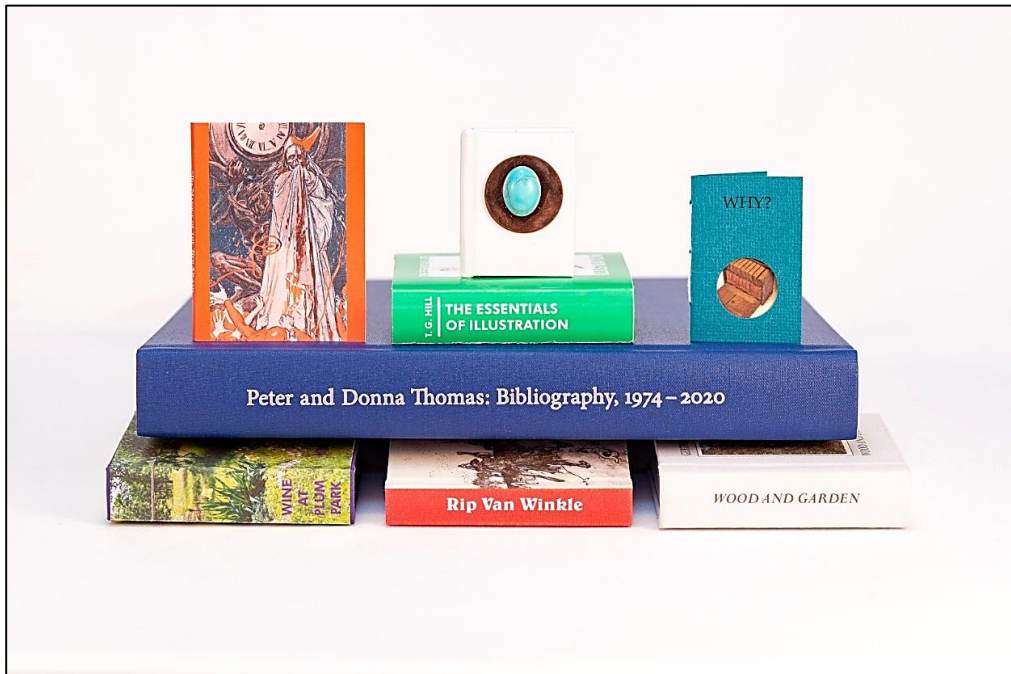


THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE®

A Bimonthly Journal about Miniature Books and the Book Arts

Volume XL, Number 3 Issue 231, May 2021



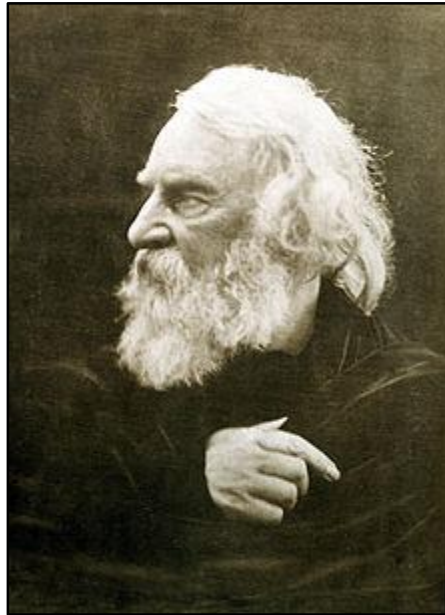
The Joy of the Coming Summer, Priceless

Single Issue Price: \$7.00

ISSN #1097-5551

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
American Poet
1807 - 1882

“If Spring came but once in a century, instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake, and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all hearts to behold the miraculous change! But now the silent succession suggests nothing but necessity. To most men only the cessation of the miracle would be miraculous and the perpetual exercise of God’s power seems less wonderful than its withdrawal would be.”



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Robert F. Hanson, Founder, 1977

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The Microbibliophile

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

Sherry Mayo, Publisher James M. Brogan, Editor © 2021 by James M. Brogan

Greetings from the Squeaky Roll Top Desk:

The switch of the clocks to 'Spring Ahead' with Daylight Savings Time is always a bit of 'what just happened?' We lose an hour of sleep on the first night, the school bus seems to come earlier, and we can play outside after dinner. Always a joy to behold, the seasons, they are all unique, have their special rewards, and I love them all. I hope that before the snow flies again, the troubles associated with the Corona virus will be a thing we will only talk about as something in the past.

Spring is always a busy season, with a long list of jobs and chores. Clean-up the yard, spread the mulch, paint the porch furniture, and maybe fix that screen door. Everyone has a list of things and hopefully we can get through them with not too much toil and look forward to a great summer, that special time for family visits, outdoors cooking, maybe some star gazing, and certainly s'mores.

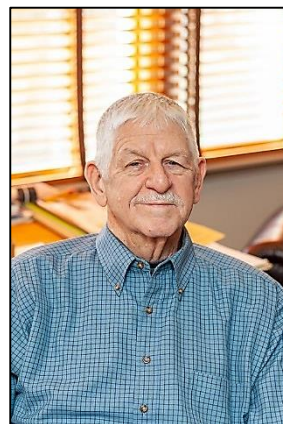
Plum Park Press, Wild Onion Press, Cider Press, Booksby Press, and The Miniature Book Society publications make up our selection of new miniature books for our review in this issue. Nina Mazzo gleans more tidbits from within the MBN and we visit some previously published miniature books and a short article about Napoleon's Traveling Library. We also are able to journey down the road with four previously printed miniature books, two research/reference books, and an outstanding new bibliography. Plenty to read and keep you interested when it is time to take a break from the spring chores, grab a cup of 'tea' and park yourself in your favorite chair.

We continue with another special review/synopsis of two books from the 'Bradbury 100' list for your enjoyment. The first is *Noel*, by Robert Shaw, published by St. Onge, 1935 followed by *Guacamole According To Luke*, by Jim Yarnell, published by Oak Park Press, 1983. The '100 List' is a new feature for 2021 with the goal of enticing readers to submit their own review of a listed book. We will gladly accept your input and help, 'our pencils are getting shorter all the time'.

As mentioned in the last issue Sherry and I have decided to go to a digital publication distribution of *The Microbibliophile* beginning in 2022. The annual subscription rate will be \$25 for six issues.

There are still a few stragglers that have not submitted their subscription payments. Please return your renewal form with payment, if you have not already done so, via the USPS to the address on the rear cover, or if you want to save a stamp, you can use PayPal, email: hello@themicrobibliophile.com. (Please choose "Friends and Family" option).

As I close, my message is simple, your support and interest is what helps keep *The Microbibliophile* an active publication of all things "miniature bookish", something new, something old, but always something interesting. Thank you again, for letting us bring *The Microbibliophile* into your home, for your family, and your life. 📖




FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

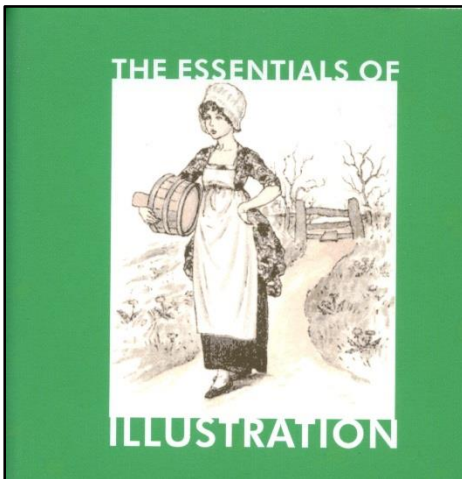
Calvin Coolidge, 1872 – 1933,
30th President of the United States,
1923 – 1929.

“Collecting more taxes than is absolutely necessary is legalized robbery.”



(Image of the 1938 ‘memorial’ \$ 5.00 stamp issued by the USPS as part of the AMERIPEX commemorative series.) 

MINIATURE BOOK REVIEWS and CRITICISM:

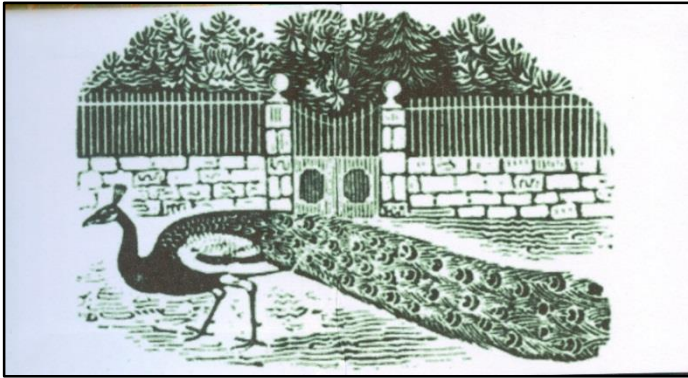


THE ESSENTIALS OF ILLUSTRATION, by T. G. Hill, published by Plum Park Press, 2021. The original book published in 1915 by William Wesley & Son, London, has a ‘short subtitle’ as well, ‘A Practical Guide to the Reproduction of Drawings & Photographs for the use of Scientists & Others.’ ‘Essentials’ extends the collection of miniatures by Plum Park that deal with the various aspects of book making: *Bookbinding and the Care of Books, Royal English Bookbindings, Applied Design for Printers, The Progress of the Marbling Art, and Typecases and Composing-room Furniture.*

The Essentials of Illustration is divided into six major chapter sections, which dive into the details of intaglio printing, plane surface printing, relief printing, detailed drawings, and cost considerations. The book includes an interesting Preface as well as a large number of illustration/examples and twelve plates printed on a high quality gloss paper.

The book is bound in a light green marbled paper with a book cloth spine. The illustration that is printed on the green dust jacket is from an original wood cut engraving by Edward Evans, with the original drawing by Kate Greenway, ‘*Little maid, little maid, Whither goest thou? Down the meadow to milk my cow.*’ The title is also printed on the spine.

The front and rear endpapers contain a two-page illustration.

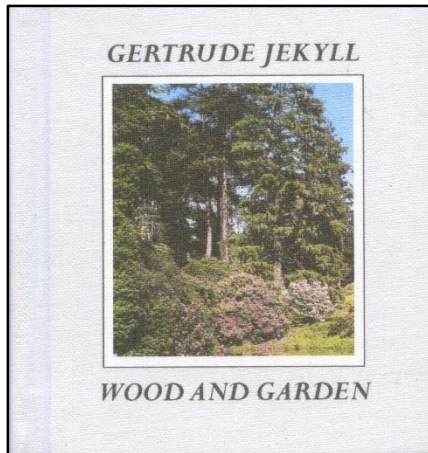


The text consists of 220 numbered pages. The typeface is Caslon and Futura. 'Essentials' bound size is 2¹⁵/₁₆" x 2¹⁵/₁₆" and is priced at \$45 plus shipping. Each copy of the edition is numbered and signed by the publisher.

As always, with Plum Park books, the workmanship and finished product are excellent. Please contact Tony for availability and shipping considerations. 📖

Contact information: Tony Firman, 80 Farm Valley Court, Weaverville, NC 28787

E-mail: TonyFirman@earthlink.net or www.tonyfirmanbookbinding.com



WOOD and GARDEN: Notes and Thoughts, Practical and Critical, of a Working Amateur, Volume 2, by Gertrude Jekyll [1843 – 1932]. The original was published by Longmans, Green, & Co., London, 1899, this miniature edition, published by the Wild Onion Press, 2021, edited by Tony Firman.

Gertrude Jekyll was an energetic gardener with a 15-acre parcel that she chose to transform into her own piece of 'heaven on earth.' Volume 1 covered the first six months of the planting/calendar year and Volume 2 covers the remainder of the year (July – December). Taken from the publisher's prospectus, *"Begin with a wilderness. Build a house in the middle. Year by year, expand the gardens, while taking notes, hiring personnel, planting, seeding, cutting flowers, bouquets, corresponding with*

horticulturists and nurseries, moving massive trees, and maintaining the compost piles. In the midst of all of this work, find a way to fall in love with nearly every plant you see." Gardening is probably one of the most tended activities that people enjoy; some just a touch here and there and with others a 'full time job'. There are three special sections also included; flower borders, the primrose garden, and flower colors and scents. 'Wood and Garden' is an inspiration for all.

The miniature is printed on 243 numbered pages, the bound covers measure 3" x 3". It is bound in a light gray book cloth with the title and a garden picture on the front cover. The text is printed with Perpetua and Futura typefaces on Navigator Platinum paper. The book includes several illustrations. The front and rear endpapers are printed across the two sheets with colorful garden scene photographs. The page headings, sub-sections, and chapter titles are printed in a green tone ink. The current edition is an open edition; each numbered and signed by the publisher. As with all Wild Onion Press books, this is a well-constructed book that is comfortable to hold and read, and to re-read as a reference volume. The price is \$40. Check with Tony for availability of this volume and shipping costs. 📖

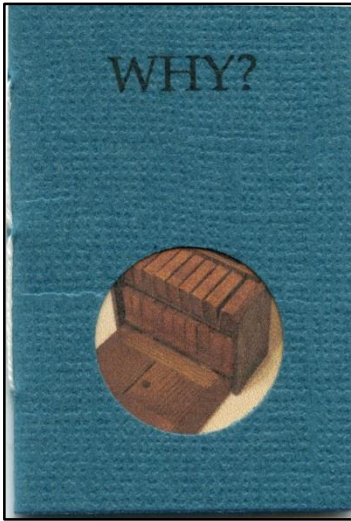
Contact information: Tony Firman, 80 Farm Valley Court, Weaverville, NC 28787

E-mail: TonyFirman@earthlink.net or www.tonyfirmanbookbinding.com

Editor's Note: Patricia Caernarven-Smith, the publisher of Wild Onion Press applied her editorial skills to each of the books published by the press. Sadly, With Pat's passing, this book 'Volume 2' is the last Wild Onion Press publication. Pat added a little bit of herself in each of her publications. A most fitting quote is shared within 'Volume 2':

"Every age makes the story and publication their own. Every age mirrors itself for future readers in its book design."

- *Harry Lyman Koopman, 'The Booklover and His Books'*



WHY?, Todd Sommerfeld, Booksby Press, Parma, Ohio, 2021. Booksby Press continues to add a wide diversity of miniature books to the shelves of bibliophiles. *WHY?* is a special publication that is intended to answer the age old question of 'Why are there miniature books?' Or should the question be expanded to include why do people collect, read, enjoy, share, and talk about miniature books, certainly all of these verbs are part of the question.

The Preface of *WHY?* talks to the question with a brief statement from the author/publisher, "but I thought it good to answer it [the question] again in my own way so I made this little book that you hold in your hands now."

WHY? is a paper bound miniature that draws the reader into the book with it's interesting cover design, an open 'peep hole', cut through the cover, revealing a

picture of a small miniature book 'traveling library' image on the front endpaper. Who could resist turning the page to see what other treasures are contained within the tome?

The formal question is introduced on the first text page, 'What was the purpose of such exceedingly small volumes?' The first answer is portability, while traveling. The second answer is concealability; sometimes having a particular book might have been politically dangerous because of its content or message. The third reason given is being able to highlight the expert skills of the bookmaker.

Over the years, these miniature volumes have been produced using a wide selection of styles and materials, yet each with unique values and levels of joy to the producers and owners. The last reason that answers the question 'WHY?' is because I can, this refers to the actual creation of the miniature book by the book maker.

WHY? is $1\frac{3}{8}" \times 2\frac{1}{8}"$, a total of 8 pages printed on Mohawk Superfine paper (hand sewn), printed using a Canon Inkjet printer, and 5.5 Calibri font. The cover is a turquoise blue paper.

The price is \$2.00 and the edition was printed with 500 copies. It is the perfect little book to have a few extra copies on hand or in your pocket to answer the question, 'WHY?' 📖

Contact information: Todd Sommerfeld, E-mail: contratodd@gmail.com



BIRTHSTONES, written by Nina Mazzo, design by Ken Silverman, Cider Press, Lincoln, CA, 2021. The husband and wife team of Nina Mazzo and Ken Silverman are relatively new publishers in the world of miniature books however, in the past few years have brought several unique subjects into the world of miniature books. The most current is titled *Birthstones*.

Birthstones was created as a published edition came about when Nina was asked to produce a miniature book for a particular milestone birthday. One page turned lead to another and another and soon they were on the path crafting *Birthstones*.

The book begins with a brief history of birthstones that may have begun when the first century Jewish historian, Josephus believed that there was a connection between the twelve stones in Aaron's breastplate and the twelve months of the calendar year and the twelve signs of the zodiac.

The text of the book explains how the different stones as they are assigned their meaning in both the 'traditional' practice as well as the 'modern' practice. Included with the text are twelve pages of high quality images of the various stones for each month. As an example:

March is shown with as both aquamarine (modern) and the bloodstone (traditional)

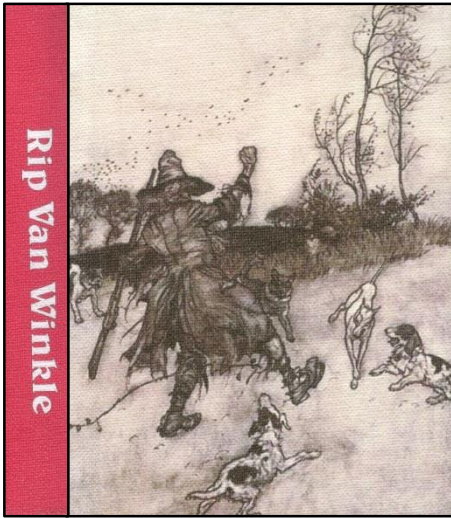
July is the ruby for both the (modern) and (traditional)

August is shown as both the peridot (modern) and the sardonyx (traditional)

The tome is $1\frac{3}{4}$ " x $1\frac{3}{8}$ " and bound with a white leather/cloth material, the birthstone is mounted to the front cover (the review has a lovely aquamarine stone. The title label is affixed to the spine. The text is printed on a silk 120-photo paper and utilizes the Calibri typeface. The edition contains 12 copies and is packaged in a small jewelry box.

Birthstones is priced at \$25, contact Nina for pricing and availability of this little gem. 📖

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



Rip Van Winkle

RIP VAN WINKLE, by Washington Irving, with illustrations by Arthur Rackham, published by Plum Park Press, 2021. Doubleday, Page & Company, New York, published the original book in 1905. Washington Irving [1783 – 1859] was an American short story writer, essayist, and historian. The original story was published in 1819 as part of a collection of short stories titled *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent*. The story enjoyed a large amount of success in print as well as a stage production.

The story is a very well know tale, but briefly to refresh everyone; "Rip Van Winkle" is set in the early 1800's at the foot of New York's Catskill Mountains. One autumn day, Rip Van Winkle wanders into the mountains with his dog to escape his wife's nagging. Together, they proceed to a hollow in which Rip discovers the source of thunderous noises: a group of ornately dressed

and bearded men. They play a few games of ninepins have a few drinks

'The dogs, too not one of whom he recognized for an old acquaintance, barked at him as he passed...'



'A company of odd-looking persons playing at ninepins...'

and the next thing Rip wakes up years later. Arthur Rackham illustrated the 1905 edition and these illustrations are part of the miniature Plum Park edition.

Rick Van Winkle is composed of 120 pages and includes a complete list of the 23 illustrations with page references and a listing of the “cast” of characters with a brief description as noted below:

- Rip Van Winkle – A henpecked husband who loathes "profitable labor"; and a meek, easygoing, ne'er-do-well man
- Dame Van Winkle – Rip Van Winkle's cantankerous and nagging wife
- Rip Van Winkle, Jr. – Rip Van Winkle's ne'er-do-well son.
- Judith Gardenier – Rip Van Winkle's married daughter.
- Derrick Van Bummel – The local schoolmaster.
- Nicholas Vedder – Landlord of the local inn where menfolk congregate.
- Van Schaick – The local parson.
- Jonathan Doolittle – Owner of the village inn.
- Wolf – Van Winkle's faithful dog.
- Man carrying a keg up the mountain – a ghost
- Ninepin bowlers – The ghosts of Henry Hudson's crew from his ship, the Half-Moon.
- Brom Dutcher – Van Winkle's neighbor.
- Old woman – Woman who identifies Van Winkle when he returns to the village.
- Peter Vanderdonk – The oldest resident of the village.
- Mr. Gardenier – Judith Gardenier's husband, a farmer, and crabby villager.

Additionally, the miniature edition contains an Introduction that talks about Deidrick Knickerbocker who had something to do with the origin of the tale, the actual text of the story, and then a most interesting Postscript about the history of the Catskill Mountains.

Irving enjoyed life as a writer for sure. His work was successful in both America as well as Europe and was a respected member of the wide literary community. He was buried under a simple headstone at Sleepy Hollow cemetery. Irving and his grave were commemorated by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his 1876 poem "In the Churchyard at Tarrytown", which concludes with:

*How sweet a life was his; how sweet a death!
Living, to wing with mirth the weary hours,
Or with romantic tales the heart to cheer;
Dying, to leave a memory like the breath
Of summers full of sunshine and of showers,
A grief and gladness in the atmosphere.*

The book is bound in a red and beige book cloth with a Rackham illustration printed on the cover, the spine is printed with the book title. The typeface is Bell and the size of

the miniature is 3" x 2³/₈". The front and rear endpapers each contain a two-page Rackham illustration as well. The miniature is priced at \$45 plus shipping. Each copy of the edition is numbered and signed by the publisher.



Rear endpaper illustration, Rip returns to the village...

Another outstanding example of fine workmanship, a well-done presentation. Please contact Tony for availability and shipping considerations. 📖

*Contact information: Tony Firman, 80 Farm Valley Court, Weaverville, NC 28787
E-mail: TonyFirman@earthlink.net or www.tonyfirmanbookbinding.com*



WINE AT PLUM PARK, by Tony Firman and Patricia Caernarven-Smith, published by Plum Park Press, 2021. Most miniature bibliophiles know that Plum Park Press publishes miniature books, what you may not know is that Plum Park is also the name of the property/ranch that is the home to Plum Park Press and the home to several hundred grape vines. Where there are grape vines there are usually winemakers.

Wine at Plum Park, is a collection of essays with some gleaned from articles written for the Journal of American Wine Society while others highlight the adventures of a small wine making journey. As the authors' note in the opening chapter, "To put it politely, some wines were better than others..." and so the journal begins.

There are 10 chapters that cover the very diverse details in the making of wine; the wine garden, storing the wine, what type of bottles to use, 'changes to your home kitchen at wine making time', and lastly, the labels. Though I am not a wine drinker, I did enjoy reading about the journey from the planting and caring for the first vines through to when it is time to 'pop the cork'.

A quick lesson about wines for those not so well versed;
Fermented grape juice is called *wine*
Fermented apple juice is called *cider*
Fermented pear juice is called *perry*
Fermented juices from other fruits are mostly called *country wines*

The text covers 223 pages and the book is 3" x 3" bound in a plum purple book cloth with a label affixed to the spine. Each copy of the edition is numbered and signed by the publisher. Again very fine workmanship applied to all aspects of 'Wine'. Please contact Tony for pricing, availability, and shipping considerations. 📖



THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH, by Edgar Allan Poe [1809 – 1849], published by The Miniature Book Society, 2021. The original short story was published in 1842 in ‘Graham’s Magazine’. Poe is one of the most influential members of the American literary world, an author, editor, short story writer, poet, and critic. His ‘dark’ storytelling and tales of mystery and horror captured the imagination and interest of a worldwide audience.

Briefly, the story takes place in an abbey/castle where the prince has taken refuge, with many other nobles, in an attempt to escape the ‘red death’, which is described as a terrible plague. I will not reveal any more of the story, but it is an excellent read. I encourage you to take the time to read it and maybe even a bit of the literary criticism that has been written over the years about the story. However, I will give you one clue, a final line of the story, "And Darkness and Decay and the Red Death held illimitable dominion over all."

The interesting feature about this publication is that it was published as a miniature book ‘kit’ by The Miniature Book Society for its members by the Publication Committee as a ‘do-it-yourself’ activity. The Foreword and text layout was composed by Mark Palkovic, the cover design and printing completed by Tony Firman. The kit was supplied with detailed instructions, all the cut pages, cover, and a needle and thread so that each member could assemble the book. The finished book measures 2³/₄" x 2¹/₈" and contains 45 numbered pages. The book is printed using a Garamond font for the text and Royal Signage for the titles.

What an excellent mini-book idea and the instructions were easy to follow. I extend a “well done” to Mark and Tony! I am not sure if this DIY format for a miniature book has ever been so widely distributed .

If you are a member you should have received your copy, if you are not a member, you should consider membership, <https://www.mbs.org>. 📖

BOOKISH QUOTE: **Jorge Luis Borges**

“I have always imagined paradise will be a kind of library.” 📖

MASSMANN'S LIST of LISTS,

By Todd Sommerfeld:

We have been discussing 'lists' over the past few months. It seems that bibliophiles are great creators and keepers of lists. The first list we touched on was the 'Bradbury 100', then the 'Adomeit list for serious collectors', then 'Todd's List of Lists', then '*The Microbliophile* list of research books'. Every collector seems to have list of either the books they have or the books that are on their 'want list' or books that they want to highlight for other collectors. So was the case with Bob Massmann, he probably had more lists than anyone did or has to this day.

The Miniature Book News, Number 64, 1990 published a list, compiled by Ruth Adomeit, documenting what she considered 'books for serious collectors'. That list contains some of the most outstanding and rare miniature books in existence. If you found that list intimidating, you are not alone. In the Miniature Book News (MBN), Issue 100, March 1999, Julian Edison, Editor, noted that he was asked by a subscriber to provide a list of books that could provide a basis for a 'beginning collector's library. Edison turned to Bob Massmann to help prepare such a list. Massmann was an excellent resource to satisfy the request. He compiled three lists:

- Basic Books for Beginning Collectors, 21 volumes
- Basic Books for Intermediate Collectors, 35 volumes
- Basic Books for Advanced Collectors, 27 volumes

His lists are much more general lists and you will find the books more attainable and thus more enjoyable to pursue. The lists do present many titles and cover a lot of miniature book real estate. The article as published in the MBN included some excellent words of wisdom from the 'philosophe of New Britain'. "I [Massmann] believe strongly that a collection can be good and representative without containing any of the extreme rarities. They [rare volumes] certainly do add polish and spectacular appeal, but not all collectors, particularly beginners, are willing or able to lay out as much cash as they may require."

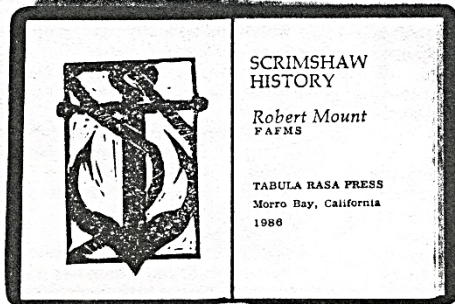
The lists as was published in the MBN are reprinted with this article for you to enjoy;

together volumes which contain subjects and substance to please the individual purchaser. There is certainly variety enough of a subject and format available to please every taste. By selecting judiciously, a beginner can build a collection which is both pleasing and reasonably affordable.

A) BASIC BOOKS FOR BEGINNER COLLECTORS

I think it is important that newcomers to this enchanted endeavor be given choices, so they can stay within reasonable guidelines, all the while developing good collections of desirable and substantive acquisitions. For that reason the "Beginner" listing will contain more selections of publishers than specific titles; suggestions rather than mandates.

1. A.J. St. Onge miniatures. Archie published some 48 titles between 1935 (Noel) and 1977. His fifth one, **The Inaugural Address of Franklin D. Roosevelt**, was one of the American Institute of Graphic Arts "Fifty Books of the Year" for 1945. Also, **Formats and Foibles**, by Walter Hart Blumentahal, is a beauty, with much information about both tiny and larger books.
2. Norman Forgue's Black Cat Press miniatures include nearly 100 titles, covering a wide range of subjects; and they were beautifully done.
3. The Press of Ward Schori published many and varied beautiful miniature productions, and they are easy to find.
4. Miriam Irwin's Mosaic Press has done many books of the size to appeal to dollhouse-size book collectors, and a number of larger ones.
5. REM Miniatures has done a variety of miniature sizes, shapes, and concepts, since 1962.
6. Hillside Press miniatures include many titles of interest and are widely available.
7. Frank Harrigan's Xavier Press has issued ten books. They are beautifully designed and executed, and have received Outstanding Book Awards from the Miniature Book Society.
8. Frank Anderson's Kitemang Press has done lots of miniatures, and many of them are lovely examples.
9. John Lathourakis's Tabula Rasa Press has published many interesting miniatures.
10. Msgr. Francis Weber has written more than 100 miniature books. Many of them have been published by the Junipero Serra Press, and some by other publishers.
11. Charlotte and Tom Smith's Tamazunchale Press published



Frontispiece, title page and front cover of Tabula Rosa Press production of Scrimshaw History. Actual scrimshaw, with boat etching, inset on front cover.

20 books, beautifully printed and with superb bindings.

12. Jeanne Goessling's Gray Goose Press has produced some charming publications.
13. Ian Macdonald's Gleniffer Press has produced a great variety of imprints, from the 1 mm. square **Old King Cole**, to many dollhouse-size titles, and a goodly number of larger books.
14. Suzanne Pruchnicki's Bronte Press has produced many charming things, with her original art and much hand-coloring.
15. Hazeltine and Piso Almanacs were published from 1879 through 1919. The first and last ones, plus those done in German, are quite rare. Most of the others are not, and it adds variety to have a few of them.
16. Thumb Bibles. They can be very expensive for the rarer items, but many of them are affordable, and excellent examples of early printing done for and given to children. The natural result is that when you buy one, you should be sure to check it thoroughly to spot missing frontispieces and other pages. It is best to only invest in complete ones, with intact bindings.
17. Dawson's Book Shop published a great variety of beautiful miniatures.
18. Winterhilfe booklets were produced by the Germans during World War II. Different sizes and series, from fairy tales to song books to Heroes of the Wehrmacht, and more, are examples of propaganda, well illustrated, which many collectors find worth acquiring.
19. The Winthrop Press, beginning in 1914, issued what were billed as the World's 100 Best Short Stories. They are in colored illustrated glazed wrappers. We are aware of 109 titles. Forget a complete set, but a few titles are good examples of advertising, as they were

issued with cigarettes, as well as being given out by more than a dozen other advertisers.

20. During the glory years of European communism, especially in Hungary, to a somewhat lesser extent in Russia, state support was given to the publication of miniature books. Many of the tiny productions are beautiful. A surprising number of them included English, as well as German, Russian, and other languages.
21. Joyce Barton's Bluebird Press has done a large number of charming books, appropriately sized for doll house collections.

B. Basic Books for Intermediate Collectors.

While continuing to add to the works of publishers mentioned in the Beginner listing, these further numbers will provide additional desiderata, and will include some of the 32 items in Ruth Adomeit's "Serious" listing, with which I am in substantial agreement.

1. Joseph Curran's Kurbel Books has produced beautiful things, many with artwork by E. Helene Sherman. They are often hand colored and illuminated. Needlework custom bindings for many of them can be provided.
2. Don Hildreth's Ash Ranch Press issued books of often breathtaking beauty.
3. The Splendid Press has issued charming sometime collaborations of four California publishers, which individually and collectively have collected many Outstanding Book Awards from the Miniature Book Society. Serious collectors should be acquainted with books of Dianne Weiss's Figment Press, Carol Cunningham's Sunflower Press, Maryline Poole Adam's Poole Press, and Susan Acker's Feathered Serpent Press.
4. Stanley Marcus established the Somesuch Press, which has published many desirable high quality books.
5. Guus Thurkow's Catharijne Press

- is a source of outstanding books.
6. Barbara Raheb has produced more titles than anybody. Her books are beautiful things.
 7. Jane Conneen's Little Farm Press issued hundreds of colored etchings, and evolved into a producer of outstanding etched and colored miniature books.
 8. Alexander Wirth produced a select group of miniature titles.
 9. Schmidt and Gunther, located in Leipzig, published an outstanding series of miniature classical books in exquisite leather bindings.
 10. David Bryce & Son, in Glasgow, produced a mouth-watering collection of miniatures. Ruth Adomeit included five of them in her listing, and they follow, verbatim, as numbers 11-15. However, many more, indeed, any other Bryce titles which collectors can find, are highly recommended, including his Shakespeare, Rubaiyat, etc.
 11. The Holy Bible. David Bryce & Son, Glasgow 1895. The smallest complete Bible.
 12. The New Testament, ...Bryce...1895. The smallest complete New Testament.
 13. The Smallest Complete English distionary. ...Bryce...n.d.
 14. My Tiny Alphabet Book ...Bryce...ca.1900. Colored illustratons of birds and animals. The smallest publication with colored illustrations up to the time of its printing.
 15. The Koran ...Bryce... ca.1900... (These were given to Arab allies of T.E. Lawrence [of Arabia]).
 16. William Pickering, London. William Shakespeare, the Plays. 9 vols. 1825. One of Pickering's Diamond Classics, a series of highly desirable, beautifully printed, and extremely well-considered publications, slightly over 3 inches, but included as miniatures nevertheless by discriminating collectors.
 17. Yolanda Carter's Amistad Press has produced numerous dollhouse-size books, and some larger ones.
 18. Jane Bernier's Borrower's Press produced a large number of books for dollhouse-sized shelves.
 19. The Good Book Press of Peter and Donna Thomas has published many delectable miniatures, often on Peter's handmade papers, which have received Outstanding Book Awards by the Miniature Book Society.
 20. Breed, Butler and Co. produced four series of miniatures in the 1860s, each group of six just



1988 product of Schori Press, showing frontispiece and title page.

a little larger than the ones before. They are often referred to as Aunt Laura Or Aunt Fanny books. Getting a complete set is a challenge, but they are lovely examples of the 19th century American publications.

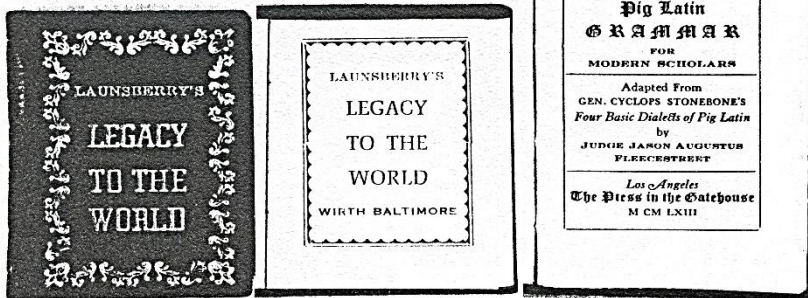
21. Doris Welsh produced a delicately lovely series of books at her Petit Oiseau Press. Every serious collector should include some of them.
22. Gordon Murray published a charming series of Silver Thimble Books. I believe he is now doing one-of-a-kind books, hand lettered, illustrated, and colored.
23. Pat Ballwin's Pequeno press has done many lovely and imaginative books.
24. Anne and David Bromer published a group of very nice miniatures, often in both plain and deluxe editions.
25. Lloyd Nielsen and Marvin Hiemstra keep the Juniper von Phitzer Press humming and turning out most desirable books.
26. Charles Lummis produced a series of 19th century **Birch Bark Poems**, printed, with illustrations, on actual birch bark. They are very delicate, but lovely examples of what is possible.
27. Pairault et Cie., Paris, published two 10-volume series of lovely, delicate miniatures in the late 1890s.
28. **Kate Greenaway's ABC**. A lovely example of the famous children's artist in 19th century England.
29. Henry Frowde, London, did a series of beautifully printed and leather bound volumes in the late 1800s: **The Compleat Angler**, **The Christian Year**, **Of the Imitation of Christ**, **The Pilgrim's Progress**, among other desiderata.
30. **Bible in Miniature**. E. Newbery, London, 1780. Best known early Thumb Bible. Usually found in beautifully inlaid and gilt tooled morocco bindings.

31. **Almanack**. C.F. Muller, Carlsruhe, Germany. Published between 1817 and 1840. The earliest miniature books produced by lithography.
32. The Kingsport Press produced three classics, beautifully bound in leather: **Addresses of Abraham Lincoln**, **Autobiography of Calvin Coolidge**, and **Washington's Farewell Address**.
33. Rock & Co., London, published a delicate and lovely series of illustrated books, engraved throughout: **Bijou Picture of London**, **Bijou Picture of Paris**, **Bijou Comic Album**, and a number of others.
34. Editalia produced at least seven in their "Minima" series. They are 5-volume sets bound in leather, gold stamped, and in matching leather slipcases: **Roma Minima**, **Firenze Minima**, and others.
35. Herschel Logan's Log-Anne Press did a large variety of fascinating books.

III. Basic Books for Advanced Collectors

1. Ruth Adomeit wrote in **The Miniature Book Collector**, of William Lewis Washburn, "...producer of probably the most varied and interesting collection of miniature books ever made by one man." I concur wholeheartedly. They are rare, but every serious collector should try very hard to find at least one of them.
2. James Lamar Weygand has published at least 23 delectable offerings, from 1963 into the 1990s. They are often printed on his handmade paper, and cover an amazing range of subjects.
3. Jim Yarnell's Oak Park Press issued a small but select number of books which are among the best.
4. **The Mite**. Robinson, Grimsby, England, 1891. Smallest book printed from movable type, until the **Galileo** in 1896.

5. G. Barbera, Firenze, published a series of books in VADE-MECUM editions, which are breathtaking, in full leather elaborately gold-stamped bindings, often in embossed boxes or slipcases. Some titles were reissued at later dates, sometimes in leatherette, but are still highly desirable.
6. Lorson's Books and Prints has published some elaborate and highly desirable miniatures.
7. Rebecca Bingham's Rebecca Press has published some very beautiful books.
8. Edmund S. Wood's Minia Press published a series of books which are rare, but worth the searching out.
9. J. E. Newman's JEN Press is publishing many lovely things.
10. Andre Kundig, Geneva, published a lovely, delicate series of *Pensees* and other uniformly-sized books. His larger Bibliotheque de Voyage, housed in a vellum bookform case, contains miniature and larger books.
11. *Brilliants*. Theodore DeVinne, New York, 1895. First miniature book printed with the "brilliant" 4-point type of Miller and Richard.
12. Jack Levien started publishing miniature books under the Traders Press imprint, then did a long series of tiny, leather bound lovelies.
13. Shannon Mitchell makes many lovely things with her tiny calligraphy and illumination. Many of them are done to order for collectors.
14. *The Rose Garden of Omar Khayyam*. Commonwealth Press, Worcester, Mass. The tiny version claimed the "smallest" title for some time. The set, in a 3/4 morocco bookform box, contains three different size versions, and other items.
15. *Galileo a Madama Cristina di Lorena*. Salmin, Padova, 1896. Still the smallest book printed with the movable 2 1/2 point "fly's eye" type, it is indeed a marvel of miniature book making.
16. *New Testament*, in Greek. Sedan, 1628-29. Earliest miniature type in Greek.
17. *Dante's Divina Commedia*. Salmin Padova, 1878. The famous *Dantino*. Also printed with the 2 1/2 point "fly's eye" type.
18. Offizin Anderson Nexo, Leipzig, published a spectacularly beautiful series of books, bound in full leather, gilt, in printed board slipcases.



Left and middle: Front cover and title page from Alexander Wirth's production of *Legacy To The World*. Right: Title page from Dawson Book Shops' *Flecestreets Improved Pig Latin*.

7

19. Edition Peters, Leipzig, produced three volumes in beautiful leather bindings, in leather, felt-lined wallet-style cases, each with an enclosed Dresden China medallion: **J.S. Bach** (1985), **Berlin, Stadt der Musik** (1987), and **Leipzig, Stadt der Musik** (1990).
20. Many miniature books were published in Russia, some quite elaborate, and many with text in English and other languages, as well as in Russian.
21. Giovanni Scheiwiller, Milano, published a delicate series of books, beautifully printed, and with lovely printed pictorial wrappers. They deserve to be represented in a good collection.
22. A lectern Bible. Various editions of the Bryce Bible, often with Shakespeare or Burns family reproduced between the Old and New Testaments, and attached to a wooden lectern with a chain, as were the books in medieval "chained" libraries, have been issued, and are a good addition to a serious collection.
23. Gresset's **Ver-Vert**, Laurent et Diberny, Paris, 1855. Printed in a beautiful, clear microscopic type.
24. **Evangile Selon St. Matthieu**, Enschede, Haarlem, 1900. Printed with Henri Didot's 2 1/2 point movable type.
25. **Schloss's English Bijou Almanac**. London, 1836-1843. Often issued in elaborate cases, with magnifying glass. Smallest engraved English almanac.
26. Jeremiah Rich, **New Testament in Shorthand**, ca. 1660. Also **Psalms in Shorthand**. Smallest books engraved in shorthand writing.
27. E. Helene Sherman did five miniature illuminated manuscript books, each edition in multiple copies. They are beautiful productions, and every serious collector should yearn to have one of them.

Admittedly, this is a list of "ideal" acquisitions for a serious collection. Many collectors don't want things they cannot read. That is understandable. There are enough and to spare of wonders in English to fill up a spectacular collection. You will decide what is best for you. With these suggestions, plus the many things you will find which are not included here, you can't go far wrong as you build your own version of a serious collection.

#

RENEW NOW — BEFORE YOU FORGET!
MINIATURE BOOK NEWS is published quarterly.
 Subscription \$12.00 yearly postpaid in North America,
 \$15.00 overseas.
(BACK ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE)
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 (TEL: 314.567.3533 FAX: 314.567.9033)

Edison's closing words are an excellent way to look at these lists, "You decide what is best for you". As always, questions, comments, and criticisms are welcome at your convenience.



Contact information: Todd Sommerfeld, E-mail: contratodd@gmail.com

Editor's Note: Should you wish to read more about Robert Massmann and his REM press you can certainly refer to 'The Microbibliophile', Number 5, Issue 191, September 2014. The title of the article is 'A Moment in Miniature Book History, Famous People, Robert E. Massmann. If you were a subscriber or have a copy of the printed issue from some other source you are all set. If you would like to read the article in our new digital format, you can go to the hotlink:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/588a47b46a49634f5992ee37/t/6042b6d575942622ddb8aa8/1614984928509/Microbib_2014_09.Final.pdf

As 'The Microbibliophile' moves toward the digital delivery format, 'hotlinks' will be one of those advanced features that let you the reader travel further down that road of discovery into the world of miniature books exploring topics in more depth at your leisure. Sample digital distributions will be selectively emailed to subscribers with the remaining issues for 2021.

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS,

VERSALS:



ersals define ornamental capital letters utilized marginally or partly in the text to mark the beginning of a paragraph, verse, or even an important passage in a manuscript.

In early usage, the ornamentation was generally simple in design. Mainly flourishes, dotted outlines or a contrasting color of ink. During the 15th century, they became much more elaborate and were developed into illuminated initials. Versals can range over several lines of text but the top of the versal is aligned with the minuscule of the word to which it is the first letter.

A more complete technical definition of 'versals' and illumination can be found in the following reference books:

- *Encyclopedia of the Book*, by Geoffrey Ashall Glaister
- *ABC For Book Collectors*, by John Carter

How about the term 'minuscule'? Your turn?

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR,
A Question About Penguin Books,
From Nina Mazzo:**

Morning,

I have been enjoying my research into Penguin Books and so am now wondering if you know of any miniature versions - Penguin did come up with a smaller unusual design a few years back - a paperback kind of flipped - I bought it but not impressed- but am now wondering if anyone ever attempted to create our version of miniature Penguins?

Hope all well -Ciao, Nina

.....

Good Morning Nina,

I do not know the answer to your question but will forward your question to Todd Sommerfeld.

Best Regards,

Jim

.....

Nina,


I remember seeing those oblong Penguin books but do not have any. As I recall, they were closer to 4" so did not really interest me. As far as anyone in the US making similar books, I've not seen any. The closest thing to miniature reprints of classics would be Tony Firman's books.

There was a set of Terry Pritchett's Discworld books that were done in a small hardcover format in the mid 1990s. There are at least four volumes though I only have two. They measure about 3¾" × 3" so are even a little larger than the Running Press miniatures. They are complete novels and were published by Victor Gollancz of London. If they are of any interest to you I can get a little more information to you.

Best,

Todd

.....

Editor's Note: Anyone else have any information to add to Nina's 'search'? 

GET THE INK READY, START THE PRESSES:

The next issue, Number 4, will be available hopefully by the first week of July. July is 'beach time' for the grandchildren in Northport, Maine. I will postmark the issue in Northport, just for fun and to remember the time and place. I hope that you and your family will get to enjoy this summer more than last.

- Nina Mazzo, more news and her insights into the 'Miniature Book News'
- *The Last American*, by J. A. Mitchell, published by Plum Park Press
- Possibly something new and exciting from Bo Press?
- 'Bradbury 100' Number 32, *The Story of the Alphabet*, by Otto E. Ege.
- Another 'Bradbury 100', Number 43', *A Miniature of Japanese Fairy Tales*
- Maybe another Msgr. Weber book via Booksby Press.
- In addition, and most importantly, hopefully a story or article written by you!

Please keep us posted on what is happening at your press, what you are reading, your discoveries, or do you have a favorite list. Anticipation and searching is the joy of collecting. We all enjoy the journey; the details, the stories, the great finds, the minutia, the marginalia – oh! The joy of it all. Step up to the podium; we are want to listen. 📖

SOME SOURCE DOCUMENT INFORMATION,

Basic Books For A Serious Collector:

The Microbibliophile, Number 2, Issue 230 published an article about the 'Basic Books for the Serious Collector', by Ruth Adomeit. The original article was published in the *Miniature Book News*, Number 64. It is always an adventure seeking more information and that extra special 'find'. The Education and Outreach Librarian at the Lilly Library at Indiana University looked in the Adomeit Collection and found, in 'Box II, Folder 28', what looks like the original typed list of the 32 books selected by Adomeit. It is reproduced on the next page as another insight into the value of those who protect the past in our great libraries. The world of miniature books, Priceless!

J. K. Ball -
1895

BASIC BOOKS FOR A SERIOUS COLLECTOR

1. Evangile Selon St. Mathieu, Enschede, ~~Maastricht~~
Printed with Didot's type. 1900.
2. Boreman Westminster Abbey III, London
or any other Gigantik History. 1740-43.
3. Young Sportsman's Instructor. London. ca.1700.
4. Roche Foucauld's Maximes et Reflexions Morales
Paris. The first book printed with Didot's
type. 1827.
5. New Testament in Greek, Sedan. 1628-29.
6. Petrarca's Le Rime, Ongania, Venice. 1879.
7. Gresset's Ver-Vert, Laurent et Deberny, Paris. 1855.
8. Dod's Handbook of Practical Cookery, Eyre &
Spottiswoode, London. 1906.
9. Bible in Miniature, E. Newbery, London. 1780.
10. Dante's Divina Commedia, Tip. Salmin, Padova. 1878.
11. Galleria Dantesca Microscopica, Hoepli, Milan. 1880.
Contains 30 photographs.
12. Snagg's The Famous History of Valentine and Orson.
Evans and Ruffy, London. 1801. or any other
volume in this series.
13. Schloss's English Bijou Almanac, London, 1836-1843.
In case with magnifying glass.
14. t'Oranje Geslacht, H. Spoormaker, Groningen. 1749.
15. The Smallest 18th century book.
15. The Smallest 18th Century Book, J. Hamer, Leeds. 1863.
Other editions in 1866, 1870, 1874.
16. The Holy Bible, David Bryce & Son, Glasgow. 1896.
17. The New Testament " " " " " " 1895.
18. The Smallest English Dictionary, David Bryce & Son, Glasgow. n.d.
19. My Tiny Alphabet Book, David Bryce & Son, Glasgow. ca.1900
Colored illustrations of birds and animals.
20. The Koran, David Bryce & Son, Glasgow. ca. 1900.
21. The Mite, Robinson, Grimsby, England. 1891.
Smallest book printed from type until 1900.
22. Addresses of Abraham Lincoln, 1929; Autobiography of
Calvin Coolidge, 1930; Washington's Farewell
Address 1932. Kingsport Press, Kingsport, Tennessee.
23. Galileo a Madama Cristina di Lorena, Pad. Salmin, Padova.
1896. 207 pages printed from Movable type.
24. Bijou Picture of London and Bijou Picture of Paris,
Rock & Co., London. ca. 1850. A number of other
titles in this same series.
25. de Vinne's Brilliants, New York. 1895. Printed in
4-point brilliant type of Miller and Richard.
26. Smallest complete Hebrew Bible, M.M. Scholtz, n.p., n.d.
27. Calendrier de tous les Saints, France, ca. 1800, All
engraved pictorial volumes, bound as 12 or 4.
28. Horace, A. Mesnier and A. Sautet, Paris. 1828.
Printed with famous Didot type.
29. De Flagrorum usu in re veneria. Meibomius. London. 1665.
Actually said to have been printed in Paris in 1757.
30. Short Account of the First Rise and Progress of Printing.
T. Parker Jun, London. ca.1763. Rarest book in
typographical literature.
31. Almanachs, C.F. Müller, Carlsruhe, Germany. 1817-1840.
32. Bible New Testament in Shorthand Berlin in Shorthand

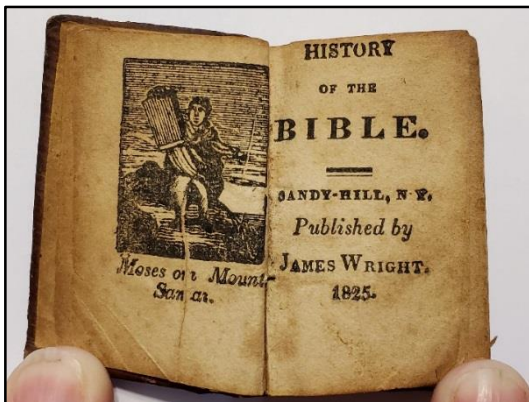
The horizon is always an interesting place. 📖

'NOT IN ADOMEIT, AN UPDATE,

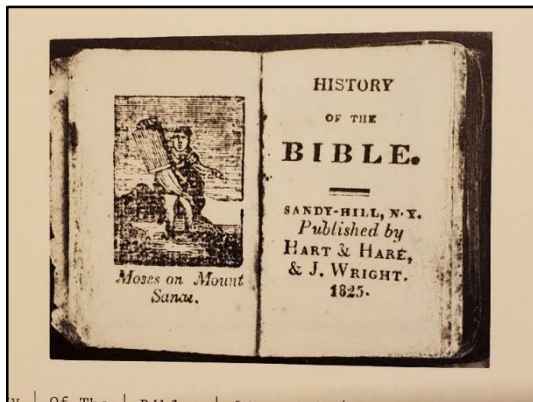
By Todd Sommerfeld:

In the May 2020 MB, I wrote about a thumb Bible that missed the penetrating gaze of Ruth Adomeit. Then in July 2020, I listed eleven other unrecorded Bibles. Today I am happy to report yet another unrecorded thumb Bible has come into my possession. This Bible is identical to Adomeit A59 in all points except the publisher is noted as 'James Wright' instead of 'Hart & Hare, & J. Wright'. We will call this one A60 ½.

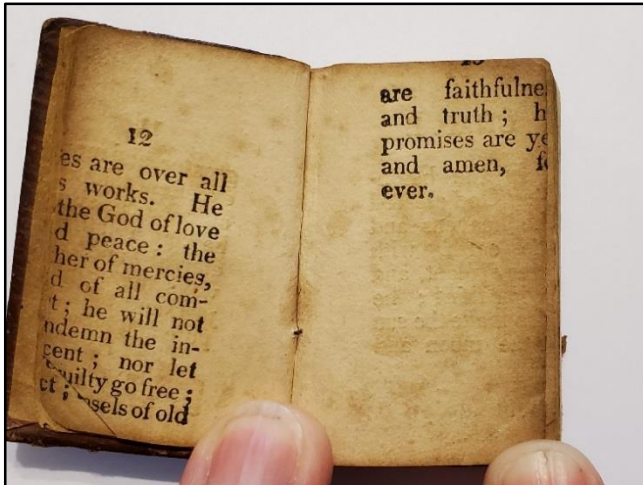
Some personal notes on this particular book: Ruth notes several printing errors in pagination in A59 and lists A60 as identical to A59 except that one group of pages has the wrong pages on the backs. My A60 ½ has several pages where the fronts and backs are poorly aligned causing major portions of the text to be trimmed away. I am not accustomed to seeing such shoddy work in the early 19th century. It appears that James Wright may have been the printer and editor of the Sandy Hill Harrold and may have found that speed of production was a greater priority than accuracy.



Title Page A60 ½



A59



A60 1/2

As always, questions, comments, and criticisms are welcome at your convenience. 📖

Contact information: Todd Sommerfeld, E-mail: contratodd@gmail.com

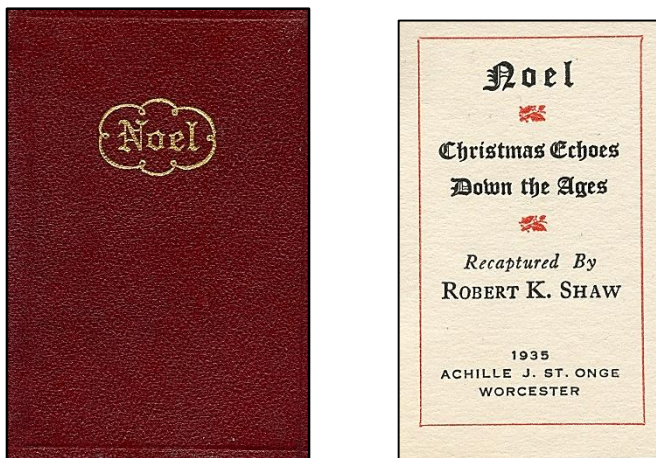
Editor's Note: The hot link to the original article that was written by Todd is.

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/588a47b46a49634f5992ee37/t/6042b6d575942622ddb8aa8/1614984928509/Microbib_2014_09.Final.pdf

JAMES A. JENKINS
BOOKSELLER & STATIONER
663 SIXTH AVE.
BET. 38TH & 39TH STS.
NEW YORK.

**MORE BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS,
BRADBURY 100, NUMBER 76,**

Noel, Christmas Echoes Down the Ages, by Robert K. Shaw



'Noel', published in 1935, is the first miniature book published by Achille J. St. Onge, Worcester, Massachusetts. The book measures $2\frac{7}{16}$ " x $1\frac{11}{16}$ " and is bound in a red leather, with the title embossed in gold, on the front cover. 'Noel' was printed from Caslon type at the Stobbs Press in Worcester. The binding was done by the Wetherbee Company, AEG, with the total edition being only 278 copies. The front and rear endpapers are a simple green paper. There is a black and white photo, 'Madonna and Child' by Bernardine dei Conti, tipped in as a frontispiece. The title page is printed as a two-color arrangement; the normal title and author information is printed in black with a red border on the page as well as two red holly leaves.

The author of 'Noel' is Robert K. Shaw who was the librarian at the Worcester Public Library in 1935. Shaw had previously written several articles on miniature books, it was those articles, that led St. Onge to initiate a friendship with Shaw. Subsequently, Shaw and James Henderson (editor of the LXIVMOS) convinced St. Onge to begin publishing miniature books.

'Noel', is a collection of Christmas messages that were selected by Shaw. The title page notes states that the 'echoes' are recaptured memories by Shaw of thoughts and messages previously created by several different people. The book is divided into two sections; the first is sub-titled; *Part One Religious* and the second is sub-titled; *Part Two Secular*.

Here are a few of the echoes:

From Part One, Religious

*“What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring Him a lamb,
If I was a wise man I would do my part,
Yet what I can give Him,
Give my heart,”*

- Christina G. Rossetti


From Part Two, Secular:

*“It is good to be children sometimes,
And never better than at Christmas when its
Mighty founder was a child himself”*

- Charles Dickens

*“As many mince pies as you taste at Christmas,
So many happy months will you have”*

- Old English proverb

One last important detail, the book was presented in a small ‘gold paper covered’ box. It is easy to see how ‘Noel’ made the 100 list, a fine selection. 

Editor’s Note: ‘The Microbibliophile’ has included several articles about St Onge and his miniature books over the years. If you so choose you may want to read more about Robert Shaw and St. Onge and how this legacy of some of the finest miniature books evolved, here is a link to the starting point;

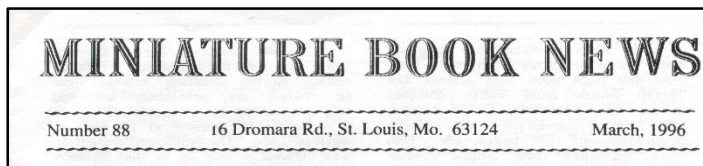
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THE MINIATURE BOOK NEWS,

Number 8, June 1967,

By Nina Mazzo:

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



What was the talk of the miniature book world in 1967? Julian Edison's enthusiasm fills his eight-page newsletter with unique items; auctions; books for sale, and recent publications.

The following are some highlights:

- Sanskrit prayer printed in 770 is an early example of printing on paper. The tiny scroll (2 ¼ by 18 ½ inches) was set within a three-story wooden pagoda.

- A Hungarian subscriber is "looking for a partner to exchange miniature books edited in Hungary." His name is Vertes Jenó and he is a typesetter who notes that there is an "earnest competition to make them as pleasing in appearance ..."

Hungary has been printing miniature calendars, grammars, and dictionaries since the 18th century.

Recent [1967] auction prices:

The Lilliputian Library (4 volumes, c. 1860) \$45;

The Bible in Miniature (E. Newbery, 1780) \$20;

The Young Sportsman's Instructor (c 1706) sold by Sotheby for \$560!!

Other tidbits:

- Calendar of Saints – (1815) twelve volumes with sixteen leaves each containing 28-30 engravings of saints for each day of the month. They fit within a two-tiered wooden case.

- Miniature typography – Julian notes that most miniature books have been printed from moveable type until photographic reduction processes made smaller books possible. He adds that there is an important source material on the history of miniature typography in a miniature book titled *Brilliant Types*, by Theodore L. De Vinne of the De Vinne Press in 1895.

“MICROBLIOPHILES, ONWARD!”

Always a joy. 📖

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

***Update:** The below notice was printed in the last issue of ‘The Microbibliophile’, however, it was not made clear that the author of the book is Caroline Brandt and it will be published by her press, Cyclone Books. Plum Park Press will bind the standard cloth edition (15 copies) while Deborah Evetts will bind the deluxe leather edition (15 copies).*

ALDUS MANUTIUS, A New Book from Cyclone Press, Caroline Y. Brandt, Author & Publisher

In 2015 the Grolier Club held an exhibition titled “Aldus Manutius: A Legacy More Lasting Than Bronze.” Their 2020 *Gazette* contained articles about this 15th century printer and his Aldine Press. I was fascinated with the story of this printer who founded a press not long after moveable type was invented.

The publishing process is nearing completion; the book will be published in two editions, a standard edition bound by Plum Park Press, Tony Firman and a deluxe edition bound by Deborah Evetts.

I’m excited about this the fourth and last publication of Cyclone Books and feel it is a fitting closure to my 85+ years and love of miniature books. To reserve a copy please contact me by telephone or snail mail:

Mrs. Caroline Y. Brandt,
1500 Westbrook Court, # 1109,
Richmond, VA, 23227,
Telephone 804-200-1260 📖

THE GAZETTE,

By **Nina Mazzo**:

I recently purchased the *Gazette of the Grolier Club* (Number 70, 2020) from Oak Knoll Press as I am always on the lookout for interesting books, pamphlets, magazines, etc. and I was not familiar with this publication. Well, it is simply delicious!

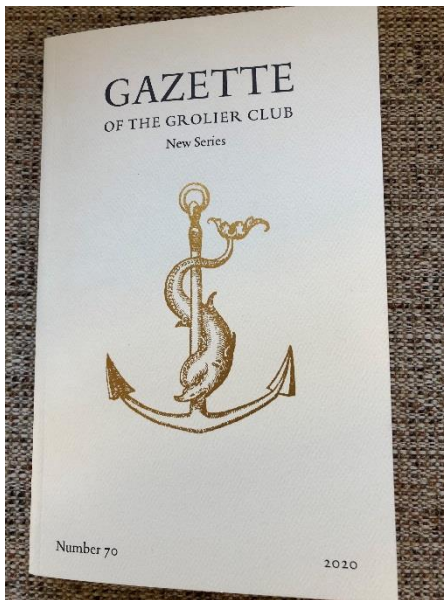
You might chuckle, but I was entranced as I turned the pages – the quality of the paper it is printed on – the design and layout – the articles well written and many with color photos. Many of you are undoubtedly aware of the ‘Gazette’ and many of you have had the opportunity to visit the Grolier Club, however I continue to build my knowledge base.

This issue included an article titled ‘Aldus Manutius: A Legacy More Lasting Than Bronze’, by G. Scott Clemons and H. George Fletcher. While the article is the exhibition label text, I was still able to visualize these amazing works.

The Grolier had held an exhibition in 2015 and included nearly one hundred and fifty books selected to demonstrate Aldus’ legacy and his contributions to the worlds of scholarship and printing. I would like to add a ‘thank-you’ to Caroline Brandt who introduced me to Aldus Manutius and I look forward to her upcoming book on his press and his work.

Always something new. 📖

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



WINE FROM MY GARDEN,

By Mariam Macgregor:

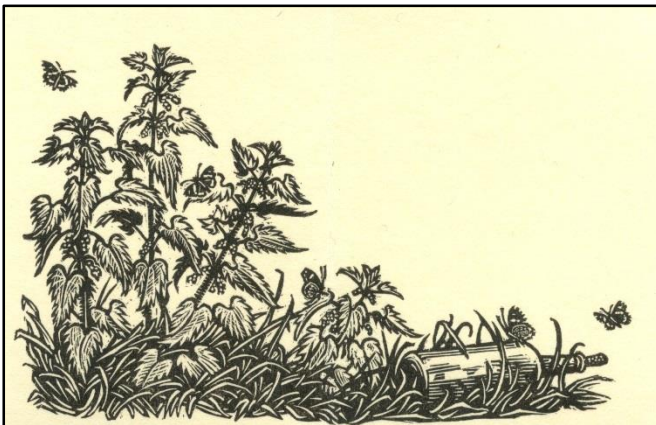
James Lorson, who was the proprietor of Lorson's Books and Prints in Fullerton, California, published *Wine from My Garden* in 2000. According to the notes in Bradbury, miniature books were an important part of Lorson's book selling activities. Reflecting on his experience in publishing, Lorson commented, "I have been fortunate to work with some of the most outstanding printers and artists in the miniature field."

Mariam Macgregor is the author of *Wine from My Garden*. The book was published in two versions, a regular edition of 200 copies and a deluxe edition of 50 copies. My review copy is the deluxe edition which is a two volume set published with a burgundy cloth clamshell box. The text of the first volume describes eleven plants that can be found in household gardens that can be used to make wine. However, the author makes a point to inform readers that the book is not a recipe book. There is a hand-colored illustration accompanying the text of each plant.

The book is bound in dark-red gilt leather and measures $2\frac{3}{8}$ " x $1\frac{7}{8}$ ". The second volume of the set is a suite of proof illustrations that were utilized for the first volume. It is bound in a dark-red cloth material.

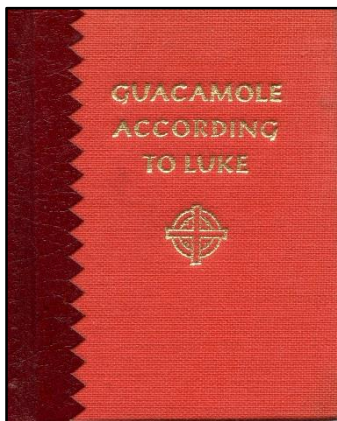
I did find a catalogue listing for another book by the same author, *Weeds in My Garden*, 1986, which appears to have been published in the same standard and deluxe presentation format.

Certainly an interesting item and would be an especially unique find for someone who is a wine aficionado 📖



Stinging Nettle, L. (Urtica dioica)

**MORE BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS,
BRADBURY 100, NUMBER 99,
Guacamole According to Luke, by Jim Yarnell**

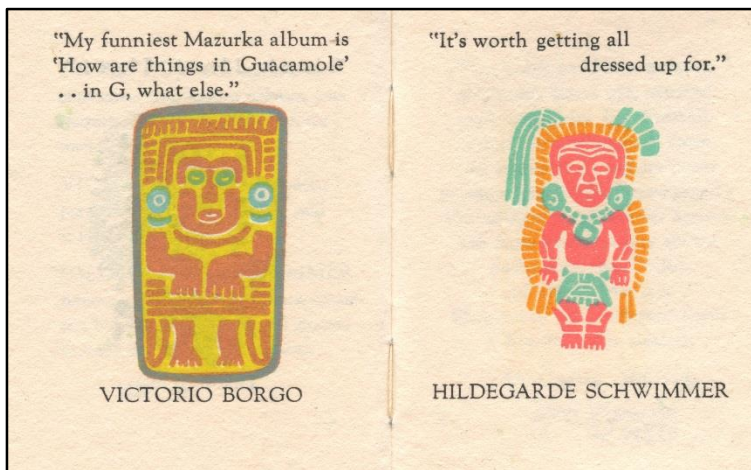


James Yarnell was a publisher who lived in Wichita, Kansas and across the river from one of his favorite places, the Oak Park; hence the press name, Oak Park Press. Yarnell was one of those 'do-everything' book people. He would write the book, make the paper, print the text, bind the book, and he told a great story as part of the process.

So, here is the story behind 'Guacamole'. One evening after a book club meeting, he tasted the 'guacamole according to Luke'. Luke, by the way, was short for Lucretia, the wife of his friend, Hal Ottaway.

The miniature was published in 1983 and is 2⁷/₈" x 2³/₈" with 28 pages of text printed on handmade paper. I should add that my review copy is one of the 30 deluxe copies letterpress printed with paper made by Jim. I am not sure if the remainder of the 300 copies (regular version) are printed on the same handmade paper as the deluxe version. The deluxe version also has a leather spine cut with a serrated edge applied to the binding. The actual binding is a gilt cloth, pale red over boards. The endpapers are a design that emulates a Mexican ceramic tile.

The text of the book, beyond the brief introduction to the story, consists of the actual recipe for the guacamole and some hand drawn illustration to enhance the recipe.



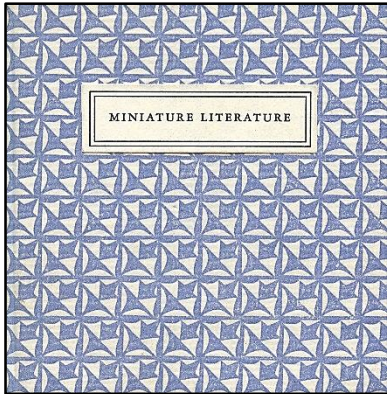
There are also a few interesting closing comments included from the fellow “guacamolophiles” who were present for the dining event. According to Jim, “For the sake of credibility, we thought it prudent to print some comments from a few typical guacamole lovers. If we hadn’t they’d have felt left out of an epic in the exciting romance of guacamole.”

Certainly, a unique little book both in the presentation as well as the story. 📖

MINIATURE LITERATURE,

The Stanley Marcus Collection of Miniature Books at Bridwell Library, Curated by David J. Lawrence:

The interesting thing, in the world of miniature books is that there always seems to be another page, another story and one more book that shines a light on information for the bibliophile. Such is the case with the book *Miniature Literature*. It was published to document an exhibition of miniature books at the Bridwell Library. The books are a subset of the vast collection donated to the library by Stanley Marcus.




The exhibit was presented as eight categories: The Art of the Miniature Book, Religious Works, Classics, Almanacs, Multi-Volume Miniatures, Children’s Miniatures, Bindings, and The Somesuch Press. Many of the items that were part of the exhibit are the same titles as those included in the Bradbury 100 List. It is interesting to see just how many of those fine miniatures were selected for the exhibit from the more than 1100 miniature volumes that were donated by Marcus to the library.

Also included with *Miniature Literature* is an interesting section titled ‘My Enchantment with Miniature Books’, written by Stanley Marcus. His essay relates the story about how the Marcus household was consumed by his collection of books and how his wife said ‘no more books’. Stanley’s response was to secret a few miniatures home inside his coat pocket. His love for the miniatures expanded and spread to his wife, and the formation of the Somesuch Press. The book is 3" x 3", letterpress printed; bound with a stylized fine paper with a label attached, 63 pages, and includes a research bibliography. Marcus spoke of the Bridwell as “a great research and reader’s library and a typographical treasure trove.” 📖

CATALOGUES RECEIVED:

Karen Nyman Miniature Books, Catalog Number 90, May 2021. Always very well done and well organized for easy viewing, 54 items, most with photo images, a large and interesting selection of antiquarian, children's, dollhouse, and rare books, in an electronic PDF format catalogue. Items are marked 'sold' to keep available offerings current
Contact info: Karen Nyman, 7835 Rush Rose Drive, # 124, Carlsbad, CA 92009, telephone 760-944-3019
website: www.KarenNymanMiniatureBooks.com, E-mail: karennyman2@gmail.com

Online e-catalogues are another great source of information. Check with you favorite booksellers, they may have a 'notification' page set up to send you an email when they have a special catalogue available. Catalogs 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 helping, no one will ever know. I just love them, especially the paper printed versions. 

NAPOLEON'S TRAVELING LIBRARY, The Books In A Box:

Napoleon was arguably the best-read emperor the world has ever seen. He was also keen not to be separated from his books while on many military campaigns. Therefore, he commissioned various 'travel libraries' which were put together by his personal librarian Antoine-Alexandre Barbier. Travelling libraries had been popular for centuries. Henry VIII travelled with chests full of books as he toured around England, and Francis I had a similar arrangement for his travels in France.

Napoleon's libraries were originally large wooden cases that contained hundreds of volumes. The genre of books covered military tactics, history, geography and religion as well as novels, poetry and plays. Over time, the cumbersome "libraries" became more difficult to manage, so Napoleon ordered a smaller, more manageable travel library in a wooden box resembling a large book measuring approximately 15 by 10 inches, stocked with various miniature editions. Each volume was bound in roan leather and tooled in gilt.

The following two images are representative of these traveling libraries but are not images of Napoleon's actual cases (page 43 is an image of the actual case). As well as the library cases for his own use on campaigns, he gave library sets to his generals, with the number of volumes varying from around a dozen up to fifty.

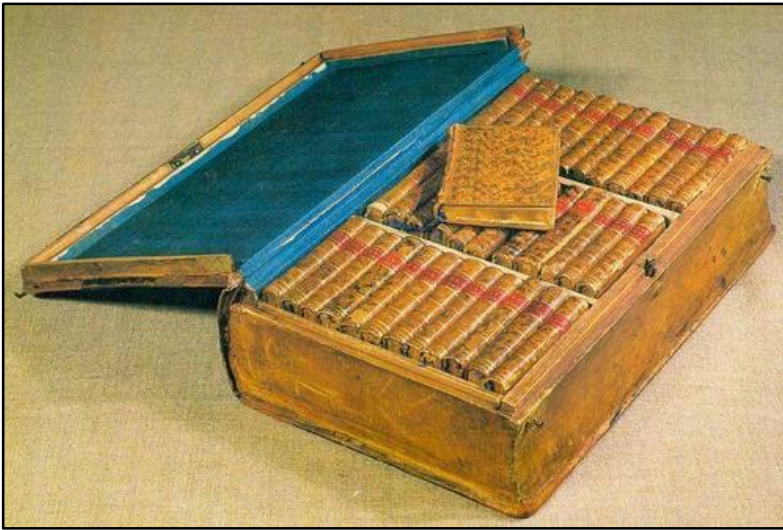


image courtesy of <https://twitter.com/corkcolibrary>

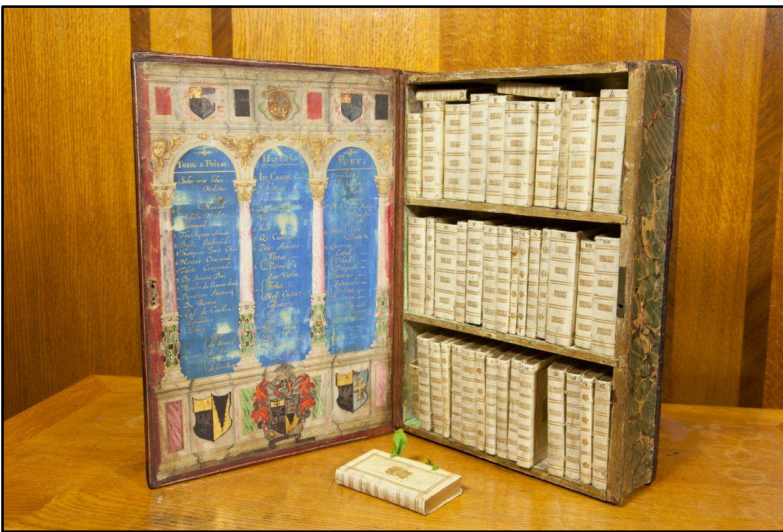


image courtesy of special Collections, Leeds University Library

An interesting tidbit of information relating to the subject of Napoleon's libraries can be read in the following 'reprint' of a newspaper article from the 'Sacramento Daily Union' newspaper of June 6, 1885;

REPRINT:

Many of Napoleon's biographers have incidentally mentioned that he [...] used to carry about a certain number of favorite books wherever he went, whether traveling or camping; but it is not generally known that he made several plans for the construction of portable libraries, which were to form part of his baggage. Some interesting information upon this head is given us by M. Louis Barbier, who for many years had the care of the Louvre Library, and who bases his information upon sonic memoirs left by his father, who was librarian to Napoleon himself. For a long time Napoleon used to carry about the books he required in several boxes holding about sixty volumes each. These volumes, which were either octavo or duodecimo, stood upon shelves inside the boxes, which were supplied by the well-known cabinetmaker, Jacob. They were made of mahogany at first, but as it was found that this was not strong enough for the knocking about they had to sustain, M. Barbier had them made of oak and covered with leather. The inside was lined with green leather or velvet, and the books were bound in morocco. There was a catalogue for each case, with a corresponding number upon every volume, so that there was never a moment's delay in picking out any book that was wanted. As soon as the Emperor had selected his headquarters during a campaign these cases were placed in the room which was intended to be his study, together with the portfolios containing his letters and maps. In course of time, however, Napoleon found that many books which he wanted to consult were not included in the collection, and upon inquiring the reason; was informed that they would not fit into the cases. This, of course, was an answer that did not satisfy one so imperious, and, while residing at Bayonne in 1808, he dictated the following memoir, which was sent to M. Barbier:

'Bayonne, July 8, 1803. The Emperor wishes you to form a traveling library of one thousand volumes in small 12mo and printed in handsome type. It is his Majesty's intention to have these works printed for his special use, and in order to economize space there is to be no margin to them. They should contain from five hundred to six hundred pages, and be bound in covers as flexible as possible and with spring backs. There should be forty works on religion, forty dramatic works, forty volumes of epic and sixty of other poetry, one hundred novels and sixty volumes of history, the remainder being historical memoirs of every period.'

There you have it; about 340 volumes. If each case, as pictured, were to hold 36 books the library would have consisted of perhaps 10 cases, where are they today? I find it is always interesting to dive into these somewhat obscure pieces of history and try to sort things out a bit. I am not sure if a photo image of the actual Napoleon's library case does exist. Perhaps you can help solve the riddle. 📖

THE BIBLIOPHILIC EMPEROR,

By Msgr. Francis J. Weber,

Originally published in the 'Hoja Vlante',

The Zamorano Club, November 1993, # 183, PP. 11-12:

With the possible exception of Abraham Lincoln, Napoleon Bonaparte [1769-1821] and his exploits probably account for more library shelf space than any other historical personage or event in the English language.

Though military strategists denigrate his battlefield accomplishments and political scientists question his administrative abilities, Napoleon remains a national hero in France. One writer contends that the colorful emperor, were he alive today, could easily win election to the country's presidency.

Though he was autocratic and self-serving, there was something very likeable about Napoleon. Surely, he deserves a higher place in historical annals than the role he often gets in comic operas.

He was, for example, an intellectually astute man whose lifetime was consumed by the quest for knowledge. The emperor was a rather avid reader who devoured several books each week throughout his life. By his own testimony, books were his "sole debauchery".

The distinguished bibliophile, Harry B. Smith, maintained that Napoleon was a truly 'enlightened despot'. He contended that 'he was the only emperor whose interest in books would have qualified him for admission to our brotherhood'.

Books were proportionately more expensive in the eighteenth century than they are today. Being a self-proclaimed emperor, Napoleon always found the sum needed for the purchase of a book and, as a youth, he admitted to depriving himself of food to acquire them. All his biographers agree that Napoleon was a true book lover.

Napoleon's library was impressive, even by today's standards. It was no exaggeration that merited for his collection the title of *Bibliothèque Impriale!* He once threatened Pope Pius VII that he would move the Vatican Library to Paris. And he almost did.

Because of his great affinity for books, His Majesty of France devised a plan for making certain volumes of his library "portable". Aware of the miniature books published by the firm of J.B. Fournier Pere et Fils, Napoleon had his binder construct a *Bibliothèque Portative du Voyager* (a traveling library) which would accommodate the tiny classical volumes issued by Fournier. Even on his military campaign, Napoleon would read each evening before retiring.

The original case, from which others were copied, was fabricated of wood and covered by crimson morocco. Measuring 22 X 11 inches, it bore the royal shield along with the letter 'N' embossed on top. Into the case were fitted the twenty-nine volumes which

Fournier published between 1802 and 1812. Most of the vellum-bound volumes measures 3 5/8" tall.

Included among the titles were such prestigious and important works as Racine (four volumes), Voltaire, Theatre (six volumes), Corneille (five volumes), La Saga (four volumes), La Fontaine (two volumes), Piron (two volumes), and Hamilton, Gresset, Tressan, Grecourt, and Bernard.

Napoleon's original case (without the books) was sold by Maggs Brothers of London in 1928 (Catalogue 500, #137) to an unidentified purchaser, possibly James Henderson, the scrivener for the Newsletter of the LXIVmos.

This article was re-printed with permission of the author. The world of miniature books goes round and round for sure. Enjoy the journey! 📖



*Original portrait,
'Portrait of Napoleon Bonaparte in his library',
by Paul Schaan, 1914*

MAGGS BROTHERS of LONDON,

Ca. 1853:

Book dealers and auction houses are always interesting reading, at east for me. There is a certain something that says, "Ring the bell and come in the door, we are sure you will find something of interest, learn something new about something old, and leave with a smile and a feeling of satisfaction." In today's world, we are all familiar with using the internet, and how it has changed our lives. Especially true when we may be looking for a book or some other piece of information. Most of our readers are also experienced enough in the world of books to 'remember' reading and reviewing book catalogues, issued by dealers, to feel the pulse of our quest. One company that has been in business for almost 170 years is the Maggs Brothers of London.


The firm was founded in the 1850's, probably in 1853, by Uriah Maggs, who at the age of 25 had left his home town of Midsomer Norton in Somerset to set up in business in London, not far from the Paddington Station of the Great Western Railway. By 1870, the business had become most specialized in the field of 'second hand books'.

During the late 19th and early 20th century, the firm prospered as many people became interested in rare books and building their libraries. As Uriah Maggs grew the business, his four sons joined the firm and some family members are still part of the specialized staff today. The 1920's and 1930's were a golden era for book collecting and firm handled some extraordinary material. They sold Napoleon's letters to Josephine to the French Government, dispersed the library of the Comte de Chambord (King Henri V of France), and helped King Manuel II of Portugal form one of the greatest libraries of Portuguese and Latin American books and manuscripts.

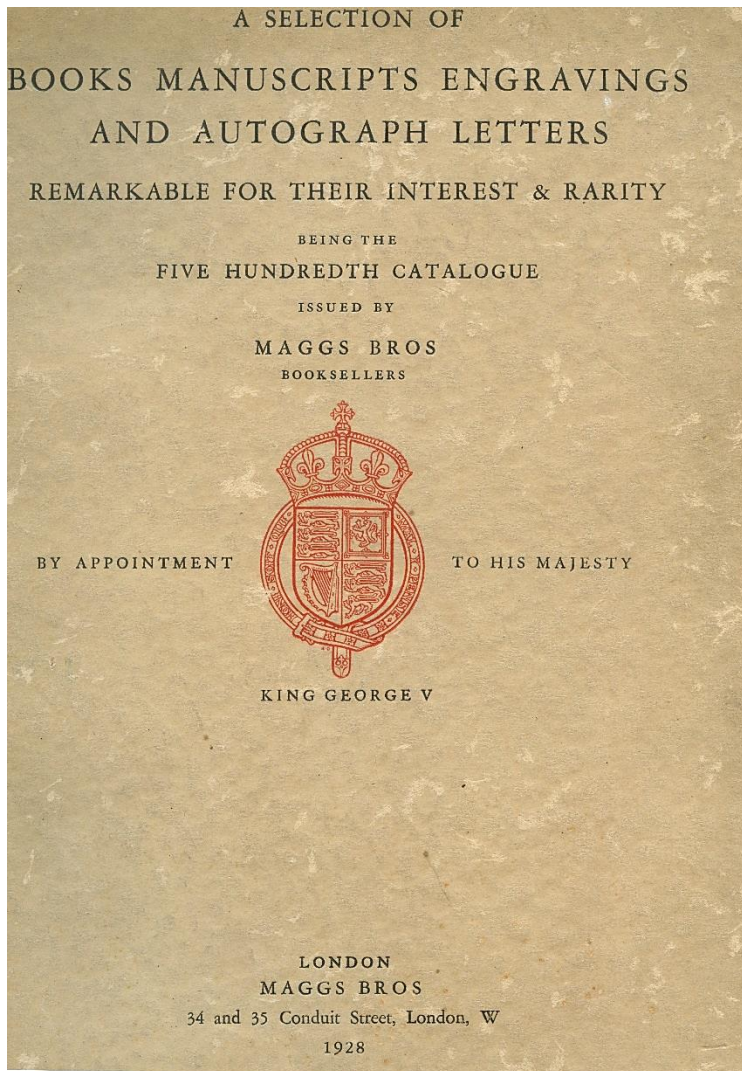
The most lasting legacy of the firm is probably their extraordinary series of catalogues, now more than 1500 in number, with titles in the series such as 'Bibliotheca Americana' and 'Voyages' and 'Travels'. Although the bulk are relatively routine reflections of what was in stock at the time, many are considerable works of scholarship and are now valuable reference works in their own right.

A closing message from the opening of their website:

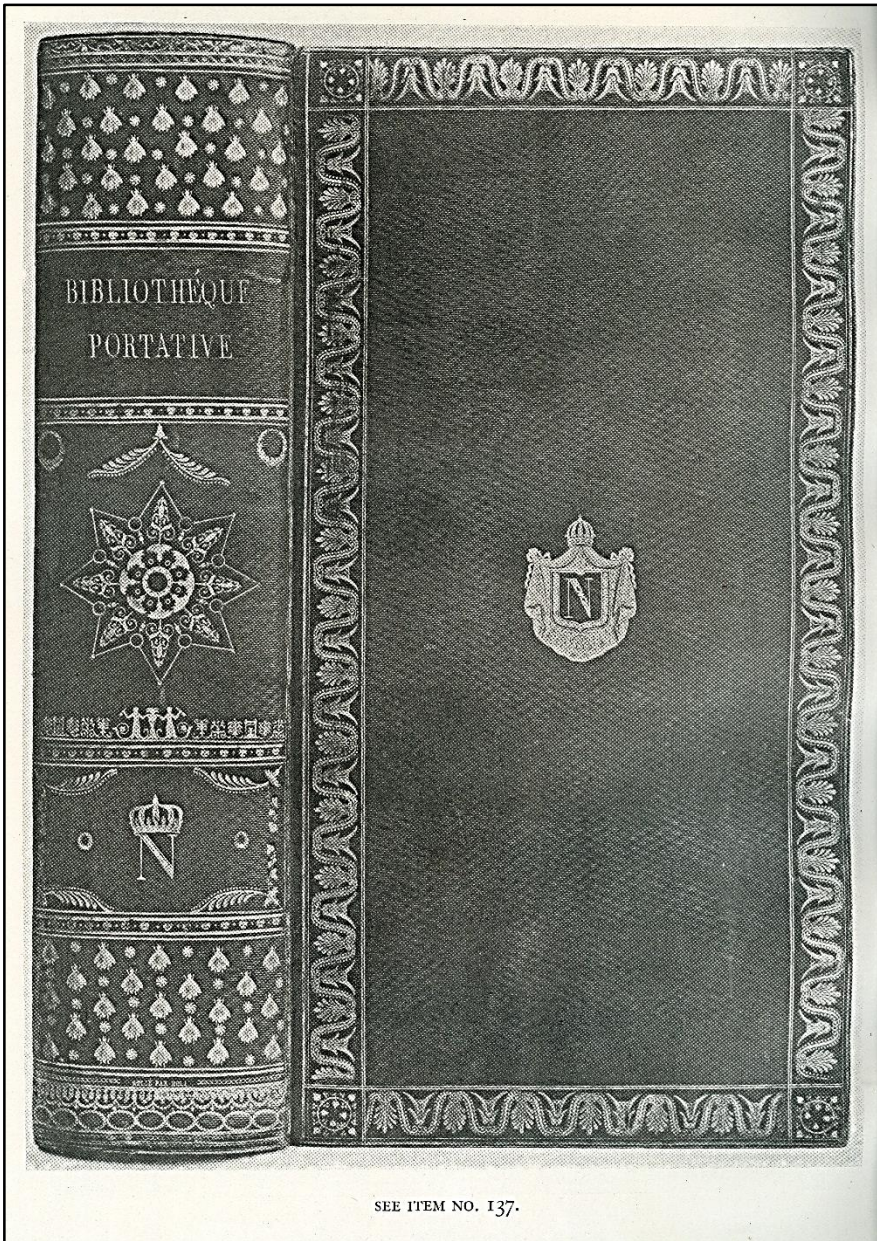
Established in 1853, Maggs Bros. Ltd. is one of the world's largest antiquarian booksellers. Serious about books without being stuffy, we are proud of our traditions and history but are continually looking to the future. We embrace the new age of information technology, and combine with it a continuity, which has seen us deal with successive generations of collectors and with libraries over many decades

Enjoy the journey! 

**MAGGS BROTHERS of LONDON,
Catalogue, Number 500, 1928:**



The actual 'catalogue' is $9\frac{3}{4}$ " x $12\frac{3}{4}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " and incredibly, it weighs almost 4 pounds, with more than 350 pages of text and illustrations. (Is weight a new book metric?)



SEE ITEM NO. 137.

The catalogue image of the Napoleon's actual 'traveling library' box, spine (L) and front cover (L)

NAPOLEON'S TRAVELLING BOOK CASE

137. [NAPOLEON I.]: TRAVELLING BOOK CASE.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE PORTATIVE.

A morocco book-shape case, bound by Doll, Napoleon's binder, in crimson morocco, with Napoleon's crown shield in gold on sides, having in the centre his initial N. The sides have an elaborate gold border. The back carries the title, as given, and top and bottom panels have his favourite emblem of the Bee repeated 46 times, with centre panel of floral decoration and another panel with his Crowned Initial N, and at foot "Relié par Doll." The edges are gilt to resemble a book. The cover is lined green with a very charming dentelle border of flowers, and bears the words "Madame Napoleon" written in ink in centre.

The case itself is divided into three divisions, lettered according to the books which the case once held, thus:

Anacharsis, 4, 5, 6, 7.

Moeurs des Russes.

Pensées de Nicolli.

Annales de la Vertu.

Choix de Oraisons.

Anacharsis 1, 2, 3.

Cabinet du j. Naturalist.

Botanique Hist.

Genie du Christ.

The size of the case measures 22 inches in height; 11 ½ inches in breadth, and 5 inches in depth.

(See Illustration opposite.)

£250

It would be interesting to find the books which were formerly contained in this case, but even without them it is a most interesting, unique and genuine relic of Napoleon.

Can you imagine being able to snap this up for 250 pounds in 1928, some quick keystrokes revalue that number in 2020 dollars as (250 £ = ~\$350 (1928) \$350 (1928) = ~\$5068 (2021)). Still a bargain, what might the case be worth with the original contents? Where oh where is the case today? 📖

THE BOOK, A GLOBAL HISTORY, By Michael Suarez, S.J. and H.R. Woudhuysen

The Book, A Global History is a full size edition 6³/₈" x 9¹/₂", 748 pages, published by the Oxford University Press, 2013.

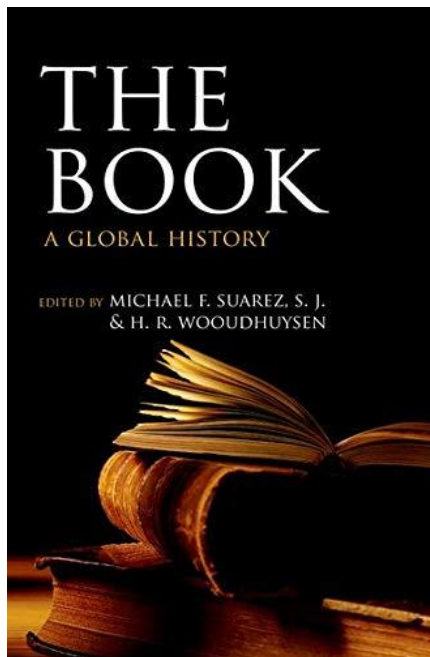
The 54 chapters introduce readers to the fascinating world of book history, including 21 thematic studies on topics such as writing systems, the ancient and the medieval book, and the economics of print. The subjects of censorship as well as copyright and intellectual property are also discussed in separate articles. Additionally, there are 33 'regional and national histories' which give the reader an understanding of just how a book is created, used, and respected around the world. The regional histories cover each of the continents of Europe, Asia, North and South America, and Australia. The articles are supplemented with many illustrations and image examples.

All of the articles are well written; I was particularly interested in *Children's Books*, written by Andrea Immel, who is the curator of the Cotson Children's Library at Princeton University. An outstanding presentation about the history of children's books.

The authors have included a brief reference biography of each of the contributors as well as a 'List of Abbreviations' for your information. There is an extensive index (31 pages) included as well.

The 'Book' is very informative and finely printed edition. The closing line of the editor's Introduction should give you a clue as to the details included; "We present these essays in the hope that they will engender in diverse readerships from around the globe more capacious understanding of books and their fascinating histories."

The 'Book' is available from several internet marketers and is available in both hardcover and eBook editions. 📖



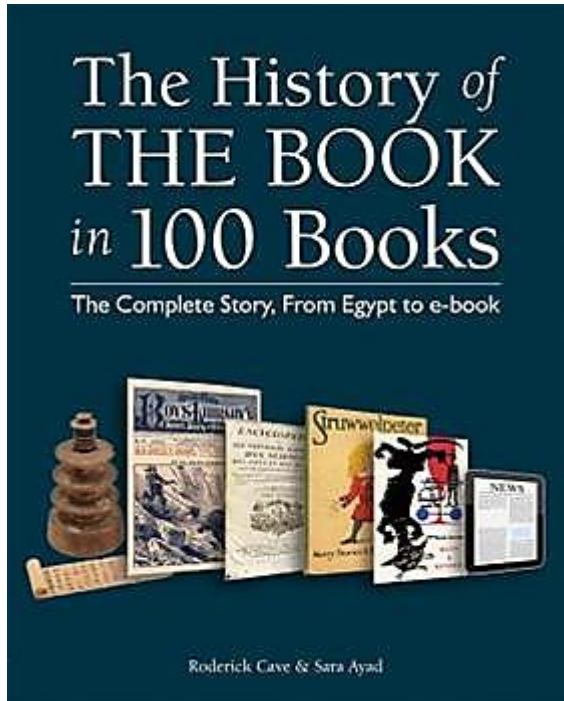
THE HISTORY OF THE BOOK, IN 100 BOOKS,

By Roderick Cave and Sara Ayad:

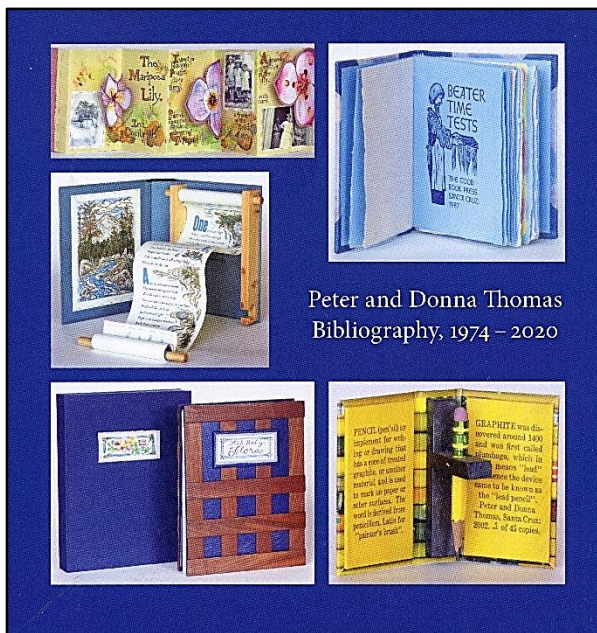
This book is a full size edition, 8" x 9³/₄", 288 pages, published by Firefly Books, 2014. The 'Book' is divided into 11 chapters with the first being 'In the Beginning' that discusses cave drawing, cuneiform tablets, and early Egyptian books. Each chapter is lavishly illustrated with many color illustration printed on a high quality gloss paper stock. The various chapters focus the following title areas: *Eastern Approaches*, *The Great Classics*, *Medieval World*, *Light from the East*, *Wheels of Change*, *A Dangerous Invention*, *Printing and Enlightenment*, *Print and Steam*, *Turbulent 20th Century*, and *Digitization and the Future*.

Part of the chapter on *The Great Classics* discusses the first cookbooks. I would have thought that the first cookbook would have had its origins somewhere in Europe during the Middle Ages. According to the author the distinction of having the earliest manuscript to document the happenings in the kitchen resides in the Vatican Library and dates from the 4th or 5th century CE. The work is ascribed to a famous Roman gourmand, Marcus Gavius Apicius, who lived in the period known as the Reign of Tiberius.

Almost every page of text is supported with images and illustrations. The book is a bit like a 'show and tell' version of a history book. Certainly a joy to read and not at all academic. Readily available from many bookdealers, both in new and used copies. 📖



PETER AND DONNA THOMAS, BIBLIOGRAPHY, 1974 – 2020:



Peter and Donna Thomas
Bibliography, 1974 – 2020

Some bibliographies are merely lists of books; however, this bibliography is more like the creative journey of a lifetime of work as well as the family story of Peter and Donna Thomas. The 'Bibliography' features more than 160 editioned books by the pair of book artists with 374 one-of-a-kind books by Donna and 63 unique books made by Peter. Also included are books made by the team in collaboration with other artists and during various workshops offered over the years.

'Bibliography' is printed in full color on high quality glossy paper to give you the experience of actually holding each creation in

your hand.

The rear cover of the dust jacket perfectly describes the contents of the book: "This compendium of the output of their press includes not only bibliographic entries and production notes, but also personal commentaries for many of the entries, transforming a straightforward bibliography into a kind of memoir. These annotations provide a distinctive window into the lives of these two working artists, enriching our understanding of their works in ways that go far beyond the descriptive."

'Bibliography' is a story book and the pages reveal the evolution of the artists over time. As part of the chapter about 'One-Of-a-Kind' books by Donna, there is a narrative that allows a personal glimpse about the artists roots; "The day before my first day at kindergarten, I visited my assigned classroom and met my teacher. To my delight, she invited me to use the easel and pots of paint. Thrilled with the smearing color, I created a big blob of brown by painting over and over again with all of the colors. This is my first memory of my life as an artist, and the first clue to revealing to me my future vocation."

The press name that Peter and Donna originally used was 'The Good Book Press'. How that transformed into 'Thomas Press', then into the current press name of 'Peter & Donna Thomas Santa Cruz' is explained as with many other parts of their journey.

'Bibliography' includes several parts, all adding to the experience for the reader of the book. The Foreword was written by James P. Ascher, there is a short technical section titled 'Notes for the Reader' that outlines the book as well as provides descriptions of the various book structures and terms used within the book. The Preface is a personal review of the authors' journey and the Introduction was written by Max Yela. The main body of the text is divided into six chapters:

Chapter A. Edited Books

Chapter B. One-of-a-Kind Books by Donna

Chapter C. One-of-a-Kind Books by Peter

Chapter D. Collaborations with other artists

Chapter E. Books Made in Classes and Workshops

Chapter F. Books for Commercial Publication


Also included are four different Appendix sections:

Appendix 1. Selected Writings by Peter

Appendix 2. Summary of Professional Artistic Activities and Achievements

Appendix 3. List of authors

Appendix 4. List of titles

Peter and Donna Thomas Bibliography, 1974 -2020, is a very professional publication that is certainly a key reference to understanding the full body of work accomplished by Peter and Donna. Bibliography 8³/₄" x 8³/₄", is available directly from the publisher, www.thelegacypress.com, 



"our tiny home on wheels"



**BEAUTIFUL LIBRARIES,
The University of al-Qarawiyyin Library,
Fez, Morocco**

The University of al-Qarawiyyin Library in Fez (one of the oldest operating libraries in the world) was founded by a woman, Fatima al-Fihri, in 859 C.E. In 2012, another female, architect Aziza Chaoui, oversaw the restoration of the neglected library.

The library houses a collection of 4,000 rare books and ancient arabic manuscripts written by renowned scholars of the region. The University complex was founded as a mosque by Fatima Al-Fihri, who inherited her merchant father's fortunes after the family moved from Al Qayrawan, or modern day Tunisia. Al-Fihri was described as a young woman fascinated by knowledge and curious about the world. She oversaw the construction of the mosque, and until her later years, attended lectures by reputed scholars who traveled to teach at the mosque school. Renovated sections of the library will be open to the general public later this year.

IF YOU CAN BELIEVE YOUR EYES. 📖

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED AND INTERESTING BOOK STUFF:

FBS NEWSLETTER... Florida Bibliophile Society... online newsletter highlights the current and planned activities of the organization. The current issue, April 2021 contains a lot of good reading. 'Dear Bill, Happy 457th' a little birthday tribute to the Bard, 'Locked Letters' is another interesting journey. As usual, there is more good reading with the 'Books In Brief' review section, in particular, a book titled, 'A Madman's Library', "Books written in blood and books that kill, books of the insane and books that hoaxed the globe, books invisible to the naked eye and books so long they could destroy the universe, books worn into battle, books of code and cypher whose secrets remain undiscovered ... and a few others that are just plain weird." Thirty pages of great digital reading and bookish information.

Website: <http://www.floridabibliophilesociety.org/>

ABAA NEWSLETTER... The newsletter is electronically distributed by the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America, all sorts of great information. There are many direct links (more than 50) to various book related articles as well as the details about the 'National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest for 2021' as well as an updated list of catalogues focused on rare books.

Website <https://www.abaa.org>

BOOK CLUB OF DETROIT... Newsletter, 8½" x 11", *Printed and Bound, the* October 2019 issue is available online. The regular operations of the BCOD have been interrupted by the pandemic, keep watching for a 'restart' I hope it is soon for sure.

Website: <http://www.bookclubofdetroit.org/newsletter/>

BOOK SOURCE MAGAZINE... a web based publication that provides a lot of information, casual format, easy to read. Book fairs, auctions, special comments on events. The ongoing feature, 'Biblo Paradiso' (24/7/365) provides links to a long list of booksellers, certainly things and places that you may not come across in a regular internet search.

Website: <https://www.booksourcemagazine.com/>

FINE BOOKS AND COLLECTIONS MAGAZINE... Spring 2021 issue, great source of information about the book world. Included in this issue is an interesting article titled 'Bright Young Collectors'. The online BLOG provided via the website is another great source for information discovery and retrieval enjoyment, check out the article on '90's Book Cover Phenomenon.'

Rebecca Barry, Editor, rebecca@finebooksmagazine.com,

Website: <https://www.finebooksmagazine.com>

ABEBOOKS.COM...Has an interesting selection of book related articles in digital format. There is an section highlighting 'The most expensive books sold on the site during 2020', how about a copy of *Ulysses* by James Joyce, \$46,310.

Website: <https://www.abebooks.com/books>

VIALIBRI.NET...This is the 'search engine of search engines, 'the world's largest for old, rare, and out of print books.

Website: <https://www.vilibri.net>

TIDBITS:

There is a miniature book seller on Esty based in Chicago called Miniature Books USA. It is an interesting site with a variety of offerings.

Website: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/MiniatureBooksUSA>

A blog in Publisher Weekly written by Elizabeth Bluemle that talks about miniature books and mentions the Microbib and MBS. It was written under the blog "Shelf Talk" , titled "The Magic of Miniature Books" and published Sept. 3, 2019

Website: <http://blogs.publishersweekly.com/blogs/shelftalker/?p=30788>



The British newspaper, "The Guardian", May 12, 2020 asked the nation's children to write and produce miniature books. The idea sprung from the story of the miniature books by the Bronte children had made during their youth.

(image courtesy of British Library)



Website: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/may/12/british-library-asks-nations-children-to-write-miniature-books-in-lockdown>

As an adjunct to the above story, you may want to look at another news site written by Jacqueline Wilson and Axel Scheffler with instructions on a beginners guide to making miniature books. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52637122>

Life in the world of books is always a journey, most of the time with a surprise at each fork in the road to travel; twists and turns, and rewards at every intersection. 📖

Old Farmhouse Books – SALE! Offering miniature books and related ephemera. Hundreds of titles from several prominent and obscure miniature book publishers are being offered on sale now. All books offered include free domestic shipping. Have you been searching for a specific title, author, or publisher? Just ask, I may have it among the many boxes of books. Email Sherry: oldfarmhouse1840@gmail.com Thank you. 📖



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MINIATURE BOOK RESEARCH AND INFORMATION, There Is Always Some Question To Be Answered, Research Books, An Updated List of Resources:

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'. Here is a list of some of the books that I typically use in my research as a collector and as the editor of *The Microbibliophile*. It contains many of the books that I suggest to people when questions come up. This list was included in the January 2020 issue and having received a few updates since then, I thought it best to share again.

(Updates and additions noted with bold font)

BOOKS:

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 from the Collection of Julian I. Edison, Olin Library, 1965

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

Second Roster of Lilliputia Spewed Out By Robert Massmann As Ephemera , Not Previously Recorded.
REM 1990

An Unusual Collection of Miniature Books Formed by A Lady, Foreword by Wilbur Macey Stone, American Art Association, 1928

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*

Essays By An Old Country Priest: Msgr. Francis J. Weber, Zamorano Club, Los Angeles, 2016

California, A Bibliography of its Miniature Books, by Francis J. Weber, 1976

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

Who's Who In Miniature Books: Collectors & Publishers, by Robert F. Hanson, editor and compiler, 1991

Lilliputian Newspapers, James D. Henderson, Achille J. St. Onge, Worcester, MA, 1936

Weber's 101 and Counting, A Supplement to 'Weber's 100', by Darleen Cordova, published by the author, 2013

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

Three Centuries of Thumb Bibles, A Checklist, by Ruth Elizabeth Adomeit, 1980

A Los Angeles Typewriter, William M. Cheney, A Bibliography of His Printed Work, by Mary Lutz Jones, 1981

Miniature Book Collection At The Huntington Library, by Lenora Schull 1996

MAGAZINES, JOURNALS and NEWSLETTERS:

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

EXHIBITION CATALOGUES and EPHEMERAL:

A Mater of Size, by Patricia J. Pistner and Jan Storm van Leeuwen, The Grolier Club, NY, NY 2019

The Poet of Them All, by Elisabeth R. Fairman, Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, CT 2016

Always remember bookseller catalogues, as sometimes certain variants and special editions find their way into these research materials and note mentioned elsewhere

Personal papers and ephemeral items of other book collectors

INTERNET ONLINE SOURCES and REFERENCES

<https://www.vialibri.net/>

<https://www.abebooks.com>

<https://www.worldcat.org>

There is always a wealth of information sources available to those willing to take the time to look inside the next closed door. 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. 📖

LIGHTER THAN AIR,

A peek at special book by Mystical Places Press:




Image courtesy of publisher's web page

Hot air balloons, blimps, dirigibles, and airships are all lighter than air as explained in the illustrated 12 pages at the front of this book. However, the true magic of *Lighter Than Air* is found among the next group of pages. Genuine postage stamps depicting historic

events and worldwide air ships float in mid-air of the page frame suspended by nearly invisible strips of acetate.

The text block is digitally printed, the book is 4¹/₄" x 4¹/₄", with 18 actual postage stamps. The board pages are covered with stained Tyvek and bound by interwoven ribbon. The book comes with matching clamshell case. Limited to an edition of seven

Check out more photos and ordering information for *Lighter Than Air*:
www.mysticalplaces.com/rivers.html 

'NICE BRIGHT SET', A Little Bookish Humor:



*Image courtesy of
'Wicked world of Book Collecting'
by Ronald Searle*

THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE,

Proposed Frontispiece, Volume XL, Number 4 Issue 232:

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

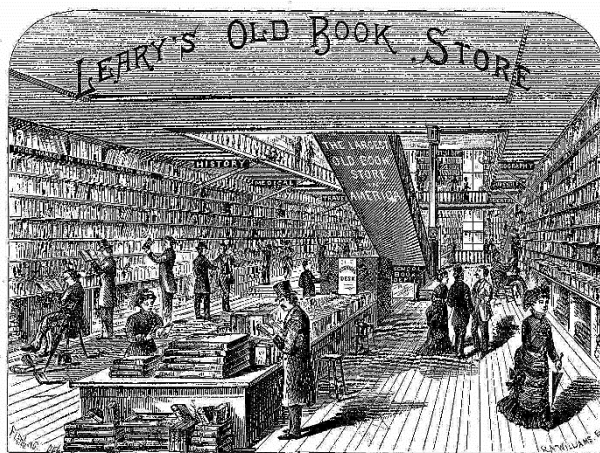
How has the pandemic affected your 'book life'? Have you discovered a lost treasure among your collection? Did "Zoom" bring you some new friends? How about revisiting a special book place or subject. There are always many options and doors to open with more roads to travel.

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

A memory image or smell can evoke a long afternoon of stories - 'Once upon a time I walked up the dark stairway and opened the door to the attic...' (your turn).

The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue will be June 20, 2021. Electronic or paper, either way, the choice is yours.

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



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CLASSIFIED WISH LISTS,

Buy, Sell, or Trade:

PLEASE NOTE: This feature was changed with the last issue. Each “want ad” must be submitted for each issue and they will not be “carried over” as in the past. This change is to insure the accuracy and “freshness” of the information presented. Thank you for understanding.

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

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

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

Todd Sommerfeld is looking for two Pairault et Cie titles, *Ali Baba*, and *La Fontaine* to complete his La Gracieuse.
Contact information: E-mail: contratodd@gmail.com or 216-965-7490.

Caroline Brandt is looking for the following miniatures:
Westminster Abbey, III, published by Boreman
Young Sportsman’s Instructor, London ca. 1700
Ver-Vert, by Gresset, Paris: Laurent et Deberny, 1855
The Famous History of Valentine and Orson, by Snagg, London, 1801
L’Orange Geslagt, by H. Spoomaker, 1749
The Smoker’s Text Book, by J. Hamer, 1863
Smallest complete Hebrew Bible, (M. M. Scholtz publication)
Short Account of the First Rise and Progress of Printing, by T. Parker, 1763
Contact information: telephone 804-200-1260

Jim Brogan is looking for a tome, *The 70th Academy Awards*, by Gloria Stuart.
Contact information: E-mail: jbrogan1@verizon.net

For Sale: Now offering some interesting Dawson Book Shop publications from the past several years. Additionally, there is a nice selection of Msgr. Francis Weber’s 100+ miniatures available with many copies signed by Weber, most 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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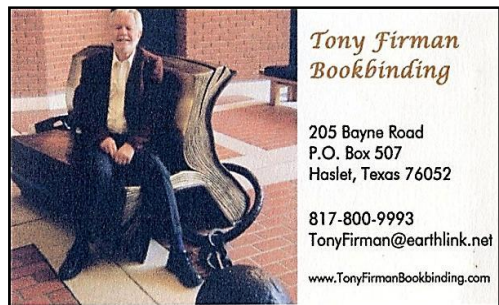


The Library
Bed & Breakfast

Joan Knoertzer

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The card features a decorative gold and white border on the left side with a lattice pattern and floral motifs.



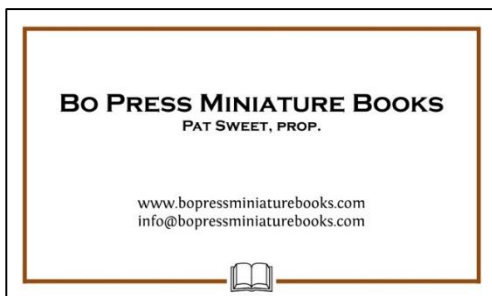
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The card features a photograph of Tony Firman sitting in a large, ornate chair in a room with brick walls.

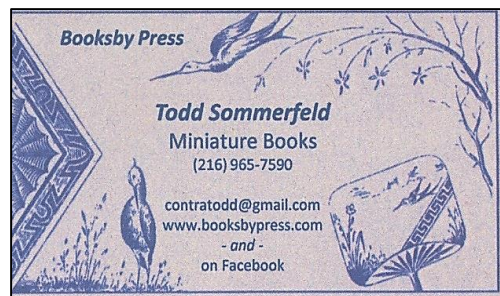


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The card has a simple, clean design with a thin brown border and a small icon of an open book at the bottom center.

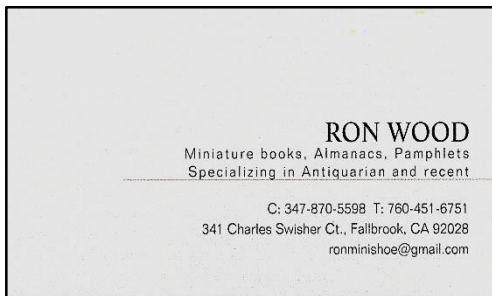


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Miniature Books
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The card features a blue-toned illustration of a bird perched on a branch, a small book, and a decorative geometric pattern.




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The card has a plain, light-colored background with a thin black border.



Man's Best Friends



The card features a detailed illustration of three dogs (a white and brown dog, a black and white dog, and a reddish-brown dog) in a rustic, outdoor setting with a fire and a table.

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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