



Aldus Society Notes

Summer 2011

Volume 11, No. 2

Plan for These Fun Summer Events

Thanks to the fine efforts of the Aldus Program Committee, plans for books and biblio-fellowship will continue throughout the summer months. Watch the listserv nearer to each event for final announcements with relevant details.

Thursday evening, June 16, Bob Tauber will be welcoming Aldus members and giving us a tour of the newly-located Logan Elm Press at 1165 Kinnear Road.



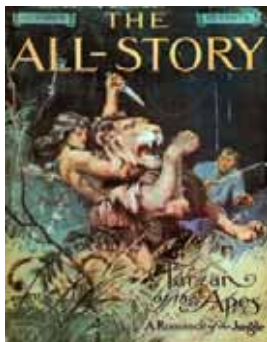
The facility is the publishing arm of the OSU Libraries' Center for Book Arts. Bob and a number of Aldus Society volunteers have completed our Tenth Anniversary keepsake, and it will be given out that evening to attendees (and mailed to all who cannot attend this event). The open house will be held from 6-8 p.m.

On **Sunday, June 26**, Bea and Bill Rich will be hosting our annual summer potluck at their wonderful home in Worthington. Started by Geoff and Lois Smith during the early days of Aldus, this event has become an annual tradition that members really look forward to. So far the weather has always been great and the opportunity to see friends old and new in this comfortable setting surrounded by all of Bill and



Bea's libraries is a unique and memorable experience. Watch the listserv (or your mail, oh ye Luddites) for more details in early June. (Members and guests only)

Thursday, July 28, Steve Haffner will be in town to speak at the weekend-long PulpFest, a confab of speakers, collectors and dealers in all things which relate to the long and storied history of those early magazines, digests and vintage paperbacks which were



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The Aldus Society

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Genie Hoster

Depending on how you calculate it, we are somewhere near completing our first ten years in existence as an organization. We drew up our bylaws during the first quarter of 2000, and enjoyed our first speaker in May of that year (FABS founder Robert Jackson, who spoke on Victorian literature). In June of that year, Geoff and Lois Smith hosted our first summer picnic, a true testament to the biblio-fellowship which was to follow. Does our anniversary year end in December, the end of the calendar year, or some time sooner depending on which landmark we choose to honor. Inquiring minds want to know!

Very soon, current members will be receiving a copy of our Tenth Anniversary keepsake. It will be handed out on June 16, when Bob Tauber gives us a tour of Logan Elm Press' new digs. Nancy Campbell has spearheaded this project and has been assisted by Bob and his staff, and by Aldus members Hal Stevens, Ann Alaia Woods, Helen Leibman, and many book elves who helped with sewing the binding, and numbering the copies. Thanks to everyone who helped to make it happen.

As you've been able to tell by glancing through this newsletter, our programming cup runneth over. We're booked for programs, field trips and other activities virtually every month this year (if we can count on scheduling the Book Crawl in August). A tip of the hat to Marilyn Logue, our newly-elected program chair, and members and contributors to her committee including Geoff Smith, Eric Johnson, Jay Hoster, and Ed Hoffman. And to Lois Smith for planning our field trips.

In May, the Aldus Society sadly lost member Carol Logue. Carol and her husband Bill joined us during our very first year. She was a member of our Board of Trustees and served as our first Secretary. I became acquainted with Carol and Bill when they brought a copy of a book printed by Aldus Manutius to our store with the expectation that we could help them find a buyer for the book.

What a treat to see my first Aldine book! Since I had flyers about The Aldus Society, I gave them a handful and suggested they see Geoff Smith, head of Rare Books and Manuscripts at the OSU Library and our "founding father" for Aldus.

(continued on page 5)

Aldus Society Meetings

Regular meetings (beginning in September) will be held at
7:30 PM on the second Thursday of each month at

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

☞ Socializing Begins One-Half Hour Before ☞

printed on cheap pulp paper. Jungle hero Tarzan made his debut in *All-Story*, and soon after genre titles began to flourish such as *Detective Story*, *Amazing Stories*, *The Shadow* and *Doc Savage*. Haffner is the owner-operator of Haffner Press, a small press based in Royal Oak Michigan. He is tentatively scheduled to talk to Aldus members on author and pulp historian Ed Hamilton, who is the creator of the Captain Future series of space opera stories. He is the author of hundreds of stories for a wide variety of pulps as well as for DC Comics (Batman, Superman, etc.) during the 1940s and '50s. This program is tentatively scheduled to be held in the Thompson Library, so watch the listserv for details closer to this date. For more details on PulpFest, go to www.pulpfest.com

Saturday, August 13 we will have the third Aldus Ladies' Lunch of the year. The first two have been at Marcia Preston's lovely home and at La Chatelaine French Bakery and Bistro on Lane Avenue. Will we have a permanent home for the luncheons, or will we travel to different locales to enjoy tasty treats and conversations? Stay tuned as we announce the location a bit closer to this date.

Are you ready for another **Book Crawl**? Well we are, too! De Res, the student rare books group at Ohio State (Aldus trustee Eric Johnson is their advisor), is planning to hold one this summer as well, so our program committee is working with them to see if we can schedule a "co-crawl." The Aldus event last year was so much fun that we surely need to make it yet another annual Aldus tradition. We'll let you know the details as soon as they are finalized.



Autumn 2011 Programming



September 8

Why is it we visit writer's houses? Although skeptical about the stories these buildings tell us about their former inhabitants, Ann Trubek, author of *A Skeptic's Guide to Writer's Houses*, will tell us how she has fallen a little bit in love with each stop on her itinerary. Dr. Trubek is Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Composition and English at Oberlin College.

October 13

Aldus member Dr. Steven Katz will talk about the art and ephemera created by poet e.e. cummings. Cummings viewed himself as much a painter as a poet, as evidenced by the enormous amount of time and energy he devoted to this lesser-known half of his "twin obsession." Steven has assembled his own collection of these works and will share them with Aldus at this program (details to follow in your September newsletter)

October 15

Field trip to Denison Library Special Collections
(watch the listserv closer to this date...car pooling is encouraged)

November 5

Field trip to Buckeye Book Fair in Wooster, Ohio
(watch the listserv closer to this date...car pooling is encouraged)

November 10

Dr. Steven Galbraith, Curator of Books at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C....who formerly worked in OSU's Rare Books and Manuscripts department...will talk on Shakespeare's First Folios. Each Folio has special identifying characteristics (which aided in the apprehension of the man who brought the First Folio stolen from Durham University's museum in the U.K. to the Folger for "authentication"). Bad move!

December 5

Holiday Dinner and Silent Auction at LaScala

This yearly tradition is filled with biblio-friendship and good cheer. Proceeds from the silent auction go to help underwrite program speakers including the annual Ron Ravneberg Memorial Lecture.

Watch your mail or email for further information.

Ohioana Book Festival Turns up Rare Volumes (Again)

For the second year, The Aldus Society was a proud supporter of the Ohioana Book Festival which was held on Saturday, May 7th. Although the sky threatened to open forth with rain, the clouds finally blew away and attendees remained dry as they travelled between the three buildings at the Fort Hayes Educational Center, which is the new home for the Festival.

Over 100 authors were on hand to sign their books and participate in panel discussions and give presentations on their books at this day-long event. Aldus members held both an Appraisal Clinic and held a panel discussion on collecting.

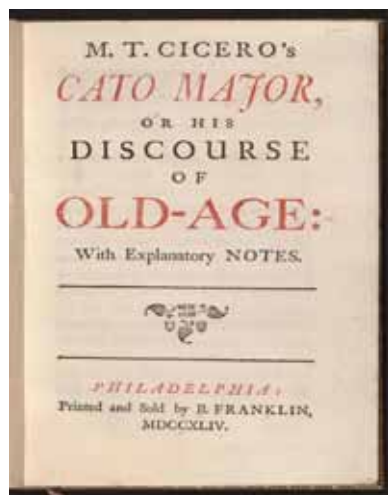
Aldus members George Bauman, Ed Hoffman and Jay Hoster answered moderator Kassie Rose's questions about book buying trends and finding books on the internet. George emphasized the value of establishing a working relationship with your local used book dealers so that you might be notified if a book in your collecting area comes into their store.

Ed recommended www.ViaLibri.com as an internet site which has invaluable information on not just book prices but also provides access to dealers' catalogues in a variety of collecting areas, access to the inventory of libraries worldwide, and links to websites and pages of interest to bibliophiles.

In addition to the panel, Aldus members and book dealers Ed Hoffman, George Bauman and Jay and Genie Hoster staffed the Appraisal Clinic table. They were excited about seeing a number of rare books, even more spectacular than were seen last year at this event. The owners were kind to share these wonderful books with us, and so we pass along our appreciation to you. Please promise not to drool as you read this:

First we saw a copy of *M. T. Cicero's Cato Major*, printed by Benjamin Franklin in 1744 in Philadelphia. Franklin's personal favorite from his press, this book is considered to be the finest example of the printing art in colonial America. (We agree!)

Next to his almanacs, the *Cato Major* is probably Franklin's best-known publication. The work by the great Roman orator and philosopher was



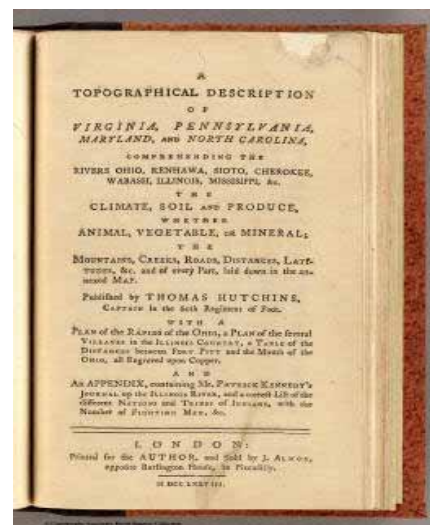
translated, with explanatory notes, by Chief Justice James Logan of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, who after William Penn and Franklin, was the most important individual in the early history of Pennsylvania. *Cato Major* is generally conceded to be the finest product of Franklin's press, if not the eighteenth century American press.



Next to his almanacs, *Cato Major* is probably Franklin's best-known publication.

He said of this volume: "I have, Gentle Reader, as thou seest, printed this Piece of Cicero's in a large and fair Character, that those who begin to think on the Subject of Old-Age, (which seldom happens till their Sight is somewhat impair'd by its Approaches) may not, in Reading, by the Pain small Letters give the Eyes, feel the Pleasure of the Mind in the least allayed."

In addition to Franklin's book, there were two spectacularly rare Americana volumes. First, a 1778 first edition of Thomas Hutchins' *A Topographical Description of Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and North Carolina...* (see below) This book is considered a "valuable source for the western country during the late British period, written by the first-and-only official geographer of the United States, the originator of our range system of land surveys" (Howes). It included all the maps and plates as well as the errata. This was an attractive ex-library copy (some library somewhere is certainly regretting its decision to deaccession this book...there's only one copy available for sale at this time, an incomplete, corrected second edition, no errata, with an asking price of \$48,000).



The second Americana volume the appraisers saw was a first edition of *Message from the President of the United States, Communicating Discoveries Made in Exploring the Missouri, Red River and Washita, by Captains Lewis and Clark, Doctor Sibley, and Mr. Dunbar; with a Statistical account of the Countries Adjacent*. It was published in 1806 in the City of Washington.



This book by Lewis and Clark was the first real account of the northwestern portion of the Louisiana Purchase

This book is the first work to provide a real accounting of the northwestern portion of the Louisiana Purchase, and the first official publication with detailed information of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The first section contains material which Meriwether Lewis communicated to Thomas Jefferson, and discussed their route, trade, the Indians encountered, the flora and fauna, and, of course, the geography of the land. The official leader of the epic Lewis and Clark expedition, Meriwether Lewis has been called “undoubtedly the greatest pathfinder this country has ever known.” The bountiful store of intelligence Lewis and Clark accumulated held far-reaching implications for the future of the new nation, both scientifically and politically.



The smallest bookstore still contains more ideas of worth than have been presented in the entire history of television.

~Andrew Ross

President's Message, continued

Not only did Geoff purchase their book for OSU's collections, but he followed up on my invitation for them to come to some of our meetings. Soon Carol was serving on our Board and adding a wonderful dimension to all of our get-togethers. As a retired librarian she contributed much to the fabric of our organization.

Always filled with fun ideas, Carol originated the idea for our Ladies' Luncheons. Held several times each year, they were always filled with much laughter and with tales and photos from the travels and adventures of the Aldus ladies in attendance. Carol was an epicurean and shared stories of wonderful restaurants she and Bill visited on their trips to Paris (and so many other places of interest). While in



Carol and her husband Bill attended many Aldus programs and events. This picture was taken when we lunched during our field trip to Malabar Farms, home of Ohio writer Louis Bromfield.

Paris each winter, they toured many of the museums and art galleries of that fabled city, and wrote long, informed emails to friends in Columbus about their visits.

Even in the face of declining health these past few years, Carol was a trouper! She and Bill came to our Holiday Dinner last year and attended our Aldus programs this past spring. We'll miss her laughter and conviviality and the wonderful companionship she brought to dinners with friends, programs, and Aldus events.

At the Ladies' Luncheon in May, we lifted a toast to Carol in remembrance of such a warm and wonderful person. God Bless.



FABS Book Tour and Symposium

by Miriam Kahn

Each year, the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies (FABS) holds a Book Tour and Symposium in a different U.S. city, and a local FABS chapter serves as host. This year, 58 book collectors, librarians, and book lovers gathered in Pittsburgh from May 11 -15 to experience special collections, rare books, and more which are held in public institutions and private hands in the Pittsburgh area. This was a stimulating, thought provoking, and utterly exhausting 4 ½ days in this beautiful city. This was my first time at a FABS meeting, so Geoffrey and Lois Smith, who also attended, were happy to let me volunteer to share our adventures.

On Wednesday evening we began with a lavish reception at the Gailliot Center for Newman Studies just a few blocks from the hotel. This two story building holds copies of every book written by the Venerable John Henry Cardinal Newman. It includes books by his contemporaries, those who influenced the Cardinal and much more. At this opening reception, we had the opportunity to meet one another and begin to establish life-long friendships.

Thursday we spent the day at the University of Pittsburgh seeing a wide variety of special collections and rare books.

We saw their original double elephant folio of Audubon original prints (*see below*), which is considered the greatest book of printed engravings ever produced, and everything from incunabula to modern rare books.



The Special Collections departments at Pitt are digitizing as much as they can to provide access to their amazing collections. You can find more about the Audubon images and associated text at www.digital.library.pitt.edu/audubon/

Next the University Archivist pulled a wide variety of materials from their local history collection and historic Pittsburgh collections (www.digital.library.pitt.edu/pittsburgh/). We then enjoyed seeing items from their manuscript collection including three letters written and signed by George Washington and correspondence about the Ohio Company. Just holding these items in my hands sent chills down my spine. Finally we toured the Stephen Foster music collection where the curator serenaded us with “My Old Kentucky Home.”

In the early evening, we went to the home of John R. Block, owner of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and the *Toledo Blade*. Mr. Block opened his house to everyone and showed us his beautiful collection of legal books and documents. I held two William Pitt deeds which were dated 1680; they were for transferring lands in the Pennsylvania wilderness. An opportunity of a lifetime!

Later we had a lavish dinner at the Duquesne Club, the home of local businessmen and women. The food was great and the service impeccable.

The collectors in our group loved the fine bindings and vellum at the Posner Center Library. The items were stunning.

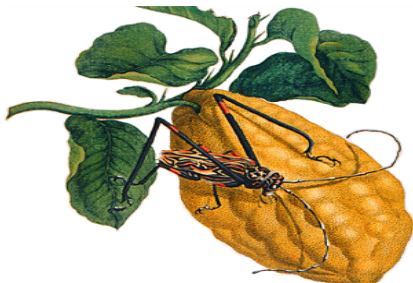


Friday we saw a private collection called the Posner Center Library at Carnegie Mellon University. The collectors in our group loved the fine bindings and vellum. The items were stunning. We weren't allowed to touch this museum collection. For more information you can go to www.posner.library.cmu.edu/Posner/

Our second stop was the special collections at Carnegie Mellon university, where we saw the fine holdings of their collection. The Special Collections Librarian let us examine some of the books. There was one leaf from a Gutenberg Bible, books of illustrations, a Kelmscott Chaucer (just stunning), and more. The librarian pulled out the materials she uses for teaching. I was so envious of the amazing examples. She was very nice and later sent me the captions for each book and how she uses them in her classes.

We rounded out the morning with a talk and tour of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation (www.huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/). It's located just one floor above the CMU rare books room. There we saw the books of plants, herbals, and botanical specimens. They collect books

about botany and horticulture, the science and the cultivation of plants. The color, the printing, the bindings were all amazing. One after another, the riches of this special collection astounded FABS members. And there was an exhibit of French botanical prints entitled “The Language of Flowers” (www.huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/HIBD/Exhibitions/Exhibitions.shtml).



The color, the printing, the bindings were all impressive. One after another, the riches of this special collection astounded FABS members.

The librarians told us more about plants than we could possibly remember and provided us with a bibliography of the materials they pulled, as well as reference materials on botanical and herbal plates and a book about how they were printed.

If that wasn't enough, we went downtown by bus to the Heinz History Center (www.heinzhistorycenter.org) and enjoyed lunch and a quick walking tour of the center.

This time George Washington was included in their exhibit on the French and Indian Wars. All the captions were in English and French, and the audio was in English, French, and Creek.

The afternoon ended with a tour of the Andy Warhol Museum with its collections of 8000 works.

John Block also provided a tour of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette building and shared his antique newspapers and his printing presses. Alas, I had to miss that tour. I heard it was fantastic.

Saturday morning was the time for the traditional symposium where we heard three experts speak about the book and history.

- Dr. Richard Cox, Professor of Archives at Pitt's School of Information Sciences spoke about the importance of archives and the future of analog/print and digital/electronic records. He painted an interesting picture of the future of the profession and reinforced the need to keep and retain records of the past and present.

- Mary Kay Johnsen, Special Collections Librarian at Carnegie Mellon University, treated FABS attendees to a lecture about the history of the printed word. The images were delightful and traced literature for aural and oral through movable type to the future.
- John Block talked candidly about the future of the news and newspapers, reminding listeners that newspapers are a for-profit business and that the industry is still trying to figure out where the profits will be in the future.



Just three short blocks away, a walking tour of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh awaited us (*pictured above*) (www.carnegielibrary.org/). We were treated to talks about local history and were shown the treasures of their Rare Book Collection. Many participants were shocked to see rare books with stamped, embossed, and perforated library property marks. What an eye opening experience for the librarians to see the reactions of rare book collectors!

The “King of Billiards,” Michael I. Shamos, invited FABS to tour his billiards collectibles. We saw cues, balls, tables, and lots of books about the subject, some as old as 500 years. The etchings of French aristocrats playing billiards were astounding.



We saw etchings similar to this one.

Saturday evening was the banquet where rare books were sold, some printing on silk was displayed, food overflowed our plates, and speeches were short.

Before we left on Sunday, we ventured out of Pittsburgh to visit Frank Lloyd Wright's spectacularly designed Fallingwater at Mill Run (www.fallingwater.org/). The river was flowing, the falls were gushing, and the house tour was a nice break from all the books and special collections, although we still weren't allowed to touch anything. This house is nestled amongst glacial rocks and is cantilevered over the falls and the grounds outside are quite noisy in the spring.

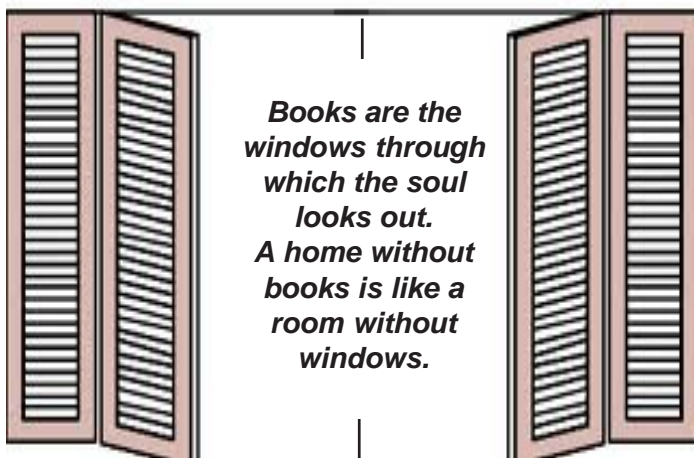
From there we traveled to the Westmoreland Museum of American Art (*pictured below*) and saw their collection of art ranging from 1750 to the late 1980s, which included a smattering of modern artists.



Their focus is art from the region and from western Pennsylvania. They also have paintings by Copley, Sargent, and Mary Cassatt, and much more. This beautiful collection is just 30 miles from Pittsburgh.

This was, I hope, the first trip of many. It was the best present I've ever bought for myself, and one of the best opportunities to see great collections of books, art, and more. I met new people and spent time with old friends. And I learned about how book collectors see the books librarians handle every day. I'll savor this trip for many months and years to come.

If you haven't attended a FABS outing, treat yourself to a trip next year. The next Book Tour and Symposium is confirmed for June 6-10, 2012 in Boston.



The Completist Stamping Around the World of Books

com-plete (kəm-plēt')

n. com-plet-ist

1. Having all necessary or normal parts, components, or steps; entire: a complete collection
2. *Books*: Having every possible collectible permutation of work created about a particular subject or regarding an author's career or lifetime. By definition, the collection will include printing variations (and of course first editions), original manuscripts, pamphlets and other printed appearances (called ephemera), all recorded appearances such as an author reading their own works (or the performances of an author's works by others), reviews, autographs and signed letters of most any kind, photos, foreign language editions (*see bibliographies, stalking, idiosyncratic, obsessive-compulsive*)
3. Having come to an end; concluded.
4. Absolute; total: "*I have every possible collectible item related to (insert your interest here). I have just had to purchase a second house to store them.*"

A majority of Aldus members are collectors of some type. We have members who focus on books by particular authors (Tony Clark, for instance, collects books by Morgan Llywelan (and is webmaster for her website which he has named www.completist.com); Geoff Smith has a wonderful collection of books by contemporary Irish writers; Marcia Preston collects beautiful, hand-printed fine press books; George Bauman has been amassing books about book selling and hopes to write a bibliography of books on this subject at some time in the future (not to mention all the *objets de livre* in his bookstore and his home); Lois Smith shared her collection of community cookbooks at our last Aldus Collects program. Each person follows their own set of "rules" in amassing their treasures. In our last newsletter, Bill Rich shared his rules for collecting Anthony Trollope, wherein he noted that "the pleasure of the hobby is that you can make the rules to suit yourself."

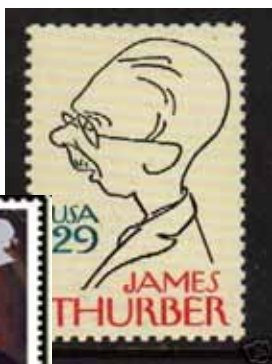
Our Aldus Collects program each January focuses on collectors and their collections. For all of us, the thrill of collecting is in the chase, and in exploring all the aspects of a subject or author's works and life. For the completist the chase also extends to visiting book fairs, antique malls, thrift stores and spending countless hours exploring the 'net.

In order to assist Aldus members in expanding their book collections into more complete representations of their subject matter, we will run a series of columns which

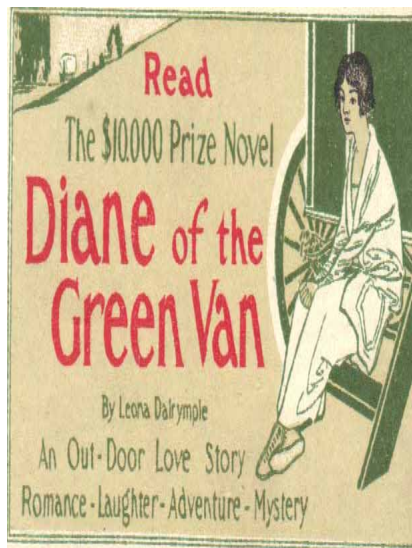
focus on sidetrips that might be taken by those who wish to nourish their completest tendencies

The first alley we head into here is the STAMP, both those issued by the postal service and those referred to as “cinderellas” or “poster stamps.” Books, authors and literary subjects have been featured on these miniature pieces of art for quite some time.

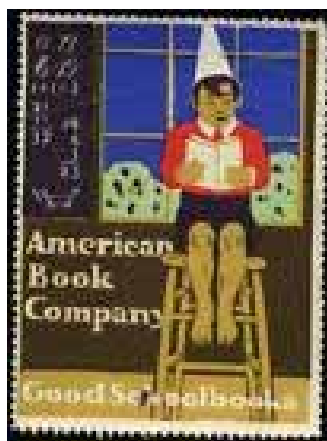
First: postal stamps. In an effort to sell stamps that people will collect rather than actually use (which then affords a post office a tidy profit), post offices in countries worldwide (including the United States) have issued stamps honoring book and/or authors. Stamp collectors (and completists) are an important source of revenue for some small countries that create limited runs of elaborate stamps designed mainly to be bought by collectors (*see Poe stamp at bottom of this page*). The stamps produced by these countries generally far exceed their postal needs. These stamps are pooh-pooed and sometimes called “wallpaper” by serious stamp collectors, much the same way a collector of fine leather-bound 18th-century books might scorn a collector of the now-collectible, usually well-worn Armed Services Editions that soldiers carried with them onto the battle field (no insult intended toward either collector!).



Second: poster stamps. Early in this century, before World War I, there was an extremely popular collectible – the poster stamp (also called Cinderella stamps). Used as a poster in miniature, it performed all the functions one associates with the poster. It promoted, propagandized, pleased and best of all, was small enough to collect in albums. There were poster stamp exhibitions as we now have stamp shows. Not dissimilar to trade cards or advertising covers in their appeal, poster stamps are a rich source for collectors.



Advertising was the driving force of poster stamps from the earliest time, whether it was advertising a local fair, the great new



automobile, or a trip on the Graf Zeppelin.

And, of course, books. Book publishers frequently issued these stamps to

promote new titles and authors. Most of the colorful book stamps have out-lived the popularity of the books they promoted, except in the case of pop culture icons such as the *Wizard of Oz* and *Alice in Wonderland*. And since many of these pop-culture stamps were produced in Germany during World War I, copyright issues were never pursued.



Quaint Book Repair Techniques Revisited

by Jay Hoster

At his recent Aldus presentation entitled “All Things Dewey” Larry Olszewski reviewed the life and work of Melvill Dewey, creator of the Dewey Decimal System and a pioneering force in library science.

Larry made available some publications that were edited by Dewey, and in the July 1895 issue of *Library Notes*, there’s an article “Library Recipes” by Katharine Lucinda Sharp.

These now appear to be quaint remedies for the various ills that befall books, but at the time were undoubtedly the best options available. Here are some of my favorites, presented with the disclaimer that you shouldn’t try these at home. Or at work, for that matter.

With Dewey there’s an additional disclaimer that’s necessary. I have retained his experiments with phonetic spelling, so don’t be surprised to come across a usage such as “thuroly soakt.” (That would be “thoroughly soaked” for the rest of us.)



Users of snuff must have been pleased to learn of a practical application for their vice: “Book-worms are exterminated rapidly and effectually by mixing equal parts of powderd camfor and snuff, and sprinkling the shelves with the mixture every six or eight months.”

For a different sort of problem, the article advises to “add a few drops of brandy or other spirit to keep ink from freezing.” As for other ink-related worries, “a little salt will prevent it from molding.”



Getting rid of ink where it doesn’t belong calls for sterner measures. “To erase ink marks from paper and leave the surface smooth, wash by means of camel’s-hair pencils [brushes], dipt alternately in solutions of cyanid of potasium and oxalic acid.”



Clearly library workrooms of the 1890s were no place for temperance advocates, as in this comment: “Bindings may be preservd from mildew by brushing them over with spirits of wine.” Creating a glue to fasten leather to iron might seem more useful for a saddle maker than a librarian, but nonetheless, the article has some useful advice: “Take some good strong glue and mix it with full proof whiskey. Let it digest for three or four days and it will be ready for use.”

Getting dust off of books called for some tough love: “The proper way to clean books is to take two of the same size and strike their sides smartly together several times until all the dust is expeld; do not apply cloth, brush or duster, under any circumstances. If treated in this way, books will retain their original freshness for years.” If, of course, they haven’t fallen apart from the rough treatment.

The recommended disinfectant calls for “a box 24 inches square and two feet high with a shelf half way up. The bottom should be of tin. Put brimstone on the tin and set it on fire. Place the book on the shelf and shut it up for a day.” It’s odd that the article didn’t advise practicing this with copies of Dante’s *Inferno* until the user either (a) gets the method down pat, or (b) accidentally burns down the library.

By now the workroom has probably started to resemble a crime scene, so it would be useful to know how to get rid of blood stains: “Plunge the staine leaves in *cold* water; when thuroly soakt, wash the stains with a soft brush charged with soap. Rinse well with water again, and dry.”

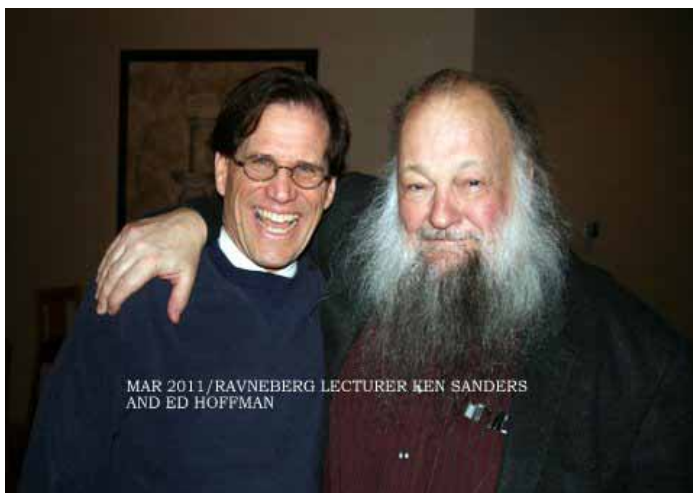
And then go home.



Looking Back a Bit...



At our annual Aldus Collects program in January, Aldus members (*clockwise from top left*) were Bill Rich (who spoke on George Gissing), George Bauman (on books on bookselling), Lois Smith (on community cookbooks), Marcia Preston – with input from Harry Campbell (on Chef Hubert Seifert’s new book produced by Logan Elm Press), and Jay Hoster (on Fred Schwed, Jr.).



Book dealer Ken Sanders shared his book selling and biblio-detective experiences at our March program. He was the Ron Ravneberg Memorial Speaker. He is pictured here with Ed Hoffman who graciously escorted him around ol' Columbus-town.



Larry Olszewski, director of the OCLC Library spoke to us in April about “All Things Dewey.” He added a new dimension to our program with his Q&A session where he awarded Dewey-related items as prizes.

Thanks Larry!

All photos on this page by George Cowmeadow Bauman

Book Hunting Notes

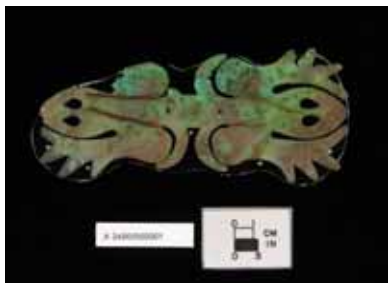
Archaeology: Fort Ancient and the Hilltop Enclosures of Ohio

Bill Rich



Twenty-five years ago, this book collector and armchair archaeologist moved to Ohio. The state arguably has the greatest concentration of prehistoric monuments in North America, and certain books about these have become an area of my archaeology book interests. I am talking about the early American culture that has been termed the Hopewell, which flourished from 2100 to 1500 years ago. This is one of the Mound Builder groups, whose earthworks dotted the landscape when Europeans first arrived.

The Hopewell built the most extensive of these, with walled structures along the valleys of the tributary rivers flowing into the Ohio. A stone age culture, but not strictly hunter-gatherers by a long shot. They were horticulturists, and grew food crops of various cultigens – squash, goosefoot, may grass, knotweed and other seed plants, but little maize until late in their period. They cultivated flood plains – alluvial bottom lands of the Ohio River drainage. The products of their art and craft fill some of the Ohio museums – key among these are the Ohio Historical Society Museum here in Columbus, and several site museums throughout the state.



We show here a Hopewell worked copper ornamental breastplate – from a tomb. They knew how to anneal copper. Most tools were flint, obsidian, and wood.

That most ubiquitous of Native American artifacts, the arrow point, is missing from Hopewell sites. There were no bows and arrows – hence no Hopewell arrowheads, but there sure are large

and lethal-looking spear points! There is also attractive pottery, but not wheel-made – there were no wheels of any type in the Native American cultures.



These are some of my favorites—the amazingly naturalistic animal effigy polished stone platform pipes.

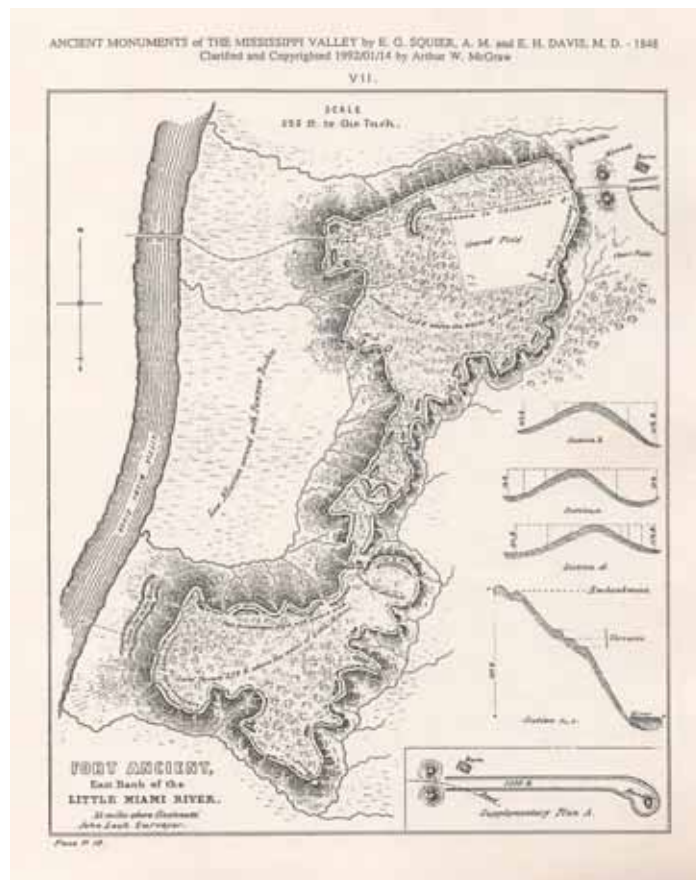
The earthworks that appear to be fortified hill top strongholds are my favorites among the many types of Hopewell structures, and early books about them are the focus of the present note.

The first of the earthworks I saw on moving to Ohio is the largest – the one that has long been called Fort Ancient. This is a large plateau headland towering above the east bank of the Little Miami River, a few miles northeast of Cincinnati. Driving back from Cincinnati to Columbus on I-71, just after crossing the large bridge over the gorge of the Little Miami, you see on your right the tree-covered high banks, rising above the river. Immediately past the bridge, at Exit 36, there is a sign saying simply, “Fort Ancient.”

This caught my attention many years ago and, taking the turn-off, it led to State Route 350, which since the early 1800s has been the old Chillicothe-Lebanon Road. The road actually divides the northernmost section of the site. Nowadays there is a gate, a parking lot just outside, and a museum building. This gate is near what must have been the ancient main entry to the earthwork, marked by two mounds and low walls extending from the entrance. The site has been a protected park since the late 19th century, but much has been done with it and to it since the ruin was first encountered and noted by Europeans in the late 18th century.



I show here a detailed map of the site as it was surveyed in 1843 (*below*). This map was published in a great classic of



ABOVE: This image is from the section of Squier and Davis entitled "Works of Defence." Many fortified hills in the Ohio Valleys are shown in detail in *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi*, including Ft. Ancient.

American archaeology, *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley* (1848) by Ephraim Squier and Edwin Davis, a book which is central to the present note.

This volume is considered the most authoritative and exhaustive of the early surveys. It was the first report sponsored by the newly-established Smithsonian Institution, and was published by them in Washington, D.C. in 1848.

There are two 1848 issues, the Washington one and one published in New York and Cincinnati by the authors – with the Smithsonian's permission, they were allowed to run off this issue for "their own benefit." This issue I was happy to obtain a few years ago from Books on High here in Columbus. There are 48 full page plates, with detailed site plans, and more than 200 wood engravings in the text. The purpose of the study was to record accurately the prehistoric monuments, which were fast disappearing due to the onslaught of agriculture and urbanization in the Midwest.

Squier and Davis did a beautiful job. Many of the plans detail long-vanished sites, and, even of the ones remaining, much information is recorded that is now gone. The plan of Fort Ancient shown above is from this book – it is testimony to its quality that it is reprinted in many modern books on Hopewell sites.

These authors were reasonably certain that they were examining works of defense, possibly redoubts for refuge for the surrounding populations in time of war. This was the belief of serious students of these hilltop fortifications from the time of their discovery by Europeans until the middle years of the 20th century. However, to use a hackneyed phrase, this is no longer the "prevailing paradigm." I quote from a handout I obtained from a visit to Fort Ancient a few years ago:

By the 1840s scholars believed the site was used as a military defensive fortification. This idea prevailed until the 1930s when a ceremonial function was accepted. There are three reasons why Fort Ancient is not a defensive fortification:

- 1) The site is simply too large. The local environment could support 50 to 100 people 2,000 years ago. Military experts maintain that approximately 5,000 people would be needed to properly defend the 100 acre area. The local plant and animal life could not support the needs of so many people.
- 2) There are 72 openings of [or?] gaps within the enclosure, none of which show evidence of a gate, fence, or stockade to keep people out.
- 3) Unlike the English and European castles supported with an exterior moat for defense, Fort Ancient has an interior ditch system which is not suitable for defense. If those interpreting the site 100 years ago had only listened to their own physical description, they may have been open to other suggestions.

Golly. To this skeptic, the above authoritative pronouncement still seems unlikely. And with Sportin' Life, may we be permitted to say "It ain't necessarily so"?

Perhaps the initial cause of my doubts was the immense amount of labor obviously required to build the structure. 50 to 100 people, indeed? Even to build a small part of the embankments, the concerted work of hundreds of adults would be required, particularly in an age of only stone-tipped tools, baskets for hauling earth, and almost no simple machines. Fewer numbers would require

generations of effort. Seems unlikely for a “ceremonial center” in an illiterate age. I know that building cathedrals in medieval Europe was often the work of centuries.

Granted that these are some sort of “ceremonial center,” yet, motivated by faith and a literate priesthood, the work continued. Hard to imagine anything like this occurring in a total population of only 50-100. Can one really imagine



Hopewell shamans on their deathbeds instructing the little group to “keep building the ceremonial center,” generation after generation, in such a difficult site? Or, more realistically, can one conceive them following the instruction?

Now, a little more about Fort Ancient. The ruin is huge. The embankment walls, as shown above, survived to as much as 20 feet vertical height above the enclosed plateau – and the entire circuit of the walls is between four and five miles. The entrance on the northern end is where the plateau joins the surround uplands, and is the only flat approach. Everywhere else, the walls strengthen a natural embankment rising some 230 feet above the river and the streams at its base.

Construction had to have been immense undertaking – one estimate is that 630,000 cubic yards of earth had to be moved to make the walls. Some are reinforced with stone slabs – all having to be moved from the river bottoms.

Today, the fort interior is grassland, interrupted by some small mounds and internal walls. The outer walls lining the embankment are mostly tree-covered, and do not stand out. However, these can be examined by taking one of the trails provided along the walls. Particularly, a steep trail and stairways nowadays permit descent along the river side, where the Hopewell constructed three artificial terraces commanding the river passage. All of this suggests to the casual visitor that this is an immense work of fortification.

After my first visit to Fort Ancient, I became hooked on the hill enclosures, of which Fort Ancient is the largest. While the hill forts capture the imagination, there are many other types of Hopewell building remains – notable are the Great Circle and Octagon ruins at Newark and the Mound City Group near Chillicothe, for two nearby examples.

What now remains is but a fraction of what was seen when white men first came to the Ohio Valley. For example, the ruins at Newark, as large as they are, are only fragments of the walls that filled the area where the present city has been built.



Within walking distance of my home in Worthington is the Jeffers Mound (*pictured above*), overlooking the Olentangy River, which was part of a reasonably complex enclosure, which could still be seen as recently as the 1930s. Today, only the central mound remains, in the center of a small circle of large suburban houses, which properties cover the rest, presumably first leveled by repeated plowing and finally by the building contractors.

Overall in Ohio, it is estimated that 10% of the remains seen in 1800 are still to be seen today. With all this in mind, I sought the earliest books that contained detailed drawings and surveys of the ruins in Ohio.

In any case, riding my hobby horse, I began to collect and read more books and articles on Fort Ancient and related structures.



...and in the next issue of Aldus Notes, Bill will tell us about more books in his collection about the ancient earthworks in Ohio.

Book Collecting Tips:

Have You Visited These Internet Sites?

Book collecting, thanks to the internet has become a growing pastime open to all, even collectors without a great deal of money (or time). The internet has made searching for used or rare books more convenient than ever, and collectors now only have to look to the nearest computer to browse large selections of antique and out-of-print titles. Below are the Top 20 'Must-Use' websites for book collectors put together in part by www.bookride.com, (with a few additions of our own) designed to make searching and obtaining rare books simple and easy.

1. **Bookfinder.com** An aggregate search engine that searches over 150 million titles to help sort out new, used, old, and rare copies.

2. **Abebooks.com** This authoritative site features rare and collectible additions, many signed by the author themselves.

3. **Addall.com** AddAll offers a price comparison agent that allows users not only to search for and purchase books, but to compare prices among other rare-books sites.

4. **Powells.com** The largest new and used independent bookstore in the world, Powells offers a massive selection of both antique and collectible copies.

5. **Fadedgiant.net** This site, while not transactional itself, offers information and pricing on over 50,000 used and rare titles. Perfect for comparison shopping among different sites.

6. **Amazon.com** One of the largest online retailers, Amazon features an unparalleled selection of books of all sorts new, used, antique.

7. **Vialibri.com** A highly recommended mega-site with links to WorldCat, COPAC, infinity and beyond..

8. **Alibris.com** Offering over 100 million titles, Alirbis pulls inventory from over 800 independent bookstores nationwide, allowing for supreme deep-shelf selection.

9. **Biblio.com** This site collaborates with literally thousands of independent booksellers online to bring over a million rare titles to the table.

10. **ILAB.com** Run by the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers, this site is an invaluable resource for antique book collectors.

11. **Barnesandnoble.com** Some collectors don't realize the large book chains often offer hard-to-find books; many used book dealers list on their site.

12. **Strandbooks.com** A New York City icon, Strand has over 18 miles of books, new, used, and rare.

13. **ABAA.org** The Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America has a great site where you can search the offerings of the most respected dealers and learn much more about rare and antiquarian books.



14. **Bookspot.com** More of an information site than a retailer, Book Spot has data about books, reading lists, and publisher information.

15. **Tomfolio.com** A great collection of independent international dealers.

16. **Antiqbook.com** Popular in Europe, Antiq Book is a great place to search for editions just not found anywhere in the USA.

17. **Rarebooks.info** Start here for information on print runs, edition locations, and popular searches concerning your favorite rare books.

18. **Hoffmansbookshop.com** Book home of Aldus members Ed Hoffman and Bob Emerson.

19. **Acornbookshop.com** Book home of Aldus member George Bauman.

20. **Trivillagebooks.com** Book home of Aldus members Jay and Genie Hoster.

And don't forget to visit Aldus member Bill Radloff at The Little Bookshop in Westerville...he is in the process of setting up his first computer and will begin listing his books on the 'net soon!



The Aldus Society

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ATTENTION ALDUS MEMBERS: We are seeking stories, articles, pictures and all things bookish for future issues of this newsletter.

Been to a fun book event? Tell us about it!

Found a treasure for your collection? Let us know what it is, and the story behind its acquisition.

Read something that you think fellow Aldines would enjoy hearing about? If it's short, send the article to us...if it's longer, write a synopsis and tell us where we can find the entire document.

Deadlines for our next two newsletters are August 15 (our September issue) and December 5 (our January issue). Submit your text in Microsoft Word or as an email, and include any images as attachments ...one image per attachment (not integrated into the text) in jpeg or TIF format. We are always happy to find images to accompany your story.

If you have something for us, just let us know ahead of the deadline so we can allow sufficient space in the newsletter. If you want to write for us and don't know what to write about, we have lots of ideas we can suggest.

For more information, contact Genie Hoster at 614/299-9985, or email her at bookshigh@aol.com

