



# *Aldus Society Notes*

May, 2010

Volume 10, No. 2

## Annual Picnic Scheduled

Mark your calendar! Our annual Aldus Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 20th. This afternoon of delectation will be held at Bill and Bea Rich's home, a tradition begun a few years back. Bill's home is filled with wonderful books and *objets de livre*. And of course the picnic includes camaraderie with fellow Aldus collectors, accumulators, and all-round book lovers. As always, you are welcome to bring guests.

The picnic will start at 3 p.m. Aldus will provide meat and cheese for sandwiches as well as tableware. Marilyn Logue has sent you a note on the listserv (and to our few luddites: watch your snail mail). She'll let you know what you can bring, such as sides, salads and desserts. And for new members, we'll include Bill's address and directions to his home.

Thanks, Bill and Bea, for your hospitality!



We'll have another tasty buffet this year, and weather permitting, will enjoy gathering in Bill's backyard areas. Visit our website for more pictures from last year's event.



George Cowmeadow Bauman

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## *Aldus Society Meetings*

Regular meetings of the Aldus Society are held at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of the month at

**The Thurber Center  
91 Jefferson Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio**

☞ Socializing Begins One-Half Hour Before ☞

Visit the Aldus Society web site for up-to-date information about our programs and activities, in-depth articles about many of our speakers, and links to other book-related organizations.

[www.AldusSociety.com](http://www.AldusSociety.com)



## The Aldus Society

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George Cowmeadow Bauman

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## President's Message

by Genie Hoster

In 1995, Jay and I stunned his family by telling them that we were spending our honeymoon in downtown Detroit and Ann Arbor, Michigan, that "town up North." They were quite sure we had taken leave of our senses, to be sure. But many Aldus members know our little secret: both cities are home to used-book stores which hold treasures for those on the hunt for elusive tomes to fill our ever-expanding collections.

Ann Arbor is home to many independent used-book stores (there were even more back then). We walked many miles between book, artisan and antiques stores. Tired at the end of a fun-filled day, we collapsed into our seats in a great Italian restaurant that was celebrating its grand opening; we toasted our future together with a glass of ice water, as the restaurant hadn't received its liquor permit in time for the opening.

The next day we drove over to Detroit, the home of John King's landmark book store. It is situated right downtown surrounded by a dizzying maze of speedways, er, I mean freeways. Back in the day, John converted an old four-story glove factory into what has become most every book lover's dream book store. He filled every floor



John King's book store in downtown Detroit.

with books which are shelved loosely by subject; here and there somewhat dusty magazines and papers populate wide window sills; and book-filled tables form a spine down many aisle ways. If this description entices you even a bit, be forewarned: you might not be able to "do" the store in a full day.

An Aldus field trip, anyone?

Although I had just opened my book mall, John King and his staff welcomed us as warmly as they welcome their

long-time book colleagues. Later in the day, John allowed us to poke through his Rare Book Room located in an adjacent building. Here breathtakingly rare and beautiful books were shelved by catalog (rather than by subject). We were impressed with the floor-to-ceiling walnut paneling and an incredible fireplace mantle which he rescued from the unseemly demolition of an industrial baron's mansion by the lake. And there's many vintage wood, glass-fronted display cases filled with those VERY special tomes.

Soon, my attention was diverted to a frame sitting at eye level in a bookcase. Within

the frame were dozens of teeny-tiny, colorful book labels, all from old bookstores located in the Detroit area (and all mostly long gone).

Anyone who handles old books has certainly come across these small and

This book label is from the Newbook Library which was located in downtown Columbus.

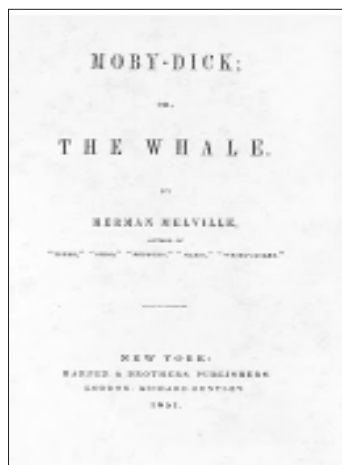


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# A Whale of a Great Time

On Saturday May 8th, members of The Aldus Society participated in the Ohioana Book Festival, which was held in the State Library of Ohio building just north of downtown. Aldus was a sponsor, and Christine Hayes made up special bookmarks to give to folks who stopped by our sponsor table. Marilyn Logue also helped to share the Aldus story with those who stopped by.

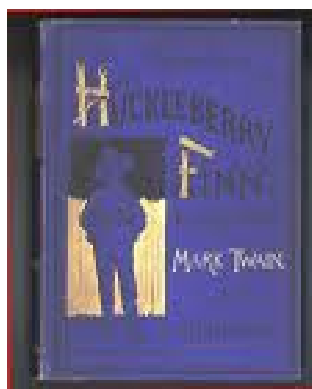
In addition, Aldus members Bill Radloff, Ed Hoffman, Genie Hoster and Harry Campbell participated in a book collecting panel that Kassie Rose moderated. Bill gave a brief overview on how to identify first editions, Harry talked about how to take care of your books, Genie told how book collecting can sometimes become an “unruly passion,” and Ed introduced the new website [www.vialibri.net](http://www.vialibri.net), where you can research the value of your books.



Over the noon time hours Ed Hoffman and Jay and Genie Hoster held an appraisal clinic. This was quite an eye-opening event. The appraisers (and those who were waiting in line) were treated to being able to examine a first American edition of Melville's *Moby Dick* (Harper & Broth-

ers, 1851) in original cloth binding. Jay and Ed felt that It was conservatively worth \$50,000.

A first American edition Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* (Ticknor, Reed and Fields, 1850), appropriately rebound in scarlet leather by Sangorski and Sutcliffe and protected in a custom box, was valued around \$3,000.



We saw a first edition of *Walden* in its original brown cloth binding.

And a copy of *Huckleberry Finn* in the much scarcer blue cloth (rather than green), in beautiful, bright condition, was valued by the appraisal team at \$30,000.

Ed Hoffman said about this exhilarating day, “It’s not every book appraisal event that first editions of *The Scarlet Letter*, *Walden*, *Huck Finn* and *Moby Dick* come through the door. It was quite a treat.”



## Geoff Smith Elected to FABS Leadership

At the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies (FABS) in New York City, our Aldus Society founder and permanent inspiration Geoff Smith was elected Vice Chair. Geoff will serve a 3 year term as Vice Chair (2010-2012), followed by a 3 year term as Chair (2013-2015). The election was held immediately preceding the opening of the New York Antiquarian Book Fair. Ten years ago Geoff spearheaded the formation of The Aldus Society, and led us into FABS membership soon after.

FABS has organized annual gatherings at club locations nationwide since its inception in 1993, and these confabs have included visits to nearby book resources, private libraries, and collections at the homes of local collectors.

As a member of The Aldus Society, you receive the FABS newsletter twice a year with your Aldus newsletter, and you are welcome to attend all FABS gatherings as well as individual club programs anywhere. Program schedules of the various FABS affiliates are included in the FABS newsletter.



# The Legend of King Arthur

by Bill Logue

The Bibliothèque nationale de France (Site François Mitterrand) brags that it has the largest collection in the world of medieval manuscripts concerning the Arthurian legend. Carol and I managed to visit this wonderful exhibit at our old stomping grounds during our recent trip to Paris. The entry to the exhibit was draped with huge pictorial banners giving a synopsis of this enduring legend, followed by the projection of excerpts from movies with Arthurian themes, including Disney's version of T. H. White's *The Once and Future King*.

Then came the manuscripts—over 100 thick codices, mostly illuminated, ranging from the ninth to the sixteenth century. It was an awesome, and a bit daunting, sight. Lovers of illumination could trace its evolution, beginning with those works where it was largely confined to decorative initials. Initials expanded to include tiny scenes from the Arthurian stories, scenes which then grew into separate panels and even series of panels to better illustrate the tales. Purely decorative illumination also appeared.

Between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries “vignettes” filled with plants, vines, flowers, birds and animals descended alongside the text and eventually, in the richest manuscripts, entirely surrounded it. Gold became more and more abundant. By the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the story panels grew to full or even double-page size and resembled contemporary easel paintings. The imagery tended to feature knights in shining armor conquering monsters, rescuing damsels in distress, jousting, or performing various heroic deeds before the worshipful eyes of elaborately coiffed ladies.

Interspersed among the manuscripts were some incredibly carved ivory boxes and panels representing scenes from the Arthurian legends. There were even the partial

remains of a very large Celtic cauldron that had been found in a Danish peat bog whose embossed decorations were presumed to have some connection with the Grail legend.

As time passed, links were made from the Arthurian stories to Christian traditions, such as the search for the Holy Grail, and to Christian ideas of morality. Basically, however, the Arthurian stories are mythical and secular, deeply rooted in Celtic culture and legends.

Was Arthur a real historical king? Chroniclers of the sixth century, the time when Arthur was supposedly active, do not mention him. The name Arthur for a Breton war chief who defeats the Saxons appears in the ninth century, but not until the twelfth century does Arthur appear in the works of William of Malsbury and Geoffrey of Monmouth as a great king, a defender of the Christian faith who surrounded himself with a brilliant circle of valiant knights.



Geoffrey of Monmouth (in Wales), probably of French origin, gave the Arthurian legend historical form in his *History of the Kings of Britain* (circa 1135). He had earlier written on the prophecies of Merlin and incorporated this character into the Arthurian canon. Both works, written in Latin, were widely translated and read throughout Europe.



Geoffrey of Monmouth (in Wales), probably of French origin, gave the Arthurian legend historical form in his *History of the Kings of Britain*.

Geoffrey was a convincing storyteller, though contemporary scholars doubted his historical accuracy. The counts of Brittany had ruled parts of Britain and the Welsh borders, so Geoffrey could easily combine Welsh and Breton legends, using his own imagination to produce the commanding figure of King Arthur. The

legend grew, and Arthur was assimilated into the broader Renaissance legend of the Nine “Preux,” the most valiant heroes of all history.

Geoffrey’s dubious history quickly became the launching pad for a proliferation of stories and romances centering around King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. The key author in this new phase of the Arthurian legend was Christian of Troyes who, between 1170 and his death in 1185, wrote five “novels” in Old French verse, implanting the legend firmly in French literature. His tales of knightly valor, of the hero’s quest, of brave deeds to win the heart of a beautiful damsel, were important in framing the concept of courtly love (including the tension between duty, marital fidelity, and romantic love) and have influenced European literature ever since. Christian introduced into the Arthurian canon the stories of Lancelot and Guinevere, of Percival and the quest for the Grail, among others. He also wrote a version of Tristan and Iseult which was closely related to Arthurian themes.



Geoffrey’s dubious history quickly became the launching pad for a proliferation of stories and romances centering around King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

It is impossible in this short piece to trace all the variations of the legend illustrated in the BnF’s manuscripts. The exhibit’s detailed labels helped us follow the spread and variations of these stories across the ages. The most important themes developed in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries were the Quest for the Holy

Grail, Tristan and Iseult, and tales of seductive women and of individual knights facing challenges both earthly and supernatural, while Arthur himself dropped into a secondary role.

These tales of the Knights of the Round Table reflected the values of medieval society. They were widely translated and helped to make familiar a concept of virtue that combined secular and Christian ideals. Jousting became popular because it gave knights a chance to emulate the values transmitted in the Arthurian legends. The Super Bowl is a distant cousin of this drive to emulate past heroes.

By the early sixteenth century, printed editions of Arthurian stories appear, illustrated with simple woodcuts. These books were smaller and plainer than the magnificent manuscripts, making them more affordable to a wider audience. We were forcefully reminded of Scott Brown’s presentation to the Aldus Society last year showing that each new technology drives out its more beautiful predecessors even as it gains a wider audience.



One of the most important themes developed in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries was the Quest for the Holy Grail.



Initials expanded to include tiny scenes from the Arthurian stories, scenes which then grew into separate panels and even series of panels to better illustrate the tales.

Some printers, like the Parisian Antoine Vérard,

tried to close the gap by simultaneously printing deluxe editions of the Arthurian stories in which he left spaces for hand-illuminated capitals and other decorations. The BnF exhibit clearly showed this transition.

Arthurian tales largely disappeared in France during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, with the last French prose edition of a tale featuring Lancelot appearing in 1591. More “modern” adventures like Ariosto’s *Orlando Furioso* became popular; the “French” Charlemagne replaced the Celtic Arthur as the most important hero-king. By the eighteenth century the Middle Ages had come to seem the Dark Ages to enlightened Frenchmen. Elsewhere, the Arthurian stories had more staying power.



In Britain, Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur* of 1470 kept the legend alive for later generations.

The BnF's exhibit ended with a brief coda highlighting Arthurian revivals in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, such as Tennyson's *Idylls of the King*, and Wagner's *Parsifal*. In our own lifetimes we have had White's *The Once and Future King*, Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, Monty Python's *Quest for the Holy Grail*, Lerner and Loewe's *Camelot*, and numerous movies and video games. The ethos of the Arthurian legend has perhaps been most faithfully preserved in the comic strip



The ethos of the Arthurian legend has perhaps been most faithfully preserved in the comic strip Prince Valiant.

Prince Valiant, also represented in the exhibit in French translation.

The enormous manuscript resources of the Bibliothèque nationale de France were on brilliant display in this exhibition. They have also produced an on-line version of the exhibition which you can see at <http://expositions.bnf.fr/arthur>. The presentation is in French, but non-French-readers can get through it by trial and error.

The beautiful illustrations are well worth the effort, and you can have fun turning the pages of several glorious manuscripts.

## For Laughing Out Loud Book Titles Meant to Be Funny — or Not

Below are real book titles (yes, we've checked them out!). Some were meant to be funny, others, not so much. Enjoy!

George Chappell: *Through the Alimentary Canal with Gun and Camera: A Fascinating Trip to the Interior*  
Dr. Robert Buttermann: *At Your Cervix: A Gynecologist Tells all in the Possum Trot Chronicles*  
Jerry Dellafemina: *From Those Wonderful Folks Who Brought You Pearl Harbor*  
Lewis Grizzard: *Elvis is Dead and I Don't Feel So Good Myself*  
Christopher Brookmyre: *All Fun and Games Until Somebody Loses An Eye* and *Attack of the Unsinkable Rubber Ducks*  
Charles E. Blanchard: *The Romance of Proctology*  
Michael Brown: *Brown's Alcohol Motor Fuel Cookbook*  
Duane Shinn: *Will Herk Go to Hell for Biting the Avon Lady?: Or... How to Raise 4 Kids, 5 Cats, and a Beagle Without Going Completely Wacko*

A favorite cookbook title: Maxine Saltonstall: *First You Take a Leek*  
Anne Black Montgomery: *Knitting With Dog Hair: A Woof-To-Warp Guide to Making Hats, Sweaters, Mittens and Much More*  
David Barry: *Babies and Other Hazards of Sex: How to Make a Tiny Person in Only 9 Months, with Tools You Probably Have around the Home*

On a similar note, Jay Hoster began collecting books with author/title juxtapositions such as:

Samuel Smiles: *Happy Homes and the Hearts That Make Them* (Incidentally Smiles also wrote a book called *Self-Help*, which gave rise to the name of this now-popular genre)  
Graham Rose: *Small Garden Planner*  
David Brownstone: *A Field Guide to American History*  
William F. Flint: *Physical Geology*

If you have a favorite book title, send it our way; we'll do a similar article again.

Aldus Collects

## PAUL WATKINS

In the Service of All Things Books  
by Shirley Hyatt



When I was asked to write a profile of Paul Watkins for the *Aldus Society Notes*, I jumped at the chance. I didn't know Paul well, and I was glad for the opportunity to get to know him better; Paul has been a quiet, friendly, welcoming presence at virtually every Aldus Society meeting.

Paul was a founding member of The Aldus Society and served on our first board of trustees. During our early brainstorming sessions to develop programming, Paul offered the idea of a History of the Text and Image lecture series, which continues even now, ten years later. This popular series has included speakers from a wide variety of areas from early stone inscriptions and medieval manuscripts, to the many facets of type design and printing.

In 2007 Paul retired as manager of Student Book Exchange (SBX), across High Street from The Ohio State

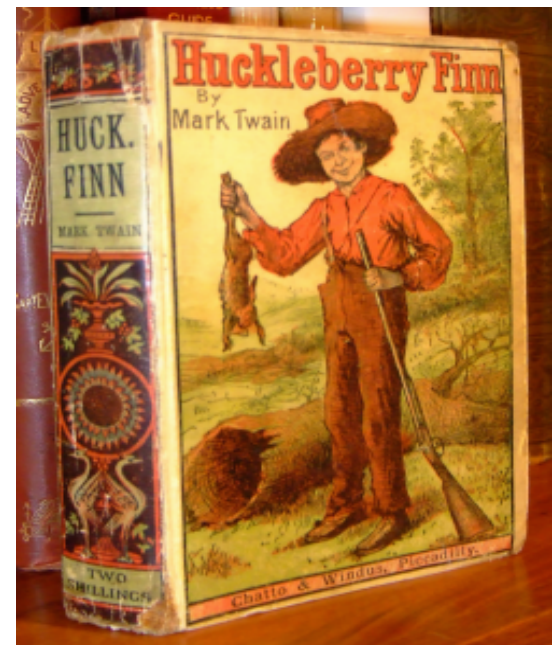
Here's Paul's yellow back edition of **Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn***, published in 1886 in London by Chatto & Windus. Yellowbacks, as defined by John Carter in his 1934 *New Paths in Book Collecting*, was the name given to "a particular type of cheap edition evolved about the middle of the nineteenth century for display and sale on W. H. Smith's Railway Bookstalls. It was usually (but not always) a cheap edition of fiction; it usually (but not always) cost two shillings; its basic coloring was usually (but not always) yellow—to which last characteristic, not surprisingly, it owed its *sobriquet*." Its distinctive character lies in the artwork especially commissioned for the covers.

University campus. Back in the fall of 1953 his older brother helped prepare for the store's opening and, as Paul tells it, he summarily informed Paul that this was where Paul would be working when he arrived at college. So Paul began working at SBX that September and basically never left. Paul worked his way through his undergraduate studies—he was enrolled in OSU's pharmacy school—and after graduation, Paul became a manager. And over time he was able to purchase stock in the store.

Over the 54 years he worked at SBX, Paul has witnessed—experienced!—huge changes in the book market. For instance, the average price of a textbook in 1953 was just \$4.00. By the time Paul retired, textbooks averaged \$130. When SBX opened, quality paperbacks were unknown in college bookstores. Today, literature is published in paperback form and paperbacks are commonplace.

When Paul first went into the book business—and throughout most of his career—students read, and read critically. Students accumulated libraries while in college and developed those libraries as they developed their careers. Today, Paul observes, students do neither, at least not nearly as much.

Nobody knows where the book marketplace is going. As a result, all publishers nowadays struggle for market share and no strategy is a clear winner. Paul experienced this



change through its impact on the store's inventory; SBX's inventory at one time was composed of 40,000 academically-oriented trade books (plus over 100,000 textbook titles); but by 2007, the trade-book inventory was just several thousand and shrinking.

Twenty years ago Paul began collecting information on the future of the book. In 1999 he gave a presentation to the Torch Club entitled "That Wonderful Book"—which was really about the future of literacy. (Paul also gave this presentation to the Aldus Society in 2005.) It's a topic that is near to his heart. His observation that students don't read anymore has been confirmed by recent studies.

In 2004 the National Endowment for the Arts published a study that found that the percentage of Americans reading books has dropped dramatically over the previous 20 years. This includes all education levels, all economic groups, all ages, all races, and all genders. As of 2002, less than half of the adult American population read literature, and only a slightly larger percentage—56 percent—read "any books." The rate of decline is accelerating, and the steepest decline in reading is in the youngest age groups. The decline in literary reading foreshadows an erosion in cultural and civic participation, reflecting, as Paul observed, the "bowling alone" syndrome.

Paul has had an abiding interest in the liberal arts, especially history. It was natural, therefore, that when Paul

began collecting books, he started with books on history and specifically military history. However, he is no longer actively collecting on this topic; nowadays, it's his collections of Mark Twain and Twainiana, Robert Sabuda's pop-up books, and his nearly-complete collection of RR Donnelley Lakeside Classics, that Paul proudly points to. He also has collections of books by Thomas Babington Macaulay, Reynolds Price, Paul Fussell, and Frederick Busch. He collects book ephemera, Globe-Wernicke stackable bookshelves, art... the list goes on.

I asked Paul whether he views his books as artifacts or as... something else, *i.e.* as books to be enjoyed as reading material. "It's a sin to have books you don't read (or at least *intend* to read)!" Paul exclaimed. Paul's active collections are based on his own personal reading interests.

Paul may be relatively new to retirement, but by my lights he's been keeping busy. He has been an energetic member of the OSU Friends of the Libraries for over 30 years, and oversaw the Friends' semi-annual book sales. Several years ago OSU Friends began sending the library's discards and donated books to Better World Books (BWB) instead of holding their in-house book sales. So Paul has assumed the responsibility of sorting and boxing these books for BWB, which sells them over the internet and returns a percentage of the final sale price to OSU Libraries.

Evaluating the donations is big task, and reflects Paul's commitment to contribute substantively to the organizations with which he's associated. As Gay Jackson,



Paul has been collecting **The Lakeside Classics** series for less than a year, and yet his collection of the Classics is missing just 10 volumes from the first 25 volumes issued. The Lakeside Classics series was started in 1903 by Thomas E. Donnelley, then president of RR Donnelley & Sons Company, and son of the founder. (RR Donnelley is the largest printing company in the world.) Donnelley believed that a simple book, dignified and well designed, would be an appropriate representation of how the company blends technology and craftsmanship to create lasting value. His goal was to prove that a fine book could be mechanically printed. The books, still produced, are never sold by RR Donnelley, but are given as gifts to Donnelley employees and preferred customers. Each 25 years the cover material is changed and type style adjusted to keep pace with current developments in fine book making. The 96 books in this series tend to be first-hand accounts of experiences representing America's coming of age; many of the earliest volumes consist of the speeches and writings of noted Americans.



Paul has 22 Robert Sabuda pop-up books. Sabuda is a leading children's pop-up book artist and 3-D paper engineer. He has been producing about one new pop-up book a year since 1994.

This superb movable book, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (right), was published in 2003, and pays homage to John Tenniel's original illustrations with six major pop-up spreads and an abridged version of Lewis Carroll's text tucked into smaller pop-up books within each spread. And believe it or not, every single piece in this book has been folded and glued by hand.

Director of Development at The Ohio State University Libraries, attests, Paul Watkins "has had a remarkable impact on The Ohio State University Libraries—as a spectacular volunteer, generous patron, sage advisor, and outstanding board member—he is a kind and wonderful human being who is respected and admired by everyone whose life he touches at the Library and throughout the University."

In addition, Paul has been involved with Thurber House for over 20 years. He has been on the board of trustees (and is currently Trustee Emeritus), has served on almost every committee, and is a docent. He is also one of the Thurber Players (a "readers theater" devoted to the writings of James Thurber, in which the players read from a script rather than acting from memory). He has been a member of the Columbus Torch Club—an organization devoted to the cultural interchange of knowledge—since 1996. Paul presently serves on the OSU Alumni Advisory Council, is chair of the OSU President's Club, is a member of the Ohio Humanities Council, and is treasurer of Worthington's new McConnell Arts Center. He has also served on the board of trustees of CATCO, and has supported many other community organizations such as the Ohioana Library Association.

Geoff Smith, Aldus' first president, said about Paul: "The Aldus Society was predicated on the mission to promote all things related to text and image, and in Columbus there is no better proponent of that mission than Paul Watkins."



Paul collects book ephemera, Globe-Wernicke stackable book cases (above), art... the list goes on. To the right is a portrait of Mark Twain beautifully rendered by Spiridon, done in Venice in 1898 along with daughter Clara. It was an oil painting, then done here as a lithograph and hand retouched, particularly the hair.



# A Brief Look Back...

We've been fortunate to have a wide variety of speakers this year, and thank each and every one of them for taking the time to share their knowledge with us.



In January, Patrick Losinski, Executive Director of the Columbus Metropolitan Library (*left*), gave a lively talk about the work that the library is doing in the community as well as the evolving systems within the library. He focused especially on the wide variety of programs for children, which of course are future readers, library patrons, book collectors and (possibly) Aldus members. He shared information about free access to the extensive databases available through the library and much, much more.

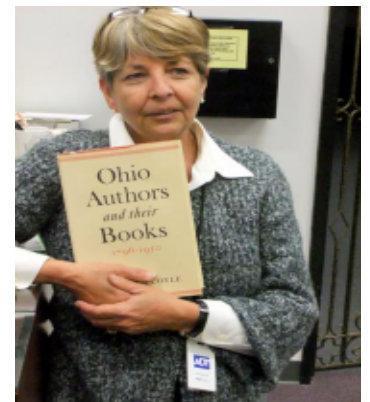
Rudine Sims Bishop (*right*) presented our February program, and focused on African-American children's literature. She brought a variety of colorfully illustrated books and gave us a terrific overview of the development of literature for Black Americans, especially children.

Rudine Sims Bishop (*right*) presented our February program, and focused on African-American children's literature. She brought a variety of colorfully illustrated



In March, antiquarian book authority David Lilburne was our Ravneberg Memorial Speaker. He focused on the materials which our past president and mentor Ron Ravenberg collected, including maps and books about Captain Cook. He showed pictures of beautiful, rare and unusual maps. He also shared less-expensive items and gave us tips on how to acquire these materials. He is pictured at the left with Janet Ravneberg.

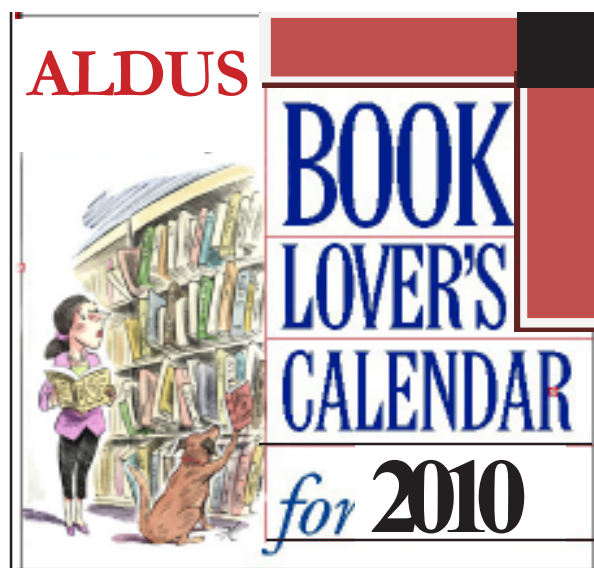
Our April program was held at The Ohioana Library, where materials by and about virtually every Ohio author are stored. Library director Linda Hengst (*right*) gave us a talk on the history of the Library, which has recently moved to the State Library of Ohio building. After her talk we were allowed to wander through the stacks to view the books, photos and other materials stored in their climate-controlled archives.



In May, Gabrielle Fox (*left*) shared her fantastic collection of miniature books, along with the teeny-tiny equipment on which they were made. Her delightful talk included a brief history of miniature books and she gave the background behind many of the examples of books which she and other book artists have designed.

Photos courtesy of George Cowmeadow Bauman





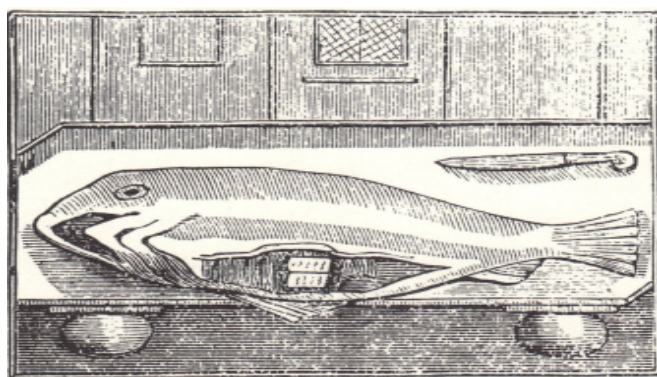
## MAY

**22-25** Case Western Reserve University book sale in the Adelbert Gym on campus, 60-70,000 books. (Presale on Saturday from 10 am-Noon, \$20 admission); starts at noon on Saturday & Sunday for public. 216/368-2090 for more details

**23** Upper Arlington Friends Sale; sale opens at noon on Sunday, May 23; held during library hours after that

## The Book Fish

On the 23rd of June 1616, a cod fish was brought to Cambridge market, which, upon being opened, was found to contain a book in its maw, or stomach. The book was much soiled, and covered with slime, though it had been



Vox Piscis (the Book-Fish).

## JUNE

**6-11** 38th Annual Cincinnati Main Library Sale, over 70,000 items. 1-5 pm on Sunday, various times during the week. 513-369-6900 for more details

**20** Aldus Picnic at Bill Rich's home. Starts at 3 pm. Watch the listserv or your mail for details

**25-27** 30th Annual Anderson Township (Cincinnati) book sale held at Nagel Middle School, over 60,000 books. Opens at 10 am on Friday & Saturday. 513/369-6030 for more details

## SEPTEMBER

**9** Aldus Program Robert Slotta on Mark Twain

**10-12** 58th Annual AAUW Sale at Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence building in Ann Arbor. (Presale 8 - 10 am on Friday, \$20 admission) 10 am - 8 pm Friday & Saturday, 10 am - 3 pm on Sunday



wrapped in a piece of sail-cloth. It was a duodecimo work written by one John Frith, comprising several treatises on religious subjects.

The treatises contained in this book were written by Frith, when in prison. Strange to say, he had been long confined in a fish cellar at Oxford, where many of his fellow prisoners died from the impure exhalations of unsound salt fish. He was removed from thence to the Tower, and in 1533 was burned at the stake for his adherence to the reformed religion. The authorities at Cambridge reprinted the work, which had been completely forgotten, till it turned up in this strange manner. The reprint is entitled *Vox Piscis*, or the Book Fish, and is adorned with a woodcut representing the stall in Cambridge market, with the fish, book, and knife.

— R. Chambers, *The Book of Days*





## The Aldus Society

P. O. Box 1150

Worthington, Ohio 43085-1150

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*PRESIDENT'S LETTER, continued from page 2*

sometimes beautiful labels pasted discreetly (more or less) into the endpapers. Booksellers, binders, printers and publishers of books used to advertise in this way using labels that were printed, some die-cut, foil or in some cases, stamped. They caught my eye because of their

combination of small size, unique design, meaningful subject matter, and all-around general bookish delightfulness.

At that time, I vowed to collect labels from Colum-

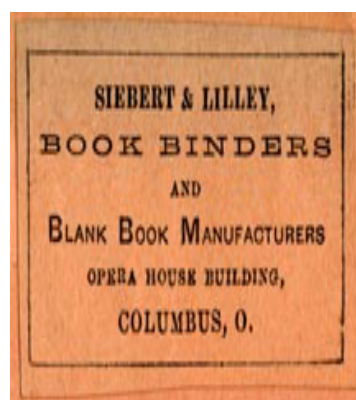
bus book stores, binders and stationers. Jay and I have assembled quite a few since then.

There's so much history behind these labels, and I've talked with several Aldus members about the possibility of our researching and writing a history of bookselling in the Columbus area. This would include gathering oral histories from booksellers, as well as burying ourselves in vintage city directories and copying ads from old area

publications. And of course, locating more of these delightful mini-souvenirs from yesteryear.

George Bauman has offered to help...if there are any of you out there who would like to help with this project,

just let me know what areas of research you might be interested in and we can take it from there. Cheers!



McClelland's Bookstore was a fixture for Columbus book buyers and sold new books. Many book lovers nostalgically remember the rare books department in the Lazarus Book Shop located in the downtown flagship store. Siebert & Lilley were book publishers located at Rich and High Streets; their business burned down in 1892 in the great Opera Block fire.

