



# The Aldus Society

## NEWSLETTER

Winter 2001-02

Volume 2, No. 4

### Searching for Captain Cook: My Serendipitous Journey

The January program of The Aldus Society will be a talk by Aldus member Ronald L. Ravneberg on his Captain James Cook collection. Ron will have some of his wonderful collection on hand so that members will have an opportunity to view first hand these splendid eighteenth-century volumes. This will be a program to delight those interested in the history of voyages and exploration and the chronicles of those travels. We thank Ron for the description that follows:

James Cook was one of the most important explorers of any age. From 1768 to 1780 he led three voyages of discovery that circumnavigated the world and opened up the Pacific Ocean to European influence as no previous voyages had done before. His voyages added to the body of scientific knowledge in such fields as astronomy, anthropology, botany, navigation and geography.

The publications that presented the results of Cook's voyages to an eager public combined extensive narrative with detailed plates, charts and maps to produce some of the most eagerly anticipated published materials of the 18th century. For years they were among the most requested library resources and, in many cases, were literally "read to death."

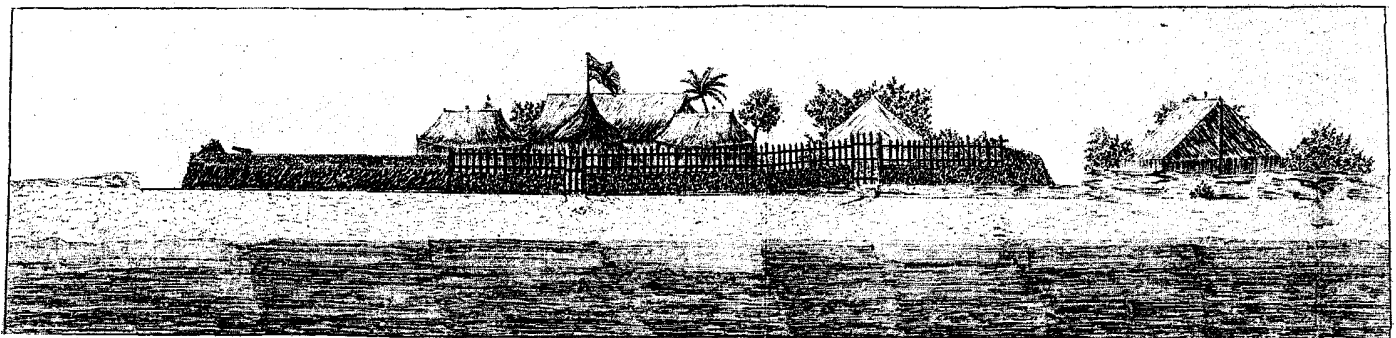
Ron will share a brief background of Captain Cook and his voyages, and a history of Cook-related books and publications. He'll relate some of his experiences in collecting Cook, offering a few minor diversions that he has encountered along the way, focusing particularly on an intriguing bibliographic find he recently uncovered that offers a clue as to how books were prepared for the printer in the 18th century.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



#### JOIN US!

**WHEN:** Thursday, January 24th  
**WHERE:** Worthington Public Library  
820 High Street, Worthington  
**TIME:** 7 p.m.



"The West Elevation of the Fort (at Point Venus, Matavai Bay)" Drawing by Cook

## The Aldus Society

### Trustees, 2000-01

PRESIDENT  
Geoffrey D. Smith

MEMBERSHIP  
Paul Watkins

SECRETARY  
Carol Logue

TREASURER  
Jay B. Hoster

PROGRAMS  
Marcia Preston

COMMUNICATIONS  
Genie Hoster

ARCHIVES  
Charles C. Cole, Jr.

Anita Branin  
Emerson Gilbert  
Ivan Gilbert  
Nicholas Howe  
Joyce Miller

*The Newsletter* is published quarterly by the Communications Committee of The Aldus Society. If you have submissions or ideas for articles, please contact Genie or Jay Hoster, Newsletter Co-editors, 267-7774 (days) or at [bookshigh@aol.com](mailto:bookshigh@aol.com)

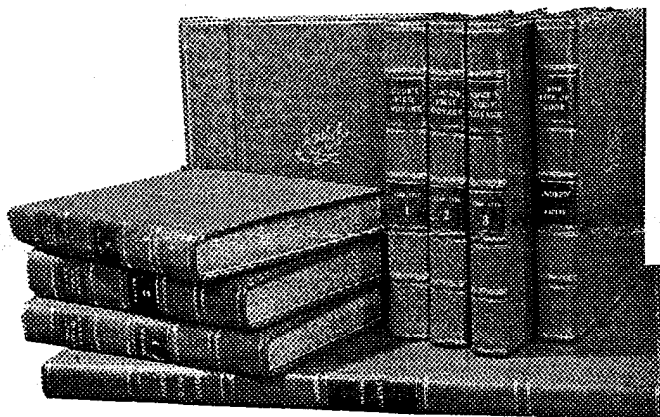
NEWSLETTER  
CONTRIBUTORS:  
Carol Logue  
Jay B. Hoster  
Geoffrey D. Smith

NEWSLETTER  
PRODUCTION:  
Genie Hoster

The Aldus Society  
Mailing Address:  
P. O. Box 1150  
Worthington, Ohio  
43085-1150

Geoff Smith can be contacted at 292-5938 or [smith.1@osu.edu](mailto:smith.1@osu.edu)

Ron plans to incorporate background material, images, maps and charts, and a number of original 18th-, 19th-, and 20th-century publications into a presentation that will help The Aldus Society members and guests develop an understanding of this fascinating and influential character and the role he played in shaping (both literally and figuratively) our modern world.



*At our January program, Aldus members will have the opportunity to see many wonderful original Cook-related materials that Ron has collected over the years*

## President's Column

As we end this year I thought that the membership might be interested in The Aldus Society's plans for 2002. I want to emphasize that Aldus is a grass roots organization: our ideas for programming are self-generated and come from many different directions. We welcome any and all suggestions from our membership for future programming.

In addition to our major programs, including the History of Text series, Aldus plans to offer smaller programs and field trips, such as those to the Toledo Museum last July and Dard Hunter's Mountain House in Chillicothe this past October. Ideas that are being generated for small programs include: a book evaluation session where a book dealer will assess the value of your books, a sort of "Books Road Show"; a book conservation session where Aldus members can learn what easy repairs they can safely undertake as well as what they should avoid and leave to professionals; a book arts film series where videos on the creation of type, the making of books, tours of small presses would be presented and discussed afterwards.

Of particular note, representatives from The Aldus Society will be meeting with members of

Cleveland's Rowfant Club to discuss shared programming. At this time, we envision that the Rowfant will present a program for the benefit of Aldus members one year and Aldus will do the same the following year. Aldus and Rowfant together might also be able, on occasion, to sponsor major speakers from the book world.

We do not have any specific dates or times at this point, but want to inform the membership of the types of things we have planned and to encourage other ideas for entertainment, education and general diversissements.

One other thing: we have a web page reserved, but no web master, so if anyone is willing to volunteer his or her skills, please let us know.

And, one final thing: we wish a happy and prosperous 2002, the palindromic year, to everyone.

*"A room without books is like  
a body without a soul."  
— Cicero*

## First Small-group Program Scheduled

On February 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, Aldus trustee Marcia Preston is inviting Aldus members to her home to share her very special collection of private press books, artists' books, miniature books, and pages from illuminated manuscripts. She will answer questions from visitors, share how she got started with these collections, and offer advice to those who would like to start collecting in any of these areas. Every book Marcia owns has its own special story, and Marcia has been collecting these exquisite editions for many years.

This meeting is part of a series of presentations to smaller groups who are interested in more specialized subjects than those presented in our general monthly meetings. These smaller, informal programs will give participants and presenters an opportunity to interact closely.

Whether you already collect special collector editions, or you're interested in seeing what another book lover finds mesmerizing, you will find Marcia's collection of books and stories entertaining and informative.

Marcia will hold her programs from 1-4 p.m. on both February 6<sup>th</sup> and February 10<sup>th</sup>.

**WHERE:** 3456 Sunningdale Way,  
Upper Arlington

**DIRECTIONS:** From the intersection of Fishinger/Northwest Blvd./Tremont (also called "five corners"), go west on Fishinger to the first street on your right, which is Inverness Way, and turn right; then turn immediately right onto Sunningdale and follow it to Marcia's house.

**PHONE:** 451-8264 if you have any questions on directions or the program.

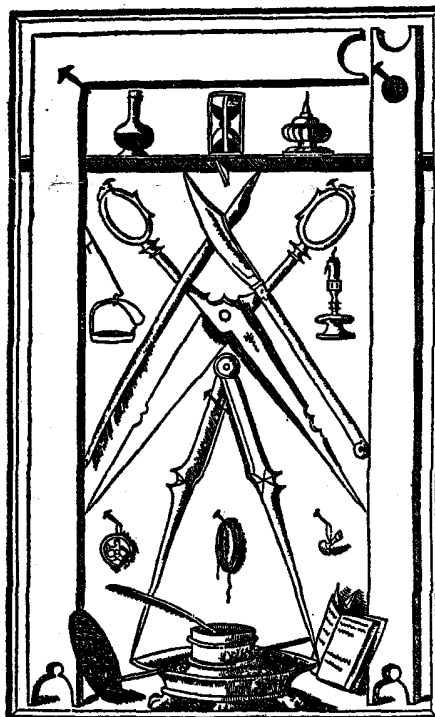
## Second Calligraphy Program Scheduled for February

Nationally recognized calligrapher and Aldus member Ann Alaia Woods will return to speak again on the history of script. Her program, which will be held on February 28<sup>th</sup>, will resume where she left off last February, talking about medieval and Renaissance type styles and the evolution of script writing.

The invention of movable type and the discovery of papermaking techniques during the Renaissance caused the printed word as we know it today to replace the decorative but labor-intensive script writing and illuminated manuscripts created during the Middle Ages.

Calligraphy as an art form was revived 100 years ago during the Arts and Crafts movement in England by William Morris and others.

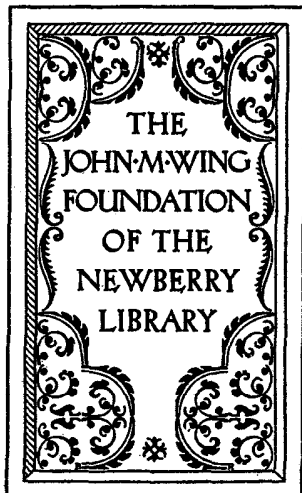
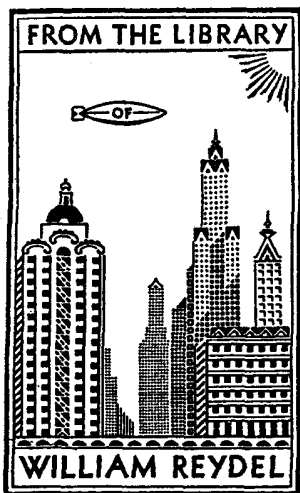
Ann is an instructor of lettering and the history of hand lettering at Columbus College of Art and Design (CCAD). She also freelances as AIMIA Art Works, specializing in custom hand lettering, marbling, and design of one-of-a-kind books. She was calligrapher for several Logan Elm press publications as well.



**WHEN:** Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

**TIME:** 7 p.m.

**WHERE:** Whetstone Library (3909 North High, Clintonville)



## March Program Alert

When can a bookplate make your book more valuable...and when might it detract from your book's collectibility?

The book expert who will present our March Aldus program will answer this and all the questions you want to bring with you to the program, whether you are a beginning book collector or a more advanced bibliomaniac.

Watch your mail for more information on our March, April and May programs.

*(The book plates to the left were designed by the famous book designer, Bruce Rogers...more about him in a future program.)*

## Aldus Members Visit Mountain House

Overcast skies on Saturday, October 27, did not dampen the spirits of Aldus Society members who set out in separate vehicles for Chillicothe to visit Mountain House, the home and studio of Dard Hunter from 1919 until his death in 1966. Now his grandson has undertaken the task of preserving the house and of restoring a working studio for hand paper-making, type-casting, and hand printing. In 1997 Dard Hunter III established Dard Hunter Studios to create and distribute products illustrating contributions made by his grandfather to the Arts and Crafts movement and to help secure the future of Mountain House as a living museum.

The visit provided enjoyment and learning on many levels. First there was the site itself. Perched on the top of Carlisle Hill, the Mountain House terrace commanded a view of Chillicothe's main street and the hills to the east. Peering down, it was easy to imagine other terraces carved out of the face of the hill for the grape vines planted by the original German builders. Dard Hunter turned the first phase of the house, built in the 1830s, into a studio. The main part of the house, with its twin crenellated towers and distinctive wine-bottle-shaped windows, was built in the 1850s and used for living quarters. The main entrance was guarded by an immense ginkgo tree whose fruits covered the sidewalk and yard.

Once inside, Dard Hunter III and Eileen Wallace greeted us and organized the overflow crowd arriving at different times into eager tour groups. Everywhere one looked there was evidence of the intensity and devotion Dard Hunter, and in their turn his son

and grandson, gave to the art and craft of papermaking and printing. There was abundant evidence of trips taken around the world to seek out samples of handmade paper. There were many Oriental souvenirs. Original pieces of wood furniture made by Dard Hunter, Jr., with exquisite inlays, were in the hall and many of the rooms.

In the studio, Dard Hunter III showed the group the two presses used by his father and grandfather before him, and the ingenious machines used to cast the type font which his grandfather had designed. Samples of intricate watermarks for the handmade paper hung on the wall and the window. Copies of the books written and printed by Dard Hunter and his son's painstakingly compiled tribute to his father were displayed on the dining room table for our examination.

Outside the house a small barn had been set up as a gift shop and workshop. Aided by Aldus Society member Bob Tauber and his son Max, volunteers tried their hand at making paper. Of course, we all indulged ourselves in choosing from the delectable display of prints, stationery, jewelry, pottery, tiles, and other items based on Dard Hunter designs for sale in the shop.

Our thanks to Dard and Eileen for their wonderful hospitality and a most enjoyable tour. Check on the studio's website to obtain more information and how to obtain a catalog for Dard Hunter Studios: [www.dardhunter.com](http://www.dardhunter.com).

**Not a Member Yet? Copy or Clip this Form and Return it TODAY!**



**The Aldus Society**  
A Columbus Book Club

"May you find yourself always  
in the company of good books  
and kindred spirits."

— Colleen Sell

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests or Meeting Ideas:

#### Yearly Dues:

- \$25 - Individual
- \$40 - Family
- \$50 - Patron
- \$100 - Founder
- \$10 - Student

*We welcome the names and addresses of anyone you think would like to join our organization.*

**Return this form with your check to the Aldus Society, Box 1150, Worthington, Ohio 43085-1150**