



Aldus Society Notes

September, 2013

Volume 13, No. 3

John Friedman the First Speaker of the 2013-2014 Season



Our speaker on September 12 will be Dr. John Friedman, Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His talk is entitled "The Making of a Medieval Manuscript Facsimile: Bibliothèque nationale de France MS fr. 22971," a project with which he was involved.

The original of this particular manuscript, owned by the Bibliothèque nationale, is one of four made between 1427 and 1485 that form a larger work called *Secrets of Natural History*. As an example of early cultural observation, it is a beautifully illustrated collection of marvels and wonders associated with various countries and regions of the known world at that time. The subjects range from an English lake that boils up and drowns boaters if an offending piece of trash is thrown overboard to discussions of the Chinese practices of foot binding and the "Mandarin" fingernail, oddly transposed to India.

Dr. Friedman will discuss how the collecting of facsimiles came about with the rise of chromolithography in the mid-19th century. Today there are several firms in Spain that specialize in the process. Dr. Friedman worked with Siloe in Burgos, Spain. Modern facsimiles are not

mere re-printings of the originals, but digital reproductions correct in all particulars even to the wooden bindings, worm holes, and gold leaf. Collectors pay thousands of dollars for individual copies. During his presentation Friedman will describe the contents of *Secrets*, show a selection of its miniatures, and discuss the making of such a facsimile. Sample pages can be found at http://www.siloe.es/titulos_en_preedicion/libro_de_las_maravillas_del_mundo.shtml

October 2013 Talk

Michael Whelan, the head of the international Sherlock Holmes literary society, The Baker Street Irregulars, will present a talk entitled "The Bibliophilic Anatomy of a Literary Society." He will discuss a short history of The Baker Street Irregulars, types of collecting Sherlockiana and small press and journals dealing with fiction's most well-known character, Sherlock Holmes.

The Baker Street Irregulars (BSIs) is the oldest and most prestigious literary organization devoted to matters related to Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (author and creator of Holmes) and the Victorian era. It was founded in 1934 by Christopher Morley who you no doubt know was a journalist, novelist, essayist and poet. Since its founding, the BSIs has spawned hundreds of similar



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Aldus Society Meetings

*Regular meetings of the Aldus Society are held at 7:30 p.m.
on the second Thursday of the month between September and May.*

Thurber Center, 91 Jefferson Avenue, Columbus, Ohio

Socializing at 7:00 p.m.

Free parking behind Thurber House and at State Auto rear parking lot (between 11th St. and Washington)

The Aldus Society

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President Speaks

Dear Aldusites,

Elsewhere in this newsletter I am quoted as referring to y'all as "bibliophillicly avaricious." It was stated with great affection and intended as a high compliment! I adapted the phrase from a great friend, a former Dominican priest, who used to enjoy describing the Dominican sisters as "spiritually avaricious—" something, of course, which was also said with a profound sense of appreciation.

There is definitely a certain spiritual quality to the love of books. There is enthusiasm (etymologically spiritual!), perseverance, and passion. In regard to enthusiasm, witness the opening moments of a "library book sale—" with that sense of the great finds to come. (Many of you will remember the opening nights of the O.S.U. Friends of the Library sales in years past—with Ivan Gilbert, Jack Matthews, Karen Wickliffe, et. al. at the head of the line!) For perseverance, take note of the descriptions in this issue of members Scott Williams and Donald Tritt and their decades long, steady pursuit of books on Travel and Switzerland! Or Lani Heilman's efforts to eventually complete her run of St. Nicholas magazine. And "passionate" is the only way to describe Eric Johnson's commitment to reassemble OSU's Hornby Bible one leaf at a time after it was broken up and dispersed to the four winds many years ago by Hornby.

The "star" of Aldus's masterpiece, "*Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*," is Poliphilo, literally "a friend of many things;" and ultimately, it is friendship and the love of books which brings us together for another year of Aldus activities. Here's to a spirited year!

—Ed

Newsletter Editor Notes

As the new newsletter editor, I want to thank all the article contributors for this, my first issue of *Aldus Society Notes*. In addition to the regular descriptions of upcoming programs and recaps of summer activities, Bill Rich contributed a fascinating article about Swinburne and forged books. Inside you'll find two wonderful articles about travels with books, one by Don Rice, who traveled to Nottingham, England and the second by J. Wesley Baker, describing the multitude of book shops in Hobart, New York. If you want more adventures with books, you should check out Terri Peterson Smith's *Off the Beaten Page: The Best Trips for Lit Lovers, Book Clubs, and Girls on Getaway* (Chicago Review Press, 2013), chock full of reading suggestions for the active and armchair traveler.

The deadline for the next newsletter is Dec 15. Until then, happy reading and collecting!

—Miriam Kahn

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November 2013 Talk

November features Eric Johnson, Assistant Professor and Curator of Early Books and Manuscripts at Ohio State University Library. Dr. Johnson's talk is entitled "Deconstructing and Reconstructing a Medieval Bible." Dr. Johnson describes his talk, which will feature many images from the text, by beginning with a question we all ask; "What is the value of a book?"

When it comes to medieval manuscripts, this question invites many answers. At the basest level, of course, we have its monetary value. But beyond pecuniary worth, manuscripts also embody intellectual, artifactual, cultural, social, and talismanic value. In this presentation, Dr. Johnson will discuss the competing and sometimes complementary



notions of "value" or "worth" that underlie our modern understanding and appreciation of medieval manuscripts by examining the life of the Hornby-Cockerell Bible (OSU MS.MR14). An example of a rare "proto-Paris" Bible likely produced in a Parisian workshop sometime in the early 1220s, this Bible

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Calendar 2013-14 Aldus Programs

September 12, 2013: John B. Friedman, *An Illuminated 15th Century French Book of Wonders and the Making of a Facsimile*

October 10, 2013: Mike Whelan of Indianapolis, the current "Wiggins" or chairman of The Baker Street Irregulars, will speak on *The Bibliophilic Anatomy of a Literary Society*. Whelan's talk will include 1) a short history of the Baker Street Irregulars, 2) types of collecting of Sherlockiana, and 3) small press books and journals dealing with Sherlockiana.

November 14, 2013: Eric Johnson will talk on the transitional *Hornby Bible* of ca. 1210 to 1220 A.D.

THURSDAY, December 12, 2013: Holiday Dinner at La Scala Restaurant

January 9, 2014: Aldus Collects

February 13, 2014: Jared Gardner will speak on his new book, *The Rise and Fall of Early American Magazine Culture*.

March 13, 2014: The Ron Ravneberg lecture features **Bob Fleck** Founder of Oak Knoll Press (New Castle, Delaware), who publishes both out-of-print books as well as new titles relating to the world of books.

April 10, 2014: Joy Kiser speaks about her new book, *America's Other Audubon*, tells of the making of The Nests and Eggs of the Birds of Ohio by Genevieve Jones and her family. Joy's book features the original 68 color plates of nests and eggs.

May 8, 2014: Harry Campbell will tell us about preserving *Sermones Discipuli de Tempore et de Sanctis* by Johannes Herolt. c1450. The book was literally in pieces and Harry and his team have brought this book back to life.

Aldus Summer Picnic 2013

by Lois Smith, Guest Reporter

This year our summer picnic was held at the Thurber Center with about 40 members and their guests in attendance. It was a sunny day, unusually hot though, and we set up tables indoors in case people wanted to stay in the air conditioning. Everyone chose to sit inside, foregoing the Thurber Center porch and lawn that would have been more inviting in cooler weather.

For the past half dozen years or so, the picnic had been held at Bill and Bea Rich's lovely home in Worthington, with access to Bill's astounding collection of book rarities. Bill and Bea had to miss the picnic this year because of a conflict, and we missed them both.

The food was pot-luck, and everyone brought something delicious, from vegetarian chili and salads to cookies, pies, and cake. Aldus provided sandwich fixings. There were no complaints about the food!

Conversation is always the highlight of this annual gathering, and despite the lack of books in the room camaraderie was in full swing. Eric Juhl said, "Coming into the room you could hear the joy and spirit of the conversations going on." No special program was planned, and none was needed.

Our gracious president Ed Hoffman made a short speech, which updated everyone on upcoming events and thanking everyone for coming. Thanks go out to the special volunteers, especially Marilyn Logue, Program Chair, for organizing this annual fun event!



Book Crawlers an “Avaricious Bunch” says President Hoffman!

by Lois Smith, Guest Reporter

From an idea suggested by Past President Genie Hoster a few years back, Board member and Membership Co-Chair Deb Lewis took the ball and ran. The annual summer Book Crawls have become a growing Aldus tradition. This summer's crawls took place on July 6th and August 3rd, each one featuring two independent bookshops in the Columbus area followed by a fun lunch at Matt the Miller's Tavern in July and Bel Lago's overlooking Hoover Reservoir in August.

Over two dozen members attended both crawls and came away with some great finds. On the July crawl, we visited Hoffman's Bookshop in Clintonville, owned by our esteemed president Ed Hoffman. Ed joked at lunch that we are an “avaricious bunch of book collectors.” We are indeed acquisitive, Ed, and greedy for more!

Crawlers found some wonderful items at Hoffman's. Program Chair Marilyn Logue said, “I was excited to find *The Birthplace of the Northwest Territory: Marietta, Ohio*, published in 1938 by the Marietta Northwest Territory Celebration Commission to honor the early settlers on the 150th anniversary.”



Our second stop of the July Crawl was to George Bauman's Acorn Bookshop, “the literary equivalent of

Cheers” according to *Columbus Monthly*. George, wearing his signature cowboy hat, welcomed us with his usual charismatic charm, and the knowledgeable staff helped us locate treasures.

Member Scott Williams recalls his experiences: “Arriving late and being the last book crawler to leave Hoffman's Bookshop, I did so believing that I had just landed the ‘best deal of the day’ assuming that we could size up all our book finds that left Ed's book store that morning. Having played as a kid in the retail space that would be populated by Acorn Bookshop, I returned to ‘home ground’ ready to hunt again for those obscure travel publications that I like to collect. For my sub-collection of spiral bound annual calendar/appointment schedulers that feature pictures and information about countries, I happily snapped up a ‘Türkiye 1963’



published by Turkey's Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and Tourism. Unlike some experiences I have had with passionate collectors, our Aldus members on this book crawl behaved with dignity, for I suffered no bruised ribs.”

Member John Bennett said, “I found some great old items in French at both excellent establishments, including works by Verlaine, Baudelaire, de Fontenelle, and a very handy POESÍAS COMPLETAS of Rubén Darío—watch for quotes from these tomes in some of my forthcoming work. I also got an excellent summary history of pre-Columbian Andean cities, and a volume of photography by Manuel Álvarez Bravo I was unfamiliar with, among other things. A happy day with a tasty lunch and good conversation!”

Past President Bill Evans told a great story of his experience at Ed's. “Here's a great example of why the internet is NOT what you need when trying to research bookplates—what you need is a book crawl to Ed Hoffman's. Several years ago, I bought a well-worn book in French for literally under \$10. I was only interested in it because it had a bookplate from a Princess Sophia. I asked the dealer if he had any information about it and was told that there were plenty of Princess Sophia's around back then and maybe she was from Denmark or something.”

Bill continued, “Anyway, I tried everything I could to find the plate online. No luck. However, standing in Ed's bookshop during the July book crawl I found a little book on bookplates and when I opened it—this is the spooky part—it literally fell open to a page that had a bookplate from Princess Sophia! The plate looked very familiar so I bought the book and compared them later that afternoon. They match exactly. According to a paragraph in Ed's (now my) little book the princess was a daughter of George III of American Revolutionary War fame. Pretty cool. Google Translation says my old book is entitled *The Food of the Soul or Code of Prayers for Every Day of the Week* and now that I know who owned it I've upgraded its position among the stacks of books at home. It may even be worth \$20! Anyway, it all made for a great weekend with the Aldus



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TRAVELS WITH BOOKS

Literary Nottingham

by Donald Tunnicliff Rice

My maternal grandfather, George Henry Tunnicliff (1887-1954) was born and reared in Nottingham in the East Midlands region of England. As a young man he worked in the lace mills and then carried his skills off to America to work in a mill in Barrington, Rhode Island, where he met his future bride and my grandmother, May Dowding.

Nottingham (pop. 305,700) is a city I'd never visited, but I made a point of doing so this past June so I could walk through the streets that various ancestors had walked. My son saw me off on the 9:56 from Folkestone, a Kentish city on the southeastern coast, to London's St. Pancras Station. There are a dozen major stations in London, Paddington,

Victoria, Charing Cross, and so on, all connected by the Underground. Quite often when passing through the city one enters at one station and exits from another (after figuring out how to get there). By good fortune the Nottingham train left from St. Pancras, so I had only to get off one train and get on another. Three hours after leaving Folkestone I arrived in Notts (as the locals refer to it) and found the free bus that I'd been told would carry me to within three or four minutes' walking distance from the Igloo Backpackers Hostel where I'd booked a private room.

Notts was once the world center of lace-making. During my grandfather's day 40,000 people, a third of Nottingham's workforce at the time, were employed in the industry. Today only one

small mill remains, and its owner laughingly refers to it as a "working museum." I learned about its existence too late to make a visit. I'll go there next time.

Whenever I travel, particularly in the U.K., I like to investigate a destination's literary heritage, and in this regard Nottingham is well-connected. Four novelists have strong associations with the area: D. H. Lawrence (1885-1930), Alan Sillitoe (1928-2010), John Harvey (1938-), and Jon McGregor (1976-).

My first literary association occurred at The Peacock, a public house on the same street as my hostel. I learned from a sign on the building that it is reputed to have been frequented by both Harvey and Lawrence. Sillitoe, in his novel *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*, has his protagonist, Arthur Seaton, go into a Nottingham pub called The Peacock, and there's no good reason to believe this isn't the same place. I stopped in on two different nights for a pint of bitter and conversation and was satisfied on both occasions. (Maybe I've discovered a new hobby: drinking a toast to famous writers in their favorite watering holes.) I have to say, though, that I experienced no awareness of any of the writers' lingering presence—with the possible exception of the eye-stinging atmosphere in the gents' room.

* * * * *

There's probably some point to my strong preference for reading novels older than I am, but offhand I can't tell you what it is. It might just be perversity, pure and simple. Anyway, that's why I have little to say about Jon McGregor, who currently lives in Nottingham and who seems to spend most of his time winning literary awards and prizes. Too bad I didn't run into him in The Peacock, which I'll bet he too enters now and again.

I am willing, however, to make an exception to my reading habits for John Harvey, who now lives in London and, as the popular author of more than



D. H. Lawrence's boyhood home. Like other miner's dwellings, it was only one room wide. The six-pane downstairs window looks into the parlour. Behind it is the kitchen and scullery.



A favorite haunt of both D. H. Lawrence and John Harvey.



Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem, much of which is carved into the sandstone rock to the right.

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TRAVELS WITH BOOKS

A Visit to Hobart, NY, the “Book Village of the Catskills”

by J. Wesley Baker

For anyone who loves books, the appeal of a “Book Town” with multiple bookstores nestled together within a few blocks of one another is undeniable. Imagine an Aldus Book Crawl where you walk down a street and visit five book stores in three blocks, rather than driving from one side of a city to another in order to find the bookstores scattered across town.

The most famous of the book towns is Hay-on-Wye on the border of England and Wales. Its annual festival draws thousands of bibliophiles to the small town, which has in the neighborhood of 25 to 30 booksellers.

For those who can’t afford a trip to Wales, there are options closer to home, including Hobart, NY, which promotes itself as the “Book Village of the Catskills.” Hobart was featured in the Spring 2013 issue of *Fine Books and Collections* (Ali Jackson-Jolley, “Booktown, NY), which led to my visit there this summer to see what it had to offer and scout it out for my fellow Aldus members.

Background on the Book Town movement

According to the definition provided by the International Organisation¹ of Book Towns (IOB), a “Book Town is a small rural town or village in which second-hand and antiquarian bookshops are concentrated. Most Book Towns have developed in villages of historic interest or of scenic beauty” <http://booktown.net/>.

Hay-on-Wye was the first of the modern book towns, starting in 1962 when Richard Booth returned to his home town, proclaimed himself “King of Hay” and opened Richard Booth Books <http://www.boothbooks.co.uk/>. Booth’s autobiography, *My Kingdom of Books* (Y Lolfa, 1999), provides his typically eccentric account of the development of the town and his book-buying adventures. Another readable

account of the town, and one easier to find, is Paul Collins’ *Sixpence House* (Bloomsbury USA, 2003).

This memoir recounts his time living and working in the village of 1,500 residents and, at the time, 40 second-hand and antiquarian booksellers. If you do the math, that works out to one bookstore for every 37.5 residents.

For two decades Hay-on-Wye was the one-and-only book town. Then in 1984 a Belgian town sought to emulate Hay-on-Wye’s success in becoming a destination because of its concentration of

book stores. Several other small towns and villages have followed. The IOB’s website lists 17 book towns in 13 countries, which does not include any in the Americas.

It wasn’t until 1993 that the first community in the United States tried the concept when two booksellers in Stillwater, Minnesota, obtained “Book Town” recognition for their community. Those two remain the only booksellers in Stillwater <http://www.booktown.com>.

Other state-side book towns, with their year of designation, include:

- Archer City, Texas (1999), home to Larry McMurtry’s bookstore, Booked Up. One of his four bookstores remains after he sold off the stock of three other stores last summer <http://www.bookedupac.com>
- Brownville, Nebraska (2004), which currently has four bookstores <http://www.brownville-ne.com/>
- Hobart, New York (2005), which currently has five bookstores <http://www.hobartbookvillage.com/>

The motivation for these towns is usually economic—an attempt to breathe new life into a town that has lost its prior economic base. The Book Town approach “offers an exemplary model of sustainable rural development and tourism,” the IOB notes. “It is one of the most successful new tourism developments and is being followed in many countries.”



¹ Editorial note: This is correct, since they use the British spelling.

Development of Hobart as a Book Village

Given the definition and descriptions provided by the IOB, Hobart seems the very model of a Book Village. Nestled in the rolling hills at the northern edge of the Catskills, Hobart has scenic beauty and a restfulness that has attracted second-home owners eager to get away from the congestion of Albany, New York City, Connecticut and New Jersey for weeks or months at a time. Yet the village is a shadow of its former self, its economy shattered like that of many communities in the Catskill region.

On a morning in late June, I talked with Don Dales, owner of the Mysteries and More book store about how Hobart developed into a book village (<http://www.hobartbookvillage.com/mysteries--more.html>). We sat in the back room of his combination house and store on a settee in front of open French doors that overlooked the western branch of the Delaware River. Two Mergansers drifted by as he recounted the local history.

In the first half of the twentieth century the village was the hub of a vibrant local dairy industry, which supported a railroad line and local businesses. There were 20 to 30 stores lining Main Street, including three grocery stores and a good-sized Hudson and Terraplane car dealership. But after the war, those automobiles took people away from the village. The dairy industry began to die. The railroad lost both traffic and the dairy business. By the mid-1960s, the village went through what Dales called “rapid death throes.”

Dales is a local-boy-made-good. He grew up in Hobart, moved away and made his money as an entrepreneur, mainly from rental properties. When he moved back to town in 1999 Main Street was mainly empty store fronts and he was able to buy several for a song. He wanted to help the village turn around and his natural inclination was to do that through his properties. But he had trouble finding tenants, even when he offered free rent to encourage start-ups.



Wm. H. Adams Antiquarian Book Shop

<http://www.whabooks.com>

In 2001 Diana and William Adams were visiting from New York City, their second time visiting the area. Although they were both professionals—he was a doctor and she is an attorney—they had been buying books

during trips to the U.K, including in Hay-on-Wye, and the Netherlands, hoping to one day open a bookstore. Now as they drove through town, every store was empty except for the market. In one of the empty store fronts they saw Dales' sign offering free rent for a year and, seeing this as a chance to pursue their dream of opening a bookstore, took him up on the offer. In June 2002 they opened Wm. H. Adams Antiquarian Books. That's one.

When I talked with Diana Adams at her desk in the front gallery, lined with antiquarian books in leather and velum bindings, she said that after they opened “sales went up every single year” as Hobart was “more and more becoming a destination.” While they have built their business on people from the City and second-home owners, she said that more and more traffic is coming from people from other areas now.

To broaden their market, the Adams have opened up space in the lower and upper levels which have more general stock. In addition, there is a small room on the main level that has a collection of local and regional history books.

Blenheim Hill Books

<http://www.hobartbookvillage.com/blenheim-hill-books.html>

During that time, local business people held a series of meetings on the future of Hobart, trying to figure out how to revitalize the community. Dales recalls that Linda Wilson, co-owner with her husband H.L. of Bibliobarn, just five miles down the road in South Kortright, raised the Hay-on-Wye model as a possibility.

Dales says he didn't pay much attention to that suggestion until the frustration of what to do with his buildings got to him. In separate interviews, Dales and Diana Adams both recalled a seminal moment that emerged from that frustration. One day as they sat talking about the book village

suggestion, Dales blurted out, “What the hell. I’ll do it myself!” He had never sold books before, but as an entrepreneur, he wasn’t afraid of starting a new business. He launched the Hobart Book Mart by offering shelving for rent for others to sell books while he built up his stock by buying out a couple of stores. The Wilsons helped him cull through the books and price them.

An employee of the local bank said “a bookstore needs a coffee shop,” so she and a co-worker started one. With tongue-in-cheek, they called it “Cook the Books” and helped take care of the store in exchange for rent. That’s two (part one).

The Greek Revival house in which Dales has his current bookstore used to be located on the other side of the street. The building was sold off when someone wanted to build on the property and moved across the street to its current location. That’s true of several of the buildings in the village. Maybe that shuffling of buildings is in the DNA of Hobart, because the history of the village’s book trade involves a lot of shuffling back and forth of stock and stores between various owners as the number of book stores grew to its current five.

Later, Elda Stifani, who had a career with the European Union before moving to Hobart, bought a store and half of stock, then bought Hobart Book Mart. She also bought Blenheim Hill bookstore in nearby Stamford (in one of the intersecting lines so typical of Hobart, much of the Blenheim Hill stock had been bought from the Wilsons at Bibliobarn) and moved it to town, changing the name of the Book Mart to Blenheim Hill in the process. That’s two (part two).

Blenheim Hill Books is now owned by Barbara Balliet and Cheryl Clarke. I talked with Balliet in between times when she was helping customers find books. She got started selling books in 2009 while she was still teaching in and administering the Women and Gender Studies program at Rutgers University.

The store has a general collection of books, some of it inherited from the store’s earlier incarnations. Now Balliet and Clarke are trying to narrow the focus, with, to quote from Balliet’s LinkedIn page, “several special interests including poetry, African-American, Women’s

History and Women’s Studies, large fiction and biography sections, nature, cooking and gardening.” The description continues, “We are developing specialties in illustrated children’s books and illustrated books from the 18th, 19th, and early 20th century.”

The store attracts a mix of customers, including locals, second-home people and tourists. Balliet says while big events the group sponsors draw a lot of first-time people, she has “been surprised with a lot of repeat business.”

Dales’ spirit seems to be contagious. Hobart provides “a space where you can be entrepreneurial and people are open to that,” Balliet said.



Mysteries & More

[http://www.](http://www.hobartbookvillage.com/mysteries--more.html)

[hobartbookvillage.com/
mysteries--more.html](http://www.hobartbookvillage.com/mysteries--more.html)

Dales was renovating his house at the time and still had boxes of mysteries in storage, so that bit of serendipity led to the opening of Mysteries & More. That’s three. Of all of the bookstores, his is most oriented to summer reading, with most of his books priced under \$8.00.

Launch of Hobart Book Village

<http://www.hobartbookvillage.com>

In 2005 the book store owners and others in the community officially launched Hobart Book Village of the Catskills. A key player in establishing the book village identity for Hobart was Dorothy Marshall. Dales says she was a “leading cheerleader” who “kept us on the path” and paid for the first advertising for the village. Marshall had moved to Hobart a decade earlier after serving as Vice President of Administrative Systems and Services at Columbia University. She quickly became involved in the village, was president of the Mount Utsayantha Regional Arts League (MURAL) and a founding member of Hobart Book Village. Marshall died in 2011.

Hobart International Bookport

<http://hobartbookportny.com>

Around 2007 Elda Stifani moved down a couple of blocks and across the street, leaving Blenheim Hill Books and starting Hobart International Bookport.

The store's emphasis is on, to quote from its brochure, "books from all over the world and...books in foreign languages" in a "multilingual and multicultural environment." That seems to reflect the many years of service in the European Union for Stifani, who was out of town the day I stopped by to talk to the booksellers. In the spirit of the co-op, Diana Adams had the key for Stifani's shop and offered to let me browse, but at that point it was late in the day and I still had one more person to interview, so I didn't get a chance to look over that store, other than peek in the windows.

Liberty Rock Books

<http://www.hobartbookvillage.com/liberty-rock-books.html>

The Book Village attracted another book store in 2007: Liberty Rock Books, co-owned by John and Jim Mahoney and Tom Liotta. In June, Liberty Rock was still in the process of moving from its original location at the old Hobart Book Mart site, next to Blenheim Hill Books, down a block to the solid stone edifice of the old Hudson and Terraplane car dealership. That's four.

Workers were unloading a new truckload of plywood for shelving early the morning I was in town. The partners bought the building in 2011 and had just finished renovating it, funded with money from a business development grant. The new gold-lettered signs with a forest green background and maroon border that were now in place across the building's face add to the classy look of the place.

At the end of the day, with workers cutting wood with a circular saw, Jim Mahoney and I had trouble finding a quite place to talk. We started on a sofa in a comfortable reading area at the rear of the main room with another view of the river, but ended up retreating to a temporary office in the back of the building, surrounded by partially opened boxes of books, but away from the noise of the shelf-building.

Mahoney may be a relatively recent arrival in the village, but of all of the booksellers in Hobart he has been in the trade the longest. Back in the 70s he set up his mother in an antique business, bought an estate with books and got hooked selling books. Since he started

selling books in 1976, Liberty Rock Books is his seventh or eighth location (he lost count). He was not only familiar with the Hay-on-Wey model, he had met "King Richard" Booth himself.

The movement from the small rooms in the shared space down the street to the new open space of what was formerly an auto showroom is giving him a chance to get most of his books out of storage. Over the years he has bought several large collections, including the stock of six booksellers, two of whom worked into their 90s, and many estates. He estimates that he has 700 cartons of books in storage, containing between 75-80,000 books.

But wait! There's more!

For the booklover, there are many other bookstores located in the area around Hobart.

Bibliobarn was already a big draw on its own before Dales began turning to turn Hobart around. The three-story barn and home to the Wrights is known for its funky self-tags describing the sections of books for sale. Its future is a bit uncertain at this point, however. The Wrights have been trying to sell the business, barn and all, so they can scale back.

A large, family-owned bookstore in Brooklyn, Book Court, is trying to buy it to create a "Book Court North," but its \$300,000 fund-raising attempt at the crowd-source site Indiegogo only raised six-percent of what it needed—just shy of \$19,000—by the end of the campaign period on July 1st. The

Watershed Post, a Catskills-area only publication, reports Zack Zook, son of the couple that started Book Court, says he is looking into conventional financing in hopes of being able to go ahead with the deal.

In addition, there are a dozen more second-hand and antiquarian bookstores located within 55 miles, as well as a new book store, Green Toad in Oneonta.

Getting Some Synergy

The co-op nature of Hobart Book Village provides a core around which the individual bookshops can grow. Barbara Balliet of Blenheim Hill Book says "having a concentration of bookstores makes a big difference."

Continued on page 13



BOOK HUNTING NOTES

The Poet and the Forger: Algernon Swinburne and Thomas Wise

by Bill Rich

In my book collecting, I have a liking for Victorian poets and for book forgeries. In both categories, first printings of these poets and of forgeries (and of books exposing the forgeries) have been book hunting quarry. Here is a brief collecting story of one poet and of a famous forgery of one of his books.

The poet in question is Algernon Charles Swinburne (1837 – 1909). Little Algernon (5'4") was a scion of an English noble family, and was regarded as an *enfant terrible* by his Victorian contemporaries (Fig. 1).

FIG. 1



He was given to drink and other excesses which were rather unsuitable for his fragile frame. At Oxford, he was quite a classicist, attracted the friendship of the great Prof. Benjamin Jowett, and became one of the pre-Raphaelite avant-garde. He was a long way short of being a conforming student, however, and left Oxford after various sins, sans degree. But he was already recognized by his contemporaries as a magnificent poet. In 1865 he published “Atalanta in Calydon”, which made him famous, followed in 1866 by “Poems and Ballads”, which made him notorious. All this when he was still in his twenties.

Many of the poems in “Poems and Ballads” are wonderful, and have gone into the language. I quote some of my favorite lines, from the “Garden of Proserpine” in that book:

“From too much love of living,
From hope and fear set free,
We thank with brief thanksgiving
Whatever gods may be
That no life lives for ever;
That dead men rise up never;
That even the weariest river
Winds somewhere safe to sea.”

What caused the notoriety? Well, “Poems and Ballads” was certainly pagan in spirit, and the “Hymn to Proserpine” lamented the triumph of Christianity in 4th Century Rome:

“Thou hast conquered, O pale Galilean; the world has
grown grey from thy breath;
We have drunken of things Lethean, and fed on the
fullness of death.”

But while this was certainly irksome to conservative Christians in both England and America, by 1866 it was not the blasphemous stuff it would have been a century earlier. But young Algernon paraded some of his other vices (or inclinations) in the poems. Prominent among these were his algolagnia (I had to look it up, too: Algernon was slanted towards really rough, bloodletting, sado-masochistic sex). The opening lines of the poem “Laus Veneris” suggest this:

“Asleep or waking, is it? For her neck,
Kissed over close, wears yet a purple speck
Wherein the pained blood falters and goes out;
Soft, and stung softly – fairer for a fleck.”

This was relatively tame compared with some other passages—evidently getting a hickey in Swinburne’s world could be a serious business. Critical revulsion came quickly. The poems had been quickly pirated and republished in the U.S. The enterprising American publisher Carleton was the first to get “Poems and Ballads” into print in the U.S. Deliberately capitalizing on its already notorious reputation, he retitled it using one of the poem names, “Laus Veneris”, which he placed first in the collection. It sold like hot cakes. The original printing of 6,000 copies was quickly gone, and he reprinted it several times that year (1866) and still kept selling out. Swinburne got not a cent. The

U.S. criticism was everything that Carleton hoped for, I suspect. To cite one of many, the *New York Times* on Nov. 6, 1866 condemned the book as “combining the lowest lewdness with the most outrageous blasphemy”. They did concede, as had many, the strength and beauty of some of the lines. For the book collector, the huge printing for a poetry book makes the first American edition easily obtainable. My copy, very fine in original cloth, came from a country bookstore in the N.Y. State Finger Lakes region, for a mere \$5.00 in 1984. Swinburne went on to a long career, publishing much other poetry, including “Poems and Ballads, 2nd Series” (1878), and “3rd Series” (1889), and plays, novels, and criticism. He was nominated several times toward the end his life for the newly-established Nobel Prize in Literature. In 1879, his alcoholism and frailties catching up with him, his friends and family arranged for him to live under the informal life guidance of Theodore Watts-Dunton, a decent sober-sided friend, under whose informal supervision and friendship he lived out the rest of his life.

Many of the other first American printings of his books can be found at nominal prices, and I have a fair collection, some from Columbus bookshops. But pride of place goes to an English edition—what I believe to be the first collected edition of all 3 series of “Poems and Ballads”, published by Chatto and Windus, London, 1889. This 3 volume edition appeared the same year as the first edition of “Poems and Ballads, 3rd Series”, and is in beautiful bright blue cloth with gilt stamping, looking like it was published yesterday (Fig 2).

FIG. 2



This 3-volume format was the common practice for publishing the first edition of novels, prevailing for many years in Victorian England, these are the famous “3-deckers” sought by collectors. The form is quite rare for books of poetry. Nevertheless, the Swinburne volumes here definitely include the first printing of the 3rd Series. Swinburne had a hissy fit when the printing first came out in 1889, finding several errors, and demanded the publisher (Chatto and Windus) withdraw the book and reprint with the errors corrected. This, say the bibliographies, was done, copies with the original errors being accordingly rather scarce. Nevertheless, the original errors are all present in my copy of Vol. 3. So, I choose to believe this is an early printing of an attempt at a collected edition, perhaps even a trial printing. Casual looks have not revealed other copies of this 1889 3-decker format. So maybe, says the book hunter, this may be a rarity. My discovery of these volumes in a Columbus bookshop was curious. Vols. 2 and 3 appeared in the shop in July, 1995, and, I believe, were part of a large number of books bought from the estate of a deceased Columbus collector. I bought them as an apparently broken set. Many months later, in 1996, in the same shop, Vol. 1 appeared. This I promptly bought. I assume that in the confusion of a large purchase, the set had been separated. But it is reunited on my shelves, a beautiful 3-decker, befitting the glorious poetry inside.

And what of the forger? This is the infamous Thomas J. Wise (1859-1937). He was an English businessman who became recognized as the greatest book collector of his age. He was a self-made man, working his way up to being a major figure in a successful business. But from early youth, he was a literature buff, and began collecting. His wealth was unequal to the book collecting of old rarities which was fashionable then. The solution was to collect “modern first editions”, going after the first printings of writers of his time, with special emphasis on the poets. As he progressed, he extended his range, collecting the romantic poets, broadening into Restoration plays, and much else. He cultivated the still-living writers of his time, and the families of those deceased, collecting manuscript material, letters, etc. He published bibliographies of many of these authors, bibliographies which are still essential, despite conscious errors and omissions. Fig. 3 is a photograph of Tom Wise in his glory days – it first appeared in a famous catalog of his own collections. To me, his mien seems a trifle untrustworthy – would you really buy a used car from

Continued on page 18

“One of the key things is marketing,” Balliet says. The co-op supports the website, prints brochures and sponsors other local events.

Articles in a couple of key publications have helped, as well. All of the booksellers mentioned that for years people have showed up with a copy of an article that appeared in the *New York Times* that first year in 2005 (John Motyka, “A Visit in the Country: Fresh Air, Old Books,” *New York Times*, Nov. 25, 2005). Now, Diana Adams noted, a new group of visitors who heard about the village through the article in *Fine Books and Collections* (Ali Jackson-Jolley, “Book Town, NY,” *Fine Books and Collections*, Spring 2013) are showing up as well.

The fact that Dales was willing to provide space to encourage businesses to locate in Hobart did a lot to establish the nucleus of stores now open. Another factor that probably has helped is that the store owners are largely retirees. As Mahoney, himself a retired librarian pointed out, “the trend [in Hobart] is retired booksellers who don’t have to make a living at it.”

Don Dales reports that over the eight years since Hobart Book Village was launched, traffic has increased, though Jim Mahoney worries about the seasonality of the foot traffic, having to survive mainly on books sold during the summer months when the second-home owners and tourists are around.

Whatever factors may be contributing to the fact that Hobart Book Village has made it to its eighth year, a significant observation is that most of the stores are expanding. Liberty Rock Books has opened in its much larger space. Blenheim Hill Books has added the space Liberty Rock vacated for its store. The Adams have expanded from the first floor space that focuses on their rare and antiquarian books to the basement and an upper floor that offer more general books for a wider clientele.

In addition to the physical growth, the co-op is beginning to make connections with affinity groups and attract them into the community. Under the leadership of Cheryl Clarke of Blenheim Hill Books, the co-op is hosting a Festival of Women Writers the weekend after Labor Day. That would mesh well with one of Book Court’s visions—creating a retreat for writers—if they succeed in buying Bibliobarn.

Hopes for the Future

In spite of the difficulty many independent bookstores are having, the members of the Hobart Book Village co-op share the hope of all of the Book Towns—that by concentrating so many book stores in one place

the town will attract customers who, in turn, will bring in other businesses seeking to benefit from the traffic. Dales hopes that Hobart can “round out the businesses” in town, with the bookstores anchoring other businesses. One new addition to Main Street is Paper Moon, a business that complements the bookstores. It

combines a book bindery with a shop that carries a variety of book arts items.

Other new additions go beyond connections with books. The newly opened Sheep’s Nest is a interior decorator’s shop and Second Wind Furniture, which describes itself as “a small but growing business,” does furniture restoration. MURAL opened an art gallery last Thanksgiving and Liberty Rock Books’ new store has gallery space featured in one of its front rooms, with a large window open to Main Street.

If these businesses succeed, the hope is that more will follow. After all, Dales still has other properties for rent.



Visiting Hobart

- Hobart, N.Y., is located in Delaware County, south of I-88, between Binghamton and Schenectady and south of Cooperstown.
- It is about a 10 hour drive from Columbus, if you are driving straight through.
- Stores are open daily Memorial Day through Columbus Day; weekends and holiday Mondays from Columbus Day to Memorial Day
- There are two major sales each year, on Memorial Day and Thanksgiving weekend
- Private Seller Day, second weekend in August (after the annual Hobart Horseshoe Festival the last Saturday in July), when anyone can set up a table to sell books on Main Street.
- Information on the stores and other attractions and services in the area is available from the Hobart Book Village website www.hobartbookvillage.com.

SHERLOCK HOLMES, from page 1

organizations (known as Scion Societies) whose members share the same interests as the BSIs. In fact, the BSIs has become something of an “honorary” organization to which its members are invited to join after having displayed a certain dedication to the study of Holmes at the Scion Society level. The principal activity of the BSI is an annual weekend and dinner in New York City that is held on or around the fictional birthday of Sherlock Holmes, i.e. January 6th.

Mr. Whelan holds the life appointment of “Wiggins,” or leader of the organization. He has served in that position since 1997 and is only the fifth person to hold this office in its 79 year history.

If you want to explore articles about the Baker Street Irregulars, their official journal, entitled *The Baker Street Journal* (<http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/>) is full of articles about the famous detective, his cases, and those who indulge in the study.



MEDIEVAL BIBLE, from page 3

survived intact until 1981 when it was sold at auction and promptly broken by its purchasers to be sold off leaf-by-leaf. Johnson will discuss the manuscript's original value as a witness to the dynamic transitional period of early-thirteenth century biblical packaging and production, its subsequent revaluation down the centuries as an objet d'art (as opposed to a utilitarian—if deluxe—text), its “destruction and “re-packaging” into 440 constituent units of sale, and the slow, methodical process of reconstructing both the manuscript itself (physically and digitally) and its original textual, artifactual, and intellectual significance at The Ohio State University.”

Want to check out the Hornby-Cockerell Bible before the talk? Here's a link to an online exhibit at OSU: <http://library.osu.edu/innovation-projects/omeka/exhibits/show/the-king-james-bible/sections/item/64>

BOOK CRAWL, from page 5

Society. Now if I could just believe the signature on its title page is “Sophy” and she actually signed it!!”

The August Crawl enjoyed mild summer weather and started out at the Village Bookshop in Northwest Columbus, located in an old renovated church. Many of us had not visited the shop in decades, and it was a treat to see the increase and diversity of their inventory, all clean and well-organized.

The second stop was at long-time member Bill Radloff's Little Bookshop on Main Street in Westerville, where we are always greeted with Bill's humor and incredible inventory of desirable first editions. Paul



Watkins bought a huge box of Thurber related materials to donate to the Thurber House—always thinking of others, that fellow! The shop was crowded with Aldines, and we stayed well beyond our allotted hour.

Deb Lewis said, “I came home with some books to feed my interests for a while—a book on herbs to feed my new interest in essential oil therapy, a replacement copy of *Outlander* (Diana Gabaldon) the first novel in one of my favorite series, an uncorrected proof of the second book in that series, a copy of the Apocrypha which I've always intended to read, and a copy of 1,000 Places to See Before You Die in hopes that it can help me plan some trips over the next few years.”

We all hope that you will continue to plan our summer book crawls for many years to come, Deb. What a wonderful Aldus tradition!

NOTTINGHAM, from page 6

100 books, can afford to. Harvey is best known for a mystery series set in Nottingham, where he lived and earned his Masters in American Studies. The protagonist is a jazz-loving copper named Charlie Resnick.

I've read only the first in the Resnick series *Lonely Hearts* and found it worth the reading; however, I do agree with Harvey, who later indicated that if he had it to do over again he'd apply some badly needed editing. I suppose we'd all like a second shot at things we've written in the past. In *Lonely Hearts* Harvey has Resnick meet someone in a bar called The Partridge located on the same street as The Peacock. The description, including the rare (these days) push bell to call for service in the lounge bar, makes me certain it's the same place.



The front bedroom on the second floor in which Lawrence was born.



A typical row of 19th-century miners' homes built to accommodate the influx of workers. They look nice enough now, but Lawrence described them as being "sordid and hideous."

Ten of the dozen or so books in the series, which have gotten good reviews in the U.S., are available from Harvey's current U.S. publisher, Otto Penzler at Mysterious Press.

* * * * *

I'd read Alan Sillitoe's *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* and *Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* when they first came out in paperback in

the days when I was still reading current fiction and discovering such writers as Ken Kesey, Joseph Heller, Kurt Vonnegut, Bernard Malamud, and so on. (Who am I missing today? Probably many great writers.) So I was pleased to discover that Sillitoe was a Notts lad. At 14, having failed the test that would have admitted

him into high school, he went to work in local factories and then joined the RAF. In 1949 he moved back to Notts for a short time, but left again, returning only as a visitor now and then. During the next 50 years he was a prolific writer of short stories, novels, poetry, screenplays, essays, and stage plays.

There's a coterie of Nottinghamians that revels in the city's gritty past. They revere Sillitoe for having captured some of its chapters on paper (and later film). And an active organized fan base is dedicated, among other things, to raising a statue to the man.

In 1997 he was elected a member of the Royal Society of Literature. This is the sort of co-opting the establishment inevitably does when an outsider achieves success. It was similar to Alan Ginsburg's being Who's Whoed in 1970.¹ Sillitoe, the boy who wasn't good enough to attend high school was, I suspect, quite honored, but didn't let it go his head. Many younger writers and fans have noted his generous spirit and willingness to share his time and thoughts.



The phoenix, representing eternal life, was Lawrence's personal totem. This one, perhaps two-and-a-half inches in diameter, was embedded in the sidewalk along a section of the Blue Line Trail.



The D. H. Lawrence Heritage Centre.

connected to Sillitoe. In *Saturday Night*, he has Arthur, along with some friends and relatives, elbow their way "through the squash of people packing the Trip to

Even though Sillitoe left Notts at an early age, there are any number of associated sites one can visit. There's even an app to guide you. Other than The Peacock, I stopped, as far as I know, at only one other place that could definitely be

Continued on page 16

¹ Ginsburg got even by including in his entry that he was a communist and a homosexual and listing Peter Orlovsky as his spouse. That would barely draw a yawn today, but 43 years ago it was a bombshell. Ya gotta love the guy.

Jerusalem, a limpet of lights and noise fastened onto the carcass of the Castle Rock.” This is reputed to be the oldest continuously operating inn in the U.K. I found it to be a busy, noisy, but fun place for a lunch, which I washed down with a half-pint. That was the extent of my Sillitoe shadowing.

* * * * *



A scene in the Heritage Centre depicting Frieda and D. H. going over a manuscript.

The major literary attraction in Notts is, of course, D. H. Lawrence. The University of Nottingham has, and I'll quote a brochure, “built up an international resource of manuscripts, books, photographs, paintings and other items, to record his

life, literary achievements and lasting cultural legacy.” This is to be expected. Explicating D. H. Lawrence is a major industry, and where better to mine his assets than here. During a quick check of scholarly and literary journals I found a reference to over 11,000 articles devoted to the man and his work, the earliest being a 1913 review of *Love Poems and Others*. On the grounds of the University Park campus there's a life-size bronze statue of the author.

It amuses me to think that my grandfather and D.H. Lawrence, born two years apart, may very well have passed one another on the sidewalk, but as with the other authors, Lawrence was merely incidental to my being there.² Nevertheless, one morning I took the Rainbow bus to Eastwood, Lawrence's hometown.



Arthur Lawrence's favorite pub. I considered stopping in for a drink, but decided that visiting famous writers' father's hangouts was putting too fine a point on things.

It was easy enough to find his birthplace, a narrow three-story coal miner's home on Victoria Street. I was just in time to join two other visitors on a personally guided tour led by an extremely well-informed docent. In many ways the house reminded me of the Orchard Street Tenement Museum on New York's Lower East Side, except that the Lawrences' living conditions were much better.

Unlike most of her counterparts in the mining district, Mrs. Lawrence, a former school teacher, wanted her children to look forward to more than working in the collieries and factories. She kept a house that I suppose could be described as respectable working class. Arthur Lawrence, David Herbert's father, was a coal miner, but that was no reason to live like poor folk



As a result of Mrs. Lawrence's careful money management, the family eventually moved into much roomier quarters—probably the unit with the double set of bay windows second from the left.

or, for that matter, to talk and think like them. Mrs. Lawrence's efforts to have the boy properly educated won him a scholarship to Nottingham High School and culminated in a teacher's course at Nottingham University from 1906 to 1908. Funnily enough (as they say in the U.K.) he thought

his creative development had been impeded by a formal education.

When the house tour was over, I crossed the street to have lunch at the White Peacock Tea Shop, named after Lawrence's first novel. My expectations of standard fare were fulfilled with a slice of quiche, salad, a lemon square, and tea. Back in front of the house I followed a blue line painted on the sidewalk³ to the D. H. Lawrence Heritage Centre. This is an attractive two-story brick building that was originally the headquarters of Arthur Lawrence's employers, Barber, Walker & Co., and where, as a boy, D. H. went to collect his father's wages.

Though much of the building is devoted to

² D. H. and my grandfather would not have hoisted pints together in a pub. George Henry was a strict Methodist who even disapproved of children's card games, let alone alcohol consumption.

³ The idea of The Blue Line Trail was frankly borrowed from Boston's Freedom Trail. It leads to various sites associated with Lawrence's growing up.



A sculpture located near the entrance to the Eastwood Public Library. It's a bit more torrid than your typical library art, but that's what happens when you have such an interesting local celebrity.

Lawrence, there's an art gallery with changing shows and other displays concerned with Late Victorian life. One section has books and other artifacts relating to the famous trial in 1960 at which *Lady Chatterley's Lover*—formerly banned in the U.K.—was found to be not obscene. Among the

prosecutor's questions to the jury was one I particularly liked: "Is this a book you would wish your wife or servant to read?" This gives a good picture of the composition of the jury.

In 1912, Lawrence met and ran off with a married woman, Frieda Weekely née Von Richthofen and, yes, a relative of the Red Baron. They later married and during a peripatetic few years had a pretty rough go of it. In the 20s they moved to Kiowa Ranch in New Mexico.⁴ It was during this period that he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. Lawrence's last years were spent at the Villa Mirinda in Tuscany; he died in 1930 in Vence, France. So there are three more sites for

diehard Lawrencians to visit.

Back in the day, the good citizens of Eastwood shunned Lawrence and his nasty books. Nowadays they can't praise him enough, though I imagine I would have gotten in a bit of trouble had I picked up a copy of *Lady Chatterley* in the Heritage Centre gift shop and started reading certain passages aloud. The thing I appreciated most about visiting Eastwood was that one needn't have ever heard of D. H.

Lawrence to get an appreciation of working class life in the late 1800s. It

gave me a good picture of what my grandfather would have experienced as a boy, and this isn't something one can often achieve.



This sign for the "Lawrencetown" pawn shop in Eastwood brought to mind the old Jimmy Durante line: "Ev'rybody wants ta get inta da act!"

* * * * *

The county of Nottinghamshire, of which Notts is the county seat, is worth a visit on its own account. If you have certain literary interests it is definitely a place to spend a few days, and I didn't even get around to mentioning Lord Byron and Robin Hood.

⁴ The property was a gift from that amazing benefactress of bohemia, Mabel Dodge Luhan, It is known today as the D. H. Lawrence Ranch and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Pulp Fiction & Super Heroes

On Thursday, July 25, RBMS and the Aldus Society hosted a special lecture by pulp historian and publisher Ed Hulse entitled "The Ancestors of Batman: Colorful Crime Fighters of Pulp Fiction." In a small lecture room in Thompson Library at The Ohio State University, Mr. Hulse spoke for an engaging hour about the rise of the "hero pulps" and their lasting impact on popular culture over the past eight decades.

2013 marks the 80th anniversary of the birth of the "hero pulps," a genre of popular action-adventure storytelling that not only attracted legions of fans throughout the 1930s and 1940s, but also exerted a massive influence on popular culture in America and around the world for decades to come. The hero-pulps and their colorful characters include Doc Savage, The Shadow, The Spider, G-8 and His Battle Aces, Captain

Future, Operator 5, and Secret Agent "X". They inspired the creators of superhero comic characters like Superman and Batman. A new, twenty-first century pulp-renaissance is taking place today, with countless publishers and TV screen writers, large and small alike, reviving the genre through collected editions and facsimile reprints of the original pulps.

Hooked on pulp fiction? Visit Blood 'N' Thunder's website <http://muraniapress.com/blood-n-thunder/> and the pulpfest website <http://www.pulpfest.com/> and its facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PulpFest>.



FIG. 3



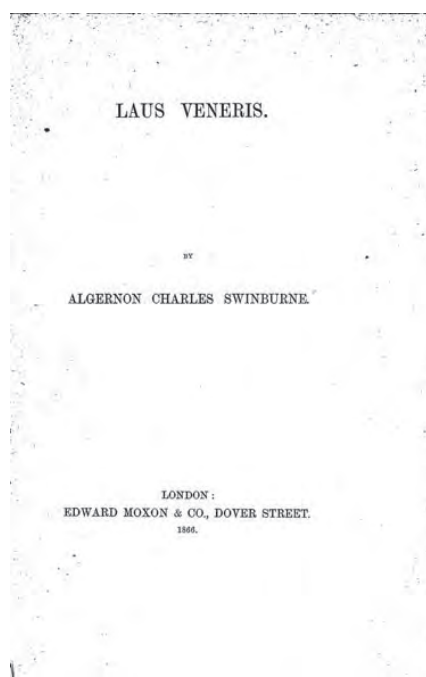
this guy? Well, as we shall recount, you would be ill-advised to buy a rare book from him. Wise's income seemed never equal to his book collecting ambitions, and he conceived a then-unique method of income supplement. Forging an entire book is a cumbersome business, and even with shorter material, forging printed pages is difficult, if the original is available for comparison. With printed media, the non-fakes are usually available. But many Victorian authors, particularly the poets, had the practice of privately printing short pieces, for distribution among friends, before submission to publishers. These "pre-firsts" were, of course, esteemed by collectors, both for their rarity and for their closeness to the original writing of the authors. Wise bethought himself of recently dead writers, and had a few such pre-firsts printed. There was no need to invent the poems – the officially published versions were available. And poets were often doing this – even their closest and dearest may not have realized that a certain private printing had existed. With his authority as a book pundit, Wise would cite the forgeries in his bibliographies of the author, even creating false provenances for various fakes. The forgeries would be dribbled out into the rare book market, often for eventual sale to wealthy American collectors, through channels which concealed their originator. Wise produced such material for Elizabeth Browning, Tennyson, George Eliot, and many others. He eventually produced forgeries of some living writers who he guessed would not notice. For example, forgeries of Ruskin, who had lost his mind, and of Swinburne, who was semi-secluded while drying out under the tutelage of Watts-Dunton.

This is not the place to recite the familiar and

long history of this Prince of Forgers. There is a vast literature, and books about the Wise forgeries and the items themselves are widely collected. The original expose' of Wise's villainy was not until 1934, when two scholarly book dealers, John Carter and Graham Pollard published the classic "An Enquiry into the Nature of Certain Nineteenth Century Pamphlets". This is as fascinating tale of literary detection as ever there was, and one I recommend to all bibliophiles. Wise, who was still alive, maintained his innocence of being the forger until his death 3 years later. But, by then, the world had made its judgment, and knew him for what he was. I end here by showing my own copy of a Wise forgery, which is, of course, of "Laus Veneris" (Fig. 4). The Moxon, 1866 imprint is completely bogus. It was printed long after the true first, probably in the 1890's, and is condemned on several bases as originating later than the stated imprint date. The copy here came from a California dealer, and this book hunter paid considerably more than ten times the price paid for the true American first of "Laus Veneris". And maybe the shade of Tom Wise can look up from whatever bibliographic hell he is serving eternity in, and gives a wry smile. And he perhaps recites the lines from the poem:

"Me, most forsaken of all souls that fell;
Me, satiated with things insatiable;
Me, for whose sake the extreme hell makes mirth,
Yea, laughter kindles at the heart of hell."

FIG. 4



How I Became a Collector

The Collection: An Early “Extra Beat of the Heart”

by Donald G. Tritt

My first “extra beat of the heart” find occurred in the 1960s when I happened onto a clearance sale of used books in the basement of a downtown bookshop in Boston. I recall persons milling about rummaging through randomly piled books. I noticed on a lower shelf a leather-bound two volume set, its title reading only *Views of Switzerland*. Opening it, I found it was published in 1836, shortly before the birth of my Swiss grandfather. Written by William Beattie and published in London by George Virtue, this book contained excellent text and 106 steel engravings, all expressive of Swiss life of the era. Years later and to my amazement, I discovered and purchased three additional materials closely related to this particular book. One related item was a rare 14 page 1835 Subscription Flyer or Ephemera Prospectus for the book. Another item was a framed porcelain tile titled *Swiss Cottage near Thun*. Bearing an exact portrayal of the engraving on the title page from volume I of Beatty, the reverse of this tile reads “M & JD.” Another surprise portrayal of this same engraving was found in the 1842 book *Switzerland and the Swiss: Letters Written during a Journey to Switzerland* by Mrs. Ashton Yates showing the engraver as J.T. Clark. This early chance finding followed by the discovery of these associated materials set in motion 50 years of enjoyable searching and collecting.

How I Became a Collector of Travel Books

by Scott Williams

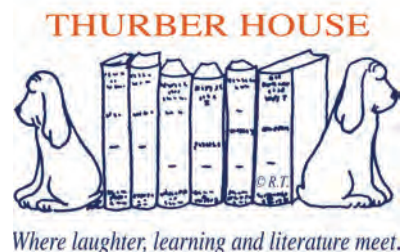
Growing up I learned about or knew relatives who had lived, worked, and traveled overseas. In Junior High I set my goal to save money and leave for Europe the day after High School graduation, which I did! For about five incredible years I traveled around the planet in between working to save more money for these journeys. I started a hippie import business that multiplied the money saved before each trip. The clothing and trinkets being shipped home included travel guidebooks, pamphlets, posters, and postcards (often used as padding!). Retiring from this vagabond “endless summer” lifestyle in my early 20s was painful what with bouts of travel fever and dreams featuring places and people I associated with overseas. However, I felt a strong desire to sink my roots in my hometown Columbus. At a narrow point in time in the mid-70s I walked into Bread & Roses, a radical bookstore in Washington, DC, and then stumbled upon Roy Willis’ used book store on E. Main St. here in Columbus. I have been an armchair traveler and collector ever since. Funny how you remember so well your time spent and titles found in those first one or two bookstores!



Thurber House is proud to host The Aldus Society!



Visit us daily from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., and check out www.thurberhouse.org for information on upcoming author events, education programs, and children’s programming.





The Aldus Society

P.O. Box 1150

Worthington, Ohio 43085-1150

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2013 Aldus Society Holiday Dinner will be THURSDAY, Dec. 12 at La Scala Restaurant.

Please note we are gathering on the second Thursday in December, in keeping with our regular Aldus programming schedule. Members will receive their invitations this fall!

Once again, the Holiday Dinner will include a Silent Auction and Raffle,
with items available for review in the hours before the dinner.

You may drop off your donations of BOOKS and BOOK-RELATED auction items
(clean and in good condition, please!) at either of these locations:

Acorn Bookshop
1464 West 5th Avenue
(Grandview)
Open 7 days per week
(614) 486-1860

OR

Hoffmans Bookshop
4167 North High Street
(Clintonville)
Open by appointment
(614) 262-0059

If you are interested in helping prepare for the auction, please contact
Laralyn Sasaki at laralynsasaki@yahoo.com or (614) 975-0765.