

THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE[©]

A Bimonthly Journal about Miniature Books and the Book Arts

Volume XXXVII, Number 2, Issue 212, MARCH 2018



'MARCH WINDS, A BREATH OF SPRING'

Single Issue Price: \$7.00

ISSN #1097-5551

Waiting For Grandpa, *By Jim Brogan*



My Grandpa says, "One of the great pleasures in life is being able to help people and to help children is a priceless activity". The six children seated on the long bench are waiting for their Grandpa who seems to have left his reading glasses on the counter at the library. My name is Katherine Kerry James and I am the oldest grandchild in the picture. I am named after my grandmother and my middle name represents the name of the county in Ireland, where she was born. Today is Saturday and there are three great parts to the day. First, is going to the downtown library, on the trolley car, with Grandpa. Second, is stopping at the Woolworth's for lunch, just the children and Grandpa, Grandpa says, "Everyone gets ice cream for lunch dessert". Lastly, is telling Mom and Dad about the 'great adventure' and all of the new books we each got at the library.

Our Saturday trips with Grandpa are always something to look forward to for my sister and brother as well as my three cousins. Everyone has to remember to return their books from the previous trip before they can get a new book. I like to look for books about travel to faraway places, there has to be good pictures as well since my younger sister

continued on page 10

THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE®

A Bimonthly Journal about Miniature Books and the Book Arts

Robert F. Hanson, Founder, 1977

ISSN# 1097-5551

Volume XXXVII, Number 2 Issue Number 212

March, 2018

Book Reviews and Criticism:

Robotic Grandmother , by Patricia Caernarven-Smith, published by Wild Onion Press	05
Silk , by Prue Batten, published by Bo Press Miniature Books	06
Constantinople , by Alexander Millingen, published by Plum Park Press	08

Special Features:

Frontispiece, <i>Waiting For Grandpa</i> , (continued)	10
How I Began Collecting Miniature Newspaper, by Stephen Byrne	11
<i>A Trip To Camino Island</i> , a review by Robert F. Orr Hanson	15
Time Machine, LXIVMOS, Number 15, by Nina Mazzo	17
Out of the Box, Miniature Book's Distant Cousin, by Todd Sommerfeld	19
The Queen's Dolls' House, Additional Reference Books	21
A Visit To The Library of Congress, by Rick Hill	23
Old Catalogues	31
Collecting Miniature Books, by R. E. Massmann, A Revisit	32
Antiquarian Delights, <i>Evangeline</i> , by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	30
More About FDR's Little Books	38

Departments:

Terms and Definitions, 'Frontispiece', by Cathie Abney	14
Get the Ink Ready, Start the Presses	41
Publications Received	41
Some Interesting Book Stuff	42
Beautiful Libraries, A Visual Visit, Klemntinum Library	44
Catalogues Received	45
Upcoming Events	46
The May/June 2018 Frontispiece	48
Classified	50

The Microbibliophile

P. O. Box 5453, North Branch, NJ 08876 U.S.A.
Sherry Mayo, Publisher James M. Brogan, Editor
© 2018 by James M. Brogan

Greetings from the Squeaky Roll Top Desk:

Spring is in the air, well almost! If you look at the trees and plants you can see the buds of new leaves and flowers beginning to swell with the increased hours of daylight. It makes no difference if they are still covered in ice and snow; the presence of more daylight is the alarm clock for their annual schedule.

Let me first say that I received more complements on the last issue than I think I have received in total previously. The reader's complements were about the quality and diversity of the contributed articles. My complements, as well, go to all of the contributors to *The Microbibliophile*, well done to everyone. Remember *The Microbibliophile* is a palette for your ideas, contributions, and suggestions.

The March issue contains three new miniature book reviews. I received several comments and pieces of information concerning the article and information presented about the FDR collection. Caroline Brandt stated that she also has a copy of an FDR miniature initialed by FDR with an FDR bookplate. The folks at Campobello Island are very interested in the effort we are undertaking to document the FDR collection, along with an invitation to visit the site and examine the books on hand. WOW, a road trip for the editor of *The Microbibliophile*.

The articles in this issue again reflect the depth of our reader/contributor diversity. Todd continues with a unique genre of collecting, Nina keeps us posted with her series on the LXIVMOS, miniature newspapers by Stephen Byrne, Cathie Abney helps us with 'book terms', there is special review by Bob Hanson, and a 1966 reprint by REM. Browse the 'Table of Contents' for yourself and enjoy the journey, I certainly enjoy putting it all together for you.

What would you like to read, learn, and/or possibly contribute? I personally invite you to take a turn at the Frontispiece story; you can even pick the picture to match your story. The horizon is your border of opportunity, good will, and adventure. Share your thoughts and journeys. Please visit our updated website at www.themicrobibliophile.com. Lastly, thank you for the opportunity to bring *The Microbibliophile* into your life.



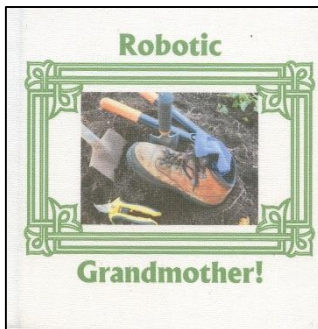
FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

“Liberty must be allowed to work out its natural results; and these will, ere long, astonish the world.”

Fifteenth President of the United States, 1857 -1861
James Buchanan, 1791 - 1868



MINIATURE BOOK REVIEWS and CRITICISM:



Robotic Grandmother!, by Patricia Caernarven-Smith, published by Wild Onion Press, 2018. Grandma MacInerney is another new series of miniature book fiction introduced by the Wild Onion Press.

Grandma MacInerney, the lead character in the two short stories within this first volume, is a person, who according to the author's note, "doesn't get out of the way and she doesn't carry a gun. Sometimes she faces evil all by herself, and sometimes she has backup, such as a granddaughter with a rolling pin." Grandma has three robotic toes and two robotic knees. Grandma lives in a small community, tends to her gardens, and has a strong belief in protecting herself and her neighbors.

The first story has a familiar theme; a charming swindler enters the community. The long time scoundrel and thief begins making friends with the neighbors, gains their confidences, and then begins to steal their belongings.

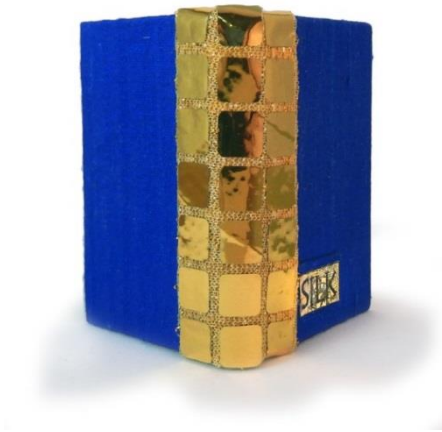
Grandma sees what is happening and naturally begins to take things into her own hands. She not only protects the neighbors but exposes the thief to the police, thereby gaining a friend in Lieutenant Bluelight.

The second story, taking advantage of the lessons learned with the thief, relates how the community mobilizes with a series of 'warning devices' to alert everyone if a problem should arise. However, Grandma, always to the rescue, teaches everyone that the best defense can often be a good old-fashioned scream!

Patricia Caernarven-Smith sprouted the Wild Onion Press in 2017. The website does contain additional information about the Grandma stories and her 'life' history, this information is certainly a complement to the *Robotic Grandmother*, because it helps you learn about the Grandma and her determination.

Robotic Grandmother is bound with an overall size of 3" x 3" and it is published as an open edition, each signed by Pat. The book is bound in a white book cloth with a picture of gardening tools printed on the cover along with the title. There are 157 numbered pages utilizing Cheltenham 9/13 font. An interesting printing feature is that each verso page carries the author's name in the top border and the recto page carries the book title. The book is an excellent example of printing quality and book construction. *Robotic Grandmother* is priced at \$40 including shipping and handling. 📖

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



Silk, by Prue Batten, published by BO Press in 2018. The miniature is a spin-off from the third and not yet published historical fiction novel entitled *Michael*, by Prue Batten.

Silk is set in Constantinople, in the year 1195, and is ripe with the beautiful and the sometimes-brutal customs of early Byzantine life. Prue Batten is a master of weaving details of fact and fiction to create a wonderfully flowing story, all the while keeping the reader continuously interested.

*Some days were meant for gazing at the damascened pattern of sunlight
on the waters between the Prosporion Harbour and Galata.*

Some days were meant for stealing.

This day was the latter..

The above opening lines on the first page are a clue to where the reader will journey. Loulia, is a 24-year old girl who disguises herself as a boy to steal a piece of blue silk from a vendor in the open market. Within the story, we learn that the tragic memories well-up in Loulia when she sees the silk. "As well, the dark blue of the silk reminded the thief of the ocean, and of the wave that had taken everything away. Just the idea that something like the sea could be raped and pillaged seemed possible – a family's death avenged in a snatched half an ell of blue silk."

She was orphaned at an early age and sold by pirates as a slave. Now as she runs through the streets to escape with the silk, by serendipitous chance, she meets Father Symeon. He listens to her story and decides to help her. The tale continues and Loulia earns her redemption by weaving finely embroidered cloth at the monastery. As you can see the story grows with each page turned.

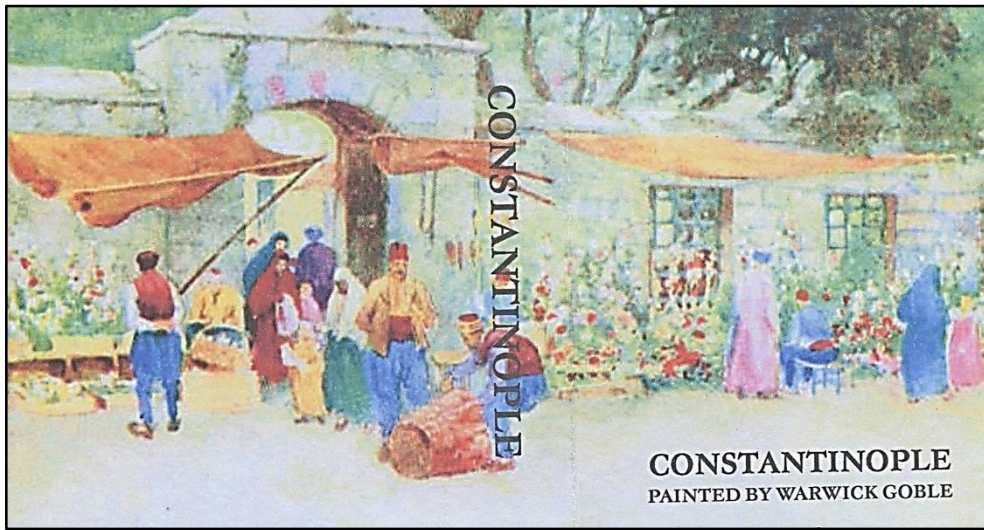
The trade edition is bound in gold and white mosaic-patterned paper with a dust jacket image showing the stolen silk representing the title, this edition is priced at \$42. *Silk* is also available in a deluxe edition, bound in blue silk with a gold foil spine; this edition has the title presented on the front cover on a small raised label, it is \$72.

Both editions are the same size, 2¹/₂" x 1³/₄" and both are printed on fine paper with 53 numbered pages. The endpapers are identical as well, a blue, gray, and rust colored mosaic design which could be a pattern from a window in the old monastery of Constantinople.

An excellent story and an outstanding binding presentation that compliments the story. Contact Pat for availability and shipping. 📖

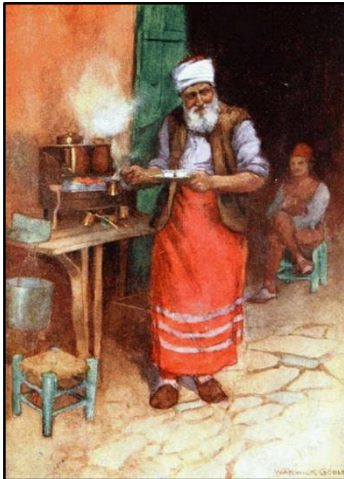
Contact information: Pat Sweet, 231 E. Blaine Street, Riverside, CA 92507

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



Front and rear dust jacket illustration of the 'flower market in Scutari'

Constantinople, by Alexander van Millingen, 1840 – 1915. The original book was published by A. & C. Black, London, 1906. This miniature is published by Plum Park Press, 2018. Millingen was a scholar, in the field of Byzantine architecture, and a professor of history at Robert College, Istanbul between 1879 and 1915. Certainly, this long association gave him a superb visual appreciation for the geographical area. Warwick Goble, 1862 – 1943, was an English illustrator who worked a long career who contributed his visual artwork skills to many periodicals as well as traditional books over his long career.



'A KAFEDJI'

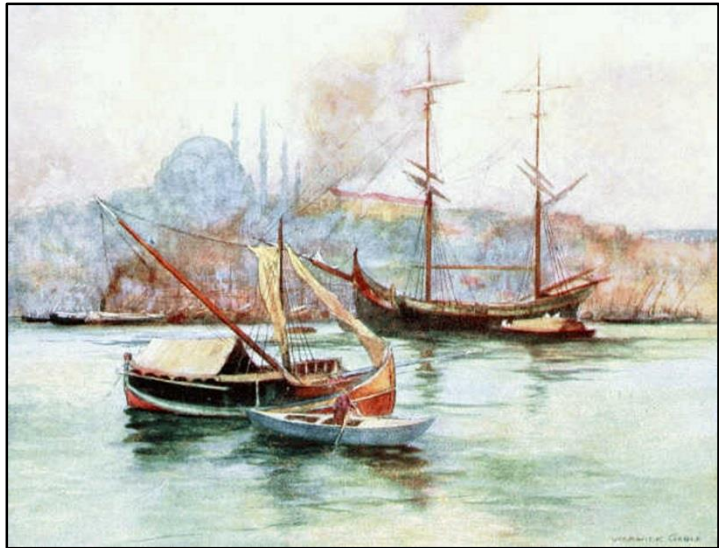
The first three chapters of the book describe the original building of the city by the early emperors of Rome. The first was Constantine, in the 4th century A.D., followed by his son, Constantius, and then a progression of emperors ending with Theodosius II in 447 A.D. The next chapters describe the various walls surrounding the city. The text of each chapter is more alive than the prior to highlight the skills of Millingen as both a scholar and a writer.

Constantinople is one of those books that I might never have selected for my own, but I am very glad to have had

the opportunity to read it and learn, in detail, about the history of the city. The illustrations bring me all the sights, noises, and smells of a faraway place. As I turned the page and saw the image of the kafedi, I immediately inhaled the warm breeze, which carries the intoxicating smell of the Turkish coffee roasting. All of those occasions, where I sat on the side of a small street or in a shop came flooding back into view, what a way to reflect on one's travels and adventures.

Further into the book, as the author describes the Golden Horn area, an illustration titled 'Golden Horn' is presented as a full two-page spread. Once again I can allow my mind to wander to the early morning harbor shore, listening to the quiet repetitive splashing of the tide on the dock pillars, the sounds of gulls stirring, and the warm early morning rays of sunshine appearing in the pale red sky. Stunning images.

Constantinople is dedicated to Pat Sweet, whose book *Sailing To Istanbul* was an inspiration for Tony. *Constantinople* consists of 237 numbered pages and has overall bound dimensions of 3" x 2⁵/₈". The book is printed on Navigator Platinum paper using Palatino 6/9 font. The text is standard black ink while the chapter headings are rendered in a bold black ink. The front and rear covers are a bright yellow book cloth. The dustjacket is printed



'Golden Horn'

with a very colorful illustration and there are 38 illustrations within the book, many are two page spreads to show the outstanding detail of the original watercolor paintings. The front and rear endpapers are a bright yellow paper to compliment the book cloth. The edition is limited to 20 copies, priced at \$50 each plus \$5 for shipping and handling. 📖

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

FRONTISPIECE: *(continued)*

By Jim Brogan

Kerry James cannot read and I have to show her all of the pictures, to convey the story. My brother, Alexander James is always interested in paper airplanes and 'speed records'. My cousin Ryan likes books about trains and his sister Coleen James likes doll stories and books about animals. Elizabeth James likes books that have games to play and craft projects to make.

I am not sure who has the most fun on these trips, us children or Grandpa. We all have to pay the trolley fare with our own money that we earn for doing chores at Grandpa's house. Grandpa gets on last in case there is a problem and to make sure no one is left standing on the corner. Grandpa makes sure that everyone is able to visit the right part of the library for the types of books that we want to read. He reminds us every week about how lucky we are to live in a place where we can just take the trolley and go to the library. Certainly, the other part of his story is "when I was a boy I had to walk 2 miles, in the snow, to get to the library and they did not have many books." He also tells us each week about how important it is to learn about new places and things through our books, as they are the 'foundation of learning'.

By the time we go to the library, get the books, have lunch, take the trolley home, and walk the final two blocks to our house, Grandpa is walking a bit slower but he always has the twinkle in his eye and the smile on his face. He must be the one who has the best time because when I go back to his house, to do chores before dinner, he is reading in his chair. Sometimes with his eyes open and sometimes with his eyes closed, but with that same smile on his face. By Wednesday of next week, he will be asking everyone if they finished reading their new book, asking "How did you like it?", "What did you learn?" or "What kind of book will you pick next week?"

"Thank you Grandpa." Catherine Kerry James. 📖



HOW I BEGAN COLLECTING MINIATURE NEWSPAPERS,

By Stephen Byrne:

Back in 2004 a young lady joined the Miniature Book Society and visited the Conclave Book Fair in Bath, UK. When I spoke to her, she mentioned that she was writing a dissertation about miniature newspapers. As a relative newcomer to the world of miniature books, I had not heard of such things and decided to find out a bit more. That set me on a path along which I am still travelling. Using the ubiquitous eBay, I managed to find a “miniature” copy of a UK

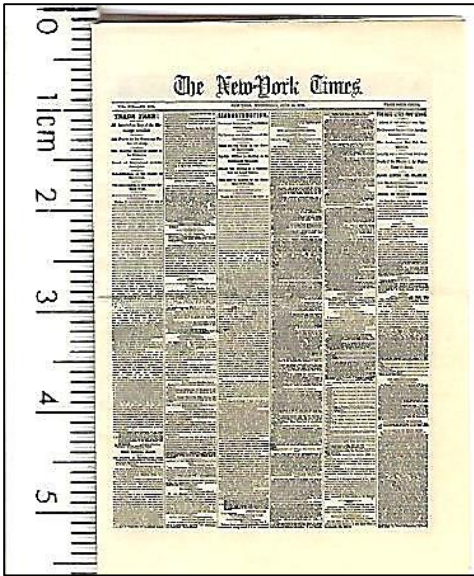


Enlarged for printing clarity

newspaper, ‘The Daily Telegraph’, from 8th June 1953, which celebrated the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I was somewhat surprised that the ‘miniature’ was larger than what I had come to think of as miniature, at 4 ¾ by 4 ¼ inches. However, I was fascinated by the clarity of the text, the contents of the news, and especially by the advertising, which seemed (understandably) so outdated. More purchases followed, with a variety of titles dating back to an 1874 ‘Cincinnati Commercial’.

The MBS Conclave was the starting point of this adventure, and whilst at the Asheville Conclave in 2012 I was speaking to the owner of a small shop within the hotel and he told me that he had a book about miniatures. The following day he brought me a copy of James D Henderson’s *Lilliputian Newspapers*. I had heard of the book, but not found a copy. Here was one, complete with the miniature newspapers in the pocket at the

back of the book. I imagined it would be expensive, but he refused to take a cent more than \$20, despite being offered more. It was only as I tried to read it that I discovered that many of the pages had not been cut, so reading was not totally possible. However, it was an addition to my growing library of reference books. (I have since acquired a reprint, which I can read).



The newspapers in my collection come in many sizes, from the larger ones, at 9¹/₄" x 7⁴" inches, 'The Boston Herald', May 21st 1945 to the smallest, 'The New York Times', Wednesday 14th June 1893 at 2¹/₈" " x 1⁷/₁₆" inches. I have yet to figure out just why these miniatures are produced, other than as advertising material. Those in my collection come from several countries including the Netherlands, Germany, U.S., and U.K. Some are just bifolds, some with multiple pages as exact replicas of their larger editions.



I noted earlier that the advertising in these small papers fascinates me. Seeing the changes in women's fashion over the decades creates a snapshot of trends, whilst following the progress of advertising of 'health' products can be quite amusing, their claims seeming almost farcical and sometimes downright dangerous in today's highly regulated market.

I do have to say that there are many *original* copies of miniature newspapers designed for dollhouse enthusiasts that are merely photographic reductions in which only the header is legible. I do not collect those, preferring to find copies contemporaneous with their date. To present I have acquired over sixty miniature newspapers and magazines, and, as every collector knows, the hunt is always on for more. I know there are more out there, and, cost depending, I will keep collecting. And the young lady who started my interest? I tried to contact her some time later and found that she had moved to China to teach English. I was unable to

reach her, and so have not been able to read her dissertation.

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS, THE PLURAL of FRONTISPIECE, By Cathie Abney

I do not know where it came from but I have always really enjoyed searching out odd facts or original meanings; the what and the why of things. When I first started to look into the word - *frontispiece*, I was a bit surprised to find such words in the definitions as corruption, fortune, morphed, decorated, nervous, and breeding. Nor did I know it would cross through such a variety of circles.

The most regal belonging to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, a well-bred racehorse named 'Frontispiece'. At the opposite end of the spectrum is a reference to something in an American television sitcom called 'Arrested Development', that I will not go into any detail about. In its original circle, architecture, it is used for the name of the 'decorated' façade of a building. Columns and pediments at the entrance of a building, designed to convey the strong character of whatever business that resides within. Some define the origin as French, frontispice, or Latin, frontispicium, even Italian, frontespizio. One definition brought in a reference to divination by comparing the two portions of the word to a Greek translation meaning "observe the forehead" or the art of telling a person's character or fortune by the expression on their face.

Once the title pages of books started to include elaborate illustrations on the facing page, the term morphed into the meaning it retains in the book world today. In the late 1600s people, referred to only as "the English", had their evil way with it and corrupted the word from *frontispice* to the modern frontispiece. No matter what size the book, I prefer the miniature, the frontispiece could be highly intricate engravings with the stylistic elements from architecture, an image reflecting the theme of the book, a generic woodcut image, or a portrait of the author.

According to the Dutch painter and art theorist, Gerard de Lairese (1641-1711), in his *The Art of Painting*; obviously a practical man, all frontispiece compositions should have three distinctive qualities: one, they must be pleasing to the eye; two, they must reflect well on the author and artist; and three, they must help the book-seller actually sell the book. For the intellectual questions, like, "Where do they sit in relation to the rest of the book's contents?" the Otago University in Dunedin, New Zealand, is hosting an exhibition through March 9th hoping to address such questions.

I, though, agree with the immortal words of Rod Stewart, "Every picture tells a story, don't it!". Oh yes, the plural of frontispiece? Frontispieces! 📖

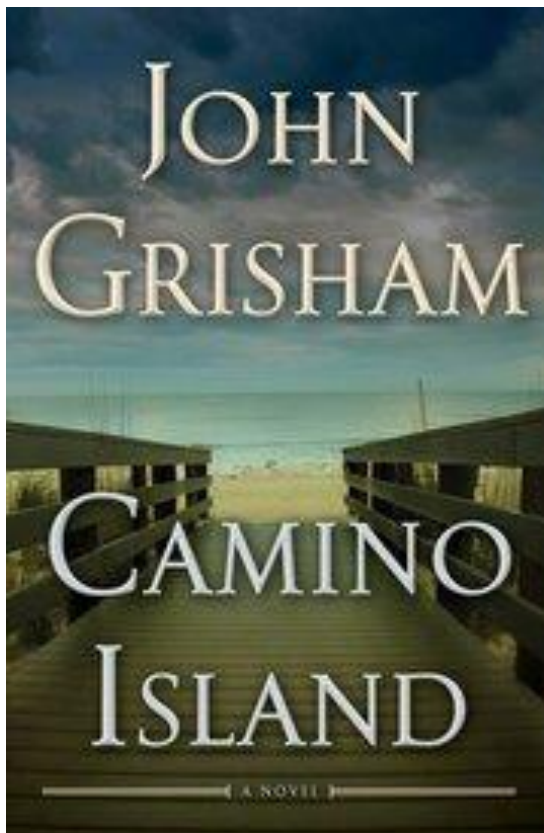
Contact information: Cathie Abney, 3105 Milton Road, Middletown, Ohio, 45042-3656,
E-mail: cathieMBtreas@gmail.com

**A TRIP TO CAMINO ISLAND,
A BOOK REVIEW,
By Robert F. Orr Hanson:**

Camino Island? Where is it, you ask? Off the coast of Mexico? In the middle of the River Thames? Or one of the Channel Islands near the coast of California? No, it is a fictional island off the city of Jacksonville, Florida.

It is also the title of a full-size, 289-page novel written by John Grisham. Published in 2017 by Doubleday, Camino Island is priced at \$28.95, but the book is also available in your public library.

As a booklover, I am sure like you, I enjoy immensely reading about books (new, old, rare, antiquarian, and miniature), writers, bookshops, booksellers, book collectors, and libraries. This piece is meant to be a review of this fictional mystery by author Grisham. He has written thirty-one novels, many with a legal theme since he is a lawyer turned writer. A few of his familiar titles are: *The Pelican Brief*, *The Client*, *The Runaway Jury*, *Rogue Lawyer*, and *The Whistler*.



The main theme of this story is about a pre-planned theft, by a gang of five, of the five hand-written manuscripts by F. Scott Fitzgerald from the Firestone Library at Princeton University. They are: *The Last Tycoon*, *The Beautiful and Dammed*, *Tender Is the Night*, *This Side of Paradise*, and *The Great Gatsby*. The intent of the gang was to hold the manuscripts for ransom from the Princeton library or sell them to a collector of rare books/artifacts for twenty-five million dollars.

Camino Island consists of eight chapters and an Epilogue, aptly named: The Heist, The Dealer, The Recruit, The Beachcomber, The Facilitator, The Fiction, The Weekend Girl, and The Delivery.

The chief characters of this book story are a very successful, independent, bookseller (who deals with new and rare books, opportunity presenting), Bruce Cable. He has owned Bay Books for twenty years, in Santa Rosa, the resort town on Camino Island. Another main character is Mercer Mann, a young female novelist and college educator who is recruited by Elaine Shelby, herself employed by the insurance company involved to investigate the possible harboring of the manuscripts by Cable. Ms. Mann is offered a generous amount of money to become friends with the bookseller and to determine if he has the manuscripts locked in his basement vault. Noelle Bonnet is an interior designer and a dealer of French antiques as well as Bruce Cable's love interest. She plays a surprising part in the last section of the story.

Along the way, we are introduced to the basics of a bookstore operation, author book tours, the general plan, a writer's story, and character outlining, who purchases the majority of novels, 'writer's block', some titles of valuable rare books, the importance of dust jackets, (and the fact that some of them may be forgeries), first editions, Bay Book's First Editions Room and its First Edition Club.

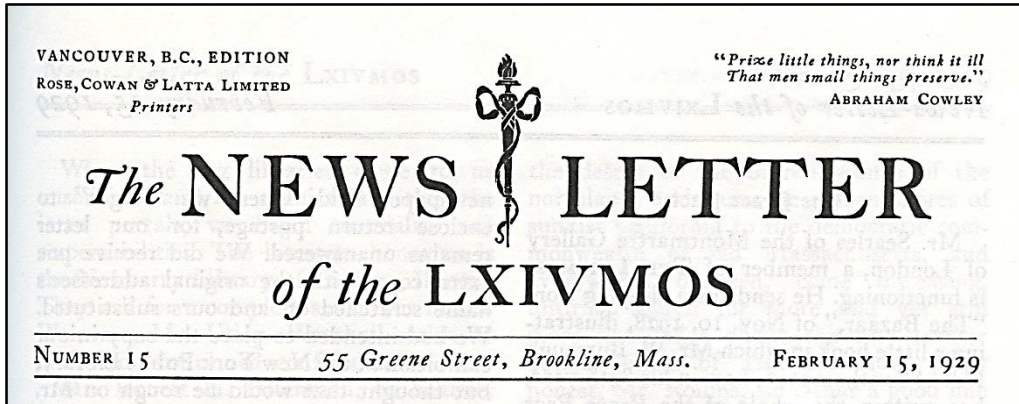
These are just a few of the many varied bookish experiences offered by the author, which was gained from his friendships with several long-time booksellers. I enjoyed reading and re-reading about the story's plot, the characters, the rare books mentioned, the quirks of the writers assembled in the story, the writing, and the bookshop descriptions. Lastly, the discovery of the fate of the literary trove and how it was finally resolved is revealed. As a fellow booklover, I urge you to do the same.

There you have it!



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

TIME MACHINE,
The News-Letter of the LXIVMOS, Number 15,
By Nina Mazzo:



The cover story poses the question “Why Collect Miniature Books?”

“Miniature books charm the eye and fancy because they are miniature. So also with books of the gigantic order,” Walter De La Mare. I might add the discovery of a miniature version of a large book is great fun to acquire– recently I personally added *The Compleat Angler*, in miniature to keep the larger version company on the bookshelf.

There is a fascinating article by Robert K. Shaw, of Worcester, MA, titled ‘Galileo and the Roman Curia.’ Galileo had been in heated controversy over the merits of the Copernican system that seemed to many theologians to oppose certain important passages of the Holy Scripture. He sincerely hoped that he could convert the Roman Curia to his point of view. He said “Nature is inexorable and unchangeable and cares not whether the hidden causes and modes of working are intelligible to the human understanding or not.”

Thomas Warburton, of Manchester, England, contributed an article about miniature metal curios and noted the following concerning a tome example issued at an exhibition in Glasgow in 1901.

“A metal miniature book with two metal leaves and containing six photos of the city of Glasgow; a brass button badge printed to display a miniature version of the Daily News and finally, a facsimile of a French daily newspaper on a tray made of white pottery.”

Do you have a unique or special miniature book curio to share? The picture to the right is a miniature book pin I discovered in England that displays miniature tourist postcards. Each photo is 1" wide x 3/4", with 11 photos in total; the photos are postcards for Weston Super Mare (a seaside town in Somerset England on a bay of the Bristol Channel)

The book that holds the photos is metal and the clasp is a pin in the shape of a bow - although I do not have a date, I think it looks to be around 50 years old

Something new and something old. I highly recommend owning a copy of the *News Letter of the LXIVMOS*. 📖

Editor's Note: An open question to the readers. Many of the banners used for each of the LXIVMOS issues quote the Abraham Cowley phrase, "Prize little things, nor think it ill, That small things men preserve". Where did this quote actually come from, what does it really mean? Was it intended to be associated with miniature books? Tell us what you know!

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



OUT OF THE BOX, MINIATURE BOOK'S DISTANT COUSIN, By Todd Sommerfeld:

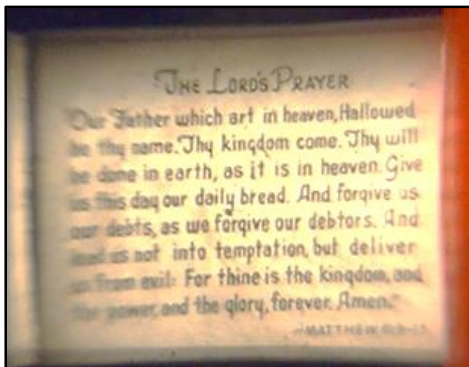
Sometimes miniature book collecting takes us in surprising directions. In addition to the books themselves, we may find ourselves collecting reference materials, mini-bookshelves, or bookends. If you collect Piso almanacs, you may have postcards, bottles, or matchbook covers advertising the company to enhance your understanding of their historical significance. If 'Little Leather Library' is your thing, you are looking for ads in the *National Geographic* or Whitman's candy boxes that the books came in. But, if your thing is ultra-micro miniatures, you may find the pull to collect Stanhopes.

A Stanhope is a microscopic photograph between 1 and 3 mm square that, when placed behind a small magnifying lens, is viewable to the naked eye. They were invented by Rene Dagron, a French photographer and inventor, in 1857 and became immediately popular when exhibited at the London Exhibition in 1862, and are still made today. In the 19th and 20th centuries they were most commonly found in letter openers or trinkets such as rings or charms. The small photographic image is mounted in the item such as a book or a letter opener. The magnifying lens is also mounted in the item so that the photo can be easily viewed.



Bone letter opener/pen combo with a Stanhope of the administration building at the Chicago World's Fair, 1893, the arrow points to the small viewing aperture.

The pictures may be of anything from the text of the Lord's Prayer to popular tourist attractions to naughty girls. Gold, silver, and bone were early materials used to make the holders for the photos. Later, Bakelite and then less costly plastics were used. One popular way to distribute them in the 1950s and 60s was in bubble-gum vending machines.




Miniature Bible image of the Lord's Prayer, as viewed through a magnifying glass



Bubble-gum machine insert advertising 1 cent plastic Bible containing a Stanhope of the text to the Lord's Prayer.

So, the next time you're at your favorite antiques shop or flea market, keep an eye out for the jewelry with a peep-hole, you may just find a hidden treasure!

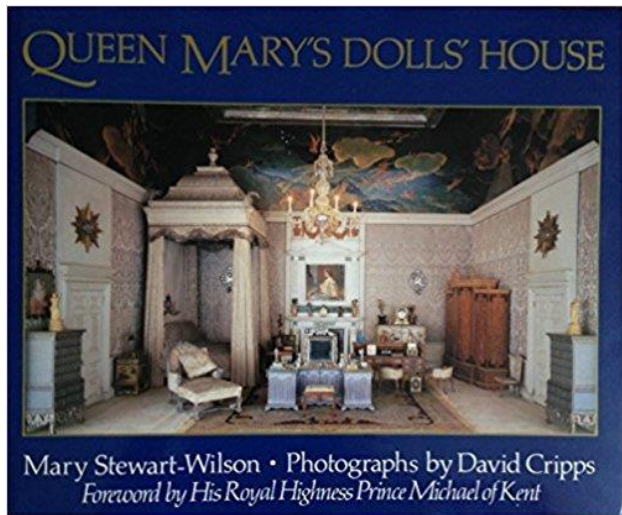
If any readers have any further information or pictures of this important piece of the world of miniature books, I would love to hear from you. As always; questions, comments, and criticisms are welcomed at contratodd@gmail.com. 

*Contact information: Todd Sommerfeld, 6475 Ridge Road #1, Parma, OH 44129
E-mail: contratodd@gmail.com or www.booksbypress.com*

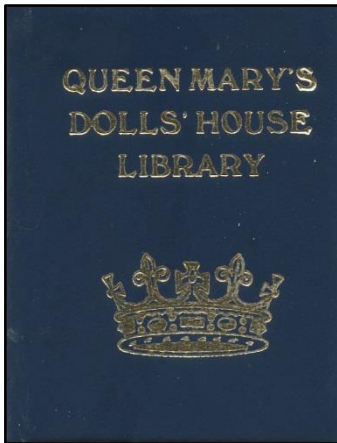
THE QUEEN'S DOLLS' HOUSE, Additional Resources and References, A Miniature Book Reference Standard:

As part of the January issue, a review and discussion of the fine points of the master reference on the many fine points of origin, construction, furnishing, and library of 'The Queen's Dolls' house as published by Methuen, 1924, London was included. Two additional reference books that I want to share with you also deal with the dolls' house.

The first is a rather large book that is by the Abbeville Press, written by Mary Stewart-Wilson. The book is hard bound and $8\frac{3}{4}'' \times 10\frac{1}{2}''$ with 191 pages printed on a gloss white paper. The first edition was published in 1988 with a book cloth cover and a glossy printed dust jacket. The cover image is that of the Queen's doll house bedroom revealing a tremendous amount of detail. The volume presents hundreds of pictures that outline the house from the earliest planning stages to the children's rooms, kitchen details, library books and maps, etc. All in all an amazing look into the world of earlier miniature artisanship. Even if you are not an aficionado of dollhouses and miniature furniture, it is certainly a visual feast. There is a full two-page picture of the library showing a very high level of book detail. The book is available from many retail outlets with an average price range starting at \$25.00.



Returning to the world of miniature books, another subject reference is *Queen Mary's Dolls' House Library*, written by Ann Bahar, and published by The Glenniffer Press, 1991. The tome is $2'' \times 2\frac{9}{16}''$ and it is bound in a fine blue Scottish leather with the title and royal crown gold stamped on the front cover. The frontispiece is a tipped in photograph reproduced from the original Methuen edition showing the book library. The book was published as a limited edition of 265 numbered copies.



Quoting from the text, "Every room in the Queen Mary's Dolls' House spells enchantment, but for the microbibliophile, the Dolls' House Library is paradise! This room is surely the most important on the house's west front. It measures 45" across, 21" deep, 15.25" high and is completely paneled in walnut with paneled alcoves at either end and built in floor to ceiling walnut bookcases along three walls." [Remember that the scale of the built house is 1" to 12", so a 45" model room represents a full size room of 45 feet.] The tome describes several of the actual miniature library books. This volume is certainly a bit more difficult to find than the Abbeville Press volume. Outstanding bibliographic information and well presented.

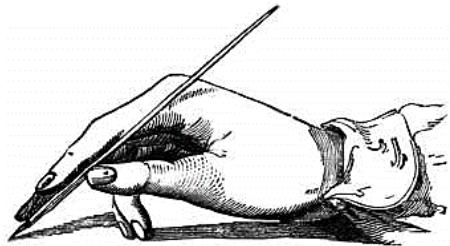
The closing page includes a fitting passage of poetry by W.H. Mallock,

*"For if length be an evil, they can't be too long;
The page puts a stoppage to metre and measure;
Let us hope 'twill be found when they cease from their song,
That a very small book is a very great treasure."*

Remember the adventure is with the search and the search begins with turning the page. 📖

WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR *THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE*:

Share your thoughts and ideas, your input, and content is needed. *The Microbibliophile* is about participation, sharing, sharing, and sharing. If you need help getting started just send a message to the Editor. You may just discover something that you never thought you could do. 📖



A VISIT TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS,

by Rick Hill:

The great Andrew Carnegie never came to my hometown. However, he had a profound effect on a young mid-western boy, who in the 1950s went by the name of Rickey Hill. My entry into junior high school afforded me a huge burst in a desire for knowledge. Up until that time I had been considered a slow student and one who was often lumped with that small group of students who we would lovingly call 'challenged' today. Our schools were less kind in 'those days.'

My problem had not been a lack of common sense or ability; it had been one of a lack of eyeglasses. With the new eyeglasses, my classroom experiences turned into a burning desire to learn everything and to learn it as quickly as possible.

My mother was a church organist and she would practice almost daily at our large downtown church. On the road to our church was old Mr. Carnegie's 24th library to be built in our fair state. It was a magnificent building of stone and steel. It had a long stone staircase that one had to climb just to reach the two large, heavy oak front doors. Shortly after having acquired my first pair of glasses and the knowledge that one could actually see the individual leaves on a tree, my mother had the wonderful idea of planting me at the Carnegie Library while she practiced the organ at the church. That way she could help by adding to my burning desire for nourishment for my starving brain and keep me away from 'helping' her play the organ

I remember the steps as being too large for my little legs and almost being too weak to open those heavy oak and glass doors. Eventually, a ritual would come about that my mother would honk the horn of that large blue Delta 88 Oldsmobile and the head librarian would meet me with the front door wide open. She always wore a dark blue or a black dress and clunky black high heel shoes. She also made me feel as if I was her most important 'customer.' As I would come in the mid-morning hours, the library was never very full of people. My memory tells me that I was the only patron in the entire place, but I am sure that is more a matter of how I felt and how well the librarian treated me.

I remember our first talk at one of the tables. The librarian asked me what books I liked to read. I remember her face when I told her that I had never read a real book, that the school librarian had only allowed me to check out baby books about ducks and animals. She withdrew a beautiful lace handkerchief that she kept in her left sleeve and wiped her eyes. At that moment, I had a champion. I had an advocate who would make sure that I was her most important customer.

She took me over to the biography section, and she gave me a book about Theodore Roosevelt. He had been a small, sickly boy who had grown up to do marvelous things. I remember thumbing through it and saying some-thing like, “It doesn’t have any pictures!” She smiled and told me the pictures would magically appear in my head as I read the words. That did not sound right to me but she had been nice and I really wanted to learn about this guy with the glasses. And I had my new pair of glasses and wanted to check this ‘reading’ thing out.

By the time the leaves on the elm trees began to turn color and started to drop from the trees, I had read every single book in the biography section of old Mr. Carnegie’s Library. I remember that day as if it was yesterday, the Librarian and I went downstairs to her office. We had tea and biscuits to celebrate my accomplishment. I remember being devastated to think that I would never be able to read another biography.

The librarian then introduced me to the even more fabulous world called History and it was chocked full of lots of biographies and even more interesting stories that had actually happened. I was in Heaven. I was also hooked on a lifelong passion for books, reading, and knowledge.

But wait a minute! The headline says that this story is supposed to be about The Library of Congress and Andrew Carnegie did not have anything to do with that library. So, what is the connection?

That is a great question Mr. or Ms. Microbibliophile reader. I am so glad that you brought it up. In order to understand the Library of Congress, each of us has to remember our first library experience. For me it was Andrew Carnegie’s gift of \$484,000 in 1916 to my hometown and the head librarian. For decades that library was my archetypal library. It was small, it was intimate, it was knowable, and it was all mine.

Now, some 60 years later, I entered the Library of Congress for the first time. For me it is a short Metro ride of less than 45 minutes and I am at the entrance of the Library. Before I made my first trip, I did my homework to make sure that I would have the proper credentials to be able to do research for The Miniature Book Society and a story with which Julian Edison had asked me to assist him with for the *Miniature Book News*. Being the Editor of *The Miniature Book Society Newsletter*, to the Library of Congress, I was a member of the working press and was able, with documentation, to be allowed access to some of the more restricted research areas and afforded what I finally realized was almost unlimited access. But it all starts with a “Reader Card.” The basic “Reader Card” is a little bit more than a typical library card. You fill out the forms and they give you a “Reader Card” which allows you access to almost every aspect of the Library of Congress. I also had to sit for an interview and show samples of my publications and I received my “Researcher Card.”

To me a library had been, up until that time, a building that housed books PERIOD END OF SENTENCE! Oh, but not so with The Library of Congress. Before I could step into those hollowed and history filled halls, I had to navigate the underworld that is the real Washington D.C. I was told to go through the tunnel system and under three different government buildings to get to the Madison Building. There I was photographed, interrogated, and finally issued a “Reader Card” and then the designation ‘Researcher’.

I knew where I needed to go but before I went to do the requested research, I wanted to see ‘The Library of Congress’. And to me that meant starting in the iconic ‘Main Reading Room’.



LOC Main Reading Room (picture complements of the Library of Congress)

Of course, I had seen pictures of the main reading room for years, but to be there, I was not prepared for the emotional impact. I was immediately taken back to pictures of the faithful making a pilgrimage. My first impression of the Library of Congress was one of reverence. This was a sacred place not of religion but of knowledge. This was the largest and most complete library in the entire world and I was one of the pilgrims; a worshipper

of knowledge and a seeker of all things ‘microbibliographic’. It was a stirring moment and I allowed, for a little time, to let it all sink in before my research began in earnest.

First and foremost, the Library of Congress is just a library. One can come in and look up just about any book, in just about any language, and that book can be read while you sit in the relative silence on a typical library experience. Where a normal library may not have the exact book that you seek, the Library of Congress is very likely to have the exact book, the exact publisher, and the exact edition of the exact book that you seek. That in and of itself is quite an amazing accomplishment for any repository of knowledge.

Speaking of accomplishments: we all are aware that the first book to be bound in the familiar form of a book was bound in 1455 and it was the Gutenberg Bible. So, what are the chances of seeing a true miniature book published during that same time frame? That was my task. Julian had asked me to retrieve, handle, take pictures, and notes of the *Officium Beatae Virginis Mariae* printed by Marthias Moravusinus of Naples in 1489. A book which I discovered measured slightly smaller than the three by two inches in its binding that Louis Bondy had written about on page five of reference book, *Miniature Books*.

I knew that the book would not be merely sitting on a shelf in Washington D.C. waiting for miniature book researcher to come along and want to ‘check it out.’ I had figured from my pre-research that it was most likely kept securely off-site in one of several climate controlled underground facilities in nearby Virginia. It would have its own special box, with secure packing, and be as safe and secure as a rare book could ever hope to be. My guess was correct and I had requested that the library make available the actual book at a time and a date that was two weeks into the future. The library can work much faster and can take more immediate requests but I was in no hurry and did not need to ask for a rush retrieval.

I approached one of the hundreds of assistant librarians who are at the ready to answer any and all questions. I told them that I had ordered a book, gave them my printed information and was instructed which of several rare book rooms to go to and give the same information to one of the rare book librarians who would then go and seek out and retrieve the edition. The room had a large metal security door and a guard. The guard was the second one who I had to clear in order to get into the rare book room. Next a metal detector and then a holding area where someone looked me over and gave the final buzz that open a pair of metal gates and I was inside. I noticed that there were only about six other researchers in the room and some had dozens of old and rare books strewn all around their sitting area. Librarians would circulate among the researchers and inquire if they needed any further research material or any assistance.

There was no line of people waiting to request a book and I brought my little slip of paper with the pertinent information about the book and proudly displayed my

Researcher Card to the Librarian. Librarian consulted librarian and then both went to computers. The first librarian went through a very secure set of revolving doors that reminded me of an amalgamation of a rotating lightproof door that I had used when I taught photography in college and a Star Trek Transporter room. The librarian disappeared as the door moved in a circular manner. Forty-five minutes later the same Librarian came back with the sad news that I had been sent to the incorrect Rare Books Research Room. I was to go to the much more secure Rare Books Research Room. Luckily, it was also in the Jefferson building but on a different floor and on the other side of the Main Reading Room. This second room had large metal bars that were kept shut and locked and two guards stood in the hall. One checked your identification papers while the other was responsible for opening the door, holding it open and then locking it back up after I entered. Now, I knew what a rare book felt like when it went to prison.

There were even fewer researchers in this room. The librarian met me at the door and he was holding the box with what may very well have been, in his hands, the first true miniature book ever produced. He led me over to my own large workstation. It had ample lighting and a wonderful view of the nation's capital building right across the road. I had arrived. I was sitting in the Library of Congress, I had a perfect view of the nation's capital with the red, white, and blue flying before me. I had in my possession one of the rarest miniature books ever published. I did not dare even touch the little box. I took in my surroundings and the significance of how far I had come from that first time I went into Mr. Carnegie's Library in the dusty Midwest United States. I was in Mr. Jefferson's Library.

I withdrew a pair of white gloves that I had in my backpack. The librarian came over again and told me that I did not have to wear the white gloves and explained that the white gloves could cause more problems as the tactile experience was dampened with them on and that could cause more problems for a small book. So, I agreed to take the right one off but kept the left one on to cradle the book. He seemed to appreciate my desire to care for one of their treasures and left me alone.

I gingerly opened the box and withdrew the tiny scrap of a book. It was fragile. It had been made in Italy three years before any European had stepped foot on what would be American soil. And I had command of it. In a way, I felt as if I owned this beautiful bit of paper and thread at least for the next hour or two; it was all mine. I was able to set the work lights and take out my camera and take as many pictures as I needed for my project. Every once in a while a librarian would come over and ask if I needed any assistance or required any further volumes. I was able to take my two fingers and feel the texture of the paper and the ink. I had learned from my years in the publishing business how one could tell a great deal from the bumps, imperfections, thickness, and even the amount of ink applied from the printer by gently taking your thumb and forefinger and carefully

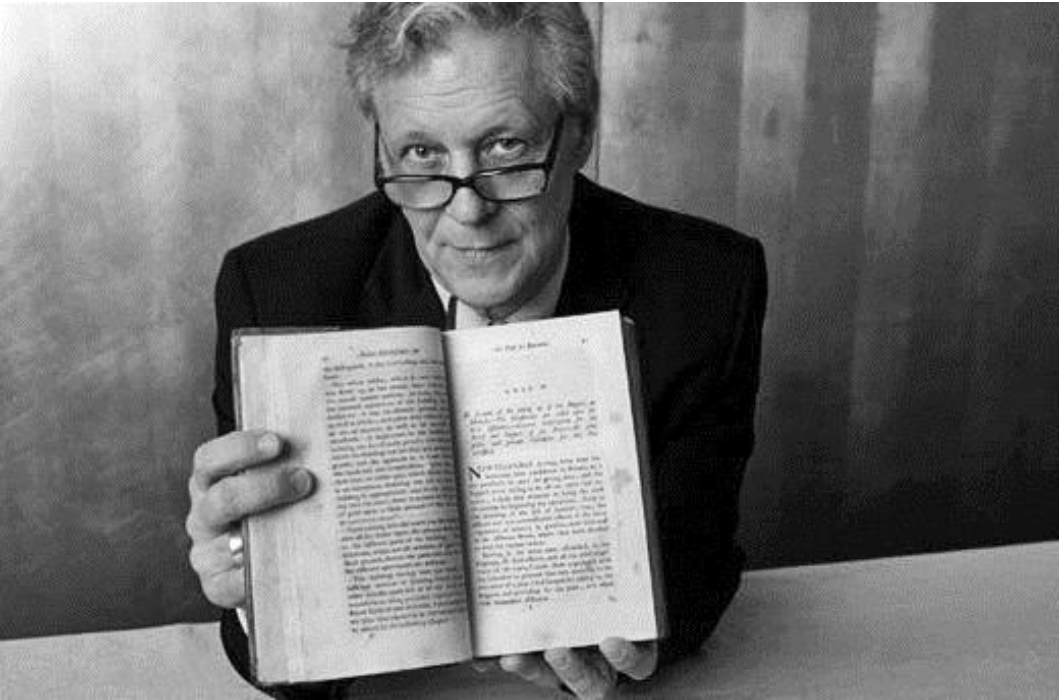
rubbing them over the fragile paper. I brought it up to my nose and attempted to learn what I could from the smell of the book. There was nothing that gave me any information.

I had a list of other common reference books and when I asked for a couple of them, I was surprised at how quickly the librarian returned with all of the needed books. I spent the better part of the day with that little book, taking notes, pictures, and jotting down further references with complete citation of the sources. I left that little book in as good a shape as when I had first opened the box. The librarian had cleared up my area and checked me out before I could roll out of the rare book reference room.

As I was riding the Metro back to Virginia, I pondered about how different the two libraries had been. My old Carnegie Library was like a familiar old friend. I knew every inch of that building and I knew exactly where every book should be. The Library of Congress was literally unknowable. I would never live long enough to explore all of that behemoth. No one could ever know it all in an entire lifetime. It is that huge. Yet, give the librarian enough information about even the most obscure book and they will bring it right to your table and for a little while it is yours.

I do not want to bore you with the statistics of the library. One can easily find those online. But I will leave with one remarkable story and one remarkable curator. You most likely are aware that the contents of the original Library of Congress were burned during the War of 1812, when the British, took over Washington D.C. They burned the Capital and that was where that first Library of Congress was housed. After the war, Thomas Jefferson offered to sell to the Congress his library of 6,487. They agreed and Jefferson sent all of his books from Monticello in ten wagons to Washington. Then on Christmas Eve, 1851 another fire tore through the Library of Congress and 35,000 volumes were incinerated including two-thirds of Jefferson's original books.

Wait another hundred plus years and enters Library of Congress rare books and special collections curator, Mark Dimunation. Since 1998, he has done the impossible through a slow-moving, yet successful search for the 4,324 Jefferson titles that were destroyed. "Our objective is to put on the shelf exactly the same book Jefferson would have owned. Not another edition, not the same work but printed later. The exact book that he would have owned," Dimunation says. So far, he and his dedicated staff have found all except 297 books.



Mark Dimunation (*picture complements of the Library of Congress*)

Mark Dimunation is an example of the hundreds of dedicated public servants who keep the knowledge of world intact and alive at your Library of Congress. 📖

*Contact information: Richard Hill, 9290 Tower Side Drive, Apt. 406, Fairfax, Virginia, 22031-6038
E-mail: olddisney@cox.net*

Editor's Note: Rick has provided us with a most interesting and personal story about a visit to the Library of Congress. The Miniature Book Society will hold its annual Conclave in Charlottesville this August. Washington is certainly accessible from the Charlottesville area, not a quick walk but not so far as to pass up the adventure of visiting such a place. More information about the Conclave can be viewed from the MBS website: www.mbs.org.

**ANTIQUARIAN DELIGHTS,
EVANGELINE, A TALE OF ACADIE,
Written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow,
Reported by Jim Brogan**

'Evangeline' describes the betrothal of a fictional Acadian girl named Evangeline Bellefontaine to her beloved, Gabriel Lajeunesse, and their separation as the British deport the Acadians from Acadie in the Great Upheaval [1755-1764] from the current day location of the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The poem follows Evangeline across the landscapes of America as she spends years in search for her lost love, at sometimes being near to Gabriel without realizing he was near. Finally, she settles in Philadelphia and, as an old woman, working as a Sister of Mercy nun among the poor. While tending the dying during an epidemic, she finds Gabriel among the sick, and he dies in her arms.

The book was originally published in 1847 and by 1857 had sold 36,000 copies. It was written as a poem in an unrhymed dactylic hexameter, considered by many critics as the 'grand style of classical poetry'. Longfellow did receive a certain amount of criticism for his choice of meter rather than a prose style. He evidently thought about the style vs prose but he held true to his first choice. His own words about the poem are, "*Evangeline* is so easy for you to read, because it was so hard for me to write".

My first connection with 'Evangeline' was at an early age, maybe 8 or 9 years old. My aunt lived in Philadelphia and I would frequently visit her. Across the street from her apartment was the Convent that was the home of the Sisters of Mercy. Frequently, she would take me to the convent, I think for a friendly visit not anything related to chasing spirits from my young boy's mind. The nuns did tell me about the poem *Evangeline* and would sometime read passages. Life goes on and in 5th grade, what comes up on the reading list but 'Evangeline'. Wow, did I think I had that assignment beat until I figured out just how long the poem was. I must say that when we were done reading, I was an admirer of the poem and the brave girl who carried on through her entire life.

The miniature copy that is pictured on the front cover, of this issue of *The Microbibliophile*, was printed by David Bryce and Son, Glasgow. There is another reference line to the publisher Frederick A. Stokes Company, NY, MCMVIII. So I am sure it was actually printed at the University Press and then distributed on this side of the Atlantic. There are 250 numbered pages finely printed in a limp blue leather binding measuring 2¹/₁₆" x 1³/₁₆". Interesting, as in so many Bryce publications, there are several blurbs in the rear, announcing other publications such as various items in the 'Ellen Terry Miniature Library'. A step back in time for sure. 📖

OLD CATALOGUES, Reported by Jim Brogan

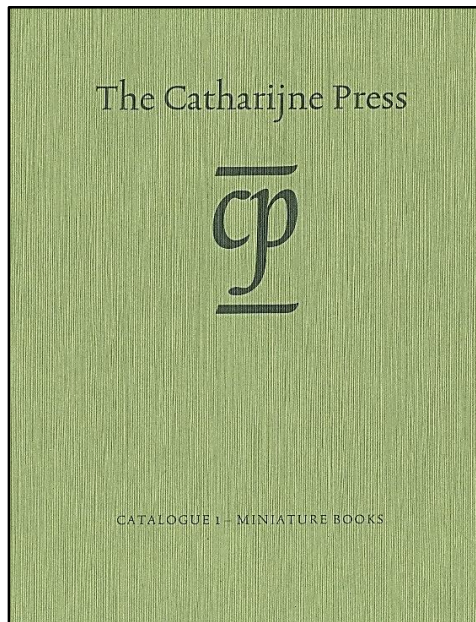
Old catalogues are not exactly things that you can buy books from but they do provide you with an interesting view of the world at a point in time. I recently came into possession of a large box of old bookseller's catalogues. The earliest goes back to the early 1970s so almost fifty years old. Some from dealers still in business and some from dealers that I did not even know existed.

How about 'The London Bookshop', Fort Dearborn Station, Chicago, February 1983 Open to the first page and the first listing is for a selection of St Onge miniatures, the first being *The Inaugural Address of Thomas Jefferson, Delivered March 4, 1801*, (one of 30 copies), offered at \$100.00. Can we use this catalogue as a ticket on the time machine?


Catalogue Number 20, issued by 'Doris Frohnsdorff', of Gaithersburg, Maryland, (no date). Must be sort of old since the ordering instructions say "Telegraph and Telephone orders should be confirmed in writing". Item 33 of 81 is a listing of 38 titles in the series; *Histories of Poor Boys Who Have Become Rich and Other Famous People*, (packed in Duke's cigarettes, \$10.00 each. There is also a sidebar note mentioning an article about said books in M.B.N. #9.

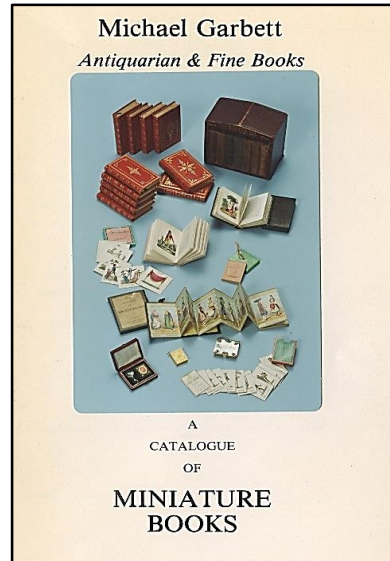
Catalogue Number 29, issued from the 'Seven Gables Bookshop', 3 West 46th Street, NY, NY, dated 1961. A total of 130 items listed, mostly Bibles and various prayer books, generally less than \$25.00. I wonder if this was a catalogue that Ruth Adomeit had read?

'The Catharijne Press', Utrecht, The Netherlands, catalogue Number 1. I never knew the proprietors were sellers of books other than those that they printed under their own press name. Well here it is for sure. Interestingly, page 10, item 49 is an offering for a set of 10 miniature newspapers, price 100 f, with a conversion note that \$1.00 (US) is equal to f 2.00.



'A Catalogue of Miniature Books', Number 8, offered by Michael Garbett, Almondsbury, Bristol, England. Item number 6, *My Tiny Alphaabet Book*, published by David Bryce, Glasgow (c 1896), and offered at £ 175. The interesting point with this catalogue is that it was produced with an actual 3 x 5 photograph affixed to the front cover.

Certainly a whole box of great reading pleasures. Some of the catalogues have some personal notes buried in them regarding the price of a book. Others have an invoice for things purchased, how does the expression go "another man's treasure"? 



COLLECTING MINIATURE BOOKS,

By Robert E. Massmann,(REM),

A Reprint from the *Booklover's Answer*:

Sometimes people write things that are as an epiphany of new information, sometimes it is just 'gibberish', and sometimes it is as good and informative today as it was when it was originally written. We all have a special place in our hearts for REM as a man who did so much for the world of miniature books. A writer, publisher, binder, leader, an idea man, great listener, and above all, a friend to everyone.

REM wrote the following article for publication in *The Booklover's Answer* magazine in 1966. The article is a wonderful overview for both the seasoned collector as well as the newcomer to the world of miniature books. The MBS recently attended the ABAA Book Fair in Pasadena, CA. One of the most asked questions was 'how do I collect miniature books'. Bob's article puts you on the right track for sure. Some of the people referenced are not active sellers today but a little extra research is good for the mind. You can start with the list by REM to become familiar with some of the classical press names because they certainly published many collectable books, which are still available today. The MBS website will also give you a good list of current day publishers and dealers where you can extend your research, www.mbs.org, visit the site



Collecting Miniature Books

BY ROBERT E. MASSMAN
ELIHU BURRITT LIBRARY
CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE
NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT

This will be an attempt to set forth for embryo collectors some of the bits and pieces for which I found myself gasping and grasping some seven or eight years ago, when I became violently afflicted with a virulent predilection for the tiny tomes referred to by Walter Hart Blumenthal in the very late and sincerely lamented News Letter of the LXIVmos as "microbes des livres."

There I was, a professional librarian, which in my case included a highly developed love for beautiful books -- being given a tiny volume, some 1/4" square, with the Lord's Prayer in six languages and seven versions, each complete on a single page. Within the next few minutes I learned lesson number one:- When handling these beautiful babies, DO NOT open the bindings too far! I stupidly did just that, and split asunder the first miniature binding I ever owned. Fortunately I was able easily to acquire another (this is too often not the case). Then I took the first one apart and mounted the pages for examination, and nobody gets closer to the replacement than the plastic case in which it is displayed!

To me, as I am sure is the case with others, the world of miniature books was as a wonderland of previously unsuspected delights, where nearly every subject touched upon in larger volumes can be found in capsule form, and where the skill necessary to produce an object of comparable beauty becomes necessarily more exacting in direct proportion to the reduction in size of the book being produced. What is a beautiful volume in folio, quarto, and octavo becomes a marvel of the printer's and binder's craft, nay - art when reduced to a height of two inches, one inch, or even less, as are the numerous more tiny volumes. These are indeed "microbes," and the contagion they engender is welcomed by many hundreds of collectors. Any of you who, as I, may have added an extra room to the house for the explicit purpose of housing books, will no doubt share the joy of realizing that the space occupied by a standard encyclopedia can house the results of years spent in searching out these tiny charmers.

I realize many collectors of miniature books have in common with me the problem of limited funds for purchasing; it is fun to follow auctions where for instance a Spielmann Collection of 800-odd volumes brings nearly \$23,000, but most of us could never consider moving in such circles. Yet I have been most fortunate, and have managed to garner more than 900 volumes of a height not exceeding three inches.

Each collector must of course decide what for him is a miniature book. I have found three inches to be a generally accepted upper limit. While some things do tend to become clumsy at this height, I feel this is a matter of discretion depending upon taste and discrimination, which cannot mislead anyone so long as the individual collector is satisfied. So it is that for me anything over three inches in height is not really miniature; as many of my most prized items are between 2-1/2" and 3", a lower limitation would eliminate many of the things I refuse to do without.

Another item of prime importance for early decision for the beginning collector is condition. It is relatively simple and inexpensive to acquire tiny pieces of junk. I have steadfastly refused to add to my collection anything in poor condition. The real rarity which can be refurbished is of course a different matter, but in general I feel that a small collection of really nice things is much to be preferred to a conglomeration of dirty, ragged pages, soiled or badly worn bindings, and split hinges. Once the step is firmly taken, it is amazing how easy it is to turn down the tarnished merchandise in favor of an often more expensive but infinitely more desirable piece.

Upon becoming thoroughly "hooked," I soon found my total ignorance of the considerable body of knowledge relating to miniature books to be not only frustrating, but a real hindrance in knowing how and where to strike out for the greener pastures I longed to reach. My professional training told me the only way I was going to learn very much was to get hold of any available reference materials on the subject. I began

slowly, and with the help of the Miniature Book Collector (which is available, information in earlier issue of TBA), which provides an excellent bibliographical listing, I was able to get a foot in the door. Some of the volumes involved in a reference collection relating to miniature books are unquestionably rare and expensive. Many I still do not have, but certainly I now know one when I see it, and am not likely to let one escape when it is within the grasp of my hungry pinkies! I have been able, one by one, to acquire a good many of the important books, articles, etc., which I need. I am still searching diligently for others. Please don't think this particular task is easy - it is not. And I certainly do not claim the status of expert in the field, which label must be applied to Ruth Adomeit, Doris Welsh, Mike Papantonio, Louis Bondy, and a small group of others who would never make any such assertions themselves. Nevertheless, I continue learning, and have gained the satisfaction of knowing that I am immeasurably better informed now than when I began a few short years ago.

Among other things, I found I could put my meager talents to a useful purpose, in compiling an index to the News Letter of the LXIVmos, which Ruth Adomeit was kind enough to lend me for the purpose. And that let me get my hands on those rare goodies long enough to digest the entrancing contents! Other collectors have been kind enough to pass complimentary remarks on the index, but I was the real gainer. I later compiled a similar index for the Miniature Book Collector, also unfortunately deceased. The Booklover's Answer is providing a forum once again for information relating to tiny books. Offer ye one and all a short prayer that this will not lead it to the same sorry fate as the previously mentioned two titles! Only a corpse cannot object to being late and lamented.

Among the most valuable of my reference tools, and costing absolutely nothing (that is once you dip deeply enough into the old sock to stay on the mailing list), is my collection of catalogs from dealers, which list items for sale. Not only do they give in many instances the only available information regarding a particular item, but the price tags attached are most revealing - remember that although some prices may seem high they do represent real value most of the time, for if collectors were not paying these prices the dealers would not be foolish enough to demand them. Dealers who insist on starving do not long remain in business.

I shall not waste your time or my energy in an attempt to set forth a comprehensive history of miniature books. This has been done a number of times by others who would laugh at such a feeble gesture. I will say,

for those whose knowledge may be as sparse as was my own in the not too distant past, that we count Babylonian clay tablets, written in cuneiform characters (4000 or more years old), as prime early treasures in a miniature book collection. I have two, translated by the Yale University Library Babylonian Collection curators from the Sumerian language, and the historical information they yield is fascinating.

Early manuscript volumes are of course among the choicest and rarest of the little beauties, and as might be expected, are preponderantly religious in character.

Some miniature incunabula (books printed before 1501 A.D.) have been recorded, though few of us will ever do more than read about or admire them in locked display cases.

Eighteenth century miniatures can be hoped for as possible acquisitions at reasonable prices; and although earlier volumes are scarce, you will find, as you indeed probably already know, that the real enjoyment is in the chase, and the anticipation of finding a treasure trove.

For some few years near the close of the last century, the distinction of being the smallest book ever printed from movable, hand-set type was enjoyed by THE MITE. This title has now passed on to the tiny GALILEO A MADAMA CRISTINA DI LORENA, which I am still doggedly pursuing. The last available copy I noted was listed at \$250, and at this rate I may just possibly be still looking for a copy after I cross the Great Divide. Might as well wait and try Galileo in person. That dealer will indeed starve before I pay such a price for it!!

In the early 1930's, the Commonwealth Press of Worcester, Mass., produced a tiny ROSE GARDEN OF OMAR KHAYYAM, about 1/4" x 5/16" (oblong), in an edition of 250 copies, which has gone out of print in just the last three or four years.

More recently came the aforementioned LORD'S PRAYER, and SERMENTS D'AMOUR ("I love you" in several languages), and yet more recently the OLYMPIC PLEDGE; all three apparently done by the same publisher, uniform in size and style of leather binding, and about 1/4" square.

The April 1965 issue of Modern Lithography details a tiny OLD JAPANESE TALE which is claimed to be .14" x .16". Actually the binding of this one measures .16" x .20". Another Japanese firm has this year produced four volumes called "The smallest books in the world, .138 inches square", which once again are slightly larger (.16"), when the binding is measured. Two of these, THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS and THE BOOK OF GENESIS, were on sale at the Japan Pavilion of the recent New York World's Fair.

As you can readily see, interest in tiny books is not flagging. It is growing steadily. Tiny volumes are available, though many are in limited editions, and it is best to get them at the published prices, before they go out of print, when you must begin dealing with Madame de Supply and Baron le Demand. Those two can be awfully tough customers!!

Each year I produce what purports to be a graphic sort of Annual Report of our library for the President of the College, and some three years ago began publishing miniature books to include in the reports. These have been in limited editions, and have admittedly taken untold time in typography and binding; but the satisfaction they yield has certainly made me more appreciative of what the miniature book business is all about. I have been able to make a few copies of these little books available to other collectors. It was certainly pleasing to know that my first two titles, when bound for me in dos-a-dos style by Sangorski and Sutcliffe, of London, became a quite unique item. Mr. Stanley Bray, of this world-renowned firm, informs me it is the first dos-à-dos binding ever attempted by S. & S.; and it is such a beautiful thing it seems almost too precious to handle.

I early discovered that miniature scrolls are infinitely more scarce than miniature books. I have a tiny TORAH scroll, two beautiful Japanese productions, and two different miniature reproductions, enclosed in little earthenware jars from the Holy Land, of Dead Sea Scrolls. One of these was available at the Jordan Pavilion of the New York World's Fair. In addition I have seen listings of two miniature scrolls done by the Maverick Press, in 40-copy editions, one the BOOK OF RUTH and also THE UNHOLY BRIBLE, designed by Bruce Rogers. Apart from a couple of early English color-plate scrolls, the list, to the best of my meager knowledge, stops short right there. So, with a little background in miniature production I decided to give a miniature scroll a try. Walter Hart Blumenthal was kind enough to provide a manuscript, and in preparation for the manufacturing process I tried a little scroll as a Christmas greeting, which went last year to about 40 friends and fellow collectors. The Blumenthal scroll (Wise and Otherwise), in an edition of 250 copies, is ready at last, and when Mr. B. describes it as a "gem" and "a charming literary bijou", I begin to feel that it was more than worth the effort.

It happens that my collecting interests also include beautiful and unusual bindings, juvenile items of outstanding interest, fore-edge paintings, etc.; and a few years ago I discovered that a presentation of anywhere from a half hour to four times that length, complete with examples, is a very interesting thing to groups of people who have never been aware

of the existence of such things. I now find myself called upon to speak to service clubs, church and school groups, social clubs, etc., upon rather frequent occasions. My collection has been the subject of a Sunday supplement in a large city newspaper, and of a local television program. All this is not intended as a brag, but to lead up to the fact that this sort of activity can be most valuable missionary work. I have derived some choice, rare, and valuable items from such engagements (plus free meals and an occasional cash honorarium!). Many people have no use for the tiny volumes left in the effects of deceased relatives, and unfortunately many little treasures are discarded. I am of course in a favorable position, being a librarian, to meet dealers, peruse catalogs, and to be shown attics full of books. New England is one part of this country where attics may have been undisturbed since the time of the Revolution, and it is exciting to dwell upon the possibilities of what may have lain fallow for untold decades, just aching to be provided with a good home.

I have known of simple want-ads turning up choice lots of tiny books, when the possessors had no notion that anyone would be interested.

Charming items are sometimes unexpectedly available, also. Imagine my surprise recently at the discovery of a miniature OFFICIUM PARVUM B.V.M. listed in the trade catalog of Benziger Bros., in New York. 2-1/2" tall, in slipcase, full leather, gilt, for \$1.50. I ordered two copies, and to my further unexpected delight, ended up with two entirely different editions, one all in Latin, the other in Latin and English. A real bargain. Another New York Publisher, Jonathan David, has turned out (1963) three beautiful little volumes (each 1-1/2" tall), THE BIBLE PETITE, THE SIDDUR PETITE, and ALEF BET BOOK, all three for less than \$1.00. This is the sort of thing that must be grabbed when available, for though they are inexpensive and available now, they will in all probability one day soon, very suddenly, become scarce and unavailable. This is simply what happens to these little things.



Providing insurance for a collection of miniature (or for that matter any size) books of a rare and valuable nature is astonishingly inexpensive. They qualify as fine arts materials, and experience shows that people who treasure such things seldom, if ever suffer losses. The result is that my collection is fully insured against everything, at a cost of about 80¢ per year per \$1000 valuation. Prudence forbids passing up such low-cost protection.

The field of miniatures, for me at least, includes tiny newspapers and magazines, and some of these are simply beautiful. Many examples exist, and it is amazing what diligent inquiry will turn up.

Yes, I have been lucky, as my friends keep telling me, but I can't forget Emerson's notion that believers in luck find their luck to be always better when they work harder. As in any sort of collecting, these opportunities have a way of not presenting themselves a second time. Don't be afraid to get your feet wet.

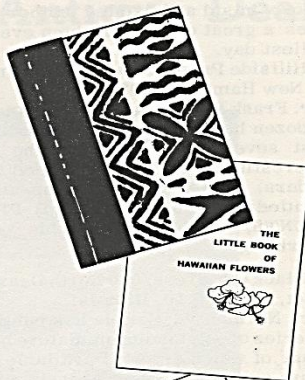
One of the most enjoyable parts of collecting miniature books is of course the delight of knowing others with similar interests. By all means do not turn down a lot of books because some of your possessions may be duplicated therein. Some of my very choice items have been acquired by trading duplicates with other collectors.

Now, after all that dealing in generalities, I think it is time to get down to brass tacks. The following listing of a few publishers and dealers might, it is hoped, be of some help to those of you who would be interested in beginning a collection; though undoubtedly most active collectors already know most of these names very well indeed.

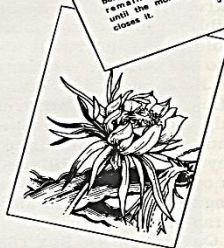
1. Achille J. St. Onge, 7 Arden Road, Worcester 6, Massachusetts.

Since 1935 Mr. St. Onge has been producing a steady stream of miniature volumes. Most are out-of-print, as the editions have been limited, but at any given time a considerable handful are available. It was one of Archie's Kennedy Inaugurals which Senator Robert Kennedy (picture in a recent Life) left atop Mount Kennedy. Some of these little volumes, all but two or three of the very early ones being bound in full leather, command very high prices, though when new they sell at a very low figure. Archie has just produced three new titles: THE TWENTY THIRD PSALM, THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON, and the MAGNA CARTA. Needless to say, I've ordered copies of each.

2. The Schori Press, 1580 Maple Avenue, Evanston, Illinois.



NIGHT-BLOOMING CERESUS
A single cerus blossom, seen in an evening in Cleveland, Ohio is an occasion for a photo news story. Like wonder and admirers who on a moonlit night in Hawaii, a million miles away, bask in its fragrance. Ceresus is a flowering plant for the cerus family, open only in the morning heat closes it.



THE LITTLE BOOK OF HAWAIIAN FLOWERS by Bernice Kochan. A miniature book 2 by 2 1/4 inches, 59 pages. Thirty illustrations in six colors and black and white. Bound in tapa cloth. \$3.95. Bernice Kochan, KINGOIKE PRESS, 1969 West 77 Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44102.

Mr. Ward K. Schori became interested in tiny books a few years ago, and has printed a few beautiful little volumes. Most of the copies have been available with outstanding bindings by Dona Josefina Diez, a real artist in Spain whose inlaid and painted leather work does a great deal to brighten even the dullest day.

3. The Hillside Press, P.O. Box 204, Franklin, New Hampshire 03235.
Mr. Frank E. Irwin has produced nearly a dozen beautiful little volumes in the last several years, one of the most interesting being just now bound to fill orders. It is a topical stamp album, entitled **OUR MARTYRED PRESIDENTS**, and is one of his most charming.
4. The Black Cat Press, 510 North Dearborn Street, Chicago 10, Illinois.
Mr. Norman W. Forgue has published a series of outstanding miniature books, many of which are still available, with more on the way. A three-volume set, **MORE TALES FOR BIBLIOPHILES**, in a leather slipcase, is expected from the binder momentarily.
5. The Petit Oiseau Press, Miss Doris V. Welsh, 8 W. Oak Street, Apt. B-2, Chicago, Illinois 60610.
Miss Welsh has done a series of beautiful little delicate volumes, some of which are still in print. She is working on a bibliography of miniature books, I am told, and we are all waiting and hoping to see same, as soon as possible!
6. Dawson's Book Shop, 550 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, California 90017.
Not only do Dawson's issue lists of rare and out-of-print miniature books, but they have also published quite a number of beautifully bound miniatures, including several done in Mexico, both in English and Spanish.
7. The Doll Quester, P.O. Box 1685, Coral Gables, Florida 33134.
Mr. and Mrs. Smith issue lists of out-of-print items, and have proven to be a valuable source for many fine additions to my collection.
8. Seven Gables Bookshop, 3 West 46th Street, New York 10036.
When in New York do drop by and say hello to Michael Papantonio. Seven Gables has been most helpful in assisting me with acquiring reference materials on miniatures, as well as having a stock of miniature books.
9. Walter Schatzki, 153 East 57th Street, New York.
It is only a short distance from Seven Gables up to 57th Street, where Mr. Schatzki is happy to show you min-

ature books and an extensive collection of juveniles, prints, and other entrancing items.

10. Louis W. Bondy, 16 Little Russell Street, London, W.C. 1, England.
Mr. Bondy offers perhaps the most varied and prolific listings of miniature books, in the beautifully printed and illustrated catalogs which he usually issues about twice each year. The latest catalog listed more than 100 items, and after you see one, you'll await the next issue as eagerly as the rest of us, who will curse you roundly if you happen to air-mail your order first for an item which several of us want!!

Once you become a confirmed collector of wee volumes, you may on occasion be asked, "What good are they?" If the questioner is a stamp collector, the answer is easy: "Why don't you mail letters with your rare stamps." For all others I have found it most effective to state my belief that normal people never have any fun anyway! Anyone with a true sense of appreciation for the rare and the beautiful will demonstrate an immediate fondness for tiny bindings, diminutive engravings and color plates, and thumbnail-sized gilt-edged securities, for such they are; an investment in cash that can be liquidated profitably with very little difficulty, and an investment in beauty that pays continuing and ever-increasing dividends. The personal pleasure and pride of possession they afford to their owners is overshadowed by their unique ability to give pleasure to others; and I feel that anything which helps us to attain such a desirable end is, if not Heaven-sent, at the very least a modern-day miracle.



ILLUSTRATED MINIATURES

BY LAFCADIO HEARN, WILLIAM BLAKE AND
HENRY THOREAU, 1-3/4 x 2-1/4 INCHES.
PICTORIAL CLOTH, LTD. EDITIONS. \$4.50 PER
VOLUME.
THE HILLSIDE PRESS
P. O. 204, FRANKLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

MINIATURE BOOK NEWS

A QUARTERLY PERIODICAL DEVOTED ENTIRELY
TO MINIATURE BOOKS -----

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION -----\$3.00

16 DROMARA RD., ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63124

MORE ABOUT FDR's LITTLE BOOKS, Reported by Jim Brogan



Our January 2018 issue of *The Microbibliophile* provided an overview of FDR's 'Little Books' by Msgr. Francis Weber. As we all know, the world of miniature books seems to have threads which run over many roads and open many doors. As I mentioned in my article, a certain number of the books which originally were collected by FDR are at the Roosevelt Campobello Island International Park. The family home is part of this unique international park which is jointly maintained by the United States and Canada. As part of my investigation I was able to speak with Will Kernohan, the Manager of Interpretation, Education, and Programming who provided me with a title list of the miniature books at the site.

The list is as follows:

Paul and Virginia

Arcadia

The Tales of Peter Parley About Africa

The Lord Bishop of London

Daily Food (three copies)

Daily Prayers

The Holy Bible (two copies)

In Fun and In Earnest

Daily Bread

The Poetical Works of Mrs. Herman (two copies)

The Seven Champions of Christendom

Poetry of Christian Life and Experience

The Mental Friend

The Tale of a Tub

The Proverbs

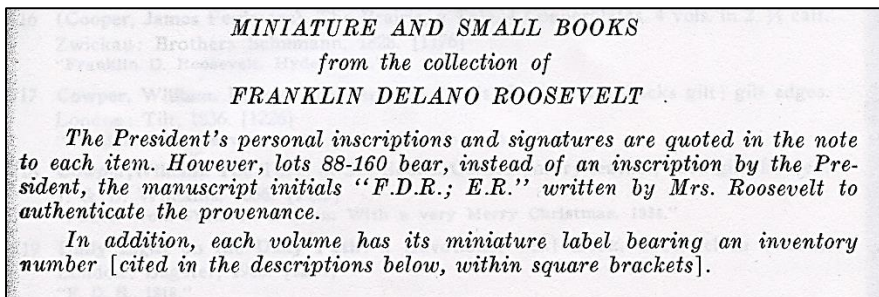
The Prize for Youthful Obedience

The Life of Lord Nelson
The Little Aesop
Village Churches
Aunt Rose and Her Nieces
History of the Bible
Famous Men of Britain
Poetical Works
Selections from the Psalms of David
Lalla Book
An Address to Young People
Peter Parley's Tales About Asia
The Chimes
The Soldier's Orphan
Thumb English Dictionary
A Father's Legacy
Favourite Essays of Elia
Golden Gleanings
The Compliments of the Season
Traveller's Guide of the Hudson River (two copies)
A Token of Remembrance
Reflections on the Seven Days of the Week
Mrs. Herman's Songs of the Affections
Songs, Ballads and Sacred Songs

As I move forward I will add the names of the publishers, dates, sizes of the tomes, and other pertinent information that collectors cannot do without. Msgr. Weber mentioned that the Hammer family inventoried the books, at Campobello, in 1966. According to Weber's text as noted in his publication *FDR'S Little Books* there were 47 miniatures in the inventory. The list above includes 44 including a few duplicates, so there is a small variation in the data to be resolved.

Additionally, Shannon Struble of Bromer Booksellers, in Boston, also provided me with a copy of the pages contained from the 1964 Hammer Galleries, of New York City, auction catalogue where many of the FDR tomes were sold. The auction list includes the titles of 160 books, as well as two bookcases.

There is an interesting printed note as part of the auction catalogue:



My question was what could have happened to the bookcases? One can only begin to wonder where these cases are today? The bookcases were custom built as gifts for FDR from Nancy Cook (1930 case) and Nancy Cook and Marion Dickersman, (1943 case). Well, we all know that the story of miniature books is a never-ending journey. There was a man from St Louis who collected a few miniature books from time to time and as every good editor does, he recorded all that he learned as his journey continued. In the *Miniature Book News*, Issue Number 4, from 1966, the man from St. Louis, Julian Edison wrote about the 1964 Hammer auction. Julian noted in his 1966 article that, "Your editor was quite please to obtain several of these mementos, as well as one of the bookcases." Auction price realized for the bookcases was \$450.00 each. He provided a brief description of the cases as being 36" x 22" x 6" with two glass doors and 3 removable shelves. WOW, interesting stuff. So some quick calculations, maybe 34" of actual shelf space, times the 3 shelves plus the bottom of the case would give us about 136" of shelf space, times 2 cabinets, yield about 272" of total storage. Using an estimate of three miniature books to the inch of shelf space the total storage capacity might have been (272 x 3 = 816 books). That is close to the estimate from the Weber publication of 750 books. Now a few more questions for consideration during the journey:

Did these cases hold, at one time, the total FDR miniature book collection?

Julian mentioned he purchased one case, and what journey did the other case enjoy?

Where are the cases today?

Do the archives in Hyde Park contain any pictures of FDR and the cases?

If you have any additional information to share or comments to expand and or validate my search, please contact me at your convenience. As I mentioned, I will pursue the development of a definitive list of the miniatures that FDR collected. As the man from St. Louis was so well noted for saying, "**TO BE CONTINUED.**" 📖

GET THE INK READY, START THE PRESSES:

Another year of *The Microbibliophile*, next issue, Volume XXXVII, Number 3, Issue 213 (expected publish date 05/10/2018). Reading is a great experience, sharing what we have read is a blessing. Some of the joys of the new season:

- *The Importance of Being Ernest*, by Oscar Wilde, published by Tony Firman
- Meet the Publisher, Purgatory Press, Esther Smith and Dikko Faust
- *Youth*, by Isaac Asimov, published by Plum Park Press
- *It's Convoluted*, published by Patricia Caernarven-Smith
- *Theodore Hesburgh*, by Msgr. Francis J. Weber, El Camino Real Press
- The Young Bibliophile, maybe a simple new book format to make
- 'An Antiquarian Delight', *Poetry For Children*, by Charles Lamb, a reprint
- 'Out of the Box', something old for sure, maybe an REM scroll keepsake
- Some more information of the specific books in the FDR collection
- Nina Mazzo, LXIVMOS Number 16
- And most important of all, something from you.....

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. 📖

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:

Making Books With Kids, by Esther K. Smith, 2016, Quarto Publishing Group. "Twenty-five projects to fold, sew, paste, pop, and draw". There are 144 pages of ideas, instructions, and outstanding graphics in this 8⁵/₈" x 8³/₄" well done book for the young bibliophile. This is just an outstanding resource and idea book that crosses a wide audience age spectrum. A note from the back cover, "Fun for the whole family, with easy-to-follow step-by-step instructions, and illustrations, you can make books at home, school, and after school – with friends, community groups, or on your own on a rainy day".

Magic Books, and Paper Toys, by Esther K. Smith, 2008, Potter Craft. A flip book with 75 pages of book making and when flipped over another 69 pages of great simple toys for children to make and show you how creative their minds can be. The book is printed on 'kid-friendly' glossy 7³/₈" x 7³/₈" paper. Excellent illustrations and instructions.

There is certainly a lot a great resources out there for the young bibliophile, 'seek and ye shall find'. 📖

SOME INTERESTING BOOK STUFF, Information Sharing, and Fun Stuff for a Cold Day or Any Day:

THE CREATIVITY CARAVAN, <http://thecreativitycaravan.com/>

The Creativity Caravan, 'The Tiny Book Show', the adventure continues with many different activities, check out their calendar. In addition, take time to visit the 'Shop' for a great selection of miniature books with a very diverse subject set or just give Amy and Maya a call to say hello, 201-259-9801

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

The newsletter is electronically distributed by the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America and is a great source of bibliophile related information and ongoing events. The web page is very easy to navigate across the spectrum of information provided. How about an article titled 'Decorated Book Endpapers: A Beginner's Guide'. Everything you ever wanted to know about endpapers. There is also a good selection of information about book fairs, bookselling, events, and 'theft and fraud' in the book world. Always something interesting, be it an article or a link, for the seasoned collector or a young bibliophile. A learning experience with every click.

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

The Florida Bibliophile Society's monthly 2018 digital newsletter (latest issue, February 2018) is a well-done publication filled with great information and activities within the book world. The current issue has articles about outstanding and different artists' books, which does include a miniature as well. There is another article, which I thought was particularly interesting, about the 'largest collection of magazines', in the world. Congratulations to the officers, the committee people, the newsletter editor, the contributors, and all the FBS members on a well-run organization.

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

Paula Jarvis has done another great job with the newsletter, which is titled 'Printed and Bound' and published three time a year. The diversity of the articles and information is just superb, something for everyone. The February 2018 issue includes articles on the 'Bicentennial of A Monster, Frankenstein'. Another article addresses 'Little Golden Books At 75', (who does not know of the 'Golden Books')? The selections go on to include 'Angler's Delight', about *The Complete Angler*, by Isaak Walton. I am always amazed when reading club newsletters as to how much new information is out there to learn.

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

NOBS has recently launched an 'e-news' format newsletter. There is an internal link from their webpage. The e-news mentions that the regular newsletter is being revitalized and is named the 'Libris Loquie'. The organization also hosts the NOBS Cleveland Antiquarian Book and Paper Show, no dates for the 2018 show mentioned.

The Book Source Magazine, (online only), <http://www.booksourcemagazine.com>

A lot of book related information including links to major libraries, used books stores, and book centric activities and exhibits. Sometimes the information branches a far from the specific book topics but interesting never the less.

Explore the following links and discover for yourself the joys that await you:

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

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

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

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

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

Collecting is an ever-changing and ongoing educational experience. Being a miniature book collector can be a full time job. The sun never sets on new things in the world of book collecting. One thing leads to another as we travel the globe and look through the bookshelves across the world, via the various publications and the electronic links available to us today. How else could you visit 6 libraries and 5 bookstores without having to go out and lock the front door. Tell me about your 'special links' so that we can share. Pack your socks, get a map, and grab your keyboard or smart phone, and HAVE FUN. 📖

For Sale: Large selection of Juniper Serra Press, miniature books published by Msgr. Francis Weber, many copies signed by Weber, many letterpress printed, as low as \$10 per volume, plus postage, contact the editor for an Excel list with titles and prices, Email: hello@themicrobibliophile.com

advertisement 📖

**ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY,
KLEMENTINUM LIBRARY,
NATIONAL LIBRARY, PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC,
A Bucket List Place To Visit:**



Baroque Library Hall, National Library

The large complex of Klementinum was founded by the Jesuit Order after their arrival in Bohemia in 1556. Initially, members of the order lived in a former Dominican monastery, then in 1653 began expanding the complex. The reconstruction lasted over 170 years, so there is a variety of architectural styles in the Klementinum. Prominent architects were involved in the design of the building, for example Carlo Lurago, Franz Maximilian Kanka, and Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer.

The Baroque Library Hall, with its rare gilded globes and spectacular frescoes depicting science and art, is just one building in the vast Klementinum complex. History

informs us that the Jesuits had only one book when they started building the library in 1622; when they were done, the collection had swelled to 20,000 volumes.

Today the labels on the bookshelves are original to the library's opening, as are some volumes with 'whitened backs and red marks,' indicators left by the Jesuits. The Jesuits had to leave Klementinum after the order was dissolved in 1773. After the division of the university into Czech and German parts in 1882 only the Czech part stayed. In 1930, the philosophical faculty moved into a new building and Klementinum became the seat of the National Library.

The Baroque Hall which remains intact as it was completed in 1722. For more information about this timeless masterpiece of architectural and educational history, visit the site: <http://www.prague.net/baroque-library-hall>. IF YOU CAN BELIEVE YOUR EYES!



CATALOGUES RECEIVED:

Karen Nyman Miniature Books, Catalog Number 71, March 2018, 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 1 1/4" tall and those over 1 1/4" tall. Contact info: 7835 Rush Rose Drive, # 124, Carlsbad, CA 92009, telephone 760-944-3019 website: www.KarenNymanMiniatureBooks.com, E-mail: karennyman2@gmail.com

Bromer Booksellers, A print catalogue Number 147, Science Fiction, 'For David', highlighting selections from the personal collection of David Bromer. The catalogue contains 41 pages with 56 books offered, each illustrated. The Introduction by Anne Bromer is something to be remembered. Well done. Contact info: 607 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116, telephone 617-247-2975 website: <https://www.bromer.com>, E-mail: books@bromer.com

Catalogues and 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 and dig in. Summer or winter, spring or fall, keep your catalogues in a basket next to your reading chair.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Edinburgh Antiquarian Book Fair, Edinburgh, Scotland, March 24 - 25th, 2018

Additional information:

<http://www.pbfa.org/book-fairs/edinburgh-premier-fair-with-aba/5636>

Akron Antiquarian Book and Paper Fair, Akron, Ohio, March 30 - 31st, 2018

MBS representatives will be on-site at this event recruitment

Additional information:

<https://tradeshowz.com/akron-antiquarian-book-paper-fair>

Richmond Antiquarian Book Fair, Richmond, VA, April 6 - 7th, 2018

Presented by the Virginia Historical Society

Additional information:

www.virginiabooksellers

Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, St. Petersburg, FL, April 20 - 22th, 2018

Additional information:

<http://floridabooksellers.com/%20bookfair.html>

Miniature Book Society Conclave, Charlottesville, VA, August 10 - 13th, 2018

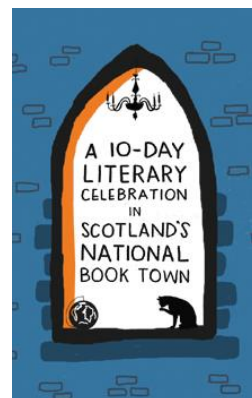
Additional information: <https://www.mbs.org>

Wigtown Book Festival, Wigtown, Scotland, September 21 - 30th, 2018

Additional information:

<http://www.wigtownbookfestival.com>

Mark the dates, get ready, and go! 📖



OAK KNOLL BOOKS

310 DELAWARE STREET, NEW CASTLE, DE 19720
(800) 996-2556 | WWW.OAKKNOLL.COM

Miniature Books at Oak Knoll



Personalized quotes and catalogs available upon request.
Browse our stock of over 1,300 books at:
www.oakknoll.com/mini

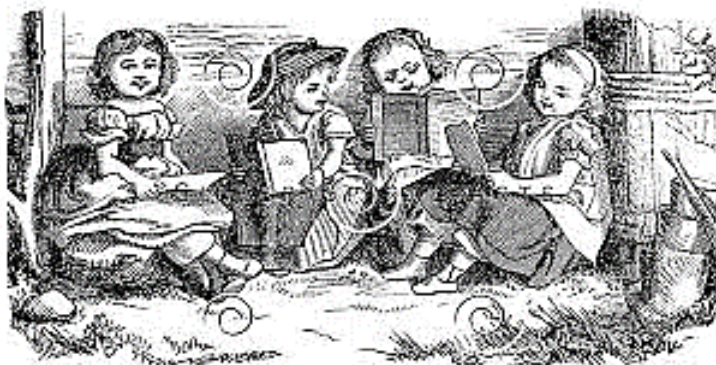
advertisement 

***THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE*, Volume XXXVII, Number 3,**

FRONTISPIECE:

Write the Story for the May – June 2018 Issue:


How is your imagination and storytelling skills? What are these children talking about, what could they be reading, maybe Kate Greenway's Alphabet book?



They are all having a good time for sure...your turn to tell a story. What things do you want *The Microbibliophile* to explore in 2018? Pick-up that pen or click away on the keyboard and let your imagination soar.

The deadline for submitting articles for the May 2018 issue will be April 15, 2018, electronic or paper submissions, either way, the choice is yours.


Email: hello@themicrobibliophile.com or

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

DEL-PRADO MINIATURE BOOKS,

What Can you tell Us:

Del-Pardo books were published for a short time in the 1990s. There appears to be 101 titles sold via some sort of subscription plan. The titles were, for the most part, literary classics, they were all bound in a very attractive leather-like binding, all were the same finished size 67 mm x 52 mm with stitched headbands, and an attractive ivory colored Bible paper. There is an interesting brochure at this address:

<https://americanstationer.files.wordpress.com/2018/01/del-prado-miniature-classics-library-brochure-sm1.pdf>. What else can you tell the readers of *The Microbibliophile*? 

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



advertisement 📖

Big Magazine for Small Collectors

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

"FB&C is the only magazine I read cover to cover." J. WEST

To subscribe, visit:

www.finebooksmagazine.com/subscribe

Just \$19.98 per year (U.S. delivery).
Money back guarantee if not delighted.



FineBooks
& COLLECTIONS

advertisement 📖

CLASSIFIED WISH LISTS,

Buy, Sell, or Trade:

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

Darleen Cordova is looking for (Hazeltine) Piso Pocket Book Almanac for 1918 to complete her set of the 12-month almanacs.
Contact information: E-mail: c.cordova@sbcglobal.net or (714)808-9648

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

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


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


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

Jim Brogan is looking for two tomes from REM Miniatures, *REM Acrostics*, 1972 cloth boards, printed label, Bradbury Number 43 and Christmas Card, 1979, Bradbury Number 57, Also, The 70th Academy Awards, by Gloria Stewart, 'buy or swap', cash, check, or livestock! Contact information: E-mail: jbrogan1@verizon.net

For Sale: Large selection of Juniper Serra Press, published by Msgr. Francis Weber, many copies signed by Weber, many letterpress printed, \$10 per volume, plus postage, contact the editor for a Excel list with titles and prices, Email: hello@themicrobibliophile.com

Free for the printing! 

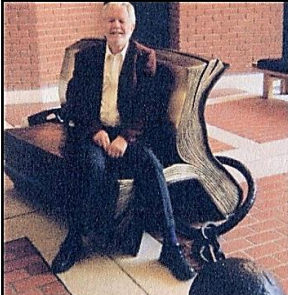
BUSINESS CARD ADVERTISING:



The Library
 Bed & Breakfast

Joan Knoertzer

808 Mary Street
 Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (734) 668-6815
librarybandb@gmail.com




Tony Firman
 Bookbinding

205 Bayne Road
 P.O. Box 507
 Haslet, Texas 76052

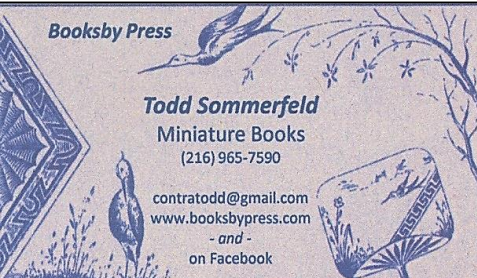
817-800-9993
TonyFirman@earthlink.net
www.TonyFirmanBookbinding.com

BO PRESS MINIATURE BOOKS
 PAT SWEET, PROP.

www.bopressminiaturebooks.com
info@bopressminiaturebooks.com




Booksby Press



Todd Sommerfeld
 Miniature Books
 (216) 965-7590

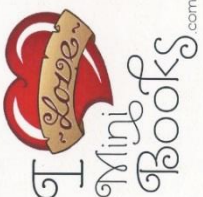
contratodd@gmail.com
www.booksbypress.com
 - and -
 on Facebook



Patricia Caernarven-Smith

P.O. Box 507
 Haslet, Texas 76052
 Member MBS
PCS0013@earthlink.net
www.TheWildOnionPress.com

*original works
 in miniature*



I Love Mini Books.com

MINIATURE BOOKS & ACCESSORIES

Cheryl Darleen Cordova
info@ILoveMiniBooks.com

PATRICE S. MILLER

1412 San Saba Drive
 Dallas, Texas 75218
 214.533.2212
p.miller.aredian@sbcglobal.net

aredian press



PUBLICATION STATEMENT

THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE® is a miniature book journal and welcomes 'Letters to the Editor', display and classified advertising, books for review, and news about miniature books, miniature book publishers, authors, printers, binders, related research materials, and the book arts. Please contact the editor for further information concerning acceptance criteria of submitted information that must be reviewed as being appropriate by the editor, subject experts, and publisher prior to publication. Articles that do not carry a byline are the work of the Editor.

THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE® is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, and November by *The Microbibliophile* LLC, P. O. Box 5453, North Branch, NJ 08876. 📖

2018 SUBSCRIPTION & ADVERTISING RATES

Send inquires to, Email: hello@themicrobibliophile.com
(Deadline for May 2018 issue is April 15th)

2018 Advertising Rates: (discounts available for repeat inserts)

Full Page - 5.50" wide x 7.50" \$100.00
One Half Page - 5.50" wide x 3.75" \$50.00
One Quarter Page - 2.75" wide x 3.75" \$30.00
Business Card Ads – \$20.00 per year
Classified - Up to 250 characters, no charge!

New 2018 Subscription Rates: (6 issues per year, via 1st Class USPS)

\$42.00/year, USA
\$48.00/year, Canada
\$51.00/year, Overseas

Please make checks payable to:

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

