

THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE®

A Bimonthly Journal about Miniature Books and the Book Arts

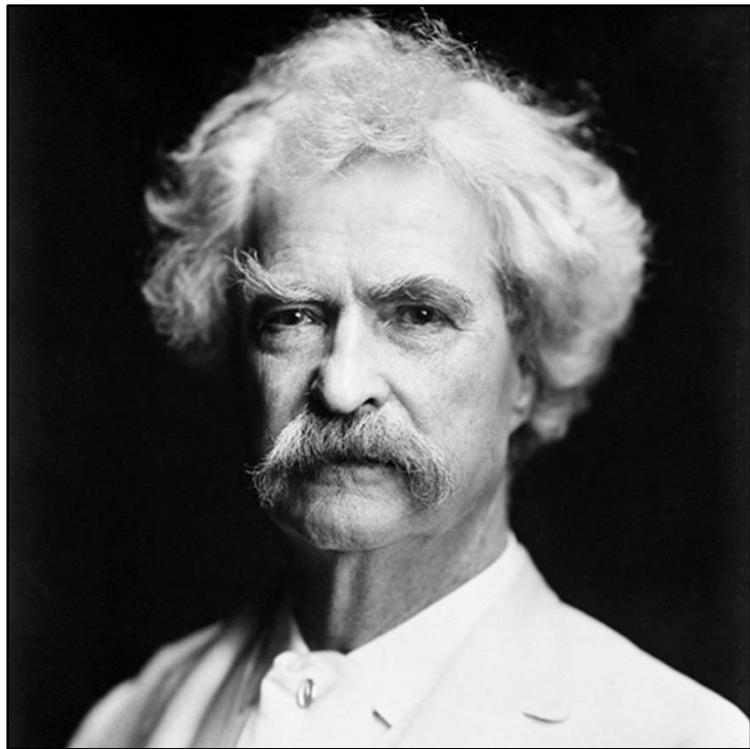
Volume XL, Number 6 Issue 234, November 2021



*The joy of the Holidays and the New Year
Awaits us all*

Single Issue Price: \$7.00

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Mark Twain American Writer & Poet

*Samuel Langhorne Clemens (November 30, 1835 – April 21, 1910), known by his pen name Mark Twain, was an American writer, humorist, entrepreneur, publisher, and lecturer. He was lauded as the "greatest humorist the United States has produced," and William Faulkner called him "the father of American literature". His novels include *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and its sequel, *the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884), the latter often called "The Great American Novel".*

(Quoted from Wikipedia)

What would American literature be without Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn? In addition to his writing, Clemens was a riverboat pilot, a newspaper journalist, a world famous lecturer, an entrepreneur, and inventor. There are several miniature books published about or using the writings of Mark Twain, you probably know of at least one of these special miniatures.

Your turn. 

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A Bimonthly Journal about Miniature Books and the Book Arts

Robert F. Hanson, Founder, 1977

ISSN# 1097-5551

Volume XL, Number 6, Issue Number 234 November-December 2021

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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:

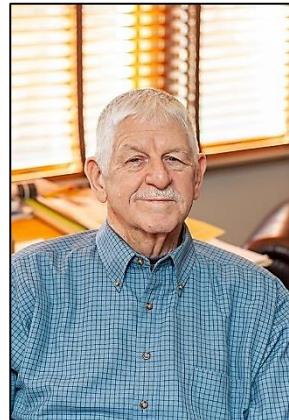
The pumpkins have all been picked and the turkeys are looking for some safe hiding places. Pumpkin bread, apple pie, blueberry muffins, and raspberry tarts all fill the kitchen with a world of delicious scents. How could you not love this time of the year, except for the leaf raking. The sharing of a cup of hot chocolate and piece of zucchini bread after raking is always a good facilitator for the young helpers.

Plum Park Press has published two new books that we have reviewed in this issue. Bo Press has also published a new book about 'laws' that will certainly make you think. Cyclone Books shares their MBS Distinguished Book Award winner with us and we also have the pleasure of sharing with you a book/birth announcement. Nina Mazzo gleans more tidbits from within the MBN. We have included an interesting reprint about 'book collecting as an investment' and another about miniature books by Wilbur Macey Stone. Plenty to read and keep you interested when it is time to take a break from the leaf raking or any other fall chores or activities that keep you busy.

We continue with another special review/synopsis of three books from the 'Bradbury 100' list for your enjoyment, Number 14, 33, and 100. The '100 List' is an ongoing feature beginning in 2021 with the goal of enticing readers to submit their own review of a book of their choice. There is a special book review by Gail Curry as well as an article about two 'leaf books' by Ruth Adomeit. We will gladly accept your input and help, 'our pencils are getting shorter all the time'. Remember that the whole list was included in the January 2021 issue of *The Microbibliophile*. We are always looking for your help and suggestions as to ideas for *The Microbibliophile* .

Let me again mention to you that we are moving to a digital publication and distribution of *The Microbibliophile* beginning in 2022, addressed to each subscriber's email address.. The annual subscription rate will be \$25 for six issues, utilizing the same publication dates as we have today. Every subscriber with an email address should have received a digital copy of the last issue of *The Microbibliophile*. If you did not, please contact me. As such, it is time to send in your subscription renewal, check the back cover of this issue for the specific details. I have again included notes within this issue about how you may, 'print' your digital copy of *The Microbibliophile*, if you so choose.

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, since 1977 Thank you again, for letting us bring *The Microbibliophile* into your home, for you and your family, your friends, new friends, and all your lives. ☺



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John".

2021 OUR WARMEST HOLIDAY WISHES TO EVERYONE:

Reprinted from the 1987 Holiday message from the Tamazunchale Press



The beginning of the year is a good time to shake hope down from the heavens where it has been thought to dwell for so long. It is also appropriate to reflect on our responsibility to generate hope by responding to the needs of others. That is the kind of resolution that each of us keeps best in the circumstances of our own lives and relation-

ships — in those intimate areas that only we can enter, the sacred places in the lives of those we love that are known only to us. Hope is what we plant in the lives of others; the more we plant, the greater is the harvest. Hope is what makes the future for all of us. It is our best gift to an old world in a New Year

. . . Eugene Kennedy

PEACE ON EARTH for EVERYONE

Perfect then and Perfect now. ☺

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Harry S. Truman 1884 – 1972,
33rd President of the United States,
1945 – 1953.

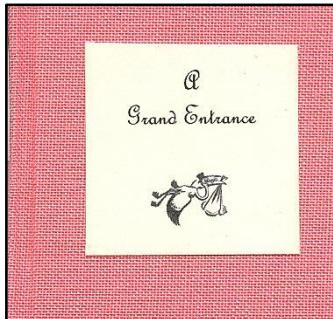
“If you can’t stand the heat, get out of the kitchen”

(Image of the 1973 \$.06 USPS stamp, issued at Independence, Missouri, Truman’s birthplace) 



MINIATURE BOOK REVIEWS and CRITICISM:

A GRAND ENTRANCE, Elliana Joy Sommerfeld:

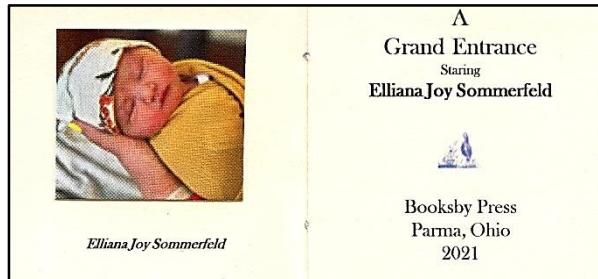


October 15, 2021 was a joyful day for sure; it was the day that Eliana was born. This book is a commemoration of the birth of the grandchild of Todd Sommerfeld. The book measures 2^{7/8}" x 2^{7/8}" and is bound in a pink book cloth with the title label affixed to the front cover, and another label on the spine.

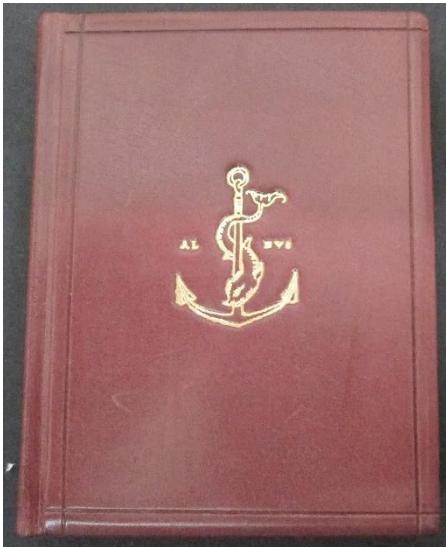
The book has 20 pages including the colophon. The opening pages talk of the baby's parents and grandparents. Additional pages reference important events happening on her

birthday as well as a few pages for future milestones. “Children’s children are the crown of old men”, Proverbs 17: 6a.

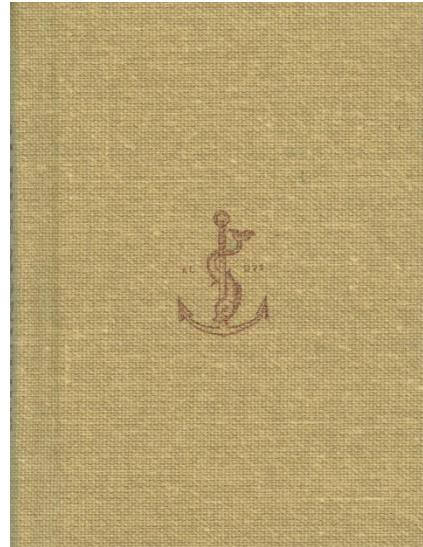
Congratulations to all, well done. A wonderful family keepsake destined to become a treasury to hold ‘ForeEverMore’.



Aldus Manutius, A Footnote to History



Front cover, deluxe edition

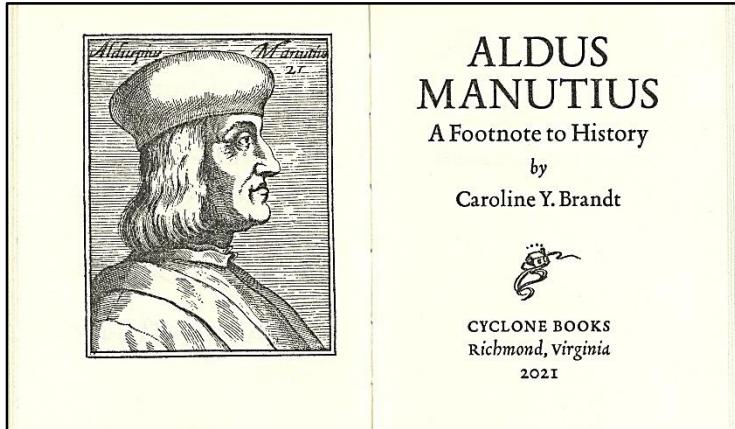


Front cover, standard edition

ALDUS MANUTIUS, A FOOTNOTE TO HISTORY, by Caroline Brandt, published by Cyclone Books, Richmond, Virginia, 2021, reviewed by Stephen Byrne, Sorbie, Scotland.

That the world knows much of ancient Greek literature is largely down to the devotion of Teobaldo Mannuci, later known as Aldus Manutius the elder. In this small tome, Caroline Brandt has given a succinct resume of the life of this historically important publisher and printer, founder of the Aldine publishing house. She describes his desire to keep the old language alive through the medium of print.

By following the story of Manutius and his Aldine press, from its formation, the reason for the press insignia, the fact that he designed the original Italic script and the subsequent development of his press, Caroline has presented a wonderful little volume worthy of any miniature book collection. It sits well alongside Caroline's other publications, *Huck Finn's Greatest Adventure* and *The Shame Is Ours*.

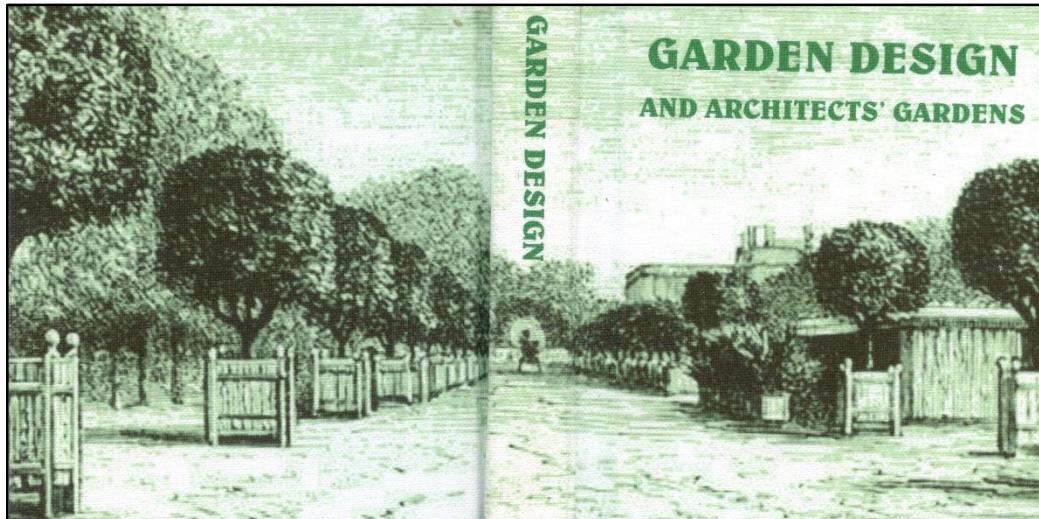


Frontispiece and Title Page

The book was published in an edition of thirty letterpress copies, fifteen numbered copies on Mohawk Superfine paper and bound by Tony Firman, Weaverville, North Carolina, and fifteen lettered copies on Twinrocker Da Vinci handmade paper, and bound beautifully in leather by Deborah Evetts of Richmond, Virginia. Paul Moxon of Mobile, Alabama printed both copies. The book measures 27/8" x 23/8" and contains 13 pages of text, additional pages for Endnotes, the Colophon, and Bibliography. Both the printer as well as the binder signed the review copy.

The deluxe edition of this book was awarded one of the three Distinguished Book Awards by the Miniature Book Society for 2021, www.mbs.org 

Contact information: Caroline Y. Brand, 1500 Westbrook Court No. 1109, Richmond, VA 23227



Front (r) and Rear (l) covers

GARDEN DESIGN and ARCHITECTS' GARDENS, by William Robinson, published by Plum Park Press 2021. The original 'Garden Design' book was published by John Murray, London, 1892.

William Robinson [1838 -1935] has been called the 'father of the English flower garden'. He was among the first 'professional' gardeners to 'rebel' against the traditional formal design criteria and opted for a more 'natural' approach to garden design.

The book is divided into seventeen chapters that cover a wide diversity of design considerations and the reasons to support the various approaches. The opening paragraph sets the landscape with a brief discussion on the 'union' of the house and grounds that the house sits on, Robinson refers to this as the 'happy marriage'.

A chapter of particular interest is titled 'All Our Paths Are Crooked'. The chapter opens with the comment; *'For instance, because nature is assumed never to show straight lines, all paths are to be made crooked; because in a virgin forest there are no paths at all, let us in our acre and a half of garden make as little of the paths as possible. Deception is a primary object of the landscape gardener.'* (I could not agree more fully, in my own landscaping that includes my bonsai gardening.)

Garden Design consists of 147 numbered pages with the text set in a 9-point Perpetua font. The book has an overall color scheme of green, certainly appropriate for a gardening book. The book cloth covers are printed with a large garden scene, tinted green as are the endpapers, which feature a 'two-page' image of a large country house and garden. As previously mentioned the book features a comprehensive 'Table of Contents', a colophon, and chapter headings that are also printed in green. The overall size of the book is 3" x 3".



Endpaper image

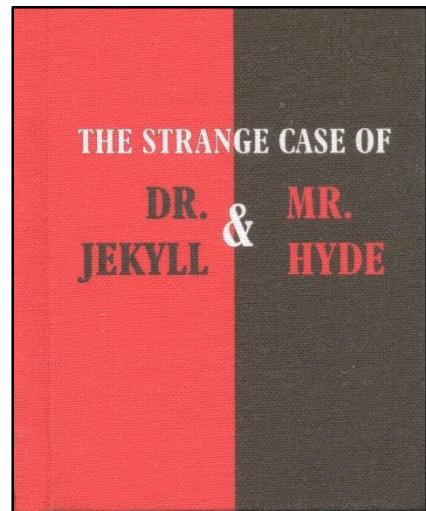
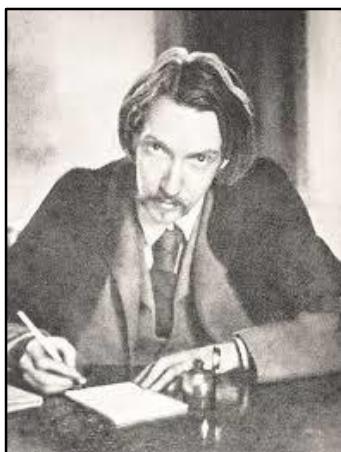
The workmanship of the finished product is excellent. Printed clearly for an easy read and assembled for flawless operation. The book is priced at \$45. Please contact Tony for availability and shipping considerations. ☺

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

THE STRANGE CASE of DR. JEKYLL and MR. HYDE by Robert Louis Stevenson, published by Plum Park Press, 2021. Robert Louis Stevenson [1850 – 1984] was a Scottish novelist, poet, essayist, and ‘travel writer’. Some of his greatest works are ‘Treasure Island’, ‘Kidnapped’, and ‘Dr. Jekyll’; each a classic in its own right.

Dr. Henry Jekyll is a doctor who feels that he is battling between the benevolence and malevolence within himself, thus leading to the struggle with his alter ego Edward Hyde. The story progresses with all of the darkness one can imagine; special laboratories, potions, mysterious happenings and violence.

The novel was originally published in 1886. In the story, Dr. Jekyll represents good and Mr. Hyde represents evil, yet they are technically the same person and come to symbolize what Stevenson believed is the good and evil within all of us. The novel is set in London but draws heavily on Stevenson’s knowledge of his hometown Edinburgh to create a chilling setting, which helps emphasizes the themes of good and evil.

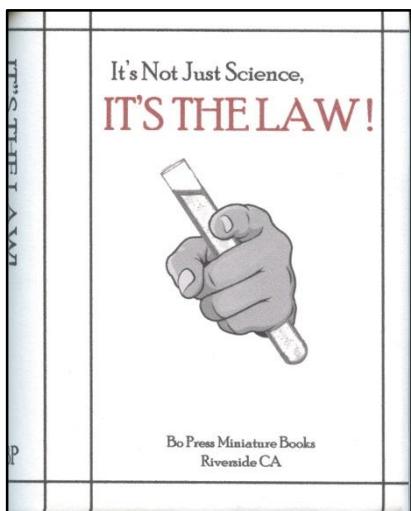


The Plum Park edition measures 3" x 2³/₈", the text is printed in an Aldine 721 font and covers 231 printed pages. The book title is printed across the verso and recto page tops in a small-italicized font. The chapter headings are printed in a red ink. A Table of Contents and a Colophon are included as is a pasted in frontispiece of the author.

As is always the case with a Plum Park publication, workmanship of the finished product is excellent. Printed clearly for an easy read and assembled for flawless operation. Please contact Tony for pricing, availability and shipping considerations. 

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

It's Not Just Science, IT'S THE LAW!, by Pat Sweet, published by Bo Press Miniature Books, 2021.



Front cover dust jacket

More magic about science from the laboratory of Pat Sweet and Bo Press. 'It's The Law' contains most of the scientific laws that govern our everyday lives and shape our universe. Some you certainly know having learned them at some point during your education, while others were subsequently forgotten. I was not sure if I was back in my high school math class or an undergrad physics class when I read this book, but it was an interesting road to travel again.

From the author's prospectus, "Avoid committing a violation of the 'Inverse Square Law' (a specified physical quantity is inversely proportional to the square of the distance from the source of that physical quantity). Or the 'Law of Large Numbers' (as a sample size grows, its mean gets closer to the average of the whole population.) How about the 'Law of Truly Large Numbers' (with a large enough number of samples, any outrageous thing is likely to be observed).

Einstein's Field	The Enormous
<p>Equation (original version)</p> <p>$G_{\mu\nu}$ is the Einstein tensor which is given $R_{\mu\nu}$ is the Ricci curve tensor. R is the scalar curvature. $\delta_{\mu\nu}$ is a metric tensor. A is a cosmological constant. G is Newton's gravitational constant. C is the speed of light. $T_{\mu\nu}$ is the stress-energy tensor.</p> $R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} R \delta_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} R \delta_{\mu\nu}$	<p>Theorem</p> <p>Every finite simple group of numbers belongs to one of four categories: cyclic, alternating, simple group of Lie type, or sporadic.</p>

Text page example

'It's The Law' has a bound size of 2 ¾" x 2" utilizing a white book cloth and includes a white dust jacket. There are 58 pages; the text is printed in a Poor Richard font on Mohawk Superfine paper. The book has one fold out and a laid in envelope containing the laws of thermodynamics. It is an open edition, contact Pat for pricing and shipping considerations. 

*Contact information: Pat Sweet, 231 East Blaine Street, Riverside, CA 92507-3230
E-mail: bopress@charter.net or www.bopressminiaturebooks.com*

BOOK COLLECTING AS AN INVESTMENT

**By Richard Gilbo,
Newsletter for Bibliophiles:**

One of the great journeys across the world of book collecting, for me, is reading 'books about books', and the ephemera concerning books. Ephemera exists in all sizes, shapes, formats, colors, age periods, and subjects. Ephemera, by definition, is 'any transitory or printed matters that are not meant to be retained or preserved, from the Greek word *ephemeros*, meaning lasting only one day, short lived'. Thankfully, some of us are collectors of stuff and I am among that lot. I recently came upon a series of bibliophile newsletters written by a book dealer, Richard Gilbo, based in Santa Barbara, CA. The particular newsletter article that I chose to reprint for this issue was originally printed in May of 1988.

This issue of his newsletter was the introductory issue; a few of his printed comments:

"This newsletter is going to make an effort to keep bibliophiles informed of articles and news items of biblio-interest, book fairs, and exhibitions."

"I solicit your comments and suggestions on this project and also hope that as you see and come across cartoons, articles, news items you think would be of interest to other bibliophiles that you will pass them along to us to share."

Sound familiar?

Enjoy the journey. 

NEWSLETTER

for Bibliophiles

May / June

Santa Barbara, CA

BOOK COLLECTING AS AN INVESTMENT?

Why book collecting? Why collect anything? Any collecting mania is hard to explain, the best answer to book collecting I have read is by Robert Wilson in his book *Modern Book Collecting*:

"A great many people over a great number of decades, have written essays, pamphlets, whole books even to justify the collecting of books. This seems to me to be an unnecessary exercise. If you are predisposed to collect books, you don't need any *ex post-facto* justification for having done so. And on the other hand, if you are not convinced before you start, the chances are that no argument is going to win you over."

Having dispensed with all logic and reason, we can move right along and say that if you are so disposed to collecting books we hope to show you how you can have a pleasurable hobby and make it profitable too.

Collecting books takes more than a generous purse. It requires as with most collectible artifacts of culture, persistence, discrimination, judgment, a care for quality and condition, and rudimentary knowledge of one's own collecting disease.

The would be investor/collector who only wants to put dollars back-to-back in a long trail of acquisitions will be hard put to succeed, if he does it will be in spite of himself, since books do not instantly convert into cash. Nonetheless they do become insistently more valuable and desirable each year. It is not surprising that in virtually every ranking of profitable investments media, evaluated by financial journals and

investor advisory services during 1981, "rare books" were at or near the top of every list. Appreciation in value of rare books over the past five years exceeded by far, not only such familiar vehicles of investment as stocks and bonds, but antique furniture, jewelry, paintings and prints, objects de vertus, and oriental art and artifacts. Christie's, the auction house, realized 5.7 million in rare book sales in 1981, an increase of more than 350% for the year. The above statement was taken from an article written by Arthur Cohen in *Dollar Magazine* April of 1982, and I doubt that much has changed in the last five years.

Investing in rare books and first editions can be very profitable, and it can also provide a lot of enjoyment. You can build a fine library in almost any area of interest, such as Literature, Science, Medicine, Natural History, Americana, Food and Wine, or Photography and if you buy wisely, you can expect to see your initial investment reap a considerable return when or if you sell your books.

Like any other market, the rare-book field has had its share of ups and downs. Yet, despite inflation and recessions, rare-book prices in general have continued to climb, in some instances at a remarkable rate.

A cautionary note: Books and Manuscripts, however rare and exceptional, do not appreciate with anything like the rapidity of the stock of a company rumored to be a takeover candidate. On the other hand they do not decline in value with the speed of the shares of a large company whose

earings do not come up to expectation. Books are solid vehicles of investment, unglamorous, consistent and an excellent hedge against inflation, precisely because the best of them have inherent value and esthetic reward. With the added benefit of bringing you enjoyment of the quest, pride of ownership, plus the wisdom derived from reading them.

It appears that the truly classic or important books in any field do in fact maintain their market value in any economic climate and offer the best chances for growth.

A good example of this principle can be found in James Joyce's "Ulysses" (1922) in the signed and limited (100) edition. In 1968 a fine copy sold for \$2,000. Yet today the same item is worth \$15,000 or more. Why? Aside from inflation "Ulysses" is regarded as a landmark novel in the history of literature. Many collectors would like this book in fine condition. So it stands to reason that such a desirable book keeps growing in value.

It is essential for the investor in rare books to remember that it is not just any edition or copy of an important work that is prized, but (usually) the first edition. This is because the first truly represents the original publication.

In the case of many 19th century novelists, such as Dickens and Thackeray, their works first appeared in monthly parts. The parts are in paper wrappers, fragile and scarce, therefore demand a high price, higher than the first edition of the book. First editions signed or inscribed by the author will offer a higher return than unsigned copies.

RARE BOOKS MAKE RICH MEN WISE AND WISE MEN RICH

The collecting of modern first editions is one of the most volatile and fickle of the collecting fields. For you are trying to predict literary works that will stand the test of time. If you are lucky and choose wisely your rewards can be great but, at worse you would have had the pleasure of reading and owning the books of an author you enjoyed. One advantage of modern first editions is that if the author is living you can buy the first edition as it is issued, insuring yourself the lowest price and the best condition.

An author's first book is usually the most difficult to obtain, most of the time, because it takes two or three books before an author becomes popular and collectable. Also the author's first book usually sets an upper level on the value of the first editions of all his works.

Some authors that are in demand:

Ernest Hemingway	Ezra Pound
D.H. Lawrence	Virginia Woolf
T.S. Eliot	Gertrude Stein
F. Scott Fitzgerald	G.B. Shaw
Eugene O'Neill	Tennessee Williams
Mark Twain	William Faulkner
John Steinbeck	Willa Cather
Thomas Pynchon	John Updike
John Gardner	John Cheever
Saul Bellow	Harry Crews
Alice Adams	Ann Tyler
Alice Walker	Colin Wilson

In collecting modern literature in first editions the dust jackets can and does make an enormous difference in the price. In fact, without the dust jacket the book is not going to appreciate in value very much at all. The dust jacket can be worth nine to ten times what the book without it is worth, having the jacket will insure the appreciation of the book. It is well to remember that condition is very important no matter what collecting field. So to assure appreciation of your collection always look for the best, brightest copy that you can find and that means the dust jacket too.

High prices are also seen in bound galleys, the paper-bound publisher's advance copies distributed to talk show hosts, reviewers and other promotional outlets. Galleys are rare because only 50 to 200 are printed. A copy of "V", by Thomas Pynchon, his first book, brings \$350 to \$500 in a regular trade edition in dust jacket, but \$850 to \$1,000 in a bound galley in fine condition.

BY SPENDING MORE THAN YOU CAN AFFORD FOR A PERFECT COPY RATHER THAN A SHABBY ONE, YOU WILL SEE YOUR INVESTMENT INCREASE FAR MORE THAN IT WOULD OTHERWISE.

Before investing a new collector would do well to read all that he can on book collecting in the public library. Most libraries have a good selection of price guides and auction records, then talk with several reliable antiquarian book dealers, and then select a dealer or two that you feel

comfortable with, preferably a specialist in your field of collecting. The dealer can advise you, sometime negotiate a price and can bring a book to your attention, say by knowing of a duplicate owned by another collector, by listening to a trustworthy dealer, you can save many dollars in costly mistakes.

Comparing prices is also an important step. Most dealers publish catalogs so you don't have to live in a major city to keep current in the market place. By sending a small amount of postage with your request for a catalog, will usually get you the first one and by purchasing a book, you will keep receiving it. Even if you don't buy, but, you like the catalog, offer to pay for the catalog. It will be worth the price to keep current with the market in your area of collecting.

In forming a book collection in any field, CONDITION - CONDITION - CONDITION cannot be stressed enough or over stated. Always look and demand the finest copy available for your collection that your purse will allow at the time, always be looking to upgrade your collection.

Henry James: "Books should be collected with passion at the height of perception."

Literature is not the only field in which important books can rise in value. In Science, hard-to-find first editions recounting the experiments, discoveries and observations of Galileo, Newton, Darwin, Pasteur, and Curie have risen dramatically in price. Also Americana is popular with collectors and is another prime area for growth. Earliest printed documents of U.S. History, or Exploration and Travel in the Westward movement across the country. Californiana and Fine Press Books such as Kelmcott, Colt, and Grabhorn Press are always in demand.

The first rule of collecting books is obviously for the collector to set the course of his enthusiasm, chart a program, check it's viability, fix priorities, allocate funds and then go for it.

The adventurous beginner is likely to be able to find undervalued specialties, since collecting moves into grooves that rapidly turn into collector treadmills. The 20th century is the most lively field in which to establish new collections. Since

masterpieces of this century can still be bought, and there is a ready market to absorb their resale it is possible for the new collector to sample their wares without risk.

John Carter: New Paths in Book Collecting
"How infinite are the possible variations on the book collecting theme. A collection of "High Spots" may sound the chord of C major which is indeed a fine and resounding noise, yet there are other and more subtle harmonies the pleasantest are those we evolve for ourselves."

The picture most people have of book collecting is walls covered with volumes of books. This doesn't have to be the case at all. A person could collect say all the different editions of The Complete Angler by Isaak Walton or the many editions of the Rubaiyat by Omar Kayyam. Or the complete first editions of one or two authors like Mark Twain or John Steinbeck and keep them in a bookcase of about three by five feet.

The amount of books that are NOT considered collectables is always a shock to the novice in the world of book collecting. Books that are published by reprint companies, Grosset and Dunlap, A.L. Burt Co. to name but two. All the Book Club Books and the Book of the Month Club books are not collectables. If you add textbooks and self-help books to the list, you can eliminate about half of all the books you normally see in the average used book store.

AN IDEAL BOOK FOR INVESTMENT

A book illustrated by a major artist, Signed by both the author and artist, limited number of copies, handsome format and presentation, and worldwide recognition and distribution.

A collection of books in any discipline or specialty requires many years of intelligent aggrandizement, careful and periodic pruning to dispose of less perfect copies in favor of finer examples, and the elimination of works that do not stand the test of time or taste.

Book collecting is never stagnant, never closed off, never truly finished. It can go on and on, and a new collector should not imagine that it is a delimited and arcane discipline.

The marvel of book collecting is that there is usually more than one splendid copy to be had of a fine book. A collection can be built from scratch with the certain knowledge that barring economic collapse, each year a sure and carefully formed collection will appreciate, handsomely rewarding the intelligence and the eye no less surely than the purse.

THE IMPETUS FOR THE TRUE COLLECTOR LIES
NOT IN INVESTMENT BUT IN INVOLEMENT !!!

The truth seems to be that although good and complete collections do go up in value, and that books of genuine literary and historical importance, almost have a floor to sustain their price the real key to every great collection is personal involvement. Collectors must have of course, a healthy interest in the value of their collections but also the wisdom to see profit as a bonus, not an aim.

Recommended books for the new collector:
Modern Book Collecting by Robert Wilson \$19.95

Book Collecting: The Book of First Books
by Allen Ahern Cloth \$29.95 Paper \$12.95

First Editions: A Guide To Identification
Edited by Zempel & Verkler \$20.00

These books are in stock and available by mail.
Please add \$1.00 per book for postage. California residents add 6% tax.

This essay was put together with help from articles by:

Thomas Lask "Collecting Rare Books" in the Antiques World, April 1979
Arthur A. Cohen "Collecting Rare Books" in the Dollar Magazine, April 1982
Antiquarian Bookseller

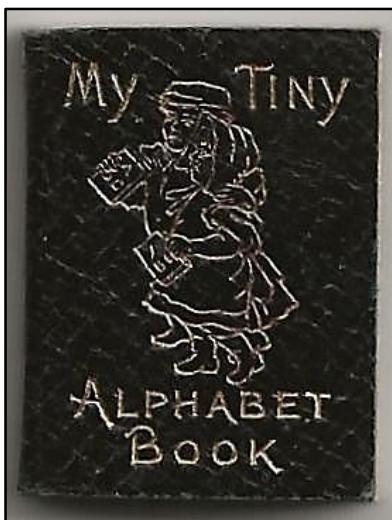
Richard Gilbo-Books

3204c State Street
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Something old, something new, always something good to read in the world about books. Priceless! ☐

MORE BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS,
My Tiny Alphabet Book,
By Gail Curry



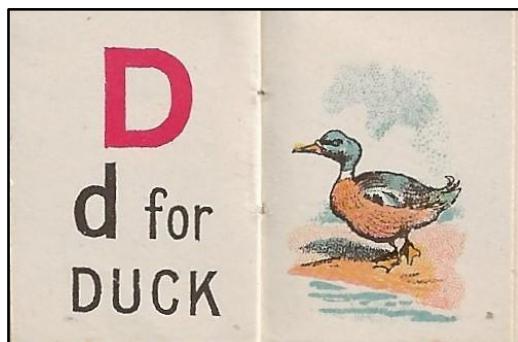
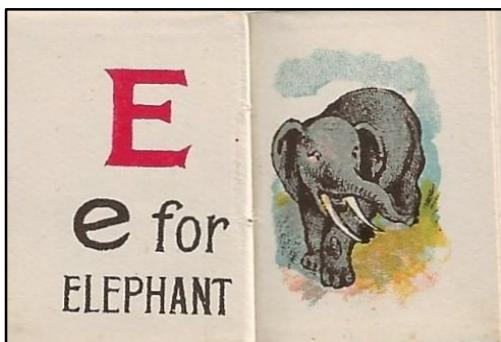
David Bryce & Son of Glasgow, Scotland was one of the most prolific miniature book publishers the world has ever known. In 1870, upon the death of his father, David Bryce became the sole proprietor of the firm. In 1876, David Bryce published his first miniature book from a copy of "Helen's Babies" that a customer brought into his shop. The success of this first miniature book was the catalyst for him to go on to publish thousands of miniature books with some runs of 20,000 at a time. "The quality of the printing and book binding was quite remarkable for the period." Garbett (p. 9).

Bryce had connections with the printers to the Universities of Glasgow and Oxford. His little 'New Testament' of 1896 is still regarded as the smallest

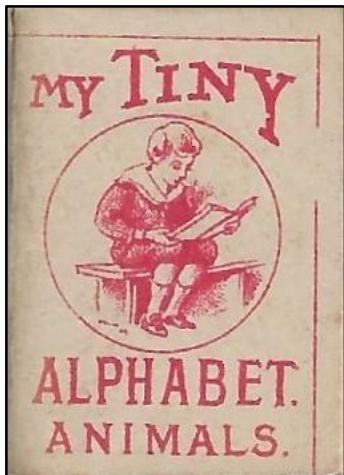
letterpress printed Bible in the world.

In addition to his Bibles, Bryce went on to print in the last two decades of the 19th century dictionaries and numerous diverse titles, both individually and in sets, such as the very popular Burns Poems and Songs and the Pears Cyclopedias. The firm also published several sets of Shakespeare, most notably the forty volume Ellen Terry Series.

Unique among all of David Bryce's books was a tiny alphabet, **MY TINY ALPHABET BOOK**, published ca. 1900. This was the only Bryce miniature book in which color was used. At the time of publication, it was the smallest color plate book ever printed.

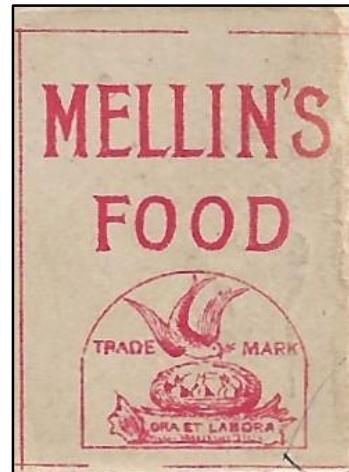


At 1-1/8" x 13/16", it can be found variously in red roan, black, red, or purple flexible leather with gilt stamped cover design of two children carrying alphabet books. All edges are gilt. This single volume contains two alphabets, 'Tiny Alphabet of Animals' and 'Tiny Alphabet of Birds', each with its own title page, and each with 26 pages of brightly colored letters and with a facing full page chromolithograph, 52 color plates in all (artist unknown). This is certainly a book worthy of any discerning collector.



The contents of this book were also published in two separate volumes, *TINY ALPHABET OF ANIMALS* and *TINY ALPHABET OF BIRDS*. Each measures 1-3/16" x 13/16", in paper wraps with a boy sitting on a bench reading a book stamped in red on the front cover (Tiny Animals), with the last two pages having numbers to count, and an ad for Mellin's Foods on the back cover. The other (Tiny Birds) has on the front cover a girl sitting on a bench reading a book, with two simple arithmetic pages at the end, and with a Mellin's ad on the back cover. Each has the identical color plates as in the single volume above.

These color plates charmingly illustrate the alphabets with lively color pictures of various animals and birds. They seem larger than life for their size, and surely delight "children" of all ages. David Bryce was a master at knowing what makes a miniature book sell well, including how to



promote it. He was successful in whatever subject matter he chose.

To quote Louis Bondy in his seminal reference, *MINIATURE BOOKS: Their History from the beginnings to the present day*, in describing the wide range of Bryce's interests, "His contribution to the totality of miniature books has been of the greatest significance and we do not hesitate to describe the Glasgow publisher as a giant towering over the world of dwarf books." (p. 116) 

References:

Bondy, Louis W. *MINIATURE BOOKS: Their History from the beginnings to the present day*. London: Sheppard Press, first published September 1981. p.72 & p.116

Bromer, Anne C. and Julian Edison. *MINIATURE BOOKS: 4,000 Years of Tiny Treasures*. NY: Abrams in association with The Grolier Club. New York, 2007. p.131

Garbett, Michael. *AN ILLUSTRATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MINIATURE BOOKS PUBLISHED BY DAVID BRYCE AND SON*. With An Historical Introduction by Ian Macdonald, Sorbie, Scotland: The Final Score, June 2011. p.46

Spielmann, Percy Edwin, Ph.D., Collected by. *CATALOGUE OF THE LIBRARY OF MINIATURE BOOKS together with some Descriptive Summaries*. London: Edward Arnold, n.d. #489

Welsh, Doris V. *THE HISTORY OF MINIATURE BOOKS*. Albany, NY: Fort Orange Press, Inc., 1987. p.47

Welsh, Doris Varner. *A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MINIATURE BOOKS (1470-1965)*. Edited for Publication with a Preface by Msgr. Francis J. Weber. Cobleskill, NY: Kathryn I Rickard, 1989 (1965). #5200

POLITICAL LOVE,
by Eilen R. Tabios,
Reviewed by Neil Leadbeater

Editor's Note: 'Political Love', was originally reviewed in the July, 2021 issue of 'The Microbibliophile'.



'Political' is an adjective related to policy or government and 'love' is a noun whose meaning can range from mere fondness to a devoted attachment to another person. Marry the two words together and you get a collection of 15 poems by author, poet, and editor, Eileen R. Tabios.

We are all familiar with words like 'cupboard love' and 'puppy love' or its alternative 'calf love' but what is, or could be meant by, 'political love'? If pressed, some politicians will say that they have entered their profession because of a genuine love for their country and a real desire to improve the lot of the ordinary man and woman in the street. This is, of course, commendable. On the other hand, there are others who have a love of power and we all know what happens then: absolute power corrupts absolutely. They have a vaunting ambition and, like Icarus, fly too close to the sun. 'Political Love' presents poems at the intersection, if not collision, of love and politics.

In the opening prose poem, 'Queenie' Tabios leaves us under no illusions about how she sees through the charade of rich people in high places: 'never ever admire billionaires for charity donations – it's a form of their self-defense.' In the same poem she references a miniature book called 'J Smith' by the cartoonist Fougasse from the library of Queen Mary's famous Dolls' House. This charming and beautifully illustrated story tells the magical tale of a fairy blown out of Fairyland by a storm into 1920's London. To Tabios, it 'provides evidence of how 'fairy tale' is euphemism for 'abuse'. Parse it closer and it becomes euphemism for 'grief.' Although the storyline is delightful, there is an ominous background insofar as C. Kenneth Bird (1887-1965) took the name Fougasse from a First World War mine and was known for his series of posters 'Careless Talk Costs Lives' (politicians note!) which served as a reminder to people living through the Second World War to be careful of what they said in public for fear of being overheard by the enemy. Sometimes it is left up to poets and activists to speak out against political injustice and some are brave enough to make sure that they are heard. 'Blue Meta Pain' is dedicated to İlhan Sami Çomak, a Kurdish poet from Karlıova in Bingöl Province in Turkey. He was

arrested in 1994 and charged with membership in the banned PKK Kurdish terrorist organization. In jail, Çomak has released eight books of poetry and become one of Turkey's longest serving political prisoners.

'Everyday New Year's Resolution' is stoic optimism in nine lines. It is a stoicism that has to be maintained for every day of the year:

The end of a year
should raise our chins
against more blows

for we are not
in the business of dying
until we are dying

...and a kiss
might lose its way
to land on us.

The longest poem in this collection, 'Nonnos 28: Cyclops Demigods Fight the King of India's Army' is a translation from 'Tales of Dionysus: The Dionysiaca of Nonnus of Panopolis', edited by William Levitan and Stanley Lombardo. The translation by Denise Low is cast in nine parts with italicized commentary written in tankas by Eileen Tabios that offer asides, not unlike a Greek chorus.

The primary models for Nonnos were Homer and the Cyclic poets; Homeric language, metrics, episodes and descriptive canons take centre stage in The Dionysiaca whose main theme is the expedition of Dionysius against the Indians. The translation describes the scene chronologically: the two sides, Greeks and Indians parading to battle, the Fates who shadow the battle, the fall of heroes, the one-eyed giants who join in the battle, the wounding of the King of India, the defeat of the Indians, the sound of deadly music and a chorus of Fate's song. The tankas 'translate' the poem into a story of our time for human nature is as old as history and will not change. The poor and the powerless are regarded as worthless currency and

Mortals, like Drumpf
(a president in my time),
fail attempts to copy gods.

Like Nonnos' own style, the language of these tankas is unrestrained.

Politics can force people into exile. 'Losing Music' is a sustained elegy on lost innocence which can also be read in terms of exile.

'Settlers' is a poem about the author's attempts to build a home for owls. Taken at its face value it demonstrates how out of tune we are with the natural world. Much more than that, it can be read as a modern fable on the human level: a country wanting to do its best to welcome migrants while failing to address their basic needs.

The politics of climate change is never far from some of these poems. 'Smoke Taint' with its reference to the forest fires in California, 'Halcyon Days in the Anthropocene' and 'Melt Up' with its focus on global warming are all stark reminders of our fragile world and the lack of political will to do anything about it other than issue a series of bland statements about 'targets' which are rarely, if ever, met. As Tabios points out in 'Melt Up':

.....how naïve

we were to think fate
is something we can control –

If only we knew then
what we know now –

.....we should

never shirk on love

Such is the importance of love. And what of the politicians? They are referred to in this collection as being 'fat-bellied'. The profession is also mentioned in 'Flower Poem' in the form of a 'public service announcement':

when it comes to nature versus nurture, nature is implacable as a politician is compromised.

In 'Kapwa on Covid' Tabios reasserts her love for humanity and inclusivity. Kapwa is the Filipino indigenous trait of interconnection among all creatures and all things, across all time. It is a serious statement written in a light-hearted vein taking a quotation from Rudyard Kipling's poem 'If' as its starting-point. I had a framed copy of this poem on the wall in my playroom when I was young. No doubt my parents thought it would be a good way to instill some wisdom in me at an early age. Tabios, too, it seems, seeks wisdom from literature. In the final poem, 'If Love, Then Love' she writes:

All I need are books.

Every word in action becomes beautiful in the light of its own meaning.

When I read, no one is after me. When I read, I am the one who is chasing, chasing after God.

This is a fine collection that seeks to explore power, politics, and love. Sometimes these elements work for the common good but often they fall short through human weakness and greed and it is the poorest in society, those in most need, who suffer as a result.

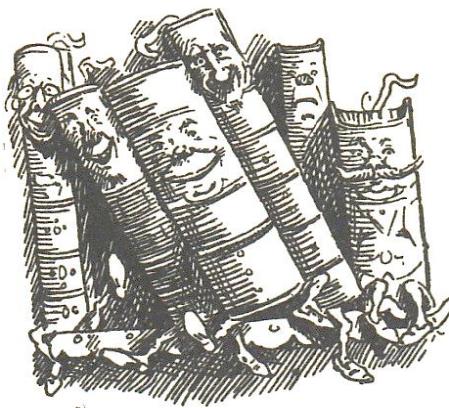
For bibliophiles with a particular interest in collecting miniature books, I should mention that this collection is hand bound in black and grey faux-suede with hand-marbled endpapers by Steve Pittelkow and printed on a canon inkjet printer on a fine 20# paper in a limited edition of 200 numbered copies. ☐

Editor's Note: Neil Leadbeater is an author, essayist, poet, and critic living in Edinburgh, Scotland. His short stories, articles and poems have been published widely in anthologies and journals both at home and abroad. His books include Hoarding Conkers at Hailes Abbey (Littoral Press, 2010), Librettos for the Black Madonna (White Adder Press, 2011); The Worcester Fragments (Original Plus, 2013); The Loveliest Vein of Our Lives (Poetry Space, 2014); Finding the River Horse (Littoral Press, 2017); Penn Fields (Littoral Press, 2019) and Reading Between The Lines (Littoral Press, 2020). His work has been translated into French, Dutch, Nepali, Romanian, Spanish, and Swedish.

*Political Love' is published by the Booksby Press,
Todd Sommerfeld, 6475 Ridge Road, #1, Parma, Ohio, 44129,
E-mail: contratodd@gmail.com
website: <https://booksbypress.com/>*

THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE, 2022 SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Please take notice that the subscription rate for the new digital format is only \$25.00 per year and now due. The details of how to submit payment are on the rear cover. If anyone has a problem with posting their payment, please email me at; hello@themicrobibliophile.com so that I can get things in order for you. We are certainly looking forward to another exciting year of *The Microbibliophile*, since 1977. ☺



TRIVIA:

Barbara Raheb, The Pennyweight Press, published 515 miniature books to life between 1976 and 1999. source - *20th Century U.S. Robert C. Bradbury*, (*The Microbibliophile*, 2001)

The Tooth Paste Press: PO Box 546, West Branch Iowa, 'Letterpress books printed on a 1874 Challenge platen press... who knows the story?

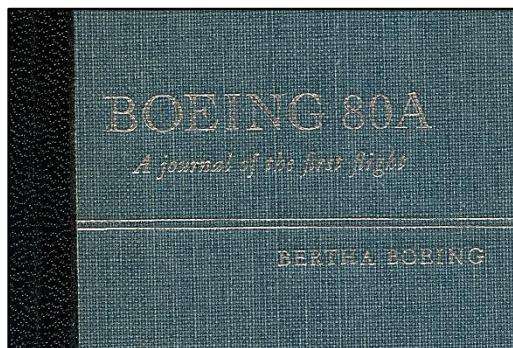
URSUS Press: Alvin Fick, Publisher...who knows this story...who may have a copy of the first miniature from this press; *French Louie, Hermit of the Adirondacks*, by Gerald Kenwell?

BRADBURY 100, NUMBER 14,

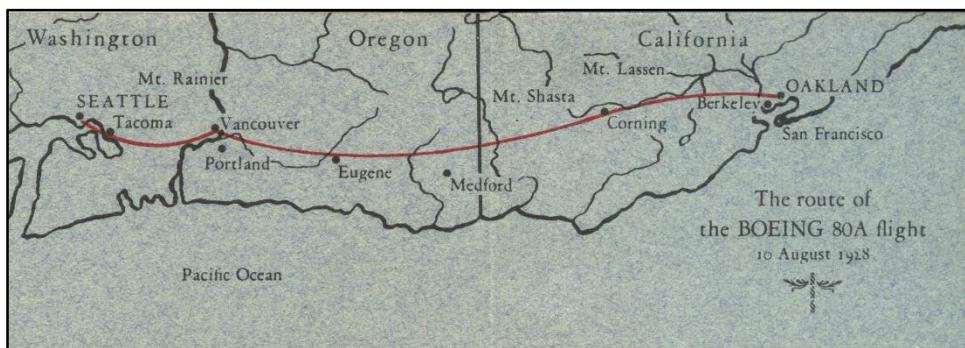
Boeing 80A,

by Bertha Boeing:

Boeing 80A, A Journal of the First Flight, was written by Bertha Boeing [1891 – 1977], Bertha was the wife of William Boeing, the founder of Boeing Aircraft Company. The book was published by Angry Mountain Press in 1987. The book contains 47 pages and was letterpress printed by Lyceum Press, bound with gilt leather spine and a blue-gray book cloth cover by B. Blau. The edition was published with 200 copies; the size of the book is 1^{7/8}" x 2^{3/4}"



The text of the book is a journal account/log of the first flight of the airplane that flew from Seattle to Oakland, CA in 1928. The log was written and then 'stored away' to be found years later by Jane Hiscock Dehn, the niece of Bertha Boeing. From the Forward of the book Dehn writes, "My aunt Bertha Boeing, wrote with wit and charm about the historic event and I wanted very much to share it with others."



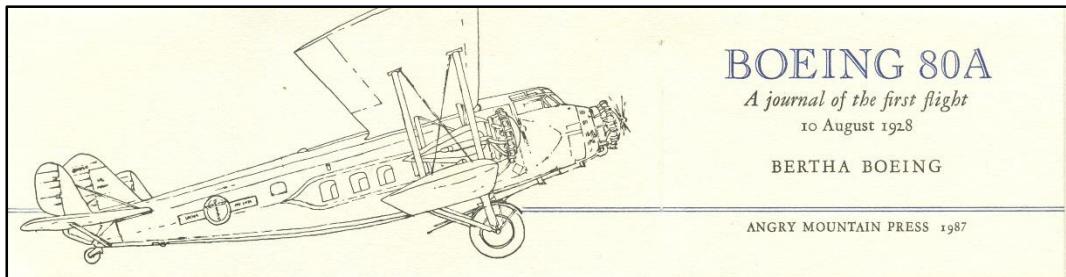
Front and Rear Endpapers

The above image of the endpapers is a reproduction of the flight route that was traveled on that historic day. The first entry in the log, written by Boeing, documents the moment of the day; "7:00 AM, by the big clock in the forward wall of the passenger cabin and we are off! The altitude meter registers 500 feet, then 1000 as we rise with the

strength of a million angels and the noise of a million devils through the misty morning air. One last indistinct view of Seattle and we're headed south over Puget Sound..."

One can only imagine the thrill of it all, the roar of the three giant Pratt and Whitney radial engines, with the props whirling, the creaking of the airframe, trying to talk above the noise, and feeling the chill of the air in the unheated cabin.

The flight progressed through the day and one last entry in the journal reads; "4:06 PM. Erik has just come back [from the cockpit] to say that we'll be there soon. Everyone is beginning to tidy themselves up. Coats and caps are being taken down from the racks overhead. The scene is very much the same as that on a transcontinental train nearing the end of its run, except we have no porter to brush us off and tip."



Title page with 'fold-out silhouette of the 80A'

As you can see from the title page fold out the 80A was a bi-plane, having two wings and three engines. The plane was the American airliner of the 1920s built by Boeing for their own airline, 'Boeing Air Transport. It successfully carried both airmail and passengers on scheduled service until retired in 1934.

I am sure it was the story that landed this book on the Bradbury 100 List, still, it is certainly well made, and I would certainly agree with Bradbury's choice. Copies of Boeing 80A are readily available on the 'used book market places'. ☺

BRADBURY 100, NUMBER 33,

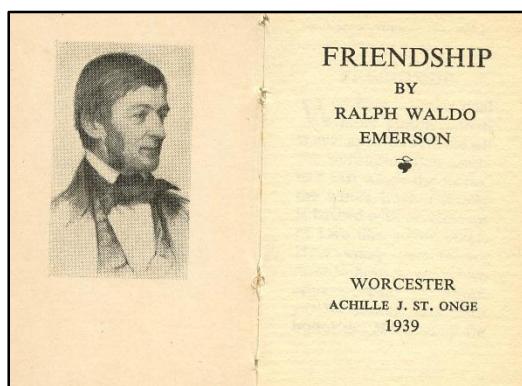
Friendship,

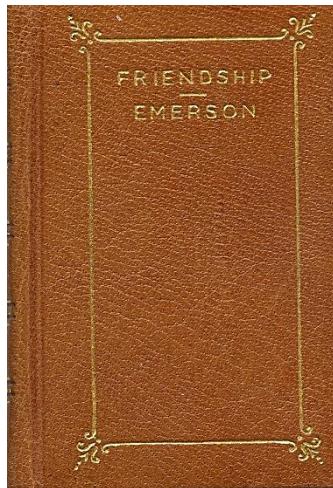
Ralph Waldo Emerson:

Emerson [1803 – 1882] was an American essayist, lecturer, philosopher, and abolitionist who led the transcendentalist movement of the mid-19th century. Emerson's essay 'Friendship' was originally published in 1841. It provides the reader with several insights about friendship that the author learned through his life. In Emerson's opinion, friends must treat one another with both a sense of detachment and closeness, such that each person may maintain their individual oneness while simultaneously revering the other as a spiritual partner.

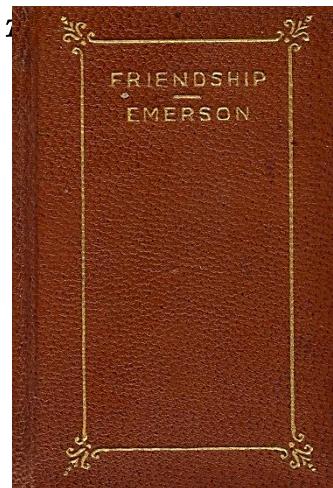
St. Onge published the essay *Friendship*, in 1939, as the second book from his press after *Noel*. The miniature exists in the original publication with three additional variants as well. All of the text pages were printed by the Merrymount Press of Boston utilizing 'Worthy Hand and Arrows' paper. The variants are derived in the binding of the books. The first version, and one that is most readily available, is bound in a 'red-orange' leather, the front cover stamped with the title 'Friendship Emerson', all edges gilt, 82 numbered pages, an orange 'place holder' ribbon, and the distinctive Sangorsky & Sutcliffe endpapers. A later variant of this edition is bound in a red leather, all other details being the same as the first example, although this variant is much rarer. The second variant, again bound by Sangorsky & Sutcliff is presented in a blue leather with a blue 'corded' ribbon placeholder. The third variant was bound by Westby Co. in Worcester, MA. This variant was published in a blue leather that was textured and the title 'Emerson Friendship' printed on the front cover. Again, all edges gilt, 82 numbered pages, and a white placeholder corded ribbon with marbled blue endpapers. This variant is also a rare version.

Each of the version are bound to almost the exact same size, 2^{5/8}" x 1^{5/8}" and each includes a Frontis picture of Emerson. The colophon notes mention '950' copies as being printed, however the exact number of each variant cannot be confirmed nor the fact that the total press run was actually 950 copies.

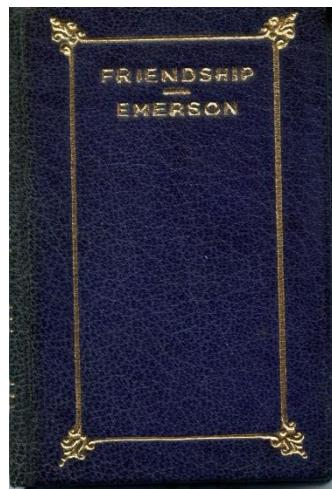




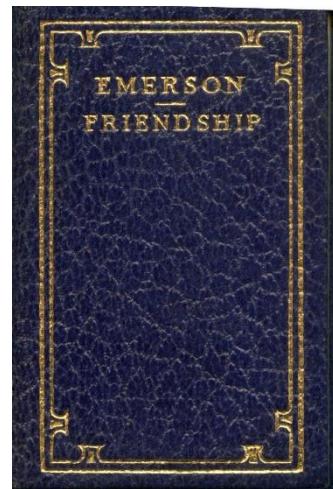
'Book 1' (red-orange leather)



'Book 2' (red leather)

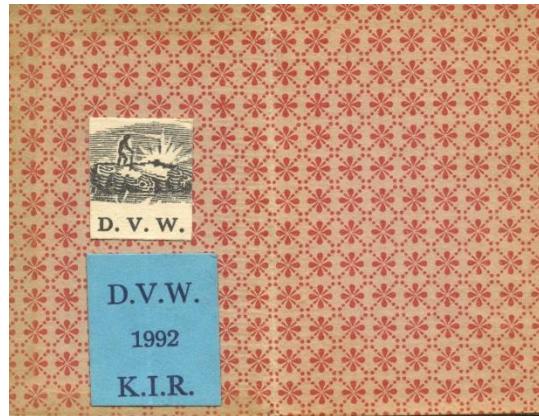


'Book 3' (blue leather)



'Book 4' (textured blue leather)

It is certainly easy to see why *Friendship* made the Bradbury 100 list. The high quality leather binding is perfect. The gilding is another touch of fine workmanship as is the printing and the choice of paper for the text. *Friendship* continues to be a highly prized book by collectors. Copies do not frequently come to market. So, if this title is one you wish to add to your collection, do not hesitate to make an offer when you see it.

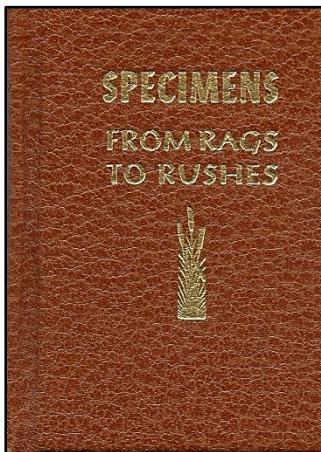


Not necessarily related to number 33 on the Bradbury list but as a point of provenance, I would like to share the bookplates that are included on my copy of variant 4. ☰

Editor's Note: a complete list of the St Onge publications including the variants was published in the July 2019 issue of *The Microbibliophile*,

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/588a47b46a49634f5992ee37/t/5f566c3d6699dc5f7ff08ed6/1599499421318/Microbib_2019_07v9.pdf

BRADBURY 100, NUMBER 100,
Specimens, From Rags to Rushes,
James Yarnell



'Specimens' was published in 1983 by the Oak Park Press, the private press of James Yarnell. One of the many bookish related talent of Yarnell was paper making. According to Yarnell, as documented in Bradbury's 20th century compendium, "The author is something of an old hand in the field of paper making and has assembled in book form a selection of interesting papers he's made for his work....".

'Specimens' is letterpress printed and bound in gilt red-orange leather. The title appears on both the front cover as well as the spine. The bound size of the book is 2^{5/8}" x 1^{7/8}", there are 200 copies in the edition. The author has included several color illustrations in the volume. There are 12 different specimens of Yarnell's handmade paper.

One example is actually made from the fibers of shredded five dollar U.S. paper currency. The following explanation is from the book text:

The author concludes the text of the book with the statement; "This brief treatise on papermaking by hand is intended to help explain how paper can be made of almost anything from rags to rushes."

'Specimens' is a very well designed and bound book with a very interesting text presentation. Copies of the book are readily available on the 'used book' market place. ☐

FIVE-DOLLAR BILLS are printed on very fine white rag paper.

When they're taken out of circulation because of wear or damage, they are shredded and destroyed, or sometimes just shredded and sold back to taxpayers as either a novelty or a cruel joke.

Our specimen has been made from these defiled fibers, simply by re-pulping in the beater and re-forming into sheets.

The grayness of the resulting born-again paper comes from the green and black inks used in the engravings.

Two 'BIBLE BOOKS', Essays, by Ruth Adomeit:

Over many years, Dawson's Book Shop was the host to the publication of a large selection of books, both traditional sized books as well as some of the most sought after miniatures a collector might desire to hold in their hands and place on their shelf.

Ruth Adomeit was certainly a larger than life miniature book collector who focused much of her energy on miniature Bibles. Her collection of bibles was certainly an excellent collection and some of the stories of her travels and exploits to gather the collection are great reading. She did publish a full sized book titled *Three Centuries of Thumb Bibles; A Checklist*, in 1980, which is the 'go to source' for information about Bibles.

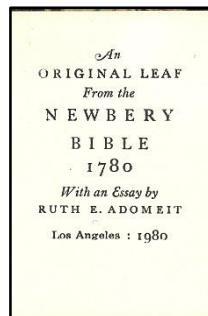
From time to time, as she was traveling the world looking for more gems to add to her collection, Ruth would find 'pieces of bibles', maybe only a few pages. Naturally, she would purchase these small fragments as possible clues for research into future additions to her collection.

Such was the case with two Bible finds that Ruth used to publish two different 'leaf' books with 'pieces' of two not complete bibles. Her reasoning was that it would be better to share these items with other collectors rather than just keeping them tucked away in a drawer gathering dust.

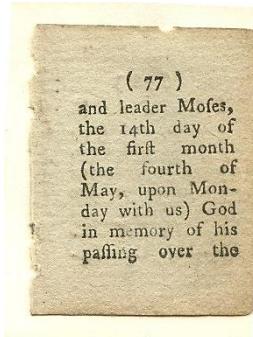
The title of the 1980 publication is *An Original Leaf from the Newbery Bible, 1780*. The book is sized at $2\frac{7}{8}$ " x $2\frac{1}{16}$ ", 18 pages, letterpress printed by William Cheney, with a gilt leather spine, and marbled boards, with 125 copies in the edition.



Front cover

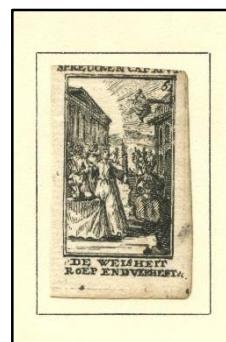
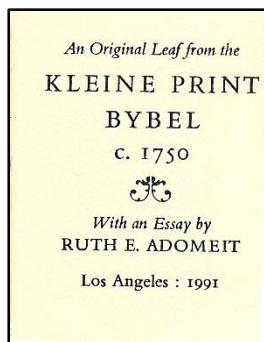


Title Page



Bible Leaf (tipped in)

The title of the 1991 publication is *An Original Leaf from the Kliene Print Bybel, 1750*. It is sized at $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x $1\frac{13}{16}$ ", 20 pages, letterpress printed, with a gilt leather spine, and 60 copies in the edition.



Front cover

Title Page

Bible Leaf (tipped in)

Both of these titles are rare and somewhat difficult to find for purchase and the cost may be more than a few hundred dollars as well. However, as Adomeit found great joy in traveling the world in pursuit of her bibles, you too might enjoy your journey and pursuit of that rare book for your collection. ☺

MARK TWAIN BOOKISH QUOTES:

“Good friends, good books, and a sleepy conscience: this is an ideal life.”

“A person who will not read has no advantage over one who can not read.”

“Classic, A book which people praise and do not read.”

“Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.”

“Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS, 'WATERMARK':

Watermarks are a 'faint' distinguishing mark, lettering, or design made in the paper during manufacture and visible when the 'sheet' is held up to light. Watermarks were initially developed in Italy during the 13th century, being made from twisted wire forming simple geometric shapes. Originally, the marks were intended to be used as trademarks, they were in the course of time developed into special designs and designations, increasing in complexity over time. The 'faintness' of the visible image was resulted from the variations in the thickness or density of the paper being made.

The term 'watermark' is derived from the method for how the design was originally created 'during the wet paper stage' of making paper and from the fact that the watermark resembles a damp spot on the sheet. Typically, legal documents, stamps, high quality stationary, and paper money all have watermarks to identify them as genuine items, not counterfeits.

In hand-made paper, the wire design that is incorporated into the mold causes the wet fibers to 'be thinner' around the 'wire' thus causing the 'difference in paper density and 'faintness' of the image.

Watermarks can be used to identify and validate published works and documents as well as identify the source/maker of the paper utilized.

How about the term 'Waygoose'? Want to give it a try for the next issue? 

GET THE INK READY, START THE PRESSES:

What a great fall season, sometimes too hot, sometimes too wet, sometimes too windy, but always good to be out and about especially with family and friends. Looking forward to the change in seasons and more good times in the world of miniature books, we will continue the journey in the next issue with the following:

- Nina Mazzo, more news and her insights into the *Miniature Book News*
- *The Mysterious Stranger*, by Mark Twain, published by Plum Park Press
- For sure... something new and exciting from Bo Press!
- 'Bradbury 100' Number 60 Rudolph, *The Red Nosed Reindeer*, by Robert May
- Another 'Bradbury 100', Number 87, *Nicodemus Dodge*, by Mark Twain
- Another 'Bradbury 100', Number 95, *Bewick Connection*, by James Weygand
- Maybe another Msgr. Weber book via Booksby Press.
- A 'quick read' of *Three Centuries of Thumb Bibles, A Checklist*, by R. Adomeit
- In addition, and most importantly, hopefully a story or article written by you!

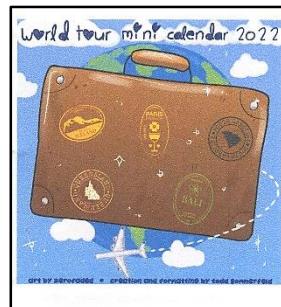
Lastly, I would really appreciate your help with any of the first 14 books on the Bradbury list. If you have a copy of one of these books and would like to write a short article please drop me a message. If you have the book and need help with the article or might loan it to me for my review, we can work through the details.

Please keep us posted on what is happening at your press, what you are reading, your discoveries, and what you have on your favorite list. Anticipation and searching is the joy of collecting. We all enjoy the journey, the details, the stories, the great finds, the minutia, and the marginalia. All of those questions and thoughts, not investigated, make great subjects to investigate and share. ☺

Advertisement, A LITTLE POCKET CALENDAR:

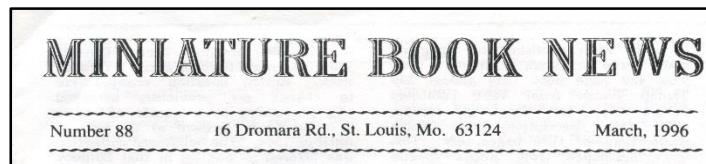
Here we have a little pocket booklet calendar, $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2''$, six pages plus the covers, just perfect to keep with you to use as a calendar or to show as an example of a miniature book, \$2.00 each. ☺

*Booksby Press, Todd Sommerfeld, 6475 Ridge Road, #1, Parma, Ohio, 44129,
E-mail: contratodd@gmail.com, website: <https://booksbypress.com/>*



**THE MINIATURE BOOK NEWS,
Number 91,
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'. Since the last issue of The Microbibliophile contained a few articles about Charlotte Smith, Nina elected to continue the discussion with this insight to the MBN.



Perusing past issues of the Miniature Book News edited by Julian Edison continues to provide us all with relevant and fascinating information even after 50 years. Let us highlight a few articles from the first issue of 1968, what a sweet year that was.

The discussion of Tamazunchale Press and Charlotte Smith in the September 2021 issue of *The Microbibliophile* prompted me to take a closer look at what Charlotte had to say about her books and press in Miniature Book News Issue 91, 1996.

The following are some highlights from the books she donated to the University of Iowa with a then estimated value of \$250,000.

The oldest miniature book was a Babylonian clay tablet from around 2500 B.C. and it was the 'receipt/record' for the purchase of a goat!

Amongst the oldest in her collection is a 1614 edition of the New Testament in Greek printed by Janon in France. Charlotte notes it as considered the most elegant miniature Greek type designed.

Miniature almanacs printed by Cambridge and Oxford from the 17th century were produced by Company of Stationers in London. The early almanacs are bound in tooled leather with tooled leather slip-cases. Each has a fold out etching of a new building in London along with eclipses, church days, holidays etc. Some also had new dance steps and quotations from contemporary authors.

Other almanacs include a Swedish one from 1889 bound in copper. American advertising almanacs are great fun as they often held testimonials from folks about patent medicines.

They include Hazeltine Co. of Warrentown, Pa.

She mentions some interesting book bindings used in addition to leather and copper. *The Wreck of the Royal George* is bound in wood from the wrecked ship; a Torah in a bronze case; African book in a rough handmade paper; *What It's Worth* bound in a dollar bill; manuscript books bound in needlepoint; Chinese book printed on ivory and a Japanese scroll wrapped in silk tapestry! Wow!

Charlotte discusses the importance of acquiring interesting and unique miniature books from a variety of publishers and book makers. The following are a few she mentions.

A Book of Small Flies – not only a book with essays on fly fishing but a display of miniature flies. Rebecca Press and The *Legend of Sleepy Hollow* with 35 of the copies bound in orange and blue leather of the Sleepy Hollow stamp and beautiful marbled end papers by Chris Weiman in the same colors. Nine of the copies have a fore-edge painting depicting the headless rider. Robert Massman and his *Moby Dick Meets the Pequod* which telescopes outward to reveal a three dimensional effect of the ship, the water and the whale. Pequeno Press produced a flock of Monarch butterflies with original poetry. Among toy books is an issue of “Pepys London” with moveable parts.

Charlotte concludes her writing by saying “It has been an exciting and learning experience to acquire these unusual books and the University Libraries seemed to be the right place for them.”

The exhibit was entitled Tiny Tomes and was displayed in several long wall cases along the main exhibition hall of the Library. The highlighted categories included – History of Fine Bookmarking; Poetry and Prose; Religious Works; Teeny Tiny Tomes; ABCEDEDARIA; Children’s Books; Almanacs; Peep Shows; Tamazunchale Press; Dictionaries; Americana and Collectors Choice along with Anne and David Bromer; Ash Ranch Press; the Catharijne Press; Feathered Serpent Press and Lilliput Press.

It is noteworthy to mention the following at the end of Issue #91

“*The Microbibliophile*, a bimonthly journal about our subject has been published for the last 20 years by Robert F. Hanson. Ownership of this journal was recently transferred to Jon H. Mayo, President of Tuttle Antiquarian Books of Rutland, Vermont.”

In closing, once again, always something new, always something interesting always something joyful, and even a chuckle or two!

“MICROBLIOPHILES, ONWARD!”

Always a joy. 

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

A SHOWING OF MINIATURE BOOKS, ‘Looking Through the Old Look’n Glass:

There is a long list of very interesting people in the world of miniature books. Some are collectors, some are binders, some are printers, some are writers, some are illustrators, some are booksellers, and some are all of these things wrapped up into one person. One prominent book person today describes herself as ‘the publisher, the printer, the illustrator, the writer, the editor, the proofreader, the copy editor, the designer, the binder, the art director, the shipping clerk, the head of marketing, and the janitor.

Over the years some people in the world of miniature books just seem to always ‘be there’ in one-way or another. Wilbur Macey Stone [1862 – 1941], one of the most prominent miniature book collectors during the first half of the 20th century, was and still is such a person. Stone lived in Orange, New Jersey and had a close relationship with the Newark Public Library. The library hosted an exhibit of miniature books from December 17, 1924 – January 17, 1925. Stone wrote an essay about miniature books and the Carteret Book Cub published it.

Todd Sommerfeld forwarded a copy of the text of the publication to me. Some subscribers may have a copy and others may have read it previously. However, there may be others who have not read Stone’s essay, so it is reprinted here for all to read and possibly say, WOW!

Enjoy....

A SHOWING OF
MINIATURE BOOKS

Under the Auspices of
The Carteret Book Club
of Newark.

At The Public Library
Newark, New Jersey.

Third floor, December 17, 1924,
to January 17, 1925.

A FEW REMARKS

the reading of which will add to your interest in the exhibition.

From his early history man has been an acquisitive animal. Also, with his habit of collecting, he early developed a love of the unusual and unique. Prominent in his primitive gatherings the diminutive had an adored place. The Kyloe cow and the Shetland pony were beloved by our ancestors and the toy dog is a favorite today. The small boy's collection of birds' eggs is incomplete without a humming bird's egg. Some are proud owners of pins with the Lord's prayer engraved on the head.

Since before Gutenberg and Caxton the booklover cherished little books. Some of the most beautiful manuscript volumes of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries are not above three inches in height. Before fifteen hundred numerous little books of devotion

were issued from French and Italian presses. These were beautifully embellished with miniatures and initials in gold and colors. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries wee books appeared like flocks of butterflies. These were on all possible subjects and in numerous languages, Latin predominating. It was not, however, until the nineteenth century that those very diminutive toy books which one may hide under a postage stamp made their appearance. Then, for many successive years, almanacs in English, French and German were regularly issued, measuring not over three-quarters of an inch in height. Both illustrations and letterpress were engraved and the few copies which have survived are much cherished by their fortunate owners.

In the last decade of the last century, David Bryce & Son of Glasgow issued a series of miniature books printed from photo-mechanical plates.

This series included a complete Bible only one and three-quarters inches high and containing nearly 900 pages and many dainty illustrations.

The bibliography of miniature books is quite extensive, but is mostly in periodicals. Several small volumes have been devoted to the subject, especially in French and German, but one elaborate and beautiful one appeared in English in 1899. It was published in New York and was written by the late William Loring Andrews, a bibliophile of note.

The books in the present exhibition are from the collection of one of the members of the Carteret Book Club and are fairly representative of the art of the miniature book for the past four and a half centuries.

The maximum height of a book to be admitted to the classification "miniature" has been arbitrarily fixed at four inches. Some of the taller copies of the Pickering and Jones Diamond edi-

tions reach nearly that height, but they are true miniature books, being printed in a size of type known as "diamond," which is $4\frac{1}{2}$ points high. The smallest type ever made is called "fly's eye" and is two points high. The Letter of Galileo to Madame Cristina was printed by Salmin in Florence in 1897 in this minute two point type. Perhaps the edition of Dante's Divine Comedy, which contains 500 pages in this same small type, is the most noted miniature book set from type. It was published in Milan in 1878. Books with smaller characters will be found in this exhibition, the Bible of 1896 by David Bryce being much smaller. But this and others of its character are printed from photo-engraved plates, made, several pages at a time, from a larger sized edition.

There are numerous examples of books engraved throughout, including lettering and illustrations. Most of them will be found in the section of

Almanacs. One notable volume of this character is the first item under Bibles, entitled The whole Book of Psalms in Meter. It is by Jeremiah Rich and was engraved in shorthand about 1654 by Thomas Cross.

Of the books in manuscript the oldest is a clay tablet, less than one inch high, which bears a receipt for two animals delivered to the temple in Drehem in Southern Babylonia, by one Nalul, about 2275 B. C. This will be found at the beginning of the exhibit. The two examples from the fifteenth century will be found under Devotional Books and are both Manuscript Horae on vellum illustrated with full page hand painted miniatures. The one in velvet binding was done in England and the one in morocco probably on the continent of Europe. This latter volume is in a beautifully gold-tooled binding by Nicholas Eve, who, with his brother, Clovis, were binders to the French Court from 1578 to 1627.

Another manuscript, the smallest book in the collection, is nine-sixteenths of an inch square and is in a gold embossed cover with a design of grapes and leaves. Each page is written within a double ruled octagonal border of red. It is an Oriental book of devotion in Tamil. A manuscript volume of about 1830 is a transcript of old ballads, adorned with painted miniatures.

The general subject headings covering the books shown, and the sub-headings, are arranged alphabetically, and chronologically under the various headings, so that any item referred to in these remarks may be easily located.

ALMANACS.

Miniature almanacs have enjoyed a long vogue which still persists. Upon their exterior embellishment much labor and ingenuity have been expended. This feature is referred to under the heading Bindings.

Of those in the present exhibition which are notable for other features, the French "finger" almanac for 1754, the earliest almanac in the collection, is only seven-sixteenths of an inch in width and each group of four leaves opens out into one leaf, each large leaf bearing the calendar for one month.

The German Taschen Kalenders of 1821, 1833, 1841, 1850 and 1854 have beautifully colored plates. The London almanacks, covering several of the years from 1769 to 1819 are engraved throughout and each has a frontispiece occupying four pages. The Royal almanack, English, for 1848 has crude woodcut portraits of all the royal family, including the prince of Wales, aged six years, who was later Edward VII.

The Victoria golden almanack for 1849 is printed in gold throughout. The Bijou almanack, English, for 1850 has a charming little engraving for each month, that for February showing a lover presenting a valentine to his

pocket piece of Louis XIV of France, "the grand monarch," and bears his royal monogram on cover backstrip. Under Devotional books, the Rosen Gartlein 1651, is from the library of the late William Loring Andrews, bears his autograph and bookplate and was illustrated and described at length in his volume *Sexto Decimos et Infra* 1899. It is cased in an elaborate silver binding with clasps and has gauffered edges. Under Classics, the Sedan Horace 1627, referred to under Bindings, carries armorial bookplates of three previous owners, one bearing a prince's crest, one a baron's and one a knight's. Also under Classics, the Pickering Horace 1820 and Virgil 1821 were specially bound and presented to Felicia Hemans and each bears her autograph. Under Devotional books, the Horae in the Eve binding is from the library of the late William Harris Arnold.

BIBLES.

Condensed Bibles and small books of Bible stories have, from very early times, been favorites with publishers and possibly with their young patrons, but surely with their elders who purchased the mental pabulum for the family. Under this heading will be found an interesting variety of miniature Bibles in several languages. The Verbum Sempiternum was written in rhyme by John Taylor the water poet and first issued in 1614. The early editions are very scarce and highly prized. R. Wilkin in 1727 published a very small Bible in London. John Newbery issued a similar one in 1780. During the early part of the nineteenth century American publishers quite flooded the country with reprints of various English editions. A reprint of the Verbum, Philadelphia 1798, is dedicated to Washington in the following doggerel, paraphrasing John

Taylor's dedication to the young duke of Gloucester:

"Most worthy George, into thy hands
we give,
The sum of that which makes us
ever live,
And tho' the volume and the work be
small,
Yet it contains the sum of all in
all."

BINDINGS.

As much skill and labor have been lavished upon the bindings of miniature books as upon those of larger size. The Dutch almanach for 1759 is in an elaborate gilt embroidered binding of much beauty. The Dutch almanach for 1804 is bound in pearl with silver trimmings. Several of the London almanacks have morocco bindings inlaid in colors, richly gold tooled and are provided with slip cases similarly bound. The German Mignon almanachs for 1853, 1855, 1856 and 1857

have bindings embossed in gold and colors and similar slip cases.

Among the Bibles the Verbum Semipiternum of 1701, one of two known copies, is bound in black morocco with gold tooling and has two clasps. The Dutch Bible, Kern des Bybels 1751, small paper copy, is in red morocco interestingly tooled in gold. The Bryce Bible 1901, English, is bound in calf, blind tooled in reduced facsimile of the Shakespeare family Bible. In the section of classics the Sedan Horace 1627 is bound in black sharkskin with silver clasps.

Among the Devotional books, The Psalms, London 1830, is bound in cloth of silver embroidered in silk. The two Horae in manuscript have been referred to earlier. The Thomas a Kempis 1618, is bound in black morocco trimmed with brass, with brass clasps and has gauffered edges. The Officium B. M. V. 1663 is in a case of Dutch silver with clasps and has a ring

for attachment to a chatelaine. The silver bound Rosen Gartlein 1651 is described under Association books. The Dutch Psalmem 1688 is cased in tortoise shell with silver hinges and clasps. The Petit Paroissien 1873 is in an elaborately gold tooled brown morocco binding with inlays of red. The Siddur 1880, containing the Psalms in Hebrew, is bound in olive wood, the front cover being engraved to represent the old wall of the temple in Jerusalem. The Thomas a Kempis 1855, is in a green morocco binding gold tooled with fleur-de-lys, by Moreau.

In the Miscellaneous section, Estelle by Florian and Mes Prisons by Pellico are in handsome modern morocco bindings. In the same section is a little memorandum book in Dutch silver with a ring for suspension from the girdle or chatelaine. The last and most important of the notable bindings covers the Charte Constitutionnelle,

Paris 1821. It is by far the daintiest and most beautiful binding in the exhibition, and was executed and signed by Thouvenin, a celebrated French binder of the early nineteenth century.

FROM FAMOUS PRESSES.

By Christopher Plantin in Antwerp are, under Classics, Cicero 1606 and, under Devotional books, Officium B. M. V., 1677.

By Pierre Vidoue in Paris, under Devotional books, Horae B. M. V. 1525.

By Didot in Paris, under Classics, Voltaire's La Henriade 1824, La Rochefoucault 1827, and Horace 1828. Under Miscellaneous, La Constitution Francaise 1791 and Charte Constitutionnelle 1821.

By John Jannon in Sedan, under Classics, Horace 1627.

By William Pickering in London, under Classics, Horace 1820, Virgil and Cicero 1821, Petrarch 1822, Ter-

ence 1823, Catullus 1824 and Homer 1831.

By R. and A. Foulis in Edinburgh, under Classics, Anacreon 1751.

SHAKESPEARE.

Under this heading the complete works, plays and poems are included in the one volume Bryce edition of 1908, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches high and containing 986 pages within a thickness of $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch. Of the three sets of Shakespeare shown, that of Pickering 1825, is in nine volumes, that of Bryce 1904, in the revolving book-case, in forty volumes and that of Treherne 1904, in twenty-five volumes.

TOY BOOKS.

In this section are shown examples of a host of wee books that were issued usually in paper covers for a penny or two a copy for the amusement of small children. The most celebrated of these were published by John Newbery in St. Paul's Churchyard, London, from

the middle of the eighteenth century. Many of his books for children were sewed and bound. An outstanding feature of the small books he made was their covers of Dutch "flowery and gilt" paper, several examples of which are shown. The History of Goody Two-Shoes 1766, a copy of the earliest edition extant, is supposed to have been written by Oliver Goldsmith. About 1800, Edward Peck of York, came into the market with an attractive line and about 1810 J. Kendrew of the same town issued numerous titles. In Banbury, immortalized in a nursery rhyme, J. Rusher was a publisher of small juveniles.

In this country Isaiah Thomas of Worcester before 1800, pirated large numbers of the Newbery books, making almost Chinese copies of them. After 1800 Samuel Wood of New York published many small books for children and printers throughout the east did likewise. John Babcock of

New Haven is an outstanding figure in this field, followed by his son Sidney for whom as a lad, his father named his shop "Sidney's Press." Jacob Johnson of Philadelphia, illustrated many of his little books for children, with well made copper plate engravings.

And finally, we must not overlook such freaks of book-making as the "large paper limited editions" of La Souris Blanche, Jeannot et Colin and Le Petit Poucet, 1895, under Miscellaneous and Officium B. M. V. 1677, under Devotional books, all of which are not only uncut but unopened. Under Poetry will be found a set of four volumes of Tennyson 1905, each having a painting on the fore-edge under the gold, the smallest examples of fore-edge paintings known.

W. M. S.

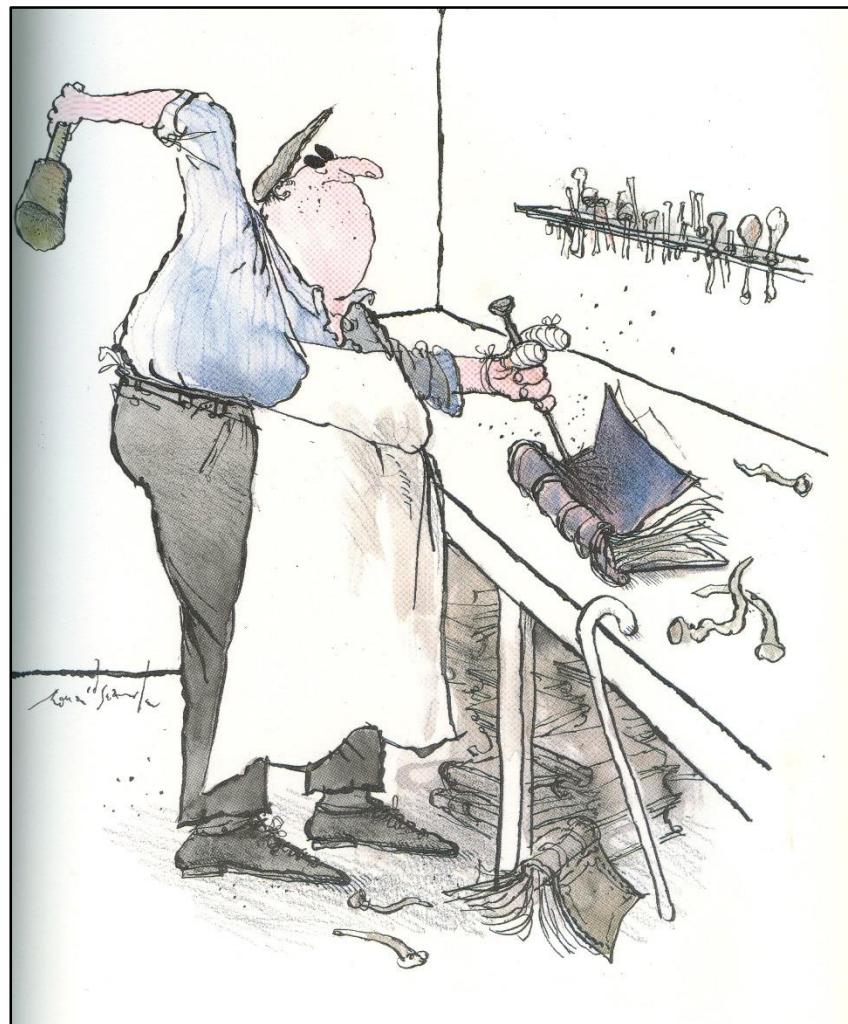
For the introductory portion of these remarks, credit is given to *The American Printer*, in which magazine it first appeared.

Wilberforce Stone

100 copies of this booklet have been printed on Swedish handmade paper for the members of the Carteret Book Club. December, 1924.

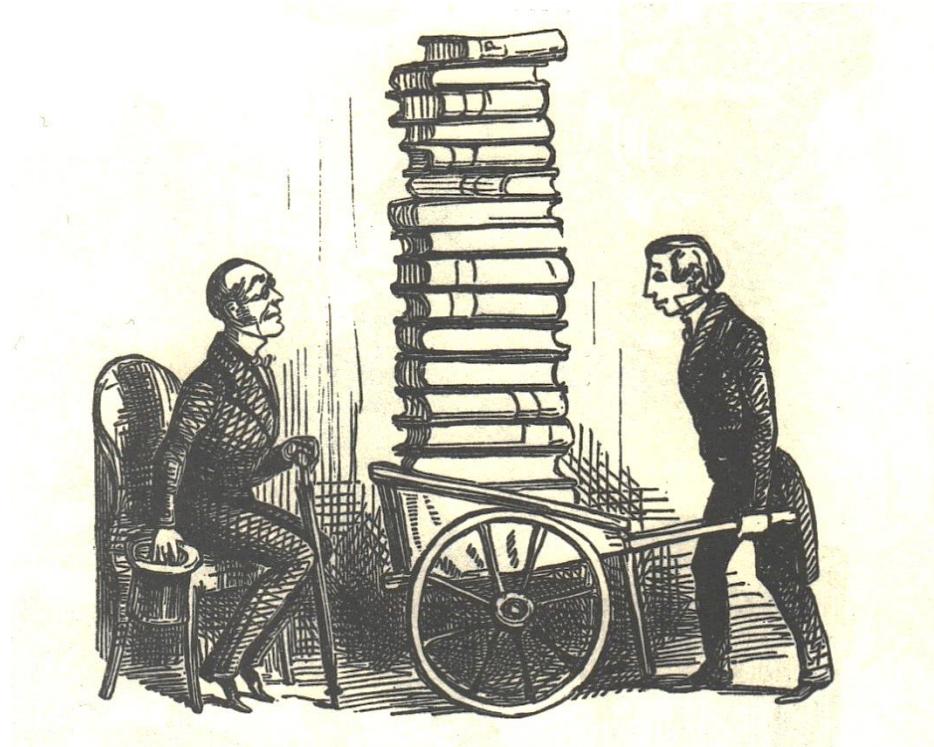
Pretty interesting stuff, today and in 1924. 

A LITTLE BIT OF BOOK FUNNY TIME:



BLIND TOOLING

Image courtesy of 'Ronald Searle's Wicked World of Book Collecting'



BOOKSBY PRESS, The Bindery, Todd Sommerfeld Publisher:

Editor's Note: A new venue of information, we thought that it would be of interest to visit the workshop, laboratories, and bindery locations of our miniature book publishers. I am sure you will enjoy the visit and may even have a few questions after reading the article.

In July, I wrote about my publishing activities. A few people have asked about the tools and equipment I use to bind my books. I utilize a variety of tools that range from professional to home-made. Some of what I use may be unconventional, but they work for me.



From the top of the picture down: Wax paper is used to keep the work surface glue free while applying adhesive to boards and other binding parts, and to protect the text block while casing-in. The bowl with damp cloth is used to keep hands and tools glue free and to quickly clean up ‘oopsies’. Bee’s wax is applied to the thread when sewing pages to help it move smoothly through the paper and keep it from tangling. Linen thread is the gold standard for sewing in bookbinding. Scotch tape is used for all manner of temporary holding. High quality acid-free PVA glue is the only adhesive I use in my new books. Several sizes and styles of rulers are used as straight edges, for measuring, and as guides for cutting, and a triangle to keep things square. An awl for punching holes in the pages to sew through. The bone folder is for making sharp folds as well as smoothing out glued parts. The rectangle next to the bone folder is a piece of cardboard corner guard from the local furniture store. I use this with the awl in lieu of a punching cradle for making the sewing holes in the folded pages. While a cradle would be nice, I prefer the corner guard because it is very portable and inexpensive so I can have one in my bindery and in my traveling bookbinding kit that I travel with. I use #3 large eye needles to sew. For my glue pot, I use a Nyquil dose cup as it holds enough glue to make several books. The short brush is for the glue while the long stiff one I use to burnish and clean the foil stamped covers. Hard to see in this photo is a set of postage stamp tongs which is very useful for handling tiny parts for cutting and gluing. The disposable X-Acto knife and small scissors are all I need for most small cutting jobs. I prefer a mechanical pencil for marking. A small sanding block is good enough for squaring up boards and finishing page edges. The little white squares at the lower right are homemade punching templates so the sewing holes line up across all the pages in a book. At the bottom is a set of six inch calipers graduated in thousandths of an inch. I use this mostly for setting the stop on my shears, so all the pieces of any book fit together perfectly.



There are several operations set up in this picture. First, the equipment is as follows: the table is my 52" board shear that I use to trim down larger pieces of paper and cloth into manageable sizes, and cut all my board. The 12" paper shear is where I do the bulk of my page trimming. On the 12' is one of my wooden finishing presses made by Tony Firmin Bookbinding that I use for backing the text blocks and edge finishing. On the far end of the table is my Weber Hot Stamp machine that I do all my cover gilding and titling with. Beyond that is one of my two iron nipping presses that I use to put pressure on drying covers and books. At the lower left, I am prepared to assemble a book cover. There is a text block in the finishing press ready to be backed. On the paper shear are a few guides for cutting different widths of cardstock used to back the spines of my books. On the hot stamp, a jig is set up for stamping spines, with another jig set up for the covers just out of the picture. Because I am working on several different editions at any given time, jigs, guides, and templates are important to be able to quickly change from one setup to another and still have everything come out consistently the same.

I may, in future articles talk more about specific tools or processes, if there is enough interest in such articles.

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

*Booksby Press, Todd Sommerfeld, 6475 Ridge Road, #1, Parma, Ohio, 44129,
E-mail: contratodd@gmail.com, website: <https://booksbypress.com/>*

Europe's Oldest Intact Book Is Discovered Inside the Coffin of A Saint:

Editor's Note: Sometimes somewhat rare and obscure information finds its way across the electronic void we call the internet. Here for you is one such article about a book, no exactly a miniature book, but a small book and certainly a very old book.

https://mymodernmet.com/st-cuthbert-gospel-oldest-book/?fbclid=IwAR3zw5bLLtra1_wu4vAUEvmwZsew62aupG9G9TZPVSXCJYjIJM8O6mJhC-U

Europe's oldest intact book has been discovered after being closed inside a hermit monk's coffin for over 400 years. It will go on display at the British Library as part of an exhibition featuring prized manuscripts like the Lindisfarne



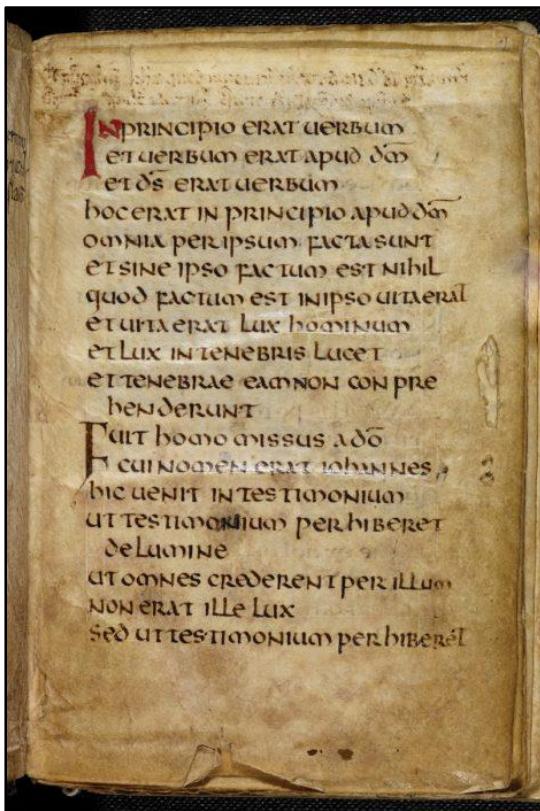
Gospels and *Beowulf*. The show is a once in a lifetime opportunity to see how medieval Anglo-Saxons depicted their own culture through early writings.

Among the precious materials is the Stonyhurst Gospel, a small book that holds a lot of history. Also known as the St. Cuthbert Gospel, this Latin copy of the Gospel of John was discovered inside the coffin of St. Cuthbert, a hermit monk who died in 687 CE. It's said that his body was found incorrupt decades after his death and this led to a cult that placed sacrifices around his remains.

Sometime after 698 CE, a small red book made its way into St. Cuthbert's tomb along with other offerings. The book, a rare surviving medieval manuscript, was removed from his

coffin in 1104 CE and transferred to Durham Cathedral, where it was kept as a separate relic. In 2012, The British Library acquired the 1,300-year-old text, which still retained its original binding and pages.

The book's binding is covered in a deep crimson stained goatskin, which was stuck to boards while still damp. "The decoration of the boards was enriched by tooling and coloring lines on the surface, with the tip of a fine folder or a stylus," describes The British Library, which has also digitized the book. "The left board is decorated with a rectangular frame with interlace patterns in the upper and lower fields and a larger central field containing a chalice from which stems project, terminating in a leaf or bud and four fruits. This raised motif was apparently made using a matrix, with a clay-like substance beneath the leather."



By the 6th century AD, wax tablets and scrolls were replaced by codices in Europe. A codex refers to a handwritten manuscript where sheets of papyrus or vellum were bound between hard covers. The typology was created by the Romans in the 1st century, but didn't become widespread for a few hundred years. As one can imagine, the fragile nature of these bound books makes their survival unlikely, making the St. Cuthbert Gospel all the more precious.

The St. Cuthbert Gospel, along with many other treasures, is on view at the British Library as part of Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Art, Word, War from October 19, 2018 to February 19, 2019.

Enjoy! 

MBS KEEPSAKES:

The last issue of *The Microbibliophile* had a short article outlining a list containing the MBS Keepsakes from the MBS Conclave held in 1983. Caroline Brandt, submitted a 'Letter to the Editor' concerning the keepsakes stating that she in fact had two keepsakes, which were not part of the published list: 'Everyday Italian, by Franco Anderson. Kitemaug Press, 1983 and 'Ovid, in Latin and English', presented by the Good Book Press, Peter and Donna Thomas.

The MBS Newsletter, Number 26, July 1995, published a list of keepsakes from Concave I, 1983 – Conclave XII, 1994. Look it up, great stuff by great people. ☐

A TRUE BIBLIOPHILE, A Letter to the Editor:

'Dear Squeaky Desk,

My free subscription from The Microbibliophile is appreciated.

Right now, I am having trouble with my eyes.

However, the real reason [I am writing] is that I am giving up my complete collection of minis is so they can be auctioned as a fundraiser for the MBS.

So I wrote a letter to the committee, realizing that at 95, my family is not interested in the collection – so it is time to give it to a cause that can use it to a good advantage.

I will save the copies of the MB and read them again when I get my new glasses.

*Thank you again,
Love Muriel"*

Editor's Note: Muriel Underwood a lifelong subscriber and member of the MBS lives in Chicago. Her address is 908 West Argyle Street, Room 728, Chicago, IL 60640-3894. She is a graphic designer, publisher of miniature books (Miscellaneous Graphics Press), and held the rank of Sargent, in the U.S. Marine Corp during WWII. Well Done Muriel! ☐

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:

One of the joys of being an editor is getting to see how other publications present their work to their subscribers. I receive two German miniature book publications. Both are extremely well done and produced:

Das Miniaturbuch, a glossy 8" X 6" booklet, generally 32 pages, full color with a large amount of pictures of both books and collectors.

Website: https://www-minibuch--berlin-de.translate.googhttps://www-minibuch--berlin-de.translate.goog/?_x_tr_sl=de&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en&_x_tr_pto=nui,sc/?_x_tr_sl=de&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en&_x_tr_pto=nui,sc

Miniaturbuch Journal produced in Stuttgart, Germany, a glossy 12" X 8" booklet, generally 32 pages, full color with a large number of pictures of the books, activities, and collectors.

Website: <http://www.miniaturbuch.de/>

Perfect then and Perfect now. 

CATALOGUES RECEIVED:

Karen Nyman Miniature Books, Catalog Number 91, July 2021. Always very well done and well organized for easy viewing.

Contact info: Karen Nyman, 7835 Rush Rose Drive, # 124, Carlsbad, CA 92009, telephone 760-944-3019

website: <http://www.karennnymanminiaturebooks.com> E-mail: karennnyman2@gmail.com

Bromer Booksellers, E-Catalog Number 96, October 2021. '1/2 price sale catalogue. There are 20 books, some very old and some very rare, Please take a look for yourself.

Contact information, 607 Boylston St. Boston 02116, telephone 617-247-2818,

Website: www.bromer.com

Online e-catalogues are another great source of information. Check with your favorite booksellers, they may have an email subscribe option set up and will send you an email when they have a special catalogue available. Catalogues and booksellers are wonderful friends and great resources. 

**BEAUTIFUL LIBRARIES,
Los Angeles Central Library,
Los Angeles, CA:**



image courtesy, <https://www.lapl.org/branches/central-library/art-architecture/goodhue-building>

The Los Angeles Central Library is the largest public library in the western United States. Designed by Bertram Goodhue, it takes design cues from ancient ziggurat structure, with geometric and symbolic motifs throughout the building. On top of the library is a distinctive, tiled pyramid with a golden hand holding a torch, while the interior features works in various mediums by a range of artists. The different entrances of the library are each unique in the architecture and iconography utilized. Great reading at <https://www.lapl.org/branches/central-library/art-architecture/iconography>

IF YOU CAN BELIEVE YOUR EYES. 

**INTERESTING INFORMATION ABOUT WILBUR MACEY STONE,
Information from the proceeds of the American Antiquarian Society,
October 1942, Volume 52, Part 2:**

WILBUR MACEY STONE Wilbur Macey Stone, one of the leading collectors of children's books in the country, died at his home in East Orange, New Jersey, December 21, 1941. He was born in Winona, Minnesota, November 30, 1862, the son of the Reverend George Marvin and Abbie Barnum (Seeley) Stone. As a youth he lived in Hartford, Connecticut, where his father held a pastorate at the Asylum Avenue Baptist Church for twenty-nine years.

Following a course of study at Stevens Institute, he opened an office in New York as a patent attorney and mechanical engineer. He held many patents for improvements in manufacturing machinery. After residing for a short time in Brooklyn, he moved to East Orange in 1911. On September 11, 1889, he married Lillian L. Newton, of Hartford, who died in 1936. He was survived by two sons, Kenneth N. Stone and Malcolm N. Stone, and a daughter, Mrs. Dudley G. Summers.

Since his youth, Mr. Stone collected rare books. Christopher Morley, in his *Haunted Bookshop*, calls Mr. Stone "a passionate pilgrim among old bookshops," and it was Mr. Stone who drew the map used as end-papers for the volume for the 1920 edition of this book. His primary interest was in early juveniles—the rare and ephemeral little books so read and thumbed by children of a century or more ago that comparatively few have survived to the present day. But Mr. Stone began searching the bookshops before the days of high prices and soon built up one of the finest private collections in the country.

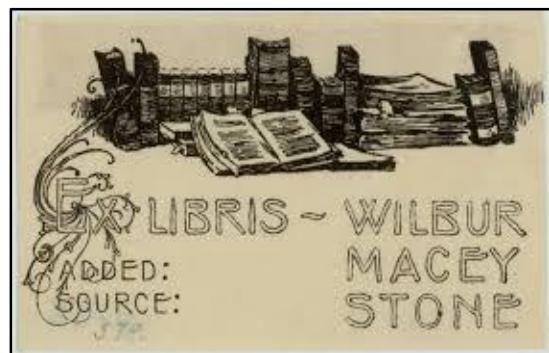
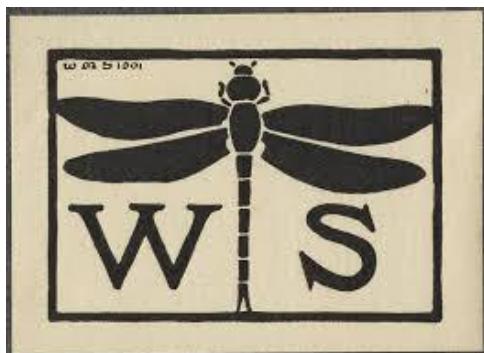
Although his collection numbered less than 1500 volumes, it was strong in the period before 1810, and with almost none issued after 1860. His special fields were eighteenth century juveniles, such as the *History of Little Goody Two Shoes*, supposedly written by Oliver Goldsmith, of which he had seventy editions; *Dr. Watts' Divine Songs for Children*, of which he owned probably the largest collection in the world with 241 editions; and such interesting rarities as early primers and metamorphoses.

A feature of his collection was the binding, all executed, and lettered by himself. Another specialty was his collection of miniature books, which was especially strong in the early American field. Still another hobby with him was children's toys, of which he had a varied and interesting collection.

Mr. Stone's ability as a draughtsman and his love of books drew him into the field of bookplate designing. Between 1896 and 1938 he designed over sixty bookplates, including seven for his own books, and all distinguished for artistic design and imaginative quality. Margaret Ely Webb, in the 1935 Year Book of the American Society

of Bookplate Collectors and Designers, wrote an entertaining article on his bookplates, followed by a checklist of his designs. He also wrote seven brochures on bookplates and as many magazines articles on the subject—all listed in Miss Webb's article. His other literary contributions, as would be expected, were in the field of children's books—largely compiled from his own collections. Among these were *The Divine and Moral Songs of Isaac Watts* (1918), *A Snuff-Boxful of Bibles* (1926), *Four Centuries of Children's Books* (1928), *The Thumb Bible of John Taylor* (1928), *A Showing of Paper Dolls and other Cut-out Toys* (1931), and *The Gigantick Histories of Thomas Boreman* (1933). His writings in so many fields of children's literature made him the most widely versed authority on the subject.

Mr. Stone was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1931. To its Proceedings he contributed two papers—"The Holy Bible in Verse" in 1935, and *The History of Little Goody Two-Shoes* in 1940. He was an almost constant attendant at its meetings, and his tall straight form, with his pointed beard, white hair, and flowing tie, made him a figure to be remembered. He was a frequent donor to the Library, presented to us some of the rare eighteenth century juveniles in his collection, and in his will left to the Society his important collection of Watts' Divine Songs for Children. His death was a loss to the book-collecting world. C. S. B.



WMS Bookplates ☐

HOME PRINTING OPTIONS FOR THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE:

I continue to receive favorable reader feedback about the conversion of *The Microbibliophile* to a digital distribution format. Readers like the format and the fact that they can see everything in full color and take advantage of the 'hot links' to additional information.

I have distributed issues Number 2 and 3 to a select number of readers as a 'head start' to see what problems would be encountered. The July/August Issue Number 4 and Number 5 were distributed to every reader with an email address on our record. If you have not received a digital copy please let me know so I can get our records updated and get you a copy.

Understandably, some readers asked how they would print *The Microbibliophile* in a booklet format. The PDF that is distributed is sourced as a regular Microsoft Word file in a regular single PDF column, none booklet format. The page size is formatted at 7" wide and 8 ½" tall, so the original booklets could be printed on 8 ½" x 14" paper stock. A total of four 'booklet pages' will print on one piece of paper, using a duplex printing format.

The basic PDF 'booklet' printing instructions from Adobe are:

<https://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/kb/print-booklets-acrobat-reader.html>

1. Be sure your printer can do duplex printing
2. Choose **File > Print**
3. Select your printer from the dialog box
4. In the Pages to Print area, select the pages you want to print in the booklet (**All**)
5. Under the selection for Page sizing & Handling, choose **Booklet**
6. In the Booklet Subset pop-up select **Both Sides**, Orientation should be set to **Portrait**, and be sure to check '**auto-rotate**'
7. Leave the 'numbers' in the **Sheets From** boxes as they are presented
8. Ready to Print....(be sure to select your choice 'color', 'gray', or B&W)

You could also just print the PDF with one page single sided if you want to, just use the standard **Print** command single or double sided.

Good luck! You should be an expert with a few clicks. Adobe has a very helpful and easy to follow set of instruction as **HELP Guides** as well. ☺

Proposed Frontispiece, Volume XLI, Number 1 Issue 235:

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? How about a glimpse into the life and work of a famous author?

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).

How about:

Jules Vern
Hemingway,
Faulkner,
Steinbeck,
Melville,
Hawthorne,
Dickenson,
Thoreau

and so many more.

The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue will be December 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. ☐

1,000-Year-Old Illustrated Manuscript of Herbal Remedies:

Editor's Note: Another interesting short read. One of those things that just jumps out on the screen from time to time, a little bit of WOW from that thing we call the internet.



<https://mymodernmet.com/medieval-herbal-remedies-guide-online/>

Seeking natural remedies outside of chemical pharmaceuticals isn't just for Eastern medicine. In fact, plant-based health cure also has a long tradition in Western medicine, as evidenced by a beautifully illustrated book in the British Library's collection. The Cotton MS Vitellius C III is a 1,000-year-old illustrated manual to plant pharmacology, and has now been digitized for online viewing.

The beautifully illustrated 11th-century book is filled with "herbals," natural plant-based treatments to cure everything from body odor (simmer artichokes in wine) to easing chest pain (licorice root does the trick). Zooming in on the high-resolution scan, it's

incredible to see the Old English script and detailed drawings of the plants and animals used for their healing properties.

Though herbals were quite common in Anglo-Saxon medicine, the British Library's manuscript is the only surviving illustrated Old English manual. "No one knows for sure how this manuscript was used or even where or by whom it was made," project curator Alison Hudson shares. "Its production has been associated with monastic scriptoria at Canterbury and Winchester, due to its style of decoration and script, but this is by no means certain. Monasteries in those areas functioned both as centers of natural and supernatural healing and also as libraries and centers of learning."



Each entry in the manual lists the plant's or animal's "name in various languages; descriptions of ailments it can be used to treat; and instructions for finding and preparing it." And while it's debatable as to how practical the guide really was—it includes plants like cumin that would not have been available in England—it's a curious work of art in its own right.



Enjoy!

CLASSIFIED WISH LISTS,

Buy, Sell, or Trade:

PLEASE NOTE: This feature was changed with the beginning of 2021. Now, 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. Spoormaker, 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

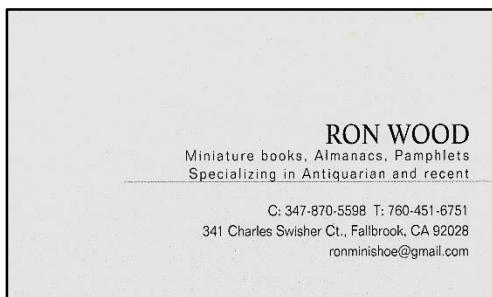
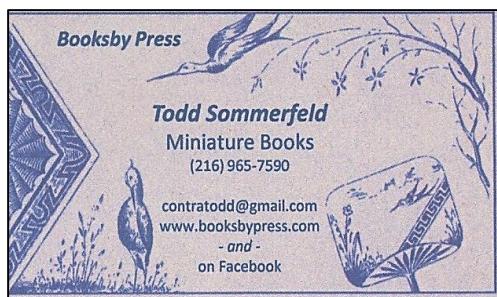
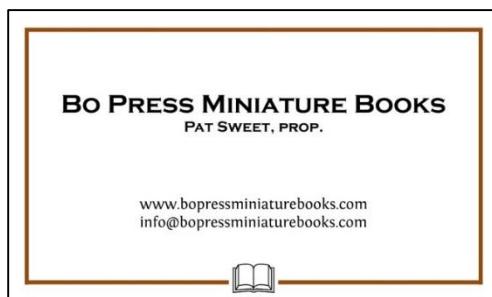
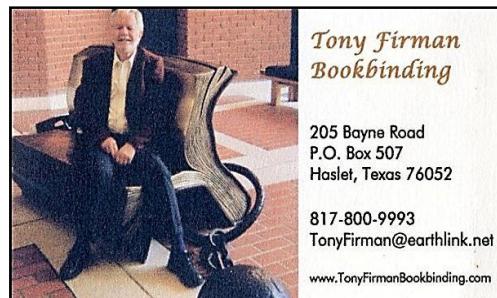
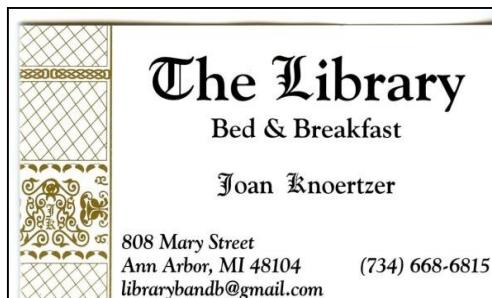
Jim Brogan is looking for a tome, *The 70th Academy Awards*, by Gloria Stuart.

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

Free for the printing, plenty of extra room for your request! Please review your ad content and let me know about any updates that may be needed to help your searches. ☑

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