

THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE®

A Bimonthly Journal About Miniature Books and the Book Arts

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September 2011



BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS

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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. We will publish a review for each new miniature book submitted to the editor.

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A Bimonthly Journal About Miniature Books and the Book Arts

Robert F. Hanson, Founder, 1977

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The Microbibliophile

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

Jon H. Mayo, Publisher

James M. Brogan, Editor

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Greetings from the Squeaky Roll Top Desk:



I am glad to have received so many wonderful comments about our issue number 5, Ireland. It was a unique opportunity to align the issue with the MBS Conclave location, in Dublin. Additionally, I have some interesting updated information that is relevant to what was published in issue number 5 and has been received at PO Box 5453 first, an update to our list of Irish books, that being; *Song of Aengus*, published by Poole Press, 1998. Second, I noted that I was trying to get in touch with Margaret Challenger to help me with a review of her book *St. Patrick, an Old Gaelic Blessing*. I had an address but did not know she had moved some years ago. One day a few weeks back the phone rang and it was Margaret. Sounded as if I was talking to an old Microbib... friend. Margaret has sent me a short article about her work that is included in this issue.

I have received considerable feedback over the last several months from you, the readership, expressing a liking to 'dedicate' issues to specific topics. Well you are the customers. The topic for this issue is 'Books about Books', another favorite of mine, maybe because I like history, maybe because I enjoy reading about 'how things' are done, or maybe it is just a bit of that 'boy engineer' left over from the old days, always gathering information that may be of good use sometime in the future.

The subject is certainly a broad one. There are a number of outstanding miniatures on the subject. There are publisher's bibliographies, bibliographies about publishers, histories of the book, books about bookplates, a book explaining the value of books on your bookshelf, publisher's favorite books, and books, books, books, all in miniature format. It is almost an endless genre. I have also created a list of miniature books about books for your reference. Please send me any additional titles so I can update my list.

I hope you enjoy the selection of materials that we have been able to put together for you with this issue. We have reviews of five new miniatures, announcements about books under consideration and construction, and our ever growing 'classified list'. There is a special article about Hillside Press by Robert F. Orr Hanson; Peter Thomas continues his critical series with an article about 'text'. Also, included is an article from Robert E Massmann, defining his thoughts about William Lewis Washburn, one of Bob's personal favorite publishers, and how the *Exquisitry of William Louis Washburn* was created. We are also introducing with this issue, the first of four installments of an essay by Jerry Bartholomew discussing Mark Twain miniatures.

I also want to remind you that our annual subscription renewal process will begin in November. I will include a special 'flyer' in the next issue. Subscription rates will be the same for 2012. We will begin to charge for 'business card advertising'; good news is that classified notices will continue to be a free service for the readership.

Our next issue will feature 'holiday books and holiday traditions'. Please consider submitting an article which describes your holiday tradition or a short article about your favorite holiday miniature book.

If you would like to submit a review of a favorite book, new or old, or an informative article, please do so. If you need some editing help or inspiration, or just want to bounce an idea around, give me a call. Let us continue our ongoing journey through the world of miniature books. Thank you for the opportunity to bring the *The Microbibliophile* into your life.

Food For Thought:

“But – go ye into the byways and hedges and find them out for yourselves. The quest is joyous and the spoils of the chase are rich”. William Macey Stone, December 12, 1928, *The News-Letter of the LXIVMOS*

MINIATURE BOOK REVIEWS:

Most of the books that we review in *The Microbibliophile* are miniature books that are ‘recently published’ works. However some of the books that we do discuss are certainly ‘not recently published’, at times we will include reference notations from these reference books. The titles and specifics of these volumes, for your purview are:

Antique United States Miniature Books 1690 – 1900, Robert C Bradbury, 2001, published by The Microbibliophile, North Clarendon, Vermont, also available from De Wolfe & Wood Booksellers, Alfred, ME

Twentieth Century United States Miniature Books, Robert C Bradbury, 2000, published by The Microbibliophile, North Clarendon, Vermont, also available from De Wolfe & Wood Booksellers, Alfred, ME

Catalogue of the Library of Miniature Books Collected by Percy Edwin Spielman, Percy Edwin Spielman 1961, Edward Arnold, London, also available as a reprint, 1992, Maurizio Martino Publisher, Storrs-Manfield, CT

A Bibliography of Miniature Books, compiled by Doris Varner Welsh, 1989, published by Kathryn I. Rickard

The History of Miniature Books, Doris V. Welsh, 1987, Fort Orange Press, Albany, NY

ABC For Book Collectors, 8th edition, John Carter and Nicolas Barker, 2006, Oak Knoll Press, London

Miniature Books, Louis W. Bondy, 1981 Sheppard Press, London

Lament For The Books (Amhrám Na Leabhar), published 2011, Flying Pig Press.

Lament for the Books is a old poem written by an Irish schoolmaster in the 17th century. The miniature book today was created by Mark Palkovic and includes a compilation of information about the poem: the reason for its creation, the accompanying music score that documents the melody, a dual language presentation of the song in both English and Gaelic, and lastly historical and geographical reference notes explaining the text.

Amhrám Na Leabhar has been known by several different titles over the years: *Song of the Harbor*,



Song of the Lost Books, and *Lament for the Books* are the most common.

The name of the author is Tomás Rua Ó Súilleabháin (1785 -1848). The Anglicized form of the last name is O'Sullivan. The author had been an acting schoolmaster and, when replaced by another schoolmaster, he had to seek a new post in a new village. Since the journey was long and his books were heavy he sent his books by way of ship and he traveled by land on foot. Remember of course that in the 17th century books for the most part were all handmade and even in some cases hand written. The ship and its cargo were shipwrecked on Finn's Rock, near Derrynane Harbor; everything was lost to the sea. The schoolmaster was devastated, hence his poem, he sings his song of sorrow for his loss:

*Pain filled me with sickness
And emptied me of sleep...
They are astray in the sea,
Their loss is my ruin!*

Yet, as is the case with life, after a period of time and reflection, the schoolmaster was able to come to terms with his loss, learn from his lessons, and continue with his life:

*I take leave from my books.
Though it distresses me,
And never shall I send
Anything by sea forever.
But praise to the king
Of bright Angels, who returns my health.
And from the storms the Legion
Coming free without drowning*

Lament For The Books contains 61 numbered pages and was hand bound by Karl Grummich in a perfectly Irish green paper resembling leather. The text is printed on a pale beige paper using a combination of Dumbledor and Book Antiqua typeface. There is a gold imprinted illustration of an open book with bubbles on the cover as well as an imprinted title on the spine. A miniature book about books and a most professional presentation of a beautiful story. 120 copies, \$30. 📖

Editor's Note: 'Lament For The Books' was distributed as a keepsake to the attendees of the Miniature Book Society Grand Conclave XXIX in Dublin. Mark Palkovic is the Head Librarian of the College-Conservatory of Music Library, at the University of Cincinnati. Mark has published five other books from his Flying Pig Press, beginning in 1992.

Contact information: 620 Clinton Springs Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45229-1325, E-mail: mark.palkovic@uc.edu

The Book Book, Pat Sweet, author and publisher, 2011, BoPress Miniature Books.

I continue to be amazed by the amount of creative ideas and talent exhibited in the work presented by Pat Sweet. *The Book Book* is another fine example that takes the reader with a visual tour through the many components of a book's infrastructure. Some readers may be knowledgeable of all of the components presented, however, some like me may not be so informed.

The book is designed to explain how a case-bound book is constructed, that is, the body of the book is created and then is combined with the boards, which make up the front and back covers, to make what we call a 'book'. Pat has left no component out of the many examples presented. Such parts as the 'errata slip' and 'barrier sheet' are included, as are a 'tipped-in plate', a 'spine label', a 'extraneous matter sheet', a 'fold-out diagram' of the relative sizes of books (from double elephant folio to 64mo), a 'laid in list' of extraneous matter which includes the list itself, and a note on the typeface. There are no less than five different typefaces used in the book. The back cover has been left 'unglued' so you can see into the spine of the book and just how the hinges are created. The book also has examples of things attached to books: a 'bookplate', an



'interior pocket' containing a miniature BoPress bookmark with a tiny tassel, and a 'binder's ticket'. *The Book Book* is presented with a 'dust cover', a 'slipcase', and lastly a vellum 'bellyband'.

It is a wonderful self-referential little manual for lovers of publishing and binding alike, a miniature book about books.

The Book Book is 2 3/16" x 1 11/16"

all copies signed and numbered by Pat Sweet, \$65. 📖

Contact information: Pat Sweet, BoPress Miniature Books, 231 East Blaine Street, Riverside, CA 92507

E-mail: bopress@charter.net or www.bopressminiaturebooks.com

This Is Not A Book, Pat Sweet, author and publisher, 2011, BoPress Miniature Books.

This is a book inside a book inside of a book shaped display box. Another creative presentation from Pat Sweet. *This is Not a Book* is a printed collection of jacket designs, 65 by my counting, that exist only within the inside of the regular full size books. The illustrations are examples from ‘The Whole Art of Detection’ by Arthur Conan Doyle, ‘Tender is the Night’ by F. Scott Fitzgerald, and ‘Road to Oz’ by L. Frank Baum, the list goes on and on. Each illustration is presented as if hidden inside a hollow book, for yet another layer of un-reality.

The title, of course is derived from the famous painting by René François Ghislain Magritte (1898 – 1967), “Ceci n'est pas une pipe” (This is not a pipe). A display of ordinary objects in an unusual juxtaposition or context, hence, *This is Not a Book*.



The book itself, is assembled with the quality that I expect, all of the folds and assemble points are well done. The endpapers are a pale yellow and display a red colored fleur-de-lis design, which is coordinated through to the cover design that is done in a light brown color with the same fleur-de-lis design done in a gold color. The hinges work

very well and the signatures are tightly sewn. The spine is shaped into a small radius; a title label is attached to the cover. The box, which is included, to contain *This is Not a Book* is hinged as well as covered with the same paper that is used as the endpaper of the book, again with a title label attached.

A conversation piece, to say the least. A miniature book about books. *This is Not a Book* is 2” x 1 ½”, \$65. 📖

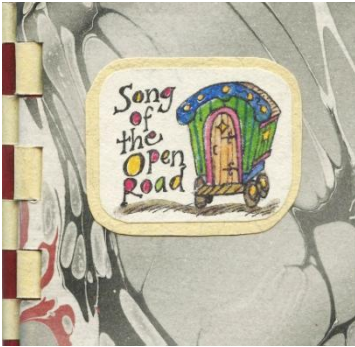
Contact information: Pat Sweet, BoPress Miniature Books, 231 East Blaine Street, Riverside, CA 92507
E-mail: bopress@charter.net or www.bopressminiaturebooks.com

Song Of The Open Road, Walt Whitman, published 2011, by Peter and Donna Thomas.

The *Song of the Open Road* is an original poem published by Walt Whitman (1819 – 1892) as part of the 1856 edition of *The Leaves of Grass*. Peter and Donna Thomas have the first stanza of this well-loved poem as the text backdrop for their miniature book, which in itself was inspired as part of their Tour of the Wandering Book Artists, which took place during 2010 – 2011.

*Afoot and light hearted
I take to the open road,
Healthy, free, the world before me,
The long brown path before me,
Leading wherever I choose.*

A short stanza but not without a big meaning. As part of their ‘Tour of the Wandering Book Artists’, Peter and Donna built a gypsy wagon to serve as their home away from home, complete with all of the required essentials and festively painted as a classic gypsy wagon to be towed across the open roads of America.



Song of the Open Road contains ten, just outstanding water colored drawings of various gypsy wagons assembled at a 2010 gathering, in Pennsylvania. The book is created with handmade paper, created by Peter, in a medium brown color. The book is assembled as a two-layer accordion, integrating the front and back covers with a three-dowel pin hinge spine, which allows the book to open while the front and back covers lie flat. The front and rear covers are done in a marbled paper, which is predominantly, gray tones but there is just a touch of red in the paper, which coordinates, with the dowel pins of the hinge. The text of the poem, typeface is Goudy Thirty, is letterpress printed with red ink, again coordinated with the hinge, and done with just the correct amount of imprint to highlight the text.

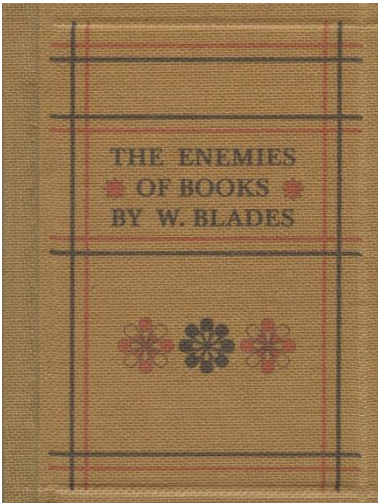
All of that being said, the best jewel of the book, in my opinion, is the ten miniature water colored drawings created by Donna Thomas. The drawings are done on a series of ‘folded paper tabs that are then attached to the accordion pages. The tabs can be used to turn the pages as they extend just past the edge of the accordion paper. Each drawing, including the cover scene, is a conversation in itself. Each is labeled to reflect the ‘name’ of the gypsy wagon. An example of their names is; ‘Eric’s bowtop’, the ‘Vagabond’, the ‘Tinker’s Wagon’, and ‘Ogedei’s Vardo’. Each is a conversation in the making, so much detail that you have to keep looking at the painted scene to appreciate the drawing as well as the muted colors that are used. You can look through the doors and windows of some wagons to peek at their contents. A journey, sort of a visual song of the open road.

Everything about this book is just ‘top shelf’. *Song of the Open Road*, 3” x 3”, 150 copies, each numbered, and available from the publisher, \$75. Add \$3.75 for shipping. 📖

Contact information: Peter Thomas, 26015th Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95602
E-mail: peteranddonnathomas@cruzio.com or www2.cruzio.com/~peterandonna/

The Enemies of Books, William Blades, 1888, published by Plum Park Press, 2011.

Another classic revisited and brought to us by Tony Firman and his Plum Park Press. The book was originally published in 1888, by Elliot Stock, London, William Blades is the author. *The Enemies of the Books* has been a source of reference since it was originally published, hard to believe but true. There are a total of ten chapters as well as a Postscriptum and a Conclusion which in total span more than 240 pages. The chapters describing the enemies as 'fire' 'water', 'children', 'dust', and 'general neglect' are as relevant today as when originally issued. As we have moved into our 'modern' way of life 'gas, as was used to light a room', 'bookworms', and 'servants' are interesting to read but may not be as much a part of your life today, that is notwithstanding your particular lifestyle and location on the planet Earth.



The chapter on 'bookbinders' as enemies of the books is another interesting one to read. Rather than spoil the fun of your own reading I will only refer to an old proverb that is mentioned here, "Tis an ill bird that befouls its own nest". Chapter IX describes the various actions that have been perpetrated by collectors over the millenniums to award them the distinction as possible enemies of the books. Such actions as 'moving' a book from one shelf to another, maybe in another house is one such example, another being the collector of 'frontispieces' who clips the picture out of a book for inclusion in his own collection. Such behavior!

The edition of *The Enemies of the Book*, created by Tony Firman, is bound to resemble a 'Victorian trade book binding', with a khaki colored cloth printed with a two color (red and black) geometric pattern on both the front and back covers as well as the spine. The title is printed on the front cover as well as the spine. As is the case with all of the work that I have seen from this press the workmanship is of the highest quality, all of the trimming and folds are perfect, and the volume 'works' as is intended. The miniature is set in a most readable type, 7-point Baskerville, with overall dimensions of 2 ¾" x 2 3/16". Published in September of 2011, in an edition of 12 copies, priced at \$40, each plus \$5 shipping. Numbered and signed, by Tony Firman. A classic revisited, an excellent book about books. How many people knew about the original 1888 volume, I did not? The things you can learn from miniature books. 📖

Contact information: Tony Firman, PO Box 507, Hazlet, TX 76052-4617,
E-mail: tonyfirman@earthlink.net or www.TonyFirmanbookbinding.com

BOOKS ABOUT MINIATURE BOOKS:

By Jim Brogan

People ask several questions with a very regular frequency:

Where can I find some information about miniature books?

Are there books about miniature books that I can read?

Where can I buy a miniature book?

Do libraries have miniature books?

As a miniature book collector and a member of the Miniature Book Society, I certainly have many available resources that I can utilize to answer the questions. However, as a new collector or maybe someone who has one miniature book that was acquired they may not be as fortunate and in need of some help with the questions. As is the case with all things, information, valid current information is a wonderful asset. I will begin, with this essay, to outline the many sources of information that are available to everyone, in some cases very close to home, to help you answer questions about miniature books. I am also able to include a list of ‘research/resource’ books that are valuable tools as well as a list of miniature books that are about books, these will supply specific information in a very detailed presentation.

Information about miniature books is available from reference books, publisher/press bibliographies, booksellers, periodicals, libraries, some of which have special collections of miniature books, and of course, a wealth of additional information is available via the internet.

Several reference books are available to answer questions about miniature books. Some of these books are formatted according to publishers and others by titles or subject area. Other books that can be helpful are more general but do have a wealth of definitions, essays, illustrations, and good pictures that can be referenced. A short list of this category follows:

Antique United States Miniature Books 1690 – 1900, Robert C Bradbury, 2001, published by The Microbibliophile, North Clarendon, Vermont

Twentieth Century United States Miniature Books, Robert C Bradbury, 2000, published by The Microbibliophile, North Clarendon, Vermont

Catalogue of the Library of Miniature Books Collected by Percy Edwin Spielman, Percy Edwin Spielman 1961, Edward Arnold, London, also available as a reprint, 1992, Maurizio Martino Publisher, Storrs-Manfield, CT

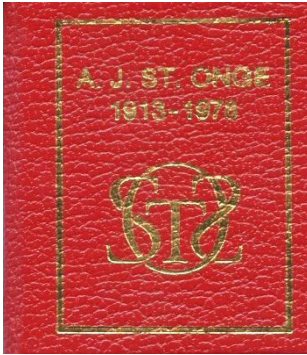
The History of Miniature Books, Doris V. Welsh, 1987, Fort Orange Press, Albany, NY

A Bibliography of Miniature Books, compiled by Doris Varner Welsh, 1989, published by Kathryn I. Rickard

ABC For Book Collectors, 8th edition, John Carter and Nicolas Barker, 2006, Oak Knoll Press, London

Miniature Books 4,000 Years of Tiny Treasures, A. C. Bromer and J. I. Edison, 2007, published by Abrams, New York (available as a miniature as well as regular sized editions)

Miniature Books, Louis W. Bondy, 1981 Sheppard Press, London



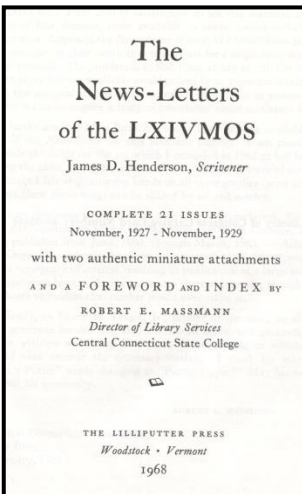
Publisher's bibliographies are a valuable source of information about what titles were printed by the publisher. These documents generally include information about the size of the book, the number of books printed, dates, and other information such as binding materials etc. I have listed several of these resources in a separate list, at the conclusion of my essay. As always, please let me know about those additional items that are available.

Booksellers are an invaluable source of information about books. Books are their business, they are very knowledgeable about the value, availability, and price of books. However, booksellers are great friends. They can help you locate a book, or even keep 'your want list' on hand so that when some information crosses their path they are ready to help. There are hundreds of booksellers; some are listed in the closing pages of *The Microbibliophile* each month. You can also visit the Miniature Book Society website for additional information about booksellers: www.mbs.org

Periodicals should not be overlooked as a source of information about miniature books. There are, to the best of my knowledge, no periodicals specially dedicated to miniature books other than *The Microbibliophile* and the *Das Miniaturbuch* (German language publication) but a few items of interest are:

BookSource Magazine
Fine Books and Collections Magazine

There are also a number of 'older' publications that have been available for years and continue to be available from used booksellers or as a reprint. These early works continue to be a wonderful resource about miniature books and in particular they also provide a contemporary view of the world of miniature books in a time different from today. Some items that you may want to take a look at:




The Miniature Book Collector, 1960 -1962, Achille J. St. Onge, Worcester, MA
The News-Letter of the LXIVMOS, 1927–1929, James D. Henderson, Brookline, MA

Libraries are another source of information, even in the age of the Internet. I am sure that you know that libraries, in addition to their vast miles of bookshelves also maintain extremely well organized 'search engine tools' as well as excellent staff members to help you with any type of question you may have. The staff members at the libraries are professionals who make it their business to know all there is to know about books, if they do not know the answer they can get you in touch with someone who does know the answer. There are several libraries that have extensive collections of miniature books available. Some collections have been donated, some acquired, some actively maintained, and

unfortunately sometimes the collections sit in archival storage boxes till someone like you or me comes along and asks a question. I will include a list of libraries that I know about that have large collections of miniature books in a subsequent issue of *The Microbibliophile*.

The Internet, that vast deep ocean of information that is but a few ‘clicks’ away from the screen of your computer, or even your smart phone today. The general search engines are a great facility to get you to a specific type of information that you may want. One outstanding online resource that is available is the Miniature Book Society Newsletter, via the Digital Library of the University of North Texas Library. The web address is <http://digital.library.unt.edu/>, the site is easy to use and there is a ‘HELP’ button as well. There is an endless amount of functions and features that you can use as tools to answer your questions today.

In conclusion, we have a tremendous amount of resources that will help and guide us.. ‘Let us continue our ongoing journey through the world of miniature books’. I have prepared a short list of miniature books about books that hopefully will be of value to you. Please help me expand the list with additional titles that you may know about. 

***The Microbibliophile* 2011 ‘List of Books About Miniature Books’**

Search for an Albion, 1963, published by Maestro Books, Napanee, IN

The Gold Beater, 1967, published by M. Swift & Sons Inc., Hartford, CT

Miniature Books, 1968, published by Dawson’s Book Shop, Los Angeles, CA

Chronological Checklist of REMiniatures, 1969, published by Robert E. Massmann, New Britain, CT

REMiniatures a Record and a Sampler, 1969, published by Robert E. Massmann, New Britain, CT

REMiniatures a Record and a Sampler IIA & IIB, 1969, published by Robert E. Massmann, New Britain, CT

The Hillside Press Illustrated Miniatures, 1970, published by The Hillside Press, Tilton, NH

Miniature Books, 1970, published by Julian I Edison, St Louis, MO

Bibliography of the Hillside Press, 1971, published by The Hillside Press, Tilton, NH

Book Plates, 1975, published by W. M. Cheney, Los Angeles, CA

Bibliography of REM Miniatures 1962-1978, 1978, published by Robert E. Massmann, New Britain, CT

The Bibliomidgets of Achille St. Onge, A Memorial and Bibliography, 1979, published by Robert E. Massmann, New Britain, CT

Minibibliophilia, 1979, published by Dawson’s Book Shop, Los Angeles, CA

Bibliography of the Hillside Press, 1980, published by The Hillside Press, Buffalo, NY

Fine Printing and the ‘80’s, (n.d.), published by Edward Petko, Los Angeles, CA

Dawson’s Miniatures, 1981, published by Portage, Los Angeles, CA

Miniature Books, 1981 Sheppard Press, London (*not a miniature book*)

Bibliography of REM Miniatures First Supplement, 1982, published by Robert E. Massmann, New Britain, CT

Specimens From Rags to Rushes, 1983, published by The Oak Park Press, Wichita, KS

Lilliputia Fugitivica, 1983, published by Robert E. Massmann, New Britain, CT

You May Have a Fortune on Your Bookshelf, (n.d.), Black Cat Press, Chicago/Skokie, IL

My Favorite Miniature Book, 1984, published by Tamazunchale Press, Newton, IA

Bibliography of Miniature Books & Ephemera, (n.d.), Black Cat Press, Chicago/Skokie, IL

Bibliography of REM Miniatures Second Supplement, 1987, published by Robert E. Massmann, New Britain, CT

Publisher's Favorite, 1988, published by Tamazunchale Press, Newton, IA

A Lady and Her Books, 1988, published by Editions Du Parnasse, Montreal, Canada

Who's Who In Miniature Books, 1991, published by Opuscula Press, Bradenton, FL (*not a miniature book*)

Bela Blau Bookbinder, 1993, printed by Patrick Reagh

Kathryn I. Rickard My Adventures in Minibibliomania, 1996, published by Kathryn I. Richard, Cobleskill, NY

Bibliography of REM Miniatures Third Supplement, 1994, published by Robert E. Massmann, New Britain, CT

M.B.S. Grand Conclave XIII IX/I – IX/IV, MVM Pasadena, 1995, published by Robert E. Massmann, New Britain, CT

Juniper Von Phitzer Press a Bibliography, 1999, published by Robert F. Orr Hanson, Albuquerque, NM

Bibliography of REM Miniatures Fourth Supplement, 1999, published by Robert E. Massmann, New Britain, CT

The Exquisitry of William Lewis Washburn, 1999, published by Robert E. Massmann, New Britain, CT

In the Beginning, 2004, published by Arm & Hammer Press, Sugar Land, TX

On Books and the Housing of Them, 2004, published by Stephen Byrne at The Final Score, England

Miniature Lesson in the History of the book, 2005, published by Houghton Library, Harvard College Library, MA

REM Miniatures Bibliography Fifth Supplement, 2005, published by Robert E. Massmann, New Britain, CT

Miniature Books 4,000 Years of Tiny Treasures, 2007, published by Abrams, New York (miniature and full size editions)

Lament for the Books, 2011, published by Flying Pig Press, Cincinnati, OH

The Book Book, 2011, published by BoPress Miniature Books, Riverside, CA

This is not a Book, 2011, published by BoPress Miniature Books, Riverside, CA

The Enemies of Books, 2011, published by Plum Park Press, Hazlet, TX

An Introduction To Making Miniature Books, 2001, published by Plum Park, Hazlet, TX (*not a miniature book*)

The Illustrated Bibliography of Miniature Books published by David Bryce and Son, 2011, published by The Final Score, Sorbie, Scotland (*not a miniature book*)

Also, be sure to add the reference volumes that we documented at the beginning of this essay.

THOUGHTS ON COLLECTING BOOKS AS WORKS OF ART, TEXT AS DESIGN

By Peter Thomas

Editor's Note: This is the fourth installment of Peter's essay on 'Collecting Books as Works of Art'. Previously he has discussed an overview of the book components and more specifically the 'cover' as well as 'paper', all in excellent detail.

The text of a book is really two different things. A reader or writer will think of the text as the content, the story, etc, while the printer or artist will talk about the text as the way the words look on the printed page. When thinking about collecting books as works of art we need to consider both of these meanings and in this essay I will focus for the most part on text as a design element.

Since the introduction of Kindles and E-readers and online books, I have often been asked if I am concerned about the future demise of the physical book. I usually reply that if they are talking about the content of books, the text, it is my opinion that once I can buy a digital book that I want to curl up in bed with, then I will be happy to read my books on a computer. I can imagine I would enjoy features like only needing to click to look up words, or searching the text when I forget a certain name or object mentioned earlier in the story.


However, if, on the other hand, they are talking about the beauty of the words on the page, and by this I mean things that make a book's page a work of art. As an example, the page proportions in relation to the size of the type block, the typeface and size in relation to the content or the relationship between the images and the text... then I tell them, "Give me a well printed book!"

Please note I say "well printed". I am not sure if I would choose to read a cheaply printed paperback over the same text on a computer device, if the paperback had small type, no illustrations, and a binding so badly executed that I could not easily open it to see the words near the inner margins. However, remember this essay is only talking about the way the text looks, and there are many other reasons to collect a book.

Nevertheless, back to the matter at hand: there are a number of considerations regarding the layout of the text that apply specifically to a miniature book. Again, this would be a good time to take five random books from your collection to consider. As you look at them, consider these questions: Is the typeface clear and readable or convoluted so you cannot tell if what you are looking at is an "f" or an "I"? Is the type too small to see even with a magnifying glass? Is the type so large that there are only a few words per line?

Can you tell what process was used to produce the book, is it offset, photocopy, ink jet or letterpress? Is the printing crisp and in focus? If the book is letterpress printed is there ink slurred around the edges of the letters, this is a sign of bad craftsmanship. Is the color of the inking even, both across a page and from one page to the next. Can you see the impression (the mark of the type having been pressed into the paper) as a slight relief or does it feel like Braille. Here are some other things that connoisseurs of fine printing look for: When holding a page to the light, does each line match exactly with the one on the other side? Is the spacing between words wide enough to easily find where one word ends and the next begins, but not so wide that it seems something

may fall in the gap. As a practical matter, word spacing is especially challenging in a miniature book because of the short line lengths, and it is more difficult when the lines are justified (even at both margins). It is generally considered not a good practice to have very many hyphenated words on a single page. When this happens, it is often an indicator that the designer should have chosen different line length or type size. Does the book have what are known as "widow" lines, where the last sentence of a chapter falls as the first line of the next page?

Now with these thoughts in mind, look through your books once again to see how they look, not to see what they say. This is looking at your books with the eye of the artists, and when collecting books as works of art, this is a good way to begin. In the next installment of this series of essays discussing the things I think about when collecting books as works of art, I will discuss the book's text as content rather than design. 

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BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS: THREE CHEERS for WILLIAM LEWIS WASHBURN, by Robert E. Massmann

Editor's Note: Bob Massmann is certainly one of the giants of the world of miniature books. He is a professional librarian, author, illustrator, printer, binder, and publisher. Bob has done it all. There is not a facet of the miniature book world left unturned. His interests in miniature books began in 1957 and expanded over the years through his dedication to professionalism, quality and interest in miniature books. He has published most of his books, more than 100 titles, through his private REM Miniatures Press. His personal collection of miniature books was one of the most comprehensive collections ever assembled. Bob is always ready with a smile and warm hello and willing to answer a question. So with humble honor I present to you:

Three Cheers for William Lewis Washburn

I realized in 1999 that I was in possession of all but two of the miniature books created by William Lewis Washburn and was not likely to find the missing volumes. I felt that the remarkable productions of this master of the art of creating miniature books, deserved a more complete bibliographical treatment, than had been previous done. I had a number of letters written by Mr. Washburn and the story seemed to be just aching to be told.

The final book that Mr. Washburn published was delivered with 99 copies, so I followed his lead and planned to create just 99 copies for the bibliography of Washburn's work. Additionally, most if not all of his books were issued in small boxes, to which he had printed and affixed labels, announcing the titles, so I again followed his lead.

The two titles that were missing from my collection did not have any illustrations so I was able to include every one of the illustrations that were in the other fourteen original published books, in

my bibliography. I also included a number of the quotations from Mr. Washburn's letters that I thought would provide interesting asides for the bibliography.

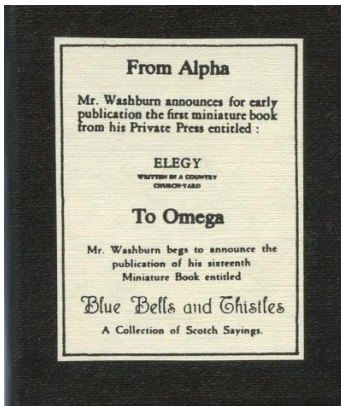
Why all of this interest in Mr. Washburn? Simply, he was a man who designed, printed, and bound his own books, while some well-known publishers 'turned-over' the text of their work to professionals to design, print, and bind their books. Mr. Washburn did it all, including labeling the boxes. Washburn's total miniature productions numbered only sixteen, but they were so well received and have been so highly prized that any collector lucky enough to find one for as little as \$500 today will have discovered a real bargain.

Mr. Washburn's books, the fourteen of them that I was able to collect, will always occupy a special place in my affections. Of course, Archie's books, (Achille St. Onge) autographed by the presidents of the United States, were another exceptional highlight of the more than 10,000 volumes that I ended up owning. There were certainly numerous other special books. However, none quite occupied the special favorite place of the titles produced by Mr. William Lewis Washburn. 📖

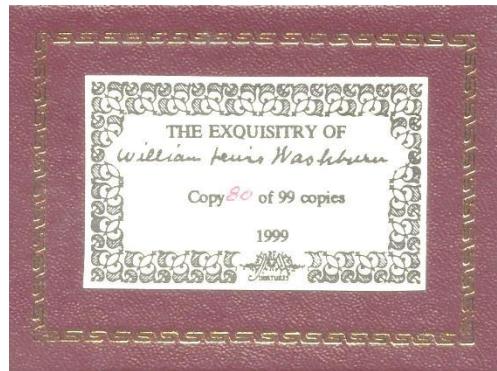
The Equisitry of William Lewis Washburn, Robert E. Massmann, 1999.

The book, measuring 2 3/4" x 2 1/4" published with 99 copies, included black cloth boards, with a printed label on the cover, and a fine presentation box again with a label affixed denoting the 'copy number' as well as the date of publication. The text explains the chronological short title list of William Lewis Washburn's miniature books published between 1929 – 1942. Included with this publication are every illustration that was used in the original published works and the original selling prices. Also included are several pages defining various publication details outlined by Washburn's correspondence documents. A book about books. 📖

The cover of the REM book



The cover of the REM presentation box



The short title list of the William Lewis Washburn miniature books, in chronological order are:

1. Elegy Written In A Country Church-Yard, by Thomas Grey, published 1929
2. Doll's Primer, published 1931
3. Last Will Of Elder John White, One Of The First Settlers Of Hartford, Connecticut, published 1933
4. The Pussey Cats' Love Letters Persian Snow Felina, published 1934
5. The Pots A Cry To God, Being Nine Stanzas From Edward Fitzgerald's Translation Of The Rubaiyat Of Omar Khayyam, published 1935
6. Chess The Game Of Life, published 1936
7. The Courtin', by Lowell, published 1937
8. The Twenty-Third Psalm, published 1938
9. Caxton Doll's Prymer, For a Litel Childe's Delyte, published 1939
10. The Thirty-Sixth Psalm, Two Versions, published 1940
11. The Wolf King Or Little Red Riding Hood, published 1940
12. A Colonial Courting Being Extracts From Judge Samuel Seward's Diary September 1720 December, published 1940
13. Poems of Li Po The Chinese Poet Done Into Vignettes By Frank Ankenbrand, Jr., published 1941
14. The CXXI Psalm Two Versions, published 1941
15. The One Hundred And Twenty-Fifth Psalm, published 1942
16. Blue Bells And Thistles, A Bouquet Of Scotch Jokes With Here And There A Hidden Thorn, published 1942

BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS: THE HILLSIDE PRESS, 1971-1980 by Robert F Orr. Hanson

Editor's Note: Another informative article by the founder and original publisher of 'The Microbibliophile'. Robert's ability to bring this history alive through his breadth of knowledge and experiences is an ongoing outstanding contribution to The Microbibliophile and greatly appreciated.



This highly esteemed publisher of meaningful miniature books enjoyed (and so did its collectors) a long run beginning in 1962 with *The Whirligid Id and Other Regressions*. Its origin began in Tilton, New Hampshire, moved to Buffalo, New York and Bellevue, Washington (just east of Seattle via the Lake Union Floating Bridge). Some years ago, we lived just outside this small city and it remains one of my favorites. Sadly, Eleanor passed away several years ago, while Frank Irwin departed this planet on 8 July 1980—one day after being stricken with a heart attack on a Buffalo golf course. Now, I would like to present a brief review of the second bibliography of their Hillside Press.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE HILLSIDE PRESS 1971-1980

By Frank Irwin and Eleanor I. Irwin

Buffalo, New York 1980

After her husband's passing, Eleanor produced this bibliography, printing and binding the work herself. The little treasure measures 2 3/8" x 2 1/8" wide, contains 50 pages of text and illustrations and is bound in a deep red leatherette with a gilt decoration on the front cover. Title lettering, in gold, graces the spine. Close friend and fellow publisher, Robert E. Massmann, has written the five-page preface to the publishing work done by Frank and Eleanor.

There are 32 pages of detailed descriptions on the 24 titles published from 1971-1980. These titles are listed below: *Bibliography of the Hillside Press*, 1970; *Chinese Poems*, 1971; *Herbal Woodcuts and Legends*, 1971; *The Miser Elf*, 1972; *Bhagvat-Geeta*, 1972; *Eastern Fables*, 1973; *The Astrologer's Niece*, 1973; *Aesop's Fables*, 1974; *Colonial Coins*, 1974; *Japanese Bogies*, 1974; *Letters of Thomas Jefferson*, 1975; *Catholica on American Stamps*, 1976; *Printer's Marks and Colophons*, 1976; *For All We Know*, 1976; *The Sky Travellers*, 1977; *History of Playing Cards*, 1977; *Woman's Wit*, 1978; *The Plantin Press*, 1978; *Mother Goose*, 1978; *Early Woodcuts and Engravings*, 1979; *Hesperides*, 1979; *Heraldic Bookplates*, 1979; *Jim Wolf and the Cats* (Mark Twain), 1979; *T.E. Lawrence and FinePrinting*, 1980. Additionally, there are 16 full page illustrations depicting some facet of most of the books.

The third section of this little "book about books" consists of 17 pages (including a photo reproduction of Frank E. Irwin) of partial biographical treatment of the Irwin and their press. Also included are 15 tributes to Frank Irwin from the following collectors of miniature books: Joan Wickham, Jane Conneen, May Olson, Esther Beamer, Alene Potter, Kevin Bochynski, Charlotte Smith, Rob Schoonover, Coleman McGehee, Frank Anderson, Frances Dunn, Julia Wightman, Harold McCuen, William Dale Rudy and Royce Gale.

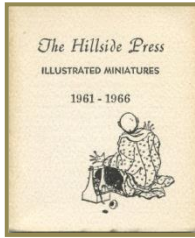
To this list, permit me to add my own name for I too, have gained knowledge from reading The Hillside Press miniature books. Lastly, in my correspondence with both Frank and Eleanor, they were true giants in the field of miniature books. A book about books.

There you have it!



BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS: THE HILLSIDE PRESS, 1961 - 1970 by James M Brogan

I am a relative new comer to the world of miniature books and can never add any 'real life' stories about Frank E. Irwin and The Hillside Press as presented by Mr. Robert Hanson. He is one of the



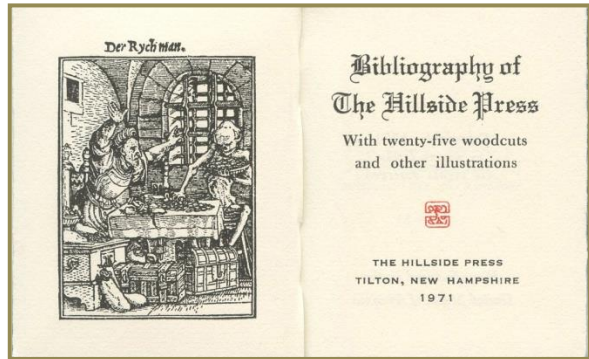
deans of miniature books. Since this issue is featuring books about books there are two additional tiny tomes that I do want to mention from The Hillside Press.

The first is a small paper covered booklet, 2 3/8" x 2", this booklet outlines the illustrated miniatures produced by the press between 1961 and 1966, however, it is not a bibliography as such. The cover drawing, for this booklet is by Hokusai, one of the world's greatest artists and illustrators. The

publisher utilized a glossy paper to highlight the fine lines of the illustration examples contained within.

The second additional item about The Hillside Press is the first 'Bibliography of The Hillside Press', 1961 - 1970. A traditionally hardbound with green cloth book, measuring 2 3/8" x 2", included also, a gilt image on the cover as well as the title imprinted on the spine. The preface of this book was also written by Robert E.

Massmann, the opening paragraph says it all; "The production of another miniature is always a joyous occasion for those who either collect or print the elusive treasures which the late Walter Hart Blumenthal of beloved memory called *les microbes des livres*". The bibliography is presented in four major sections: The preface, the miniatures created by the press, additional books and catalogues, and lastly reviews and contemporary commentary. Included as well are 25 woodcuts and illustrations from the published works. A book about books. 📖



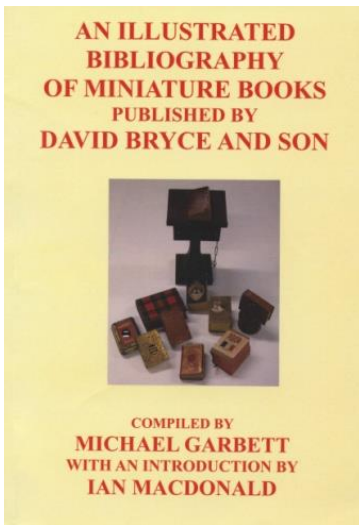
BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS:

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MINIATURE BOOKS PUBLISHED BY DAVID BRYCE AND SON,

Compiled by Michael Garbett and published by The Final Score

In the world of miniature books, the name of David Bryce & Son often comes to light. The firm of both publishers and booksellers, which was based in Glasgow, Scotland, was a world famous source for an extraordinary number of miniature books in many different editions. Michael Garbett, an antiquarian bookseller for 30 years, based in Almondsbury, S. Glos. England has created a wonderful bibliography to help collectors as well as booksellers sort out the various volumes and editions produced by Bryce and Son.

Louis W. Bondy has described David Bryce and Son as the most prolific and successful makers of miniature books in the world. Yet until this bibliography was created, a detailed checklist of their publications was not in existence. The book is soft-bound, 8 1/4" x 5 3/4", certainly not a miniature but affording the reader ample 'page space' for the many picture examples of various



books which are included. There are 52 pages filled with many details about David Bryce and Sons.

The book is divided into several major sections which include, but is not limited to the:

- *The Thumb Series*
- *The Finger Post Series*
- *Bibles*
- *The Midget Series*
- *The Ellen Terry Series*
- *The Tartan Series*

The bibliography is an excellent research and reference volume that belongs in everyone's library. The book is published by Stephen Byrne and his Final Score. *The Microbibliophile* is proud to be the publisher's agent for sales of this fine bibliography. The price is \$15.00, including postage, payable via a US check or certainly through PayPal. Contact information through our regular publication information as noted on our inside front cover. A book about books. 📖

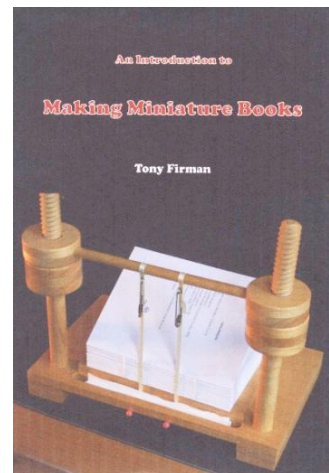
BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS: AN INTRODUCTION TO MAKING MINIATURE BOOKS

By Tony Firman

Here is another book that everyone associated with miniature books that everyone should have on their shelf. Tony Firman has created a wonderful guide which takes the reader through the process intricacies of binding a miniature book. *An Introduction to Making Miniature Books* is a soft cover volume, 8" x 5 1/2" and 80 pages just loaded with example illustrations, very clear explanations, and photos which explain each step of the process.

Starting with a brief introduction defining the components of a book as well as the specialized equipment that is required, the reader is moved through such subject sections as 'Creating the Signatures', sewing and gluing, 'Trimming the Bookblock', 'Rounding and Backing', 'Making the Hard Case', and 'Casing-in the Bookblock'. Also included are a terrific glossary and a list of resources which include additional books, supplies, and even websites.

Two sections are my favorites. The first explains the process of trimming the bookblock, probably because I am a woodworker and to trim the bookblock you use a tool called a plough, sort of a



distant cousin of a wood plane. My other favorite section defines and explains the particulars of ‘casing in the bookblock’. An easy book to follow through the process or to just use it as a reference volume depending on your skill level as a binder.

Tony Firman also manufactures a complete line of the specialized tools and jigs that are explained in the book. The book is available from Tony Firman, \$40, plus \$5 shipping. A book about books. 📖

Contact Information: Tony Firman, PO Box 507, Hazlet, TX 76052-4617, E-mail tonyfirman@earthlink.net or www.TonyFirmanbookbinding.com

MEET THE COLLECTOR: Jerry Bartholomew

Hello, my name is Jerry Bartholomew, I live in Carson City, NV. I have been a collector of miniature books for about 21 years. I am mostly interested in miniature books that are part of the Mark Twain genre. I am also a new member of the Miniature Book Society. My first miniature book was *The War Prayer*. I was living in Seattle in the 1990’s, and the Tabula Rasa Press was in Old Town Seattle. On a visit one day, as I browsed around the shop displays, I came to a glass counter with a smiling lady behind it. Looking through the glass, I was drawn to the dull sheen of maroon leather and the bright glitter of a gilt-stamped sword on the cover of a small book. Then I saw the title and knew it was by Mark Twain.

The War Prayer was not new to me. John Groth had published an illustrated edition in the 1960s as an anti-war polemic. It became very popular. I asked the woman if I could see the miniature book. As she placed it on the glass counter top, I admired the book at close range. She invited me to pick it up and look through it. As I moved the book slightly in the light, the sword glittered. The woman said I should turn the pages and see the inside pages. I very carefully opened the covers and gently allowed the pages to spread. Although it was tightly bound, there were three gathers, and the pages seemed to naturally open into those groups. I could see the stitching holding them to the spine. The craftsmanship was very fine. The maroon paisley design endpapers blended perfectly with the leather cover. Thumbing through the pages, I was stunned again by the black & white illustrations from what looked like woodcuts by Andi Rusu. These dozen miniature works of art depict the horrors of war. Reaching the end of the book, I came to the Colophon page; it included the signature of John Lathourakis, the owner of Tabula Rasa Press. Needless to say; I was ‘captured’ and purchased the book. I was so pleased to now be the owner of this magnificent miniature book, that I could not imagine a more pleasant experience in a bookshop, I consider this one of my greatest ‘finds’.

However, not long after this purchase, my relationship with Tabula Rasa Press would continue. My thrill of owning *The War Prayer* had stimulated my interest in miniature Twain books. Living in Seattle, I had combed the dozen or so used book stores in the area and bought 6 or 8 more Twain miniature books. As a new collector, and somewhat naïve, I was certain I now had nearly all there were!

Coincidentally, around this time, I also attended a Mark Twain collecting class offered by the late Nick Karanovich who taught the week long class at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Indiana. Early one afternoon, as this class of 8 or 9 “Twainiacs,” as we called ourselves, readied for the next lecture, Nick positioned a cigar box on the table in a very imposing manner which got all our attentions. Indelibly associated with Twain, this cigar box peeked our interest instantly. “How many miniature books are inside?” Nick asked us. Now, with my recent experience with Twain mini-books, I felt sure I knew the answer. This was on the honor system, so we just wrote the answer in our notebooks and waited. I quickly wrote “10” in mine, and sat back with a self-satisfied smile on my face. At 4:30 PM, we finally learned the answer. Nick opened the box and removed the miniature books. I was completely amazed as I watched him carefully place them on the table. Several titles were familiar to me; however, as Nick kept pulling books from the box, I realized two things. First, I was way off on my guess; and, second, there was at least one Twain mini-book he did not have. The final count on Nick’s miniature book collection was 32! Wow! I thought. I really have some work to do! After we all discussed our guesses and looked over the collection, I asked him one question. “Do you have *The War Prayer* from Tabula Rasa Press?” His answer was ‘no’. Now I knew exactly how I could thank him for the wonderful week of Twainiana.

I returned home to Seattle and immediately called the Tabula Rasa Press. Did they have another copy I could purchase? I was sure that I was speaking with that same smiling lady whom I met there before. She said yes, and I beamed with satisfaction knowing how pleased Nick would be when I sent it to him. But, she said, it is unbound and it would take about four weeks to bind the volume. Nick greatly appreciated the copy of *The War Prayer*.

As you can see I enjoy most collecting miniature books that focus on the genre of Mark Twain. One of my favorite booksellers is MacDonnell Rare Books, Kevin is a Twain specialist. The holy grail of miniature books for me would be the miniature book about Mark Twain, by Frank Powers, *A Discourse on Women*, Rochester, NY 1931. If I could offer a new collector a brief piece of advice I would say to focus on some aspect of life that peaks your interest. Maybe it is Mark Twain, or miniature books with postage stamps, dogs, trains, or cookbooks. There is a big world in miniature books, ‘follow your passion’, start your journey, cross the next bridge. 📖

Contact information: Jerry Bartholomew, 1655 Windridge Dr. Carson City, NV 87706
E-mail jerrybartholomew@att.net

MEET THE COLLECTOR: Bettina Mead

Like all children, miniature things fascinated my older sisters and me. We each had our own little collections. My favorite things being mostly dogs and horses at that age.

We grew up living on a ranch in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The house was a large adobe home with very thick uneven walls and many very uneven, different shaped and interesting niches. It was told by the elderly Isleta Indian who worked for us, Augustine Olguin, that the builders of the home, Mr. and Mrs. Eddy, were from Boston and owners of the *Boston Globe*.



Augustine helped build the house as a teenager and said Mrs. Eddy would go through the house using her lipstick as a pencil marking the walls where she wanted niches. I was intrigued by that and could imagine a strong-willed, tall woman with dark brown hair, brandishing a red lipstick, barking orders at Augustine and the other teenage workers while she drew on my mama's walls! Oh Boy!, Mrs. Eddy was in TROOUBLE! (sic) We will never know if that story was true or not, but I do know, I never look at a niche without thinking of that house in Albuquerque.

Our mother was very loving and generous, so between the Kachina Dolls and the Indian pottery, we displayed our miniature collections in the niches throughout the house. Unfortunately, we all grew up but our collections stayed intact. Including miniature books.

I have been a volunteer at the Bay County Public Library for twenty-five years, now I'm an employee of the Northwest Regional Library System. We are an eight-library system covering three counties in North Florida. The headquarters is in Panama City, Florida. After forty years of being part of a consortium, four years ago we became a County "department." At that time, we relocated to a new building. Part of my wonderful job is arranging all programming, including exhibits. Each fall I host a serious exhibit, the first year during the presidential elections the exhibit was from Duke University about American Voting Rights, Responsibilities and Freedoms. The following exhibit was a soul-searching photo display about the Holocaust. In November, I always switch to more light hearted, festive programming through the holiday season. Therefore, in 2007 I began to search for the perfect, wonderful exhibit in our new spectacular library building.

To my delight, I was thrilled to find the Miniature Book Society Traveling Exhibit. It would be perfect. There was no charge except for shipping, a public library's dream come true...if only they would say "yes". I took a deep breath, picked up the phone and called Jim Brogan. I was so nervous and afraid he would say 'no'. Guess what? He said, 'Yes, the schedule is open, we can ship the exhibit to your library'! I was so excited I printed the material from the website and ran around the Library telling everyone about our holiday exhibit - one year from now!

During the opening night reception we had a flute and harp concert. Along with the Miniature Book Society collection was a one evening showing of miniature art as well. It was a beautiful event.




On an average day, one thousand patrons come through the library doors. The collection was placed in the main corridor leading to the Adult Services area. Everyone was able to stop for a moment and enjoy. It was because of that wonderful exhibit that I began to start miniature book collecting again. However, this time I would be collecting miniature cookbooks to accompany my many hundred "normal" sized cookbook collection. Most important, I have been purchasing books to give to my granddaughters at every gift-giving occasion. With the help of bookseller and MBS member Karen Nyman, the children will have a lovely collection by the time they become young adults. Thank you



Karen for all your TLC and making the recommendations to me. I have never been disappointed.

I am so pleased and grateful once again to announce that the MBS Exhibit will return to Florida for the 2011 holiday exhibit. There will be many new people viewing the exhibit with friends and family. Over the years, the library has become a destination location for other interests beside checking out books and getting on the computers. I am very proud of that.

I would love to hear from *The Microbibliophile* readers. Bettina Mead, POB 1285, Panama City, FL 32402. 

Editor's Note: top left photograph: Bettina Mead and Michele Dahl, Michele is the mother of the two collectors; Gwenth and Charlotte, two and three years old respectively. They enjoy the children's collection displayed throughout their home--but not in niches drawn with red lipstick! Bottom right; Gwenth, and bottom left; Charlotte, future MBS members, Microbibliophile readers, and well informed cooks.

MEET THE PUBLISHER/LETTERING ARTIST:

Margaret Challenger


Editor's Note: Included as part of or special issue about Irish books, we reviewed a book titled, *St. Patrick's Gaelic Blessing*, published by Margaret Challenger. Our original intent was to have the publisher provide the background information about the book, what inspired its creation, how it was made, all of those 'behind the scenes' pieces of information that add so much to a review. I was unable to make contact with Margaret before the issue went to press, however, we have gotten in touch with Margaret and I am glad to present you with her article about *St. Patrick's Gaelic Blessing* as well as some additional information about Margaret and her ongoing work as a publisher.

St. Patrick's Gaelic Blessing was made in 2000, so my comments are in retrospect. The subject called for an Irish script, so UNCIAL was used. My calligraphic training covered many scripts, layout and design, including the use of rubber stamps, postage stamps, and art. The bird images in the book are from the *Book of Kells*, 8th c. manuscript. Many manuscripts of antiquity are reproduced in books, and I have managed to gather a useful library of such resources. Historic subjects are a good source of subjects for miniature books, however research and editing is a key component of success.

St. Patrick's book form allows pages to be pulled out for easier reading and to appreciate layout and design. Quotations are kept intact and the book design accommodates them: such as my book of St. Patrick's Breastplate; where a dollhouse size book, inserted in the cover, displayed part of the text. I always use artist quality papers, so that they do not bleed the ink as well as their ability to fold firmly. The inks are also permanent and waterproof. Sometimes the piece will be photocopied to ensure that no smudges will occur, but this cannot be done on thicker papers.

Cover design is chosen after the pages are complete, using Japanese papers, cardstock, or my decorated papers over boards. There are many book forms that can be adapted to miniature books. So work begins with an interesting text, sometimes at the request of clients. Then planning, sizing, choice of tools and materials, and many 'roughs' put it into final form. Ideas may change during the process. Then a trial piece, to visualize the layout and to correct or change wording to best fit the pages, this is also where I may use artwork or postage stamps. Then comes the lengthy work of 20 copies of the final design, including bindings and covers. If the book proves to be popular and

all copies sell, it might be wise to produce a second edition, maybe with some different materials. However, new subjects and ideas abound, so it is more interesting to go on to another.

I have produced about 50 miniature books over a five-year period between 1998 -2003 and I am now picking up my hobby again. My granddaughter, Sarah, likes to write stories, so we have made some of these into miniatures with copies for her friends. I am currently working on a full size book, 'The History of Ireland in Stamps' which utilizes many postage stamps to highlight the text but this does require a lot of research. Some of this work may be useful as a source for a future miniature book. I have just started working on a new miniature about a British rail line, The Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Light Railway. So subjects may be historic or modern, with lettering style to match. 

Contact Information: Margaret Challenger, 770 Downview Crescent, Oshawa L1H – 7W3, Ontario, Canada, e-mail marg@bell.net

THE SMALL WORLD of MARK TWAIN: by Jerry Bartholomew

Editor's Note: Jerry Bartholomew is a new member of the Miniature Book Society as well as a new subscriber of 'The Microbibliophile'. His essay about Mark Twain and miniature books will be presented in four installments beginning with this issue and then our next three issues. I hope you enjoy reading each installment of the essay as much as I have, Jerry is a real Twainiac.

Miniature books are beautiful works of art and instill a joy at least as great, if not more, than do rare first edition full-sized books. These small handsome creations are generally hand-made, one-by-one, each maybe slightly different from the others in the 'press run'. Artistic bindings, hand painted artwork, signed and numbered colophon pages also add to the creative energy released by these wonders of human creation. Miniature books deserve respect. Consideration should be given to placing them on the top shelf along with all great literary works of art. Part 1 and Part 2 of my essay deal with the 'primary works' of Mark Twain, those which are his original works, some new and some previously published, all of which can at least be considered "firsts," including complete stories, articles, letters, and excerpts from his work. The first two parts of my essay are detailed with miniatures from my collection published between 1962 and 2010. Part 3 and Part 4 of my essay deal with the expansion of the primary Twain work and provides subject examples of my miniatures that are related to the Twain genre. These examples include people, comets, printing, the West, and cigars. What would a good discussion about Mark Twain be without some mention of cigars? Lastly, I provide my research information as well as my conclusion and closing remarks.

Now let's get to the books!

PART 1: 1962 – 1984

“The Shame is Ours:” Mark Twain on Racism: 2010, Cyclone Books, I cannot imagine a greater thrill while embarking on a discussion of Mark Twain miniature books than to discover a newly published one relative to the topic. This miniature book includes a facsimile of a letter dated Dec. 24, 1885 in which Twain wrote to Yale University Dean Francis Wayland offering financial aid to a black law student named Warner T. McGuinn.

Bound handsomely in tan cloth over boards, this miniature book has marbled end papers and portraits of both Twain and McGuinn. Caroline Brandt, publisher, includes a brief biography of McGuinn, a short defense of racism charges against Twain, and prints a facsimile of the hand-written letter. The colophon page describes the paper, type set, printing, and binding.

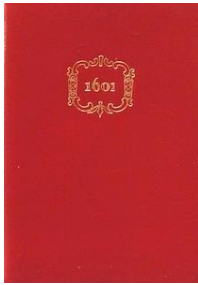
Twain had met McGuinn during a visit to Yale and was impressed by his scholarly abilities. Concerned that McGuinn would not be able to finish law school while working three jobs to survive, Twain offered his assistance.

“I do not believe I would very cheerfully help a white student ... but I do not feel so bad about the other color. We have ground the manhood out of them, & the shame is ours, not theirs, & we should pay for it.”

Professor Shelly Fisher Fishkin, Yale University Twain scholar, recounts the discovery of the letter in her 1997 book, Lighting Out for the Territory. She received a call one evening from a woman in New Haven, Connecticut, who claimed to “have a letter Mark Twain wrote that nobody knows about yet.” Professor Fishkin immediately arranged to meet the woman and was allowed to borrow the letter to verify its authenticity.

All these events are very relevant to the ongoing discussion of racism in *Huck Finn* the book and in Mark Twain the person. Twain was using the accepted vernacular of his day. Attempts to “clean up” *Huck Finn* ...one recent scholar actually replaced the “N” word with “slave” ... have existed since the novel was first published. From its being banned from the library in Twain’s own city, to the actual expurgation of the “N” word by a noted Twain scholar, the heated debate continues today. The evidence in the letter not only exonerates Twain from any charge of racism, but also displays his over-willingness to atone for racist acts of others by financially aiding a Negro in college. This was not his only ‘good faith’ gesture. The fact that so many people think he was racist illustrates the point of just how misunderstood his biting irony and use of the Negro dialect were at the time.

I began my essay by describing the most recent Mark Twain miniature book because the newness and the subject matter greatly excited me. However, now I will go back to the earliest Twain miniature book I have and continue the discussion from there. When you consider the artwork, introductions, artistic bindings, and colophon pages, which many times are signed and numbered by the author or artist, it becomes evident that these miniature books contain new material. By this definition, then, they can be deemed new first miniature editions.



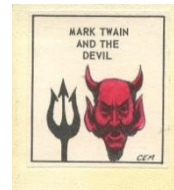
1601:1962, Black Cat Press, this volume is the earliest Mark Twain miniature book in my collection. This is a beautiful little book! A red leather cover with gold lettering is highlighted with all gilt edges plus red and gold floral endpapers. A black & white frontispiece illustration depicts the racy Victorian parlor scene, which is the subject of the book. The title page of this scatological story is also red and black, and prints the full title of this unique Twain piece: “1601 or Conversation at the Social Fireside as it was in the Time of the Tudors.” The format is that of the 1939 edition of Irvin Haas, including his introduction and list of reprints. There is no colophon page.

1601 is a hilarious tale of the Victorian era that includes such ribald subjects as flatulence, loss of virginity, and bishops attempting to rape young maidens! Its use of several “four-letter-words” to depict body parts and a sexual act still causes uproar, even today. No story of Twain’s has been reprinted in so many different formats. There is no doubt that the reprinting was done in order to avoid use of his original language by substituting more innocent words, or even by just leaving a blank space in the text, as one edition did.

In 1974, The Indiana Kid Press published an edition of *1601*. Titled simply “1601” on the front cover, and “Conversation 1601” on the spine, this edition was only 40 copies and is very rare today. Light grey paper over boards with black lettering on the spine complements the blue illustration on the cover depicting three of the participants in the “Conversation.” On the title page, it reads “Twain’s 1601,” and the colophon lists the printer as “The Presse of the Indiana Kidde,” keeping with the Olde English style of the text. In addition, this edition is unexpurgated, leaving the correct terms in the text for anatomical body parts and sexual functions.



A Mark Twain Turnover: 1972 by Robert E. Massmann, published as REM in the world of miniature books. It is one of the most cleverly designed and fabricated items I have ever seen. The “Turnover” refers to the design of the book. Two different stories are printed: one from each side of the book. The first story is “Advice for Good Little Girls,” taken



from the 1867 book “The Celebrated Jumping Frog.” The second is “Mark Twain and the Devil” from an 1899 *Harper’s Magazine*. As an added treat, a pop-up green frog, complete with belly full of buckshot, emerges from the center of the book. Simulated newspaper stories flank the frog, telling of the event. All this is enclosed by a slipcase picturing the frog and printing the book’s title.

The “Advice” story is not too popular. It appeared in the magazine “Youths’ Companion” during Twain’s San Francisco days. It is a sarcastic, humorous piece offering behavior advice for children. Twain also wrote one addressed to boys. The “Devil” story is rather simplistic, and in it, Twain discusses his lack of prejudice against anyone, even the Devil. He concludes with “I would rather see him and shake him by the tail than any other member of the European court.”

The colophon page states: “Published by Robert E. Massmann, New Britain, Connecticut, U. S. A. 1972. Limited to 250 copies”.

Mark Twain on Horseback: 1978 by The Press of Ward Schori and written by Caroline Harnsberger, this Twain miniature book claims to have previously unpublished material. Bound in brown leatherette with gilt decorations on the cover and spine, there are numerous cartoons and illustrations throughout the book, including the red endpaper drawings depicting Twain struggling to control a donkey or a horse. This is a retelling of Twain's experiences with horses as he related them in works such as *Roughing It* and *Letters from Hawaii*. The author recounts some domestic experiences in Hartford after Twain bought a donkey for his girls. Many direct quotes are used, but not identified as previously unpublished material.

Jim Wolf and the Cats: published in 1979 by Kevin Bochynski of The Hillside Press. This Twain tale is said to be the first humorous story Twain ever told. The book itself is quite simple; all black and white with a binding of decorative cloth over boards. A motif of black cats parades over the end papers and across the pages while Mark Twain tells his story and then details how it evolved over the years. A single white cat, along with one black cat, graces the front cover and the frontispiece. There is a brief introduction by Kevin Bochynski.

As the pages unfold, the reader is introduced to Jim Wolf who was a seventeen-year-old boy that came to stay with the Clemens' family in 1848 when Samuel himself was about 13 or 14. Jim was very shy around girls and not only could he not speak to them, he was too bashful to even move! Thus, Twain begins the story. He eventually tells the cat story and its history. The end page note explains how the book was printed, and a Colophon lists the number of books printed.

The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County: 1979, published by Borrower's Press in Winterport, Maine by Jane Bernier. It features brown leather binding with gilt trim and lettering and simply says "Mark Twain" on the spine. At a mere 9/16th inch by 13/16th inch tall and 51 pages in length, it is one of the tiniest miniature books I have. I cannot read this book without a magnifier; however, when viewed this way, the clarity and sharpness of the words are striking. A multi-color frontispiece of Mark Twain is equally dazzling. The colophon states, "This book was printed at the Borrower's Press in January 1979. It is limited to 300 numbered, signed copies."

A Mark Twain Sampler: 1980, a paperback miniature book printed by the Lime Rock Press, is comprised of "Huckleberry Finn" excerpts with line drawings by Catryna Ten Eyck. The cover is handmade paper and has been designed and colored to evoke the flowing of river water. A continuous line drawing also flows from page to page illustrating various scenes along the river. The mood thus created is extremely pastoral.

The excerpts discuss various topics like property rights, being a gentleman, and undertakers. Only near the end does it get philosophical with subjects like conscience and guilt. This mini-book avoids the race issue completely, does not use the "N" word, and is designed to be calming and gentle. The work was originally issued as a Christmas keepsake, and the designer surely wanted to avoid controversial issues.

Quoted from the Colophon: “One thousand and one copies of this volume were published by Lime Rock Press Inc., Salisbury, Connecticut 06068 as a Christmas keepsake for 1980. The text was set by computerized photocomposition in 6 point Palatino Roman at Camp Hill Pennsylvania, and was printed by offset lithography at Ann Arbor, Michigan, on 60 lb. acid-free Warren’s “66” natural wove paper.”

Mark Twain Loved Cats: 1981, published by The Press of Ward Schori and written by Caroline Harnsberger, this book contains previously unpublished material, cartoons and photos of Twain’s cats, Twain’s artwork, and footnotes for the author’s quotes. Most likely, the cartoons and cat drawings were done by Twain. Grey paper over boards, it has a cover decoration of a gold cat.

Mark Twain: Printed in 1981 by Barbara Rehab at the Pennyweight Press. This very small mini book measures just $\frac{5}{8}$ ” by $\frac{7}{8}$ ” inches. Very nice in blue leather with gilt title and decorations, it has marbled endpapers and a frontispiece of Twain. The book has excerpts from various Twain writings. Difficult to read even with a magnifier, this book includes sections from novels and stories such as “Roughing It” and “Huck Finn.”

How I Edited an Agricultural Paper: 1982, a publication of The Scott Free Press, it reprints an 1870 Twain story that was first published in the *Galaxy Magazine* during his Buffalo, New York days, when he edited the *Express*. Brown pictorial end papers depict contemporary farm scenes, and the pages are trimmed in green wheat and corn stalks.

An introduction by Duane C. Scott and a colophon page in the back provide much information concerning the subject matter and the printing technique of the book, which is the first miniature from The Scott Free Press.

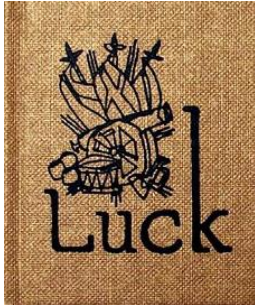
This story is burlesque, ridiculous, and very funny. Twain, who is filling in for the vacationing regular editor, confuses all manners of crops and farming techniques. “Turnips should never be pulled ... send a boy up to shake the tree,” and “The guano is a fine bird ...” are samples of the humor. It is well worth reading. Twain gets in even deeper when, after being called on his errors, he attempts to explain further. When the editor returns and finds out what has happened and castigates Twain for his errors, Twain replies, “I have been in the editorial business fourteen years and this is the first time I have ever heard of a man having to know anything to edit a newspaper.”

A deluxe copy with a leather spine was also printed in the same format, but an $\frac{1}{8}$ inch shorter, and using Mohawk Superfine paper instead of Stratford.

Mark Twain’s Adam’s Diary: 1983, The Lime Rock Press printed this most famous work of Mark Twain in blue cloth-covered boards with gilt lettering on the front cover. Illustrations by Catryna Ten Eyck include a snake slithering on the front endpapers; and then, on the rear end papers it is coiled to strike. Line drawings or woodcuts of other animals appear throughout the book. The book comes in a tan felt bag with a drawstring, resembling an ore pouch, symbolizing an old quarry near the press.

This miniature book contains only the final section of the larger translation, as Twain called it, of “Adam’s Diary,” which appeared in the 1900 story collection “The Man who Corrupted Hadleyburg and Other Stories.” Beginning with the birth of Cain, the mini-story describes how Adam reacts to the birth of his first offspring. The publisher calls it one of the gems of American literary humor.

Colophon: Published as a labor of love by Lime Rock Press. The regular edition, limited to 100 copies, is numbered 1 to 100. Next is a description of the printing, the paper, and the binding, done by Barbara Blumenthal. The deluxe edition of 25 copies is numbered I to XXV.



Luck: 1984, The Press of Ward Schori, in Evanston, Illinois, produced the first book printing of this Mark Twain war story, which had appeared in Harper’s Magazine in 1891. Gold decorative cloth with black lettering and artwork showing cannon and other battle paraphernalia on the cover, plus top edge gilt, make this a very attractive miniature book. Immediately we know it deals with military matters!

Three black and white woodcuts by Robert J. Wahlgren garnish this story of a military commander who rises to fame through a series of blunders that his superiors interpret as military genius. In typical fashion, Twain denies all responsibility for the story by claiming he got it from a clergyman who vouched for its truth. The last page states, “This edition has been limited to 199 copies.”

Mark Twain Complements the President's Wife: 1984, published by Anne and David Bromer, this Twain miniature book was issued in the regular binding and the deluxe binding. The main difference is the addition of color to the illustrations and use of very handsome leather instead of cloth binding in the deluxe version.

The introduction explains how the Bromers discovered this Twain piece in an actual autograph book which was prepared for presentation to President Grover Cleveland’s wife. The colophon for the regular edition has 147/200, the deluxe edition states XXXVIII on the colophon.

Mark Twain and Birds: 1984, The Press of Ward Schori in Evanston, Illinois published this miniature book, which was written by Carolyn Harnsberger. It was issued in the regular edition in blue cloth and in a deluxe copy with blue leather. A silver engraved plaque decorates the cover, and a Blue Jay stamp serves as a frontispiece. With line drawings throughout, this is similar to her other books and includes annotated quotes from Twain’s works. 📖

Editor’s Note: Jerry would love to hear from your feedback and comments concerning Mark Twain and this special genre of miniature books.

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PREVIEWS for *The Microbibliophile*:

November, 11/01/2011 Feature Theme, 'Holiday Books'

January, 01/01/2012, Feature Theme, 'Children's Books'

March, 03/01/2012, Microbibliophile readers, send me your thoughts and Ideas



PUBLICATIONS EXCHANGED:

Book Source Magazine, September/October, Volume 27, Issue Number 6, great little magazine with all sorts of 'book news including many articles as well as news about auctions', contact information: Book Source Magazine, PO Box 567, Cazenovia, NY, 13035, E-mail: bsm@windstream.net, or www.booksourcemagazine.com

GET THE INK READY: Start the Presses

Stephen Byrne, publisher of the Final Score has let us know that he is working on a new miniature, a humorous little piece by Thomas Hood describing the nature of an Irishman, no publication date announced as yet but we will let you know as soon as we hear about the details.



Tony Firman, publisher of the Plum Park Press will have a new 2011 holiday book, ready for purchase and delivery by October 2011. The title of the book is *Old Christmas*, by Washington Irving, illustrated by Randolph Caldecott, traditional book format, two volume set, the 2nd volume is a blank book that can be used as an ornament or keepsake, 3" x 2 1/8", \$65, contact information included with miniature book reviews, this issue.

Muriel Underwood, publisher of Miscellaneous Graphics, as we noted in our last issue, is doing the preliminary work on a miniature book that will enlighten us about railroads.

DID YOU KNOW:

Charles Lummis printed his poems on real birch bark in the 1880's and sold them to tourists.

Teddy Roosevelt bought one as a gift for his little sister.

Miniature Books: 4,000 Years of Tiny Treasures (Abrams, 2007)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Cleveland Antiquarian Book Fair, Cleveland, OH, October 2,
www.nobs.nobsweb.org

Seattle Antiquarian Book Fair and Book Arts Show, Seattle Center
Exhibition Hall, Seattle, WA - Oct. 8-9

Albany Antiquarian Book Fair, Albany, NY, October 23

Oxford Fine Press Book Fair, Oxford Brookes University - Nov. 5-6

35th Annual Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair, Hynes
Convention Center, Boston, MA November 11-13

13th Books-Alive Book Festival, sponsored by the Bay Area County
Library partnering with Florida State University and the Gulf Coast State
College, Panama City, FL. February 10 - 11th, 2012. Contact information: Bettina Mead ,
Marketing Director, The Northwest Regional Library System, e-mail: bmead@nwrls.com

The MBS Conclave XXX, Asheville, North Carolina, (October 2012), details to be announced



CATALOGUES RECEIVED:

Karen Nyman Book Seller, Catalogue #33, approx. 101 items offered, many color illustrations, distributed via e-mail, hard copy available upon request, 702 Rosecrans Street, San Diego, CA 92106-3013, E-mail: karennyman2@cox.net

Tracy Bradbury Miniature Books, Catalogue #58, 16 pages, 201 miniature items offered , including 8 additional reference books, black and white presentation with several fine illustrations, all books organized by press name, Brooklyn, NY, E-mail: bradburyminibooks@gmail.com

Lux Mentis, Aiden Jonas Kahn, Bookseller, August 2011, 22 pages, 166 miniature items offered, black and white presentation, distributed electronically, books organized by author name, E-mail: ian@luxmentis.com

If you do not already get a copy of these great catalogues contact the booksellers directly, they will be more than happy to send one along to you.

CLASSIFIED WISH LISTS:

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

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

Katherine Bakunas is looking for the printed (original paper) 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 information: karennyman2@cox.net or call 619-226-4441.

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

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

Gail Curry is looking for several different books. In particular, she is looking for 10 miniature books from the Ghost River Press in Tucson, AZ, ca. 1992, as well as *Christmas Market: A Miniature Anthology* by A. L. Shearn, Ember Press, in Surrey, England, 1958, *The Practical Handbook of Bee Culture...*, *The Three Pipes Press of Graphics I*, in Racine, Wi, 1980 and the *Booklover's Calendar 2003*, *Kitemaug Press*.. Contact information: curry.gail@att.net or call 913.681.0459.

Darleen Cordova is looking for the following Andre Kundig books: *Proverbs Bantous* (1956), *Pensees du XVIII siecle* (1976), *Pensees de B. Constant* (1980), *Pensees la Musique* (1981), *Pensees le Vin* (1984) and *Pensees l'Amitie* (1988). Contact information: c.cordova@sbcglobal.net.

Stephen Byrne is looking for two Gleniffer Press books; "*3 Point Gill Titling Catalogue*" and "*Willie Winkie*". The other item on his want list is "*Hillside Press, Illustrated Miniatures 1961-1966*" by Frank E Irwin, Contact information: sb@finalscore.demon.co.uk

Jim Brogan would like to find two volumes from the REM publication; *REM Miniatures, A record and A Sampler*, Volume 3 and Volume 4, 1969, Contact information: Jbrogan1@verizon.net

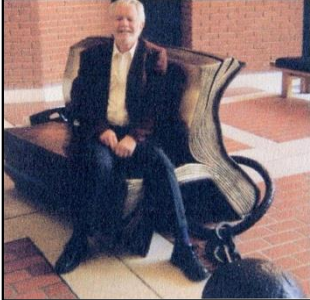
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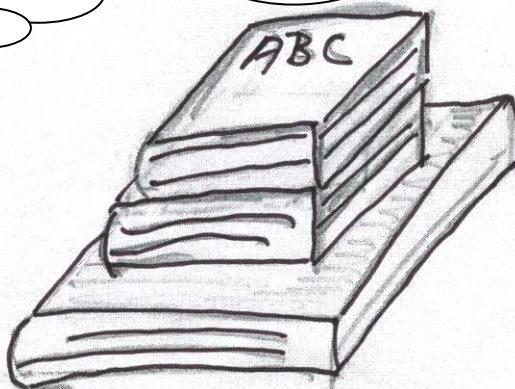
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