# THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE®

A Bimonthly Journal about Miniature Books and the Book Arts

Volume XXXVII, Number 5, Issue 215, September 2018

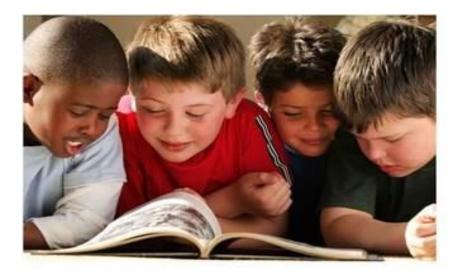


The Beauty of the Change of the Seasons Is About To Appear Before Our Eyes

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### Comíc or Classíc – Whích Genre Are You ? By Sherry Mayo



Have you ever marveled at the brain's ability to master and use the language arts? It is a fascinating journey from a non-verbal to verbal to an articulate mode of communication. The Frontispiece shows a group of four young boys of mid-elementary school age engrossed in the images of a favorite comic book. Elbow to elbow sharing the adventure of the protagonist as he/she vanquishes an archenemy, but also sharing their thoughts on the events unfolding with each page.

How many of us could not wait to spend our 'bottle' fund, paper route money, or allowance on that next edition? Then rush to that special spot away from distraction, or sometimes gather our buddies, to read and share the new adventure 'cover-to-cover'.

For many years, comics were the bane of the traditional classroom and often prohibited even as casual reading. The mainstream educational approach to any reading curriculum was usually based in the rudiments of well ingrained past practices. Even the 'Dick and Jane' style primers could be found in many classrooms while men were walking on the moon.

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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. Sherry Mayo, Publisher James M. Brogan, Editor © 2018 by James M. Brogan

#### Greetings from the Squeaky Roll Top Desk:

Summer is the business of hot weather, ice cream, family and friends, thunderstorms, and thinking about what we have to look forward to as the calendar pages flip with the next seasonal change. Sometimes we read about the relationship of the seasons to the phases of one's life, I like to think of the transition from summer into the fall and winter as a time to 'stock-up', build the fires that will warm us for the next months, and move us along into the next year. Memories and history are fun to think about but the adventure of the future is that what drives life.

The MBS Conclave was held in Charlottesville, Virginia a few weeks ago. Certainly, a grand time for all of those that attended. The exhibit displaying portions of the collection of Caroline Brandt was just outstanding, a thing to behold, each book a treasure unto itself and to be remembered for years to



come. The MBS Newsletter will provide a full recap Conclave with its next publication. Reviews for five new tomes are included within this issue as well as short reviews of two older miniatures both with red covers, which should catch your eye. While at the MBS
Conclave I had an interesting conversation, with a fellow attendee, about the FDR miniatures, more to follow as plans are explored. Also included are two articles about some items that are bookish but not exactly miniature - just bookish that I hope provide an interesting diversion.
Lastly, I was disappointed that the article about Jane Coneen did not generated some email feedback or 'Letters to the Editor' but the little brass box remained empty.

I will be attending the Wigtown Book Fair in Scotland that will be held in late September and on my itinerary is a visit with Ian Macdonald, retired book publisher and owner of Gleniffer Press. I am sure this year's festival will be as exciting and book filled as previous year reviews have indicated. Possibly I will find a few tomes to share with you in the next issue of *The Microbibliophile*. Unless one ventures down the 'path less traveled' one will never know what might be found beyond the next bend in the road.

Please consider joining the list of contributors to the 'Microbib' journal by sharing your books, your adventures, and your passion for the book arts. Diversity is the gift of life and let us all gather around the table for a feast of thoughts and ideas.

Lastly, thank you for the opportunity to bring *The Microbibliophile* into your life.

#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

"Everyone has his superstitions. One of mine has always been when I started to go anywhere, or do anything, never to turn back or stop until the thing intended was accomplished"

(Image of the 1890 issue of \$.05 A. Johnson US postage stamp)

Ulysses S. Grant, 1822 - 1885 Eighteenth President of the United States, 1868 -1876



#### MINIATURE BOOK REVIEWS and CRITICISM:

Rocky Mountain Rider: Isabella Bird In Colorado, 1873, excerpts from A Lady's Life in the



Endpaper image of Isabella Bird

*Rocky Mountains,* by Isabella Bird, published by The Wild Onion Press, edited by Patricia Caernarven-Smith, July 2018. Isabella Bird, [1831-1904] was born in England and for the love of adventure traveled the world. In 1873, she arrived in Colorado. The 'Rocky Mountain Rider' is a compilation of a series of letters written as a travel-memoir. The letters were written to her sister who resided in England. Since Colorado was the newest state at the time it would have certainly been a world of differences than life in England.

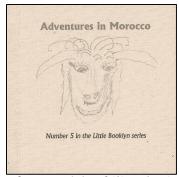
The first letter, dated September 2, from Lake Tahoe, opens with "I have found a dream of beauty. One could look at it all one's life and sigh." (I know exactly how she must have felt, as the mountains with their snow-covered tops are magical.) The Wild Onion Press miniature is a

selection of sixteen different letters.

Isabella Bird rode a borrowed horse named 'Birdie' for almost 800 miles during her Rocky Mountains adventure. Her letters not only describe the wondrous nature she observes but the people she meets along the way, including very vivid details outlining the 'wild west' that existed during that time period. It is interesting to read the letters because they are examples of the almost 'lost art' of writing letters. Today we have the instant messaging of an electronic text or quick picture rather than the written words of a personal note on paper.

The miniature is bound in a buckram cloth with a pale-green toned image of a Colorado mountain camp on the covers. The single image is printed from the front cover, across the spine, and onto the rear cover. The title is printed directly on the front cover and spine. It measures  $3" \ge 2^{15}/_{16}"$  and includes 278 numbered pages printed on a bright white Suzano Report paper utilizing Garamond font in an 8/10.5 pt. size. The book is very readable; it has a solid feel when you hold it in your hands for reading. The construction and finishing are flawless. This book is an open edition and is signed by the publisher. 'Rocky Mountain Rider' is priced at \$45, including shipping directly from the publisher, <u>www.TheWildOnionPress.com</u>.

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Adventures In Morocco, written and illustrated by Patricia Caernarven-Smith, published by The Wild Onion Press, 2018. This is book Number 5 in the 'Little Booklyn' series of miniature books by Patricia. Little Booklyn is a fictional town that is populated by book writers, publishers, and the various support people who toil night and day to keep the presses running. Her stories share the complexities of life for the people who devote their lives to clever, often artistic, objects called miniature books.

Morocco leather has been valued for years for its

softness and durability plus it is one of the finest grades of leathers and comes from goat skin. Readers know, from the previous four books, that there are possibly certain parallels to the real world of the author that work their way into the fictional accounts of life in Little Booklyn. I know not if this is true, but one feels a certain vibe when reading the dedication of this book: "This book is dedicated to the goats next door, but not to the old goat who owns them".

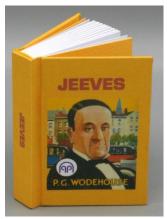
Adventures in Morocco begins with a few chapters of historical background information about the origins of the various genesis of goats and the families that tend them. This includes the beginning of Little Booklyn and how it developed. Most importantly, it outlines the relationship of the goat farm that was owned by the farmer named Bill Skinner and the town's folk. His dream is to, through selective breeding, produce a 'true blue' colored goat. So Bill brings in additional goats to begin his 'controlled breeding program' but, as with all things in life, there are problems. The story gets very complex with lawyers and town officials involved. Then a general cry of disapproval from the surrounding population about the goat farm erupts when an early spring temperature inversion spreads the stench of the goat farm everywhere. From there, the story continues as a good solution for Bill Skinner and his goat farm is discovered. However, it is certainly is a long and complicated lesson for all involved to get from white goats, to yoga classes, and back to white goats, again. It is an easy read and provides another 13 chapters of insight into the lives of the folks of Little Booklyn.

Adventures in Morocco is 3" x 3" with 217 printed pages, utilizing Bernhard Modern 9/12 pt. font printed on Suzano Report paper. The binding is the standard for the series, white book cloth with the title printed on the cover as well as the spine with a pale line drawing of a goat's head on the front cover. The chapter headings and title page are done with a blue ink that coordinates with the blue-gray endpapers. The printing and binding are of excellent quality. The tome is published as an open edition and the author/publisher signs each copy. The price is \$40 and it includes shipping directly from the publisher

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**Jeeves,** by P. G. Wodehouse, originally published in 1919 as 'My Man Jeeves', by George Newnes. This Plum Park miniature edition was published in June of this year. It contains two comedies from a collection of novels and short stories that first appeared in the UK publication 'The Strand' and the US periodicals, 'The Saturday Evening Post' and 'Collier's Weekly'. P. G. Wodehouse [1881 – 1975] was one of the most widely read humorists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Most of his stories are set in English locales, but he also included New York and Hollywood in some stories.

The opening story of the miniature is titled 'Jeeves and the Hard Boiled Egg'. Bertie Wooster, the gentleman and his valet,



Jeeves are the main characters and are introduced in this early story from Wodehouse. This story takes place in New York City and opens with some reflections on a is it a 'better life in New York since they have moved from London'. Bicky (who is????) is introduced. Then a typical plan is hatched to retain his allowance from his uncle Chiswick(Again – who is????), the 'Hard Boiled Egg'. (Why??? and Who???? makes this plan)The plan for a chicken farm involves many farcical points including a 'pay to shake the hand of the Duke'. One thing after another falls apart, however, Jeeves, the true hero, is always ready with a solution. Thus, Chiswick finally agrees to offer Bicky an office position back in London.

The second story is titled 'Jeeves and the Unbidden Guest'. It features the young gentleman, Bertie and his always professional valet, Jeeves. The story takes place in New York City and includes a string of additional characters, some family, some friends, some friends of friends. The tale begins with some very 'formal' language occurring between Bertie, who is a bit dimwitted, and Jeeves about the selection of proper attire and accoutrements for certain occasions. Everything from a high hat, to a walking stick, to a pink tie, all classic humor at its best.

Lady Malvern is introduced along with her son 'Motty'. Motty turns up 'drunk as a skunk' one morning on the door mat of Bertie's apartment and Lady Malvern accuses him of leading her son astray. The tale continues and Motty eventually gets arrested for punching a policeman. Jeeves, always at the ready to help with any task or problem, comes through with a solution once again. The story ends with Jeeves' classic line, "I endeavor to give satisfaction, sir."

*Jeeves* is bound with a bright yellow book cloth and matching endpapers. The picture of Jeeves printed on the cover is a reproduction of an illustration taken from the 1919 edition of *My Man Jeeves*. In the illustration, Jeeves appears to be in his mid-fifties and embodies the classic image of a proper English valet.

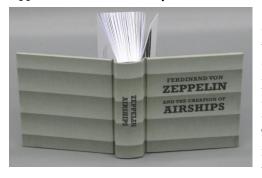
The book measures  $3" \ge 2^{1/8}"$  and includes 165 numbered pages printed on a bright white Suzano Report paper utilizing the Bernhard Modern and Bauhaus fonts. The book's construction is excellent and it is very easy to operate. It utilizes a good text margin and is easy hold in your hand while reading. *Jeeves* is a numbered edition of 20 copies, each signed by the publisher. The cost is \$40 plus \$5 shipping and handling

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1918 LZ-113 airship

*Ferdinand von Zeppelin and the Creation of Airships*, by Henry Vissering is a July 2018 publication, as a miniature, by Plum Park Press. Originally published in 1922 as *Zeppelin: The Story of a Great Adventure*, this miniature is a slightly abridged version. Ferdinand von Zeppelin [1838 – 1917] was a larger than life soldier, inventor, and designer. He, as a young German Army officer, left his homland to serve as an observer for the Union forces during the American Civil War.

Later, while exploring the Mississippi Valley, he had the opportunity to take a balloon flight; this was the root of his aeronautical interests. After his service with the German army, he devoted himself fulltime to the development of airships. In 1891, it was a great leap forward for aviation to go from balloons to airships. The zeppelin is an airship built with a ridged framework that is covered with a fairly non-porous fabric and then filled with lighter than air gas. A blimp is similar to a zeppelin because both can be steered, however, the blimp does not have a rigid framework. Its shape is determined by the design of the fabric "balloon" that creates its "body". Though inspired by his balloon ride, Zeppelin wanted to not only be able to be airborne but to steer his way thru the sky.



The miniature brings the reader along the entire development and thought process to the construction stages that Zeppelin began in earnest by 1891. One can imagine the design problems that needed to be solved but Zeppelin, his engineers, and technicians continued their work to improve each design. The miniature captures all of the details including explanations for the first 'airports' that were originally called 'airship harbors'.

The book is packed with pictures and illustrations to enhance the reading experience. There are also numerous configuration tables for the many different airship and their engines . The height of activity for the Zeppelin was between 1918-1919.

The miniature is covered in a gray toned book cloth to resemble the fabric used to cover an airship's rigid frame. The title is printed directly on the cloth cover. The front

and rear endpapers are illustrations showing the various routes that the airship flew. 'Zeppelin' measures  $3" \ge 2^{13}/_{16}$ " and includes 251 number pages. The text is printed in a Zurich font and the heads are printed with a Rockwell font. Suzano Report paper is used for the text pages. The book has excellent construction and print quality throughout. 'Zeppelin' is a numbered edition of 20 copies, each signed by the publisher. An interesting homage to the building of the airships is that the edition is designated with a 'serial number' not a 'copy number'. Lastly, included, as an additional reference, with my review copy, was a 48-page pamphlet showing various zeppelin postage stamps in color from many different countries. The cost of 'Zeppelin' is \$50 plus \$5 shipping and handling.





The cost of 'Zeppelin' is \$50 plus \$5 shipping and handling. 📖

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



'The wolves devour the Sun and the Moon', illustration by Willy Pogany

*The Dwellers of Asgard*, by Padraic Colum [1881 – 1972], is an August 2018 publication, as a miniature book, by Plum Park Press. It was originally published in 1920, by Collier Macmillan, as *The Children of Odin: The Book of Northern Myths*. The following, taken from the publisher's advance prospectus, gives one an introduction to the series: "It was written by Padraic Column – poet, playwright, founder of the *Irish Review*, a leader of the Irish Renaissance, and an outstanding author of books for children, for which he won the

Regina Medal. Plum Park Press is now proud to offer *The Children of Odin* in four miniature volumes, corresponding to the four parts of the original book, and presented complete and unabridged, with the original illustrations by Will Pogany."



Illustration by Willy Pogany

'Dwellers', the first volume of the four part series, is a collection of nine Norse myths that provide an enjoyable reading experience of Viking legends for both the adult and young reader. The first adventure begins with the myth entitled 'Far Away and Long Ago'. Its opening line reads, "Once there was another Sun and another Moon: a different Sun and a different Moon from the ones we see now. Sol was the name of that Sun and Mani was the name of that Moon." How powerful and captivating, one simply must continue as the words of the author draw you in and you are about to take the first step of a great adventure. "The wolves caught on them at last and they devoured Sol and Mani.

And then the world was in darkness and cold." I must admit that the story, the writing, the thrill of it all is captivating. When I opened the book for review, I started reading 'Far and Away' and then straight into 'Building the Wall' before I got up from my desk, which is not exactly my favorite reading chair. There was such a perfect balance of mystery and intrigue with a venture into a world that most of us are not as familiar – the "Norselands".

On our diverse staff here at *The Microbibliophile*, we have a wide selection of critics that may be consulted from time to time about books. I loaned my review copy of the 'Dwellers' to a seasoned, almost nine year old "staffer" who proceeded to read the book's 232 pages in two days. When asked for his review his comment was, "Where is the next book?".

As a slight aside, years ago I read all eight volumes of the time traveler series, 'Outlander', by Diana Gabaldon. Every page of each book was fraught with adventure. So captivating was the ongoing story that I had both paper and electronic versions so I could turn another page whenever I had a few extra moments. The expression of my young staffer told me, thru his eyes, that he had the same feelings of adventure with his reading of 'Dwellers'. The wonder of the world of miniature books shines through with this book, as I stated, adventure for adults and young alike.

'Dwellers' is bound in brown faux leather with a gold lettered title label on the spine. The publisher, in his prospectus mentions that each of the four volumes will be bound in a unique color theme that will carry through to the parchment paper and illustrations. The first, as well as, the subsequent volumes, is printed in a Lindisfarne Nova typeset, which was inspired by the manuscripts used in the Lindisfarne manuscripts more than a thousand years ago. The publisher uses a decorative 'drop cap' style for the first letter of the first word for each myth with the toning for this feature darker than the remaining text that adds an interesting and visual aspect to the book.

Each myth is preceded by an illustration by Pogany. The book measures  $2^{7}/8" \times 2^{3}/8"$  with the endpaper color coordinated with the binding color and the toning of the illustrations. The book's construction is of high quality and is very easy to operate, it has good text margins, and easy is to hold while reading. 'Dwellers' is a numbered edition of only 20 copies, each signed by the publisher. I recommend that you may want to reserve your copy as soon as possible. The cost is \$45 plus \$5 shipping and handling.

The schedule for the next three volumes is December 2018, then April and August of 2019. My compliments to the original author Padraic Colum, a master story teller who has captured all of the magic and majesty of the Norse tales and kudos to Tony for sharing this outstanding story with the readers.

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COMIC or CLASSIC,

By Sherry Mayo: (Continued from Frontispiece, Page 2)

Meanwhile, the comic book, with its continuously evolving format and time relevant stories, was capturing young minds across the globe. The outlandish colors, quick dialogue, and simpler plot lines appeal to a portion of the mind not reached by many of the "required" readings set forth by teachers. Quite often a child's vocabulary and thought process will expand further while reading a Star Wars or Wonder Woman comic than the stereotypical Dick and Jane style literature.

However, the archaic mantra of some aspects within the educational community often continue to foist the message upon students and parents that only the classics or award winning books are worth a child's time. Yes, there is little doubt that reading the classics will enrich one's mind and broaden one's experiences, but not before the reader develops the maturity to embark on the intellectual journey necessary to grasps the author's sometimes hidden intent.

Even many young adult readers fail to grasp the undercurrent of meaning beneath the adventures of Tom, Huck, Alice, or Gulliver. Often the novels are read for a class

assignment or possibly for the pleasure while giving little thought, if any, to the political climate of the era or customs of life that contribute to the baseline story.

However, comic books often tend to be less complicated, straightforward in plot lines, and seldom use innuendos to hide the true purpose/meaning of the story. The use of simple dialogue, story plots, and odd heroes combined with vivid colors bring the stories to life for children of the digital age. If reading is the goal, then comics provide a plethora of opportunities for all levels of ability. It is a genre often overlooked by the purist of the book and mini-book world, yet, its popularity warrants at least a modicum of consideration.

What, you may ask, is the purpose of this essay? Perchance, to provoke some thought about what constitutes an "acceptable" form of "literature" if the main goal is to excite someone about reading. Likewise, to spark an interest among the readers concerning the audience beyond the realm of these pages waiting to discover that first miniature book.

Do the thoughts expressed here inspire some creative thinking for a future miniature book? Sometimes it falls on the "young" or "young at heart" to create a bit of whimsy to shake off the doldrums of the classical works and standard bindings. Be bold, strive to be different!

As has been noted within these pages so often, in order to expand and preserve the miniature book for the future, we must reach a younger audience that today is often drawn to life only when it is presented in a digital format. Can we change that? We have the knowledge, the creative minds, and the skill set to create both beauty and fun. The challenge is - can one of you create a miniature books that captures the vibe, hands, and eyes of a younger reader.

#### SOMETHING NOT SO OLD, ABOUT AN OLD DREAM, Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine:



Picture image courtesy of De Walden Press

The book *Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine* is the creation of Jan Kellet and her De Walden Press. Jan is now retired but from her website, I share with you some inspirational thoughts of this ever-dreaming fine book artist. "Starting a new book is always fun, there's an excitement, the feeling of beginning a journey, the opportunity to try new things and to use ideas that have been fizzing around in your brain waiting for the chance to erupt." Interesting and unique is the inspiration that initiated Jan's work on the research for the book. Jan explains that "Leonardo Dreams of his Flying Machine, is based on a choral work by the American composer Eric Whitacre, with libretto by Charles Anthony Silvestri. These very talented men collaborated to produce an unusual and stunning work, full of action, exploring the concept of Leonardo da Vinci dreaming of his flying machine. I first heard this piece sung by the National Youth Choir of Canada in 2006, a magical performance which inspired me. From this beginning, I began to research Leonardo's notebooks (and along the way filled a few of my own)." (The music can be heard at the web address <u>https://ericwhitacre.com/music-catalog/leonardo-dreams-of-his-flying-machine.</u>)

Jan further explains explaining the various aspects of the very detailed components of her book. Jan selected a handmade paper and commissioned a special making from the Griffen Mill in Ireland. The paper has a special texture just perfect for letterpress printing, with the perfect softness that allows the letter images to 'sink into the paper surface'.

She used photopolymer plates on her old, iron Craftsman Press for both the text and illustrations. When you hold this



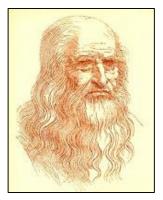
Title page, courtesy of De Walden Press

book in your hands and glide your fingers across the pages you can feel the perfection.

There are five full-page illustrations included, printed on hand-made Japanese Bicchu Torinoko Gampi paper that was dyed with tea and then dried to echo the terracotta and black colors of ancient Etruscan pottery. Gold leaf, burnished to a shine, was used to illuminate the illustrations. The illustrations on the endpapers are reproductions of the line drawings; 'the dragonfly' sketch and the drawing of a 'man dangling from a parachute' the from the notebooks of Leonardo Da Vinci.

The level of perfection continues with the hand-drawn lettering on the title page echoed in the gold blocked title on the front cover that is perfectly proportioned to the size of the book cover. The book was sewn on dyed vellum slips, laced through the rich burgundy colored goatskin leather of covers. The lower leather cover is extended on the fore edge to form a wrap over the text block, which then resembles an artist's portfolio and the covers tie with matching red grosgrain ribbon.

The physical size of the book with forty pages is 215/16" x 23/8" and was originally published in 2010, with an edition size of only 20 copies. Jan extensively documented all of the production steps with many photos and discussion details of the decisions made along the way from idea to the book being completed. You can reference these details at the web address; http://booked- out.blogspot.com/search/label/ Leonardo%20da%20Vinci.



It is difficult to sit in our modern world and understand how a man like Di Vinci could have dreamed such futuristic thoughts and then follow through with viable solutions. What might he have done with a modern computer at his disposal?

I wish to extend my congratulations to Jan Kellett for all of her work and the perfection that she employed to bring such wonderful finished gems to the world of miniature books. Well Done!

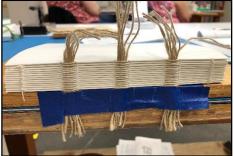
#### THE VALUE OF LEARNING HOW TO MAKE BOOKS, By Donna LaVallee:

Books hold many secrets and I was just let in on a few! I took a five-day Core Bookbinding Course at the San Francisco Center for the Book (SFCB). I signed up for it because I wanted to gain skills to help me improve the quality of my miniature books. But what I discovered is that I now look at all books with new appreciation.

I am lucky enough to live close to the San Francisco Center for the Book and I have taken an occasional class there – mostly just one-day courses teaching very easy

structures. MBS member and SFCB staffer Cheryl Ball suggested that I would enjoy taking the entire core-bookbinding series. I rearranged my calendar and signed up.

The class had seven students and we made four books in five days – gaining book-making skills, learning how to use equipment, and making friends. Our instructor, Juliayn Coleman, is a graduate of the North Bennet



Signatures on the sewing trame

Street School. Her skills and patience as an instructor gave her students confidence and the ability to make beautiful books.

We made our own paste paper on the first morning – starting off with finger painting! And playing with color – it got the creative juices flowing. While the papers dried, we started making our first structure – the Coptic binding. This book gave us the basic vocabulary: folios, signatures, text blocks, cover boards, and paste downs. We finished them off with our very own paste paper designs.

Day two brought us back together with new confidence – we had already made one book! Book two was a flat backed casing. We learned about book presses and glued spines. We used book cloth to cover spines and book corners and again finished our books with our very own paste paper designs. Two days and two books....

Using a sewing frame was the big learning goal of day three as we made limp-paper bindings from gorgeous Cave paper with leather straps. Frustration at first with the new

sewing skills – but confidence gained as the day progressed. Three days and three books.....

The classic round spine was a two-day project with some familiar equipment and new equipment and skills. But by now we knew we were on our way to being book binders and we surmounted the challenges. We rounded and hammered our spines, we used liquid graphite to decorate our edges, we made our own end bands and we finished with book cloth and marbled paper.



Traditions vs Round spine

Five days and four wonderful books, but more importantly, new friends, new skills, and new appreciation for bookmakers. And so much insight into books. I rushed home after rounding my first spine and pulled old books off my shelves – checking the spines and end bands, looking for decorated edges, checking the cover papers and end papers and text blocks.

I am not yet a collector of antiquarian books – miniature or otherwise, but my shelves



A classroom full of wonderful new book creations

already hold a number of well-made books dating back 60 or 70 years. I can look at them with new eyes – they are important not only for their authors and contents, but for the quality of their bindings and their materials.

I strongly urge everyone to find a Book Arts Center or a college or university program that might teach a special introductory workshop near them and take a class. You may not become a book binder, but your collection will benefit. Perhaps it may turn someone like me, who enjoys the making of books, into a collector because now I have new insights and new ways to appreciate the antiquarian books.

Contact information: Donna LaVallee, 178 Brewster Street, San Francisco, CA 94110 E-mail: donnaMBSmembership@gmail.com

#### TIME MACHINE, The News-Letter of the LXIVMOS, Number 18, By Nina Mazzo:





Scrivener James D. Henderson once again entices his readers with the following articles: telephone book pages in miniature, National Geographic magazine in miniature format, and an intriguing style of book called a hornbook.

A hornbook? What in the world is this I wondered aloud as I read about a very rare 18th century American hornbook featured at the New York Library Miniature Book Exhibition in 1929?

Well, once again I was to add to my knowledge base in the world of books as I embarked on an internet search about hornbooks. They date from the mid-15th century in Europe and America and consisted of a wooden paddle



THE TYPICAL HORNBOOK

The hornbook has been defined as an alphabetical book or board that was covered in front with a thin sheet of horn to prevent it form being soiled. During the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries, the term 'hornbook' gradually came to mean any kind of ABC tablet – whether horn entered into its construction or not. So flexible did this term become, that the child's primer – which later replaced the hornbook – was for some time better known as a hornbook.

Brewer's *Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* describes the typical English hombook as being a paddle-shaped alphabet board with a printed lesson sheet - covered with a thin sheet of hom attached by nails and strips of brass. The hom and tacked brass strips protected and neatly framed the alphabet, the nine digits, and the Lord's Prayer. An ornamental sketch of St. George and the Dragon was frequently stamped on the backboard.

The one page hornbook was the first children's book that they handled and carried with them. The young and forgetful creatures that they were, it was both wise and convenient to wear the hornbook hanging from their waist or wrist. with school lessons tacked on and covered by a piece of transparent horn. Horn used was generally from oxen and sheep for the laminating structure. I was able to find an antique website who sold one for around \$750 (no further details on its date or condition) and I also located a website that makes replica hornbooks and they look quite remarkable <u>(www.cookiemold.com</u>) so of course I placed an order for a great conversation piece!

How about miniature New York telephone book pages made by William E. Rudge measured  $2^{3}/_{4}$ " by  $2^{1}/_{4}$ " and he chose three different pages by the offset process. He meant them to be read with a reading glass invented by Admiral Fiske that would allow reading materials to be reduced in size to about 30 to 1.

In Japan, there was a theatrical phone

book containing the telephone numbers of actors, theaters, etc. measuring  $2^{5}/8" \ge 1^{7}/8"$ . It was to be used by the geisha girls for sending their patrons on to other entertainment.

"One of the most beautiful magazines in miniature we have ever seen came to the Scrivener – *The National Geographic* in size 7" x 5". I can only imagine what it was like to open and see 22 pages of beautiful colored photographs of world subjects.

Finally, thank you James D. Henderson, Scrivener for another excellent edition. I like to think he would be pleased that miniature book collectors today still appreciate his work.

Something new and something old. I highly recommend acquiring at least a reprint copy of the *News Letter of the LXIVMOS* for the bookshelf of every bibliophile.

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

#### THE CHRISTMAS LADY COMES TO THE LIBRARY B AND B New Christmas Ornaments For 2018, By Joan Knoertzer:

Editor's Note: Joan is without a doubt the 'Christmas Lady' always on the search for new and unique ornaments to decorate her bed and breakfast and warm the hearts of all of the travelers that come through her doorway.

Once again, my love of the holidays and miniature books has inspired me. There is a wide variety of tiny or miniature ornaments that relate to books or imitate books. There are animals, children, and adults with books around them which are becoming known as "readers". Resisting their festive nature is very difficult. There are many places for one to look for these little gems. The availability of unique ornaments grows, as it seems more people are downsizing and donating their possessions. If you like to go from new store to thrift store, it is like mining for gold. Our local Kiwanis group, in Ann Arbor, has a rummage sale each week, and there are plenty of little objects which get my attention. Let us not forget the Salvation Army Store, or the PTO and other thrift stores, and best of all garage sales. The price is right and the joy they bring as you hang them on the tree is remarkable. Watching friends try to figure out the characters from books, movies, and stories is very entertaining. Pairing the objects up with actual miniature books is a fun project.

My two trees are filled, and are up year round. Here are some additions I have made this year.

#### HALLMARK KEEPSAKE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS:

High School Musical, 'We're All In This Together', Sidney, Sound feature 2008
Sleeping Beauty, The Enchanted Memories Collection, Disney, 1999
Superman, 1993
Away to the Window, Collector's Club, 1997 from 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' one of four in series, celebrating the 175th year of Clement Clarke Moore's poem (1822)
Merry Carolers, from A Christmas Carol " Collection, celebrating Charles Dickens' famous story, five character ornaments in the Collection, 1991
Mr. Ashbourne, from 'A Christmas Carol' Collection, celebrating Charles Dickens' famous story, part of five character ornaments in Collection, Special Edition, 1990, Bell
Spider-Man, Slinging and Swinging, with magic light feature with Green Goblin, 2016
The Wizard of Oz, Ruby Slippers, with magic light feature, 2016
Humpty-Dumpty, Mother Goose Series, first in series, 1993
Jack and Jill, Mother Goose Series, third in series, 1995
Mary Had A Little Lamb, Mother Goose Series, fourth in series, 1996
Nutcracker, Nutcracker Guild Series, miniature, 1995, second in series.

Mop Top Wendy, Beatrice Alexander Behrman, (Raggedy Ann) 1998 Avatar Jake Sully, Katrina Bricker, 2010 Legends of the Guardians" The owls of Ga'hoole 2010 Esmeralda and Djali, Disney's The Hunchback of Notre Dame collection, by Ken Crow "Laverne, Victor and Hugo, Disney's Hunchback of Notre Dame collection by Ken Crow Quasimodo, Disney's Hunchback of Notre Dame collection by Ken Crow Jedi, Star Wars, www.starwars.com, 2017 Happy Feet, Mumble Dances, string pull, 2008 Jonah and the Great Fish, Collector's Series, Favorite Bible Stories (Second), 2000 Sofia, Disney Sofia the First, Hallmark 2016 School Days, 2018 School Book (Binder), Matt Johnson design Faith, Trust, and Pixie Dust, Disney Peter Pan, Katrina Bricker design, 2018 Snow White, in porcelain with animals around her, from Disney Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, 80th Anniversary, by Katrina Bricker, 2018 A Real Boy, Disney Pinocchio, Fairy Queen lights up and speaks to Pinocchio as she makes him a real boy, 2018

*A Creature Was Stirring*, First in the A Creature Was Stirring series, a miniature book with a mouse reading, by Tammy Haddix, 2017

#### ENESCO TREASURY OF CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS:

*Old King Cole*, M. Gilmore Collection, third in series of Mousery Rhymes series, 1990, 1991 *Unity Church* Crystal Falls Village, circa 1902 reproduction, May Department Stores 1994

#### BAS BLEU, BOOKSELLER BY POST: www.basbleu.com

*Well Read Dachshund*, dachshund with Christmas hat lying on open book, 2017 *Reading Owl Ornament*, owl on open book (Wuthering Hoots) 2017 *Reading Penguin Ornament*, Adult penguin with young penguin on snow reading 2017.

Well, what are you waiting for? Make your miniature collecting as joyful as possible, for not only yourself, but for those, old or young, who visit you. Share and make the best of every memory! Happy Holidays! Joan Knoertzer.

Contact information: Joan Knoertzer, P.O. Box 3387, Ann Arbor, MI, 48106-3387 E-mail: librarybandb@gmail.com

#### TERMS AND DEFINITIONS, 'DROP CAP':

'Dropped Cap' and 'Decorated Initial' are two obscure terms. According to Glaister, 'dropped cap' or 'dropped initial' is used to define the initial capital letter at the beginning of a chapter, approximately aligned at the top with the cap line of the first line of text and ranging at the foot over two or more lines. Extending the definition somewhat is the term 'decorated initial', similar in placement with the 'dropped cap' but the letter is placed in a decorative 'text block' sometimes with an entirely different font to enhance the visual effect to the reader.

'Dropped letters and numerals are an entirely different concerns and are used to define a minor typographical 'accident'. On occasion you may see a catalogue reference such as 'dropped letter on page 13, paragraph 2', this information may be used to establish a particular edition of a book, more than likely a 'first edition' as these accidents are quickly corrected in subsequent editions and printings.

I am sure that within the readership we have the knowledge to expand my brief pathway into these two terms. I invite you to send me examples of these typographical conventions so they can be shared with the readers.

More information awaits you in both the Carter and Glaister reference books.  $\square$ 

#### A BOOK IS DESIGNED, Submitted By Todd Sommerfeld:

In the July 2016, *The Microbibliophile*, I shared with you the rather organic story of how my seventh original book, *Toad Loves to Read* came to be. Today I would like to tell the story of a different book, my upcoming 11th. Unlike *Toad*, this new book took a considerable amount of planning and collaboration to bring to fruition.

It all began shortly after the completion of the second edition of *Toad* that I began looking for a new idea for my next project. I had several projects on the back burner because they simply were not clicking for one reason or another. A Christmas book based on an odd song, but the lyrics were still under copyright. A dos-a-dos about an obscure miniature book printer with a bibliography of his books, but I was dissatisfied with my research and writing. A shape book about a long-term book collecting adventure with an ever so satisfying, if ironic, resolution, but I lack the skill to make the shape book well. As I was bemoaning my plight to my son, he casually mentioned that he had written a short Christmas story a couple of years ago, and would I like to see it? I said I'd look at it but did not have high hopes, but as I read it through a second and third time my imagination began to run wild! It was just the thing I was looking for. It was short, told a great story, and would lend itself well to illustration. Where would the illustrations come from though?

Neither my son nor I were artists and our rudimentary efforts would have ruined the entire project. The answer seemed to come from my young daughter who had taken a liking to drawing and was pretty good at it. A family project would be perfect. She quickly produced a title illustration that I immediately fell in love with, but that is as far as she ever got. Other interests crowded drawing, so she moved on. I was not too concerned because in the interim my cousin, who is also my compositor, became gravely ill and could not work on any projects. Since I already had all the design work done for my 2017 keepsake I abandoned printing books and instead focused on my binding technique, making about 150 blank notebooks.

By the winter of 2018, my cousin had recovered sufficiently that she was looking for something to do so I sent her my 2018 keepsake to put together and began thinking about that Christmas story again. But I still had no illustrations.

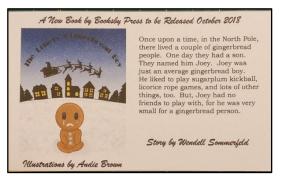
My daughter was too busy now to even think about the dozen or so illustrations I wanted, and I could not do it, so we were still stuck. As luck would have it though, I met a young graphic artist through an online collecting group unrelated to miniature books whose work I instantly fell in love with. In June, I asked if she would like to collaborate. She was excited but hesitant. She had never illustrated a book before and was not sure she could. I was sure she could, so I sent her the story and a group of my other books to help her understand miniature books. Like so many before her she was completely enchanted by the books and could not wait to start but had a million questions. Do I need to draw small? Nope. They can be sized on the computer when we put the book together. Tell me what you want me to draw. Nope. You are the artist, read the story and draw what you see. I do not know where to begin. Just start with drawing the title. It will be your icebreaker. But what if you don't like it? It does not matter if I like it. I am using whatever you send me. Now I had my own idea of how it should look but I also knew that the best art comes from the heart and if I started dictating what I wanted it would most likely get so bogged down that it would never get finished. What she sent me was perfect. It will become the dustjacket illustration and became the announcement for the upcoming release.

At this point, I realized I needed to start putting in some work too and think about how many pages it would have. I settled on a 28-page book: two blank pages in the front, title, dedication by the illustrator, 20 pages of alternating illustrations and text, and a colophon. I broke the text into ten sections and sent the sections to the illustrator to draw corresponding pictures, and to the compositor to make the text fit on the page. I had already decided that this book would be the same size as *Toad* and have a sewn binding,

so we knew how everything had to fit. By early August, she had completed all ten illustrations, but it was off to the Conclave for me. When I returned I sent the artist directions for designing the endpapers and met with the compositor to get everything onto the pages. Now I am rather old-fashioned so I took the pages home, cut them out, and pasted them in order in a dummy book to get the correct order. I then met with the compositor again to place everything on the sheets for printing. I have since gotten the

images for the endpapers and assembled them. As of the writing of this article, I still need to design the dustjacket, and I would like to learn how to hot stamp, so the title can be on the cloth cover in gold. I am hoping to have books ready to ship in mid-October and am very excited to be bringing this book to you.

As always, questions, comments, and criticisms are welcomed at contratodd@gmail.com.

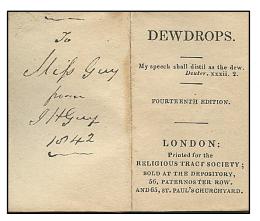


Contact information: Todd Sommerfeld, 6475 Ridge Road #1, Parma, OH 44129 E-mail: contratodd@gmail.com or <u>www.booksbypress.com</u>



#### SOMETHING OLD, An Antiquarian Treasure, *Dew Drops*:

As you can see from the illustration of the cover page, the edition of *Dew Drops* that I have presented is an 'old book' about an 'older subject'. This antiquarian, 'pocket companion', the fourteenth edition, was printed in 1842 by the Chiswick Press, under the publishing direction of the Religious Tract Society, London. It is a diminutive  $1^{7}/_{8}$ " x  $1^{3}/_{8}$ " unpaged, bound in an untitled red wallet style leather, A.E.G. Interesting, the free endpaper contains a short note; "*Mike Guy from J. H. Guy, 1842*".



The Religious Tract Society, founded 1799, 56 Paternoster Row and 65 St. Paul's Chuchyard and 164 Piccadilly, was the original name of a major British publisher of Christian literature intended initially for evangelism. The literature was originaly aimed toward children, women, and the poor. The title 'Dew Drops' is taken from a verse from 'Deuteronomy', pictured on the title page "my speech shall distill as the dew". An incidental event grew out of the operations of the Religious Tract Society in the third year of its existence. It was considered the preliminary

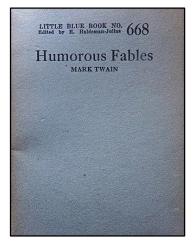
step towards the organization of the British and Foreign Bible Society, the parent Bible Society of the world.

The society over time extended its reach certainly to America where the American Tract Society was formed in 1825. Most of their publications were small miniature books that lent themselves well as 'pocket editions' and provided themselves as easy travel companions.

These companion books are generally available with a wide selection in the 'old and rare book' secondary market. I think it is an interesting genre of the miniature bookwork that these books were truly created as miniatures for the convenience of travelers and I add a large part of the original audience was prisoners, and have survived over so many years.

The genre of 'Dew Drops' on both sides of the ocean would certainly make an interesting set of articles for some future issues. I hope I have piqued your interest and maybe you will pick up that research pen.

#### CULTURE SERVED IN A BLUE WRAPPER, Almost Miniature, Little Blue Books:



Mention 'blue book to someone today and they think of one of two things, an automobile price guide or those dreaded exam books used for college essays tests. The Wall Street Journal ran an interesting full-page article on the Little Blue Books with the July 21, 1918 issue. Continuing for six decades in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, 'blue book' meant something else to the customers of the publishing house of Emanuel Haldeman-Julius. Beginning in 1919 he started publishing 'Appeal's Pocket Series' on cheap pulp paper a series of literary titles as well as informational 'how to' titles. The name of the series changed to 'The Little Blue Book' after a few years. In just nine years, the idea caught on all around the globe as the Little Blue Books were finding their ways into the

pockets of laborers, scholars, and the average citizen. The 'St. Louis Dispatch' called Haldeman-Julius 'the Henry Ford of literature'. Among the better known names of the day to support the Little Blue Books were Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, W. E. B. Du Bois, and Admiral Richard Byrd, who took along a set to the South Pole. Their beginning production runs were more than 24,000 booklets a day.

Haldeman-Julius was certainly a publishing genius and a person who continuously 'thought outside of the box'. If a title did not sell more than 10,000 books a year, he would change the title and bring it back, sometimes with outstanding results. 'The Little Blue Books' were printed at  $3^{1}/_{2}$ " x 5" and generally contained about 64 pages. He was a market genius that would rival <u>Amazon.com</u> today. He geared his sales toward a mail order business model selling 20 titles for a dollar, making his profits from the volume of business. He modernized his printing plant so he could print 240,000 books a day, if you can believe such a number.

Over the life of the series, he produced over 1914 titles with a total press run of more than 500 million book. The popularity decline during the Great Depression and after WWII issues such as tax evasion and 'un-American activities' surfaced. A fire destroyed the printing plant in 1978. There are a few 'complete collections' available, one at the Pittsburg State University Library. There are more than a few titles available on the second hand book market to stimulate your 'almost' miniature interest.

#### DWARSLIGGER, Flipbook, A New Format For Miniature Books? :

Some of us are very busy with life and some of us are busy with everything under the sun. One of our most diligent readers/subscribers is Caroline Brandt. Always on the ready for something new in the book world. Caroline sent me a newspaper clipping of a book format know as a 'flipbook' that was posted in the 'Washington Post' on August 19th. The

format was introduced by a Dutch printer, Royal Jongbloed, in 2009.

The flipbook has a 'flexible spine' and the spine is aligned with the text in a 'left to right' format rather than the traditional 'top to bottom' format. The spine, a unique hinge that allows the little book to remain open, is the heart of this feat of miniaturization. In addition, the very thin paper, long used for bible printing, is another key component.

The popular book format, with a typical page size of about  $3^{1}/8^{"} \ge 4^{3}/4^{"}$  makes an easy to hold format. The size is not within the limits of a traditional U.S. miniature but it is not far from it and I think the small differences could be adjusted with little effort. According to the newspaper article, John Green, a very popular young-adult author, "I find this format usable and super portable. And young people may be the perfect audience for a new way to read....And in some ways; these books are more similar to a phone shaped experience."



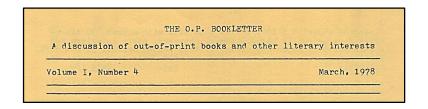
Image courtesy of dwarsligger.com

The format, accepted in The Netherlands, Spain, France, and England will be introduced to the United States with the Penguin Young Readers label.

I am sure we will be seeing more of the format at our favorite booksellers in the near future. Perhaps we may even see a few new miniature books being introduced in this interesting format.

#### WILLIAM LEWIS WASHBURN, An American Miniature Publisher Who Took A 50 Year Hiatus, By Robert F. Orr Hanson:

Editor's Note: Robert Hanson, was the original editor and creator of 'The Microbibliophile', which began back in 1977. Since I took over as the Editor in January of 2011, Bob has contributed an article to each issue. Recently he has been busy moving his 'editorial archives' to be closer to Denver, CO. I have chosen a reprint of an an early article that Bob included with 'The Microbibliophile', Volume IV, Number. 3, July 1980.



For a twelve month period, from December, 1977 to December, 1978, I published a companion newsletter to *The Microbibliophile* entitled 'The O.P. Bookletter'. This labor of love was devoted to a discussion of out-of-print books, private press books, and bookplates. Number Four of that series contained an article of remembrance by Irvin Haas who was the Editor of the magnificent and highly artistic book-collecting magazine published by Norman Forgue. Copies of that journal, 'The Book Collector's Packet' — given to me by Norman Forgue, are my most prized bibliophilic possessions.

Well, to return to the point of my story, I purchased, from Irvin Hass, a miniature book which was published by William Lewis Washburn entitled *A Colonial Courting*, about which I thought you would enjoy reading.

I think that all 16 of Washburn's books are difficult to locate now. In a succeeding issue, I will have a list of those books for your records. Parenthetically, Anne Bromer listed his *Wine Songs* from Omar Khayyam by Frank Ankenbrand Jr. in her Catalogue 9 for \$75. The book measured  $2^{1}/_{2}$ " x  $1^{3}/_{4}$ " was published in 1938 and was a "miniature broadside folded and tipped into printed wrappers".

William Lewis Washburn was born in Hartford, Connecticut during the year 1862. His father was Brigadier General George Abiel Washburn who served with some distinction in the War Between the States. His mother, Sarah Ann White Washburn, descended from Elder John White, a founder of the city of Hartford.

Washburn printed his first two miniature books in 1879 and 1880, respectively, as a teenager. A lapse of 50 years was to ensue before his third book appeared—in 1929—

*Elegy Written in a Country Church-Yard,* by Thomas Gray. This little book was bound in blue leather, contained 15 leaves, measured  $3^{1}/_{8}$ " x  $2^{1}/_{4}$ " and was issued in only 64 copies.

During the 50 years hiatus, Washburn honed his skills, as a commercial printer in several states, finally moving to Haddon Heights, New Jersey from which nine of his miniature books were printed in Audubon and Collingswood, New Jersey.

My book, *A Colonial Courting*, measures  $2^{3}/4^{"} \ge 2^{"}$ , contains 61 pages, and is bound in a whitish-blue paper over boards with a medium blue backstrip. The title page reads: *A Colonial Courting Being Extracts From Judge Samuel Seawall's Diary September 1720 December* William Lewis Washburn Haddon Heights NJ 1940. And, the frontispiece portrait is a sketch of Samuel Sewall by Thelma V. Gardiner.

There are two very appealing publishing devices used in this book. One is the use of the catchword (the first word of the following page inserted at the right-hand lower corner of each page of a book, below the last line) found only in some very old books, and the other is a list of subscribers—36 in all. (My book is number 31, and the name of the subscriber is Irvin Haas).

The Colophon states that 72 copies were printed, and that "1 to 36 are reserved for advance subscribers. The balance will be designated alphabetically." Among the institutional subscribers were: Free Public Library of Philadelphia, New York Public Library, Massachusetts Historical Society-Boston, and American Antiquarian Society-Worcester.

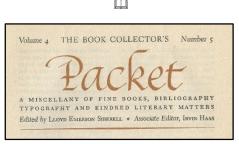
As for the story, it chronicles the unsuccessful courtship of Madame Katherine Winthrop (a third-year widow) by Judge Sewall. When last heard from the disappointed, but resigned Judge was dining "alone upon Kilby's Pyes and good Beer".

(end of reprint)

#### A FINAL WORD:

I do hope you enjoyed reading my words and sentences, and that they added to your store of bookish knowledge. After all, that is what remains as one of the reasons for reading.

There you have it!



#### SIDEBAR TO THE WILLIAM LEWIS WASHBURN ARTICLE, Some information for the readers, and a question for the readers:

As we move through the next issues of *The Microbibliophile* I will provide you with the full reprint of the article written by Irvin Haas for the *O.P. Bookletter*. The article talks about his experiences working with Norman Forgue, whose press, The Black Cat Press brought so many outstanding books to the world of miniature books. You may know about *The Book Collector's Packet* or you may not, it was an outstanding literary journal that ran for several years, not devoted to miniature books but the 'book in general'. I will cull out some articles that I hope will be of interest to you.

My question to the readership is who may have a copy of the book '*A Colonial Courting*'? It is not a title that I have in my collection. After reading Hansen's article, I was interested in understanding just what a 'catchword' was and more interested in seeing how Washburn utilized this typographical convention.

Glaister, in his reference, *Encyclopedia of the Book*, defines 'catchword' as "the word written underneath the last line of each page or section in a manuscript which is also the word with which the next page or section commenced; its purpose was to assist the binder in assembling the book. They served as an aid to the compositor in imposing pages of type in correct order and to the binder in gathering." A secondary definition explains as an example, a catchword is "the word printed in bold type or upper case type at the top of each page in a dictionary or encyclopedia. The first three letters are sometime used as an alternative and these can be called catch letters." John Carter's ABC For Book Collector's, provides a similar description.

Hence, the technical definitions match Hanson's brief description but the question remains; why would Washburn utilize such a convention? Maybe the answer is in the visual reference as can be seen in the actual printed text. If a reader has a copy, I would certainly be interested in seeing a 'copy of the printed page' if possible. If not Hanson mentions that there was another interesting item included with his copy of the book, that being a 'subscriber list' that Washburn used to maintain his records. Both the American Antiquarian Society as well as the Philadelphia Free Public Library are included on the 'subscriber list'. Philadelphia is not too long of a drive for me and if I can get an appointment to visit the 'rare book section', the answer to my question may be answered. I hope that someone can share a printed image and save me some gas money.

#### OUT OF THE BOX, Wise and Otherwise, A Grave and Gay Garner, A REM Scroll:

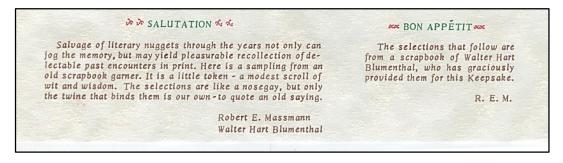
Robert Massmann was certainly a master of the craft of bookmaking. Over his long career, much has been written by him and about him regarding the world of miniature books. He created regular little books, bigger little books, peep show books, shape books, books that looked like lolly-pops, books that were part of a little house, the list just goes on and on. One of the more interesting things, which have always intrigued me, that came from Massmann's REM press is the collection of books that were done in the format of a scroll. In the March 2016 issue of *The Microbibliophile*, Todd Sommerfeld contributed an article addressing the 10 different scroll publications that Massmann created beginning in 1964 and ending with a special Conclave Keepsake scroll in 1986, only the 26 attendees of the first three Conclaves received this unique keepsake.

It is not really known why Massmann utilized the scroll format. Maybe it was his love of different things and the adventure of doing something different. Maybe it was his ongoing study of various religions and different cultures and or maybe just the 'history of the book.

The Wise and Otherwise, A Grave and Gay Garner scroll was published in 1965 with a press run 250 copies. The Japanese style scroll is about 2", tall and 57", long when opened up and unrolled. It is printed on a parchment like paper to give the impression of age. It has been reported that most of the press run was completed in the Japanese format with only a handle/spindle on one end. However, since Blumenthal was a Jewish American scholar, writer and editor he most certainly had a deep understanding of Jewish scroll, he requested that the first 12 scrolls in the press run be done with two handles/spindles, one on each end, the copy I am reviewing today has two handles. Blumenthal's published writings reflect his many academic interests including book collecting, Judaism and history. All things that were certainly on Massmann's list of interests. Maybe the friendship was facilitated by a common friend, Achilles J. St. Onge who published a miniature written by Blumenthal.

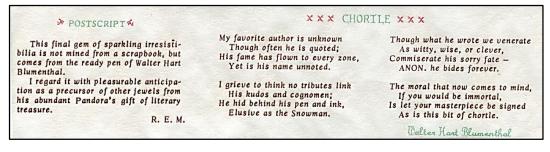
As I mentioned previously the size of the scroll and the format of the roller is also important to mention that the scroll text is printed on sheets of 'paper' that are about 14", long and then glued to create a seam. The text is done in three-color format, mostly a brown tone ink with red and green highlights and decorative features.

I am not so knowledgeable about the title of the book but the 'Salutation' at the beginning of the text may give you a hint as to the intentions of the author and publisher.



#### Image of 'Salutation' and 'Publishers Note'

The questions continue with this closing text image from the scroll. Obviously, Massman held Blumenthal in high regard as a scholar and friend.



Well there you have it, an interesting bit of information and a bit of mystery within the text of a small scroll published almost 53 years ago. What are your thoughts and information on this piece of the world of miniature books?

#### WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE:



Please consider sharing your thoughts and ideas. Your input is always welcome. *The Microbibliopile* was conceived for the sharing of passion for all things related to miniature books and book arts. If you need help getting started contact the Editor or Publisher. We can brainstorm together! Composing, proofreading, and nudging always available.

#### **RESEARCH BOOKS, AN UPDATED LIST:**

People are always asking, 'where can I find the answer to my question(s) about miniature books?' There are a host of resources that are available for the 'seasoned collector' as well as a 'new collector'. These are some of the books that I typically use in my research work as a collector and with my information sharing for you through *The Microbibliophile*:

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, 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, 9th edition, John Carter and Nicolas Barker, 2016, 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

*The Miniature Book Collector, 1960-1962,* Achille J. St. Onge, Publisher, Ruth Adomeit, Editor Worcester, MA

The News-Letter of the LXIVMOS, 1927-1929, James D. Henderson, Brookline, MA

Forty Years Later, A Concise Review of the St. Onge Bibliomidgets, by Robert E. Massmann, 1976

The Bibliomidgets of Achille J. St. Onge, by Robert E. Massmann, 1979, 'REM Miniatures'

Encyclopedia of the Book, by Geoffrey Ashall, Oak Knoll Press, 1979

Principles of Bibliographical Description, by Fredson Bowers, Princeton University Press, 1949

The St. Onge Bibliography, Additional Titles, New Information, and Fascinating Conflicts, by Robert E. Massmann, MBS Newsletter, October 1993, Miniature Book Society

*Collecting St. Onge Miniature Books,* by Robert C. Bradbury, 'The Microbibliophile', Volume XXVI, Number 6

*An Illustrated Bibliography of Miniature Books Published by David Bryce and Son,* complied by M. Garbett

Fine Books and Collections Magazine

Biblio Magazine, printed between 1996 and 1999

*Miniature Book News*, Julian I. Edison, Editor, published as a standalone as well as with the 'Miniature Book Society Newsletter'

Miniature Book Society Newsletter (available online at www.mbs.org)

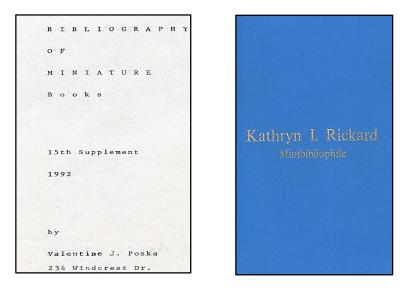
*The Microbibliophile*, (available online at www.themicrobibliophile.com)

*Catalogue of the Library of Miniature Books*, by Percy Edwin Spielman, published by Edward Arnold Ltd. London

Bibliography of Miniature Books, by Valentine J. Poska, Initial plus 15 supplements

Personal papers and ephemeral items of other book collectors

Bookseller catalogues



If you have a favorite research book or other source that has provided you with answers and I have not listed it, please send me the title, publisher, and author. People who collect dictionaries and research books are a 'special group', who resemble 'magnets', or 'dark holes' from the deepest parts of the cosmos, always looking for more matter to pull into their universe.



## **RAGGEDY ANN TURNS 100** By Paula Jarvis

Editor's Note: Paula Jarvis is the Editor of the 'Printed and Bound' newsletter of the Book Club of Detroit, June 2018 issue, (<u>www.bookclubofdetroit.org</u>). Paula's articles are of the highest quality and frequently cover topics related to children's literature books for children. (Californian FB font from original article is utilized)

One hundred years ago, in 1918, *Raggedy Ann Stories*, written and illustrated by Johnny Gruelle, was published by P. F. Volland Company. The company promoted the book with a Raggedy Ann doll that the author had created and patented three years earlier. Gruelle then created a mischievous brother, Raggedy Andy, and *Raggedy Andy Stories* appeared in 1920. Today Raggedy Ann and Andy books and dolls are among the most collectible items among children's books and toys.

Many mythical stories surround the development of the Raggedy Ann books and dolls, but Gruelle's biographer, Patricia Hall, was able confirm the true story through interviews with the author's widow, Myrtle. According to Myrtle Gruelle, Johnny (not their daughter Marcella) found a homemade rag doll in his parents' attic sometime around the turn of the 20th century *before* Marcella was born. He thought the doll would make a good story, but it wasn't until Marcella was a small child playing with her dolls that he was inspired to write the first book. Many of the things Marcella did with her dolls were then incorporated into the Raggedy Ann stories.



One part of the Raggedy Ann myth is true. Raggedy Ann's name *was* inspired by two poems written by James Whitcomb Riley, who was a friend of Johnny's father, artist Richard Gruelle. One poem was "Little Orphant Annie," and the other was "The Raggedy Man." Thus, "Raggedy Ann" was born.

Sadly, Marcella died at the age of 13 from an infected vaccination (not from side effects of the vaccination as some stories go). Her death occurred in the same month that her father received his patent for the Raggedy Ann doll. Despite this tragedy,

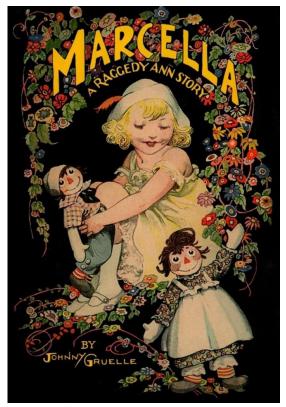
Gruelle had to keep writing and drawing in order to support his family.

Born in 1880 in Illinois, John Barton Gruelle moved with his family to Indiana when he was two years old. There his father, artist Richard Gruelle, became associated with the Hoosier Group of painters. The elder Gruelle numbered among his friends the poet James Whitcomb Riley, who visited the family often and whose poems inspired Raggedy Ann's name.

Johnny Gruelle began his career as a cartoonist, with his first cartoons appearing in the *Indianapolis Star* in 1905 and then in many other newspapers, usually with *Gruelle* as his signature. One of his early cartoons was *Mr. Twee Deedle*, which ran from 1911 until at least 1914. In 1929, his cartoon strip *Brutus* began running in the New York Herald Tribune Syndicate's newspapers and continued until his death.

After the debut of the Raggedy Ann and Andy books and dolls, Gruelle moved to New Canaan, Connecticut, where the dolls were first mass produced. He later moved both his home and his company to Wilton, Connecticut.

In 1938, just two weeks after his 57th birthday, he died at home in Miami Springs, Florida, from a heart attack.



Johnny Gruelle's daughter Marcella, whose playtime with her own dolls inspired many of her father's Raggedy Ann stories, became a character in his books.

Thank you Paula for this wonderful article. 🕮

### GET THE INK READY, START THE PRESSES:

WOW, it will be the end of fall and the approach of winter with the next issue of *The Microbibliophile*, (expected publish date Nov. 1,2018), more fun than counting new puppies in an old laundry basket! Reading is a great experience, sharing what we have read is a blessing of life. Some of the "blessings" coming in the next issue:

- Woodblock Printing, published by Plum Park Press
- William Clark, Master of Exploration, published by The Wild Onion Press
- Maybe something new from the Bo Press workshop?
- Possibly a reprint of a Frank Anderson article from the 'Book Lovers Answer', ca 1965
- The Play, C.J. Dennis, published by Bookarts, 2001 Canberra, AU
- Miniatuurboekbinden, Tine Krijnen has a new book for our review
- The Young Bibliophile, possibly a simple new 'make your own' book format
- Nina Mazzo, LXIVMOS Number 19
- And most importantly, something from you!

Please keep us posted on what is going on at your press, your reading, your discoveries, or with your collection. Anticipation and searching is the joy of collecting. We all love the details.

## SOME INTERESTING BOOK STUFF, Information Sharing, and Fun Stuff for You:

Check out each of these interesting sites when you have a few extra moments, you can never tell what items of interest will make you to stay up extra late one night!.

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

The newsletter is electronically distributed by the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America and is a great source of bibliophile related information and ongoing events. The web page is very easy to navigate allowing access to the spectrum of information provided. The Northern and Southern California Chapters of the ABAA have announced they are creating a writing contest for writers under the age of 35 years old. There is also a link to many of the latest rare book catalogs. Also, an interesting story about a cache of rare books stolen from Yale University showing up in a thrift store.

### THE CREATIVITY CARAVAN, http://www.thecreativitycaravan.com/

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

### FBS, Newsletter, http://www.floridabibliophilesociety.org/

The Florida Bibliophile Society's monthly digital newsletter (latest issue, September 2018) is one of the most well done newsletter publications; each issue is filled with great information and activities within the book world. One of the lead articles is about the 'Lost At Sea: Lost Works of Charlotte Brontë'. The electronic newsletter is a great way to distribute information with high quality graphics to a wide audience at a very low publication cost. They are certainly moving along with their Winter 2018 program.

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

Paula Jarvis continuously does a superb job with the club newsletter, which is titled 'Printed and Bound' and is published three time a year. The diversity of the articles and information is just excellent, something for everyone. The June 2018 issue includes an article on T. S. Eliot's 'Four Quartets' and a peek at an all-time favorite, 'Raggedy Ann'. (See page 35 of this issue of *The Microbibliophile*). Another great publication that is distributed in digital format to expand the boundaries of the printed word to the far corners of the earth regardless of where the readers live.

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

NOBS has recently launched an 'e-news' format newsletter. There is an internal link from their webpage. The Fall 2018 newsletter named the 'Libris Loquie', arrived and promises to be an excellent insight to the members of the NOBS with articles about members and their collections as well as The Jewish Review of Books, which reviews several hundred books a year. Looking forward to the next issue for sure.

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

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

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

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

#### The Book Thinker, http://www.bookthink.com/

#### PBA Galleries, http://www.pbagalleries.com

Collecting is an ever-changing and ongoing educational experience. Being a miniature book collector can be a full time job. The sun never sets on new things in the world of book collecting, especially miniature books. One thing leads to another as we travel the globe and look through the bookshelves across the world via the various publications and the electronic links available to us today. Tell me about your 'special links' so that we can share them for the readership. Pack your socks, get a map, grab your keyboard or smart phone, open the door, and HAVE FUN.

Old Farmhouse Books -- offering miniature Books and related ephemera to the seasoned or novice collector. Hundreds of titles from many of the more prominent early miniature book publishers are available. All books offered below retail with free domestic shipping. Do you have a want list? Have you been searching for a specific title, author, or publisher? Inquiries are always welcome to: oldfarmhouse@myfairpoint.net. Thank you, for your interest. Sherry Mayo



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## ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY, Beinecke Library, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut A Bucket List Place To Visit:

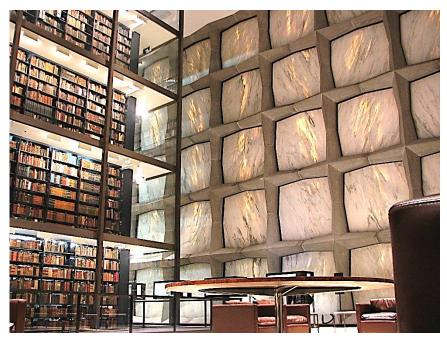


Image courtesy of flicker.com

The Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library is one of the world's largest libraries devoted entirely to rare books and manuscripts and is Yale's principal repository for literary archives, early manuscripts, and rare books.

The library was established by a gift of the Beinecke family and given its own endowment. Construction was completed in 1963 and its collection of materials is one the greatest compilation in the world.

The building itself is unique and often referred to as the 'jewel box'. The facade is constructed of translucent veined marble and granite. The marble is milled to a thickness of only 1.25 inches. On a sunny day, the marble transmits filtered daylight to the interior in a subtle golden amber glow, a product of its thin profile.

For more information about this masterpiece of architectural and educational history, visit the site: <u>https://beinecke.library.yale.edu</u>

IF YOU CAN BELIEVE YOUR EYES!

## **CATALOGUES RECEIVED:**

**Karen Nyman Miniature Books, Catalog Number 74, September 2018**, very well done and well organized for easy viewing, 100 items with many pictures, a large and interesting selection of antiquarian, children's, and rare books in an electronic PDF format catalogue. The two major sections of the catalogue are books up to 1 1/4" tall and those over 1 1/4" tall. Contact info: 7835 Rush Rose Drive, # 124, Carlsbad, CA 92009, telephone 760-944-3019 website: <a href="http://www.KarenNymanMiniatureBooks.com">www.KarenNymanMiniatureBooks.com</a>, E-mail: karennyman2@gmail.com

**Bromer Booksellers,** E-Catalogue, Late Spring Bouquet of Books, a total of 38 items, some juveniles including a Raggedy Ann.

Contact info: 607 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116, telephone 617-247-2975 website: <u>https://www.bromer.com</u>, E-mail: books@bromer.com

**Between The Covers,** Catalogue Number 222, Vernacular Photography items, always something new or unusual from this bookseller Contact info: 112 Nicholson Rd, Gloucester City NJ 08030, telephone (856) 456-8008 website: <u>https://www.betweenthecovers.com</u>, E-mail: books@betweenthecovers.com

**Oak Knoll Books,** E-Catalogue #4, Early Fine English Press, 26 pages with 52 very well presented books, each with an illustration. A short note taken from the catalogue, "We sell books because we really enjoy it and hope that fact comes through clearly when you deal with us". That says it all

Contact info: 310 Delaware Street, New Castle, DE 19720 telephone 302-328-7232, website: <u>www.oakknoll.com</u>, E-mail: rob@oakknoll.com

Catalogues and booksellers are wonderful friends and great resources. Catalogues are like dessert after dinner at Grandma's, just sneak back to the kitchen for another bite, no one will ever know.

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

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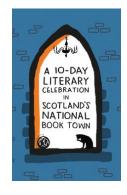
### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Wigtown Book Festival,** Wigtown, Scotland, September 21 - 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Additional information: <u>http://www.wigtownbookfestival.com</u>

Washington Antiquarian Book Fair, Arlington, Virginia, September 28th - 29th Additional information: https://www.abaa.org/events/details

**Montana Book Festival,** Missoula, Montana, September 27th - 30th Additional information: http://www.montanabookfestival.org/

**Oak Knoll Fest,** New Castle, Delaware, October 5th - 7th Additional information: https://www.oakknoll.com/fest/symposium.html





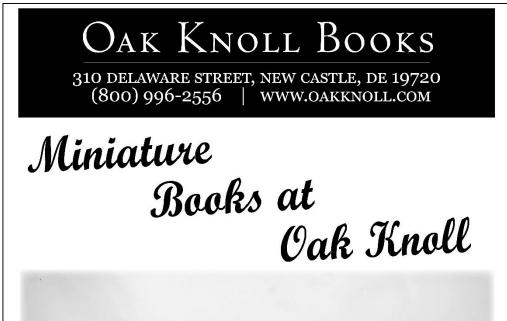
**Miniature Book Society Conclave XXXVI,** Bloomington, Indiana, The Lilly Library, August 8th – August 12, 2019 Additional information: <u>http://www.mbs.org</u>

# Miniature Book Society, Traveling Miniature Book Exhibit, 'Back On The Road Again'

January - February 2019, Moline Public Library 3210 41st Street, Moline IL 61265 Contact: Lisa Powell Williams, telephone, 309-524-2473 Email: lwilliams@molinelibrary.org, www.molinelibrary.com

March 2019, The New York Society Library 53 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075 Contact: Christina Amato, Book Conservator, telephone, 212-744-5832 Email: camato@nysoclib.org, <u>https://www.nysoclib.org</u>

Check your local venues, look at the site <u>www.mbs.org</u>, give Todd Sommerfeld a call, mark the dates, get ready, and go!  $\square$ 





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## *THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE*, FRONTISPIECE, Volume XXXVII, Number 6, Issue 216, Write the Story for the November 2018 Issue:

How are your imagination and storytelling skills? The winter holiday season will be here before you count the falling leaves of autumn.



Image by pinrest.com

Where are these two folks, all dressed in their finest, headed on this cold winter's eve? If you look at the picture and close your eyes, you may hear the hooves of the horses pulling through the snow and the dog barking. The air is cold and crisp as the afternoon sun is setting. Are they a few minutes from home and the warmth of the blazing hearth or going to visit the home of friends? The story is waiting for your imagination to complete. Share a memory of a past winter adventure or create a fanciful new one.

The deadline for submitting articles for the November 2018 issue will be October 15, 2018, electronic or paper submissions, either way, the choice is yours. Email: hello@themicrobibliophile.com or Snail-mail: *The Microbibliophile*, P. O. Box 5453, North Branch, NJ 08876

### CLASSIFIED WISH LISTS, Buy, Sell, or Trade:

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

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

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

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

Karen Nyman is looking for two volumes she lacks from The Cabinet of Lilliput, by John Harris. Here are the missing titles: *Jacob the Fisherman*', etc., and *Julia and the Dog*; etc. Contact information: E-mail karennyman2@cox.net or call 619-226-4441.

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

Arno Gschwendtner is looking for a French miniature book (MB) ca. 1830: Bernardin: Paul et Virginie (printed from Didot) - he wants to write an article about this book – please send pictures (and an offer) of your edition. He is also looking for 'Special Editions' of the

Catharijne Press as well as Editions du Capricorne from Anick Butre (France). Contact information: E-mail: arno.gschwendtner@gmx.ch or +41/78/8542422

Caroline Brandt is looking for Colgate Calendars for 1884, 1887, 1889, 1891, 1893, and 1910. Also *A Plucky Woman*, (Hazeltine ca. 1886-1888, with enlarged type), *Red, White, and Blue* by Frank L. Armstrong. Lastly, two miniatures by W. Washburn; *Adventures of A Bottle of Pain-Killer* (1879) and *The Cat; His Immortality* (1880).

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

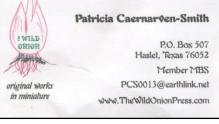
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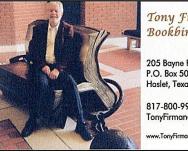
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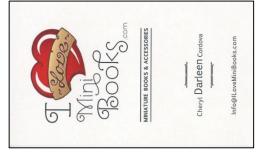
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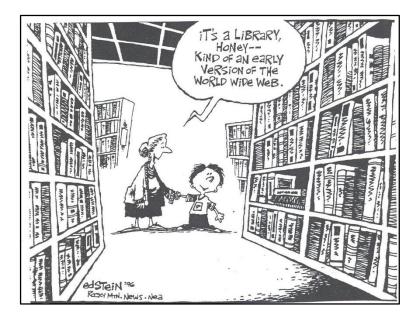
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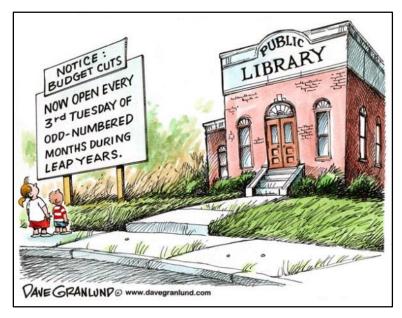






### **CLOSING THOUGHTS:**





# PUBLICATION STATEMENT

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

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

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Send inquires to, E-mail: hello@themicrobibliophile.com (Deadline for November 2018 issue is October 15<sup>th</sup>)

2019 Advertising Rates: (discounts available for repeat inserts)

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

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