

THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE ©

A Bimonthly Journal about Miniature Books and the Book Arts

Vol. XXXIII, Number 4, Issue 190 July 2014



July is the seventh month of the year and is named after Julius Caesar...

'if the first of July be rainy weather, it will rain for four weeks together...'

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Mama and Papa



They married for love. Mama and Papa had little in common and much in common. She was tiny and delicate, he was tall and sturdy. She made fine lace and he was a tailor. Mama's family was prosperous since Grandpapa was a highly regarded merchant in Amsterdam. Papa was an orphan who apprenticed with a tailor but he was a hard worker and would do anything for the young woman he had met on a trip to buy supplies. Mama had been doted upon as a child and was unusually well educated, having spent much time with her older brother Jacob and his tutors. Mama loved Uncle Jacob, who was being groomed to take over the family business, and she would help with assignments given him by their tutor, who ignored the work she did for Uncle Jacob. Her thirst for knowledge helped Uncle because he cared little for books unless they were about travel and adventures but Mama loved to read everything and grandpapa would gift her with beautifully bound books such *Don Quixote* and 'William Shakespeare's plays'. Because he was always seeking adventures and avoided business, Uncle and Grandpapa did not get along. Once out of the schoolroom, Uncle Jacob traveled to other cities and countries for Grandpapa's business. While business bored him, travel did not and Grandpapa's business continued to expand.

Editor's Note: This excellent story is continued on page 10 of this issue.

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Robert F. Hanson, Founder, 1977

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The Microbibliophile

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

James M. Brogan, Editor

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Greetings from the Squeaky Roll Top Desk:

The weather of Spring was certainly a welcome thing for sure. I often read that a very large percentage of people grow vegetable in their home gardens every year. I am not exactly sure what that percentage is or the sizes of the gardens planted but I would guess that it is something like book collecting. Some folks have large gardens with many different things represented and others may concentrate on a few favorites that continue to bring them joy with each harvest. What could be better than a red ripe fresh Jersey tomato? Elaine would show you the basket of the baby cucumbers or a fresh zucchini bread. As with each bibliophile's book collection, there is a bit of something for everyone, always a topic of conversation, priceless!

I received a lot of feedback from the readers about how much they enjoyed the May-June issue. I am glad that we appear to be hitting the mark for subject content, diversity, and everything else that we include in each issue. Special thanks to Gail Curry for her article about Mr. Bondy, it was a hit with everyone that I spoke with. More importantly, when the comments go in the direction of 'I did not know that about Mr. Bondy' or 'you taught me something new' it makes it all the more worthwhile. The subject of 'Antiquarian Books' is part of the ongoing series about book collecting.

Certainly, some collectors focus entirely on antiquarians and other may shy away from them. I hope to give you a good overview and maybe stimulate some interest and comments on the subject.

The Miniature Book Society Grand Conclave XXXII will be held in Boston, Massachusetts this summer. The actual dates are August 15-17, 2014. Be sure to check the expanded list of details as provided on the MBS website, www.mbs.org. I know that transportation today can be 'taxing' both in terms of time, aggravation, and least, not expensive. However, the Conclave is a unique experience and a fun time for everyone who attends. If you have not attended in the past and would like some personal words from someone who certainly looks forward to the event each year, give me a call for a personal 'run through'. The location this year is just bubbling over with 'bookish things' to do as well as many additional activities. As they say in the real estate business, 'location..location..location'.

There are five new miniature books reviews this month, and a special visit with an 'older' miniature book set highlighting some of my favorite work by Charles Dickens. Tony Firman and Mark Palkovic have published new books. Along with Pat Sweet's latest book she also shares some of her other 'bookish' creations. Jill Timm's book comes with some outstanding photos that are 'out of this world'. The 'famous miniature book person' article this month is about Doris Varner Welsh, an outstanding woman. A new addition to our journal is to have a reader select the 'frontispiece' each month and possibly write the accompanying description. Darleen Cordova was 'first at bat' and I hope you like her story and choose to participate. The more eyes, ears, and pens we have the more *The Microbibliophile* becomes your publication.

Please share *The Microbibliophile* with a friend or your librarian, if they like what we offer, I can send them a sample issue as well as a subscription form.

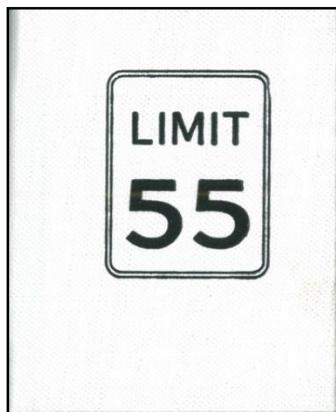
If you would like to submit a review of a favorite book, new or old, or an informative article about a miniature books or a related topic, please do so, I can certainly use your help and the offer is always on the table. My eyes will have a bit of extra sparkle when I open the little brass door of Box 5453, and find your article. Actually electronic docs are easier to handle but whatever is best for you is fine with me. Thank you for the opportunity to bring *The Microbibliophile* into your life. 📖



FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

**“Now I lay me down to sleep. A bunch of books at my feet.
If I should die before I wake, Attribute it to a biblioache.” Frank J. Anderson**

MINIATURE BOOK REVIEWS and CRITICISM:



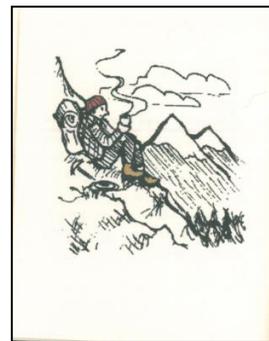
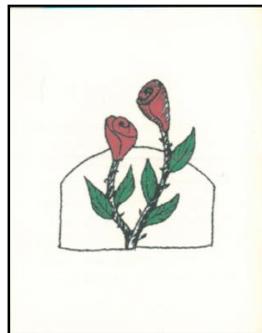
Limit 55, stories by Rick Palkovic, illustrations by Carolyn Palkovic Evans and Tim Palkovic, published by Mark Palkovic, Flying Pig Press, 2014. Yes, this is a miniature tome produced by a most creative family. *Limit 55* is a collection of 26 fiction stories each just 55 words in length. Each story is presented on the recto page while an accompanying illustration is presented on the verso. The illustrations are done as fine line drawings highlighted with complementary colors.

‘The origins of 55 Fiction’ according to the introduction of the tome “was born in 1986 when New Times, an independent alternative weekly newspaper, in San Luis Obispo, California organized a short story writing contest. Steve Moss, the founder

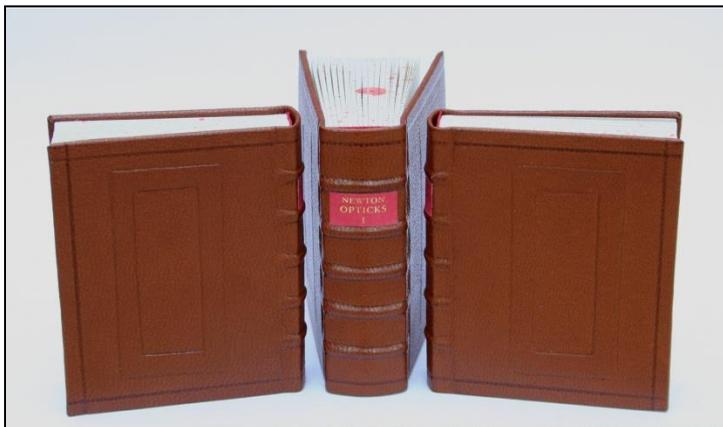
and publisher of the paper, proposed the idea. The contest is an annual event and receives more than a thousand entries globally.”

Limit 55 is a collection of 26 short stories each one more interesting than the previous. The various subjects go from ‘Morning Rites’ (a story about two roses) to ‘Grandpa Jake’, to ‘The Schoolyard’, and ‘Politics’(a story about a little green man who came to visit the group of politicians). My favorite is ‘The Assent’ and it reminded me of my boy scout days hiking in the mountains, later wrapped in a sleeping bag listening to the night winds howl and at the first gray light of dawn, yelling “What’s for breakfast”. Each is a quick read but thought provoking.

The book is beautifully bound in a white cloth material with the title stamped into the front cover as well as the spine. The front cover stamping is in the shape of a ‘highway speed limit sign’. The text is typeset in the Galahad font on a very pale beige paper. Flawless construction, a real gem. The book 2 ½” x 2” contains 59 numbered pages and is available in hardcover for \$30 from the publisher. 📖



Contact information: *The Avid Reader*, 617 2nd St, Davis, CA 95616, telephone 530.758.4040 or www.avidreaderbooks.com



The First Book of Opticks, by Isaac Newton, originally published by the British Royal Society in 1704 and now as a miniature by Plum Park Press.

The original publication of 'Opticks' represented a major contribution to science at the time. 'Opticks' is largely a record of experiments and the deductions made from them, covering a wide range of topics in what was later to be

defined, in the realm of science, as physical optics. 'Opticks' is a study of the nature of light and color and the various phenomena of diffraction, which Newton called the 'inflexion' of light. The major significance of Newton's work is that it overturned the dogma, attributed to Aristotle and accepted by scholars in Newton's time, that 'pure' light (such as the light from the Sun) is fundamentally white or colorless, and is altered into 'a color' by blending with darkness caused by interactions with matter. Newton showed just the opposite was true: light is composed of different spectral hues (he describes seven — red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet), and all colors, including white, are formed by various mixtures of these hues. He demonstrates that color arises from a physical property of light — each hue is refracted at a characteristic angle by a prism or lens — but he clearly states that color is a sensation within the mind and not an inherent property of material objects or of light itself. The original text, as well as this Plum Park edition, includes many illustrations to supplement the discussions.

Quite a collection of science. I always enjoy these topics as they represent the building blocks of our modern sciences. In most cases, these source documents do not generally find their way into a modern classroom.

This miniature book is bound in a medium toned brown goatskin, with the same style of blind tooling on both the front and rear boards. A red label is affixed to the spine, which is presented, as was the original publication with faux raised bands across the spine. The three edges of the paper are speckled with a red ink, which completes the eighteenth century image. The type faces and page layouts of this miniature echo the original publication. The placement of the many illustrations has been included next to the defining text, making it easier for the reader to reference back and forth between the text and illustration. (The original publication grouped all of the illustrations together.)

The text of the 300 page miniature, 3" x 2 1/2", is printed on antique beige French Parchtone paper with a combination of Garmond 7/8 font. As is always the case with a Plum Park publication, the construction quality is of the highest level with attention to every detail. As this is the first of three volumes the 2nd and 3rd will be published, in a matching format, over the next several months. A mahogany bookstand will be provided for the complete three-volume set. Certainly a fine addition to your collection with its leather binding and tooling.

Presented as an edition of 20, each signed and numbered, \$70 plus shipping, contact Tony Firman for availability. 📖

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

Persuasion, by Jane Austen, originally published in 1818 by John Murray, London, jointly with *Northanger Abbey*, and now as a miniature, by Plum Park Press. Tony Firman first introduced the readers of *The Microbibliophile* to Jane Austen miniatures with his publications of *Emma* and *Pride and Prejudice*.

Persuasion is Austen's last completed novel. She began it soon after she had finished *Emma* and completed it in August 1816. She died, at the early age of 41, in 1817; *Persuasion* was published in December of that year (but dated 1818). *Persuasion* is linked to *Northanger Abbey* not only by the fact that the two books were originally bound up in one volume and published together, but also because both stories are set partly in Bath, a fashionable city with which Austen was personally acquainted, having lived there from 1801 to 1805.



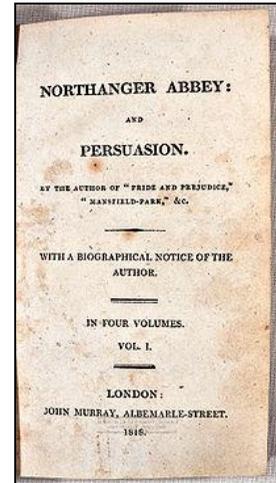
Sir Walter

Anne Elliot, the main character, is the overlooked middle daughter of the vain Sir Walter. Anne's mother, a loving, intelligent woman, is long dead. Anne's older sister, Elizabeth, takes after her father, and her younger sister, Mary, is a nervous, attention-seeking fretful woman. Anne is the 'different person' in the family and her family cannot provide much companionship for the refined girl who is still unmarried at 27. The story progresses from this point into the details and tribulations of life in the 18th century English society. The plot and subplots expand with more and more characters as is preferred by 'Janeites'.

Persuasion consists of two volumes (just like the original), in the same format and typeface (Bulmer 6/7.5) as the two previous Austen books by Plum Park Press. *Persuasion* is bound in dark blue faux leather with red spine labels with gilt lettering. The endpapers feature paintings by C.E. Brock which are related to the story. The Plum Park Press miniature edition consists of 24 copies. Volume I is available now. It consists of 210 pages, and has overall dimensions of 3" x 2 3/16". The price for this volume is \$40 plus \$5 for shipping and handling. Each volume is signed and numbered. Volume II will complete the set and will be the same price. There will also be available, with the two-volume purchase, a decorated slipcase.

Tony Firman is an excellent publisher and binder who produces miniature books of outstanding quality. 📖

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



original title page image

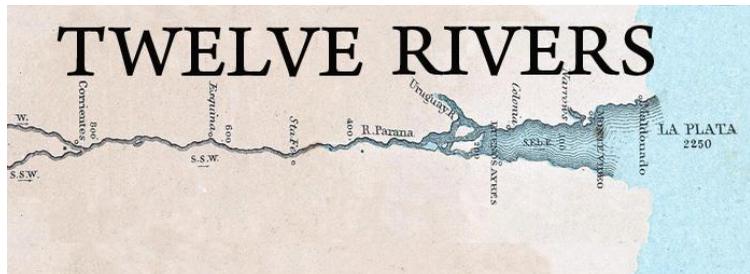


12 Rivers, by Pat Sweet, published by Bo Press Miniature Books, 2014. The data presented in this new miniature was originally presented in the book, *Mountains and Rivers*, by Johnson and Ward in 1864. Information graphics or infographics are graphic visual representations of information, data or knowledge intended to present complex information quickly and clearly. They can improve cognition by utilizing graphics to enhance the human visual system's ability to see patterns and trends. The process of creating infographics can be referred to as data visualization, information design, or information architecture. Everyone has heard the expression 'that a picture is worth a thousand words'.

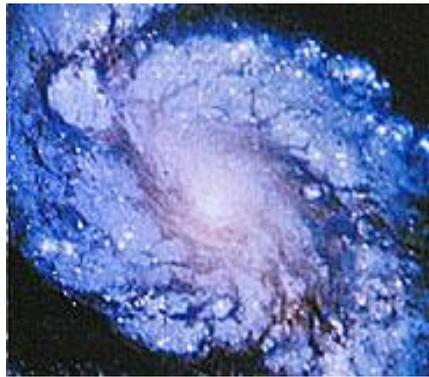
One of the first books that we reviewed from Bo Press was another infographics masterpiece about Napoleon's failed conquest of Russia in the 19th century. 1861 saw the release of an influential information graphic on the subject of Napoleon's disastrous march on Moscow. The graphic's creator, Charles Joseph Minard, captured four different changing variables that contributed to Napoleon's downfall in a single two-dimensional image: the army's direction as they traveled, the locations the troops passed through, the size of the army as troops died from hunger and wounds, and the freezing temperatures they experienced. In the 19th century, everyone was fascinated with these types of illustrations showing the relative length or height of rivers or mountains. The rivers have been straightened out a bit to fit on the page, and to better compare their lengths. *12 Rivers* contains the maps for the 12 longest rivers as originally presented in the Johnson and Ward publication. The rivers included are the Amazon, the Mississippi, the Engisei, the Yang Tse, the Nile, the Hoang Ho, the Obi, the McKenzie, the La Plata, the Burrapooter, the St. Laurence, and the Niger. In today's world of computer-aided tools, infographics are something that can be created with relative ease. However, 150 years ago, the time it took to draw maps like these was incredible. In subsequent years, cartography and linguistics have changed the length and names of some of these rivers, but in 1864, this was state-of-the-art. All of this information is like taking the 'ultimate road trip' for me, but then again maps have to hold a special fascination for you as well.

The book is printed on a Mohawk Superfine paper, 16 unnumbered pages, using the Arno Pro type font. The maps are half-bound into a hardbound book using a gold and brown wavy paper and antiqued gold foil paper. There is a matching belly band and a paper title on the spine. The book is 2 5/8" x 2 7/16". The actual bound cover has a title label affixed on the spine. The front and rear end-papers are composed of a two-page illustration depicting an early 19th century 'touchdown'. \$75, check with Pat for availability and shipping options. 📖

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



Stars, by Jill Timm, published by Mystical Places Press, 2006, Wenatchee, Washington. *Stars* is the seventh book of the 'Nature's Details' series that Jill has published. Jill Timm has certainly produced many fine and outstanding miniature books, this is another representing her appreciation of nature. A true visual experience that is 'out of this world'.



Bright, twinkling, shiny stars; billowy gaseous clouds in radiant colors; stars, nebulae, and galaxies, all up close and personal. The photographs were originally produced by NASA using different techniques that capture colors that are not visible to the human eye.

The cover title is hot foil stamped and the cover paper has mica embedded and micro glitter thermally applied for that extra sparkle. There are 16 different pictures; some are spread across two pages and some in a traditional single page format. The photos are printed using Giclée, a museum quality digital printing process. The book is 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ " x 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ ", assembled with the greatest attention to detail. Limited to an edition of 80, \$70. 📖

Contact information: Jill Timm, Mystical Places Press, 10 Cove Avenue S, #11, Wenatchee, WA 98801-2565
E-mail: jtimm@aol.com or <http://www.mysticalplaces.com>

MAMA and PAPA: Frontispiece Article for *The Microbibliophile*, By C. Darleen Cordova

(Continued from page 2)

My grandparents could deny Mama nothing and begrudgingly approved her marriage to the ambitious young tailor from a neighboring village. As part of her dowry, Grandpapa gave Mama a number of books from his library. We lived outside Amsterdam and Papa's shop provided a comfortable living for our little family. To celebrate my birth, Papa presented Mama with a beautiful little book, *Bloem-Hofje*, which he bartered for with a young printer who needed a new suit. Mama loved to make lace and it was used on many of the garments Papa sold and his business soon prospered.

Many hours were spent around our fireplace listening to Mama read Uncle's letters about his journeys and his desire to go to New Amsterdam. She could read and write in several languages and she imparted her love of books to me. Every evening before bed, she would read aloud a poem or a chapter from one of her prized possessions. On birthdays and Holy Days, Mama and I were always gifted with a little book from Papa, even if he had to barter to do so. I loved to listen to her read and was fascinated by Uncle Jacob's tales of his travels on Grandpapa's behalf. As I grew up, I assumed more responsibility in Papa's shop since Mama's health was delicate. On his trips to the apothecary, Papa was sure to seek out a much desired book to help Mama pass the time convalescing. Soon our small parlor was filled with shelves of books and she would generously loan a visiting neighbor one of her treasures. She even taught our neighbors' children how to read and shared her love of books with everyone. Her generosity was always repaid with sweetmeats and tonics.

When Uncle Jacob had sailed to New Amsterdam, Mama was heartbroken but Papa promised we would also go when her health improved. She could open a book shop! That incentive helped and Mama was soon feeling better. In fact, Mama sent a letter to Samuel Green in Boston regarding his publications. With the passing of my grandparents, and no family left in Amsterdam, we made plans to leave on the next ship. After much discussion, we selected a town that was quickly growing with educational and cultural opportunities, and not too far from Uncle Jacob in New York. Students at Harvard College would need books and we would help supply that need. Papa and I started packing everything we could take, especially all the manuscripts and books Mama had inherited from Grandpapa. When we surpassed our allotted number of boxes for the ship, Papa arranged for fellow travelers to carry some of our precious books with them. Benedikt Smidt and other Amsterdam printers were instructed to send us books as they became available. We were bound for a new life in Boston! 

Editor's Note: Excellent job Darleen.

Stephen Byrne has supplied the next frontispiece image. You can see it on page 36 of this issue. Please consider writing the short article to go with the new image. As Darleen said, "It was a fun thing to do".

BOOK COLLECTING A – Z,

‘Antiquarian Books’

By Jim Brogan

‘Antiquarian book’, what does that mean? Mention the term and you may see a smile and or a glazed look on the face of the person you are speaking with. Does it mean an antique book or a book about antiques, or something more mysterious? Even amongst booksellers, the term ‘antiquarian book’ evokes heady thoughts of papyrus, vellum, parchment, rag paper, leather binding, gilt tooling, or marbled paper. While these words certainly suggest ancient tomes, the term ‘antiquarian book’ actually has a broader meaning, one that is at both simple and equally difficult to clearly articulate. The Antiquarian Bookseller's Association of America (ABAA) does not include definitions of *rare* or *antiquarian books*, suggesting just how difficult it is to pin down to a specific meaning of this term. John Carter's well-known reference, *ABC for Book Collectors*, has a rather vague definition of an antiquarian book and bookseller: "The lines of demarcation between 'rare books,' 'old books,' and 'second-hand books' have never been, and can never be, clearly defined. The same applies to most of those who deal in them; and the (ABAA) makes no distinction between a man who specializes in incunabula, another who deals only in modern firsts, and a third who restricts himself to botany, and finally a general second-hand dealer, provided that his business is primarily in old books." Another book reference work, Geoffrey Ashall Glaister's *Encyclopedia of the Book*, a compendium of many useful book-related terms, does not have any entries for the words *antiquarian*, *rare*, or *scarce*. How, then, to define this term, *antiquarian*? So there you have it, we have a term, but we cannot seem to get a clear definition of what is included and what is not included.

However, we do seem to be able to identify an antiquarian book when we see it, the market would not exist unless the book has some desirable and identifiable qualities. This special set of attributes is usually associated with the book's text, binding, illustrations, other decorative elements, and certainly its prior history. As a historical object, an antiquarian book carries with it an ‘aura of age’, an element, or reminder of some aspect of previous history. It could be an account of some momentous event such as a famous battle or coronation, or the reflections of a great person or simply the description of some unique activity or milestone to a particular group of people or mankind in general. Any or all of the above can be included for sure.

The purpose of this article is to introduce you to the genre of antiquarian books as a collector. If you have a collection of antiquarians then you are well on your way to understanding the joys of this special focus of book collecting. However, if you are new to this particular focus then I hope to provide you with enough information to get you started and enjoy collecting even more than you do today. If you are interested in selling or collecting antiquarian books, you will need to inform yourself a bit further, so that you know what is generally meant by the term *antiquarian book*. In fact, I think that the word ‘information’ is one thing that sets the antiquarian bookseller and books apart from other book collecting activities. As discussed in the last issue of *The Microbibliophile*, book dealers are important resources for a book collector. Certainly become familiar with the titles and types of books you may want to acquire and collect. My personal collection of antiquarians is not extensive but I do enjoy the few titles that I have. Most of my choices are related to subjects that deal with ‘children’s literature’ from 19th century America and a few volumes dealing with European history and Shakespeare. I focus my interest in this area, as it is here that many miniature books were created as learning aids for children. Additionally, they

are generally available and not too expensive to purchase as a collectible copy. However, 'to each his own for sure'.

If we begin to think about owning books as objects, as opposed to owning books for their reading content alone, we can establish some other useful guidelines for our particular personal collection parameters. A collection does not have to be based around a particular author or subject matter, books themselves can be things of beauty, and many collections are assembled because the books are presented as pieces of art. Art and literature have been closely linked for centuries, and artists can ply their trade on the cover, the binding, and even the edges of the pages.

An antiquarian book may be best defined and I use the term 'defined' as only a collector of terms and qualities. To be an antiquarian, a book should present itself with at least one of the following criteria: First, scarcity does not equal rarity. Secondly, age does not necessarily imply rarity or value. Many people assume that because a book is old, the book has value. This is usually not the case, unless the particular title is in demand or that particular subject generates a lot of current interest or has some intrinsic importance. Bibles are a good example of this principle. Although Bibles are considered important by their owners, most of the thousands of editions of the Bible published over time are not financially 'enriching from a collectible' perspective, with the exceptions of a few early printed Bibles. Again, do not let the 'financial assignments' drive your collecting as many fine collections of Bibles exist and are a great joy to their owners. The characteristics of the book from a physical perspective may drive desirability as a collectible book. It may be printed on an exotic paper or vellum. The binding itself can be a work of art or its illustrations may be the work of a great artist or perhaps the book came from the press of a famous printer. Yes, these characteristics can be present in a newly published book but they are also a consideration for collectability. The fourth criteria to be considered is 'imprint', meaning the place and date of publication. Everyone certainly knows that the books printed in 15th century Europe are rare. The term imprint also considers the publisher and or printer of the book as well, such as the first books printed in Colonial America. Finally, condition plays an important role in antiquarian book collecting. The better the condition the more desirable the book would be. However a book that is in less than fine condition could be in such demand it becomes a collectable item in any condition. The fascinating world of 'leaf-books' is another subset of the antiquarian world but a separate subject for sure.

As you can see, the term antiquarian is a less than clear term to define and assign to a book. Certainly, an old book can be considered an antiquarian book but when the additional definitional considerations of rare, and collectible are applied, the genre requires additional information on the part of the collector. Antiquarian book collecting is certainly a genre that requires you to understand particular information about the subject. Miniature antiquarian tomes again add a special level of focus on the information.



Listed below are several reference books that will prove very helpful in understanding the information and providing you with a more detailed path to antiquarian collecting.

Everitt, Charles P. *The Adventures of a Treasure Hunter; A Rare Bookman in Search of American History*, Little, Brown and Company, Boston 1951

Gekoski, Rick. *Tolkien's Gown & Other Stories of Great Authors and Rare Books*, London 2004

Lewis, Roy Harley. *Antiquarian Books: An Insider's Account*, Arco Publishing Company, New York 1978

Magee, David. *Infinite Riches: The Adventures of a Rare Book Dealer*, Paul S. Eriksson, Inc. New York 1973

Meador, Roy and Mondlin, Marvin. *Book Row: An Anecdotal and Pictorial History of the Antiquarian Book Trade*, Carroll and Graf Publishers, New York 1973

Rosenbach, A.S.W. Books and Bidders. *The Adventures of a Bibliophile*, Boston: Little, Brown and Company, Boston 1927

Rostenberg, Leona and Stern, Madeleine. *Old Books, Rare Friends*, Doubleday, New York 1997

Rostenberg, Leona and Stern, Madeleine. *Old & Rare, Forty Years in the Book Business*, Allenheld and Schram, 1974

I hope that I have given you so insight into the world of antiquarian books . Opening a door can lead to knowledge and joys that may not have been considered previously. In our earlier issues of *The Microbibliophile*, I have discussed the ‘care of books’. As you may already be aware of, the care of antiquarian books requires some additional considerations. The best protection you can provide a treasured volume is a ‘custom-made’ case or storage box. Purchasing these items can be expensive, however, they are not difficult to fabricate and are well within the realm of most collectors to take on as a special craft project. Some of the types of boxes that can be considered are:

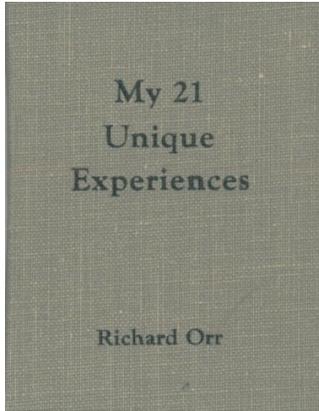
- Slip case: generally a box with one end open to show the ‘spine’ of the original book
- Clamshell case: a box that has a double-hinged spine that will lie flat when opened, one half of the clamshell will hold the original book, the other half will ‘close’ over the book. When shelved it would sit vertically with the original book inside.
- Pull-off case: This type of box can best be described as sort of two ‘slip cases’ fabricated to fit tightly within each other, the original book housed within the smaller of the sections when closed

Materials are easy to purchase and just think of the possibilities that you may discovery and create, which will allow you to customize your collection. The joys of book collecting, PRICELESS! 

Editor's Note: For some excellent examples of 'antiquarians books, true treasures, please be sure to view the images supplied with the article by Pat Pistner beginning on page 25 of this issue.

Comments, suggestions, additions, and corrections at your convenience.

MY 21 UNIQUE EXPERIENCES: A Miniature Book, by Richard Orr



Part of the world of collecting as we have discussed in previous issues is being able to not only file your books on a shelf by author or publisher but to also assign the books some level of ‘classification by genre’. This is certainly a personal thing with each collector; some of my favorite groupings are ‘books about books’, ‘books about trains’ and ‘books about American presidents’. As I was looking at my inventory list of ‘books about trains’ a came to a title *My 21 Unique Experiences* written by Richard Orr and published by him in 2004.

There are a few interesting intersections of information regarding this little tome and the subjects that Mr. Orr choose to publish. One of his lifelong experiences was to build model train switches for his own train layout. He was so good at this he was able to help others by supplying them with the track components that they needed. Another experience was his publishing of this miniature book as well as another about streetcars, hence the connection to the genre of ‘books about trains’. As I re-read the volume I learned that Mr. Orr did all of his own work from the authorship to the printing and binding with no outside help other than his wife Martha. Another connection here is that he did the printing on a Chandler and Price printing press that was built in 1890 and resided in the basement of his church. Again, as we have discussed in previous issues of *The Microbibliophile* how these old printing presses continue to live on; a little ink, a little oil, and away they go.

Mr. Orr was a member of the Miniature Book Society. He died in 2013, at 88 years of age, I was able to find an interesting collection of words in his obituary: “Dick appreciated stability — 41 years with a car, 53 years in one house, 62 years with his wife, 71 years at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 5410 Corby St.” I am sure he would be glad to know that we have revisited his stories about his unique experiences. As miniature bibliophiles, we all have a certain duty to ‘step-up to the plate’ and expand our love of books by sharing our enthusiasm, knowledge, and to expand and preserve our spirit with an ever-increasing audience of bibliophiles.

Unique Experience #15, A Miniature Book, by Richard Orr

Hardly being a major accomplishment but nevertheless one that most people cannot claim, is my knowledge of having published a miniature book, this my second, (O&CB Streetcars of Omaha and Council Bluffs, the first).

Back in my high school days, a good friend and classmate suggested that since I had a printing press at home, we should write a story and print it as a miniature book. The idea intrigued me, so we proceeded. We called it ‘The Mystery of the White Ruby’. The smallest type I had in any quantity was 10 point, hardly small enough for any miniature publication. But we blundered ahead.

We put together part of a nonsensical, if not stupid, story. I set the type in lines only an inch long with only six lines to the page. We got a few pages printed then forgot about it since our graduation was nearing.

Later, I composed a quick ending, stapled the pages together in a red cover, and gave Dean, half of the copies. What happened to all of the little books is a real mystery. All I know is that 62 years later, I have only one copy and Dean has long since died.

Many decades later my interest in little books was revived when I learned about the Miniature Book Society, a small group of people who produce or read miniature books whose larger measurements must be less than three inches and often is considerably less. I joined, thinking that one day I might produce a real miniature book.

Several years ago, I decided that I wanted to try and began to think seriously about what I must do. I decided to use a story from my streetcar book since I am not a fan of fiction, and prefer true stories. It was the right length and was fascinating enough to please readers.

The smallest type readily available today is 6 point (and I had no thoughts of anything but hand setting metal type and printing letterpress – as old fashioned, as it may seem to some). Six points is not too small to be easily read. However, I had only a couple of fonts of Bodoni Bold available to me. So I purchased some Baskerville and italic.

(Hand setting type was normal after Johann Gutenberg invented the moveable type process in the 1400s to the time of the 1880s when Ottmar Mergenthaler invented the Linotype.)

All my life since about age 9 had been spent enjoyably setting type, so I was no stranger to this operation. The Chandler and Price printing press, at my church was built in 1890, and as a volunteer, I had run countless thousands of impressions since 1940. I would count on its use for my miniature book.

My new type came from a Pennsylvania firm I have bought from before (and visited once).

In my basement workshop, I laid in the type and began to set the pages. I estimated that at 20 lines per page I could reproduce the streetcar story in 41 pages.

I set eight pages at a time and printed them on a sheet of 16 pound 4 ¼ x 5 ½ inch paper. When folded and jointed with a similar sheet they formed a signature. The book is to have three signatures.

Once printed, I needed to learn how to bind a book. Then from a fellow Society member I bought the video on how to bind.

Following his instructions, I was able to bind my books; I sold a few to interested people, covering costs.

Later, with materials on hand, I decided to proceed with an unusual story and write and print this book. Will it spur you to do the same?

The joys of book collecting, PRICELESS! 

BOSTON, SOME SIGHTS & EVENTS Reported by Jim Brogan

The Boston MBS Conclave 2014 is a few weeks down the road. The Conclave has its own set of events for the bibliophile. I just wanted to highlight a few things that may be something for you to do if you have some extra time in the Boston area. Boston is such a great city there is a lot to see and experience.

Shakespeare on the Common, The comedy ‘Twelfth Night’ July – August 10th

Dine Out In Boston, check this out, <http://www.boston-discovery-guide.com/dine-out-boston.html>

Fenway Park, take in a Boston Red Socks Baseball game, <http://boston.redsox.mlb.com/bos/ballpark/>

Vintage baseball at Georges Island, take the ferry, what a trip, <http://www.boston-discovery-guide.com/boston-harbor-islands.html>

Old Ironsides, the USS Constitution at the Charlestown Navy Yard, <http://www.usconstitutionmuseum.org>

Boston Commons, <http://www.cityofboston.gov/freedomtrail/bostoncommon.asp>

Be sure to bring an umbrella, just in case some gray clouds pop up. How about that bookstore with a fireplace? 

MINIATURE BOOK SOCIETY, Traveling Exhibit, Location Information:

The Miniature Book Society has an outstanding traveling miniature book exhibit that is available for display at your local library, school, or organization. You can get a sneak preview of the display by visiting the MBS website: www.mbs.org. If you would like to learn about hosting the exhibit, please contact Jim Brogan, E-mail: jbrogan1@verizon.net.

The exhibit will be at the following locations:

June 2014

Watertown Free Public Library
123 Main St, Watertown, MA 02472
www.watertownlib.org/

July 2014

The Public Library of Brookline, (Main Branch)
361 Washington St.
Brookline, MA 02445
www.brooklinelibrary.org

€August 15th – 18th, 2014

The Taj Hotel
Arlington and Newberry Streets
Boston, MA
www.tajhotels.com/Luxury/City-Hotels/Taj-Boston-Boston

October 2014

The Cleveland Public Library
325 Superior Ave N.E.
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
www.cpl.org

The purpose of the exhibit is to provide people with access to the world of miniature books. You can never tell when a new connoisseur will become interested in miniature books and what may spark that interest. *Please look at the article written by Barbara Williamson in the current issue of the MBS Newsletter, about 'Future Microbibliophiles', page 21.* The exhibit is just such a visual torch that may light the pathway for someone. Stop at your library, call your alma mater, or speak with the librarian, or the person who is in charge of library exhibits. The MBS wants to share their traveling exhibit with everyone.



Check the MBS website www.mbs.org for additional information. 

MEET THE COLLECTOR:

Helen Sell

About two years ago, I was sitting in Gail Faulkner's living room reading her newly received little books, and laughing at the wit of the lead character in old English. She told me she was going to a Conclave in Vancouver. "What is a Conclave I asked"? She said "like a convention".

Immediately I asked if I could go. Gail said you would need to register, and become a member of the Miniature Book Society, which I did. This is how I started collecting miniature books. It was delightful as well as fun.

When we arrived at the Vancouver hotel, we were guided to the registration desk. I met so many warm and friendly people, who helped and explained things so we would be able to understand the proceeding. This was very different from other conventions I have attended. I bid for and won my first book at the silent auction, *PB's Bug Book #28*. My recent purchase was *Trees*, published by Peter and Donna Thomas. It was the most expensive miniature book that I have purchased. I have ten books now in my collection. I love Sherlock Holmes; Mark Twain, my favorite author; nature; and inaugural addresses. St. Onge is my favorite press name. The 'PB's Bug Book' was the best bargain. I also collect miniature grand pianos in metal, wood, glass, and ceramics.

My advice for a new collector is to look at everything—especially at authors, stories, history, art, bug drawings, etc. that you are interested in. Ask many questions; then get advice on the books you want when you are ready to buy. It is wise to plan a book budget so you have the money to buy that little book you cannot live without.

Karen Nyman mentored us; the information in *The Microbibliophile*; and the 'Miniature Book Society Newsletter' provides education on new books, paper used, and how they are bound. I had never thought about paper or bindings before; now I notice these details. 📖

Editor's Note: 'Again Welcome Aboard, you will enjoy the journey'

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E-mail: sellhelen@gmail.com

TERMS and DEFINITIONS:

French Fold: as defined by Geoffrey Ashall Glaister, in his *Encyclopedia of the Book*, a French folded sheet of paper is printed on one side only, and then folded into a 'section' with the bolts uncut; the insides of the folded sheet, are blank. Sometimes this is done when illustrations are applied to 'thin' papers so that the ink will not 'bleed through' and be visible on the reverse side of a sheet. 📖

FAMOUS PEOPLE IN THE WORLD OF MINIATURE BOOKS:

Doris Varner Welsh, (1907 – 1991)

By Jim Brogan

Doris Varner Welsh (DVW) began her professional life as a high school librarian. In 1947, she began working at the Newberry Library in Chicago and progressed to the head of the catalogue department until her retirement in 1970. Welsh's avocation was miniature books, which she defined as being smaller than 4" in both height and width. While working at the Newberry Library DVW studied everything, she could possibly find regarding miniature books. As the information gathering and learning expanded, she naturally became interested in the possibility of publishing a miniature book, including the actual printing and binding. In 1952, the Chicago Society of Typographical Arts initiated a printing workshop for its members. DVW was off and running in the world of printing. Ultimately, she printed, bound, and published 15 of her own miniature books. Before she could get started she needed to get some smaller type for her miniatures as the smallest available at the library was a 10 pt. She purchased her own set, a 4 pt 'Century Expanded' which she subsequently used for all of her miniature books. While she was waiting for this 4 pt. type to arrive, DVW completed her first 'printing work', a short pamphlet titled; *Miniature Books*. The pamphlet described miniature books and their history. The most important paragraph for me is, in fact, the closing paragraph, as it explains the driving force, which led this talented and articulate woman on such a journey through the world of miniature books.

"A complete list of the different miniature books (not listing manuscripts) would be quite long, containing some 5,000 titles. No such list has ever been published. Indeed, it would probably be impossible to make a complete list as many of these tiny books have vanished without a trace, or exist today in unique copies, or are represented by only a few leaves. However, to one who possesses a collection of these tiny books comes continued joy in handling, housing, and admiration of their tiny perfection." (*Miniature Books*, Doris Varner Welsh, 1952)

The above paragraph outlines the thoughts that DVW had in 1952, already in possession of a large body of information about miniature books and already a miniature book collector, she was setting the stage for things to come. Between 1952 and 1964, DVW expanded her 'body of knowledge' regarding miniature books. She collected material from magazines, periodicals, auction catalogues, and the catalogues of booksellers. To her advantage, as part of her job, she was able to see all new materials coming into the library as well. DVW was certainly aware of various reference compilations that were available at the time. The *Bibliographie des Impressions Microscopiques*, by Nauroy as well as works by Tuneewa and Rosenburg all contributed to the body of knowledge that DVW was assembling. Additionally, Wilbur Macey Stone had published books on the subject and the lengthy *Catalogue of Miniature Books of Percy E. Spielmann* were also available. However, gaps existed in the 'total bibliography' when the time spectrum was expanded from the 15th century to the 20th century.

By 1965 DVW had, as I said, assembled a tremendous amount of information about miniature books. She began to assemble the data in a form that would become *The History of Miniature Books*. The book contains an historical timeline of miniature books from the 15th century, various chapters on various genres such as children's and religious miniatures, miniature type, individual collectors, institutional collections, exhibitions, and a very extensive bibliography. The book was assembled as a manuscript in 1970 but was not published until 1987, being delayed due to some medical issues with the author. Certainly, a major consolidation and compilation of miniature

book data thru to the mid 1960s. Taken from the author's foreword the following is a valuable statement:

"It is my purpose to include with this bibliography an historical account of miniature books, their collectors, and collections, so that most of the available information about miniature books, together with the sources of such information, can readily be accessible in one handy volume."

The second major contribution that DVW gifted to the miniature book world was her book, *A Bibliography of Miniature Books (1470 – 1965)*, again the manuscript for this volume was assembled in the late 1960s, however the final publication was not completed until 1989. The publication of both of these volumes was done through the extraordinary efforts of a fellow miniature book collector, Kathryn I. Rickard. The bibliography contains references to 7271 miniature books. The manuscript was originally started as a 'checklist' per say and over time developed into a world-class reference document. The information is limited and addressed by the author's opening statement to reflect the words of Charles Elton in his *Little Books* publication: "It must be a real book". DVS goes on to document just which items have been excluded:

1. Miniature manuscript books
2. Metal Locket books
3. Imitation books
4. Cards in book shaped boxes
5. Publisher's dummies
6. Advertising leaflets
7. Miniature newspapers and magazines

The author also provides an expanded 'definition / classification' which further defines her rules for exclusion and documentation. The bibliography lists its primary index, information by the author of the book, if that is not available, the title is used. Also included are the size in inches or millimeters, notes if any, and then the source dealer's catalog number, item number reference or the current owner's collection, as appropriate. Lastly, in some cases editor's names are included as well. Remember that the Newberry Library was not adding miniature titles to their collection at the time of the DVW work. She was not able to personally examine all of the items enumerated in the bibliography but she relied on information collected from various catalogues and collection bibliographies. Her intention was to 'bring it all together', consolidate the many sources into one reference document. As a result, she included information in her entry details about the collections that she gathered information from, catalogs references and in some cases included pricing information, as it was available. It is an overwhelming thought to think of the amount of time spent gathering and cataloguing this data manually without the aid of present day digital tools. Also included is a 'Short Title Index', which provides a cross reference of the title alphabetically with the reference numbers, utilized in the 'bibliography section'.

Kathryn I. Rickard was the driving force that brought this outstanding document to the hands of miniature book collectors. Msgr. Francis Weber, Editor, and Glenn Dawson contributed innumerable hours with suggestions and reviews of the document prior to publication. Msgr. Weber wrote the Preface and included an insightful comment as his closing remarks: "Future commentators will probably classify this first edition of the Doris Welsh book as a "transitional" bibliography, a term that indicates a later, more conclusive treatise. We can live with that – after all, bibliographies are "tools" and, as such they too are subject to the ravages of time and use." The words of the Msgr. are 100% on the point, saying that we will need to continue our quest for

the ultimate ‘bibliography’ over time. Robert C. Bradbury continued the journey with his excellent bibliographies published in 1999.

During the period that DVW worked at the Newberry and was assembling her body of knowledge, which was presented in her two major publications, she was also an avid miniature book collector and publisher of miniature books as well. Her collection spanned the publication dates of more than 400 years with a wide diversity of languages and subjects. Her collection totaled more than 900 volumes and she maintained a meticulous catalog of her collection. What else would we expect from the Head of the Catalogue Department of the Newberry Library. This ‘catalog’ record of the DVW collection is now maintained within the archives of the Goddard Library, at Clark University, in Worcester, MA.

DVW was also a book publisher having completed 15 miniature books between 1953 and 1963. The press name for her publication was Le Petit Oiseau Press. The story about the press name is an interesting story in itself and can be found in the contents of the *Miniature Book Collector*, published by A. J. St. Onge. These miniatures are unique in their content and binding and are certainly cherished possessions of any collector. In fact, these miniatures were the catalyst that originally brought DVW and Kathryn I. Rickard together as friends and fellow collectors. We could even say that without the miniatures the two large publications would have probably never been published and sat as an unpublished manuscript until this day. Richard was so involved in her work to help DVW publish that she herself was able to create a miniature book about the entire journey. That book, *A Lady and Her Books* was published in 1988. Within the content is a small chapter talking about how these two people were brought together by their common devotion to the common love of miniature books. Reprinted from Chapter II:

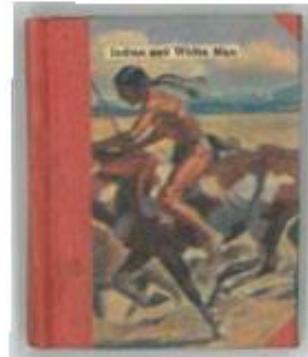
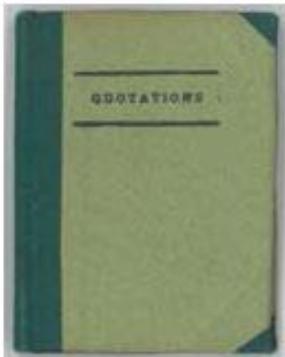
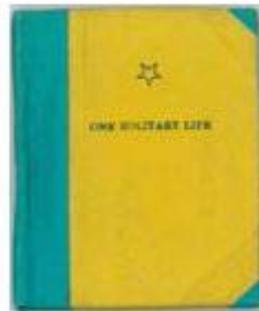
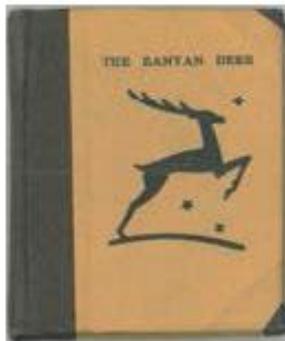
“There are times in life when one is drawn to someone or something and you know deep in your heart that an adventure is going to happen. Something must come of it. (That is what makes life, and especially miniature book collecting, interesting. You never know where it will lead). That was the way that I felt about Le Petit Oiseau Press. I had not seen any of the books published by the Little Bird. I did not know what was behind it or who. I did not know if it was still in operation. I was intrigued but just the name is not much to go on. However, I searched until something happened.”

“The search went on for more than a year and few clues surfaced but nothing definitive. A few books became available through a ‘Dawson’s Catalogue’. Then by chance, I came across the address of DVW in the ‘MBS Directory’.”

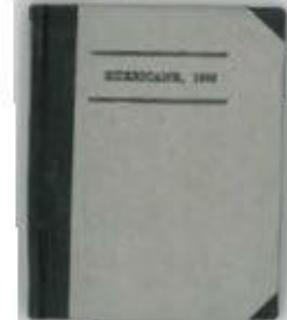
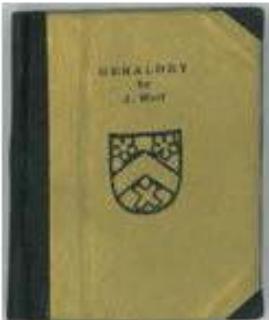
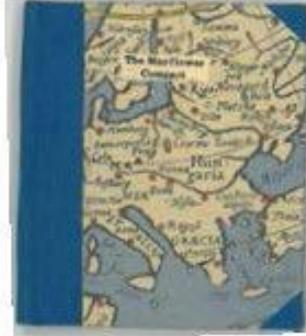
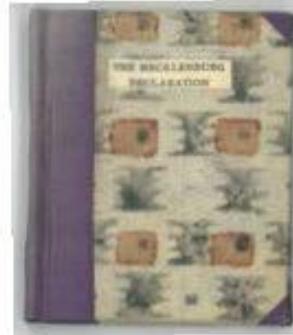
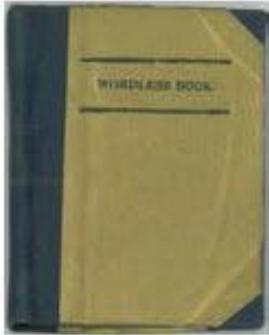
“I never thought to look there before because I had no idea she was even alive. Was this the name I had been searching for? Would I be that lucky? Would she answer my letter? Nothing ventured nothing gained, it is said, so I wrote her a letter and included a SSE, I was not going to leave anything to chance.”

The rest is history and excerpts of the correspondence are include with *A Lady and Her Books*, (reviewed separately in the January 2014 issue of *The Microbibliophile*). The ever important key, the miniatures, deserve some discussion as well. All of the books are letterpress printed and were published in small editions, some such as *John of Asia*, with only 20 copies, but mostly with editions of 50, 100, or 150 copies. All are bound with paper boards and contain printed labels. They are all ‘half bound’. Half-bound books can be covered in paper or buckram, and then reinforced with a contrasting material to cover the spine and the ‘corners’ of the book. All of the little tomes from Le Petit Oiseau Press have a sort of visual ‘collectiveness’ between them. The sizes and colors are different but the coordinated style is a powerful presence. Your author is fortunate to have assembled a complete set of these wonderful books so I have chosen to share cover images of them with you. I hope I have provided you with some incite to the work of an important contributor to the world of miniature books.

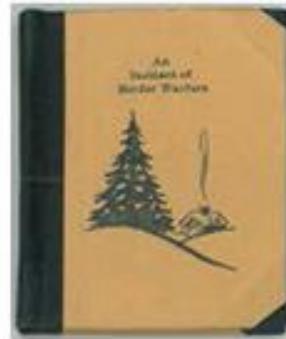
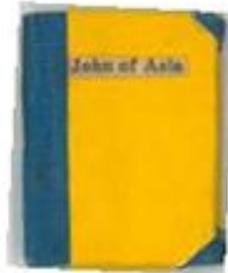
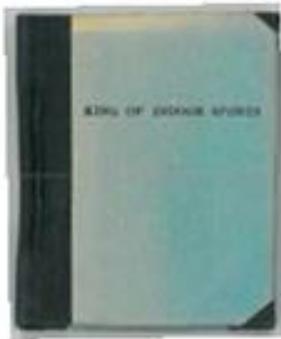
Miniature Books by Doris Varner Welsh, Le Petit Oiseau Press



Miniature Books by Doris Varner Welsh, Le Petit Oiseau Press, continued



Miniature Books by Doris Varner Welsh, Le Petit Oiseau Press, the remaining three...



I have utilized several references from various sources to provide you with my article:

Miniature Book News, edited by Julian I. Edison, Numbers 9, 19,53,63, 67, 70, 72, and 75

Miniature Book Society Newsletter, various editors, Numbers 3, 10, 12, 24, 26

A Bibliography of Miniature Books (1470-1965) compiled by Doris Varner Welsh, published by Kathryn I. Richard, 1989

Miniature Books from The Collection of Doris Varner Welsh, compiled by Robert C. Bradbury, Clark University 1995

The History of Miniature Books, Doris V. Welsh, published by Kathryn I Richard, 1987

Twentieth Century United States Miniature Books, Robert C. Bradbury, published by 'The Microbibliophile', 2000

A Lady and Her Books, by Kathryn I Richard, published by Editions Du Parnasse, 1988

Miniature Books, by Doris Varner Welsh, Newberry Library, Chicago, 1952

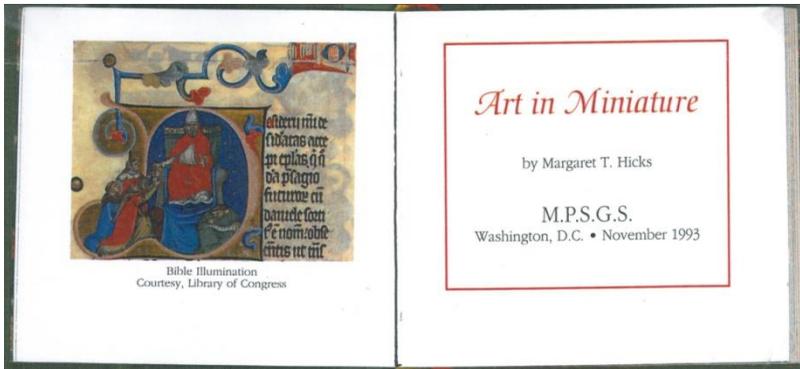
Miniature Book Collector, edited by Ruth E. Adomeit, published by A. J. St. Onge, Volume 1, Number 2,1960

As is known to everyone in the world of 'miniaturebookdom' you never know where the journey will take you once you turn the first page of the travel brochure. As a closing comment, I will repeat the words of Msgr. Francis Weber as contained in his Preface, "Future commentators will probably classify this first edition of the Doris Welsh book as a "transitional" bibliography, a term that indicates a later, more conclusive treatise. We can live with that – after all, bibliographies are "tools" and, as such they too are subject to the ravages of time and use." Each bibliography that has been compiled and published over the years has to a certain extent built upon the work of its predecessors. The formats change and the focus on particular areas of miniature books may be altered slightly. As we move into the 21st century, we have to be aware that information and communication of information is being transformed by the digital tools and conveniences that we have in our world today. Many of the libraries of the world have begun to alter the way that they present data. Yes, the written book will always be available for sure. However, future generations look at data as a means to an end not just a collection of details. Libraries are making data available to their readers in many new formats so that readers do not have to visit the physical library. The time is certainly before us now to undertake the job of creating a miniature book 'bibliography' that can be updated daily if need be, searched in any combination of queries, and available from any number of digital devices to satisfy the needs of different bibliophiles. The printed page can certainly remain an option but the backbone of such a tool will reside in the digital spectrum. This is our challenge. Let us all join in the journey! 📖

Editors Note: Comments, concerns, corrections, and suggestions at your convenience.

ART IN MINIATURE:

By Robert F. Orr Hanson



In late 1993, Margaret T. Hicks published a miniature book whose title is the same as this article. The project was sponsored by members of the 'Miniature Painters, Sculptors, and Gravers Society' of Washington, D.C. to celebrate the society's 60th annual exhibition. Margaret Hicks was a Past President of that arts organization; she died at 88 years of age, in 2006.

About twenty-five years ago while living in Florida, I became acquainted with 'art in miniature' through a membership in the Miniature Art Society of St. Petersburg. Before that time, though, I noticed a display showing portrait miniatures, which appeared in *The Magazine Antiques*. These small bits of art were painted in watercolor and framed in round or oval wood mountings. The subjects were men, women, and even children and the images were painted on ivory, ivory, wood, and vellum. Examples of these miniatures were shown in a full-page ad in 'Antiques' by Elle Shushan, a dealer who maintains a gallery in Philadelphia, <http://www.portraitminiatures.com/home.htm>. *The Magazine Antiques* is also a marvelous reference manual for all manner of antiques, <http://www.themagazineantiques.com/>

So, in 1998, I bought a miniature oil painting. The painting's title is 'Old Walpi'. It is a gorgeous picture of a Hopi Indian pueblo, with several buildings. The dimensions are 4 ³/₄" x 4", a total of about 16 square inches. The sky is blue and the structures are a pleasing tan. The painting is surrounded by a 1 ¹/₂" wide wood gilt frame. The cost at the time was \$169 and the miniature was painted by the late George Hight, an award-winning member of the local Albuquerque miniature art group.

Now, let me return to our miniature art book. *Art In Miniature* is a beautiful book whose dimensions are 2 ⁷/₈" wide x 2 ⁵/₈" tall. It contains 58 numbered pages plus a Colophon and is hand bound in a medium green quarter leather spine with the remainder in a dark green cloth. Gold vertical strips outline the leather back strip. The book's title, in gilt, graces the spine, while the front cover carries, in gilt the group's logo. The endpapers are marbled in greens, orange, and gold and all of the edges are gilt (AEG). There is a helpful red ribbon bookmark and the frontispiece is a color reproduction of the 'Bible Illumination' courtesy of the Library of Congress, my favorite. The diminutive dandy was published in a signed edition of 500 copies with only 450 copies for sale. It was original priced at \$65.

The book binder was my old friend and master artisan, Don Brady, who bound all of the books I published under my press name of Opuscula Press. A further description of the book reveals that there are nineteen illustrations of which sixteen are produced in full color. One, in particular, is a commemorative USA 18-cent postage stamp bearing the likeness of the American poet, Edna St. Vincent Millay. The stamp was issued in 1981. The artist, Glenora Case Richards, also painted a second stamp issued in 1982, this one showing the civil war surgeon, Dr. Mary Walker.

The last illustration in the book and my second favorite is titled 'Summer Retreat', it shows a large three story vintage house replete with a large front porch and a tower to one side. The original watercolor measures 5 3/4" x 3 3/4" and was painted by Connie Ward Woodward. The house is painted with a foreground of a large green grass lawn and the background is heavily wooded. The house colors are gray and white with black window shutters.

Concerning the size specifications of miniature paintings, Margaret Hicks has written: "The general accepted size in the major organizations in the United States is twenty five square inches or less and the subject portrayed one sixth or less of life size". History wise, "painting in little" can be traced to the middle ages with the monks and their illuminated manuscripts.

In conclusion, let me say that Margaret Hicks has, in her text and various illustrations, provided simply an introduction to this ancient art form and it behooves all of us to delve deeper and wider to discover the joys that the art community has given us. Realizing that this miniature book is truly grand, I wish you 'happy hunting'.

There you have it!



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

THE JOYS OF BOOK COLLECTING: Fine Books & Rare Books In the Pistner Collection of Miniature Books By Patricia Pistner

The Florida Bibliophile Society (FBS) asked your writer to speak at their March 24th 2014 meeting at the University of St. Petersburg library. This being my second speech to this group within ten years, the idea of highlighting the finest and rarest books in my collection was most appealing. Since the venue was a 2 1/2 hour drive from home, the opportunity to bring along a display case for some 30 books could not be missed.

Preparing for this speech, called for an analysis of my evolution as a miniature book collector and the pivotal decisions that led me to that podium. I wanted to give the audience of nearly fifty FBS members and guests not only a look at my books but also a deeper understanding of my passion for miniature books. With a little humor mixed in for good measure, the audience seemed to enjoy their afternoon. The Q&A session was surprisingly active.

Lee Harner, an FBS member, was kind enough to bring four of his miniature books that could be handled by attendees. Wish I had thought of that, as the audience really appreciated being able to see the printed word in miniature format. To my surprise, Lee is a dear friend of Robert F. Hanson of Opuscula Press, founder of *The Microbibliophile*. It is indeed a small world!

Let me share with you, some of my more unusual books:

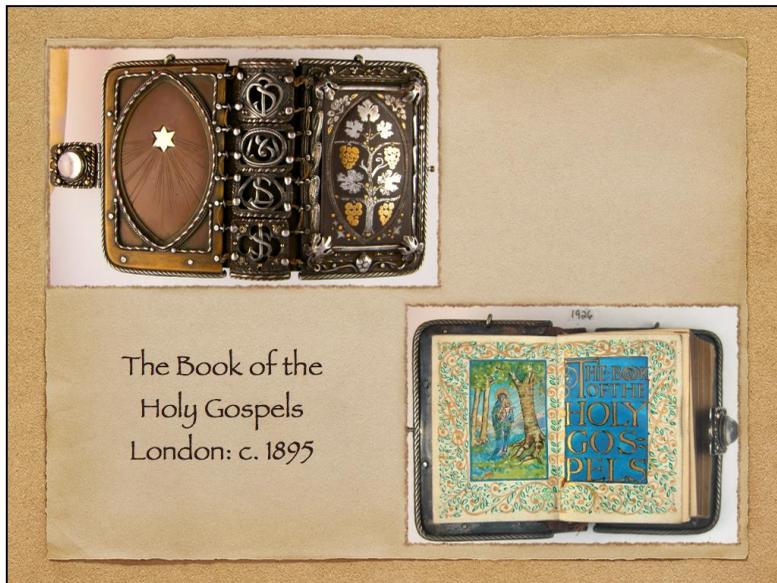
This is one of two intact unopened Babylonian cuneiform envelopes, holding a separate cuneiform tablet within. It is inscribed with the text of economic documents, and witnessed by two named individuals. Unopened envelopes are scarce. (70 x 50 mm)



Nuremberg almanac of 1480 was scribed in red, black, green and blue inks. It has 7 colorful astronomical and astrological circular diagrams, and is bound in vellum. The pinholes indicate that this diagram was a volvelle. (75 x 52 mm)



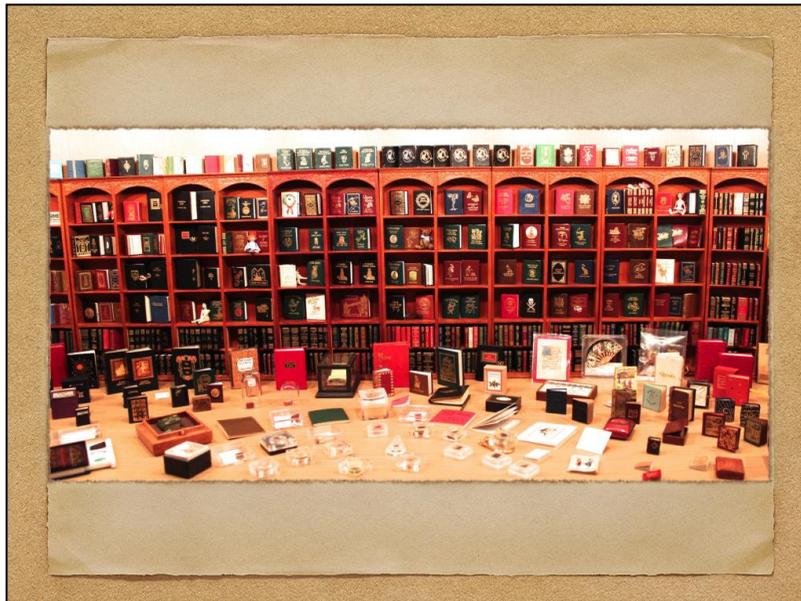
I'm a bit of a francophile and recently acquired this charming tome celebrating the reign of Louis XVI.



Sir Henry Brown Morrison used steel, brass, copper, silver and gold in an innovative and amazing Art Nouveau design in a remarkable one-of-a-kind binding. A moonstone is set in the clasp. (62 x 44 mm)



Keeping a written diary onboard during wartime was obviously forbidden for security reasons, but one enterprising sailor hollowed out a pipe fitting and kept his diary hidden. (Scroll: 25 x 250 mm)



Individually, Barbara Raheb's books are not rare, although some titles are nearly impossible to find. However, a nearly complete collection of her 635+ tomes is, only 38 books to go! I'm not a completionist, but acquiring Barbara's books soothes the savage collecting beast within me.

The joys of book collecting. 📖

BOOKISH THINGS: **Created by Bo Press**

I say 'bookish thing' as they are not miniature books per say. However, sometimes collectors like to embellish their collections with things that are not only meaningful and beautiful but connect the collection with the origins of the book and the history of literature. Both very well made.

(Left image) **The Literary Works of Sherlock Holmes and His Circle**

Arthur Conan Doyle sprinkled his characters with all sorts of literary endeavors. This walnut and shagreen double bookstand contains blank examples of all of Sherlock Holmes' work. 2 ¼" x 3" x 3 ⅜". Outstanding handmade workmanship, a conversation piece for sure.

(Right image) **A Traveling Alchemy Trunk**

A little wooden trunk filled with some of the classics of alchemy. There are twelve volumes (all blank inside). The trunk itself is made of stained walnut with a leather-covered lid that flips up. The only thing to be added is the wizard with the pointed hat... 1 ¼" x 1 ⅝" x 1 ½"

Contact Pat Sweet for a good conversation, pricing, and shipping arrangements. 

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

OLD FRIENDS: A Three-Volume Set,
Authored by Charles Dickens,
Illustrated by Barbara Raheb,
Bound by Bela Blau,
Published by Black Cat Press, Norman W. Forgue

Here we have three insightful tomes by Charles Dickens, the man who seemed to have a bottomless inkwell and with his pen has bought joy to countless numbers of readers young and old. This miniature collection was published in 1983, the books are 2 ¾" x 2" and contained within a stylish slipcase covered in a green marbled paper. Beside the fact that a select group of miniature bibliophiles came together to produce the set, the content from Dickens is equally interesting. The three volumes are:

Volume 1 *Night Walks*, turquoise cloth boards with a gilt label

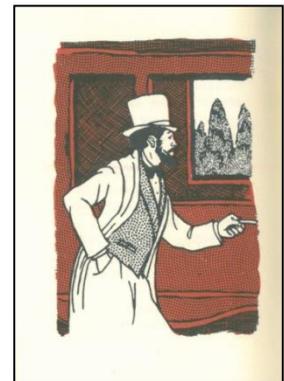
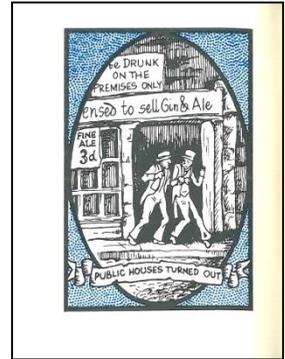
Volume 2 *Traveling Abroad*, burgundy cloth boards with a gilt label

Volume 3 *A Flight*, green cloth boards with a gilt label

Night Walks was originally written for Dickens' weekly magazine, 'All the Year Round', it first appeared on July 21, 1860. Dickens was certainly the master of detailed characters and it is general understood that much of character development and perception came from his observations of the people of London.

Charles Dickens suffered from insomnia in later life. Most of our first thoughts of Dickens bring to mind cozy fireside settings, Christmas cheer, and rollicking humor. The sunshine of these familiar settings is certainly present in his literature but the somber side of life also emerges through his characters. To calm his restless self, he walked about London late at night whilst the city was dark and most of the population slept. In a series of vignettes, he describes the city at night, the 'houseless' souls he saw as he walked; poverty, disease, and the beauty of the Thames River and architecture of his time. This is a classic, well worth a good read; if you are not yet familiar with the words, the thoughts, and the conclusions of this man who seemed to have a thousand eyes to accomplish his outstanding observations, get a copy and 'read on'.

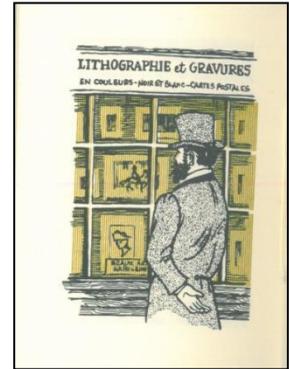
Traveling Abroad, as was *Night Walks*, was originally written for the weekly magazine, 'All the Year Round', it first appeared on April 7, 1860. Harry Stone, the author of the Introduction of this miniature, describes Dickens as a restless and a peripatetic being. His daily and weekly routines included long walks about the general area of London as well as traveling trips to the Continent as well as America. He was never quite satisfied with where he was and he was always looking for something different. The book is a loose collection of several excursions, beginning with "I got into the traveling chariot – it was of German make, roomy, heavy, and unvarnished, pulled up the steps after me, put myself in with a smart bang of the door and gave the word 'Go On'." The journeys and observations roll on with the passing countryside.



A Flight, was written after the completion of *David Copperfield* and before the beginning of *Bleak House*. *A Flight* was published on 30 August 1851 in his weekly magazine 'Household Words'. Remember, during the mid 19th century magazines were a popular publishing media as it allowed a lot of information to be presented to readers in an affordable format.

According to the words of Harry Stone as part of the Introduction, "*A Flight* is a tour de force, full of masterful Dickensian observation, humor, satire, fantasy, and insight." I could not agree more. As this was written almost 10 years before the other two pieces, Dickens was not so beset by the problems of his life. The story begins on a hot summer morning at the London Bridge railway station. The 'flight' carries the narrator through the countryside via a fast rail coach, across the English Channel, and ends 11 hours later in the early evening along the Boulevards of Paris. All of the fellow travelers that we meet along the way appear as old friends through the depths of his observations and descriptions. The narrator closes this flight of fancy with the most appropriate comment, "No hurry ladies and gentlemen, going to Paris in eleven hours. It is so well done, that there is no real hurry!"

I can only imagine how fascinated Dickens contemporary readers were when their eyes raced over the story. The normal travel time from London to Paris was about 22 hours and to imagine that you could accomplish the journey in 11 must have been a dream for sure. 📖



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

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FineBooks
& COLLECTIONS

GET THE INK READY, START THE PRESSES:

By Jim Brogan

Next issue Volume XXXIII, Number 5, Issue 191, (publish date September 1, 2014):

- Famous Miniature Book Person, Robert E. Massmann
- The Conclave Recap and 'BookLover's Calendar' for sale....
- The Goddard Library, Clark University
- The American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA
- Book Collecting, A - Z: 'Value vs. Price' or maybe 'Frauds and Fakes'
- Girdle books, the ultimate traveling companion for ready reference
- 'Bookish things' and a review of the Prue Batten book *Trouvère*
- Maybe a review of book about book collecting by a famous book collector, N.B. ?
- Revisiting an older miniature book, your choice, please let me know your favorites...
- A new miniature book, Volume 2, *Persuasion*, by Jane Austen , from Plum Park Press,
- Hopefully, something special by you

Keep me posted on what is going on at your press or with your collection. Anticipation and searching is half of the fun. We all love the details. 📖

MICROBIBLIOPHILE Storage Boxes



Protect and organize your copies of The Microbibliophile with handmade slipcases, now available from Greystone Bookworks. These boxes are handmade, and are covered with a high quality natural finish bookcloth, available in a variety of colors. Custom spine labels are also included. The boxes measure about 7 by 9 by 2 1/2 inches, and will hold approximately 20 - 30 issues of The Microbibliophile.

Slipcase boxes - \$30 plus shipping

Other box styles and custom sizes also available

For more information, contact Cathy Reeve at Greystone Bookworks

greystonebookworks@gmail.com

CATALOGUES RECEIVED:

Karen Nyman Miniature Books, Catalog Number 50, 108 items with color illustrations, organized by publisher within size, less than 1 ¼” tall and then up to 3” tall miniature books. Distributed via e-mail, hard copy available upon request. Contact info: 702 Rosecrans Street, San Diego, CA 92106-3013; phone 619-226-4441; website: www.KarenNymanMiniatureBooks.com. E-mail: karennyman2@cox.net

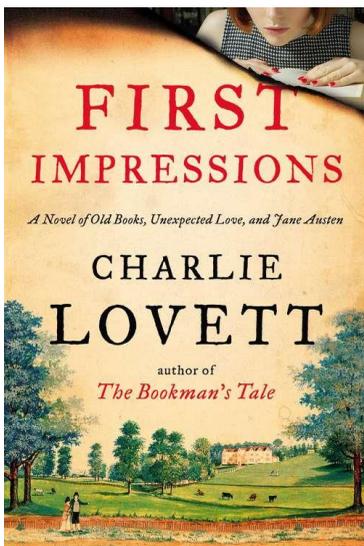
Oak Knoll Books, Catalogue Number 304, a medium format glossy paper catalog, exclusively presenting the miniature books from the collection of Donn Sanford. There are 142 items listed, some common items and some more unique and hard to find. You can look at the catalog online and or request a printed copy. Catalogue Number 305, 150 plus pages again a medium format glossy catalogue, ‘Books About Books and Bibliography’, what a collection of special books. Visit their website and enjoy the journey. Contact information: telephone: 800-996-2556; website: www.oakknoll.com

Bromer Booksellers, E Catalogue Number 40, ‘Recent Acquisitions for Early Summer’, Something for everyone including miniatures as well as ‘paper dolls’ and ‘press books’. Contact information: telephone: 617-247-2818; website: www.bromer.com

These catalogues and the book sellers are wonderful friends and great resources. 📖

A NEW BOOK FOR BOOK LOVERS:

Information provided by the ‘Fine Books and Collections Blog’
Cover Reveal for Charlie Lovett's Second Novel (due out in October 2014)



Publisher's Note: *Book lover and Austen enthusiast Sophie Collingwood has recently taken a job at an antiquarian bookshop in London when two different customers request a copy of the same obscure book: the second edition of Little Book of Allegories by Richard Mansfield. Their queries draw Sophie into a mystery that will cast doubt on the true authorship of Pride and Prejudice - and ultimately threaten Sophie's life. In a dual narrative that alternates between Sophie's quest to uncover the truth - while choosing between two suitors - and a young Jane Austen's touching friendship with the aging cleric Richard Mansfield, Lovett weaves a romantic, suspenseful, and utterly compelling novel about love in all its forms and the joys of a life lived in books. 📖*

The Microbibliophile Editor's Note: *The Bookman's Tale*, was reviewed in the (FB&C) blog last May and by Robert F. Hanson in the May issue of *The Microbibliophile*.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:

Spring has sprung, get that outdoor chair dusted off, what a great time to watch the grass grow and give your eyeballs a chance to get some exercise.

Fine Books and Collections Magazine, Spring 2014, A large format, full color, glossy magazine devoted to fine books, collections, and printing. The publication also maintains an excellent 'resource guide' dealing with everything about books as well as a great blog site, and an e-newsletter feature. The current issue has a outstanding article , 'How I Got Started' with book collecting, by Charlie Lovett. The BLOG that is associated with this magazine is a 'five star production' loaded with additional information for the bibliophile, like a new issue of the magazine each day. Another joy to investigate.

Contact information: Rebecca Rego Barry, Editor, 4905 Pine Cone Drive #2, Durham, NC, 27707, E-mail: Rebecca@finebooksmagazine.com, www.finebooksmagazine.com

Firsts, The Book Collector's Magazine, May June 2014, interesting large format publication focused on a diversity of book subjects, not specifically miniature books but more toward book literature and book collecting. An interesting article by Hilary Mantel, "Every Day Is Mother's Day", as well many other informative words about books.

Contact information: Kathryn Smiley, Editor, 4493 N. Camino Gucela, Tucson, AZ 85718

Mix it up a bit with new subjects...diversity is the spice of life... 



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Morgan Library, NYC, Miracles In Miniature, ‘The Art of the Master of Claude de France’, May 18th, thru September 14th, 2014. In 16th-century Europe, smaller was considered better — more beautiful, more precious — when it came to hand-illustrated books. A high value indeed must have been attached to a 2 ¾-by-2-inch prayer book created around 1517 for Claude de France, the first wife of the King François I.

Additional information: <http://themorgan.org/>

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, July 2nd – September 1st, 2014

One of four copies of the 1215 version of the Magna Carta, the document that is the foundation for many of the liberties Americans enjoy, and it was the inspiration for the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, not to be missed. ...and thanks to Darleen Cordova for this information.

Additional information: <http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions>

Allentown Paper Show, July 19th, 2014

Sounds like a lot of stuff in addition to rare books, fun day in Allentown...

Allentown Agri-Plex Fairgrounds West Chew Street, Allentown, PA

Additional information: <http://www.allentownpapershow.com/>

Searles Castle Antiquarian Book Fair, July 27th, 2014

Summer time in the Berkshires, ‘Been there, done that, great fun, and nighttime skies’

John Dewey Academy, Searles Castle, 389 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA

Additional information: <http://www.bornsteinsshows.com/>

Miniature Book Society Grand Conclave, August 15th - 17th, 2014

Boston, MA, ‘See you there for sure!’

Additional information: Recently updated with expanded details:

<http://www.mbs.org>

2014 Library of Congress National Book Festival,

August 30th, 2014 As is normal with Washington, more is better, plenty of activities for everyone

Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Library of Congress,

101 Independence Avenue SE

Washington, DC

Additional information: <http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/>

Cleveland Public Library, ‘Book Talk’, October 18, 2014

‘Miniature Books by Todd Sommerfeld’, Should be a 5 star event

Additional Information: <http://www.octavofest.com> and or

www.cpl.org



Take a day off, see what is going on, and visit an event... 

The love of books !

THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE JULY/AUGUST FRONTISPIECE: 'Write the Story'



Here is your opportunity to become an accomplished and published master of the pen. The above image will be used as the frontispiece for the September 2014 issue of *The Microbibliophile*. The image was selected by Stephen Byrne of Sorbie, Newton Stewart, Scotland.

There are no particular rules regarding the length of the story, the choice is yours. My only suggestion is that since the ongoing theme for 2014 is 'book collecting' the direction of your story should follow that theme, based upon what the image is saying to you. If you like 'pass' on writing the story and maybe you have a favorite image that you would like to share for another issue.

When I look at the image, I see some exuberant children, maybe in school, maybe their home book club, sharing the best of the day. Chatting all at the same time, as children do, but never missing a word. Maybe they are helping each other to understand the story or maybe they are expressing their joy in being able to be together and learn from the literature. What do you see?

As a reader of *The Microbibliophile*, I am sure you have the talent to weave an excellent story about bibliophilia, fact or fiction. The deadline for submitting articles for the September/October issue will be August 15, electronic or paper submissions, either way, the choice is yours,

Email: editor@microbibliophile77.com or 'The Microbibliophile' P. O. Box 5453 North Branch, NJ 08876. 📖

CLASSIFIED WISH LISTS,

Buy, Sell, or Trade:

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: E-mail: nma8156@yahoo.com

Katherine Bakunas is looking for the printed (original paper) copies of the early MBS Newsletters, MAR.'85, JUN.'85, FEB.'86, MAR '88 and #36, #45, #60, #63, #65, and #69, for a special indexing project,
Contact information: E-mail: 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: E-mail: karennyman2@cox.net or call 619-226-4441.

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

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

Darleen Cordova is looking for the following *The Spirit of Gutenberg* by the Phoenix Club of Printing House Craftsmen from 1940. My 1940 boxed set of six books had 2 copies of "*Exploring the Last Frontier*" by George Meredith, Portland, instead of the Gutenberg title.
Contact information: E-mail: c.cordova@sbcglobal.net.

Stephen Byrne is looking for a Gleniffer Press; *3 Point Gill Titling Catalogue*.
Contact information: E-mail: sb@finalscore.demon.co.uk

Jim Brogan would like to find two volumes from REM publications; REM Miniatures, *A Record and A Sampler, Part IV*, 'miniature scroll' with decorative wrapper and tie ribbon, 1 15/16" x 6'.
Contact information: E-mail: jbrogan1@verizon.net

Ellen Diamond would like to purchase the 'small printed document' titled "*It Happens To Everyone*", this was featured in *The Microbibliophile* Vol. XXX No. 2 (March 2011) p. 18
Contact information: E-mail: eldiamond54@comcast.net

Free for the printing! 

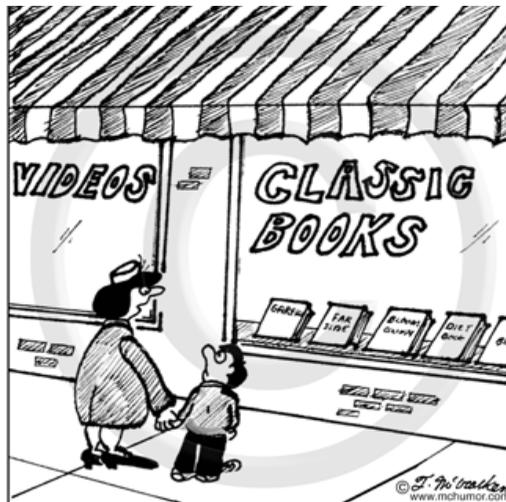


THE BOOKLOVER'S CALENDAR, Looking for Information?

Last year *The Microbibliophile* created the first issue, of what we hope to be an annual product, 'The BookLover's Calendar', a miniature calendar, containing bookish quotes, 'food for thought' for all of the miniature bibliophiles in the world. The original idea for the miniature 'BookLover's Calendar' was conceived and initiated by Frank J. Anderson, who was the proprietor of the Kitemaug Press. I have several of Frank's little creative calendars. My run begins with the 1992 calendar and goes through to the 2002 calendar, 2003 is missing, and then I have 2004, 2006, 2007, and 2008.

There is a printed note in the 2002 calendar saying that the calendars are in their 'sixteenth year'. Was the first issue on 1987? I would be interested in hearing from anyone who may know. In addition, the last issue I have is 2008, was this last issue that Frank published? I spoke with Frank before he died last year about reviving the 'BookLovers Calendar' but unfortunately I neglected to ask these questions.

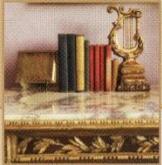
Our plan is to offer them for sale to our subscribers and other miniature book bibliophiles, with a price of \$5.00, postpaid. They are ready to be shipped now. Request your copy via E-mail.



"Those, honey? Those are books.
That's what they make movies from."



BUSINESS CARD ADVERTISING:

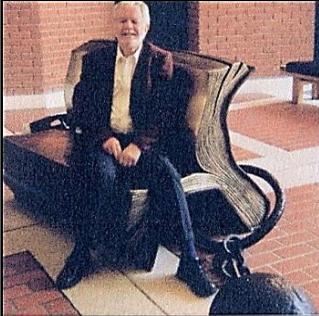


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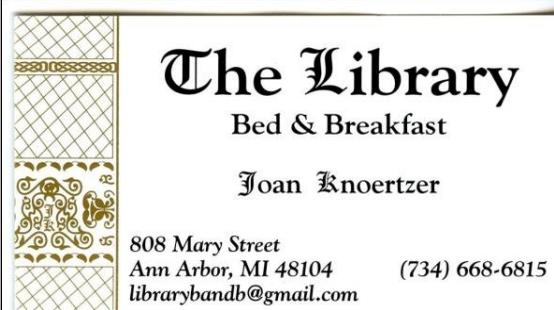
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Email: editor@microbibliophile77.com

(Deadline for September 2014 issue is August 15, 2014)

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