

THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE®

A Bimonthly Journal About Miniature Books and the Book Arts

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THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE© welcomes letters to the Editor, display and classified advertising, and all news about miniature books, miniature book publishers, authors, printers, binders, and the book arts. Please contact the editor for further information about submission of articles for publication and subscriptions. A review will be published for each new miniature book submitted to the editor.

Email: editor@microbibliophile77.com

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A Bimonthly Journal About Miniature Books and the Book Arts

Robert F. Hanson, Founder, 1977

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Special Features:

Miniature Books Then and Now, by Julian Edison	09
Thoughts on Collecting Books as Works of Art, by Peter Thomas	12
A Retrospective of Selected Miniature Books, by Robert F. Orr Hanson	14

Book Reviews:

<i>Medieval Labours</i> , by the Final Score	05
<i>The South-West</i> , by Peter and Donna Thomas	06
<i>A Knight In Armor</i> , by Bo Press	07
<i>ABC</i> , by B. B. Miniatures	08
<i>Spells and Potions</i> , by B. B. Miniatures	09

Departments:

Meet the Collector, Where are the Collectors? , by Jim Brogan	16
From Collector to Bookseller, by Karen Nyman	17
Meet the Publisher, by Barbara Brear	19
News from the Fellowship of American Bibliophile's Societies (FABS)	20
A Bookstore Visit, by Jim Brogan	21
Second Time Around, <i>The Concord Fight</i> , review by Jon Mayo	22
Upcoming Events	23
Publications Exchanged	24
Catalogues Received	24
Classified Advertising	25

The Microbibliophile,
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Greetings from the Squeaky Roll Top Desk:

As soon as we got the first issue in the mail we immediately started working on this issue. We received a lot of good feedback on the re-start of the *Microbibliophile*. I hope that everyone does enjoy our ongoing journey through the world of miniature books. Several readers offered suggestions regarding the type font, page layout, photos, and proofreading. I will try to address and explore all of these options over the next several issues. The first item that we are tweaking is the 'Table of Contents'.

A superb collection of miniature books arrived and are included in our review section this month along with three great articles by people that have a lifetime of experience in the world of miniature books. Another great addition to this issue is a 'review reprint' offered as a means to help out our friends at the Concord Public Library, be certain to read '*The Concord Fight*'. The main purpose of each book review is the sharing of information about newly published books with the readership. Therefore, please send your new minis in for review. We will return or purchase any book upon request and professional discounts are always welcomed. My great grandfather was a farmer and horse dealer in the old country, so a 'deal' always make the day a better day. I was surprised that we did not receive any articles for the 'Meet the Collector' monthly feature, I am waiting... Remember I can only include what you send me, don't be shy, keep connected, you are the readers, you are the customer.

We do have a job opening at the *Microbib...* editorial offices. There is certainly a good amount of book auction activity going on according to the auction ads. I would like to report auction activity for miniature books and help everyone understand a bit more about the 'ask and bid' value associated with miniatures. Is there a reader that follows this activity and could detail the highlights for future issues of the *Microbibliophile*? No salary or benefits but we will have a great summer picnic for all of the staff and contributors to the *Microbibliophile*.

Please feel free to contact me via email or snail mail, and let me know your thoughts, ideas, and/or suggestions, concerning future issues including educational presentations or articles you believe should be shared. I hope that everyone enjoys our ongoing journey through the world of miniature books. Thank you.

Enjoy reading the *Microbibliophile*,

Email: editor@microbibliophile77.com


Food For Thought:

“Books are the oldest and most constant of friends, they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers.” George Eliot

Miniature Book Reviews:

Medieval Labours was created at the studio of Marian and Stephen Byrne, The Final Score, previously of West Yorkshire, England, and recently moved to Sorbie, Scotland. First, let me wish you the best of luck in your new home. As I previously described in our January issue with *Shakespeare's Birds*, *Medieval Labours* is yet another special edition that moves one through a monthly chronicle of life's daily work in another time. The book is presented with twelve hand painted scenes, on vellum, one for each month of the year and each depicting a task which sometimes is simple but nevertheless part of a day's labor. As an example, the painting for January depicts a baker walking a tray of steaming hot freshly baked loaves back to the main kitchen. The painting itself is extremely detailed and viewed thru a gold leaf vignette border trimmed with seasonal holly berries.

As the volume progresses through the seasons of the year one continues the journey with May's illustration depicting a 13th century spring song, with fruit trees in gentle pink blooms. September is captured in an apple harvest scene along with a recipe for apple muse. The volume continues with each page painted in such fine detail that you are drawn back in time and at least my imagination can put me into the scene. December concludes the journey with a scene presented from the inside a warm kitchen with pots and pans stacked up the wall bordering the view, in the distance of a man and his horse gathering wood. The book continues with each page painted in such fine detail that you are drawn back in time and , at least this author's imagination, put into the scene.

The printed text is clear and is well presented within the scale of the paintings. The sections are sewn on cords laced into oak boards which are covered in leather. There are 5 deluxe red leather bound copies of *Medieval Labours* as well as 25 standard bindings, in tan cloth binding with an inset picture, in the press run. The cover decoration is a small yet delicate gold imprint of a blooming flower. The book's size is just 2 5/8 inches tall and 2 inches wide. The workmanship of the paintings is without compromise making *Medieval Labours* certainly, 'a job well done'. Future work from Marian and Stephen will include 'Book Making in Medieval Times' and 'Shakespeare to Music' (The exact titles are not yet decided upon). 

Contact information: Stephen and Marian Byrne +44-01988-850382, Castleton Wigtown Road, Sorbie, Wigtownshire DG8 8EL Scotland, email: sb@finalscore.demon.co.uk

Stunning examples of the treasures to be found within

Shakespeare's Birds

Medieval Labours

The South-West, by Peter and Donna Thomas, 2010. We reviewed the *Gipsy Caravan*, in the last issue of the *Microbibliophile*, this issue brings yet another miniature book which highlights the journeys of the Wandering Book Artists through the United States during the summer of 2010. The title presents that portion of the journey through the southwestern states. The book is an accordion style presentation with stiff cover boards and sixteen pages each printed on Peter's handmade paper. The cover boards are done in a muted green colored paper which is balanced with the pale yellow page color, affixed to the cover is a small illustration of the native regional plant, the beavertail cactus. The hand colored illustrations moves one along the wandering trail through Red Rocks, into Monument Valley, the Canonlands, and Arches National Parks and then Canyon de Chelly illustrating some of the best sights

in the National Park system. Each view unfolds across two pages so the scope of the landscape is captured within a combination of paper, color, and illustrative content so skillfully completed by Donna. Makes me want to hitch up my horse and get on the trail. The south-west is such a big part of the United States and with so much to see yet so skillfully captured by these artisans. The end pages are decorated with an illustration of a “petroglyph”. Petroglyphs are images which are incised into rock, an example of ‘pre written language communications’, from approximately 10,000 B.C.E. What makes the ones used in *The South-West* more interesting for this reader is that each petroglyph is colored with earth pigment collected in Utah.

All in all, another wonderful miniature book, very professionally executed with little text but telling a great story through the eyes of the illustrator and book maker about a unique part of America by a unique and great team of book artists.


I will provide a quote from Peter and Donna’s web page which really sums up the effort that goes into a book like *South-West*, “Being a book artist is more than just making books; its living and breathing them. It’s about becoming so involved with the subject matter that the physical attributes of the book reveal themselves. It’s about listening to the materials invoke the proper text. It’s about loving those materials and knowing them so well that we feel their desire to be used in the book we are making.” Thank you Peter and Donna, I am waiting for the next book to add the next page of the journey map. *The South-West* is a great addition for your library. 2 1/4” tall and x 1 3/4” wide, 50 copies in the press run, each numbered \$55. 📖

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www2.cruzio.com/~peteranddonna or email: peteranddonna@cruzio.com ☐

A Knight in Armor, by Pat Sweet, The Bo Press Miniature Books, 2011. Quoting from the opening page “Surely the most picturesque symbol of the middle ages is “the knight in shining armor”. When this miniature book arrived in the mail and I opened the wrapping my impression was the same; ‘a knight in shining armor’. Pat Sweet is the author, the publisher and the illustrator. The book is presented with a translucent dust jacket so as to allow the pattern of the binding, done in marbled paper, to be visible through the dust jacket. The marbled paper was produced by Laura Beretti of ‘Marbeled Arts’ in Florence, Italy. The dust jacket for the book is finely printed on the face and spine of the jacket. This is the first book that Pat as produced with a dust jacket, the end result is a perfect complement to the entire presentation of the book. Quite an impressive opening visual effect. The book is perfectly illustrated with successive standing images of a knight and as the reader turns the various pages the knight becomes the knight in shining armor. Each seceding transparent overlay page, there are 21 colored overlay pages, provides an additional component of the armor set

for the knight. The entire process called ‘accomplishing’ by Shakespeare was designed to protect the knight from injury on the field of battle. Coordinated text pages explain the intricate fitting and use of each piece of the overlapping armor set. The image of the knight becomes ‘ready for battle’ as you turn the pages. The first page describes the long woolen hose, designed to cushion the weight of the armor and progresses with all of the individual parts of armor set till the final headpiece, called the ‘sallet’ is put in place. The image of the knight becomes ‘ready for battle’ as you turn the pages. *A Knight in Armor* is an ingenious presentation of a very complex process.

A Knight in Armor was produced using a 24 lb. paper for the text pages and the overlays are done on a 29 lb. CTI GlamaNatural Clear product. The titles are created using a Blackletter font, 10 pt. while the text is done in a Fontin font, 6 pt. all printed on an inkjet printer. The endpapers are also finished with a paper done in tones of beige, brown, and gold to coordinate with the cover papers. Finally, a special signature page is also provided, with each copy signed by Pat Sweet. *A Knight in Armor* contains 114 pages with a total of 48 illustrations, 2 1/4” tall and x 1 1/2” wide, an open edition, \$55 (shipping included).

In closing, I have to say that after reading the book I had to visit the Bo Press Miniature Books web site to see the additional items Pat Sweet has created, just amazing. This is one of the joys of the world of miniature books for me, without the Microbibliophile I might never have had the joy of seeing this body of work. Pat has published sixty miniatures as well as thirty-three micro miniatures, a very creative accomplishment for sure. 

Contact information for Pat Sweet, 231 East Blaine Street, Riverside, CA 92507, www.bopressminiaturebooks.com or email: info@bopressminiaturebooks.com

ABC, by Barbara Brear, B. B. Miniatures, 2009. Alphabet books are always a popular genre of book and to those collections comes this micro miniature. The book is but 5/8” tall and 7/8” wide but contained within its covers are 26 perfect colored illustrations and text to explain the alphabet. ‘A’ is defined as Apple, ‘S’ is for Snowman, we can certainly relate to that this winter, and ‘Z’ is for the song of the bumble bees. The book is crisply printed on a white 90 gram Novatech paper, and is bound with the finest very thin dark green leather. Applied to the cover page is a cut paper ‘title plate’ done in pale yellow color to match the background of each of the 26 illustrations. Included are color coordinated green marbled endpapers.

The quality and the craftsmanship of *ABC* is superb. The corners are folded as finely as a large volume would be, the pages are trimmed to perfection, and the book ‘operates’ as if it was a large format book, one can actually open the book and lay it

flat while turning the pages. The printing is done on a digital press - Kodak NexPress by the PaperChefs company in Franschoek, South Africa. A great addition to the doll house or maybe you have a collection of alphabet books. There are 60 copies in the press run, all numbered and signed by Barbara, \$30. 📖

Contact information: Barbara Brear, B.B. Miniatures, 3 Uitgift Street, Somerset West 7130, South Africa;
<http://www.bbminiatures.homestead.com> email: bbminiatures@yahoo.com

Spells and Potions, by Barbara Brear, B.B. Miniatures, 2009. The title is almost mysterious, and invites the reader to explore further into the book to see what might be discovered. Another micro miniature book, 7/8” tall and 5/8” wide bound in very delicate and finely assembled leather with a faux French binding. The top of the cover has a small circular tooled area with a tiny red decoration, set like a jewel into the cover. The text printing is exceptionally crisp and clear. Each pair of pages includes a color illustration of an herb as well as the text explaining the ‘spell’ or cure that is associated with the herb, and the book operates perfectly as you turn the pages.

According to one page, to ‘sooth an irritated teething baby’ one would heat some honey, add a few drops of lemon, mix this up with a few crushed peppermint leaves and rub it on the gums of the baby, quiet should return in a few minutes.

Should you receive a wasp sting in the throat, I guess the little beast could have been hiding in the soft drink can; chew on a raw shallot, ‘keep the juice in your mouth as long as possible. These are but a sample of the thirty-two cures or spells that embellish the pages of this tiny tome.

The binding is finished with brown and beige marbled endpapers that complement its brown leather binding. The printing is done on a digital press - Kodak NexPress by the PaperChefs company in Franschoek, South Africa. A dollhouse book or certainly small enough to keep in the first aid box. There are 96 copies in the press run, all numbered and signed by Barbara \$30. 📖

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<http://www.bbminiatures.homestead.com> email: bbminiatures@yahoo.com

Miniature Books Then and Now, by Julian Edison

Miniature books have been a part of our lives for a long time. In one sense we could say that the Babylonian tablets of 2-3,000 years BCE were the first miniature books. Many of those clay tablets were small, and they certainly contained information to be read. Miniature manuscripts, some beautifully illuminated, were made in medieval and Renaissance periods.

The first printed miniature books in codex form, as we know books today, appeared after the invention of printing by Gutenberg in about the year 1450. There were about a dozen incunabula (books printed before 1501) produced in the 15th century.

As one might expect, production of tiny books increased in each succeeding century but slowly. At the beginning of the 19th century such books began appearing in earnest. The first children's books came in the early 1800s, followed by yearly almanacs in England, France and Germany, and the Pickering classics in the 1820s, for example. And in the mid-century a profusion of religious books, including small thumb bibles, which were made for very practical reasons, appeared. With this increase in the number of titles produced came collecting.

It wasn't until the beginning of the 20th century that miniature book output exploded. David Bryce in England produced his famous *The Smallest English Dictionary In The World* around 1900 in some 100,000 copies. Other titles came from Bryce as well. The Miniature Dictionary Publishers in New York produced large quantities of Dictionaries, Bibles and Classics in the 1920s.

According to *The History of Miniature Books*, by Doris Welch, published in 1986 after her death, major known collections of miniature books were not in evidence before the 19th century. But by the 1920s collecting had picked up substantially. Wilbur Macey Stone of New Jersey had some 50 miniatures by 1923. Franklin D. Roosevelt, while Governor of New York, collected many examples. James D. Henderson began his collecting interest during this period as well.

It was Henderson who started off the first 20th Century boom with his publication of the *News-Letters of the LXIVMOS*. According to Robert Bradbury in his monumental book, *Twentieth Century United States Miniature Books*, it was the Newsletters, published in 21 issues from 1927 to 1929, which was the first periodical dedicated to miniature books. This journal "played a key role in stimulating interest in collecting and publishing this genre in the United States..."

Bradbury later cites the second boom as a Renaissance in miniature book publishing and collecting that began when Achille J. St. Onge published the first issue of the *Miniature Book Collector*. This journal, so called the MBC, came out in only eight issues. It was edited by Ruth Adomeit of Cleveland who went on to accumulate a

collection of over 10,000 volumes that is now at the Lilly Library at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

Almost suddenly, publishing boomed. The early 1960's saw The Black Cat Press and Schori Press of Chicago, Hillside Press of New Hampshire, Dawson's Book Shop of Los Angeles, REM Miniatures of Connecticut, and the Press of the Indiana Kid of Nappanee, Indiana who were collectively responsible for almost 500 miniature titles on all sorts of subjects.

There were many other publishers at this time, including several producing doll house sized books, one inch in height, such as Miriam Irwin's Mosaic Press, Borrowers Press, Barbara Raheb's Pennyweight Press, and Jack Levien's Trader Press.

Then in 1983 Miriam Irwin assembled more than 50 miniature book publishers and collectors at her family farm in Tipp City, Ohio. Out of this group was born the Miniature Book Society which has grown to be a group of microbibliophile aficionados from all over the world. Its informative website is www.mbs.org. Moreover, The Miniature Book Society Newsletter as well as the Miniature Book News are journals published several times during the year that yield more information. The major publishers mentioned previously are no longer around or publishing. There are no other similar American presses, using letterpress printing, producing large editions of 300 or more copies.

Gradually, over time, miniature books produced by private presses have taken their place. A new and popular genre, books-as-art, beginning in the 1980s, was also spawned. These are books produced in small quantities, from 25 copies down to 'one of a kind', that are basically works of three-dimensional art. There is currently an Annual Competition and resulting catalogue, both sponsored by the Miniature Book Society, to encourage the production of such high quality and creative artist's books. Some of these works are indeed incredible.

What happens now? The production of miniature books in America produced by letterpress printing and published in quantities of 300 - 1,000 copies has slowed significantly or almost vanished. Books in small editions are created by book artists, and this trend is sure to continue.

The collection of miniature books, however, might even be increasing somewhat. MBS membership is growing. There have been a number of large exhibitions around the world just in last year --- in Lyon, France, and earlier ones in Boston, Cambridge, Quebec, New York, Moscow, and one that just ended in 2010 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

For collectors, there are tens of thousands of miniature books available, new and antiquarian, here in the U.S. and around the world. Half the fun of collecting anything is the chase. I started out collecting antiquarian books when I was in college. On the first anniversary of my marriage (the traditional gift is paper) my wife gave me a nine-volume set of Shakespeare's complete works--- in miniature format!! Not sure

but I think it was a set of the Pickering Shakespeares. WOW --- I was off on the chase!!

I have found examples in antiquarian book stores around the world, dealers (some who have sent out catalogues), regular book shops, book fairs, eBay, antique fairs, auction houses, and the Conclaves sponsored in different cities in the U.S. and abroad by the Miniature Book Society for each of the last 28 years, to name a few sources.

Probably the best source for a beginning (or advanced) collector would be to log on to the Miniature Book Society's website: www.mbs.org. There you will find lists of publishers, printers, dealers, binders, collections, references, journals, various miscellaneous links, and other news. **Happy hunting!** 📖

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Thoughts on Collecting Books as Works of Art, by Peter Thomas

I must begin by confessing that I have several small collections of books. One is of books about hand papermaking, another focuses on gypsy wagons. I also have a collection of miniature books. There are many reasons for collecting miniature books. I know some people who collect books for the content, some who collect books by subject or author and some who collect books just because they want to. Though a spouse or housecleaner may beg to differ, I think all of these are good reasons for collecting. My article is not written to promote or defend the act of collecting miniature books, but rather to share what I, as a person who both makes and collects books looks, for when collecting.

When I survey all the books I own, and ask myself, “Which of them do I prize the most,” the answer is quite clear. It is the books that are made the best. For me the object, the book itself, is the most important thing to consider when collecting a book. A book that is beautifully designed, well-crafted and has valuable content and artwork has it hands down over any other book. I am writing this article to explain how the reader can move their collecting to a new level by considering each book they buy for its aesthetic (or artistic) qualities, rather than solely for literary reasons.


When I find a book I think I might want to buy, I begin by studying the binding. I look to see if high quality materials were used. Was the binding skillfully executed? Is the title on the cover or spine visually crisp and clear? If I do not gain a favorable impression of the book from the outside, it is easy to just dismiss it as uninteresting. However, I try to remember not to just ‘judge a book by its cover’, so often I look inwards. First I notice the paper. Does it feel nice? Do I like the color? Is it high

quality rag or of a lesser quality photocopy grade? Is it the right thickness for the size of the book? Can I turn the pages? Do I like it?

Without reading the text, I look at the printing. Is the ink slurred? Is it too black, or too grey, just right - so that the letters stand on the page as if they were beautiful miniature illustrations? Is more than one color of ink used? Do the colors blend with or complement the paper color? Does there seem to be a reason for using more or less color?

Then I look at the type and ask, "Is the typeface appropriate for the text?" Is it too frilly or too spartan? Can I see any reason for choosing it? If more than one style of type is used on the page I consider whether the different faces work well together. Then I look closer at the composition of the type. Does the "f" in a word like "of" run into the next word when it starts with a letter like "h"? Is the spacing between the words even? If not, did the designer have a reason for making it look like that?

The title page and the opening page of a book can often tell me what the rest of the book is going to be like. Skilled and sensitive designers use these pages like the overture in a symphony, to announce what will come, and they will usually put their best work on those two pages. I look at the margins. Are they ample? Do they cramp the type at the fore-edge or the inner gutter? Is the type swimming on the page? Was it designed that way for a reason? I look at the illustrations and ornamentation. Do they work well with the type? Does the weight and color complement that of the type? Are they a style that I enjoy?

Finally, after giving considerations to all of these elements, I then look at the text, and perhaps even read some of it. That is my way of looking at a book critically. That is how I start to decide if a book will hold lasting pleasure for me. There are probably a million other ways to consider whether a book is appropriate to spend money on and if it is a book to add to your collection. No one reason is better than another. There is no right way to collect books. But, if you want to collect books as works of art, rather than literary artifacts, there is a whole different set of things to consider. In this article I have outlined some of those considerations. In a series of articles to follow in upcoming issues of the *Microbibliophile*, I will explore each of those considerations in depth, sharing what I have learned or come to understand while making, selling and collecting books as artworks over the past 35 years. 

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A Retrospective of Selected Miniature Books: by Robert F. Orr Hanson

Editor's Note: This article was originally published in two parts beginning with the October 2004 issue of the Microbibliophile.

The number of collectors of miniature books in the United States is a relatively small audience. These little volumes appeal to only about five hundred or so dedicated collectors, printers, book binders, librarians and other enthusiasts of this unique printed media.

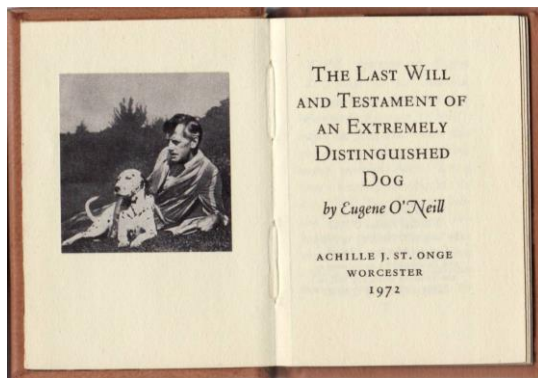
Aside from the obvious reasons for collecting these tiny tomes – portability and the admiration for the skill needed to design, print, and bind them – there is another reason I think is just as important – the subject matter of a particular book. Topics range over an extremely broad scope and include: animals, art, books about books, Christmas, and on and on we could go. The subjects entice the reader to explore, deeper and wider, into this realm of printed knowledge. It seems to me that there are hundreds of lessons to be learned from a mere ‘dipping of the toe’ so to speak, one can receive from these books.

An example, of my position, is a tiny book about Fort Union, in Northern New Mexico, which speaks to the early history of the state and beckons interested amateur military historians to seek further knowledge about this national monument. *Fort Union In Miniature*, was produced by Robert M. Utley and had only 99 copies in the press run.

Another miniature book which tells a story, and tempts the reader to look further, is titled *The Cable Cars*, written by Msgr. Francis J. Weber. *The Cable Cars* documents the history of the San Francisco cable cars and goes on to highlight the extensive \$60 million restoration project, which began in 1982. Here, indeed, lies the seed for a deeper study of this popular mode of transportation used each day by tourists and locals alike. The miniature was published in 1984 with 350 copies available in the press run.

My next examples all are miniature books that were published about man’s best friend – dogs. As one of many dog lovers, I dedicate this piece to all of the dog lovers the world over.

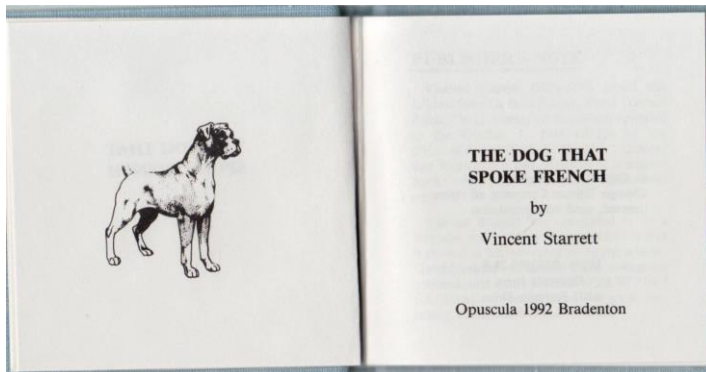
The first and my personal favorite, was published, in 1972, by Achille J. St. Onge, *The Last Will and Testament of An Extremely Distinguished Dog*. Written in 1956, by Eugene O’Neill, the famous American playwright and winner of the Nobel Prize as



well as three Pulitzers, this unusual and heart-rending ‘will’ was really penned (or pawed) by Blemie, the O’Neill’s faithful Dalmatian. On the last page of this little word-treasure Blemie asks his Master and Mistress to think of him thusly: “Here lies one who loved us and whom we loved.” Further, he writes, “No matter how deep my sleep I shall hear you, and not all the power of death can keep my spirit from wagging a grateful tail.” The book was printed with a press run of 1000 copies.

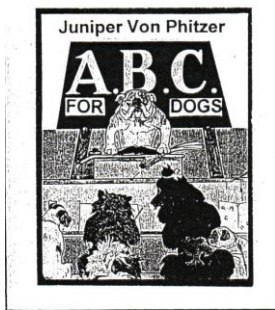
The next little book about our canine friends is titled –*small Pax weber, The Last of the Mission Shelties*, by Msgr. Francis J. Weber. The book was designed, printed, and bound by Don Hildreth at the Ash Ranch

Press in 1989. The book was produced in two editions 100 copies in the regular edition and 26 copies in a very deluxe edition plus two ‘state proofs’. "small PAX weber" was among that small but select cadre of Shetland sheep dogs that have watched over California missions since 1769. According to such early commentators as Richard Henry Dana, small PAX weber's ancestors were imported to the Pacific Slope by the Spaniards and traders. Born in 1974, small PAX weber came to San Fernando Mission 7 years later serving as senior guard dog and favored mascot. He was named for his mother, PAX (Latin for peace), who was born on the day the Vietnam peace treaty was signed. Another great story about man’s best friend.



The third miniature book bearing a dog’s tale is titled, *The Dog That Spoke French*, by Vincent Starrett. The book was published in 1992 by Opuscula Press. The story is taken from an old French folktale which relates how a scheming son extorts money from his father in a ruse to purchase language training for his big dog. All the while, he was, in fact, having a grand time in the big city. Alas, however, “the jig was up” when the old man demanded an explanation as to the progress Grosse Boule was making with his language training. The story ends when the son disposes of the dog, returning home to the father, convincingly tells a pack of lies to the old man, is accepted and life goes on as usual.





The fourth and last example of a miniature book produced about dogs is *A.B.C. For Dogs*, by Juniper Von Phitzer. The book is an accordion style book with pull out pages and includes pictures of the following breeds: Airdale, Bullbrog, Collie, Dalmation, Esquimaux, Foxhound, Harrier, Irish Terrier, Japanese Spaniel, King Charles Spaniel, Lurcher, Mastiff, Newfoundland, Otterhound, Poodle, Quiet Dog, Russian Wolfhound, Schipperke, Terrier, Useful Dog, Vain Dog, Welsh terrier, X Dogs, Yorkshire Terrier, and Z. Published in 2001 with a very limited press run

of only 26 copies.

There you have it! A collecting genre about man's best friends. Are there any more miniature books about dogs to add to the collection? What is your favorite collection subject? Please drop a note to the editor and let me know. 📖



The three following short features, 'are our way to get to know each other'.

MEET THE COLLECTOR:

Where Are the Collectors? By Jim Brogan

Last month we had a great article written by Joan Knoertzer, a long time collector and proprietor of The Library Bed and Breakfast. Time does go by quick but I really hoped to hear from some more collectors telling their stories. How did you get interested in miniature books? What holds your interest? What was your greatest find, most enjoyable, most maddening, and most tearful? There must be a whole library full of interesting stories to be told

I as well as the readers are waiting, get your pen or keyboard moving and send your tale by April 1st (no fooling) via email (editor@microbibliophile77.com) or snail mail to PO Box 5453, North Branch, NJ 08876. 📖

MEET THE BOOKSELLER:

From Collector to Dealer, by Karen Nyman



About 10 years ago I bought a fixer-upper in San Diego. One of my first decisions was to convert the formal dining room into a library. I had my cabinetmaker line every wall with shelves, floor to ceiling, over the doorways and around every window. I had a passion for books and started buying like crazy. I collected a few favorite authors and genres, but I was mostly buying older books with beautiful bindings. A large section of the library had shallow shelves - only 4 inches deep - so when I went book shopping, I'd ask to see their miniature books.

In 2005, a bookseller told me that there really was such a thing as a "miniature book" which he defined as no bigger than 3 inches. He showed me a shoebox full, and from that day on, my life changed! I bought a treasure from him entitled *A Letter from B. Franklin to a Young Friend*, published by Sandlin's Books and Bindery. Eventually I bought all the books in that shoebox. Soon thereafter he introduced me to Eileen Cummings, who told me about the Miniature Book Society. I attended my first Conclave in New Orleans...only 5 weeks after purchasing my first miniature book!

In the back of my mind, I must have sensed that one day I would be a dealer, because I bought books in very large quantities, hundreds at a time, usually from collectors who were "retiring" or downsizing. Bob Massmann was my first source, and he has taught me a lot. He once mentioned that many, many books had passed through his hands and I try to remember that now when I select books for my email catalog. I will include many of my personal favorites in a catalog even if I have only one copy...it has passed through my hands, I've enjoyed it, but I don't have to own it forever.

In the past five years I have sold 3,800 books through my emailed catalog, and I typically have about 3,000 books in inventory. I've learned the book business by reading, reading and more reading and with significant help from Bob Massmann, Jim Lorson, Glen Dawson, Barbara Raheb, Bob Bradbury, Julian Edison and Eileen Cummings. I truly love books and the people who love them. 📖

Karen Nyman is a board member of the MBS (Miniature Book Society). She was originally a math teacher, then an entrepreneur. Her businesses include professional wallpaper hanger, spokesperson for the wall covering industry, architectural designer, event planner for singles, and owner of a high-end consignment furniture store.

Contact information: Karen Nyman Miniature Books, 702 Rosecrans Street, San Diego CA 92106; email her at karemyman2@cox.net or call 619-226-4441.

Editor's Note: As a customer who has purchased a few of those 3,800 books that Karen mentioned, I would like to add that she is always available to answer a question or to help you locate a title that you may want to add to your collection.

It Happens
to Everyone!

EVERYTHING is further away than it used to be. It is twice as far to the corner as it used to be, and they have added a hill that I never noticed before. I have given up running for my bus; it leaves faster than it used to in the old days. And have you noticed the small print they use now in the newspapers? The pages are getting farther & farther away when I hold them and I have to squint to make out the news. There is no sense in having them read aloud, for everyone speaks in such low tones I can hardly hear them.

The material in my clothes is always too skimpy around the waist, and my shoes are almost impossible to reach. Even people are changing. They are much younger than they used to be when I was young, but, on the other hand, people my age are so much older than I am. I ran into an old classmate the other day, and she had aged so much she didn't even know me. I got to thinking about her when I glanced into the mirror today, and, confound it, they don't even use the same kind of glass in the mirrors any more!

Author Unknown
Calligraphy by Harvey Petty
Produced by Norman W. Forgue
Printing by Ward Schori
The Schori Press
Evanston

MEET THE PUBLISHER:

B.B. Miniatures

Hello, I am Barbara Brear - a miniaturist from South Africa and the creator of B.B. Miniatures. My specialty is miniature books both for the dollhouse community and for miniature book collectors.

When asked how they first got into the hobby I have noticed that most miniaturists use the same phrase "I have liked things small for as long as I can remember!" For me, this is also true. I have been fascinated with tiny things for as long as I can remember.

Until twelve years ago I thought I was the only adult in the world who was fascinated by dollhouse miniatures. This may seem far-fetched but it is the truth. In South Africa miniatures are largely unknown. There are no miniature shops, no miniature magazines sold by the news agents and very few miniaturists compared to countries like England and the United States. I was delighted to find a book on dollhouses by Venus and Martin Dodge and said to myself "This is what I want to make." Still I was alone. I made some items and always took them to school to show other staff members. Imagine my delight when a fellow teacher brought along a newspaper article about a Miniature Guild that existed in Cape Town. I was not alone!! Robinson Crusoe could not have been as excited when he saw that solitary footprint in the sand. I joined the Cape Town Miniature Guild and life has not been the same since.

Before discovering miniatures I had done full sized bookbinding, so it was natural that I would turn my hand to making miniature books. Originally I made exclusively for the dollhouse world and so my work was all one twelfth scale. I believe that I was the first to make "Open Books". These books are made to remain in an open position in order to imitate the gravity that is so difficult to simulate in one-twelfth scale. The books are all fully sewn and made in exactly the same way that a full-scale book is made. The result is a miniature book that lies open, imitating reality in a most satisfying way.

Recently I found a printing company that is able to manage the demanding technical requirements of printing in miniature and so I have now branched out into fully printed miniature books. My books are printed on 90g Novatech paper on a digital press - Kodak NexPress 2100 by a company called PaperChefs in Franschoek, South Africa. All of my books are bound in leather that is approximately 0.15 millimeters - so thin that it is almost see through, allowing me to get accurate, neat corners for the turn in.

I have a set of tools made by P and S Engraving in England especially for tooling in miniature and some of my work features blind tooling and some gold tooling.

My marbled end papers come from a company in England that specializes in marbling for miniature books – Jemma Marbling.

I was extremely honored to be chosen as a Scholarship Student for Guild School in America in 2006 and subsequently to gain my Artisan status with the International Guild of Miniature Artisans. I was then selected to be a teacher at Guild School at Castine, Maine, in 2010 where I taught classes in miniature bookbinding.

I invite you to visit my web page to find out more about the miniature books that I make and to see my dollhouse for those that might be interested:

<http://www.bbminiatures.homestead.com>


Books published by B.B. Miniatures:

At Home Again - Victorian Children's Poetry first published by Marcus Ward in 1886, this edition published in 2007

Rip van Winkle - by Washington Irving abridged by Barbara Brear, this edition published in 2008

Spells and Potions - published in 2008, a limited edition of 96

ABC - published 2009, a limited edition of 60

Gallic Wars - by Julius Caesar (in Latin) published in 2010, edition of 72 

Contact information: Barbara Brear, B.B. Miniatures, 3 Uitgift Street, Somerset West 7130, South Africa;
email: bbminiatures@yahoo.com

A Little News from the FABS: by Joan Knoertzer

MBS Board Member, FABS Representative

www.mbs.org


www.fabsbooks.org

The Fellowship of American Bibliophile's Societies (FABS) was founded in 1997 mainly by a group of Rowfant Club (Cleveland) members and some book dealers who desired a broader base of contacts with the active book community. The highlights are a semiannual newsletter and a once a year book tour. Quickly, major book clubs across the USA responded to membership. While this rapid interest took place, affiliates around the world took notice and an associate group of international clubs was formed. Now, the FABS has expanded to include 33 clubs, including the Miniature Book Society, and 10 foreign associates. Membership has reached about 8,000 members worldwide.

For me the most exciting part is the annual book tour. I have been to all but two, so I have crisscrossed the United States seeing hidden treasures, hearing renowned speakers in spectacular settings, eating in outstanding clubs/restaurants, talking about books I had no idea existed, and building so many wonderful friendships I cannot begin to count. Our MBS is a perfect fit for this society. I am proud to

represent the MBS membership at the annual FABS meeting at the Grolier Club in NYC. In the future I hope you will be able to sign up for one of the book tours. FABS is in Pittsburgh in May, this year. Perhaps one year we might hook up our MBS Conclave with the FABS event book tour!

Watch for the MBS column in every FABS Newsletter. Here, we have a chance to tell the book world what we are doing and perhaps gather new members to our tiny world.

So many books, so little time!! 

*Contact information for Joan Knoertzer, P.O. Box 3387, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3387
librarybanb@gmail.com*

Editor's Note: Thank you to Joan for providing the FABS update. To the readership, what else is happening in your part of the world? Send us a note and share the information.


A BOOK SHOP VISIT:

SNOWY DAYS, BY JIM BROGAN

Well as everyone knows it has been one snowy winter here in New Jersey, with few good days to get out and about searching the lay of the land for bookstore gems, but old well stocked bookstores are great places to spend a few hours on a cold snowy day in January. I was able to visit two shops that are more like retail book museums, in my part of New Jersey.

My first stop was the Chatham Bookseller, in Madison, NJ. The proprietors are Jesse Mann and Frank Deodene, both ABAA members. The small shop is stocked from the floor to the ceiling with thousands of used books covering every possible subject.

My next stop was another used book seller, The Old Book Shop, in Morristown, NJ. It must be something about the old used book shop world, books stacked up to the ceiling on every conceivable subject. The special thing here is that many of the books were shelved or displayed in antique show cases of one type or another. They also maintain a good selection of miniatures. I was able to buy two really fine St Onge books, the inaugural addresses of both Nixon and Johnson. So, as they say, who knows when you will find a nice gem behind the opened door? I also was able to purchase a small paper bound set of 10 children's miniatures, produced by the Mt. Hawley Publishing Company, 1962.

We have reviewed ABC books, we have an article about 'dog books' this month, and there are certainly a lot of children's miniature books. What is your favorite collectable genre? How about trains or lighthouses? What do you look for when you open the door of your favorite bookshop; hear the doorbell ring, and that familiar smell of old books fills the air? The subject would make an interesting article for an upcoming issue of the Microbibliophile. Drop us a note or better yet get that pen or that keyboard going and send us an article. 

SECOND TIME AROUND:

The world of miniature books is large and there is always an influx of new people looking to gain knowledge and understand just what is what. So as to be a service to the newcomers we will provide a previously published book review from an earlier issue of the *Microbibliophile* from time to time. If you have a miniature that has not been previously reviewed or if you would like to share your favorite book, please let us know about it. Send an email or stick a stamp, we will be waiting for your review. The Concord Public Library has found gold in their attic. They have discovered that they have several copies of *The Concord Fight* and would like to sell them as a fund raiser for their library. Please check-out their advertisement on our rear cover; I know of nowhere else that you can buy a brand new two volume leatherette bound miniature book set in a perfect slipcase with this level of fine workmanship for \$25.00. A good price and a good cause.

***The Concord Fight*, reviewed by Jon Mayo, and reprinted from the *Microbibliophile*, Volume XXI No. 4, September 1997**

Volume One: *The Concord Fight Being so Much of the narrative of Ensign Jeremy Lister of the 10th Regiment of Foot as Pertains to His Services on the 19th of April 1775*. Volume Two: *An Account by Amos Barrett the Personal Experiences of the Author who Participated in the Fight*. Published by Robert D. Naiva, Concord, 1975.

We have given you the full title of both volumes, as they shed considerable light on what this beautiful little set of books is about. The boxed set measures 3 by 2 inches, is bound in a lovely deep blue leatherette, and housed in a blue cloth slipcase. All the pages are gilt; the spines and front covers are finely lettered in gold. The books were printed in Holland, bound in Limoges, France and published in Concord.

The story is about a battle which took place in Concord, Massachusetts, in April, 1775, at a place called the Old North Bridge. The viewpoints of the two volumes are extremely different – Amos Barrett was an American, about 23 years old at the time of the fight, a native of the Concord area, one of the Minute Men. On the other hand, Jeremy Lister was British, he was wounded rather early in the battle, and quite a bit of his narrative involves his effort at getting back to Boston and to safety. The two men tell their stories so differently that one may wonder if they might have been describing different battles. However, there is an immediacy to both of the stories, and while the writers lacked literary training, their stories are touching, and we can sense the fear and excitement which both men experienced.

The story of how the set came to be published is interesting. Robert Naiva did all of the research and preparation of the text, with the help of the Special Collections Staff at the Concord Library, and publication took place during the Bicentennial of the fight in 1975. 📖

Book Fact:

(Walt Disney) There is more treasure in books than in all the pirates' loot on Treasure Island...and, best of all, you can enjoy these riches every day of your life.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Washington DC Antiquarian Book Fare, Arlington, VA, March 4-5, 2011
www.wabf.com

Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, St. Petersburg, FL, March 11-13, 2011
www.floridabooksellers.com

Albuquerque Antiquarian Book Fair, Albuquerque, NM April 1-2, 2011
www.unm.edu/~alshal/aabf.htm

51st New York International Antiquarian Book Fair, April 7-10th 2011, NYC
www.abaa.org

Vermont Spring Book Fair, South Burlington, VT, April 10, 2011
www.vermontisbookcountry.com/events.html

Akron Antiquarian Book Fair, Akron, OH, April 10-11th, 2011
www.thesuburbanite.com/lifestyle/calendar

Grand Conclave XXIX, Miniature Book Society
July 29 – August 1st, Dublin, Ireland www.mbs.org

PUBLICATIONS EXCHANGED:

Book Source Magazine, Volume 27, Number 2, 2007 Syossett Drive, Cazenovia, NY, 13035 John C. Huckans, Editor and Publisher, lots of news about many book subjects and events as well as several interesting special features and auction happenings, published bi-monthly, www.booksourcemagazine.com

Fine Books and Collections Magazine, published Quarterly, with a monthly electronic newsletter also available. 4905 Pine Cone Drive #2, Durham, NC 27707, Rebecca Barry Editor, www.finebooksmagazine.com

Das Miniaturbuch, a well done 24 page newsletter of the German Miniature Book Society, printed with color illustrations, Berlin, Germany, a beautifully done publication, all in German, Contact Angelika Jaeck, e-mail: angelika@minioffice-aj.de for more information

CATALOGUES RECEIVED:

Bromer Booksellers, Catalogue 135 'New Acquisitions', 27 pages, 79 items offered including 17 miniatures, profusely illustrated color catalog with excellent descriptions and references, printed on high quality glossy paper, Boston, MA, e-mail: books@bromer.com, www.bromer.com

Tracy Bradbury Miniature Books, Catalogue #55, 14 pages, 193 miniature items offered , including 7 additional reference books, black and white presentation with several fine illustrations, all books organized by press name, Brooklyn, NY, e-mail: bradburyminibooks@gmail.com

Karen Nyman Book Seller, Catalogue #30, approx. 100 items offered, color illustrations, distributed via e-mail, hard copy available upon request, 702 Rosecrans Street, San Diego, CA 92106-3013, e-mail: karennyman2@cox.net

Michael Garbett Antiquarian & Fine Books, Catalogue 32, 14 pages, 57 miniature books offered, finely printed with many color illustrations, 1 Over Court Mews, Over Lane, Almondsbury, South Gloucestershire, BS32 4DG, England, e-mail: garbett469@btinternet.com, www.mgbooks.co.uk

Editor's Note: Always a joy to receive the above catalogues when I open the mail box, good reading even before dinner and all are excellent book dealers to do business with.

CLASSIFIED WISH LISTS:



As a feature for subscribers the Microbibliophile will offer a classified listing service with each issue. We do not plan, at this time, to charge for this service. Each message should be no more than 250 characters. Send your information to the Editor for inclusion in the next issue.

Neale Albert is looking for two miniature books by Asao Hoshino -- *Kwaidan* and *Ichiaku No Suna*, and also for the special editions of the Asao Hoshino books. "I am thinking of doing a Hoshino bibliography".

Contact information: nma8156@yahoo.com

Katherine Bakunas is looking for the printed copies of the early MBS Newsletters, prior to October of 1989, contact information: kkbakunas@gmail.com

Karen Nyman is looking for 3 volumes she lacks from The Cabinet of Lilliput, by John Harris. Here are the missing titles: *Arthur and George*, *Jacob the Fisherman*, etc., and *Julia and the Dog*, etc. Contact her at karenyyman2@cox.net or call 619-226-4441.

Pat Pistner is looking for 28 Raheb books (Mudlark Miniatures and Littlest Library) published in 1976 and 1977, and only 19 published through 2000. Contact information: pistner@comcast.net.

Caroline Brandt is looking for two volumes in the Daisy & Dot series by Aunt Fanny (Buffalo: Breed & Lent, 1866): DAISY Part II and Dot. Also DAISY Part I as my copy has damage to one page of text. Call 804-200-1260 or write 1500 Westbrook Ct. #1109, Richmond, VA 23227

Jim Brogan would like to locate a 'copywrite free wingding library' illustrating literary items for use in the Microbibliophile: email: editor@microbibliophile77.com

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Riley takes a short ride from the airport to downtown Dublin

Make your reservations for the MBS Conclave early!

The Concord Fight



Published by Robert Naiva for the 1975 Bicentennial of one of the most significant events in American history. Offered as a 2 volume set, each book is 2 7/8" x 2" bound in a dark blue leatherette and housed in a blue cloth slipcase. The first book documents the account of the 1775 Concord battle by Amos Barrett, a Concord Minuteman. The second book outlines the personal recollections of the battle from the viewpoint of Jeremy Lister a British army ensign.

The set is being offered at \$25.00 plus \$3.00 postage/handling by the Friends of the Concord MA Public Library. Checks for payment should be made out to the Friends -- Concord Public Library and mailed to:

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