



The Aldus Society

NEWSLETTER

Spring, 2003

Volume 3, No. 4

Germanic Manuscript Traditions Topic of April Aldus Program

On April 17th, Anna Grotans will present a talk "The St. Gall School and Scriptorium in the Early Middle Ages" as part of The Aldus Society's History of Text Series. She is Associate Professor of German, at Ohio State and Assistant Director of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

The Abbey of St. Gall in Switzerland was perhaps the most important cultural center on the European continent during the Carolingian and Ottonian periods. Thousands of manuscripts were produced in its scriptorium during this time. Unlike many medieval monastic collections, the majority of these texts are still preserved in the *Stiftsbibliothek* (the abbey library), providing modern scholars with a unique opportunity to investigate the medieval cultural milieu in which they were produced.

Anna's talk will focus on text and manuscript production in the ninth through the eleventh centuries and will investigate how these texts were used for instruction in the internal and external schools at St. Gall. She will draw upon a range of sources, historical as well as codicological, to answer such questions as: How did students learn Latin? How were reading and writing taught? And how were texts presented in order to facilitate instruction? In connection with this latter question she will describe page layout, punctuation, accentuation and glossing, both in Latin and the vernacular.

Since the majority of the students were native German-speakers, the vernacular played an important role in teaching the Latin curriculum. As a final point she will discuss how new modes of instruction brought about a blossoming of vernacular text production.

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Marantz Collection of Picture Books Featured at March 13th Program

For more than 40 years, professional educators Ken and Sylvia Marantz have studied, reviewed, and collected picture books. Ken, professor emeritus of art education at The Ohio State University, has offered a unique perspective of the picture book as an art object through thousands of reviews, courses, lectures, and articles for educators and others. He has served on the Caldecott Medal committee for picture books. Sylvia has combined the theoretical and the practical throughout her career as a librarian, author, and book reviewer for *School Library Journal* and *Five Owls*. Together they have authored eight reference works on the picture book.

Their March 13th program for The Aldus Society will cover how they acquired their collection, options for people collecting picture books, and they will bring examples of many of their favorites to share with the audience. Following the program, the Marantzes will lead a tour of their collection at CCAD for those who are interested in seeing even more. Program attendees can either walk the three short blocks to the library, or drive their cars and park in the adjacent lot.

Their comprehensive collection of almost 15,000 books is the outcome of their lifelong interest in picture

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From *The Cat in the Hat*, written and illustrated by Dr. Seuss

Art of the Picture Book

TIME: 7 p.m.
PLACE: The Thurber Center,
91 Jefferson Avenue,
next to Thurber House.
(Jefferson Avenue is one block west of I-71
off East Broad St. in downtown Columbus)

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

NEWSLETTER
CONTRIBUTORS:
George C. Bauman
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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE From Geoffrey D. Smith

This will be my last President's Column for *The Aldus Society Newsletter*. I have felt honored to have served as president of The Aldus Society for the past three years, but a healthy organization needs change and new leadership most often leads to renewed vigor and fresh ideas.

My sincere hope is that the Aldus Society membership will look upon the activities of the last three years as both educational and entertaining. I would like to claim sole credit for the many good things that have occurred over that time, but that claim rests more securely with an involved and hard working Board of Trustees and an active and committed membership. I thank all of you for your support.

Among many things, I am always impressed with the astute questions that follow our many lectures and, though the comments of our invited speakers remain the focus of our programs, the intellectual exchange of our membership is always inspiring. On a very personal level, I have found the increased social activity of The Aldus Society to be particularly gratifying as mutual interests of members have melded and acquaintances expanded.

Having said all this, I believe that the greater import of The Aldus Society to its membership is yet to be. Members suggest programming and events that could fill a debutante's calendar had we the time and means, and perhaps we will. Such input emphasizes the democratic nature of The Aldus Society, which, from its inception, has existed to serve the interested public without restrictions to membership or attendance at public programs.

I have noted before but always delight in repeating Erasmus' words about the print shop of our namesake, Aldus Manutius, that the salon associated with the Aldine Press was a university without walls. I believe the current Aldus Society emulates that concept and will continue to do so. The book world is wide and deep and, despite the quality and variety of topics and the eloquence of

UPCOMING BOOK SALES & FAIRS

37th Michigan Antiquarian Book and Paper Show

Sunday, April 6th

9:30am-5pm

Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave.

Lansing, Michigan

\$4.50 adm. call (517) 332-0112 for details

43rd New York Antiquarian Book Fair

April 10th - 13th

Park Avenue Armory, New York City

adm. \$15 per day call (212) 777-5218 for details

21st Akron Antiquarian Book Fair

April 18th & 19th

Friday, 3pm - 8:30pm

Saturday, 10am - 4pm

Emidio & Sons Exposition Center

48 East Bath Road, Cuyahoga Falls, OH

\$3.00 adm. call (330) 865-5831 for details

25th Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair

Sunday, May 8th

11am - 4pm

Union Ballroom, Univ. of Michigan

530 S. State Street

\$5.00 adm. call (734) 995-1891 for details

OSU Friends of Library Sale

Wednesday, May 7th: Preview for Friends members

Thursday & Friday, public welcome

call (614) 292-3387 for details



speakers who have addressed Aldus to date, there remain myriad areas of book arts and hosts of specialists whose presence would illuminate many a dark, inclement night as we have so recently experienced during this challenging Winter of ought three.

Again, I thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as your president. It has been an honor and a privilege and I look forward to talking with many of you at the many great programs in the future.

March Annual Business Meeting Will Include Voting for Trustees

At the March Business Meeting, scheduled for 6:00 p.m., just prior to the Program presentation, a new slate of trustees will be offered to Aldus members, and nominations from the floor will also be taken.

Running for re-election as trustees are Genie Hoster and Marcia Preston.

New trustees who have been nominated to the board are William W. Rich and Helen Liebman.

The business meeting is an open meeting, and current Aldus members may vote for the slate of candidates. Immediately following the election of the new trustees, there will be a trustees meeting, and officers for the next year will be nominated and then voted for office.

Past Newsletters Can Be Found on Aldus Web Site

Thanks to the hard work of Laura Masonbrink and Ron Ravneberg, all of the past newsletters published by The Aldus Society can now be read on our website.

If you haven't already visited, our site is located at www.aldussociety.com.

Now's the Time for A Day Trip to A Nearby Book Event

The original manuscript of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, the book that defined the restless beat generation that came of age in the mid-1950s, is on display through May 10th in the Lincoln Room at Indiana University's Lilly Library. More information can be found at www.indiana.edu/~liblilly.

The just-opened Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit will run through June 1 at the Van Andel Public Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The exhibit includes fragments of 12 different scrolls, including fragments from the books of Exodus and Psalms as well as many ancient artifacts. More information can be found at grmuseum.org.

TRADITIONS...continued from page one

To illustrate her program, Grotans will be sharing many wonderful manuscript images, including those she has gathered during the past ten years working in St. Gall.

Germanic Manuscript Traditions

DATE: April 17

TIME: 7 p.m.

PLACE: The Thurber Center.

91 Jefferson Avenue,

next to Thurber House.

(Jefferson Avenue is one block west of I-71 off East Broad St. in downtown Columbus)



Alice's Adventures in Wonderland as illustrated by John Tenniel and Arthur Rackham.

MARANTZ, continued from page 1

books. From Dr. Seuss and Maurice Sendak to *Goodnight, Moon* and *The Polar Express*, this premiere collection represents the best of the modern picture book. In April 2000, Columbus College of Art & Design (CCAD) accepted the Marantz Collection, making CCAD the only institution of art and design in the nation to offer such a resource to its students and community. The Marantz Collection is the only such collection organized by the artist or illustrator rather than by author, reflecting the Marantzes' view that a picture book has many of the attributes of an art object.

To celebrate this artistic and literary art form, CCAD's plans may include incorporating The Center for the Art of the Picture Book into its renowned illustration program as well as into the Saturday Morning Art Classes curriculum for the 1,000 central Ohio schoolchildren who come to the CCAD campus each fall and spring. Eventually, CCAD plans to encourage scholars to access the Center's growing resources of books, bibliographical information, reviews, and articles in addition to offering programs by visiting artists, authors, and experts in the field of visual literacy; exhibitions; and outreach activities for diverse audiences of children, educators, librarians, and social service groups that work with literacy and parenting.

Harry Campbell Speaks on Conservation of Books and Paper

The January meeting of The Aldus Society was held in our new permanent home for programs at the Thurber Center in downtown Columbus. One of the largest audiences to date showed up to hear Harry Campbell talk about the fascinating work he does as Book and Paper Conservator for the special collections of the OSU Libraries.

After World War II, preservation and conservation became more prominent for the salvation of damaged texts and paper, including those damaged during the war. As part of this movement, the American Institute of Conservation was founded in 1950 to promote a wider awareness of the need to preserve many of the manuscripts and paper materials which were deteriorating in both public and private collections.

Campbell showed a number of slides that illustrated the work he has done on valuable books and manuscripts, including before-and-after pictures which left no doubt in our minds as to the wonderful transformation that occurs when preservation alchemists apply their professional skills to damaged books, maps and other paper items. Numerous very informed questions followed the presentation showing the audience's keen interest in this subject.

Ron Ravneberg did the honors of introducing Campbell, and as has come to be expected by those who attend Aldus programs regularly, Ron recommended several books about books which were available for examination after the program.

Also on display after the meeting were several books restored by Campbell for Aldus members. The amazing restoration which we had been hearing about all evening became even more real as we were able to look at these beautifully reclaimed books.



— George Cowmeadow Bauman

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

The Aldus Society

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

Colleen Sell

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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