



The Aldus Society

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2002

Volume 3, No. 2

Stuart Rose to Speak on Collecting Landmark Books of Western Civilization

The first program of The Aldus Society's 2002-03 programming season will feature Dayton native Stuart Rose, who has done what every serious book lover dreams of: he established himself sufficiently well to be able to devote his entire time to book collecting.

After graduating from Emory University in 1976, he worked at Bain & Company and then at Niederhoffer & Company. He then purchased REX Television and Appliance Company, Inc. in 1980. He took REX public in 1984, and in 1986, he became one of the youngest people to place a company on the New York Stock Exchange.

With that behind him, and as CEO of REX Stores Corp., he began collecting books in 1993. In less than a decade, he has built one of the most complete collections of landmark books in Western Civilization, including the four folios of Shakespeare and many of the most important rare books of the Renaissance, including Aldine editions. Rose will share his vitality, wit, and expertise as one of the nation's best marketers and most important book collectors.

We are told that Mr. Rose's talks are liberally sprinkled with anecdotes, making him a welcome speaker for organizations such as ours.

A special thanks to the Caxton Club in Chicago for allowing us to publish parts of their news story on Mr. Rose (above) which appeared last year in the Caxtonian Newsletter.

Collecting the Landmark Books of Western Civilization

WHEN: Tuesday, September 24

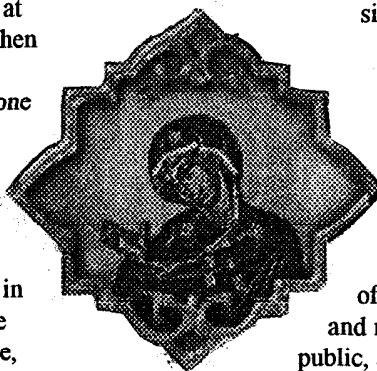
WHERE: Worthington Public Library

(820 High Street, one block north of Dublin-Granville Road)

TIME: 7 p.m.

The Slavic Cyrillic Manuscript Tradition (9th-20th Centuries) Subject of October 22nd Program

On October 22nd, as part of our History of Text series, Predrag Matejic will speak on *The Slavic Cyrillic Manuscript Tradition (9th-20th Centuries)*. He has been the curator of the Hilandar Research Library since 1982, and the Director of the related Resource Center for Medieval Slavic Studies since 1989.



The Hilandar Research Library at OSU is the largest library of its kind in the world, and presently houses over 5,000 medieval Slavic, primarily Cyrillic, manuscripts and early printed books on microform, the originals of which are located in 22 countries and nearly 100 different monastic, public, and national libraries.

The over 3,000,000 pages on microform reflect the cultural heritage, in particular, of the Eastern Orthodox Slavs and their 1,000-year tradition of producing manuscripts. Over 20 languages and several alphabets are represented, although most of the material is in Cyrillic Old Church Slavonic and later recensions of this original literary language of the Slavs.

Matejic's involvement with what would become the Hilandar Research Library began much earlier, when he became a volunteer photographer for Ohio State on preservation microfilming expeditions to Hilandar Monastery on Mount Athos, Greece, in 1971 and 1975. Admitting to having been "infected" by this work, he spent several years which included microfilming expeditions and earning several additional degrees. Matejic says, "I had the honor and good fortune to be in a position to affect the future development of medieval Slavic preservation and studies at Ohio State and beyond." His personal research interest and teaching include watermark studies, Slavic paleography and textology, history and religion.

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The Aldus Society

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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

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

From Geoffrey D. Smith

After the summer hiatus The Aldus Society will launch its fall programming beginning September 24th with a lecture by noted rare book collector Stuart Rose. More information on that and the other lectures is contained elsewhere in this Newsletter, but I want to emphasize two other areas of communication where Aldus is making great progress: the Aldus Society listserv and the Aldus Society web site.

In both cases our intention is to make more readily available information about The Aldus Society and other book happenings throughout the state, region and nation. All members of The Aldus Society are invited to join the listserv where they will be able to bring to the attention of the wider membership issues and concerns appropriate to a bibliophilic society. Thus far, we have had inquiries about sources for valuing books, resources for the book collector, notice of events, news notices from national sources about significant issues and events in the book world and much more. I must emphasize that only those members who volunteer their e-mail addresses are added to the listserv for, as an organization, we do value the privacy of our members and do not wish to

Cyrillic Manuscript Heritage (cont. from page one)
More information on these units and Hilander Research Library's activities is available on their website:
<http://www.cohums.ohio-state.edu/cmrs/rcmss/>, which also provides access to previous issues of their newsletter, *Cyrillic Manuscript Heritage*.

Anyone interested in receiving future issues of the newsletter is encouraged to send their postal address to the Library so that their names can be added to the mailing list.

The Slavic Cyrillic Manuscript Tradition

WHEN: Tuesday, October 22
WHERE: Upper Arlington Public Library
(2800 Tremont Road)
TIME: 7 p.m.

impose ourselves upon those good people who so strongly support our efforts. If you are not yet a member of the listserv but wish to be so, please contact me at smith.1@osu.edu.

The Aldus Society web site at www.aldussociety.com has been up and running throughout the summer. Not only does the web site provide vital information about the Society itself, but it also links to the web sites of many other bibliophilic societies as well as the web site for The Fellowship of Bibliophilic Societies (FABS), the umbrella organization for 26 bibliophilic societies throughout the nation. If questions arise about the dates and times of upcoming events, membership information, the history of the society, society contacts, etc., the Aldus web site is an easy access source.

The Aldus Society owes a major thanks to three trustees, Emerson Gilbert, Laura Masonbrink and Ron Ravneberg, for bringing to fruition these technological advances. I particularly encourage you to explore the web site and give us your candid evaluation of its design and functionality so that we can continue to improve communication for our membership.

Until the next Newsletter . . .

Ann Alaia Woods Will Teach Aldus Society's First Workshop October 19

Novice Scribes:
An Introduction to Hand Lettering
in the Manuscript Tradition

Ann's lecture-demonstrations for The Aldus Society on the history of hand lettering drew record audiences over the past two years. Now she offers you a chance to experience the flow of ink on paper, and learn the basics of writing late medieval/early Renaissance formal script.

This workshop is for *beginners* – those who have never done formal lettering before. We can accommodate 12 participants and a small number of observers but advance registration is necessary, since space at Ohio State's Center for Epigraphical and Paleographical Studies is limited.

A small fee will be assessed to cover parking passes, handouts and, for participants, workshop materials used. Register either as a participant or observer by contacting Aldus Program Chair Marcia Preston: call 451-8264, or e-mail her at mapreston@columbus.rr.com by October 12.

OSU Faculty Authors Series to Benefit the University Library Renovation

The Faculty Authors Series of programs which will start this fall is sponsored by the Friends of the OSU Libraries, with net proceeds to benefit the renovation of the University's William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library. Tickets may be purchased for a single event or for the full season. Reservations may be made no later than October 7, 2002. To order tickets and for more information, please call the Friends Office at (614) 292-3387. The 2002-03 Author Series will feature three speakers with a varied range of themes:

Tuesday, October 22, 2002

6:00 p.m. Faculty Club Grand Lounge
William B. Malarkey, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Public Health

Discussing: *Take Control of Your Aging*

Published by Wooster Book Co., 1999

Upcoming OSU Authors:

Tuesday, January 21, 2003

6:00 p.m. Blackwell Hotel Banquet Room
Dr. Allan Millett, the Raymond E. Mason, Jr., Professor of Military History

Discussing: *Their War for Korea*

Published by Brassey's, 2002

April 2003, TBD

6:00 p.m. Location TBD

Ann Hamilton, Professor of Art

Discussing: her work and biography *Ann Hamilton* by Joan Simon

Published by Harry N. Abrams, 2002

Series Format

All presentations will be held at a location on the OSU Columbus campus; and all will include a buffet dinner. The format for each presentation is:

6:00 p.m. Registration and social reception

6:30 p.m. Dinner

7:15 p.m. Presentation

At each event, books will be offered for purchase at a reduced price and available for autographing.

Season ticket pricing:

Friends Members \$100 per person (includes full season of three events)

Guests* \$135 per person

Single evening pricing:

Friends Members \$40 per person

Guests* \$50 per person

* Become a **Friends Member** and purchase tickets at the member price

Susanne Jaffe to Speak on the Publishing Industry on November 14

Susanne Jaffe, the executive director of Thurber House, will share her thoughts on the future of the book, and of the publishing industry as a whole, at her talk to The Aldus Society scheduled for Thursday, November 14. She will cover a wide range of issues of importance to readers and researchers today, including printing-on-demand, e-books, e-commerce and promotions, and she will touch on the fiduciary issues which impact both publishers and authors. And if she doesn't cover an area of special interest to you, you can ask her at the question-and-answer session immediately following her talk.

Jaffe's knowledge of these areas is drawn from a wealth of experience: before coming to Columbus, she worked 26 years in the New York publishing business, at Simon & Schuster, Avon, and most recently at Random House.

Jaffe began her tenure at Thurber House during the summer of 2001, replacing Donn Vickers. Already she has been able to draw on her contacts in the publishing industry to increase awareness of what Columbus has to offer. She has developed a brochure which has been sent to publishers that poses the question "Why Columbus?" and is diligently working to coordinate visits from authors who are giving book tours. She's also convinced many large publishers to donate books to the Book Feast, a fund-raiser for Thurber House, which is planned for November 17.

If you haven't already met Susanne, this will be the perfect opportunity to do so.

The Future of the Publishing Industry

WHEN: Thursday, November 14

WHERE: Thurber Center, 91 Jefferson Avenue

(Next to Thurber House...Jefferson Avenue is one block west of I-71 off Broad Street)

TIME: 7 p.m.

Mark your calendar for upcoming Aldus events and programs (*details in future mailings*):

December 3: Aldus Society Holiday Dinner

January 23: Harry Campbell will speak on book and paper conservation

February 20: Rabbi William Goldberg will speak on repairing sacred texts

Visit our new website:
www.aldussociety.com

OHIOANA LIBRARY TOUR

On July 16, over 40 Aldus members converged at the newly renovated site of the Ohioana Library in the former Jeffrey Mining Building, 274 East First Avenue. The staff is still unabashedly reveling in finally having enough space to show off its unique collection. Director Linda Hengst and her colleagues, Librarian Barbara Meister and Newsletter Editor Kate Hancock Fox, welcomed us with a program on *Ohio's Literary Legacies, Love Affairs and Land Mines*.

Linda began the presentation with a recounting of the history of the Library. The Ohioana collection began in 1929 as a project by the governor's wife, Martha Kenny Cooper. The governor's mansion on East Broad Street had many shelves but few books, so she decided it would be a good idea to fill the shelves with books by Ohio authors. She gathered an enthusiastic committee which compiled lists of authors and their publishers. Calls were made and donations began to arrive.

Soon outgrowing the mansion's shelves, the Library was installed at the State Departments Building on Front Street in the 1930s and remained there until December, 2000. Though housed by the State, the Library is organized as a private not-for-profit association governed by an elected Board (plus 4 members appointed by the governor). The Library is still largely dependent on donations.

The scope of the collection was later broadened to include, sheet music, as well as pamphlets, manuscripts, posters, biographical material, and other ephemera, all relating to Ohio. The Library's

collection "is based exclusively on geography" and its "main purpose is to preserve the literary legacy of our state." Another major purpose is to promote literature, music, and the arts throughout the state.

The Library sponsors nine awards recognizing talented Ohioans of all ages and, since 1957, has published the *Ohioana Quarterly*, a journal of reviews and essays.

Examples from the collection, including first editions and decorative bindings, were displayed on a table in front of the audience. As she told us of her particular "love affairs" with the collection, Barbara passed around copies of works by Herman Melville, Lafcadio Hearn, Ambrose Bierce and Charles W. Chesnutt. Then Kate continued the program by relating stories of some "land mines" presented by such controversial authors as Dawn Powell. She shared with us some of the intriguing requests and correspondence she receives. Her latest challenge is to discover where Ambrose Bierce really was born so a bicentennial marker can be placed to honor him.

All through the evening we had been eying the spacious stacks through a large window-wall. It was a privilege to be allowed to investigate the holdings at our leisure at the end of the program. Ohioans can be well pleased that such a rich collection of over 45,000 books and many other items has been so devotedly developed and cherished over the years. To support the work of the Ohioana Library, consider becoming a member of its Association. Check out the website at www.oplin.lib.oh.us/OHIOANA/ or call: (614) 466-3831 or e-mail: ohioana@sloma.state.oh.us.

— Carol Logue

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



The Aldus Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Colleen Sell

Yearly Dues:

- \$15 - Student
- \$35 - Individual
- \$60 - Family
- \$100 - Patron

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

YES, please include me in the Aldus Membership Directory

YES, please include me in the Aldus e-mail group.

My e-mail address is: _____

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, P. O. Box 1150, Worthington, Ohio 43085-1150