'ruler' image. The rear cover carries

the Wild Onion trademark illustration. The overall size of the book is 3" x 3". Excellent construction and the book operates perfectly which for me is important for a miniature that is intended to be read, maybe more than a few times, remember the promise, "***Readable, teachable, books in miniature***". The tome is priced at \$40, including shipping.

The 'Tiny Shelves Series' is about small books in small places and shows just how people can 'grow down' to enjoy living in a variety of small places. Quoting from my advance materials, "The Tiny Book series addresses the other side of the miniature book market – our new buyers. For a long time people with large houses and apartments, anxious to build magnificent collections of miniature books, have been constructing toy

houses, large hanging bookcases and temperature –controlled cabinets in which to store their collections.” “A new generation, and new market for our wares, now joins them.”

So I Built Another Shelf, is the first book in this series. The book opens with a brief description of a booklover who lives in a trailer 8.5 feet wide and 28 feet long, pulled behind a truck from one location to another. Chapter Two introduces the reader to Aggie, who lives in a NYC apartment. Aggie’s problem is she loves books, big ones, as well as small ones. Aggie goes through several ‘remolding’ jobs, each time building more shelves. Chapter Three is a short story about Ginger and Sam who live in a yurt. Since yurts are round you can just image how the tasks of building another shelf went in this home. As they learned how to live in the yurt with the tiny books, they also learned how to live ‘happily ever after’.



So I Built Another Shelf is printed on 41 text pages with several ‘hand drawn’ illustrations to show the various book domiciles. The covers and endpapers are printed-paper with a ‘woodgrain design’. The overall size of the book is 3" x 3". The title is printed on the spine as well as the front cover. Another great read, ‘well done Pat’, priced at \$40 including shipping.

Expanding into the future Pat is working on some additional ideas that may fit into the existing series or facilitate a new series. Her ideas include stories about children succeeding in a grown-up world, especially in the realm of money, savings, wealth, poverty, and good works. The website mentions an additional series ‘The Grandma MacInerny Series’; I will leave the surprise for you to investigate. Pat mentions that ‘everyone has a story to tell. The Wild Onion invites those who have a little book buried deep inside them to get it out on paper, and send it to us for possible publication’. The website for The Wild Onion Press is www.TheWildOnionPress.com.

A great start for a host of new work, great stories, and ideas for the future. 📖

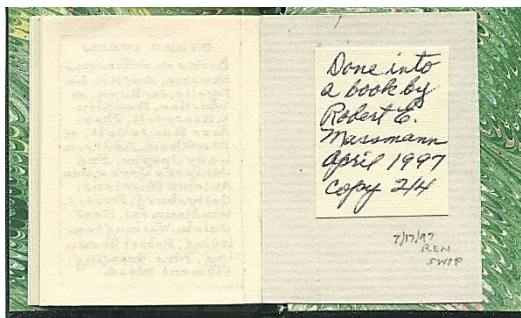
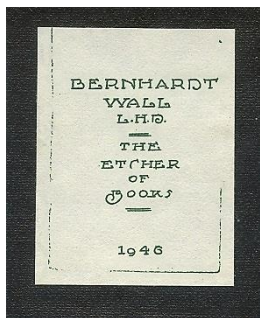
Contact information: Pat Caernaraven-Smith, PO Box 77883, Fort Worth, TX 76177
E-mail: bailgardener@gmail.com or www.TheWildOnionPress.com

BERNHARDT WALL, A Short Story About Copy 2/4 and 4/4:

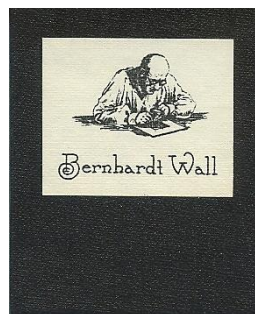
In April of 1997, Robert Massmann decided to create yet another miniature book adding to the many he had previously done over almost forty years. Massmann was the master of the unusual regarding the design and construction of his books. *Bernhardt Wall, The Etcher of Books*, is traditional in its format, a standard case design presented in a well-done binding and slipcase. What makes this book unique in presentation is that the text pages and slipcase cover are made from copies of original Bernhardt Wall printed pages. The original pages were trimmed to fit a special 'case' and joined with a stiff board binding to form a delightful tome, 2¹/₈" x 1³/₄", the slipcase is just slightly larger to accommodate the book. Both the tome covers and the slipcase are covered with a matching black leatherette and identical images, the slipcase carries a simple 'paste-on' title label. Another interesting fact about *Bernhardt Wall, The Etcher of Books* is that it is one of the most rare REM publications to locate, only four copies are known to exist, that is to say, the simple hand written colophon notes that only four copies were published. As previously mentioned, the text pages and cover illustrations are actually made from pages created by Bernhard Wall.

It appears that at least copy 2/4 and 4/4 were made to be as similar to each other as possible but maybe the availability of original 'page content' drove Massmann to utilize the resources he had on hand to create these similar but 'slightly different' versions. As you can see by studying, the images there are subtle differences.

Copy 2/4 Cover and 'colophon'



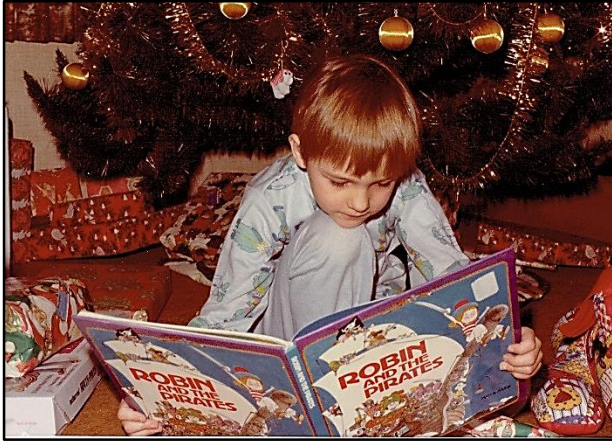
Copy 4/4 Cover



Interesting details, what images do Copy 1/4 and Copy 3/4 carry? If you have a copy of this rare tome please share the information. Priceless! 📖

PART 1, 'THE CONNOISSEUR',

By Todd Sommerfeld:



This writer has been a connoisseur of rare first editions since before he could read them. *Robin and the Pirates* was published in one edition and has never been re-released. The picture is from Christmas 1976. I read this book until it was loose-leaf and then was trashed in about 1986. I spent the next fifteen years or so looking for a replacement copy. I was told that if you can find one it will cost you about \$75 but a few years ago, I found it in a

Ravenna, Ohio antiques mall for one dollar. The spine was damaged but the fine folks at Strong's bindery in Shaker Hts. made it all better.

I wrote this as a blog article three years ago but it serves to show the allure of books and what may happen if you offer a little encouragement to a young bibliophile. Elsewhere in this issue of *The Microbilibophile* I have written a little more about my collecting habits and the effect it has had on me personally, so go ahead, 'flip through' the pages and find that young person and give them a miniature book and see what happens!

Priceless! 📖

TIDBITS,

By Joan Knoertzer

This small bit of miniature book news was mentioned in the book *Now All We Need Is A Title: Famous Book Titles and How They Got That Way*, by Andre Bernard, 1994 published by W. W. Norton & Company: New York.

The first miniature book published in America appeared in 1705 and measured 3" x 3½". Printed by William Secker and comprising 92 pages, its title was practically longer



First Edition cover, 1875

than the book itself; *A Wedding Ring Fit for the Finger, or the Salve of Divinity on the Sore of Humanity with directions to those men who want wives, how to choose them, and to those women that have husbands, how to use them.*

Also, the dust jacket's beginnings are quoted in the same book, 'Now All We Need Is A Title'. It was Lewis Carroll who first suggested to his publisher that the dust jacket carry the title of the book. Thus Carroll's *The Hunting of the Snark* was the first book to be published with a printed jacket in 1875.

Also, as a follow-up to my last 'Microbibliophile' issue article; the Armstrong Browning Library, at Baylor, this note was found in the same book: the moving love poems in Sonnets from the Portuguese were written by Browning to her husband poet Robert Browning, and were never intended for a wider audience. Robert Browning insisted they be published

because, he said, "I dared not keep to myself the finest sonnets written since Shakespeare's." The poems are not a translation from the Portuguese, it is thought they are so called because Browning's pet name for his dark-complexioned wife was 'my little Portuguese.'

Lastly, adding to Browning's miniature books to your list, Carolyn Brandt sent this additional information:

Sonnets from the Portuguese, Venice, Italy: S. Rosen, 1904 and 1906

(same), New York, NY: Thomas Y. Crowell, ca. 1910

(same), Philadelphia: Altemus Co, 1906

(same), Longueuil, Canada: Leslie Fontein Publications, ca. 1990

Love Among The Ruins, Heather Dean, Leslie Fontein Publication.

Sonnet XLIII, from *The Portuguese*: Montreal: Roger Huet 1996 (Part of 8 volume set: Best Love Poems Collection)

Days of The Week, Lorson's Publication, 2004

Good hunting! Her poems were so loved that many anthologies also carry one or more, as well as Robert's beautiful poems. Keep looking....we are getting closer to a definitive list...I look forward to your detective work! 📖

Contact information: Joan Knoertzer, PO Box 3387, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3387

FABS Vice-Chair and Board Representative of the MBS

'THE MUSING OF MICHAEL,

By Michael Garbett:

I read with interest the article by Nina Mazzo, in the last issue of *The Microbibliophile*, concerning her copy of Newsletter No 10 of the '64 mos'. Then I went surfing through some of my early catalogues, and found the following: Catalogue 9. Items 84 and 85.

In this forward to the reprint of the Newsletter, Robert Massman writes, "The problem is to find an original set, at any price. For a complete set to become available would indeed be an awesome occurrence. The last time a complete set surfaced was in the Wolcott/Soliday sale in New York."

Item 84, the two sets offered in my catalogue were the property of one of the original members of the 64 mos Club, and were in good condition as received from the Scrivener. The complete set of 21 issues, November 1927 to November 1929, including the two miniature attachments, **£ 650**. Item 85, the complete set, similar in all respects as the previous item, except that it lacks the Seattle Folder attachment, **£ 575**.

I waited and waited for a response, but there was no interest in either item. I sold the second item privately some time later, but the complete set appeared in Catalogue 11 under the heading "Unsold from Catalogue 9, 1993", this time for **£ 400**.. (I must have needed the money). I think I had better clear out some drawers and see what else I can come across. 📖

'THE LILLIPUTIAN LIBRARY',

By James D. Henderson:

Editor's Note: Sometimes the phone may ring and sometimes an email message may flash on the screen with an interesting conversation unfolding. A few months back I received just such a message from Gabrielle Fox, a subscriber and conservator in Ohio. She had been visiting one of those collections of things that seem to build in each of our homes and what 'jumped up' was a 1933 issue of the 'American Book Collector' magazine. The ABC was a monthly publication edited by Charles F. Heartman, based in Metuchen, NJ. All news to me but it certainly was a robust publication with some very interesting stories and a very good list of advertisers. Please take note that this article was written almost four years after the demise of the LXIVMOS publication, so Henderson still kept active in the world of 'Micro-bibliophiles'. Read on, as there are a lot of interesting facts that maybe you, as a seasoned collector may have known or as a new member of the micro bibliophile world may find enriching. So as you are going through your paper treasures, perhaps you too may come across some long ago forgotten information, send it along as it is always a good thing to share.

"A Lilliputian Library"

BY JAMES D. HENDERSON

MINIATURE book collectors, or as they are oftentimes called "Micro Bibliophiles", are frequently confronted with the query, "Why do you collect miniature books? They are too small to read". This question is really a statement, however, that in the opinion of its compounder little books are of no practical value or use. There is the implication in the question that the collector is wasting both valuable time and money.

Indeed, Barton Currie in his book *Fishers of Books* makes no attempt to conceal his pity or contempt for Lilliputian librarians and phrases his opinion thusly in describing the various aspects of book collecting: "There are garners of 15th. or 16th. century wood-cuts and the few remaining collections of microscopic books who begin with John Taylor's Thumb Bible and fill whole cabinets with Lilliputian examples of stunt printing, which to the general run of Bibliophiles represents the last word of futility".

Yet, our critic does believe his readers will have sufficient interest in microscopic volumes to warrant his picturing one in his book namely, the tiny copy of *Lincoln's Speeches*, which includes the Gettysburg Address. This delightful little book, much smaller than a postage stamp, containing 160 pages, was produced by the boys and girls of the Training Division of the Kingsport Press, Kingsport, Tennessee, as an exhibit at the Annual Convention of The Employing Bookbinders of America. Incidentally, it was awarded the first prize at their meeting in Boston, in 1928.

About two years ago, this same press published a miniature book which included many of the speeches of the late Calvin Coolidge. It was the same size

as the "Lincoln" item, bound in blue leather with stars radiating from the lower right hand corner pointing out in all directions, indicative of the meteoric rise of Mr. Coolidge.

Certainly, their effort in miniature book making cannot be termed futile, for some future Barton Currie will enrich his book collection with larger volumes, printed or manufactured by some of these boys or girls who have grown to adult life and because of their experience in the Kingsport Press and their faithfulness in a small way, made possible their master craftsmanship in a larger way.

But we have not yet answered the query, "Why collect miniature books?" So frequently was this writer confronted with the question during his early collecting days that he confesses to having found himself seriously debating as to whether or not his quest for these little books was not a waste of time and money. He decided to put this question to older collectors, that is to say, older in point of experience in literary matters, and here are a few of their replies:

Walter de-la Mare:

"Miniature books charm the eye and fancy, because they are miniature. As for the pleas that miniature books are worthless because one can't read them, a less irrational complaint would be that many common sized books are worthless because one can".

A. Edward Newton:

"I collect books, that are too large to read, with comfort that is, and books, which I am too ignorant to read, and books which I haven't time to read and books which I would not read if I had time, and books that are too good (morally) to read and books that are too naughty to read, and yet I would not give them up for anything".

Carl P. Rollins: (Yale University Press)

"Mohammedan princes collect wives, empires collect small kingdoms, small boys collect strings, nails, shells, etc. There is something

THE AMERICAN BOOK COLLECTOR

inherent in man which bids him collect what interests him".

Wilbur Macey Stone:

"It's no earthly use, but a satisfying and lasting delight; to the serious minded who consider themselves mature, miniature books offer in all respects of paper, typography, illustration and binding, that is, in all the "Arts of the Book", everything to be found in volumes of larger format except size. And since when was size a criterion of beauty. And finally, diminutive objects of all kinds have a strong appeal and what more worthy than to collect books, little ones".

Thus encouraged, I decided to ignore future reflections on my little hobby and have endeavored to corral a collection worthy of the attention of more ambitious collectors like our friend, Mr. Currie. Perhaps, even he would recant if he would spend a few hours with me some evening in my library.

While we are attempting to justify the existence of the miniature book, shall we determine just how small a small book must be. My good friend and guide in Microland, Wilbur Macey Stone, sets the maximum height at 4 inches, largely to include in this nomenclature the beautiful little series of volumes known as "Diamond Classics", issued by Pickering in the early part of the 19th. century, printed in "diamond type", which is about 4½ points high, a point being one seventy-second of an inch. *The Bookman's Glossary* approximates the size at 2 by 1¼ inches. While I would hesitate to differ with my chief (Wilbur Stone), on any matter pertaining to books, I do like to consider 2½ inches as the maximum size of a miniature book.

Collecting small volumes is not indicative of depravity, lack of literary appreciation or of limitation of financial means as is evidenced by some worth-knowing folks who have indulged in this "futile" endeavor.

The New York Times of August 7, 1897 in discussing Books and Art, had this to say:

"While the Tilden collection cannot be called strong in special features, it has many welcome and valuable additions in Americana. Among its treasures are two little midget gems from the library of Thomas Jefferson".

This reference was to a little Latin Horace from the French Press of Sedan (1627), and the second, an Epictetus in the original Greek, printed by Foulis in Glasgow (1751). Mr. Tilden acquired these little possessions of the great Commoner of the Revolution in 1873.

The collecting of miniature books was a hobby in France all through the 19th. century, especially with society ladies. The Paris newspapers frequently referred to the fact that the Empress Eugenie had the largest collection in the world. The Marquise de Quincey (a kinsman of the English author, Thomas de Quincey) had in his country house in the north of France a collection of more than 3,000 miniature volumes.

In the *London Times* of February 16, 1928, we are told that the first big sale of the season in Paris to cause a sensation outside the circle especially concerned was that of M. Henri Lavedan's great collection of the tiny books known as *Almanacks Chantants et Galant*. M. Lavedan was a member of the Academie Francaise, a well known author and dramatist, and he had formed a collection of over 200 minuscule almanacks which were so popular in court and other circles during the 18th. century.

One of these little literary jewels, *Etriennes du jour de l'an on cadeau sans pretention*, published by La Vachez in 1790, bound in satin brocade, brought at this sale 23,000 francs. The text of the book was of secondary importance, the one essential being that each year almanacks should be exquisite in form and general get-up, the primary reason for their existence—"c'est pour faire plaisir aux dames qu'on leur offrait ces delicieux calendriers".

The Westminster Gazette of London, in its issue of March 22, 1927, tells of an exhibition of intriguing miniature books belonging to Sir Edward Sullivan, the Shakespearean authority, and Mrs. St. John Hornby, wife of the proprietor of the Ashindine Press. Some of these little books are now in the library of this writer and were bound by Sir Edward Sullivan. The smallest is only a quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of an inch square, beautifully bound, but with blank leaves. Two others are copies of the little Bryce Testament, published by David Bryce & Sons, Glasgow, upon whose work we will dwell at greater length later. This little book weighing 26 grains, as published, is only $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{2}$ inch in size, contains 520 pages, and is a reduced facsimile of the Oxford Pica, 16 mo., New Testament. Sir Edward had bound each of these in beautiful hand tooled leather, and the work measured up to the standard set by the best English binders.

Walter de la Mare in *Memoirs of a Midget*, describes the tiny books and their contents, forming the library of his midget character, with a familiarity born only by his possession of these little tomes. To these have been added several which it has been my pleasure to recently present to this talented author.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt numbers among his literary treasures many miniature books, among them the tiny "Lincoln" item, to which reference has been made, while Queen Mary of England has in her famous Queen's Doll House, made and presented to her by the craftsmen of her Empire, a marvelous tiny library of printed books in miniature, as well as many in the original handwriting of the famous living authors of Great Britain, presented by some eighty authors, among them being the following: Thomas Harding, Aldous Huxley, Rudyard Kipling, E. V. Lucas, A. A. Milne, Sir Arthur Pinero, Sir J. M.

Barrie, Arnold Bennett, G. K. Chesterton, Joseph Conrad, Walter de la Mare, and many others.

The largest book in the Doll House measures $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches tall, while the majority are $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches tall.

A few years ago, W. B. Seabrook, the famous world traveler, visited Mitkal, Sheik of the Beni Sakh in the Great Desert. Upon his departure after a stay of several weeks, the Sheik presented Mr. Seabrook, as an evidence of his affection, with a tiny Koran, about the size of a postage stamp, enclosed in a little silver case.

This little book was undoubtedly another of the little publications of David Bryce & Sons, which were sold a number of years ago for a shilling apiece.

But why continue; the roll is a long one! Suffice it to say that Lilliputian libraries will be found in the British Museum, Congressional Library in Washington, D. C., La Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris, Widener Library at Harvard University, and public libraries in New York City, Kansas City, Seattle, Boston, and Worcester, also at Melbourne, Australia.

Aside from their appeal to the lover of beautiful bindings, delicate craftsmanship, and at times their ancient lineage, miniature books have practical uses and have played a part in many important world events.

In the News Letter of the LXIVMOS for June 15, 1928, Wilbar Macey Stone tells of a wee Babylonian tablet, only $15/16$ ths of an inch high, and $13/16$ ths of an inch wide and $3/8$ ths of an inch thick, bearing on both sides inscriptions in cuneiform characters recording the receipt of one sheep and one large kid, and dated in the month of Mash-du-ku, in the year when Kimash was destroyed, or in other words, 2275 B.C. This writer has a number of similar small tablets

THE AMERICAN BOOK COLLECTOR

awaiting translation and who knows the secrets they may contain.

Many of us have considered shorthand writing to be of comparatively modern discovery, and when Jeremiah Rich sometime between 1650 to 1660 translated the Psalms into shorthand, he gave in his dedication, as a reason, that he would not himself be idle, and the reason for printing them that he would have others well employed,—two creditable reasons for any performance. He later transcribed the New Testament.

About the same time, one Thomas Shelton issued a competitive *Book of Psalms*, written in his own system of short writing. The size of both the Shelton and Rich books are $2\frac{3}{8}$ ths and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches tall by $1\frac{5}{8}$ ths inches wide, if not cropped down. While both issues are rare, the Shelton item is the most difficult to find. These little books are of themselves most interesting little items, but acquire additional interest when we learn that Samuel Pepys was a student of Shelton and used his system in writing the famous *Pepys Diary* (1659-1669), which together with his whole library was bequeathed to Magdalene College in Cambridge, England. His diary remained there undeciphered until 1825, when Reverend John Smith discovered the key to the greater part of it, and transcribed and published it in that year. The larger part of it, however, was undeciphered until 1875, being written in a different system which baffled all attempts to discover it.

Another practical demonstration of the utility of wee books was disclosed in the memoirs of the late David Bryce of Scotland, who published literally hundreds of thousands of little dictionaries, Korans, testaments, bibles, and other little books about the size of postage stamps.

Among the titles was one of Robert Burns, a facsimile of the Kilmarnock

edition, measuring $1\frac{1}{16}$ ths x $\frac{9}{16}$ ths inches and containing 240 pages. These little books were bound in various covers of leatherette, and some like the one in this writer's possession were bound in vellum. There were published over 100,000 of these little Burns items.

One was presented by Sir John Pender to Henry M. Stanley on the evening he left for his tramps through darkest Africa. On his return 3 years later he informed Sir John that he had carried the little book in his knapsack during all of his travels, and that it had passed many a pleasant hour for his companion. At Mr. Stanley's request, it was afterward known as the Stanley Edition of Burns.

Another of the Bryce items played its part in history. This was the little Koran, of which mention has been made elsewhere in this article. This little book, slightly smaller than the Burns item was ordered by the British Government to the number of 500,000, each one of which was enclosed in a little metal case with magnifying glass window. They were presented to each of the Mohammedan soldiers, or workers behind the lines, in the service of the British. Thus inspired, who will say that the efforts of these soldiers were not stimulated and their energies re-vitalized to such an extent that they contributed in some small way to the defeat of the enemy.

Even in affairs of State, miniature books have played a part, for in the presidential campaign of 1852 a little plain covered paper booklet, $1\frac{1}{2}$ x 1 inch in size and containing 16 pages was printed in Concord, New Hampshire, the home city of General Franklin Pierce. It was a work of satire and led up to the startling information that Franklin Pierce was the son of his father. Still further, one reads that on the 17th of August, 1847, he fell from his horse on the bloody field of Contreras, and was

dangerously wounded in the rim of his hat.

Another item, in slightly larger paper covers with blank pages on the inside, bore the title *Facsimile of the Life of Franklin Pierce*, 1852.

During Theodore Roosevelt's first campaign, after having served the three (3) unexpired years of McKinley's term, there was issued a book $2\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{7}{8}$ inches, containing 200 pages, and bound in colored paper covers, with a portrait of Theodore Roosevelt on the inner front cover. It was written by Byron Andrews and is dated, Washington, D. C., May 1, 1904, and published by Sam Stone, in Chicago. It has many line drawings and incidents in the life of Roosevelt, from his cowboy days to his experiences as President. This is much sought after by collectors as the smallest Rooseveltian item. To appeal to foreign voters, it was printed not only in English but German, Hebrew and Dutch.

From time to time, controversies have arisen as to just what is the world's smallest book. The answer to this depends upon the point of view. 1891, there was published in Grimsby, England, by E. A. Robinson a little book that was given the distinctive title of *The Mite*. It was issued as a curiosity and printed from movable type of the character known as brilliant, 20 lines to the page, which measured $\frac{9}{16} \times \frac{7}{16}$ inches. The book contained 28 pages, and chronicled many facts of interest. This little book held undisputed claim to being the world's smallest book until 1896, when there was printed in Padua, Italy, by the University Press, a little book which reproduced 13 of the original 40 quarto pages, of a letter written by Galileo in 1615 to the Grand Duchess Christine of Sweden, mother of the reigning Prince.

In it, the scientist endeavored to convert her to the Heliocentric Theory of the Universe. The little book measured

$\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{3}{8}$ of an inch and contained 207 pages. It was entirely set in movable type by hand. The covers were of paper, although this writer has a copy bound in vellum and another, in morocco with gold tooling, contained in a tiny Solander case. This item still maintains its claim to being the smallest book ever printed from movable type.

Some 30 years ago, Mr. Charles Hardy Meigs, of Cleveland, Ohio, decided to give to the world the smallest book ever made. He selected as the vehicle, Fitzgerald's Rubaiyat. It is printed from copper plates, 12 of them, 4 pages to each plate with 3 verses of the poem to the page. The introduction was by Nathan Haskell Dole, and dedication to the Hon. John Hay, then Secretary of State. There were 57 copies printed, of which but a few have survived. The book measured $\frac{5}{16}$ ths of an inch square and is less than $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch thick, bound in cloth. Two copies were deposited in the Congressional Library and other copies presented to Queen Elizabeth (Carmen Silva) of Rumania, Hon. John Hay, Nathan Haskell Dole, and Mr. Edwin Herron Allen of London. The others were sold on subscription at \$15.00 each.


At the "American Art" sale in New York, February 2, 1928, one copy of this little Rubaiyat, housed in a finger ring, was sold for \$420.00.

As compared with this little tiny tome, Harvard University challenges miniature book collectors to the ownership of the largest small book in the world. Its title is *Carta Constitucional da Monarchia Portuguesa Londres*, 1832. The book measures $12\frac{5}{8}$ ths \times $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches, containing 32 pages, including the title. The type pages, however, measure only $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{3}{8}$ ths inches, with 44 lines to a page, and from 45 to 50 type characters to each line, or roughly 350 words to each page.

But the subject of miniature books is inexhaustible. If the search for them and


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the subsequent study of their contents and evolution will tend to occupy the otherwise leisure time of the tired man of affairs and distracts his mind, even in a small degree, from the problems and cares of the work-a-day world, who is there to agree with Mr. Currie that the garnering of these delightful little treasures represents the last word of futility.

There you have it! 


TERMS AND DEFINITIONS,

Signet:

Everyone has seen a signet at one time or another. A signet is a ribbon, usually silk for durability, secured at the head of a book to be used as a 'page-marker'. Signets were frequently used beginning in the 16th century and were frequently enriched with precious stones. A bible or book of sermons used for a religious service may have several signets of different colors to mark different passages and thus make a ready reference in sequence for the service This term would be an excellent subject for a more lengthy article for *The Microbibliophile*, if you choose. Visit the *Encyclopedia of the Book*, by Geoffrey Ashall Glaister, published by the Oak Knoll Press, 2001 for an expanded list of related terms and discussion points. 

THE YOUNG BIBLIOPHILE,

The Self-Hinged Accordion, More Books To Make Yourself:

This important feature will return to the pages *The Microbibliophile* with the December issue. We thought it would be interesting to feature this article first on the website, www.themicrobibliophile.com. The example will show you how to make an accordion book that is longer than the sheet of paper that you have used to make it. 

ABOUT OLD MINIATURE BOOKS, THE RUBAIYAT OF OMAR KHAYYAM

By Robert F. Orr Hanson:

Editor's Note: Robert Hanson, the Founding Editor of 'The Microbibliophile' is a man that has written countless articles and stories about miniature books. The number of articles editing over the years is even more staggering. Here again, he shares his knowledge about our precious treasures, 'miniature books', from a previously published article.

Currently, I am at work on an encyclopedia of miniature bookiana, and in so compiling, I found much data on the Rubaiyat. Accordingly, I thought this would be a good time to share my findings with you.

Omar Khayyam was a Persian astronomer, mathematician and poet who was born in May, 1048 and died in 1123. His major achievement was the creation of a collection of quatrains. These are 'poems which consist of four lines of thirteen syllables each with the rhyme-scheme aaaxa or aaaa'. This is to say, "the first and second lines rhyme, the third line is unrhymed and the fourth line returns to the original rhyme for a rich, concluding cadence'.

It has been said that Omar had 1,200 quatrains attributed to him, but less than 500 have been authenticated. An Englishman, Edward Fitzgerald (1809-1883) translated 101 of the versions over a two decade period. Critics of Fitzgerald say that he distorted the original quatrains conforming them to 'Victorian romanticism'. Others insist that Fitzgerald's Rubaiyat 'sings the fact that because man has no understanding of an afterlife, he must allow his senses the fullest possible appreciation of life on earth'. Saying this thought another way, 'Omar urges man to drink deeply of the joys of this world—love, wine and beauty—forsaking the hereafter'.

Two familiar examples of the Omar—Fitzgerald quatrains are as follows:

*The Moving Ginger writes; and, having writ,
Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a line,
Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.*

*Come, fill the Cup, and in the fire of Spring
Your winter-garment of Repentance fling:
The Bird of Time as but a little way
To flutter—and the bird is on the Wing.*

Why has there been so much printing of the Rubaiyat in miniature book form? I know not, but perhaps since there are only four lines to a verse the type is quicker and easier to set. Alternatively, perhaps, these verses with their lyrical, musical quality in total, or only a few, appealed emotionally or philosophically to the printer/publisher. In any case, I think we have a much beloved piece of poetry to pass on to future generations of collectors of miniature books.

In addition, to illustrate further, the following miniatures Rubaiyats have been listed for your consideration.

No. 330, Bromer Booksellers Catalogue 22 (October 1981). Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam. Rendered into English verse by Edward Fitzgerald. Jamaica, Edmund S, Wood, 1943. Illustrated. Mint in red leatherette with title stamped on covers. In original fold slip-case. 1 15/16 x 1 5/8 inches. \$85

No. 450, Bromer Booksellers. Catalogue 23 (January 1982). Omar Khayyam. Rubaiyat. Cleveland, Charles Hardy Meigs, 1960. This great rarity was the smallest book in the world when it was produced and still must be included in the world's smallest books. The text was photographically reduced and printed from copper plates. Because of the technical problems in such severe reduction, at that time, the original was printed from specially designed type so that no detail would be lost. In fact, the text is quite readable at ten times magnification. A fine copy in original cloth, of this exceedingly rare miniature. 3/8 x 3/8. \$1500.

No. 122, Bromer Booksellers Catalogue 45 (June 1987). Stanley Marcus Collection. Rubaiyat. Edward Fitzgerald (London ca. 1965) "A smaller and later facsimile by L. G. Challenger of the Henry Frowde's Oxford University Press edition. 24 leaves. Bound in gilt-stamped maroon leather by Challenger with his initials beneath the coat-of-arms of Great Britain on both covers. 1 11/16 x 1 3/16 inches." \$125.

No. 123, Bromer Booksellers Catalogue 45. The Rubaiyat. Edward Fitzgerald. London and Glasgow. Gowans and Gray, 1927, 64 pp. This is a reprint of the 1904 Bryce edition with double-sized pages with ornamental borders. Gilt-stamped buckram with original d/w 2 14 x 2 7/8 inches. \$13.

Louis W. Bondy, List 152. September 1992 Rubaiyat. Edward Fitzgerald. Fourth Ed. London. Anthony Treherne, New York, The H. B. Clafflin Co., 1905, original fawn leather, gilt edge 2 5/8 x 2 1/8 inches. One of the Waist-Coat Pocket Classics. \$135.

Rubaiyat. Edward Fitzgerald. Glasgow, David Bryce & Son (1904). Original light brown leather, front cover and spine beautifully and richly gilt-stamped with an oriental design, gilt edges 2 1/8 x 1 5/16. \$150.

No. 159. Swann Galleries Public auction Sale 1544 (November 1990). The Meigs Rubaiyat. 8 x 8 mm, (3/8 x 5/16 inches), had morocco gilt, red morocco pulloff case, 57 copies, Cleveland, Charles Hardy Meigs, 1900. \$2640.

No 160. The Rubaiyat. Omar Khayyam. 8 x 6 mm, vellum. Needham, Mass. George W. and Winthrop Southworth, 1920?. \$605.

No. 161. The Black Sun Rubaiyat. Omar Khayyam. 26 x 28 mm, red morocco gilt, Paris: BlackSun Press, 1930. "One of only 44 copies on Japanese vellum." With floral decoration on upper right corner—front cover. \$9,350.

Eben Francis Thompson, writing in the March 15, 1928 issue of the News-Letter of the LXIVMOS, mentions a number of Rubaiyats and among the smaller ones were:

* Eight editions issued by the Rosemary Press between 1916 and 1921 which were less than 1 x 3 inches, and limited from 20 to 75 copies, printed on vellum and with many having jeweled bindings.

* Another Rubaiyat was given to the foreign guests of the American Oriental Society. They were bound in full blue morocco with gold tooling, and inlays in red and green with a jade center jewel. Only 20 copies were produced.

James D. Henderson, 'Scrivener of the LXIVMOS', reported that a Meigs Rubaiyat, 5/16 inches square, was set in an old silver ring with a catch to fasten it closed. It was fitted into a velvet and satin lined case, and sold at auction on 15 February 1928 for \$420.

The March, 1929 issue of the News Letter of the LXIVMOS carried a lengthy article by Thomas Warburton, "a prominent book and print seller of Manchester (England)". In this piece, the author compiled a list of 22 little Rubaiyats from his collection and seven more not seen, but known to exist.

Finally, Julian Edison, in the No. 73-June, 1992 issue of his 'Miniature Book News', elaborated on 46 miniature Rubaiyats from the Warburton article plus those in the Welsh bibliography. Additionally, Edison illustrated his piece with selected front matter from

the Bryce, Unwin and Rosemary Press books. In the June, 1994 issue of the MBN he requested information concerning the whereabouts of the 57 copies that were printed.

There are still more copies of the Rubaiyat published by other presses, but they remain for another story on another day.

There you have it!



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


Editor's Note: What are some of the current [2017] prices for the books mentioned? Let me know and we can print a recap. Maybe a 'Meigs Rubaiyat' or 'The Black Sun Rubaiyat' has come to market recently.

GET THE INK READY, START THE PRESSES:

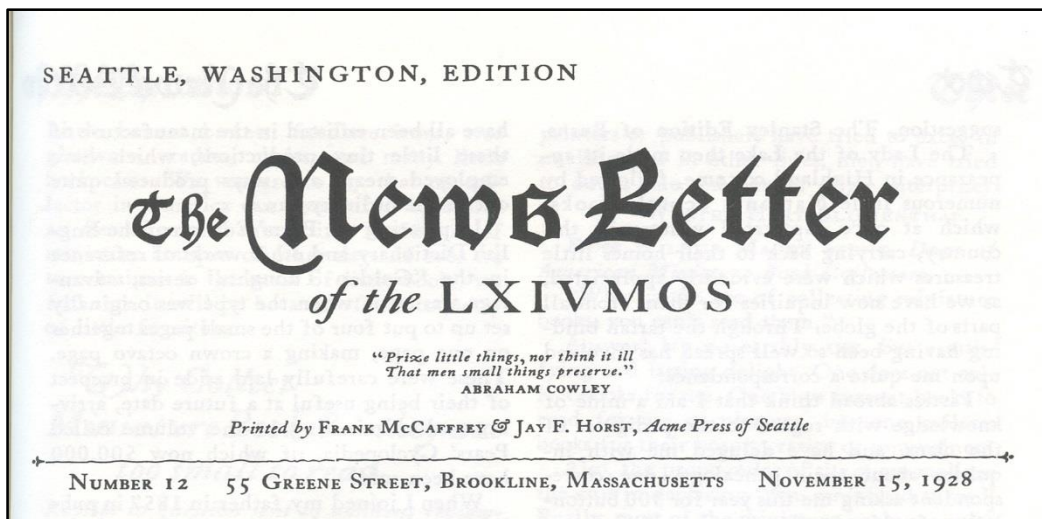
Next issue, Volume XXXVII, Number 6, Issue 210 (expected publish date; 11/01/2017)

Reading is a great experience, sharing what we have read is a blessing. Another year of *The Microbibliophile*, 'if it was any more fun we would have to give money back'.

- *The Invention of the Sewing Machine*, to be published by Tony Firman
- *Candide or Optimism*, by Voltaire, to be published by Tony Firman
- *The Model Menagerie*, by Evelyn Fletcher, a pop-up, published by Tine Krijnen
- *The Windhover*, 'dos-a-dos' pop-up published by Pat Sweet
- The Young Bibliophile
- 'An Antiquarian Delight', TBD, perhaps something with a silver metal binding
- 'Out of the Box', something old for sure, an REM scroll
- Some Favorite Christmas Books, maybe 'Wake-Up Doormouse'?
- Maybe something new from a NOBS special publication
- Nina Mazzo, LXIVMOS Number 13
- Something old from the 'Book Lovers Answer', 'More About Adomeit'
- How to use the www.themicrobibliophile.com and the BLOG
- How about something from you? 'Always room at the inn, Sunday dinner just gets better and better with the everyone bringing something to the table.'

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. 

TIME MACHINE,
The News-Letter of the LXIVMOS, Number 12:
By Nina Mazzo



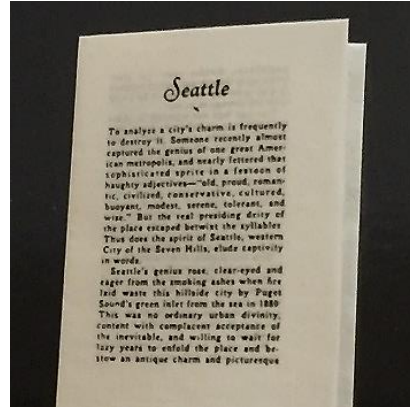
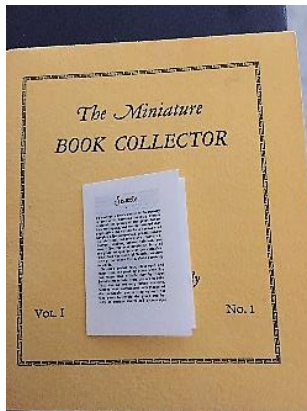
The News Letter of the LXIVMOS, November 15, 1928

Acme Press of Seattle printed this issue and Scrivener James D. Henderson also enclosed a miniature paper (see below) for the subscribers. The miniature newspaper reads as though written by the Seattle Chamber of Commerce: "Seattle's genius rose...from the smoking ashes when fire laid waste...this city in 1889. This new Seattle not yet four decades old, is the Seattle whose first ton of gold was brought from the Klondike in 1898." It is a fascinating look at a time in this city when trading with China, Japan, and Alaska provided a unique look at what were considered remote civilizations.

The Newsletter content continues the discussion about the publisher David Bryce & Sons. Have you heard of the Pickering Diamond Classics? Wilbur Macey Stone wrote that Pickering called these paper copies Diamond Classics as he printed them from diamond type, measured in untrimmed condition. The first volume the 'Horace' was issued in 1820 in brown cloth with a paper label. (I found one at 'Abebooks.com' for \$607) In 1826, he published 'Walton's Angler' and this issue has the cuts of fishers and music. It had an

engraved frontispiece of three fishermen after Stothadt (I think this is a fish like Tilapia). The last of the Pickering editions was the 'Homer' issued in 1831 with a medallion portrait frontispiece of the poet. Mr. Stone notes: "Possibly this dissertation will re-awaken interest in these somewhat neglected miniature books, which may still be had at very modest prices from the English dealers".

Mr. Henderson bids his friends in Seattle farewell and looks forward to Issue Number 13, which will be a medical edition, to be published and mailed from Barnard, Missouri by Dr. Charles D. Humberd.



The above images are of the 'reproductions that are included with the 'reprint reference volume' The Newsletters of the LXIVMOS, edited by Robert E. Massman and printed by the Lilliputter Press, of Woodstock, Vermont, in 1968. The actual size of the 'facsimile' newspaper is 1 1/2" x 1 1/8". If you do not have a copy of this reference volume, do try to track one down for yourself, just an endless compendium of miniature book information. 📖

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

Editor's note: As subscribers to 'The Microbibliophile' we all know that the original Newsletter of the LXIVMOS was edited by James D. Henderson, the Scrivener, of Boston, Massachusetts. We also know that the production process was to print and mail the newsletter from various cities around the world via a 'host'. Has anyone ever seen the arrangements that Henderson may have had in place for the actual production? Did Henderson or the host pay for the mailing expenses? How did they move the edited info back and forth for drafts and actual printing? Only 'sharing' will tell.

PART 2, 'WHAT I HAVE DONE FOR MINIATURE BOOKS',

By Todd Sommerfeld:

I have always been a collector, of everything and anything. Along with my favorite object set of the hour, there were books, from my early teen years. Perhaps it was a greater mastery of the English language through fiction or the knowledge housed in a reference work, I knew that books equal power. In my late teens miniature books were thrown into the mix, which added craftsmanship and art to the list of benefits that books provide.

Books are expensive though, and I have never been a man of means. Which has led me to some creative ways to acquire them. In my school years, while mom was scrimping and saving just to make ends meet, I was skipping lunch to save my lunch money for books. I also found out quickly that, as a youth, that if you have a legitimate interest and show a little knowledge, and are just cute most sellers would give you a good break. I exploited that cute factor for as long as I could to build my library.



I found out early on, scrap dealers will pay you for aluminum cans, so yes, I am that guy in the Wal-Mart parking lot picking up dirty beer cans.

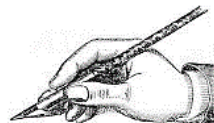
I would walk the ten miles downtown to save the \$1.70 fare so I could spend it on books. I have skipped utility payments and driven without insurance to buy an especially nice or rare book. In fact, the book bill is the only one I am always sure to pay on time, before everything else.

More recently, I have discovered that there are places that will pay you to “donate” the plasma part of your blood. I have started a small internet business selling nice things I do not necessarily want or need so I can buy books that I do want but do not need. All this while working as a machinist 55 hours a week.

I am constantly searching bookstores and antique shops, thrift stores, garage sales and estate sales, trolling ‘eBay’ and ‘Vialibri’, and perusing dealer’s catalogs from coast to coast. In short, I go wherever the books are. All this, I do just for one more volume.

So, what do YOU do for miniature books? 📖

Write an article for *The Microbibliophile* !



**THREE CENTURIES OF THUMB BIBLES, By RUTH ADOMEIT,
A Miniature Bible Reference Standard,
Reported by Jim Brogan:**

Reference books are always important additions to any collector's bookshelf. I had not really been a collector of miniature bibles but this past spring I did have the opportunity to add several Bibles to my collection of miniatures. As with anything, you really do not know what you have until you begin to examine the details and start asking questions and making inquiries. Ruth Adomeit was certainly an authority on book collecting and specifically miniature Bibles. She possessed such a wealth and abundance of information that she published a 'checklist' of miniature bibles in 1980. *Three Centuries of Thumb Bibles A Checklist* was published by Garland Publishing, Inc. New York and London. I was able to obtain my copy as an online auction price for less than the price of the shipping.

The interesting thing about the book is that in addition to the 370 pages of listing and illustrations of various Bibles there are many 'cross-reference' pages. Included is an 'Index of Publishers', an 'Index of Titles', an 'Index of Places', abbreviation tables, etc. a real treasure trove of information compiled in a way that only a librarian would create. All that said, the gemstone of information, for me is the seven page Introduction.

The very first thing that Adomeit makes clear is that the term 'thumb Bible' is of an unknown origin. She explains that the term came into reference in the mid-19th century, more than likely after a visit to England by General Tom Thumb, who toured the area extensively with P. T. Barnum. Adomeit further explains that the Thumb Bible has come to be defined as an abstract, an epitome, a summary, a synopsis, or abstract of a complete Bible. The initial audience was certainly children. Generally speaking, it could have been published in prose or verse but always as a condensed version nor is it a 'miniature format' book such as the reduced size facsimile as published by David Bryce. The earliest thumb Bibles had Latin titles but that practice was quickly replaced with terms defining the titles as 'Bible in Miniature', 'condensed', or a 'summary'. Thumb Bibles are usually 'hardbound in a leather to withstand the considerable use expected. However, cloth covered board and paper covered versions do certainly exist.

Adomeit explains that the earliest known 'thumb Bible', that was known to exist [in 1980] was the 1601 book titled *An Agnus Dei*, which was published in London. The next oldest version is the *Verbum Sempiternau* printed in 1614. The first prose version of a thumb Bible appeared in 1727, published by R. Wilkin, in London. Publishing of thumb Bibles jumped across the Atlantic in 1816, with a version being published in Brattleboro, Vermont.

To a great extent miniature Bibles were ‘neglected’ in standard works about children’s literature. More than three hundred various editions over a three hundred year period can certainly attest to the popularity of the Bibles. Three great collectors of early children’s books, Dr. Rosenbach, Wilbur Macey Stone, and Dr. Welch did recognize the value of the miniature Bible as a component of children’s literature. The Rosenbach and Welch collections were gifted to libraries where they can be viewed today as important pieces of the rare book collections. Stone’s books were dispersed through various sales to private collectors.

Adomeit concludes this very informative Introduction with her words; “This book is the result of almost forty years of collecting miniature books, and during all these years I have been particularly interested in Thumb Bibles. When I first discovered miniature books, I poured over the *Newsletters of the LXIVMOS* at the Cleveland Public Library and learned of Wilbur Macey Stone’s book on Thumb Bibles. I secured these and read them again and again as I searched for tiny Bibles. For years collectors and book dealers who knew of my interest in miniature Bibles urged me to write a book about them, but I always felt that there would be new discoveries of other tiny Bibles, and that such a book should be as complete as possible, so instead I continued to collect the tiny volumes and accumulate information on the subject. Now more than fifty years after Stone’s attempt to list all known miniature bibles in his book *A Snuff-Boxful of Bibles*, I am happy to be able to list close to three hundred Thumb Bibles.”

A long time ago, at the beginning of the school year, a teacher told the class he was going to give a ‘pop quiz’ on our textbook the next class day. Everyone sort of ‘hemmed and hawed’ about how could there be such a quiz. The next day the quiz was administered with one question, ‘What was mentioned in the Introduction? Never again did I skip reading the Introduction of a book, this Introduction was excellent and very informative. The Adomeit collection of Thumb Bibles is maintained in the Lilly Library, at the Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. Children are our most important key into the future. Remember the adventure is with the search. 📖



INTERNET ENTERTAINMENT AND ENLIGHTENMENT,

By Arno Gschwendtner:

Editor's Note: Once again, Arno, an MBS member and subscriber who lives in Switzerland, continues to share an almost endless supply of interesting and informative pieces of electronic treasure. Some items are video pieces and some are more static but all are informative, are greatly appreciated, and help to satisfy our hunger for bibliomania.

Dr. Jorn Gunther Rare Books AG, 'catalogue',

http://guenther-rarebooks.com/index.php?id=57&tx_guentherrarebooks_guentherrarebooks%5Bbooks%5D=140&tx_guentherrarebooks_guentherrarebooks%5Baction%5D=show&tx_guentherrarebooks_guentherrarebooks%5Bcontroller%5D=Books&cHash=42c3778ba47c7e521f332f8d1e9ad65a

'Goats, Bookworms, a Monk's Kiss,

A technical read about the 'enemies of books'.

http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/07/goats-bookworms-monk-s-kiss-biologists-reveal-hidden-history-ancient-gospels?utm_source=sciencemagazine&utm_medium=facebook-text&utm_campaign=biologyofthebook-14552

Lewis Carroll - Through the Looking Glass, (English language book)

<https://www.minibuch.de>

Exupéry - Kleine Prinzhttps, (German language book)

<https://www.minibuch.de>

'Mr. Bean the Book Lover',

A little bit of material for a little bit of a good laugh.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGdWuCv9yHY&feature=youtu.be>

How Real Books Have Trumped ebooks",

The return of beautiful books to print are being enjoyed again.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/may/14/how-real-books-trumped-ebooks-publishing-revival#img-2>

'The Calligraphy Revival", Grolier Club,

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/grolierclub/sets/72157681743134111>

Well Done Arno! 

PART 3, 'WHAT MINIATURE BOOKS HAVE DONE FOR ME',

By Todd Sommerfeld:

While we now know how early I started collecting and to what lengths I have taken to add to my library, what has been the result? With such an expenditure of time and treasure there should be something more to show than a shelf of books.

I had been casually collecting miniature books since 1989 and seriously since 2009 but I joined the MBS in December of 2012 with the intent of meeting Bob Massmann (REM), who is a mini-book hero to me. At that time, I was leading a rather solitary life with little social interaction outside of church and a couple of close friends. I was, however, somewhat active in the collectable book scene locally. As a result, I was elected to a board position for the Northern Ohio Bibliophilic Society in early 2014, and was invited to address the group on my field of specialty, miniature books. Now crowds and public speaking make me very nervous so I did not want to do it, but in the interest of promoting my passion, I agreed. This for me was a huge undertaking. I prepared a PowerPoint presentation and a handout listing miniature book resources. I felt that the best way to make an impression though was to hand out a miniature book to all who attended. I could not afford to buy a book for everyone so I decided to make the books, which I had never done before. I wrote, designed, printed (via computer), and bound (with staples) an edition of 150 copies. The only part I did not do myself was the typesetting, which was done by a professional graphic artist. It was crude but did its job.

In the meantime, Jim Brogan had been after me to write a 'Meet the Collector' article for *The Microbibliophile*. I felt myself a lousy writer and did not want to do it. After a year of procrastination, my first article appeared in the March of 2014 issue. Because I waited too long, I never was able to meet REM. To avoid future regrets, I decided to attend the Grand Conclave in 2014 as well. To do this I had to disregard my dislikes of crowds and airplanes as well as do the unthinkable, share a room with a stranger!

Since that fateful year of 2014 when I grew so much, I have continued to expand my horizons



Todd and his son Wendell, at a bookmaking workshop, MBS Conclave, Oakland 2017 (photo by R. Hill)

through miniature books. In 2015 I made my first overseas trip to go to the conclave (where I shared a room with a Russian book artist who did NOT speak English). I have spoken many times on different aspects of miniature books, and am prepared to do so today on a moment's notice. I have published several books, continue to hone my bookmaking skills by taking classes at one of the finest book arts centers in the nation, and have an endless list of book ideas to pursue. I am a regular contributor to *The Microbibliophile* and occasionally contribute to a few other publications. I travel yearly to meet with the best group of friends a man can want. All of this because someone fostered a love of books in me at an early age.

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

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The deadline for submitting articles for the November 2017 issue will be October 15, 2017, electronic or paper submissions, either way, the choice is yours. Pick a place and let your mind wonder back in time.

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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.
Contact information: E-mail: kkbakunas@gmail.com

Karen Nyman is looking for two volumes she lacks from The Cabinet of Lilliput, by John Harris. Here are the missing titles: 'Jacob the Fisherman', etc., and 'Julia and the Dog', etc.
Contact information: E-mail: 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.
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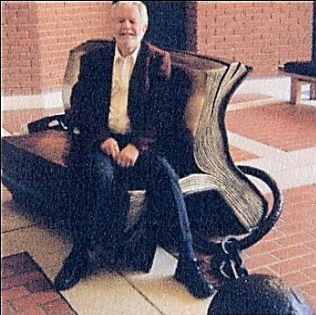


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