

THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE®

A Bimonthly Journal about Miniature Books and the Book Arts

Volume XLI, Number 4 Issue 238, July-August 2022



*The Light of The Summer Dawn
Brings with it the New Day's Adventure*

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Image:
Wikipedia.com

Louisa May Alcott, American Writer

Louisa May Alcott [1832 – 1888] was an American novelist, short story writer, and poet. Her best-known novel, *Little Women* (1868) is set around her family home in Concord, Massachusetts and is loosely based on her childhood experiences with her three sisters. Alcott's parents were transcendentalists and she grew up among several of the intellectuals that also lived in the Concord area; Emerson, Hawthorne, Thoreau, and Longfellow. Part of Alcott's early education included lessons with the naturalist Henry David Thoreau.

Her family had suffered several financial failures, which made it a requirement that Louisa go to work at an early age to help support the family. As time went on, she transitioned from teaching to writing. *Little Women* was well received by critics who found it suitable for most audiences across several age groups. The story presented a fresh and natural representation of daily life of the time.

She traveled to Europe and upon her return home went to work as an editor at the 'Merry's Museum' magazine. Alcott frequently wrote in her journals about going on long walks and runs. She challenged prevailing social norms regarding gender by encouraging her young female readers to run as well.

Bradbury lists five different Alcott miniature editions in his *20th Century U.S. Miniature Books*,

Flower Fables, 1981, B. Raheb,

Little Women, 1977, (two sizes) B. Raheb,

Little Women, 1981, B. Raheb,

Little Women, 1990, Pennyweight Press.

Can you add to this list titles by this outstanding author? Your turn! 📖

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Robert F. Hanson, Founder, 1977

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The Microbibliophile

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

Sherry Mayo, Publisher James M. Brogan, Editor © 2022 by James M. Brogan

Greetings from the Squeaky Roll Top Desk:

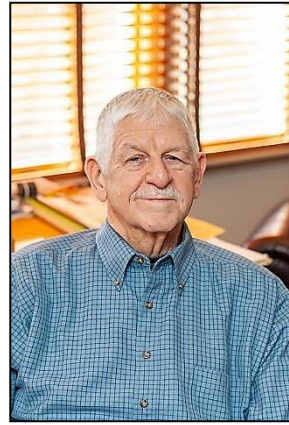
Hazy, Hot, and Humid are the weather words for summer in New Jersey and a lot of other parts of the Northern Hemisphere. Then again, if we lived on an island, off the coast of Maine, life would be about sweatshirts and roasted marshmallow campfires on the beach. The vegetable garden is growing like crazy, snap peas made it to the salad bowl and we are still waiting for the first tomato of the season. I am sure that as soon as the zucchini and cucumber start in a week or so I will have to start leaving anonymous bags of vegetables by the front doors of neighbors. The gazebo is 'ground zero' for the coffee cup, some books about books, and the newspaper, life is good for sure.

Plum Park Press has published two new books that we have reviewed in this issue. Bo Press has three new books as well. Todd Sommerfeld has released his second book as part of the 'Book Culture' series. The sixth miniature for this issue is titled *Seaglass*, it is a private printing issue, however, I wanted to share a portion of the poetry with everyone. Nina Mazzo gleans more tidbits from within two issues of the MBN. Our antiquarian selection is about a 'set of books', some dust from the top shelf. It is not often that miniature books go into a second printing but so is the case with some Bo Press books, read on. As always, pages and pages of interesting book stuff, get your cool drink, pull up your chair, and have a short vacation with *The Microbibliophile*.

We continue with another special review/synopsis of two books from the 'Bradbury 100' list for your enjoyment, Number 87 and 96. The '100 List' is an ongoing feature that began in 2021 with the goal of enticing readers to submit their own review of a book of their choice from the list, although we have not had anyone enticed as yet. If you check our website, you can look at the complete list, which was published in the January 2021 issue. Pick one from the list and do a review for the next issue; it might be a fun thing for you.

There are still some stragglers with regard to subscription renewals. Unfortunately, the publication business runs on money, that green stuff that flies out the window if you are not careful, so for those that have not paid up...you are looking at your last issue.

In closing, my message is simple, your support and interest is what keeps this journal an active publication of all things "miniature bookish", something new, something old, but always, we hope, something interesting, since 1977. Thank you again, for providing a place in your home for *The Microbibliophile*; it is a joy and a privilege to produce each issue for your enjoyment. 📖




A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T Sommerfeld', written in a cursive style.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

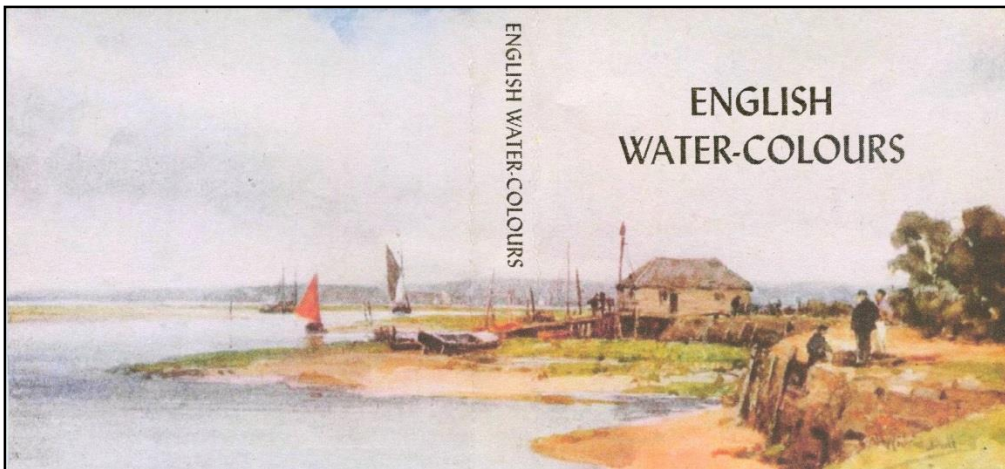
Richard Milhouse Nixon 1913 – 1994,
37th President of the United States, 1969 - 1974

“If, when the chips are down, the world's most powerful nation, the United States of America, acts like a pitiful, helpless giant, the forces of totalitarianism and anarchy will threaten free nations and free institutions throughout the world.”

(Image of the 1995 \$.32 USPS stamp, issued at Urba Linda, CA) 



MINIATURE BOOK REVIEWS and CRITICISM:



English Water-Colours, by Wilfred Ball, [1853-1917] and G. F. Nicholls, [1885-1937], published 2022, by the Plum Park Press, Tony Firman Publisher. A. & C. Black Co. published a series of books in 1913, the first one was *Hampshire Water-Colours* with paintings by Ball and the second is *Cotswolds Water-Colours* with painting by Nicholls. The Plum Park edition is a combination of the two original books including all 38 paintings.

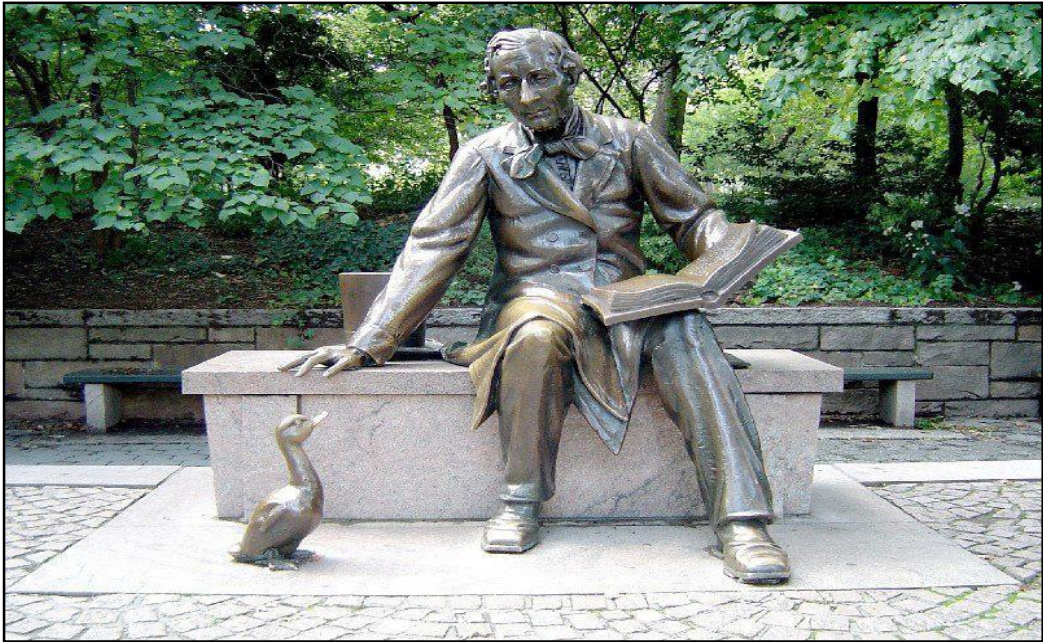


The miniature contains 63 numbered pages (80 pages total). The first section is devoted to the 19 paintings by Nicholls; the second section contains the 19 paintings by Ball. The paper employed is a smooth heavy weight paper that provides for excellent color reproduction. The dust jacket is a full color reproduction of the painting 'Lymington' painted by Ball. The title of the miniature is gilt printed on the front cover and the spine. The miniature is bound in a wine colored book cloth and is 3" x 3". The edition is limited to 20 copies, each priced at \$45.00 plus shipping.

Another example of the fine workmanship created by Tony Firman. 📖

*A Cotswold Village Store,
G.F. Nicholls*

Contact information: Tony Firman, 80 Farm Valley Court, Weaverville, NC 28787,
E-mail: TonyFirmanBooks@gmail.com or www.TonyFirmanBookbinding.com



The front and rear endpapers carry a picture of the bronze statue of Anderson located in New York's Central Park, 'The Little Duckling'

The Snow Queen, by Hans Cristian Anderson [1805-1870], was originally published in 1844. This miniature is produced by Plum Park Press, Tony Firman, Publisher, 2022.

Anderson was a prolific writer across many genres but is most remembered for his imaginative fairy tales. Tony's "Snow Queen" miniature includes the illustrations by Edna F. Hart, which were part of the 1914 edition of the book; *Hans Anderson's Fairy Tales, First Series*.

The story is actually written as a series of seven short stories beginning with the character Troioden, the devil troll making an evil mirror that distorts the goodness of people and magnifies their bad or ugly traits. The mirror falls and breaks into a million tiny pieces and years later a splinter of the old mirror gets into the eye of a child, Kai, he turns from goodness to liking things that are not so good. The Snow Queen arrives, kisses Kai, and then takes him to her palace. However, Gerda, the childhood playmate of Kai goes to the palace and saves Kai from the Snow Queen.



The titles of the seven stories/sections are:

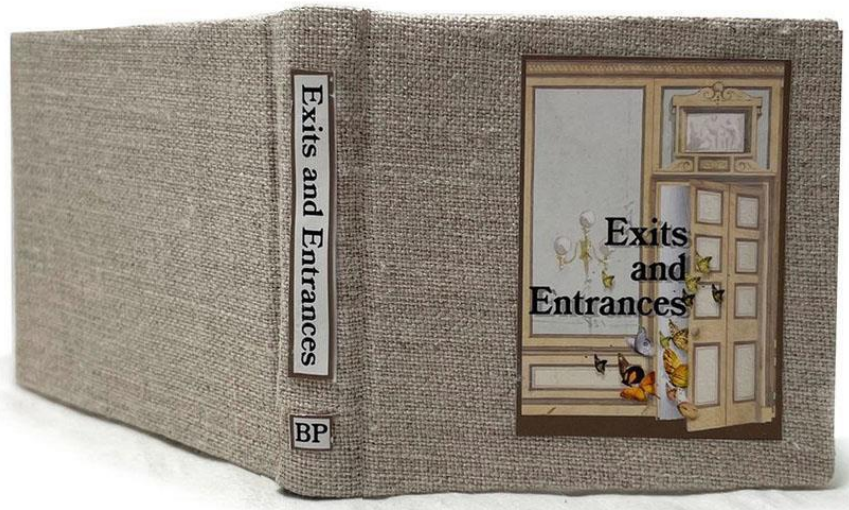
- First Story, Which describes a looking glass and the broken fragments.
- Second Story: 'A Little Boy and a Little Girl'
- Third Story: 'The Flower Garden of the Woman Who Could Conjure'
- Fourth Story: 'The Prince and Princess'
- Fifth Story: 'Little Robber-Girl'
- Sixth Story: 'The Lapland Woman and the Finland Woman'
- Seventh Story: 'The Palace of the Snow Queen and What Happened There At Last'

The moral of the tale is the triumph of good over evil. A timeless lesson for sure.

The text of the Plum Park miniature is unabridged from the original and set in Century Schoolbook typeface. The book is bound in a dark green book cloth with a title label on the spine. The bound size of the miniature is $2^{15}/_{16}$ " x $2^{1}/_{8}$ " and printed on 140 pages. The front and rear endpapers carry a two-page picture of the bronze statue of Anderson, which is located in New York City's Central Park.

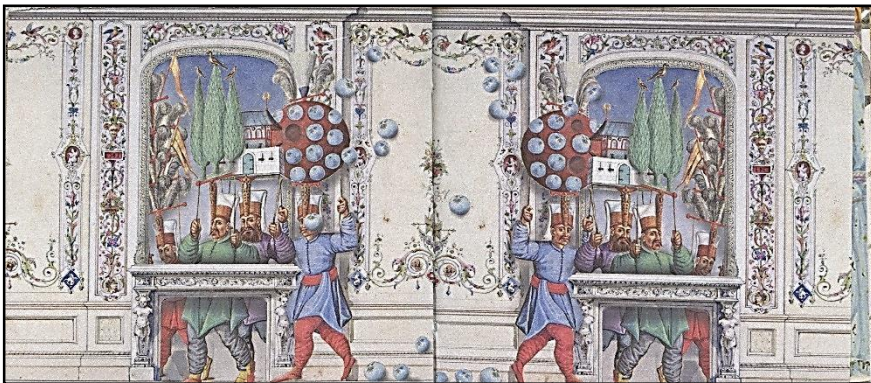
The edition contains 20 copies and the price for the book is \$45 plus shipping. Great workmanship throughout. Contact Tony for availability and shipping details. 📖

*Contact information: Tony Firman, 80 Farm Valley Court, Weaverville, NC 28787,
E-mail: TonyFirmanBooks@gmail.com or www.TonyFirmanBookbinding.com*

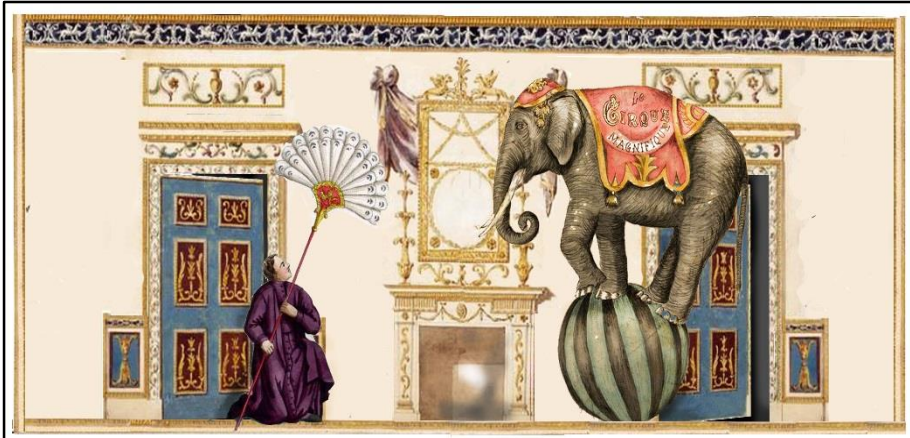


Exits and Entrances, by Pat Sweet, published in 2022 by Bo Press Miniature Books. Over the years, we have seen a great many 'out of the box' books come from the workshop of Pat Sweet on Blaine Street. There must be a special 'idea bulb' in the light on that worktable; so many wonders, so many joys, always something new, always something interesting. *Exits and Entrances* is another such book. From the publisher's website and introduction letter received with the book:

"I have no idea where the idea for this came from, but I've always had good luck juxtaposing unlikely things. I'd start with a quiet and classically balanced boudoir and add . . . some action! The backdrop notion came from the theater, naturally, and anything in front of it automatically looks significant, even if it is just a gang of seahorses carrying a snake-nosed pike fish across a formal parlor. I want every image to suggest a (very strange) story. "



The book is bound in a smooth textured unbleached linen that resembles the texture and color of a fine burlap-like material with title labels applied to the front cover as well as the spine. The book measures 2⁵/₈" x 2⁷/₈", 72 pages and contains 28 two-page (verso/recto) full color pictures. Each picture requires you to study the picture in order to absorb the details of the scene. The book was printed with a Cannon Pro-100 printer and the paper is a Red River 32 lb. double-sided matte paper.



Entrances and Exits, a visual cornucopia of entrances and exits is available as an open edition, \$72, contact Pat for shipping details. Enjoy. 📖

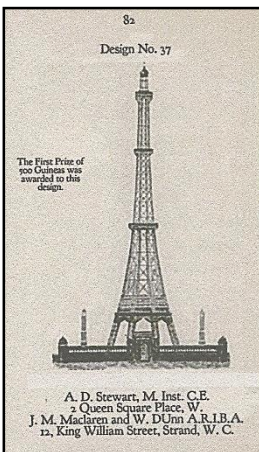
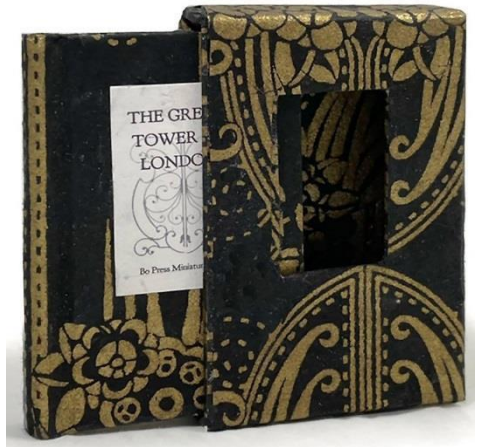
Contact information: Pat Sweet, 231 Blaine Street, Riverside, CA, 92507-3230
e-mail: bopress@chater.net or <https://www.bopressminiaturebooks.com/>

The Great Tower of London, by Pat Sweet of Bo Press Miniature Books, 2022. Books about historical things and places or maps and charts are a specialty of Bo Press. Pat Sweet has the unique ability to ferret out the most obscure facts and then bring them to life in a miniature book. *The Great Tower of London* is another journey back in time brought to life again by Pat.

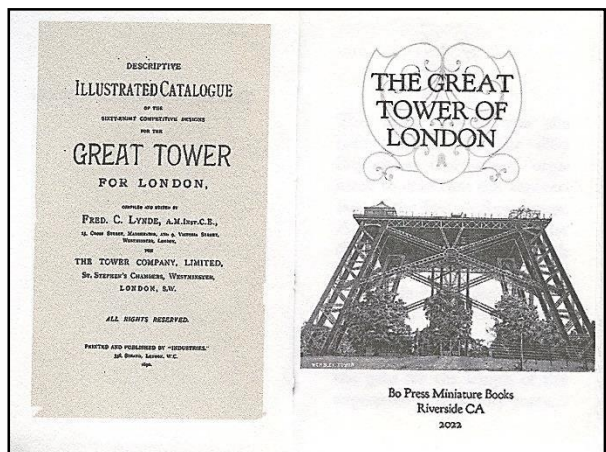
The Eiffel Tower was the main entrance point for the Exposition Universelle, a ‘world’s fair’ held in Paris in 1889. It was organized to celebrate the anniversary of the French Revolution. A competition was held for the design of the tower, and was won by Maurice Koechlin and Emile Nougier. Gustave Eiffel received the construction commission for a very small fee in return for a portion of the gate for receipts the length of the Exposition (May – October) plus twenty years.

In 1890, Sir Edward Watkin, a British MP and Chairman of the Metropolitan Railway, wanted to build an amusement park on property he owned in Wembley. Inspired by the success of the Eiffel Tower, the intended purpose of the ‘Great Tower of London’ was that would rival or surpassed Eiffel’s tower in Paris.

The ‘Great Tower of London’ was, of course, meant to be taller than the Eiffel Tower, and like the Eiffel Tower, temporary. Yes, even in those days ‘bragging rights and publicity’ were important features of the profit stream.



‘Design Number 37’



London Stump’

It was meant to be the centerpiece of an amusement park in Wembley, and easily reachable by train. As with the Eiffel Tower, the winning design would be decided by a competition.

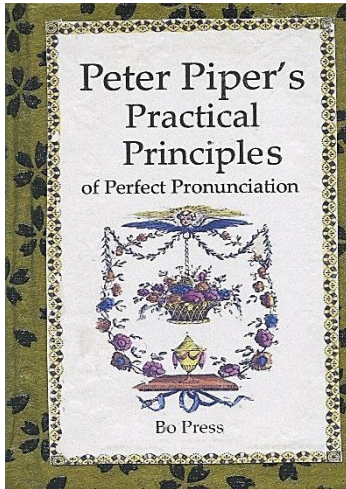
In spite of many of the designs being slightly loony, or very similar to Eiffel's design, Stewart, McLaren and Dunn's practical design, number 37, was chosen to be awarded the 500-guinea prize. Construction began, but the construction/project funding slowly petered out.

The full extent of the construction, called the 'London Stump' or 'Watkin's Folly', is shown on the title page - all 154 feet. Construction was never completed and the initial construction work was eventually dynamited and buried under a new Wembley Stadium

The Great Tower of London, 84 pages, is printed on Mohawk superfine paper in Garamond 1911, and bound in a gold-on-black Art Nouveau paper, with the slipcase bound in the same tasteful paper. The book measures 2¹/₂" x 1⁵/₈", the slipcase with a title window cut measures 2³/₄" x 1³/₄". The book with the slipcase is priced at \$85, contact Pat for shipping details. 📖

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

e-mail: bopress@charter.net or <https://www.bopressminiaturebooks.com/>



Peter Piper's Practical Principles of Plan and Perfect Pronunciation, this miniature published by Pat Sweet at Bo Press, 2022, from an original work printed at St Paul's Church Yard for John Harris & Son, 1820.

Sometimes the ideas for a miniature book stir in one's mind or lay about the worktable for months before gelling into a miniature. Yet, at other times, an idea comes from a customer/reader and that is the case with 'Peter Piper according to Pat'.

Most of us have heard the most well known verse in this collection – "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers . . .", but how many know the other verses?

Pat Sweet remarked, "I was astonished to find out that there were twenty-five more tongue twisters, one for each letter of the alphabet. They appeared in John Harris's book of 1814, *Peter Piper's Practical Principles of Plain and Perfect Pronunciation*".

There is verse and illustration for each letter of the alphabet. The verses are certainly tongue twisters. As with the one we know so well, the rest are equally challenging.

*Billy Button bought a butter'd Biscuit:
Did Billy Button buy a butter'd Biscuit?
If Billy Button bought a butter'd Biscuit,
Where's the butter'd Biscuit Billy Button bought?*



*Sammy Smellie smelt a smell of Small-coal:
Did Sammy Smellie smell a smelt of Small-coal?
If Sammy Smellie smelt a smell of Small-coal,
Where's the smell of Small-coal Sammy Smellie smelt?*



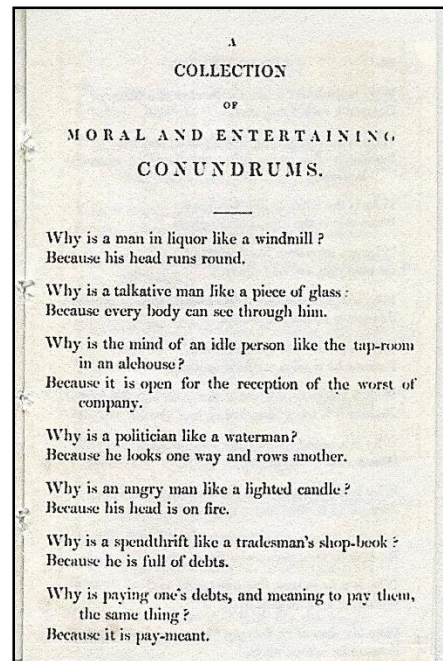
*Walter Waddle won a Walking Wager:
Did Walter Waddle win a Walking Wager?
If Walter Waddle won a Walking Wager,
Where's the Walking Wager Walter Waddle won?*



Included with the twenty-six pronunciation exercises there are twenty-six contemporary, 1820 style, color illustrations. 'Peter Piper' also includes a four page 'Collection of Moral and Entertaining Conundrums', some are quite dry but some might bring a smile to your face;

*("Why are spectators like beehives?
Because they are both bee-holders.")*

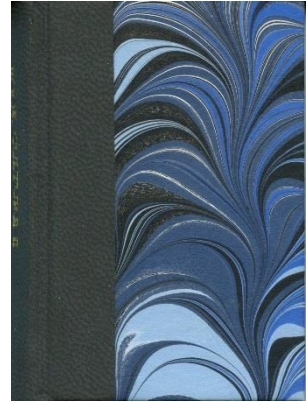
*("Why is a politician like a waterman?
Because he looks one way and rows another.")*



The book, 2⁵/₈" x 1³/₄" and is bound in a glossy black-on-green flower pattern paper with the title illustration applied to the front cover. There are 42 numbered pages and the price is \$36, contact Pat for availability and shipping details.

Contact information: Pat Sweet, 231 Blaine Street, Riverside, CA, 92507-3230
e-mail: bopress@chater.net or <https://www.bopressminiaturebooks.com/>

‘A POCKET CAROLER’, The Making of My Latest Chapbook Project, by Gary Johanson, published by Booksby Press, June 2022. ‘Caroler’ is the second in a series of books/essays that has been published by Booksby. The series is titled ‘Book Culture’. The essays explore many different facets of the book world using the input of those who are deeply enamored by books.



Publisher's [Todd Sommerfeld] Note: "Because I've spent my entire life among books and book people I wanted to give something back to the community that has given me so much, so the Book Culture series was born. It is my thank you to everyone who educated, encouraged, and inspired me on my bookish journey. There are currently two books out with two others in production, two more in preproduction, and one proposed book. Each book looks at the book world from a different perspective. Dealer, printer, collector, reader, are all points of view that will be explored through essays written by a multitude of authors. There is no rhyme or reason for the essays I choose to publish other than they must speak to me in some way, and illuminate a specific aspect of the book world."

Publisher's [Todd Sommerfeld] Note #2: The original essay was published on the 'All Things Wireless & Letterpress' blog, October 2, 2018.

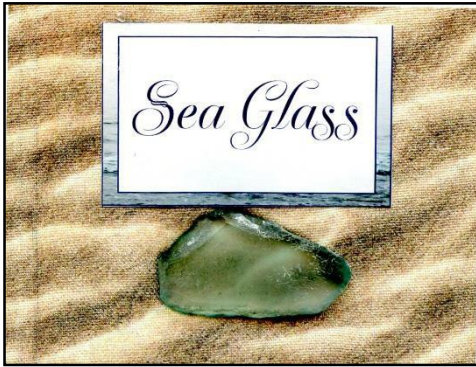
Gary Johanson has done a fine job explaining all the steps and resets that he took while taking his initial 'idea' from identifying the need, thoughts about a solution, and then the final creation of one hundred pocket size song books for his church youth group. Johanson began with years of experience as a letterpress printer, but little experience about what was required to 'make an actual book'.

His journey took more than three years from that first identification of the need to the binding of the finished book. There were many techniques he had to master for each step along the way, but he did it.

'Caroler' is 2⁵/₈" x 1³/₄", and contains 103 pages of text digitally printed on a warm tone of Mohawk Superfine #80 eggshell paper. The font size is 8 pt. Imprint MT Shadow, set by Wendell Sommerfeld. The covers are bound with a handsome blue, gray, and black handmade marbled paper created by book artist, Steve Pittelkow. The spine is covered with gray faux leather, and the title is gold stamped on the spine. The edition is limited to 200 copies, each priced at \$25.00 plus shipping. 📖

*Booksby Press, Todd Sommerfeld, 6475 Ridge Road, #1, Parma, Ohio, 44129,
E-mail: contratodd@gmail.com, website: <https://booksbypress.com/>*

Sea Glass:



Sea Glass is a private edition, 6 copies, designed, printed, and bound by Pat Sweet of the Bo Press. The text of the book highlights a journey of more than half a century and ends with small children sorting sea glass, which had been kissed by the sea, landed by the waves of the blue water for another day, ground smooth, and rounded by the blue water and the grains of sand.

The text includes a descriptive journey taken to the western beaches of San Diego, East to the Outer Banks, and North to Cape Breton Island and Labrador.

Also included with the text is a reprint of a special poem about sea glass from *Beachcomber*' magazine, 2014, by B. Noll

*I want to age like sea glass.
Smoothed by the tides but not broken.
I want my hard edges to soften.
I want to ride the waves and go with the flow.
I want to catch a wave and let it carry me to where I belong.
I want to be picked up and held gently by those that delight in my well-earned patina and
appreciate the changes I went through to achieve that beauty.
I want to enjoy the journey and always remember that if you give the ocean something breakable it
will turn it into something beautiful.
I want to age like sea glass.*

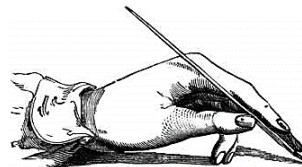
Precious...Joyful...Beautiful...and Reflective.

Sea Glass is bound with a special art cloth of beige and grays that make one think of the beach sand as each wave lands and retreats from the shore. A piece of found sea glass is attached to each front cover. The one shown here has the green color of an old fashioned 'Coca Cola' bottle; the ones that were stamped with the name of the town where they were first filled and began their journey. The front and rear endpapers present a two-page photo of a fog bound shore and the arrival of gentle waves. You can almost hear the waves and smell the sea air as you look at the scene. 📖

PLEASE CONSIDER WRITING AN ARTICLE FOR *THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE*:

Please consider sharing your thoughts and ideas.
Your input is always welcome.

The Microbibliophile was conceived for the sharing of passion for all things related to miniature books and book arts. If you need help getting started contact the Editor or Publisher. We can brainstorm together! Composing, proofreading, and nudging always available. 📖



LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

After all the research, the data entry, editing, proofreading, and ‘licking the stamps’ there is another joy that is part of the overall process of building each issue of *The Microbibliophile*. Sometime we do get a ‘Letter to the Editor’, sometimes it may be a simple ‘great issue’, and others may include answers to previous questions, corrections, and additions to the vast stores of information that are part of a publication that is forty-one years old.

One such letter did arrive, from Caroline Y. Brandt, bless her for being such a diligent reader and always willing to share information.

As part of the frontispiece for the previous issue about Ralph Waldo Emerson, I asked if anyone knew of more ‘Emerson’ miniature books than I had noted. Caroline provided a list of additions which are:

1. Three variations of *Friendship*, by St. Onge;
 - blue leather binding with a white silk ribbon marker
 - orange –red leather binding, with a red silk ribbon marker
 - navy blue leather binding, with a blue silk ribbon marker
2. *Gifts*, North Chatham, NY, Honeybee Press, No. 1 of 5 holiday books, 100 copies
3. *Give Love To All*, Montreal, Canada, 1993, Vol. 7 of ‘Nostalgic Book Collection’
4. *Illusions, from the Conduct of Life*, Kelly M. Houle, Fountain Hills, AZ. 2008
5. *Thoughts from Emerson*, William P. Nimmo & Co, Edinburgh, Scotland 1883
6. *Thoughts from Emerson*, Nimmo, Hay, & Mitchell, Simpkin & Co. & Co, Edinburgh, Scotland, London, England

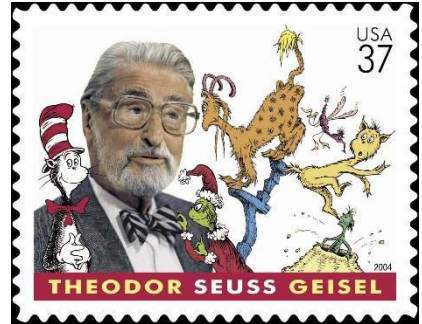
THANK YOU CAROLINE. 📖

BOOKISH QUOTE,

Dr. Seuss [1948]

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go! ”

Editor’s Note: Theodor Seuss Geisel [1904 – 1991] was an American children’s author and cartoonist whose pen name was Dr. Seuss. 📖

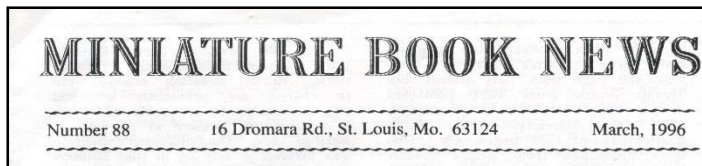


THE MINIATURE BOOK NEWS,

Number 16, June 1969

By Nina Mazzo:

Editor’s Note: ‘The Miniature Book News’ was an early publication [initial issue September 1965] that was edited and published by Julian I. Edison, beginning in 1965, consolidated into the MBS Newsletter and continued to be published thru 2017. Time to revisit, learn, share, enjoy, and reflect, once again. Thank you Nina for your continuing contribution to ‘The Microbibliophile’.



NUMBER 16:

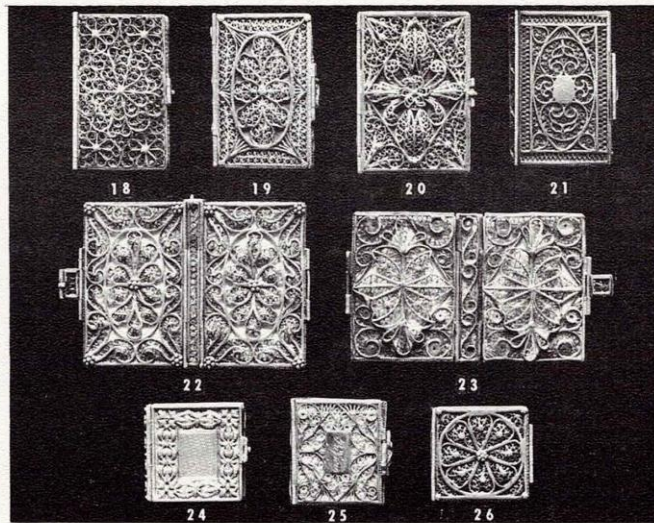
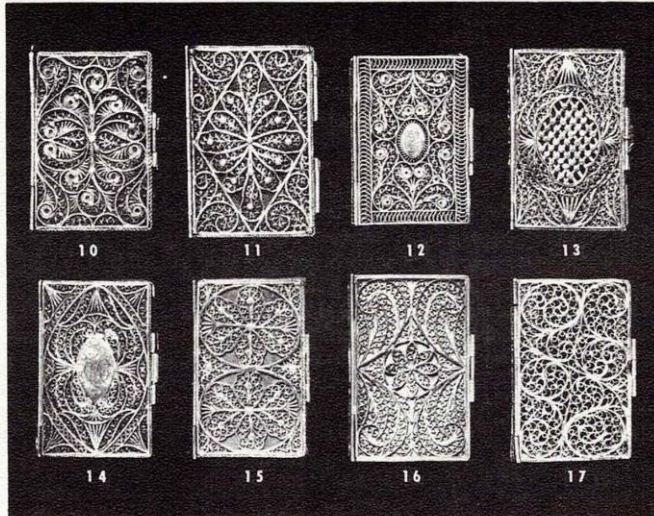
MBN celebrates 4 years! Editor Julian Edison rightfully felt proud and commented, “much has been written and . . .much remains to be done”. Enthusiasm and education continues today within our world of miniature books.

The June 1969 issue includes a fascinating article titled ‘A Collection of Filigree Bindings’ and Julian describes the “practical and dainty London Almanacks which were

published for some two hundred years beginning in the late seventeenth century by the Company of Stationers in five different sizes". Each almanack contained engraved pages of a calendar for each month and most contained an engraved frontispiece of a prominent London building. I must admit the descriptions sound splendid as he notes the bindings were of silver and gold filigree. The accompanying photo from the article certainly gives you an idea of how spectacular they must have been! I then decided to do a bit more research on the almanacks and so off I went to the Company of Stationers website.

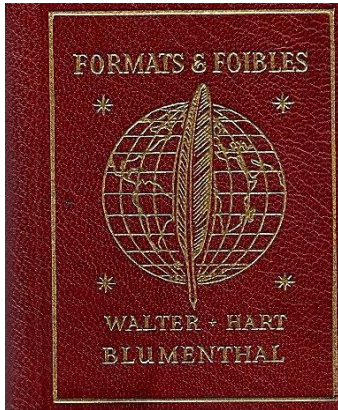
<https://www.stationers.org/>

The following information is from an article written by Richard Gilpin. The earliest almanacks were simply guides to planetary movements and astronomical events for the coming year. In addition, they contained forecasts relating to weather and wars as well as useful information on market days, fairs, and holy days along with eclipses and phases of the moon. For many people the information provided in almanacks was knowledge that they believed could give them an advantage over others. The Stationers Company received a Royal Grant from James I in 1603 conferring privileges including profits from the sale of the almanacks. By the nineteenth century, technological improvements in printing and papermaking led to more illustrations and mass production. Mr. Gilpin notes that the almanacs can be seen as the first form of English mass media and by the start of the 18th century between 350,000 to 400,000 were published each year. I was unable to discover any almanacs for sale with the filigree bindings and am curious if any of our readers might have a photo to share from their collection?

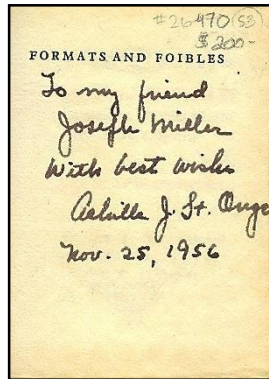


And still more and different London Almanac filigree binding variations - Standard and half-size (square), but reduced in the photographs.

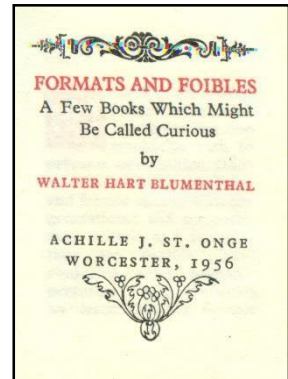
A personal area of interest is books about books and I must share commentary from Walter Hart Blumenthal who wrote a miniature book titled – *Formats and Foibles, A few books which might be called curious* (published by A. J. St. Onge in 1956)



Front cover



free endpaper



title page

“Diminutive books constitute a genre of enchanting allure, meriting consideration apart from the wide range of other formats. Not so inveigling the goliaths that may be classified as Gigantica – those colossal tomes that repose in massing and unwieldy amplitude. Such mammoths of the library may well stand or lay alone and be relegated without regret. But the tiny books – the infinite charm and variety of miniature books – we here pass by with heartbreak; for they are a devotion of half a century, and the pursuit of these minims grows in ardor and arcana with the years.” Well said Mr. Blumenthal. I think I need and want this book in my collection! Stay curious.

Well, once again I have learned a few more new things about the miniature book world. Stay curious.

“MICROBLIOPHILES, ONWARD!”

Always a joy. 📖

Contact information: Nina Mazzo, 1655 Delta Wind Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648,
E-mail: ninamazzo@me.com

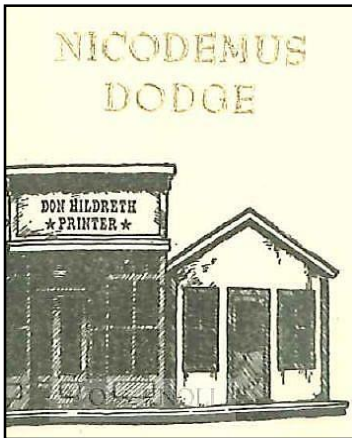
Editor's Note: I am sure that some of our readers may have copies of these charming almanacks. It would be interesting to hear from the readers, about their favorites and the treasures that reside between the fancy covers.

**BRADBURY 100, NUMBER 87,
Nicodemus Dodge,
By Mark Twain:**

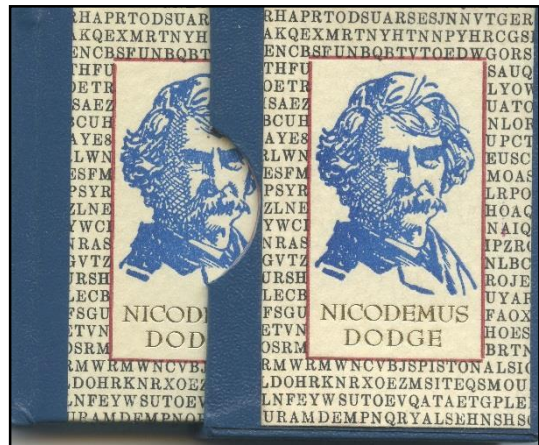
The Ash Ranch Press was operated by Don Hildreth from 1986 – 1991, Hildreth died in 1991, at the age of 49, but in the short time he operated his press, using an old Chandler & Price press, he created 23 outstanding miniature books. Hildreth was one of the very talented practitioners of the book arts where he designed, handset the type, illustrated, letterpress printed, and bound all of his books.

One of Hildreth's miniatures with its placeholder as Number 87 on the 'Bradbury List' is titled *Nicodemus Dodge*, written by Mark Twain. The miniature was published in 1989, sized at 2⁵/₁₆" x 1¹¹/₁₆" and was published in a regular edition, with a dust jacket, of 52 copies and 26 deluxe copies issued with a slipcase. Both editions are letterpress printed, the deluxe edition with gilt blue leather spine with the title on the spine and the front cover carrying an elaborate illustration of Mark Twain superimposed over a 'poster' of letters'. The regular edition has a dust jacket, bound in black leather, with a gilt titled spine.

DJ illustration, regular edition



deluxe edition with slipcase



As you might surmise while looking at both covers and knowing a bit about Mark Twain you can understand that the story will involve a young boy and the printing trade. The first few lines of the book read:

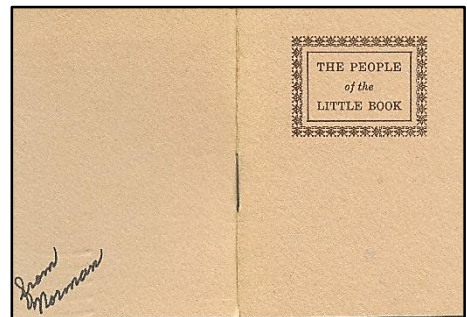
When I was a boy in a printing office in Missouri, a loose-jointed, long-leg-ged tow-headed, jean-clad, countrified cub of about sixteen lounged in one day, and, without removing his hands from the depths of his trousers-pockets or taking off his faded ruin of a slouch hat, whoso broken rim hung limp and ragged about his ears like a bug-eaten cabbage leaf, stared indifferently around, then leaned his hip against the editor's table, crossed his mighty brogans, aimed at a distant fly fror a crevice in his upper teeth, laid him low, and said, with composure: "Who's the doss?" "I'm the boss," said the editor, following this curious bit of architecture wonderingly along up to its clock face with his eye. "Don't want anybody to learn the business—'tain't likely P" "Well, I don't know. Would you like to learn it?" "P'aps so; pa he can't run me no mo', so I want to git a show somers if I can, 'tain't no difference what. I'm strong and hearty, and I won't turn my back on no kind of work, bard or soft. ' "Do you think you would like to learn the printing business?" "Well, I don't re'ly kecr a darn what I do learn, so's I git a chance fur to make my way. I just as soon learn printin's anything." "Can you read?" "Yes, midd'in'." "Write?" "Well, I've seed people could lay over me thar." "Cipher?" "Not good enough to keep store, I don't reckon; but at twelve times twelve I ain't no slouch. Tother side of that is what gits me."*

I will leave the rest of the story for you to discover.

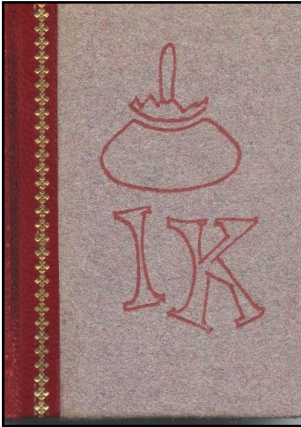
Copies of both the regular and deluxe editions can be found without too much trouble in the miniature book market. Ash Ranch books are a bit pricey but the books are well done and are fine examples of Hildreth's workmanship. Let the search begin. Do not let that dissuade you from looking for and acquiring a copy for your collection. However, once found, certainly, it will be fine addition to your library. 📖

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

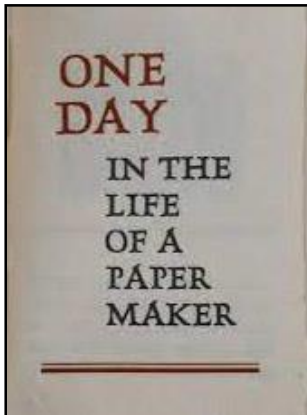
A little 'keepsake' of special interest, more about this in the next issue, maybe you want to write the story inside the MB about what is inside of these covers? 📖



**BRADBURY 100, NUMBER 96,
A Day In the Life of A Papermaker,
By James Lamar Weygand:**



*Front cover illustrating
the 'ink ball' and 'IK'
watermarks*



'Title page'

James Lamar Weygand was one of the six renaissance miniature book publishers of the 20th century, in the United States. He produced 24 miniature books between 1963 and 1995. Weygand was truly a master artisan executing all of the design work, handset type, illustrations, letterpress printing, binding, and paper making for his books.

One Day In the Life of A Papermaker, Number 96, on Bradbury's list, was published by Weygand in 1972. Chronologically, it was seventh of the 24 miniature books he published. 'One Day' was letterpress printed on homemade paper, with a gilt red leather spine, an edition of 100 copies, 2½" x 1¹³/₁₆". As with all of Weygand's books, to hold one in your hand gives you a special feeling about being 'that close' to the man who created what you are holding. He was a special man, who was a teacher, and sharing person, it was that caring nature that went into each book.

The beauty of the 'One Day' is in the workmanship of the paper, the printing of the text and the samples that are included as part of the book. The text does describe the various aspects of making paper of different types and configurations. Remember that Weygand was a man of his own invention, so his 'paper beater machine' was certainly a homemade device that would grind and blend rags into the slurry that would ultimately become his paper.

Using the slurry, he explained the use of his frames and the various things he would use to color his paper, including coffee. Then there is a discussion concerning watermarks and what would be the best one on which paper and so forth. Overall, more details than a 'none paper maker' could imagine, things like using alternate colors for text components and 'printer's ornament' at the top of each page.

Interesting that Weygand included a 'Printer's Note' as part of the closing remarks about the book 'One Day':

PRINTER'S NOTE:

'One Day' has been printed on various handmade papers from the Weygand Tightwad Mill. About half are in IK-watermarked white laid, lightweight, an equal amount on inking ball watermarked paper, tinted slightly with Rit cardinal dye. A few are on grapes watermarked sheets, tinted with Rit tan dye.

The text was set on the Intertype in 6 pt. Old Style No. 1 with italics and small caps, an early Linotype face not unlike Caslon or Rondaldson. The sheets were printed two pages up on the old 8x13 C&P jobber press.

All copies hardbound by the author-printer, a leather back strip stamped in gold on the homemade stamping device, paper-over-board sides, made by the printer at the Tightwad Mill.

Copies of 'One Day' are not easy to come by, however, if you expand the search and are willing to spend the money they can be found for sale.

Editor's Note: If you would like to read about the 'rhymes and reasons of life' written by Annie Parker, the daughter of Weygand's wife:


https://static1.squarespace.com/static/588a47b46a49634f5992ee37/t/6042b5f77f605b4053d0bbd8/1614984702571/Microbib_2013_03_Final.pdf

If you would like to expand your knowledge of the six renaissance printers, look at the article within this link:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/588a47b46a49634f5992ee37/t/6042b59eb86a496af4942381/1614984618578/Microbib_2013_05_Final.pdf

If you would like to read up on 'JLW' there is interesting reading at this link:


https://static1.squarespace.com/static/588a47b46a49634f5992ee37/t/6042b5546fc63007296d8585/1614984554357/Microbib_2013_07_Final.pdf

Enjoy the journey. 


FLASHBACK AD,

March 1985:

MINIATURE
BOOKS



HURLEY BOOKS
Westmoreland
NH 03467

Plenty of treasure on that page
of the catalogue. 

92. Ode to those four-letter words. Franklin. Whippoorwill Press, 1981. 2 1/2 x 2 11/16, unpag., cloth, paper label. 15.00

93. Old King Cole & other nursery rhymes. Illustrated by Mary Tourtel. London: Treherne; NY: Claflin, 1904. 1 5/8 x 6 1/4, 15 leaves of text & 15 color illus., might lack some text, pict. cloth. **A Stump Book. 20.00

94. O'NEILL, EUGENE. The last will and testament of an extremely distinguished dog. Worc.: St. Onge, 1972. 2 15/16 x 2 1/8, 26p., tan calf, as new. **Massmann #39, one of 1000 copies. 25.00

95. OVID: an elegy. N.p.: Wind & Harlot, 1981. 2 3/4 x 2 5/16, unpag., boards, illus., as new. **One of 200 numbered copies. The first miniature book from the press. 60.00

96. SAME: sewn but not bound. 25.00

97. Parker's Miniature Almanac for the year 1832... [Boston]: Jonathan Howe, pr., [1831]. [28]p., lacks wrappers, 2 7/8 x 1 15/16. **S #8622. Drake #4016. 35.00

98. The Piso pocket book almanac 1899, 21st series. Warren, Pa.: n.d. 2 x 1 1/2, [24]p., printed wraps, small stain on last 2 leaves. 15.00

99. Piso's pocket book almanac 1914... [Warren, Pa.: 1913]. 1 15/16 x 1 5/15, [32]p., pict wraps. 15.00

100. Piso's pocket book almanac 1916. [Warren. Piso, 1915]. 1 15/16 x 1 5/16, 36p., pict. wraps showing couple skating, fine. 15.00

101. Pocket Almanac for 1867. NY: Tract Assoc. of Friends, [1866]. 3 1/4 x 1 15/16, [32]p., sewn 35.00

102. Pocket prayerbook, compiled from approved sources. Montreal: St. Joseph's Shrine of Mount-Royal, [ca1924]. 3 1/4 x 1 7/8, 189p., morocco, frontis., fine. 15.00

103. ROOSEVELT, FRANKLIN D. The inaugural addresses of... Worc.: St. Onge, 1945. 3 1/8 x 2 1/8, 88p., as new. **Massmann #5. Printed at the Merrymount Press & one of the 50 books of the year. One of 2000 copies. 200.00

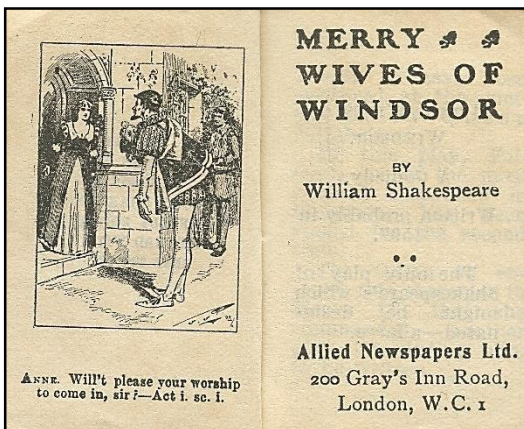
104. SALLADAY, PHOEBE CHAFFIN. The diary of... Portsmouth: Gilguy Press, 1980. 2 15/16 x 2 3/8, 62p. **One of 200 no. copies. First book from

ANTIQUARIAN DELIGHT, The Works of William Shakespeare:

William Shakespeare, 'The Bard' [1564 – 1616] was an English actor, poet, and playwright. It goes without question that he is considered the greatest writer in the English history and the world's greatest dramatist.

His plays and poetry have been in the forefront of English literature for more than 400 years and they remain widely read and studied across the general public and academic venues. His works comprise a total of 38 plays, 2 narrative poems, and 154 sonnets. Shakespeare's legacy is as rich and diverse as his work; his plays have spawned countless adaptations across multiple genres and cultures. His plays have had an enduring presence on stage and film. His writings have been compiled in various iterations of 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare', which include all of his plays, sonnets, and other poems. William Shakespeare continues to be one of the most important literary figures of the English language.

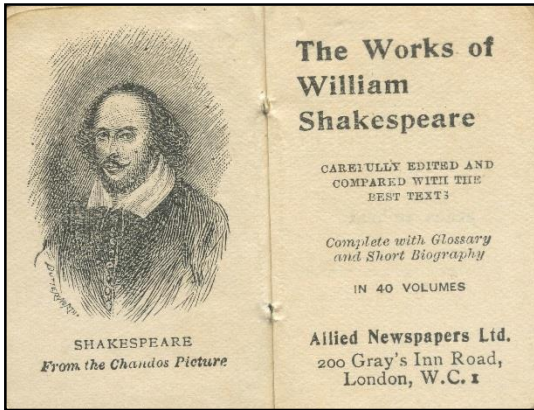
Over the years, many miniatures have been published about Shakespeare and his written works, some very elaborate and some not as fancy.



The Allied published sets were supplied with a number of different wooden shelf sets to house and display the books in a convenient way.

One set was published, in 1930, by the Allied Newspaper Ltd., London, and printed by Andersons, Edinburgh, Scotland. The set contains 40 miniature books and was originally created as a 'gift' for the subscribers of the newspaper.

The individual volumes measure only 2" in height and 1⁷/₁₆" in width and are printed in an easily readable 6-point typeface and the pages are all cut with a rounded top and bottom edge. The books feature green and gold marbled endpapers, illustrated frontispieces and are bound in a dark 'imitation leather' (Rexine) with pale



green lettering and decoration on the spines. The set includes 38 plays each in its own volume, a single volume (number 39) of sonnets and poems, and a final volume (number 40) which contains a list of the plays, an extensive glossary, and a biography. Each volume contains a summary of the play, a list of characters, and the approximate date of composition.

Published earlier but similar to the Allied publication is a set published, in 1904, by David Bryce, as a miniature set,

better known as the 'Ellen Terry Shakespeare (Complete Works)'. Both the Allied and Bryce publications appear to have been printed from the same printing plates. The major difference is that the Bryce set was printed on very thin India paper and included 20 volumes whereas the Allied set was printed on a heavier paper, with 40 volumes in the set.

All in all, an interesting addition to anyone's library. Copies of the set appear frequently on the web bookseller sites, with the costs are in the range of \$200-400 depending on condition. Good Hunting. 📖




WHAT MAKES A BOOK AN ANTIQUARIAN BOOK? :

Sometimes there is a question asked 'what exactly is an antiquarian book. It is one of those questions that seem to always foster some comments and extra words. I thought that it would be fitting to add some information, 'sharing' from the website of the bookseller 'Between the Covers'; https://www.betweenthecovers.com/btc/about_us/15/

What is the difference between rare books and antiquarian books?

Tom's answer: There are probably a million technical answers to this question, and some of them are probably correct. "Antiquarian" means, according to the nearest available dictionary, "pertaining to antiquaries or antiquities" or in short, old stuff and/or the people who sell it. The same dictionary describes "rare" as "not thoroughly cooked" oops, wrong definition. Let's try this one instead: "seldom met with or occurring; very uncommon." "Rare" and "antiquarian" can be qualities that are encompassed in the same object, but that is not always the case. These qualities can be mutually exclusive - old books aren't necessarily rare, and rare books aren't necessarily old. Antiquarian, in the collectible book trade, is an imperfect term that describes the entire scope of the trade, even though the term may apply to dealers in relatively modern books, as well as to the hunchbacked and curmudgeonly "antiquarians" dealing in hoary and musty old tomes. This state of affairs has occasionally annoyed our more strictly "antiquarian" colleagues, but they've had to learn to live with it, if not always happily.

*Dan's answer: An antiquarian book is a book that is valued as a unique physical object. The value might derive from the edition, the quality of the printing, binding, or illustrations, the provenance, etc., but the book is not valued strictly as a vessel of the content inside. You could buy a hardcover reprint of *Gone with the Wind* for less than a dollar and get the same text as a first edition. So why would you pay thousands of dollars for a beautiful, unrestored copy of a first edition, signed by Margaret Mitchell? Because that's an antiquarian book.*

Agree or disagree, want to add something to the definition or start a discussion stream, please chime in for the next issue. 

EPIGRAPHS,

By Nina Mazzo:

“Off I go rummaging about in books for sayings which please me.” Michel De Montaigne

Have you ever given much thought to those intriguing quotations or sayings at the beginning of a book or chapter? One day I came across a book titled “The Art of the Epigraph – How Great Books Begin” by Rosemary Ahern. The author has taken a look at authors’ use of epigraphs in their works and I would like to share a few.

James Salter – “A Sport and a Pastime” (1967) - epigraph “Remember that the life of this world is but a sport and a pastime...” Koran, LVII 19

Albert Camus – “The Myth of Sisyphus” (1942) - epigraph “O my soul, does not aspire to immortal life, but exhaust the limits of the possible.” Pindar, Pythian III

Mary Shelley – “Frankenstein” (1818) - epigraph “Did I request thee, Maker, from my day to mold me Man, did I solicit thee from darkness to promote me?” Paradise Lost (743)

Felix J. Palma – “The Map of Time” (2011) – epigraph “The distinction between past, present, and the future is an illusion, but a very persistent one”. Albert Einstein

C. S. Lewis – “Surprised by Joy” (1955) – epigraph “Surprised by joy – impatient as the wind”. William Wordsworth

Diane Ackerman – “A Natural History of the Senses (1990) - epigraph “A mind that is stretched to a new idea never returns to its original dimension”. Oliver Wendall Holmes

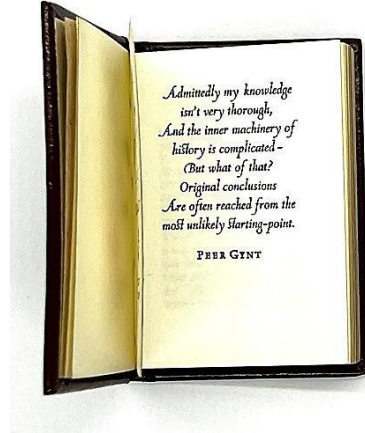
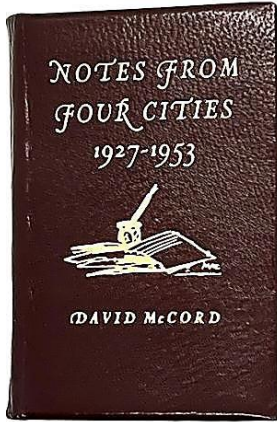
Ray Bradbury – “Fahrenheit 451” (1953) - epigraph “If they give you ruled paper, write the other way”. Juan Ramon Jimenez

Ann Patchett – “Truth & Beauty” (2004) – epigraph – “Nothing lasts, and yet nothing passes, either. And nothing passes just because nothing lasts.” Philip Roth

Joyce Carol Oates – “What I Lived For” (1994) – epigraph – “He rests. He has traveled.” James Joyce

H. G. Wells –“The War of the Worlds” (1898) – epigraph – “But who shall dwell in these worlds if they be inhabited? Are we or they the Lords of the World?” – Kepler

When I finished reading this book, I decided to look at my miniature books for epigraphs. The attached photo is from a book published by Achille St. Onge in 1969 titled Notes from Four Cities 1927-1953 and written by David McCord.



Perhaps going forward, you will take a closer look at the epigraphs and appreciate the author's ability to share their thoughts and set the tone of the book or chapter. “The epigraph hints at hidden stories and frequently comes with one of its own.” Rosemary Ahern.

Stay curious.

Always a joy. 📖

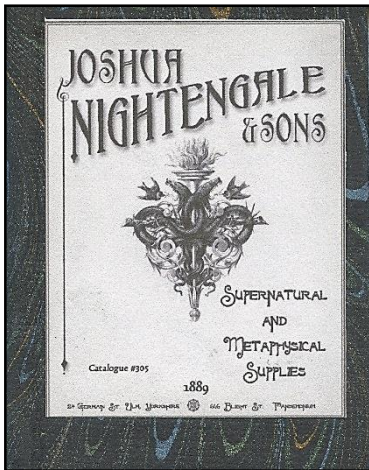
Contact information: Nina Mazzo, 1655 Delta Wind Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648,
E-mail: ninamazzo@me.com

SOMETHING OLD SOMETHING NEW, From the workshop of Bo Press:

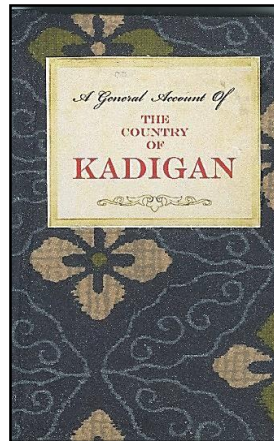
Pat Sweet retired from a career as a theatrical costumer and decided to build a dollhouse and then some books for it, and then the rest is history with the creation of many wonderful miniature books. The subjects and titles of the books are as diverse as the colors of a prism shining in the sunlight.

Sometimes the output of the workshop can be slowed by a ‘crazy problem’ that needs a specific solution, sometimes there is just not enough hours in the day to continue, and sometimes you have to do a bit of rest and reflection before you go forward. I think the message I saw somewhere on the Bo Press Blog was that the weather was ‘Too Hot’ to do a new book so ‘What Can We Do?’

Pat’s solution for the hot weather was to re-issue some of her earlier books. Sometimes people miss the opportunity, and sometimes it is just nice to share. The first two ‘early books’ that made it to the front of the workshop table for ‘re-issue’ are *Kadigan* (originally published in 2011) and *Joshua Nightengale & Sons, Supernatural and Metaphysical Supplies Catalogue # 305, 1889* (originally published in 2015).



**Cover image,
bound size 2 1/2" x 2"**

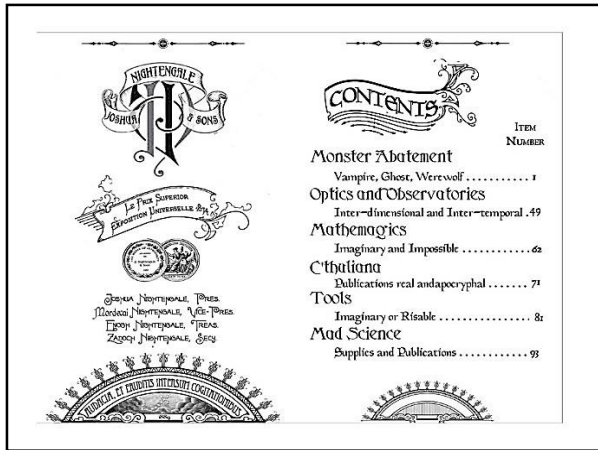


**Cover image
bound size 2 1/2" x 1 1/8"**

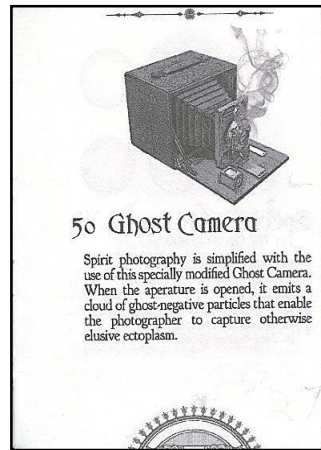
I first reviewed the 'Catalogue' in the March 2015 issue of *The Microbibliophile*. At that time my opening comment was:

Just when I thought that I had seen almost one of everything, I popped open the shipping envelope and to my surprise is this incredible catalogue, it is dated 1889. I hope they will still honor the price lists. I for one am a great catalogue reader. It does not need to be a catalogue of anything I need but who knows when something could fill a void. Gardening supplies, tools, bonsai soil, and maybe a 'ghost camera', one of the things from this great new catalogue.

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/588a47b46a49634f5992ee37/t/5897356420099e1b6fba9b39/1486304621499/Microbib_2015_03.Finalpic.pdf



"Purpose of catalogue' & Table of Contents



Description, 'Ghost Camera'

INFORMATION FOR CUSTOMERS:

In absence of references, or in the case of Evil Overlords, our terms of payment are uniformly 'cash'. The safest remittance of money is in gold (alchemical or 'fairy' gold will not be accepted), or a bank draft payable to our order.

In the case of inter-dimensional or inter-temporal shipments, explicit directions and/or incantations should accompany all orders.

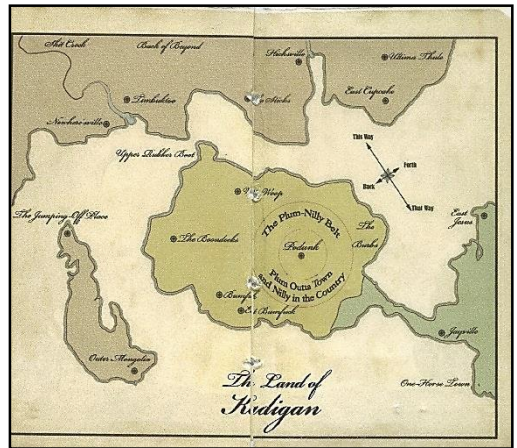
The catalogue is bound in a distinctive ‘white-on-black’ skeleton paper. There are 80 printed pages depicting 103 hard-to-find and somewhat strange items that you may find useful either for their original purpose or maybe something special from your thoughts, particularly on a dark rainy night, when the wind is blowing against the window panes.

Excellent quality and product detail throughout. Pat Sweet is the undisputed master of the strange and ‘obscure’ details that can be pulled together to make an interesting miniature book. There is a label on the front cover as well as the spine. The catalogue is available as an open edition, just as it was originally published, in 2015, each signed by the publisher, priced at \$42, second edition, 2022. Contact Pat for ordering and shipping instructions. 📖

Kadigan, was originally published in 2011, one of the very early books from Bo Press. Publishers comment: *“I first published this little book in 2011, and it gradually faded into the background as I made more ambitious books and miniature furniture. I came upon the files one day and realized I’d like to see it again.”* Sit back and enjoy the ride.

Reprinted from the opening paragraphs of *Kadigan*:

“Kadigan is a word possibly invented by Willard Espy, author of ‘An Almanac of Words At Play’, as a general term for ‘placeholder’ words, thus making kadigan itself a kadigan.”



***Land of Kadigan’,
front and rear end-paper image***

The Bo Press miniature book contains kadigans for mysterious and easily-forgettable names like whatchamacallits and doodles, and the map includes places like ‘The Back of Beyond’ and ‘Podunk’, but the people of Kadigan remain to be listed and described. Such notable but hard-to-describe families as the Joneses, the John Q. Publicks, and the Joe Sixpacks and Kadigan celebrities Walter Plinge, George Spelvin, and Alan Smithee must wait for another volume. In the meantime, they answer to such old-time Kadigan names as Bro, Old-timer, and Miss Thing.

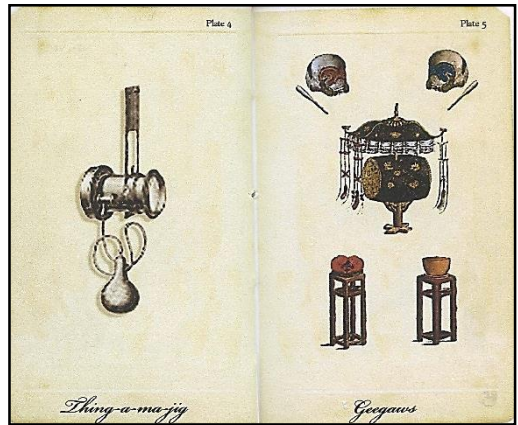
A detailed description of Kadigan, the country, is understandably impossible. It can be approached by water by sailing up shit creek or by air at Podunk Regional Airport, but travelers will find difficulty in giving cabbies directions to local landmarks as the End of the World (No, this isn't the end of the world, but you can see it from here.) because they include such unhelpful instructions as "Go down the road a piece and then turn left where the hardware store used to be."

But if the visitor doesn't mind occasionally being at a loss for words, a visit to Kadigan can be a relaxing experience. Lie on the beach at the Jumping-off Place, for somewhere in Kadigan, "It's beer o" clock!"

Kadigan is beautifully bound in a blue paper with both a front label and spine label attached. The text pages are printed on a smooth heavy paper to get the best reproduction for the 36 illustrations. The book is priced at \$42, contact Pat for shipping instructions.

So as the age old expression says, 'Something old, Something new Something borrowed, Something blue'. An old edition, a new edition, a borrowed catalogue, and a blue cover. First, we need to pick-up a few things from the catalogue, then get our map, and then we can begin our journey to Kadigan...priceless. 📖

*Contact information: Pat Sweet, 231 Blaine Street, Riverside, CA, 92507-3230
e-mail: bopress@chater.net or <https://www.bopressminiaturebooks.com/>*



'Thingamajig'

'Geejaws'

GET THE INK READY, START THE PRESSES:

Those sweet warm breezes that I mentioned in the last issue have certainly turned into the 'Hot as working in a bread bakery' type of summer. Be that as it may and as the expression says 'If you have lemons, make lemonade'. Book people always have a long list of activities, chores, and items on the wish list, be it summer or winter, in life it is good to be busy. That is especially true for 'miniature book people', we always seem to be busy and going in many directions, be sure you have time for the world of miniature books. Maybe it is a book related to a particular hobby or a place you have wanted to visit that appeals to you. I am always amazed that it is more than a coincidence that when I read a new-to-me miniature book, as I do for every issue, I learn something new. We will continue the journey in the next issue with the following:


- Nina Mazzo, more news and her insights into the *Miniature Book News*
- *Fine Binding In England*, published by Plum Park Press
- Something old... something new.... something blue... from Bo Press!
- Maybe an article by Gail Curry about a 1980's miniature book publisher
- Hopefully something special about Borrowers Press
- Booksby Press, another new book...
- Continuing the 'Bradbury 100', Number 68, *The Desert as Dwelled on by L.C.P.* by Lawrence Clark Powell
- Another 'Bradbury 100', Number 90, *Abraham Lincoln, A Chronology*, by Bernhardt Wall
- **In addition, and most importantly**, hopefully a story or article written by you!

Lastly, I would really appreciate your help with any additional books on the Bradbury list. So far, the following books (numbers) have been reviewed from the Bradbury list:

14, 20, 24, 32, 33, 38, 42, 43, 51, 55, 56, 64, 73, 76, 80, 83, 85, 86, 87, 89, 95, 96, 99, and 100.

If you have a copy of one of the books, not yet reviewed, and would like to write a short 'review/article' please drop me a message. If you have the book and need help with the article or might loan it to me for my review, we can work through the details.

Please keep us posted on what is happening at your press, what you are reading, your discoveries, your 'wishes', and what you have on your favorite list. Anticipation and searching is the joy of collecting.

Sharing is the joy of life. 

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS, 'PIRATED EDITION':

Pirated Edition... according to the detailed description provided by Nicolas Barker and Simran Thadani in the 9th edition of *ABC For Book Collectors* (John Carter/Oak Knoll Press 2016)... “a term applied (sometimes without, legal accuracy) to an edition produced and marketed without the authority of or payment to, the author”. Piracy has decreased with the extended development of international protection of the authors' copyrights, but the ease at which a text can be replicated, by computer-hackers or photolithography, has led to a revival of piracy.

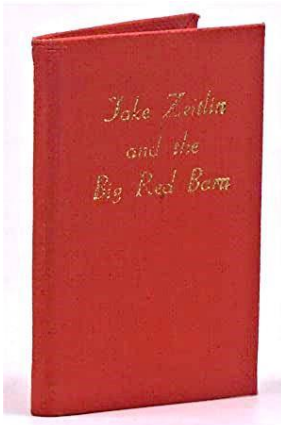
During the 16th - 18th century, piracy was particularly brisk in books, which for doctrinal or political reasons could not be licensed or otherwise protected. In England, the custom of circulating books in manuscript form offered plenty of opportunity for over-zealous 'friends' and or 'unscrupulous publishers', and the booksellers to make pirate copies. These activities existed throughout the literary world, especially between Edinburgh and Dublin and London as well as New York and London.

The piracy of editions exists to this day; you may want to look a bit closer at the definitions of the terms 'authorized edition' and 'follow the flag' for a bit more information.

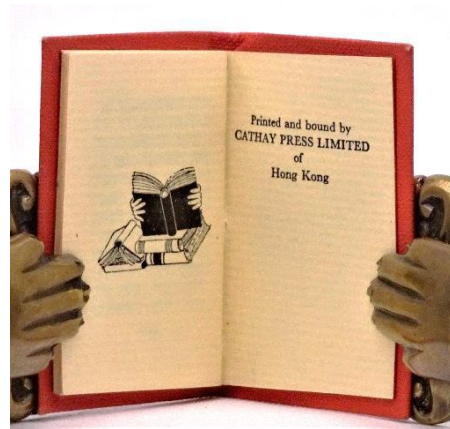
In the world of the miniature book there is a somewhat famous 'pirate edition' that is certainly on the bookshelves of more than a few collectors today. The title of the regular edition and the pirate edition is *Jake Zeitlen and the Big Red Barn*. Jake Zeitlen [1902 - 1987] was a book collector, publisher, poet, intellectual, and book dealer in the Los Angeles area in the 1920 - 1970's timeframe. As with many book dealer businesses, they grow and quickly move from site to site to accommodate 'more books'. In 1942 the shop was moved into the 'big red barn', a converted barn, on La Cienega Boulevard.

In 1972, Rev. Francis J. Weber published a book titled: *Jake Zeitlen and the Big Red Barn* in concert with Dawson's Book Shop. It is a short bibliography of Jake and the various shops over time. The book was printed by the Cathay Press in Hong Kong, measures 2¹/₂" x 1⁵/₈" was letterpress printed on 15 pages, with a red gilt cloth binding.

ORIGINAL / REGULAR EDITION

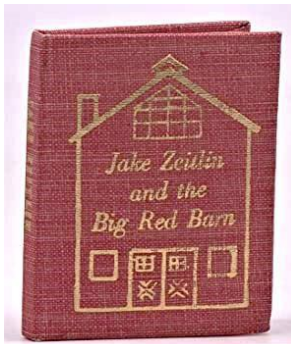


front cover

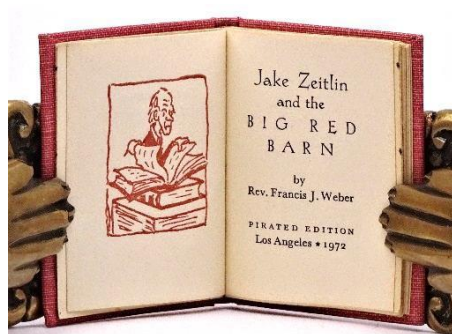


title page and frontis

PIRATE EDITION



front cover

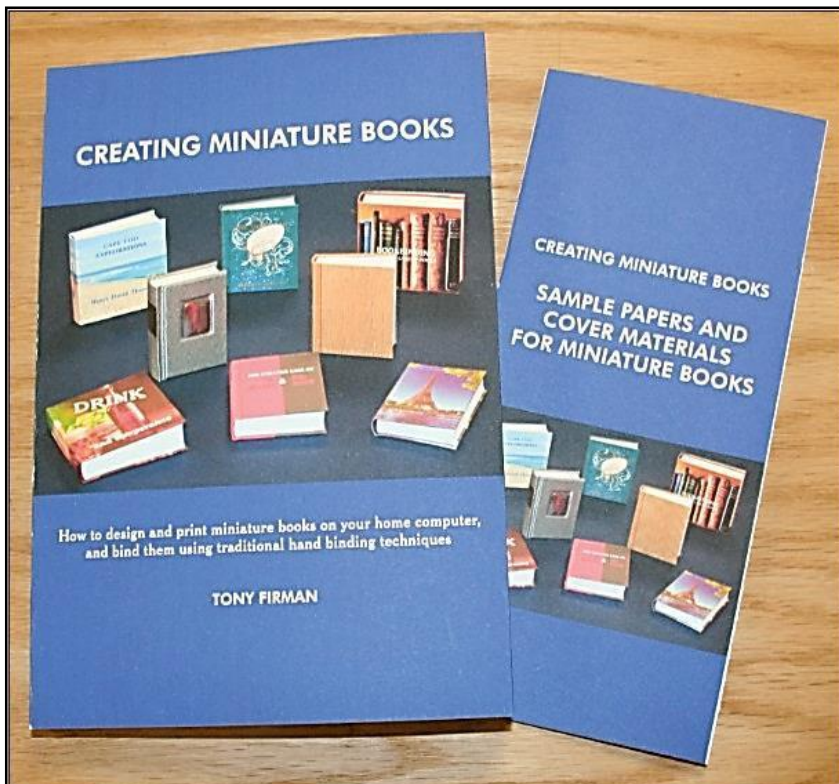


title page and frontis

The 'pirated edition' was printed by William Cheney, (Press at the Gatehouse) and measures $2\frac{1}{8}$ " x $1\frac{5}{8}$ ". It was letterpress printed on 16 pages, with a red gilt cloth binding. Not exactly sure that the term pirate is exactly correct, as I am sure that Weber, Dawson and Cheney were all 'the best of friends'. The edition may have been some sort of 'spoo'f to utilize the 'designation' of a pirate edition. Maybe Msgr. Weber can enlighten us.

The term for the next issue will be '**author's binding**', want to give it a try? 

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BOOKISH QUOTE,

J. K. Rowling

“I believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book.”

Editor's Note: Joanne Kathleen Rowling [1965], an extremely successful British author who wrote the seven volume children's fantasy series, 'Harry Potter' between 1997 and 2007. 📖

Image courtesy of [Playbill.com](#)



INTERESTING BOOK STUFF:

Pat Pistner has been a miniature book collector for many years; you may or may not know that she became interested in miniature books from her collecting of miniatures and her project to build a dollhouse. Please take the time to explore and enjoy her journey through the attached website. It is a well-written, informative article, you will be amazed.

https://www.reedyoung.com/patriciapistner/?fbclid=IwAR3pxDrvca-0h3BbZ6E1S4A_0os2tUAae3jWyrH6IFxsdreO8TnwYhEtGkA&fs=e&s=cl

More miniature book adventures, both German language publications;

‘Das Miniaturbuch’

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‘Miniaturbuch Journal’

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Read on! 📖

EPHEMERA,

Why Do You Collect Books? :

Why Do You Collect Books?

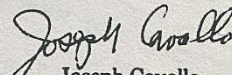
Book collecting. There is a thrill and a pleasure from book collecting that makes it a vehicle for expanding life itself. Reading and collecting are fun. Financially it is as solid an investment as any other collectible. But book collecting and the learning that comes from it are investments in yourself. The highest return comes from what you personally gain.


Something you read may point you in a direction that could change your job, career or your life. It happened to me. Some years ago I was bored with life--it was then I rediscovered reading. I became interested in different books--one subject followed another. I began to buy books. Today, book collecting is a passion. The opportunities that await any person are as varied as they are exciting.

Reading and studying a defined area of interest inevitably expands the intellect. Research leads to specialized material. Specialized material is usually limited and therefore not easy to locate, hence the scarcity of such items and hence their attractive collectibility. Book collecting gives an opportunity to become a specialist. The hunt for scarce titles and the deep involvement in a subject are also very exciting prospects.

Reading the books you have collected can give you ideas--the root level which leads to writing, for example. Collecting a first edition or purchasing a significant title that you have read can really give you a boost. Now you own a copy. You personally feel an identification with the author, a great person, a historical place, a significant event, a new concept. This gives unity, pride, perspective and meaning to your life.

Even a veteran collector knows how true this is because once the fervor of collecting in one area has subsided, there is another and yet another after that. The expanding, learning experience is a part of it and a richer life follows.


Joseph Cavallo

There you have it. 

**BEAUTIFUL LIBRARIES,
Central Library (VCL), Vancouver, British Columbia :**

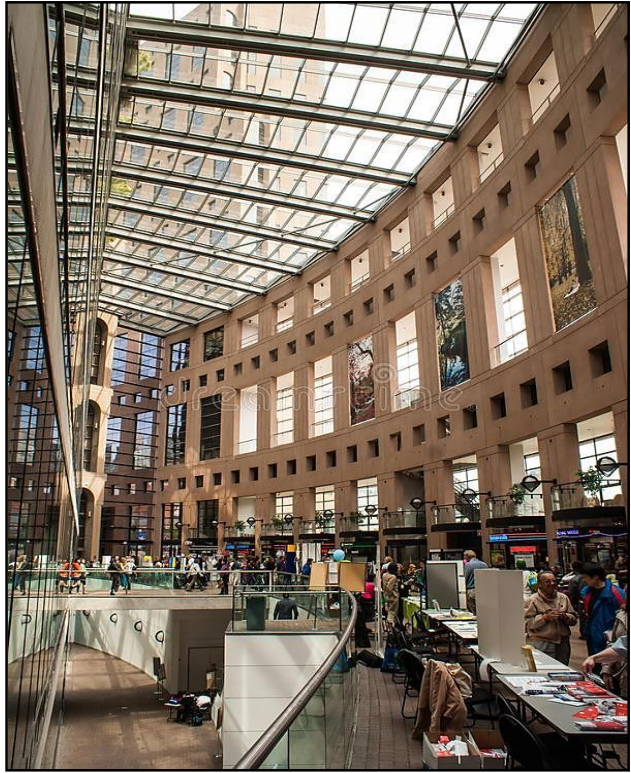


Vancouver Public Library, showing circular design as well as the 'green' roof top garden

The MBS held its Grand Conclave XXXI in Vancouver in 2013. Certainly, one item that was on my list 'to be visited' was the 'Central Library'. The library building is unique in its circular flowing architecture and the 'green rooftop'. The original Vancouver library was built in 1903 using Carnegie grant funds. The current main library was completed in 1995 and is nine stories tall. It contains about 1.3 million books and documents with a seating capacity for more than 700 people. The size of the roof top garden area encompasses approximately 8,000 sq. feet.

As with most modern urban libraries, this library provides a host of community programs for children, youth, and adults, as well as the usual open access to information and reference services, databases, interlibrary loan services, and the all-important internet connectivity.

Interior view



images courtesy of VCL

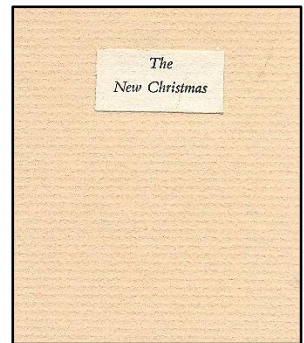
IF YOU CAN BELIEVE YOUR EYES. 📖

AFTER SUMMER COMES THE HOLIDAY SEASON:

The New Christmas, by G.K. Chesterton, originally published in the 1926 issue of 'GK's Weekly'.

This particular article was republished as a miniature holiday keepsake by Corey and Wallace Nethery for their friends at Christmas in 1990. It is letterpress printed on laid paper, a 'gift' announcing the holiday season.

The story about the *GK's Weekly* is certainly a journalistic tale of interest. 📖



A MINIATURE BOOK WORLD FLASHBACK,
The Microbibliophile, Volume II, Number 1, March 1978

THE BLACK CAT PRESS

AND ME

by

Irvin Haas

The Black Cat Press, under the proprietorship of Norman W. Forgue, "has had a long and prolific life". Begun in 1932, the BCP specialized in the production of fine private press books and from its inception until 1957 (under the imprints of Normandie House and At the Sign of the Gargoyle, as well) more than 300

full size books were published ranging from poetry to Americana. The Norman Press, a commercial printing house, was founded in 1941 and operated concurrently until 1974. However, the Black Cat Press still continues to purr and since 1961 this perfectionist printer named Forgue published 44 miniature books (those under 3" high). And, Norman at the spry young age of 73, has three others in various stages of completion.

Along the way, there was a meeting of two kindred souls... one named Norman Forgue, the other Irvin Haas. During the late 1930's these two bibliophiles collaborated (Haas, the editor; Forgue, the printer-publisher) on the production of the magnificent Book Collector's Packet, "a monthly miscellany of fine books, bibliography, typography and kindred literary matters". Through the kindness of these two died-in-the-wool bibliophiles, then, it is my high honor and privilege to present a 1977 remembrance by Irvin Haas...about The Black Cat Press.

Four decades or so ago, when I was a young and callow fellow, I believed that the making of books was the most ennobling pursuit of man. I still do. My passion was for those exquisite limited editions, beautiful examples of the bookmaker's art that were being created in ever-increasing numbers by private presses. My summer jobs with bookseller Philip Duschnes, who specialized in limited editions, notably those of the Limited Editions Club and the fine English presses, kept me in contact with most of the finest book-making created in those years. Bruce Rogers was a frequent visitor to the office and he was very kind to a worshipful young admirer who ushered him into Mr. Duschnes' office whenever he visited us on Fifth Avenue. Later, with his help, I compiled a bibliography of Bruce Rogers' books that supplemented the standard Frederic Ward bibliography. Peter Beilenson published it under his Peter Pauper Press imprint. Another visitor who kept the flame of bibliomania alive in me was Christopher Morley. He was a fellow pipe smoker as well and I still relish the memories of talks we had together.

The book that turned my almost completely emotional attachment to the private press book into one that was also scholarly was Will Ransom's classic work, Private Presses and Their Books.

After repeated readings I corresponded with Mr. Ransom and finally met him when he visited New York. He was flattered when I told him I intended to write a supplement to his book that would treat with all of the new presses that came into being since his own book was published. It was a long, but very pleasurable job of research. The founders and directors of the new private presses were very patient and kind to me when I made repeated requests for data, descriptions and the like. That is how I came to approach Norman Forgue and his Black Cat Press. I had seen some of his books at Philip Duschnes and his crisp, modern design and typography was impressive. Most of the presses were deliberately traditional in their design and even in their choices of texts. They went back, and for the most part, remained, in the eighteenth century. Norman's books were as contemporary and dynamic as the day's news report. He had a flair for blending new and dramatic display faces with classic text types. There was no set pattern to Norman's books. Each and everyone of them was distinctive. They radiated Norman's own vital creativity.

At this point in time, I don't remember whose idea it was, but Norman offered to publish my book on modern presses when I finished it. Finish it I did, in a blaze of industry, and sent Bibliography of Modern Presses off to Chicago. When an advance copy arrived sometime later, I felt as if I had just inherited all of the good things on earth. My euphoria knew no bounds. It was a beautiful book, a typical great Black Cat Press book, and I walked for weeks with my head held high.

About a year later, I followed it with a Bibliography of Materials Relating to Private Presses, another labor of love, in which I listed all of the published material I could find relating to private presses. Again, superb bookmaking job, completely unlike the previous bibliography, traditional, conservative and very, very impressive. The third book of mine that Norman published was a bibliography of the editions of Mark Twain's naughty 1601, an underground classic known by several generations of bookmen and published in a veritable kaleidoscope of editions. We also published Twain's text along with the bibliography. It was a beautiful fun book and I am sure Norman had as much fun designing and publishing it as I had in putting it together.

I never asked Norman how much money he lost on my three books. He must have dropped a packet on them. Although printing was his livelihood he seemed to retain a separate place based completely on joy of creation rather than profit for some of his books. And that brings us to our publication The Book Collector's Packet. This was a monthly, finely printed magazine for collectors of fine editions. It was first edited and published by Paul Johnston in New York. Norman acquired it after its first or second year and asked me if I would edit the magazine from New York. It would be printed at the Black Cat Press in Chicago. Would I indeed! I immediately approached everybody I knew and many I didn't know in the world of fine printing to write articles for the Packet. They did, giving most generously of their time and knowledge.

Nobody ever got paid for his or her contribution, neither they nor I, but it was well worth the loving effort we all put into the publication. I truly believe that during its brief life, it was one of the most beautiful, authoritative and enjoyable journals of fine printing ever published in the United States. Norman tells me that the rare set of issues that ever winds up in the stock of some lucky bookseller, fetches premium prices. And so it should.

The Packet was my last Black Cat adventure. A World War, fatherhood and the necessity to support all of my new responsibilities, compelled me to forsake my role as playboy of the private press world and buckle down to bread and butter reality. I am happy to say that I was able to do this without ever leaving the book world. I am still making books, both in writing and publishing, but somehow it just doesn't seem as joyous as the days with Norman Forgue and his never-to-be- forgotten, Black Cat Press.

Editor's Note: Irvin Haas is the author of the following three books available from ARCO Publishing Co. or your local bookstore:

Editor's Note: The proceeding article is a reprint from the March 1978 issue of 'The Microbibliophile'. Over the past 45 years, 'The Microbibliophile' has covered hundreds of topics with various articles about books and book events, and book people. Some of these articles provided key points in the history of miniature books, those that create them, and those that collect them. However, that information is not always easy to locate since many older paper copies have not survived and no "index" was ever kept. Now, with digital technologies, in addition to sharing these 'flashbacks' with readers, they now become part of The Microbibliophile's digital online library. Every issue published since 2011 has been upload and is viewable online.

The next Flashback will cover a bibliographical article written by Norman Forgue about his life in the world of printing and bookmaking.

Enjoy the read. 📖

THE BOOKMAN'S PARADISE, The Morgan Library, NYC, 2022

John Pierpont Morgan [1837 – 1913] was an American banker, financier, philanthropist, and a bibliophile. Inspired by his father, Morgan assembled an outstanding collection of books, paintings, furniture, and other pieces of art. Morgan also began collecting rare books and bindings at the suggestion of his nephew. While much of his art collection was stored in England to avoid taxes, books were not so they were stored in the basement of his New York home.

By 1900, Morgan's collection of books had outgrown even his lavish home, so, after acquiring the adjacent properties, he decided to have a special library space built next to his home. After rejecting the first design as "too elaborate", he commissioned architect Charles Follen McKim to design a more modest, freestanding library next to his home on East 36th Street in New York. The new plan was approved and construction begun in 1903.

J.P. oversaw every aspect because he was very particular about all of the details that were to be incorporated into the finished library.

The library has recently completed an extensive renovation of the main building façades that included gardens around the building. This was after trustees examined Morgan's original letters to McKim and discovered that indeed, gardens were part of J.P.'s plan. The process took about four years and was completed earlier this year. It was decided to create a new exhibit to share the story of the original construction process with current visitors. The exhibit is titled 'J. Pierpont Morgan's Library; Building the Bookman's Paradise'. The exhibit runs from June 10, 2022 – September 18, 2022.

Description from the website:

<https://www.themorgan.org/exhibitions/bookmans-paradise>

"The exhibit contains and shares rarely seen architectural drawings, period photographs, and significant rare books and manuscripts from Morgan's collection; this exhibition traces the design, construction, and early life of J. Pierpont Morgan's Library. It honors the designers, tradesmen, artists, and builders who created the Library more than a century ago and celebrates the completion of the exterior restoration and enhancement of this landmark building, which now anchors the campus of the Morgan Library & Museum.

In 1908, an unnamed correspondent from the London *Times* visited the completed Library and published the first public account of its lavish interiors and the splendid rare volumes held within. "The Bookman's Paradise exists," the writer announced, "and I have seen it. . . . I have entered the most carefully, jealously guarded treasure-house in the world, and nothing in it has been hidden from me."

Certainly, a more than rare vision into the special world of the Morgan Library.

<https://www.themorgan.org/about/introduction>



The two Assyrian lioness guard the stairs to the original entrance, they were created by Edward Clark Potter who also created the lions on the terrace of the New York Public Library.

Photo image, courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

If you are in New York, or can visit, the tour will certainly leave you with visual memories for a lifetime. The website has information of directions, hours of visitations, etc. 📖

HOME PRINTING OPTIONS FOR THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE:

If you would like to print your PDF copy of *The Microbibliophile*, please refer to the December 2021 – May 2022 issues for the printing instructions that were included in each issue. 📖

PROPOSED FRONTISPIECE,

Volume XLI, Nbr. 5 Issue 239, September – October 2022:

Once again, as we do with each issue, we are offering you the opportunity to write a book tale for the next issue of *The Microbibliophile*. Either fact or fiction, do not be timid, be bold! Trust your inner self to spin a yarn or relate a childhood reading/book memory or even a dream about tomorrow. Storytelling can be very rewarding, even magical!

Possibly, a favorite picture or illustration will ignite your imagination or touch your spirit to share. Whether a fanciful yarn, a serious conversation about books, the wish to embark on a true-life adventure; your contribution will bring you a feeling of accomplishment, enhance the next issue, and delight our readers, young and old.


A memory image can evoke a long afternoon of stories - *"As I laid on the backyard grass, on a warm summer night, gazing at the stars, the landscape was illuminated by the twinkle of a million fireflies, I saw a shooting star cross the sky and the next thing I heard was the crack of a broken branch.... (YOUR TURN).*

How about bit of history from one of these famous authors:

Hemingway,
Faulkner,
Hawthorne,
Dickenson,
Thoreau,

and so many more.

The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue will be August 25, 2022, electronic or paper, either way, the choice is yours.

Email: hello@themicrobibliophile.com or send via snail mail to our world headquarters campus at the confluence of the North & South Branches of the Raritan River, address on rear cover. 

CLASSIFIED WISH LISTS, Buy, Sell, or Trade:

PLEASE NOTE: Each “want ad” must be submitted for each issue. This is to insure the accuracy and “freshness” of the information presented. Thank you for understanding and participation.

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.

Kathy Roberts is looking for any Shannon Mitchell miniatures. Shannon was an illuminator and calligrapher publishing as Shannon’s Miniature Manuscripts in Vancouver, Washington in the 1980’s and 1990’s

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

Todd Sommerfeld is looking for two Pairault et Cie titles, *Ali Baba*, and *La Fontaine* to complete his La Gracieuse.

Contact information: E-mail: contratodd@gmail.com or 216-965-7490.

Caroline Brandt is looking for the following miniatures:

Westminster Abbey, III, published by Boreman

Young Sportsman’s Instructor, London ca. 1700

The Famous History of Valentine and Orson, by Snagg, London, 1801

L’Orange Geslagt, by H. Spoormaker, 1749

The Smoker’s Text Book, by J. Hamer, 1863

Smallest Complete Hebrew Bible, M. M. Scholtz publication

Short Account of the First Rise and Progress of Printing, by T. Parker, 1763

Contact information: telephone 804-200-1260

Jim Brogan is looking for a tome, *The 70th Academy Awards*, by Gloria Stuart.

Contact information: E-mail: jbrogan1@verizon.net For sale: *The Inaugural Address of Thomas Jefferson*, published by A. J. St. Onge, inquire with editor...



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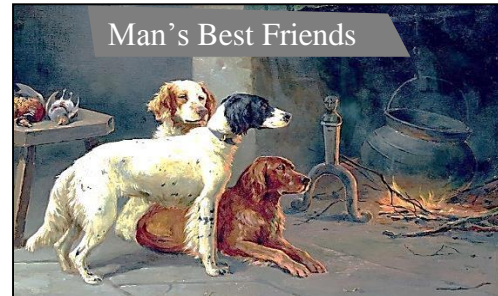
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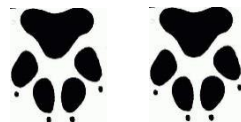
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