



Aldus Society Notes

August, 2014

Volume 14, No. 3

September 11, 2014: Rare Books about Early Ohio Archaeology - Presented by Dr. Jarrod Burks, Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc.

When European-American travelers and pioneers first set foot in Ohio, they could not help but to notice the massive earthen constructions that dotted the landscape, signs of a civilization long since passed. The debate about who created these earthworks raged for a century, until it was finally put to rest by the Bureau of Ethnology at the Smithsonian in 1894. In a landmark book, with the no-nonsense title "Report on the Mound Explorations of the Bureau of Ethnology," archaeologist Cyrus Thomas concluded that the mounds and earthworks of Ohio and in many surrounding states, those that we today see in parks, along roads, and in our very back yards, are the product of Native American ingenuity and effort. Today we know that nearly all these ancient monuments were constructed between 400 B.C. and A.D. 400.

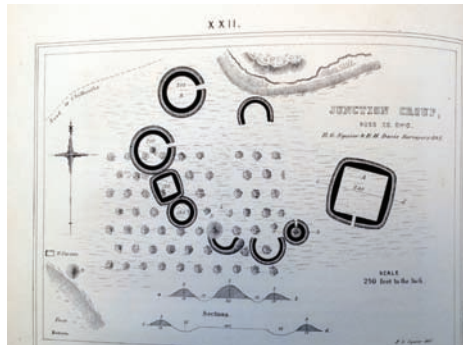
In formulating his conclusions and illustrating his arguments, Thomas relied on maps of the earthworks and mounds that were published in many books, folios, and

articles from the 100 years preceding his efforts. Even by the 1880s and 1890s, when the Smithsonian crews

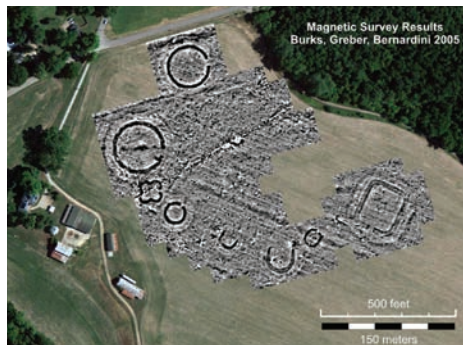
were out in the field collecting new data, many of Ohio's earthworks had already disappeared from the surface. Less than one hundred years of plowing and land leveling did what nearly two thousand years of natural weathering and erosion could not. Nineteenth century farming and land development flattened many of Ohio's grand ancient monuments. And to this day, the maps of several dozen nineteenth century books and articles are all that remain of the earthworks...or so many people thought.

The work of Dr. Jarrod Burks and others in the region seeks to re-discover the ancient monuments that surround us. Relying on the old published maps and descriptions as guides, Jarrod uses high-tech geophysical survey instruments to search for the foundations of flattened earthworks and mounds once thought to be destroyed. His presentation to the Aldus Society will

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Map of the Junction Group site in Ross County, Ohio published in *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley* by Squier and Davis (1848).



Magnetic survey results from the Junction Group; note the many similarities and the one major difference (the quatrefoil!!) between the Squier and Davis map and the new magnetic map.

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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Aldus Society Notes is published three times a year. For article ideas and submissions contact the Newsletter Editor, Miriam Kahn at mbkcons@gmail.com, or 614-239-8977.

Newsletter deadlines are August 1, December 15, and April 1.

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President's Message

As I look forward to Aldus Society's 15th year, I have been reflecting on our personal introduction to the Aldus Society and the world of folks with bibliographic interests. Carol and I were at the second meeting of the Aldus Society on a rainy night at the Thompson Library. We had seen an article in the *Dispatch* announcing the formation and meeting of this new organization of book lovers. (I had only recently learned of the Rowfant Club and wondered if Columbus had such an organization.)

Carol wasn't particularly interested, but agreed to go with me. Bob Tauber talked about the history and publications of OSU's Logan Elm Press and there was a drawing for its publication, *A Tale Told Twice*. Carol was a winner and upon seeing the publication said, "Well, I guess we should join." We did and haven't looked back.

Under the leadership of Geoff Smith, Ron Ravneberg, Genie Hoster, Bill Evans, and Ed Hoffman, supported by dedicated Trustees and many volunteers, we have been blessed over the years with interesting book-related presentations and field trips, special workshops, Geoff Smith's "First Saturdays," holiday dinners, book auctions, and summer picnics.

This year's programming, planned by Marilyn Logue and last year's Program Committee, will bring us another year of quality programs. We'll hear presentations from a collector of early Archaeology books, Bowling Green University's popular-culture books and other popular-culture items, the owners of *justAjar Design+Press*, the author of *The Archimedes Codex*, the history of *The Kenyon Review*, the head of the University of Kansas's Spencer Research library and the Aldus members talking about their personal collecting interests at the popular Aldus Collects program.

The year will be highlighted with the members-only Holiday Dinner and Book Auction, a field trip to Dayton to view the Stuart Rose exhibition, *Imprints and Impressions: Milestone in Human Progress*, and *First Saturdays* at OSU's Rare Books and Manuscripts Library. Other field trips and perhaps workshops and "Book Crawls" are likely to be added during the year.

Detective Cyrus Barker, in Will Thomas Victorian novel *Some Danger Involved*, observed that "To a bibliophile, there is but one thing better than a box of new books, and that is a box of old ones," a sentiment shared by many of us.

- Emerson

Editor's Note

Inside this overstuffed newsletter, you'll find articles to delight every book lover and collector. Bill Rich writes about swashbucklers and heroes. George Cowmeadow Bauman will surprise readers with his wonderful article about Beatrix Potter and her animal friends. You will laugh at Don Rice's clerihews and marvel at Matthew Schweitzer's 1495 bible. If that is not enough food for the bibliophile, there are articles about libraries, pulp fiction, and more libraries. That's a fancy way of saying, there is something for everyone.

If you are still looking for a good book to read this summer, pick up Michael Blanding's *The Map Thief*. He writes about E. Forbes Smiley and his career as map collector cum thief. Best of all, the book recounts the history of mapmaking, printing, and publishing. This readable history is very different from Miles Harvey's *Island of the Lost Maps: A True Story of Cartographic Crime* which recounts the life and thefts of Gilbert Bland and other notorious map thefts throughout history.

As always, thanks to the Aldines who write articles, long and short, for the newsletter, and Don Rice who does the copy editing. I could not do this job without you.

Until the next issue,

Miriam Kahn, Editor (among other things).

October 9, 2014: Popular Fiction as Popular Culture - Nancy Down, Librarian at Bowling Green State University

The Ray and Pat Browne Library for Popular Culture Studies was founded in 1969, with the mission to acquire and preserve research materials on American popular culture. One of the major focuses of the collection has always been popular fiction. Today we have around 70,000 cataloged books that fall into some popular literature genre: western, science fiction, fantasy, romance, detective fiction, and more. The popular fiction collection also includes such formats as nickel weeklies, dime novels, pulp magazines, vintage paperbacks, comics, and current paperbacks and hardcovers by a variety of publishers. The collection can be said to tell the story of American popular fiction from 1870s to the present, not only by story contents but also the physical formats and marketing strategies of popular fiction publishers. For instance, the pulp magazines could be said to have an influence on the development of a specific American version of science fiction and the invention of the “weird tales” genre. In another example, the collection reflects how series romances have been marketed over time.

The popular fiction collection shows how particular characters and motifs develop and then become part of an American mythology. The masked superhero appears in the pulps (the Spider, Black Bat, the Shadow) before the comics featured such heroes as Batman. Nick Carter appeared first in nickel weeklies and now in comics. As the characters change in their different manifestations, so have the historical situations that created them. The Browne Popular Culture Library’s fiction collection is a unique collection that reflects the role such literary characters play in our literary history and how they reflect our historical circumstances. Nancy Down is Head Librarian of the Browne Popular Culture Library. She has an MLS from Indiana University and a Ph.D. in English Literature from Drew University (NJ). Her research interests include popular culture archives detective fiction, and pulp magazines. In her twenty-five years at Bowling Green State University, Nancy has been a cataloger, reference librarian, and now heads the Popular Culture Library.



Nov. 13, 2014: Designing and Printing Using Old Types by Bobby and Sara Rosenstock, justAjar Design Press, Marietta, OH

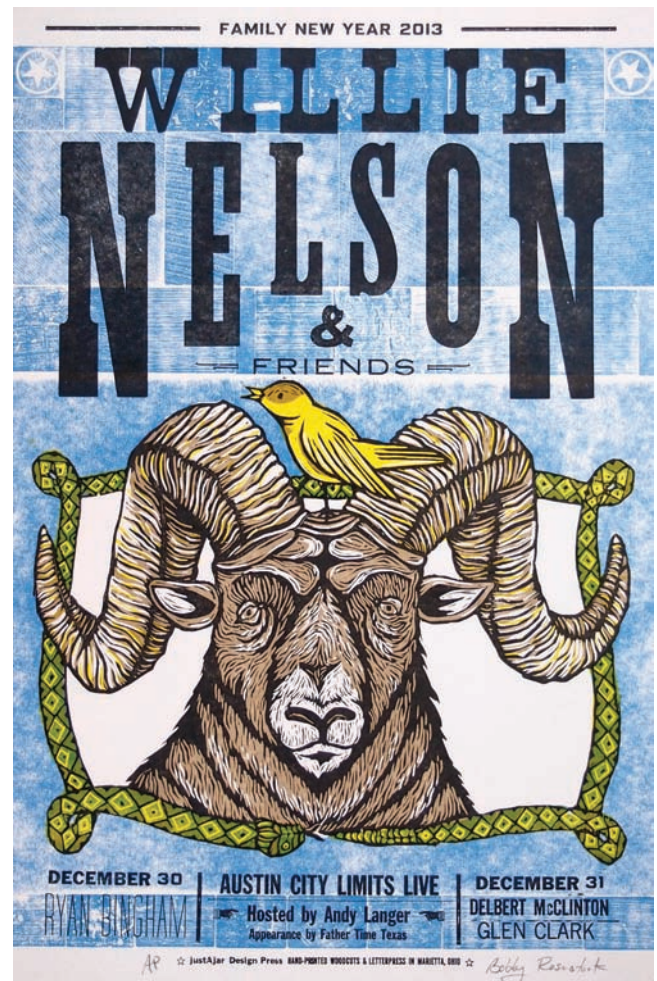
Sara and Bobby Rosenstock will speak about letterpress printing and design. Owners of justAjar Design Press in Marietta, Ohio, the Rosenstocks specialize in letterpress and graphic design. Bobby creates custom posters from woodcuts and sets type on their hand cranked & foot treadle powered presses. Sara heads the Graphic Design department at Marietta College and does a range of commercial design work for justAjar <http://justajar.com/>.



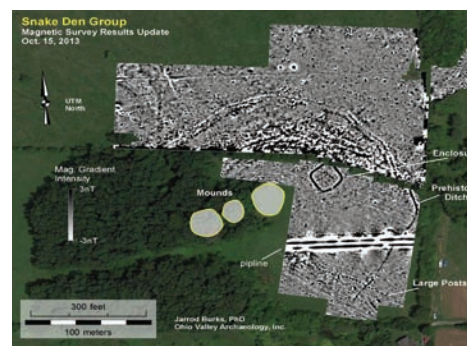
Their talk will focus on the reemergence of letterpress printing, and its role as a tool

for artists and designers in the 21st century. In the age of shopping online, they are interested in the local role that graphic design and printing can have on their community. Whether hosting a typesetting workshop for cub scouts, working with local businesses and schools, or creating posters for town events, they see the positive affect that attractive, well-crafted design has on a community. Visitors and workshop participants gain an appreciation for age-old crafts and equipment.

Sara, from Mount Vernon, Washington, holds a BFA from Alfred University and an MFA in Graphic Design from Tyler University. Bobby, from Marlboro, New Jersey, holds a BAFA from Alfred University and an MFA in Book Arts & Printmaking from the University of the Arts. They reside in Marietta, Ohio with their daughter Elle.



ARCHAEOLOGY from page 1



Magnetic survey results from the Snake Den Group in Pickaway County, Ohio. First mapped by the Ohio Historical Society in 1897. The large outer enclosure (ditch) surrounding the mounds and hilltop detected in the magnetic data is a new find, the small square with rounded corners was originally recorded as a circle.

juxtapose old and new imagery, revealing the skills of early cartographers and all of the many ancient wonders that they missed for lack of more advanced mapping equipment and knowledge about what lies below. From findings such as small

new enclosures at well known sites to newly revealed earthwork complexes, and a new "lost coil" at Serpent Mound to boot, geophysical survey is heralding in a new era of remarkable earthwork discoveries.

Summer Book Crawls

July 5th was the date for our first summer book crawl. At least 14 Aldus members crawled their way to bookstores and around stacks. They started at the Village Bookshop (it's the one in the little white church), 2424 W Dublin-Granville Rd., Linworth 43235. With too little time to browse, intrepid Aldus members ventured to the Acorn Bookshop, 1464 West 5th Avenue, Columbus 43212, where they were treated to a nice discount if they took books home with them. The crawl ended nearby at Matt the Millers Tavern, 1400 Grandview Avenue, Columbus 43212. Satiated and with groaning arms, book crawlers were determined to save up for the second crawl.

The August 2nd book crawl traveled to Bill Radloff's Little Bookshop, 58 East Main St, Westerville 43081, where he provided a great discount for all Aldus members. Then on to Hoffman Books, 4167 North High St, Columbus 43214 (with similar discounts!). The Crawl ended at Lavash Cafe, 2985 N High St, Columbus 43202 where book crawlers feasted on the scrumptious buffet.



Ladies' Luncheon

Ten members gathered for lunch on July 19th at the MCL Cafeteria. These lunches are scheduled quarterly and provide women members with an extra opportunity for "bibliofellowship" - the enjoyment of books that is enhanced by sharing it with others.

Members brought several books to show, including the excellent reading list at the back of *The End of Your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe, *The Snow Goose* by Paul Gallico, and *The Goat Island Journal 1993* by Carol Schwartzott.



Susan Meyer (left) helped Marcia Preston show members the accordion book about the four seasons on Goat Island, a place in the Niagara River near the falls.



Picnic 2014

A record 48 folks gathered together for our annual informal picnic on Sunday, June 22nd. The weather was perfect and sunny; not too hot, not too windy. The tables groaned with food. Colorful salads vied with scrumptious desserts for attention. Some Aldines started with dessert, others the healthy food. Our regular meeting room hummed with conversation about books, food, and more books. Several members took advantage of the Thurber Center's wonderful wrap-around porch, sitting in the shade and pleasant atmosphere.

Our picnic was punctuated with awards handed out by our outgoing and incoming presidents, Ed Hoffman and Emerson Gilbert. They distributed bookmarks carefully crafted by Christine to hardworking volunteers. This year's volunteers include: George Bauman, Harry Campbell, Tom Dearing, Erin Deel, Christine Hayes, Carol Gilbert, Graznya Grauer, Lani Heilman, Tina Hoffman, Genie Hoster, Jay Hoster, Sue Johnson, Miriam Kahn, Leah Kalasky, Steve Marks, Laura Masonbrink, Susan Reed, Geoff Smith, and Paul Watkins.



The Aldus Society

www.AldusSociety.com

The 2014 Cleveland FABS Tour

by Bill Evans

Every year the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies (FABS) holds a book tour somewhere in the United States. It's a great chance to see world class collections, both private and public, and enjoy the company of book nerds from all over. This year was Cleveland's turn.

Remember the movie, *If It's Tuesday This Must Be Belgium*? In June on the FABS tour it was: *If It's 2:15 This Must Be The Cleveland Institute of Art*.

Ringmaster Terry Shockley of the host Rowfant Club kept us prancing at a steady clip as we visited at least eighteen (yes - 18) separate museums, libraries and individual homes over the three full and two half days. He also threw in a cemetery bus tour with bookish interest. Whew! I may be missing a few in the count since several locations had more than one significant rare book area. The librarians and curators who greeted us were thrilled to have such an attentive audience. At times exhausting, but always fascinating, the breadth and quality of the selections made for us by Terry and his Rowfant Fellows will be hard to top.

Our home base was the Glidden Hotel, a converted robber baron mansion. It is located on University Circle - the heart of cultural activity in Cleveland - and most of our tour stops were within walking distance. Many deserved more time, but Terry's rallying bell was insistent and off we would go to the next venue. A great sampling, but a return trip on a leisurely summer day is definitely in order.

Some highlights

The behind the scenes tour of Severance Hall, home of the Cleveland Orchestra, has a catwalk look at the more than six thousand individual pipes on the concert organ.

The Crawford Auto-Aviation Collection at the

Western Reserve Historical Society Library building just off University Circle contains over 50 automobiles showing the history of the car over the past 130 years or so. My favorites include the 1910 Hupmobile - the first car to drive around the world. (it took about a year). The bright red, big finned 1958 Chrysler 300D which stretched out to 220 inches was a sight to behold. For all

you Honda Civic drivers that's over 18 feet long! Try parallel parking that in front of your favorite bookstore.

The Cleveland institute of Art

Library had a great display of seminal artists' books including Edward Ruscha's *Twenty Six Gasoline Stations*, John Baldessari's *Brutus Killed Caesar* and Heidi Neilson's *Atlas of Punctuation*. Fascinating.

The Ingalls Library in the Cleveland Museum of Art has a complete set of works printed by William Morris at the Kelmscott Press.

On the trip to Oberlin College we were joined by several other Aldus members. It was a beautiful day and since our daughter Gwen got her undergraduate degrees from Oberlin it seemed like old times. The Allen Memorial Art Museum is one of the finest in the nation and the Oberlin Library has a tremendous collection of anti-slavery materials.

An annual FABS treat is the chance to visit the homes of private collectors. On this year's tour we took trips in small groups to hear Bob Jackson speak of his incredible Rockwell Kent collection and books that were important to him throughout his life. Then on to meet Jon Lindseth who spoke on his research into Jewish fables as well as his Bronte and Alice treasures. A truly amazing afternoon.

I could go on and on, but the final evening meal at the Rowfant Club and talk by Paul Ruxin was a fitting close to the week's events - or almost. We still had a Sunday tour of the Lakeview Cemetery and a visit to the John Carroll University library before heading home.

The fellowship of other bookish folks and the excitement of undiscovered treasures will keep Marcia and me on the FABS tour for a long time to come. Next stop - Philadelphia. Don't miss it.

NOTE: Susan Hanes, president of Caxton Club, put together a scrapbook at <http://fabsclubnews.blogspot.com/2014/07/fabs-cleveland-2014-photojournal.html>.



Beatrix Potter (Re)Enters My Life

by George Cowmeadow Bauman



Beatrix Potter and her charming English country animals have hopped (back) into my life, unexpectedly, after a chance encounter with a longtime Acorn Bookshop customer.

Stephen Haynes came in looking for mysteries by Susan Wittig Albert. I knew we had several and said so, leading him past Science Fiction and Literature to the long back row of Mystery paperbacks, where a large, stuffed, black gorilla sits in a small cart atop a chest-high bookcase near the Natural History section, watching over visitors to that corner of the bookshop.

"I'm looking specifically for titles in her Cottage Tales of Beatrix Potter series," Stephen informed me as we wound our way through the neatly arranged bookcases filled with booklovers' temptations.

I'd not heard of that series, but what I don't know about books is extensive. Secondhand bookselling is a humbling profession; every day we hear about and are asked for books and authors we've never heard of, no matter how many years we've been in the business. Theoretically, any book that's *ever* been published could show up in our shop, and that's millions of books. You would think that after my 50 years of putting books in peoples' hands that I'd be quite the know-it-all, but I'm constantly reminded of the gaps in my book-awareness.

When my ignorance of these specified mysteries showed on my face, Stephen explained to me that Albert had used, as the basis of her stories, Potter's real-life 1905 purchase of Hill Top Farm near Lake Windemere in the Lake District of England. She imagined how Potter, in her interactions with long-time village residents, might have quietly helped resolve small – and some not-so-small – mysteries in the tiny hamlets of Near Sawrey and Far Sawrey, one-half mile apart.

"My wife really enjoys British 'cozies,' and these are about as far from noir as you can get!" Stephen laughed.

British village mysteries?! I became personally interested in finding these books, as well as professionally motivated to satisfy a customer, as I also like those non-violent, non-graphic cozies.

I found Albert's mysteries quickly, but to Stephen's disappointment, we had only the first one in the series,

The Tale of Top Hill Farm.

"She's already read that one," he said with a sigh. "I'm looking for the others about Potter." I told him I'd check in the hardback section and in the backroom for him. He wandered off to browse in Film as I continued the quest for those mysteries.

But I could find only a second copy of that first book, which I eagerly plucked off the shelf to take home with me.

I reported my findings to Stephen with my apologies for not being able to fill his request, informing him that we'd call when others came in. I also grinned and told him that his request had generated interest on my part and, holding up the spare copy, told him that I was taking it home to read. He laughed and said he'd tell his wife that she had influenced my reading list.



On my bedstand at home was the book I'd *been* reading, *Havana Fever*, a novel translated from Cuban Spanish about an informal secondhand bookdealer who had found a large, valuable private library in a once-fabulous house. I was enjoying the novel. The author, Leonardo Padura, was a good writer, which was a bonus. I've read every book I could find re booksellers/bookstores/bookselling, but there are quite a few of dubious literary quality. *Havana Fever* was a pleasant surprise.

After I'd taken the Beatrix Potter mystery home, it found its way immediately to the bedroom – perhaps nudged there by little Lucy Liu-cat, who thinks she's in charge of running the house, which is why one of her nicknames is Sgt. Snoopy. Linda and I end our days reading newspapers and our current books in bed, where Lucy and Satchmo curl up with us until lights-out around 12:30.

That night came the dilemma every reader faces when a very promising new title pops up to challenge one's current book for the right to be read. It happens all the time when you work in a bookstore, what with tempting books arriving every day. For me, now, it was English village cozy vs. an unusual bookselling story set in Cuba with graphic scenes in the post-revolutionary era.

It was time to welcome gentle, guileless Beatrix Potter and her critters into my life. Lucy and Satchmo approved by rubbing their faces against the new volume.

"*It must be a good book,*" Lucy said to Big Mo as they settled onto their favorite blankets. "*It has a cat on the cover!*"



I began reading *The Tale of Top Hill Farm* immediately, and loved it. It's as though a Creator of Books somewhere threw into a cosmic book-blender the "Mitford" books of Jan Karon, Orwell's *Animal Farm*, James Herriot's veterinarian tales, *Mother Goose* and the "Sneaky Pie" series by Rita Mae Brown.

Albert uses some of Potter's animal characters – Tom Thumb, Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle, and rabbits Flopsy and Mopsy – in her own book, to good effect, linking the series together. The Potter illustrations were copyrighted when the books were published, and so do not appear in Albert's text, though they might do so in the future. The copyright expired on January 1 of this year.

I even enjoyed the parts where the animals converse about their observations of the Big Folks' behavior. As someone who has lived with animals all my life – dogs when growing up and cats for the last forty-plus years -- I found this treatment fun.

Clearly Albert had studied the Potter books closely, and was echoing the author's approach of giving self-awareness and perceptivity to animals, which co-existed with adults in Albert's fictional village world. They had opinions about what was going on in the small community, where everyone knew everyone else's business. Albert says, "I confess to loving the animals, for I find that they offer dimensions of story that are simply not possible when the narrative is relayed only through human characters."

If humans were nearby when the creatures chatted with one another, what they heard was meowing and barking and squeaking. The animals felt it was a *human* problem that they couldn't communicate with the animals, not their own shortcoming. The cats and dog even solved one of the minor mysteries in this tale and subtly assisted with others. Albert has a deft touch, preventing the conceit of animal intelligence and conversation from becoming treacly.

About halfway through *The Tale of Hill Top Farm*, I

thought to find out more about Beatrix Potter. I'd sold her books for years, but never thought about her or those books beyond putting them in the hands of those who wanted them – as with most authors I handle in the bookshop. I looked her up on Wikipedia, and noticed that there was a recent movie based on the author's life.

Miss Potter, starring René Zellweger, came out in 2006 to good reviews. I downloaded it from Amazon and watched it one afternoon on a day off, while Linda was teaching at Ohio State. The film showed Potter's privileged London background and how her parents dominated her life into her forties, trying to keep her at home, in the traditional role of oldest spinster daughter, whose job it was to take care of her elderly parents. It was such a good arrangement for them that they were strongly against her marrying anyone other than one of the wealthy young men they paraded in front of her, all of whom were unacceptable to Beatrix. She wanted to make her own decisions about matters related to her future, especially a husband, though at age thirty-eight she considered herself a spinster and had about given up on marriage.

She had been tutored by a succession of capable governesses, receiving no formal education except in art at which she excelled, drawing images of garden flowers and neighborhood animals, many of which she and her brother Bertram took up to the third floor nursery - frogs, snails, bats, mice, and a hedgehog or two.



Beatrix began writing what she called "illustrated letters" to the children of a former nanny, correspondence which featured illustrations of her favored creatures. They were so well received that she began selling her images to card companies. She also tried, unsuccessfully, to find a publisher for her little animal stories. Undaunted - and with a strong entrepreneurial sense - she self-published the animal tales in 1901, with black-and-white illustrations. They sold a surprising 400 copies, and came to the attention of Frederick Warne publishers, which agreed to publish Potter's tales in the rapidly growing and lucrative category of illustrated children's books. Potter insisted that the books be that small size, so familiar to us now, so they would fit readily into children's hands. The first was to be what the Warnes jokingly called her "bunny book" - *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*.

Her books became instant bestsellers and were published two-a-year, giving Beatrix financial - if not emotional - independence from her overbearing parents. She was smart enough to anticipate the demand for sidelines and urged the Warnes to pursue merchandising, to develop Peter Rabbit products such as stuffed animals, painting books, teacups, games, and much more. This was surprisingly perceptive for the time. Potter called everything beyond the books her “side-shows”.

Norman Warne, the brother who encouraged Beatrix and edited her books, proposed when she was 39, and Beatrix accepted. But the engagement remained secret, for her parents considered him to be “in trade” and she was the daughter of a gentleman. They felt him to be socially beneath Beatrix’s family, and thus undesirable, breaking Beatrix’s heart.

Before the two could marry, Norman Warne died suddenly of a rare form of leukemia while Beatrix was spending her summer holiday in Wales. She was bereft; her mother and father were near-gleeful.

Anxious to have a place of her own where she could escape her parents, Beatrix had bought a few months earlier the thirty-four-acre Hill Top Farm by Lake Windemere, in the village of Near Sawrey. The house was a seventeenth-century, two-story North Country farmhouse, plain and simple. The village was referred to as “very old-fashioned. No electric lights, no telephones, no entertainments.”



Her family had taken several three-month vacations in the Lake District while Beatrix and Bertram were growing up. They had roamed the fields and woods and had come to love the beautiful country of fells and lakes and farms. In delight she sketched the animals and trees and toadstools and everything she saw.



The movie handles all these details well and is quite charming. At times when her sketched animals are shown, there is brief animation of Peter Rabbit, Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle, and others. I enjoyed the combination of real-life and animation.

This is where the *The Tale of Top Hill Farm* starts,

with Norman dead, Beatrix mourning and in despair, and in need of getting away from her parents - even if it was for only a few weeks at a time at the Windemere farm.

The isolation of the Sawreys - 250 miles and a day’s train ride from London - may have contributed to their desirability to Potter. The villages were remote enough so that her parents weren’t likely to come. As Albert writes, the villages “seemed to Beatrix to be unchanging and unchangeable.” This was a welcome thought in the first decade of a new century that had already brought with it more changes than most people welcomed: “speeding motorcars,” for example, which drove at an astonishing ten miles-per-hour, “shrill telephones, harsh electric lights, titanic steamships, a new and untried king, and a Liberal government.”



Focusing on her new farm and its needed repairs helped the children’s author deal with her grief – repairing pigstys, rebuilding a herd of sheep, and adding an addition to the farmhouse where the couple might live who managed the farm when she was back in London taking care of her parents.

Beatrix insisted on using local labor, local materials, and doing things in the traditional way, which received grudging respect from the villagers, who were initially a bit put out that an “off-comer” – an outsider – had bought one of their desirable properties. She eventually bought several of the adjacent farms, having become dedicated to preserving from development the wildness and beauty around her.

“The minute she took off her smart leather town shoes and put on the leather-and-wood clogs, she became a woman born to the country, rather than to the city, the kind of woman she longed to be,” Albert wrote. But try as she might, Beatrix would never be able to escape the long pull of her parents’ power over her.

“She was sentenced to living a double life, shuttling between the city and the country, until her mother and father were both gone,” Albert adds. Her animal characters had more freedom than she did.

In her Acknowledgments, Albert states that she has been able “to write a fiction that is true to the facts of her life,” thanks to the enormous amount of previous research into Beatrix Potter by others.



"My memory has never been very good; it's one reason why I've kept a journal for years, as Beatrix Potter did. I write my stories to organize and preserve those journal-notes."

I've often tried to remember the earliest books in my life, but it's difficult to push back further than the Bobbsey Twins series. There *were* the Dick and Janes we studied in elementary school, but before that - nothing.

While watching *Miss Potter*, during one of the scenes where Peter Rabbit is struggling to get away from Farmer McGregor, a sudden memory flooded my senses.

I instantly remembered having the Beatrix Potter stories read to me by my Aunt Peg (Cowmeadow), the very woman to whom my bookshop is dedicated, the woman who shared her love of reading, and who inspired me to a life with books, personally and professionally.

Her intonations have returned, as though I'm listening to her reading now - the daughter of an Englishman reading quintessential British children's stories to her receptive young nephew. Images of her apartment on Laurel Avenue in New Castle, Pennsylvania, appeared in my head as the stories rang in my ears.

One moment that memory was buried so deep that it had been lost for six decades. But one book, followed by one movie, mined my mind and gave me that precious remembrance, perhaps the oldest I have. Now it's here for good, stored in my memory, and in this story.

Since seeing *Miss Potter* and recalling my schoolteacher aunt reading to me, memories of Aunt Peg sharing "Mother Goose" with me have also surfaced. I can now remember also first grade at my country school, thrilled to be learning my alphabet, specifically the difference between small and capital letters and how to write them. The early writer in me was in awe that I could take three of these letters and c-a-t would magically appear on that lined paper.

After that film, I couldn't wait to get back to *The Tale of Hill Top Farm* with Miss Potter and her animal friends at Windemere, so much better informed about the life which created the beloved children's tales and blessed with the memory of having them read to me.

The next day I brought home the *Peter Rabbit Giant*

Treasury to enjoy once again the wonderful tales. But I allowed myself just one original Potter tale to each of Albert's tales, drawing out the pleasure of Potter-world.

Thank you Beatrix Potter, for creating your wonderful animal characters, and thank you Stephen Haynes, for bringing to my attention *The Cottage Tales of Beatrix Potter* by Susan Wittig Albert, to whom I also give much thanks. And special gratitude to Aunt Peg for sharing her love of books with me. Bibliophilia afflicted me early and has never let go. Praise be.

Welcome New Members!

Lynn Manner is interested in illuminated manuscripts, collecting and illustration. She recently relocated to Columbus from Gambier (Kenyon College) where she was the Curator of the Greenslade Special Collections at Kenyon College.

John Kirsner is into books about William Morris, Ben Franklin, Dickens, Sci-Fi/Fantasy and Hemingway. He lives in the Columbus area.

Bob Fleck, 2014 Ravneberg speaker, lives in New Castle, Delaware, and has a strong interest in Delaware history.

Shirley Hyatt located this wonderful film, now an online video about printing books. She writes, "back before ebooks, printing was a time-consuming laborious process. Once the author finished the writing tasks, teams of people working together were required to produce just one book. An Encyclopaedia Britannica Films documentary created in 1947 is available on YouTube that shows the process <http://youtu.be/hBztGX-2i1M> .

Check Your Calendar

Oct 21-22, 2014: Case Western Reserve University's *Kelvin Smith Library* is hosting a national Colloquium on library special collections. Geoff Smith will be moderating a panel discussing, "Where are We Today?" Aldus members are invited. <http://library.case.edu/ksl/collections/special/colloquium/>

The 2014/15 Aldus Member Directory is out.
Kudos to Deb Lewis for the great job compiling and updating the directory.
If you didn't get yours in the mail, contact Deb directly at dcblewis@gmail.com .

On Being Reminded of E. C. Bentley While in Penzance

by Donald Tunnicliff Rice

The only thing I knew about E. C. Bentley when I first visited Penzance twenty-eight years ago, was that he was the author of *Trent's Last Case*, a mystery novel published in 1913, written as a reaction to the infallibility of Sherlock Holmes. Bentley's sleuth, Philip Trent, manages to misinterpret every clue that comes his way. In spite of that, some credit the book with having established the protocols for Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, *et al* some years later when they launched the Golden Age of British Mysteries. I'd found the book merely high-mediocre, but I guess it has some significance.

If you know anything at all about Bentley you're probably asking yourself why I would mention his name in the same breath as Penzance, the Cornish town made famous by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. It has to do with a statue of Sir Humphrey Davy, a local lad who grew up to become the famous chemist and inventor.

During that first visit, I passed by Davy's statue on its pedestal outside the Market House with barely a nod. But this past June it was different. During the intervening years, I'd learned what a clerihew was and had the good luck to find a remaindered copy in mint condition of *The Complete Clerihews of E. Clerihew Bentley* published by Oxford University Press in 1981. For those of you who don't know what a clerihew is, the OED defines the word as "*a short comic or nonsensical verse, professedly biographical, of two couplets differing in length.*"

Some of you are ahead of me by now and know what I'm going to enter below – namely, the first clerihew composed by Bentley as a sixteen-year-old schoolboy in 1890:

Sir Humphrey Davy
Abominated gravy.
He lived in the odium
Of having discovered sodium.



This rattled around in my mind like an old song for the remainder of my visit. Here's another well-known example:

Edgar Allan Poe
Was passionately fond of roe.
He always liked to chew some
When writing anything gruesome.

One more:

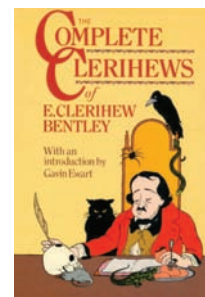
Sir Christopher Wren
Said, "I am going to dine with some men.
If anyone calls
Say I am designing St. Paul's."

As you will have discerned, there are rules for writing clerihews, just as there are rules for writing haiku and Petrarchan sonnets. A clerihew is a quatrain composed of two couplets that needn't (and probably shouldn't) scan, with the first line ideally being the name of the poem's subject, e.g. Sir Humphrey Davy. After reading the three clerihews above

and knowing the rules, it is almost impossible not to write one yourself. Many well-known poets and writers have been unable to resist the urge, and neither will you.

Submit your single best effort - Aldines only, of course - for possible publication in the next issue of the Aldus Newsletter.

The writer of the most entertaining or most clever or maybe just the silliest of the lot, as determined by an eminent panel of judges, will receive a copy of the Oxford UP edition of *The Complete Clerihews*. (Hint: the winning entry will almost certainly deal with an individual associated with books.) Send your entry to me at donrice@core.com, subject line, clerihew.



BOOK HUNTING NOTES

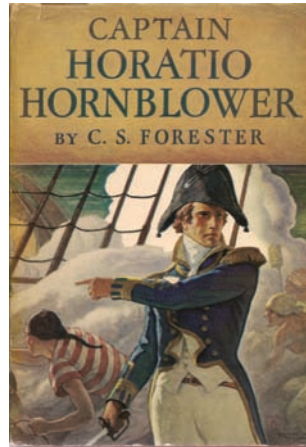
Collecting C. S. Forester

by Bill Rich

C. S. Forester (1899-1966) is, of course, well known for his authorship of the “Horatio Hornblower” novels, swashbuckling tales of sea warfare in the wooden sailing ship days of Nelson’s navy. He was prolific, and wrote many other novels, often with military or naval settings, but also wrote popular history and biography, and even an autobiography (*Long Before Forty*, Michael Joseph, 1960).

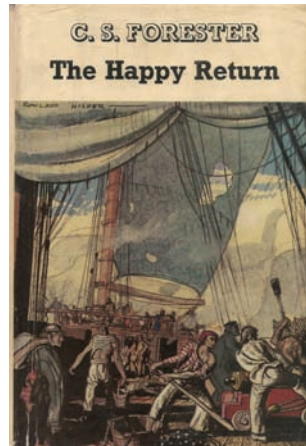
All my life, I have found Forester’s books fascinating and intensely readable. I first encountered one of his books when I was twelve, visiting the home of older relatives back in Kentucky. An early American publication of *Captain Horatio Hornblower* was in three volumes. The novel was originally published as a trilogy; in retrospect, with the bibliophilic knowledge of age, I realize that what I had my hands on was volume 1 of the Book of the Month Club republication. This cased set was widely popular, and copies can be seen in used bookstores to this day. This first volume was on a table in the living room, and I, a bored kid with no playmates my age and nothing to occupy my time, started to read it. I was hooked, reading it all that day and the next to its end, and then I looked for the other two volumes which were stated as being in the set. But, no luck. My Aunt Josephine kept the house for her elderly father. She suggested that some visitor had left the one volume in the house. Talk about cliff-hangers. It was almost a year later when our family had settled in the Washington, D.C. area that I was hanging around the book department in Woodward and Lathrop’s Dept. Store in downtown D.C. This was back in the days when big downtown department stores were still common, and all had extensive book departments. And, of course, there

FIG. 1



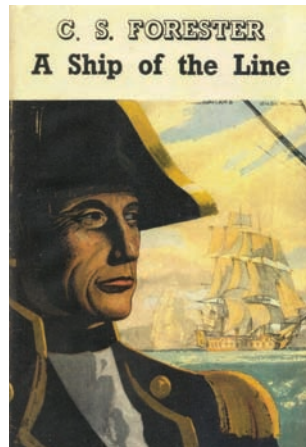
Captain Horatio Hornblower

FIG. 2A



The Happy Return

FIG. 2B



A Ship of the Line

were all the Hornblower novels. I bought the complete *Captain Horatio Hornblower* and took it home to devour. I have read and reread Forester ever since.

My Forester collection is spotty, but over the years I have done what I can. Fig. 1 shows the first collected edition of the Captain Horatio Hornblower trilogy, published by Little, Brown in April, 1939 (10,000 copies). This is the true first, slightly preceding the publication in England – perhaps the gathering war clouds there caused delay. The jacket cover illustration shown and repeated in the colored frontispiece were by N. C. Wyeth; all the drawings in the text are attributed to him, but these were done by his young son, Andrew Wyeth, under dad’s direction. So these drawings might constitute early Andrew Wyeth first edition prints (thinks the self-deluding collector), but, at 10,000 copies, hardly a limited edition.

The first printings of the separate novels of the trilogy are much harder to come by. Shown in Figs. 2a,b are the English printings of the first two, *The Happy Return*, Michael Joseph, London, February, 1937 (12,000 copies, published in U.S. as *Beat to Quarters*), and *A Ship of the Line*, Michael Joseph, London, 1938 (15,000 copies). Well, despite the fairly large printings for the times, copies in good dust jackets are hard to come by. These books were read to death in wartime England. Yet, dust jackets are something of a necessity for a collector of these “modern firsts,” if you are a slave to convention. And, with the Forester firsts, a copy with the original dust jacket in presentable condition sells for around ten times the cost of a copy sans jacket. Increasingly, these days, dealers are supplying the dust jacket deficiency with good quality

photocopies, which should fool no collector, but make the book look better on the shelf. In 2a, the jacket is the 1937 original - but in 2b, the jacket is “supplied” by a photocopy. The dealer who advertised this book did properly state its illegitimate origin, however, and the price was close to that of an unjacketed copy.

Forester wrote many Hornblower novels, sequels and prequels, tracing the career of the hero from midshipman to admiral. But one non-Hornblower novel set in the same period is a particular favorite of mine (Fig. 3). This is *The Captain from Connecticut*, a story of an American commanding one of the big frigates (such as the *Constitution*) that won a series of spectacular ship-to-ship battles against the British in the War of 1812. Shown in Fig. 3 is the first English edition, published by Michael Joseph in London in August, 1941 (15,000). This was produced at the height of the Battle of Britain; small wonder the American first came out two months earlier. The novel describes some of the events in the last war the two countries fought against each other. At the time of publication, huge U.S. material aid was pouring into Britain, and both navies were fighting to safeguard the trans-Atlantic convoys, although America was not yet formally in the war. Forester was a major advocate of Anglo-American friendship, and during the war, he worked for the British Information Service in America. *The Captain from Connecticut* is a product of this alliance, but it is a rousing story, far from propaganda, for together, the English speaking peoples pulled down the most evil tyranny in history. During WWII, Forester moved to the United States where he worked for British Intelligence writing propaganda. Together with his wife, he lived the rest of his life in the U.S.

One more novel, which resonates with more readers than are Hornblower fans, is, of course, the never-to-be-forgotten *The African Queen*. Fig. 4 is the first American edition, published in Boston by Little, Brown

FIG. 3



The Captain from Connecticut

FIG. 4



The African Queen

FIG. 5A



The African Queen Movie

in February, 1935 (2,500 copies). This notable modern first, scarce in a good jacket, was found on the shelves of a used bookstore, at a used book price. The book hunter's heart here gave a mighty leap, paid the \$15 asked, and left the shop rejoicing, hardly believing his luck. This American first lacks the last three chapters of the English edition, containing a happier ending which Forester added at the insistence of his English publishers. This one might be the high spot of my Forester collection, at least.

Finally, these great stories lend themselves to movie making, of which there have been several over the years. Figs. 5a,b,c show posters for three of the most famous. Fig. 5a is for *The African Queen* (1951), directed by John Huston and starring Katherine Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart. The movie has the happier ending, Bogart and Hepburn survive and are married. This film won Bogie his only Academy Award. Fig. 5b is *Captain Horatio Hornblower*, also 1951, starring no less than Gregory Peck. In my judgment, Peck makes a better hero as Hornblower than as Capt. Ahab in *Moby Dick*, in which he also starred. Fig. 5c shows yet another war movie, *The Pride and the Passion* (1957), based on Forester's 1933 novel *The Gun*. This is an account of the Peninsular War in Spain fought against Napoleon's forces by the Spanish and British. A force of Spanish irregulars (the term “guerillas” originated in this war), led by a peasant Spanish couple, and assisted by a British officer, are trying to drag a huge artillery piece across a fair hunk of Spain to lay siege to a French-held strong point. The tale ends tragically, unusual for the later Forester works. The Spanish couple are played by Frank Sinatra and Sophia Loren; the British officer by Gary Grant. Talk about a star-laden blockbuster. It was well-received, but did not have the staying power of *The African Queen*. Liberties were of course taken with Forester's original narrative, and a more major role

FIG. 5B



Captain Horatio Hornblower Movie

assigned to the guerilla girl, but, come on, who's sorry? This was Sophia Loren in her prime.

C. S. Forester was, I suppose, a decidedly middle-brow writer. On this side of the Atlantic, some of his stories appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post*, not in *Harper's* or *The Atlantic*. Literary critics do not go into ecstasy over his works. Looking in *The Oxford Companion to English Literature*, I note that Forester rates only a short paragraph. His near-contemporaries; E. M. Foster, Aldous Huxley, and Evelyn Waugh all get their near-full-page. But, for me, Forester has provided more reading pleasure than any of the above. Perhaps I am in good company. On the dust jacket for *Captain Horatio Hornblower* is this blurb from a writer, not a critic:

"I recommend Forester to everyone literate I know."
- Ernest Hemingway

FIG. 5c



The Pride and the Passion Movie

Froben's "Poor Man's Bible"

by Matthew S. Schweitzer

It has been said that no book has been printed in more editions than the Bible. Between Gutenberg's Bible of 1455 and the end of the fifteenth century, no less than 130 separate editions of the Bible were printed in Europe. Perhaps surprisingly, many of these rare incunable Bibles survive today in institutions and private collections across the world. Most of the earliest Bibles were massive folios, bound in heavy wooden boards, lavishly decorated and rubricated, and in some instances chained to their owner's shelves. The first Bibles, even being "mass produced" in comparison to their manuscript counterparts, were still relatively expensive luxury items destined for ownership by wealthy aristocrats, universities, or churches who intended to put them to the work of bringing salvation to the masses. In



Froben Bible 1495

addition, these huge folio Bibles were incredibly heavy, unwieldy, and cumbersome to transport. Thus, many of them remained tethered to shelves or firmly planted on lecterns, making it difficult for the common person to own or even read one of these technologically produced marvels. Despite the revolutionary implications of mechanical book production, they remained out of reach for most.

However in 1491, a Swiss printer named Johann Froben would soon change all of this with his publication of the very first pocket-sized octavo edition of St. Jerome's Latin Vulgate Bible. Froben understood that the market for huge folio Bibles was limited to well-funded customers and academic or religious institutions. To really open up the fledgling book market and get books into the hands of the masses, he needed to create a much more affordable and easily transportable book that could be owned and read by the common man...or at least the common student or clergyman. From his print shop in the city of Basel, which would soon evolve into a center of



The *Biblia Pauperum* was printed several times as a blockbook in the Rhineland and the Netherlands. This image dates c. 1465. (DeHamel, C. *The Book*. NY: Phaidon Press, 2001, p163, ill. 111).

Renaissance Humanism, Froben's presses turned out what would become known as the *Biblia Pauperum*, or the Poor Man's Bible. For the first time ever, the average (literate) European could own a copy of the Bible for their own purposes whether it be study or private devotion. The result was profound, and the birth of the octavo format would help to revolutionize book production and sales in general. The smaller size meant less paper was required and thus lower expenses to produce each print run. Their lower cost and portability lead to an increase in book sales and to the publication of a wide variety of titles, religious and secular, as book ownership began to become feasible to more than just the rich.

This new experiment in book format helped contribute, in no small part it is argued by some, to the intellectual revolution that would occur in Europe during the sixteenth century. When books became smaller, more affordable, and easier to carry, hold, and read, the desire for books grew tremendously. Froben would continue to innovate and would go on to make numerous important contributions to the printing art during his tenure as Basel's leading scholar-publisher. Froben was the first to introduce italics and Greek fonts as well as popularizing the use of standard (and easier to read) Roman typefaces. Froben's friend and fellow humanist Erasmus would benefit greatly from Froben's innovations in printing and would eventually



The *Novum Instrumentum* of Erasmus prints the Bible Text in Greek beside a literal translation of Latin (DeHamel, C. *The Book*. NY: Phaidon Press, 2001, p227, ill. 163).

help him become one of the first bestselling authors in history. Erasmus' famous and greatly influential Greek-Latin New Testament would emerge from Froben's own printing presses in 1516. Froben himself would play an important role in the spread of the Reformation through the publication and dissemination of many of Martin Luther's controversial works, with many of them printed in inexpensive small formats for easy concealment from unsympathetic authorities.

With the success of his first octavo Bible, Froben engaged to produce a second edition in 1495, this time even including

an engraved frontispiece portrait of St. Jerome executed by Albrecht Dürer. It is a copy of this particular book which has fortuitously found its way across the centuries into my personal collection. The Bible is bound in beautiful alum tawed pigskin over beveled wooden boards and stamped in blind. There are remains of brass clasps which appear to have been stripped from the binding at some point.

The Bible is rubricated in red and blue, though it appears not by the same rubricator as the work is inconsistent throughout the entire volume with some sections left incomplete. In particular, the opening pages of Genesis and the four Gospels are done in a fine hand, highlighting the sections of the Bible probably deemed the most important and most read by its previous owner. There are a few marginal notes in ink with an ownership inscription on the title page indicating a German provenance.

The original engraved frontispiece is missing (as is common since it was an original Dürer engraving!) as is the original printed half-title. In its place however is an amazing pen and ink drawn title page depicting a robed figure trampling a serpent under the branches of the Tree of Life. Around the tree is a banner bearing the Latin motto *Virtus Ad Aethera Tendit* (Virtue Reaches to Heaven), a quote from the Biblical Book of Proverbs. It is obvious that someone took great time and care to create this manuscript title page which gives this particular copy a wonderfully unique character. The Bible itself is otherwise complete with the exception of an appendix of Hebrew names that was often bound with it. This particular copy appears to have been bound without it or perhaps it was removed when the book was rebound likely in the early seventeenth century.

Being able to hold a book created at the dawn of printing is a wonderful experience and this particular Bible, beautiful and elegant in its early binding, is a treasure. As with any early printed books, it is a fragile yet enduring time capsule from a distant age and a reminder that while time never ceases to pass on into eternity, we can still experience a little part of history that is contained in the pages of these books which were once turned and contemplated by men and women long centuries in their graves. Ashes to ashes. Dust to dust.



Froben Bible Pen & Ink Replacement Title Page



Rubricated page from Froben Bible

The Coonskin Library

by Marilyn Logue

The romantic tales of Ohio's historic "Coonskin Library" have become legendary, but the real story is even more interesting. The Western Library Association (its formal name) was not the state's first "social" library; it was preceded by five other libraries, including the Belpre Farmers' Library (1796), a short-lived library at Cincinnati (1802), the Hudson library, formed by David Hudson and George Kilbourne (1802), the Erie Literary Society in Trumbull County (1803), and the Stanbery Library in Worthington (1803). But the Coonskin Library was unique for other reasons. First, its members showed unusual cooperation, teamwork, and ingenuity to form an institution in the wilderness in the middle of nowhere. Second, the selection of the original collection of books was not happenstance; well-educated professionals who personally knew the members of the community chose the materials. Finally, the Coonskin Library circulated books for fifty-seven years; this was the longest record of service of any subscription library in the state.

Where does the amazing story of the Coonskin Library all start? Well, it all goes back to that Ohio Company purchase and that first settlement at Marietta. If you remember, Ephraim Cutler and Israel Putnam, Jr. traveled together from Connecticut to Washington County, Ohio, in order to establish their homes on lands that were part of the Ohio Company Purchase. On this journey, Israel Putnam transported the books with which he started Ohio's first library at Belpre, one of Marietta's satellite settlements. Cutler, on the other hand, moved to Waterford, Marietta's other outlying settlement. A few years later, Ephraim looked at a map and discovered that he owned considerable land on Federal Creek, about twenty miles by horse path southwest of his place in Waterford. He determined to resettle there, and convinced two of his Waterford neighbors to join him. These included Lieutenant George Ewing, who settled his family at the new place in March 1798. Ephraim Cutler and Captain Benjamin Brown eventually joined Ewing in May 1799. Sylvanus Ames came from Belpre (where he had access to Putnam's library) in May 1800. These new settlers petitioned the U. S. Congress to name their township "Ames" as a memorial to the Honorable Fisher Ames, an important legislator from Massachusetts. It was Fisher Ames who had influenced the United States government to sell the western lands to the Ohio Company. The town of Ames remained in Washington County until 1805, when it became part of the newly formed Athens County (named for Athens, Greece with high aspirations for the state's first university; Ohio University had been founded in 1804 by

Manasseh Cutler and Rufus Putnam as part of the Ohio Company Purchase agreement).

Meanwhile, these transplanted New Englanders wanted their children to be educated, so they began a school in Ames Township in 1802; classes were held at the home of Ephraim Cutler. The first teacher was Cutler's cousin, Moses Everett, followed by Ephraim's brother, Charles Cutler. Both teachers were graduates of Harvard University. But it seemed like the community needed something more in the way of mental improvement and culture; perhaps the library at Belpre came to the mind of those inhabitants who knew of its treasures. Anyway, at a road maintenance meeting in 1803, Josiah True suggested that the local residents start a library. Since money was scarce and the settlers mostly used barter to get what they needed, True suggested that the inhabitants could sell animal pelts to the agents of John Jacob Astor and others, and thereby gain the needed cash to purchase books.

In February 1804, the planners gathered to adopt the *Laws and Regulations of the Western Library Association, founded at Ames, February 2, 1804*. The preamble to this document, written by teacher Moses Everett, is as follows: "Considering the many beneficial effects which social libraries are calculated to produce in societies where they are established both as a source of rational entertainment and instruction; we, the subscribers wishing to participate in these blessings agree to form ourselves into a society for this purpose under the title of the Western Library Association in the Town of Ames." The shares were to be \$2.50 each with an annual tax of twenty-five cents to help buy more books. Subscribers could borrow books to the value of two-thirds of their share or shares. An executive committee of three, one serving as the librarian, would be elected annually.

Samuel Brown, who was returning to the Boston area to bring his family back to Ohio, agreed to take the cash and furs with him and make the purchase of books for the library. On April 1, 1804, five persons paid for their shares in cash. These included Ephraim Cutler, who was the only subscriber to purchase four shares, Sylvanus Ames, two shares; Benjamin L. Brown, one share; Jason Rice, two shares; and David Boyles, one share. So Brown had at



Fur traders cabin, inside view

least \$25 in cash and the rest of the purchase would be made with proceeds from the furs.

The young men had been busy all this time collecting pelts for Esquire Samuel Brown's trip east. Fifteen-year old Thomas Ewing, son of Lieutenant George Ewing, later wrote that all his accumulated wealth, ten coonskins, went into the fund. At this time on the Ohio frontier there was an abundance of animals living in the forests. These included buffalo, elk, deer, bears, foxes, wild turkeys, wolves, panthers, bobcats, otters, squirrels, raccoons, and others. The settlers especially were fearful of the wolves and panthers and eventually drove them to extinction. The McCune Brothers, expert hunters, were said to have killed twelve or fourteen deer and three or five bears in a day. Josiah True, who had suggested selling pelts to fund the library, kept a diary in which he recorded the following: "October 15, 1803, kill three raccoon, panther, 1 cat; October 16, kill she bare; February 25, 1804, went huntin' 12 bares; March 15, kill 3 raccoon; March 17, kill panther; March 18, kill one she bear, 3 cubs."

Samuel Brown left Ohio with the furs and with letters of introduction to the Rev. Dr. Manasseh Cutler (Ephraim's esteemed father) and to the Rev. Thaddeus Mason Harris. Brown arrived in Boston sometime before the middle of August and, on August 15, 1804, these two most qualified men selected the books for the library. There were fifty-one volumes in the purchase and the total cost came to \$73.50. One of these advisors, author and Unitarian pastor, Rev. Thaddeus Mason Harris, having just returned from visiting inhabitants in the Ohio River Valley wrote *The Journal of a Tour into the Territory Northwest of the Alleghany Mountains, Made in the Spring of the Year 1803 With a Geographical and Historical Account of the State of Ohio, Illustrated with Original Maps and Views*. His journal was printed by Manning and Loring in 1805 and is available today at The Ohio State University in microform format. Rev. Harris had also been a teacher and a librarian at Harvard College; in fact, Moses Everett and Charles Cutler, the first two teachers at Ames, had both been his students. Even more valuable to the Western Library Association, however, was the fact that Thaddeus Harris had already written one of the earliest American documents on the topic of book selection in 1793. It is titled *A Selected Catalogue of Some of the Most Esteemed Publications in the English Language Proper to Form a Social Library, With An Introduction Upon the Choice of Books*. This twenty-three-page pamphlet lists 277 recommended books categorized

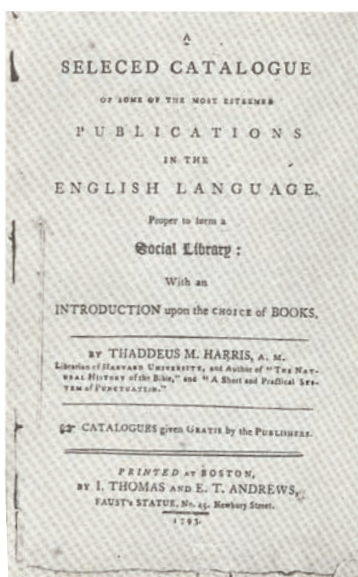
into three classes: memory, reason, and imagination. Only two original copies seem to be in existence today, one at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts and the other at the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston where Harris was a librarian the last six years of his life. (The document, is available today both as an electronic resource (through AAS) and in microform.) While Thaddeus Mason Harris served as Harvard's librarian for only two years, his son, Thaddeus William Harris, held that position for twenty-five years.

Meanwhile, Samuel Brown returned to Ohio from Boston in November of 1804 with the books and young Thomas Ewing was present for the important occasion. He later wrote that "after an absence of many weeks, he (Samuel Brown) brought the books to Captain Benjamin Brown's in a sack on a pack horse. I was present at the untying of the sack and pouring out of the treasure. There

were about sixty volumes, I think, and well selected; the library of the Vatican was nothing to it, and there never was a library better read. This, with occasional additions, furnished me with reading while I remained at home." When Thomas Ewing turned nineteen, he got a job as a keelboat hand on the Ohio River; he traveled on the river to the Kanawha salt works where he labored several months at a time on and off for a number of years. The money Ewing earned enabled him to attend college at Athens during the months when he wasn't working; in the spring of 1815, he became the first student ever to graduate from Ohio University. He then studied law in Lancaster, Ohio and was admitted to the bar in August 1816. Ewing became

a sought-after lawyer, a United States senator, secretary of the treasury under President Harrison, and secretary of the interior under President Taylor. Not bad for a poor chap from the back woods who read books from a Coonskin Library.

But let's get back to the main story. After the new library books were cataloged at Sylvanus Ames's house, the Western Library Association met on December 17, 1804 and elected Ephraim Cutler as the first librarian. The first annual meeting was held at his house on January 7, 1805 with Daniel Weethee and Benjamin Brown chosen to join him on the library's standing committee. Ephraim Cutler would leave Ames in December 1806 to move back to Washington County just six miles below Marietta on the Ohio River, where he would farm and operate a grindstone quarry. He continued, however, to be a stockholder in the library at Ames until 1846, even though he no longer lived



there. He also served thirty years on the Ohio University Board of Trustees, never missing a meeting. Ephraim Cutler was truly a great man. In 1802, as a delegate to the Ohio Constitutional Convention, he cast the vote at the Statehouse in Chillicothe that prevented Ohio from becoming a slave state. In 1814 or 1815, he had a major role in establishing the Underground Railroad in the state; his home on the Ohio River served as a station that guided escaped slaves to safety in Canada. As a member of the state legislature, he exercised a large influence in establishing Ohio's judicial system, land tax system, state school system, state funding for canals, and the property tax to finance public education. He was also one of the first Ohioans to seek broader markets for the state's produce, driving his hogs and cattle to Baltimore, Maryland, for thirty years.

Around 1805, the new Ohio State legislature started incorporating subscription libraries with the Secretary of State's office with approval of the legislature. The first library to incorporate by this legislative act was the Social Library of Dayton (1805); it was followed by the Granville Alexandrian Society Library (1807), and a library at Newtown in Hamilton County (1808). The Western Library Association (Coonskin Library), founded in 1804, received its papers of incorporation on February 19, 1810. The Poland Library in the Western Reserve territory, which had been formed in 1807, was incorporated by the state in 1810. Obviously, many of the early libraries, such as the Belpre Farmers' Library, did not apply for incorporation, and thus were often not included in counts of early Ohio libraries. There were twenty social libraries that had been incorporated by 1817. The incorporation document for the Western Library Association says that the Coonskin Library is now "a body politic and corporate in law, capable of suing and being sued, pleading and being impleaded in any court in this state."

In 1830, all the library books in Ames Township were called in and were equitably divided with Dover Township to the east where many of the original stockholders had moved. The Dover books were kept in the homes of Josiah True and his descendants until 1906, when the portion of the library remaining in Dover Township was given to the Athens County Pioneer Association. Some of the Dover volumes are housed today in the Special Collections at the Alden Library at Ohio University in Athens. None of these books were part of the initial fifty-one volume purchase made in Boston in 1804; to receive such an honor, the books must be marked with both the "Western Library Association" inscription and a number from 1 to 51. What happened to the oldest books from the collection that were housed in Dover Township? Well, in 1876 there was a huge Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia

and Gen. Thomas Ewing of Yonkers, New York, (son of the Honorable Thomas Ewing) and J. P. Weethee took some of the original Coonskin Library books from Dover to put on display in Philadelphia. After the exposition, the books were returned to Ewing's New York home. Mrs. Mary Ewing Martin, a granddaughter of Honorable Thomas Ewing, was interviewed later at her home in New Straitsville, Ohio, about what had happened to the books and she said, "In 1891, when some men were mending a leak in the roof of my father's house at Yonkers, New York, a fire-bucket set the roof afire. The entire attic was burned away before the family knew of it or could call for help. The box of books (not more than eight books, I think of the original purchase) was in the attic. Although the box was not badly burned, the books were greatly damaged by fire and thoroughly soaked by water. I took them out and dried them but there was scarcely enough left by which to identify them. I have what remains of them in a trunk somewhere in the attic. They are in such bad condition that I should be ashamed to present them to a library or a museum."

The part of the collection that remained at Ames Township continued to circulate until about 1861 when the directors sold the remaining 208 books to three members of the community for preservation purposes; these men then resold the collection the next year to William P. Cutler (Ephraim's only son) for \$73.50, the price paid for the original collection in 1804. The books were transported to the Cutler family home in Washington County on the banks of the Ohio River six miles below Marietta. They were later inherited by Ephraim Cutler's granddaughter, Sarah Jane Cutler, who took great care of them, wrote about them, loaned the collection to the Ohio Historical Society in 1917, and finally left the books to the society in her will. The books remain there today; ten of the volumes are from the original Coonskin Library.

Below, I have attempted to reconstruct a listing of the books that were part of the initial purchase. Books presently held by the Ohio Historical Society are in bold type. Except for the original OHS books, I have had to find the approximate publication dates of the other titles from available cataloging records on the Internet. Ohio University Special Collections has contemporaneous copies of some of these original books in their Coonskin collection, which I have noted in parentheses with their dates of publication.

Coonskin Library

Adams, Hannah. *Truth and Excellence of the Christian Religion*. 1804. ---. *Views of Religion*. 1791. (OU—1801 ed., purchased 1813)
 Bayley, John. *The Forester; or, The Royal Seat: A Drama in Five Acts*. London, 1798.

Bennett, Agnes Maria. *The Beggar Girl & Her Benefactors in Three Volumes*. 1801 ed.

Blair, Hugh. *Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres*. 1802.

Burgh, James. *The Dignity of Human Nature*. 1802.

Burney, Fanny. *Camilla, or a Picture of Youth*. 1796. (3 volumes)

---. *Evelina, or a Young Lady's Entrance into the World*. 1778. (2 volumes) (OU-1801 ed.)

Campbell, Alexander. *Journey From Edinburgh Through Parts of North Britain*. 1802.

Chateaubriand, Francois-Rene de. *Atala; or, The Amours of Two Indians*. 1801.

Clark, John. *The Occasional Discourses Preached in Boston*. 1804.

Columbus. (Biography)

Cortez. (Biography)

Goldsmith, Oliver. *Animated Nature*. 4 volumes. 1774. (OU-New ed., 1804)

---. *The Grecian History from the Earliest State, to the Death of Alexander the Great*. 1774. 2 volumes. (OU—1800, 2 copies)

---. *The Miscellaneous Works of Oliver Goldsmith*. 4 volumes. 1801.

Grandpré, Louis. *A Voyage in the Indian Ocean and to Bengal Undertaken in the Year 1790*. Boston, 1803,

Harris, Thaddeus Mason. *Beauties of Nature*. 1800.

---. *Minor Encyclopedia*. 4 volumes. 1803. (OU—Sep. 1803)

---. *Discourses Delivered on Public Occasions, Illustrating the Principles, Displaying the Tendencies and Vindicating the Design of Free Masonry*. 1801. (Book donated by Ephraim Cutler on January 1, 1805)

Kames, Henry Home, Lord. *Sketches of the History of Man*. 1788. 4 volumes.

Keir, Elizabeth and Susanna Harvey Keir. *Interesting Memoirs*. 5th ed. Boston, 1802. (Originally published 1785)

Lillo, George. *The London Merchant; or, the History of George Barnwell*. 1731. (play)

Morse, Jedidiah. *The American Gazetteer*. 2nd ed. Revised. 1804. (OU has same.)

---. *The American Universal Geography*. 2 volumes. 1801.

---. *The New Gazetteer of the Eastern Continent or a Geographical Dictionary*. 1802. (OU has same.)

Necker, Jacques. *Of the Importance of Religious Opinions*. 1791. (OU—1796)

Pizarro. (Biography)

Playfair, William. *History of Jacobism*. 1796. 2 volumes.

Ramsay, David. *The History of the American Revolution*. 2 volumes. 1789. (OU has same.)

Radcliffe, Ann Ward. *Romance of Forest*. 1792. (OU—1795)

Robertson, William. *The History of America*. Books 9 and 10. 1800.

Roche, Regina Maria. *Children of the Abbey*. 1805. 2 volumes.

Winchester, Elhannon. *A Course of Lectures on the Prophecies that Remain to Be Filled*. 2 volumes. 1800.

---. *Dialogues*. 1800.

Zimmerman, Johann George. *Solitude: The Effect of Occasional Retirement*. 1798. (OU—1793)

Addendum

Ames (now called Amesville) had long been proud of its “most acclaimed historical event” and wanted to do something to publicize it. In the mid-1980s, Robert Avery (then principal of the Amesville Elementary School) formed the Coonskin Library Association to preserve and promote the library. His elementary school donated a small structure (formerly a one-room schoolhouse) behind its building in 1994 for a Coonskin Library Museum. The

museum houses exhibits about the early settlers, their lives, and their library. A wall-mounted glass case holds a display of a few volumes once held by the Western Library



Association; these sacred tomes are on loan to the museum from the Ohio Historical Society on a temporary rotating basis. Mostly local children, who visit on school field trips, now use the museum; however, anyone may visit the museum by stopping during school hours at the Amesville Elementary office and asking to see the displays in the locked building.

Bibliography

Coonskin Library. Webmaster: Richard Dean. 1 November 2013. <http://www.ohio.edu/people/deanr/coonskin.html>

Cutler, Julia Perkins. *Life and Times of Ephraim Cutler*. 1890. New York: Arno Press & The New York Times, 1971.

Cutler, Sarah J. “The Coonskin Library.” Ohio Archeological and Historical Publications vol. 26, no. 1 (January 1917).

Hill, Melinda, ed. *Best in the Nation: The First Two Hundred Years of Ohio Libraries*. Wooster Book Company, 2003.

Mayer, Vinnie J. “Coonskin Library.” A paper prepared at the request of the American Library Association Division of Library History. Read at the ALA Convention. Cleveland, OH. 15 July 1950.

O'Neill, Elwin R. “A History of the Coonskin Library.” A master's thesis presented to Ohio University, Master of Arts, 1936.

Shera, Jesse H. *Foundations of the Public Library: The Origins of the Public Library Movement in New England, 1629-1855*. 1949. The Shoe String Press, 1965.

Venable, W. H. *Beginnings of Literary Culture in the Ohio Valley*. Cincinnati: Robert Clarke & Co., 1891.

Walker, Charles M. *History of Athens County, Ohio*. Cincinnati: Robert Clarke & Co., 1869.

NOTE: This article was originally published in The Tallow Light (Washington County Historical Society, Marietta, OH) 40 no. 3 (Winter 2009).

For more illustrations of the library and collections, <http://www.ohio.edu/people/deanr/coonskin.html>

4th Annual Pulp Fest Lecture “Riding the Pulp Trail: The Career of Paul S. Powers” presented by Laurie Powers



August 7 brought with it the fourth annual Aldus pulp fiction lecture hosted at Thompson Library at The Ohio State University. This year's speaker, Laurie Powers,

author, donor, and pulp fiction researcher, spoke about her adventures searching for her paternal grandfather Paul S. Powers (1905-1971), a prolific short story writer for beloved and ever popular pulp magazines.

Laurie's search for her grandfather took her across the country from California to Syracuse in search of records, manuscripts, magazines, and books. She joined forces with her aunt who had some boxes of Power's papers. Beginning with the clue that Paul S. Power wrote a book, and a few stories in "Little Big Books", Laurie discovered her grandfather had written more than 420 short stories written for "Wild West Weekly." It turns out Paul S. Powers wrote horror stories and science fiction stories, and many other tales for other pulp magazines. Beginning in 1925 with "Monsters in the Pit" for *Weird Tales* (June 1925), Laurie's grandfather wrote week in and week out, churning out stories, tales, and more stories under the pseudonym Ward M. Stevens. Two long running series featured Sonny Tabor and Kid Wolf of Texas. Power's novel Doc Dillahay is based on his father's life as a small town doctor in Kansas.

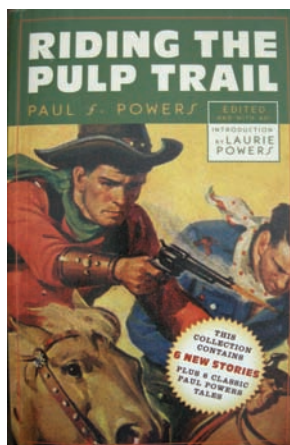
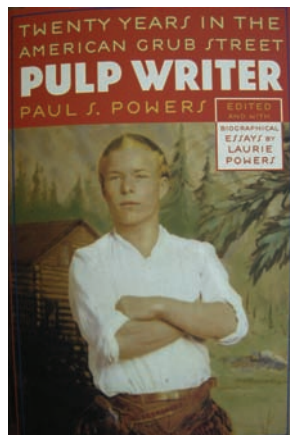
Paul S. Powers' papers included unpublished manuscripts, correspondence, papers, pay-stubs, and more, including a 20" record of a radio program. Best of all, there was an unpublished book manuscript entitled *Pulp Writer: Twenty Years in the American Grub Street* which Laurie edited and published, along with an introduction and biographical essay through University of Nebraska Press (2007). This biography along with two collections of short stories, one containing 6 published and 6 unpublished

westerns entitled *Riding the Pulp Trail* and a second *Hidden Ghosts* which includes horror, noir, animal, romance, and historical accounts both published and unpublished. All three of these books and others are available for purchase through Laurie's website (see below) and Amazon. Laurie brought numerous items from her collections and the Powers Collection for attendees to examine.

In December 2013, Laurie donated the Paul S. Powers Collection to OSU's Rare Books and

Manuscripts Library. This collection includes hundreds of original western fiction pulp magazines, manuscripts, editorial and fan correspondence, photographs, and other books and publications all related to the life and work of Paul S. Powers, one of the most prolific western fiction pulp writers of the 1930s-1940s. Rex Hughes, metadata cataloger for OSU's RBMS, showed attendees the digital materials and finding aid for the *Paul S Powers Book and Pulp Magazine Collection*. Here is the link to the catalog record <http://library.ohio-state.edu/record=b7557987-S7> and to the finding aid <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

For more pulp fiction, check out Laurie Powers' fascinating blog <http://lauriepowerswildwest.blogspot.com/>.



Aldus Best Books, Summer 2014

For the purpose of this list, summer is defined not in terms of astronomical rotations but as beginning on Memorial Day and ending with our final summer activity - the Book Crawl on August 2nd. (Let the world spin, we'll measure summer this year!) I asked Aldus members to report the best book they've read this summer. Here are their recommendations for you.

Blake, James Carlos. 2004. *Handsome Harry: a novel*. New York: W. Morrow.

A novel based on facts about Harry Piepont, partner in crime with John Dillinger. The novel is set in the Depression Era of the 1930s. Blake brings the gang's exploits alive in this gripping, fast-paced novel. You might even find yourself feeling sympathetic towards this colorful cast of characters. - Robert Rockenfelder

Burroughs, William S., and Oliver Harris. 2014. *The Soft Machine. The Restored Text*. New York: Grove Press. Edited and with an introduction by Oliver Harris.

I read this when it first came out in the early '60's - it made a great impression on the young writer I was at the time, and it is wonderful to read it again in this new version/edition. It's a great book, and I'm now started on the other two titles in this "Cut-Up Trilogy" as restored by Harris, The Ticket That Exploded, and Nova Express. - John Bennett

Campbell, Jen. 2012. *Weird Things Customers Say*. New York: Overlook Press.

This short book is full of great quips and comments about books. You'll laugh, you'll cry, and you'll shake your head at the strange questions customers ask. - Anonymous

Cleave, Chris. 2009. *Little Bee*. New York: Simon & Schuster. - Catherine Bennett

Cramer, C. H. 1972. *Open shelves and open minds; a history of the Cleveland Public Library*. Cleveland: Press of Case Western Reserve University.

The author, Clarence Henley Cramer, a professor of history at Case Western Reserve University, won the 1973 Cleveland Arts Prize for Literature for "Two outstanding books published within a single year." Besides the *Open Shelves* volume mentioned above, Cramer's other 1972 book was *American Enterprise: Free and Not So Free*. - Marilyn Logue

Edsel, Robert M., and Bret Witter. 2009. *The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves, and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History*. New York: Center Street. - Lois Smith

Forester, C. S. 1939. *Captain Horatio Hornblower*.

Boston: Little, Brown and Co.

Re-read this book for the first time in several years. It is still one of the most rousing sea stories ever, I think. - Bill Rich

Gabaldon, Diana. 2014. *Written in My Own Heart's Blood: a novel*. New York: Delacorte Press.

"In her now classic novel *Outlander*, Diana Gabaldon told the story of Claire Randall, an English ex-combat nurse who walks through a stone circle in the Scottish Highlands in 1946, and disappears into 1743. The story unfolded from there in seven bestselling novels, and CNN has called it "a grand adventure written on a canvas that probes the heart, weighs the soul and measures the human spirit across [centuries]."

How can I not proclaim this as my best summer book when I had it on pre-order for at least 10 months and posted its arrival to my Facebook timeline as if it was a major life event? This was not my favorite book in this series, but I've spent so much time with these characters that they've become extended family for me and each story a long letter from home. - Deb Lewis

Goodwin, Doris Kearns. 2013. *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism*.

This is an engaging, wide-ranging history, weaving together the intersecting lives of Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, along with prominent journalists of the era. Before reading this book I wasn't terribly familiar with this era or much about either T.R. or Taft beyond the caricatures of both men. All of the information on the origins of investigative journalism in S.S. McClure's stable of writers (who became branded as muckrakers--a term Roosevelt intended for other, more careless imitators and drawn from a character in "Pilgrim's Progress") was an unexpected bonus. One special nugget provided early on in the book is the fact that as a young law student Taft gained a practical understanding of the legal system by working as a court reporter for a Cincinnati newspaper. Not a bad example to follow for journalism students who are planning to go on to law school! I developed a much greater appreciation for Taft, who comes across as a "hail fellow well met," beloved by all who knew him. He left the bench in Ohio to serve his country in a number of positions, most notably as Governor-General of The Philippines in the wake of the Spanish-American War. His goal all through his life was to be a Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. Yet he twice passed up appointments to the Court because of his sense of duty to other tasks that he was afraid would not be carried through to completion if he moved to the Court. (Eventually a third opportunity came and he was appointed Chief Justice by President Harding, although that came toward the end of his life.) - Wes Baker

Heredia, José-María de. 1893 [1937 printing]. *Les Trophées*. Paris: Librairie Alphonse Lemerre.

Heredia was a Cuban poet who lived much of his life in France, and wrote in French. *Les Trophées* is really his only book, a collection of well over 100 sonnets, written in French. Many people, as do I, consider these to be some of the best sonnets ever written in any language. Considered a Parnassian by folks concerned with such classifications, his work, in my opinion, goes far beyond any stylistic categorization. Do not confuse him with the other José María Heredia, also Cuban, and one of the great Romantic poets. He wrote in the late 19th century, traveled in the United States, and spent much time in Mexico. - John Bennett

Kinney, David A. 2014. *The Dylanologists: adventures in the land of Bob*. New York: Simon & Schuster. - Geoff Smith

Olson, Lynne. 2010. *Citizens of London: the Americans who stood with Britain in its darkest, finest hour*. New York: Random House.

The behind-the-scenes story of the role three key American personalities played as liaisons with Churchill and Roosevelt, war-shy US public opinion-makers, and alliance forgers stationed in a city perilously on the brink of surrender. The author portrays the determination, principals and passionate love affairs of journalist Edward R. Murrow, millionaire playboy Averell Harriman and US Ambassador to Britain John Gilbert Winant in a city, though plagued with danger and intrigue was where “everyone” wanted to be in 1941 through the war. - Patricia Groseck

Owens, Delia, and Mark Owens. 1992. *The eye of the*

***elephant: an epic adventure in the African wilderness*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.**

From 1986 to 1991 Delia and Mark Owens lived in the wilds of Africa where the killing of elephants for their tusks and other valuable body parts by illegal poaching was rampant. With stubborn determination this couple brought killing of African game to a near standstill. This remarkable story graphically portrays how two people who believe and have fearless refusal to quit can, and did, make a difference. - Emerson Gilbert

Perry, Anne. 2001. *The Whitechapel conspiracy*. New York: Ballantine Books.

Part of Perry’s Victorian mystery series that feature Thomas and Charlotte Pitt and always include a bit of history or historical fiction. This one weaves in the Jack the Ripper murders and involves the Prince of Wales and his son the Duke of Clarence. - Patricia Groseck

Queenan, Joe. 2012. *One for the books*. New York: Viking. - George Bauman

Richards, Keith, and James Fox. 2010. *Life*. New York: Little, Brown and Co. - Bill Evans

Semple, Maria. 2012. *Where’d you go, Bernadette: a novel*. New York: Little, Brown and Company.

A wacky but rewarding look at a life in Seattle. - Nancy Campbell

Stevenson, Fanny, R. L. Stevenson, and Charles Neider. 1955. *Our Samoan adventure: with a three-year diary by Mrs. Stevenson now published for the first time, together with rare photographs from family albums*. New York: Harper. - Lani Heilman

December: Silent Auction

The grand tradition of the Aldus Holiday Dinner will take place this year on December 11. This year’s Silent Auction catalogue has a strong visual and Columbus theme. We are looking for some fabulous books to balance out the offerings.

Already lined up for your enthusiastic bidding are:

- A beautiful set of vintage linens with a very unusual “Buckeye” motif;
- A large original watercolor by Columbus’ Leland McCelland of “George Bellows’ Boyhood Home”;
- A great “super limited,” signed print on a Thurber House theme by the New Yorker’s Gahan Wilson;
- One of the signed/limited Marc Simont posters created for the James Thurber 90th Birthday Celebration in 1984;
- A neat little watercolor by Columbus artist, Bill Arter of the OSU Armory Building, ca. 1950;
- A copy of Eliot Nugent’s, “Events Leading Up to the Comedy,” signed and with an autograph letter laid-in;
- A Eudora Welty “first day postal cover,” with the author’s autograph;
- Two beautiful vintage magazines with “Thurber covers”: Atlantic from 1956 and TIME Magazine from July of 1951; and
- A wonderful linen-backed Ohio Railway Map from the early 20th Century.

We need some more unusual items! Perhaps you are an artist yourself or have a special talent to share? Or maybe a book that you have enjoyed for a long time that you just know your fellow Aldus members would lust after or cherish! Contact Nancy Campbell, Kassie Rose, or Ed Hoffman with questions about possible donations and to arrange for pickup!

Aldus Program Schedule for 2014 - 2015

September 11, 2014: Dr. Jarrod Burks of Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc. - Jarrod will share his collection of rare books about early Ohio archaeology and tell us how they support his job as a working archaeologist today.

October 9, 2014: Nancy Down - Ms. Down is the head librarian at the Browne Popular Culture Library, Bowling Green State University. The library houses books and magazines, vintage comic books, videos, toys, games and a wide variety of other popular-culture items that make it the largest collection of its kind in the nation. Nancy will be focusing on some of the library's interesting print collections. **NOTE: If you love pulp fiction and enjoyed Power's Pulp Fest talk, you don't want to miss this talk.**

Fall 2014: Field trip to Dayton - We will visit part of the Stuart Rose Collection on display at the University of Dayton. Watch the listerv for date, time, and transportation information.

November 13, 2014: justAjar Design + Press - Bobby and Sara Rosenstock have landed in Marietta, OH, where they are busy designing, printing, working on their home and collecting old type from local antique shops. Sara teaches graphic design at Marietta College while Bobby runs the letterpress shop in the city.

December 11, 2014: Holiday Dinner

January 8, 2015: Aldus Collects - Contact George Bauman to volunteer to share your favorite books or topics.

February 12, 2015: Tony Clark - Tony will talk about tarot cards and reference books about them in *Tarot's Transition: Egypt to Connecticut*.

March 12, 2015: Ron Ravneberg Lecture - William Noel will speak on the Archimedes Palimpsest Project. Noel is Director of The Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts and The Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies at the University of Pennsylvania <http://schoenberginstitute.org/>. He is co-author of *The Archimedes Codex*.

April 9, 2015: David Lynn - David will discuss the history, mission, and achievements of *The Kenyon Review*, one of the nation's premier literary journals.

May 14, 2015: Beth Whittaker - Beth will share "Stories from the Spencer." We will hear about collections, collectors, donors, exhibits, classes, lessons learned, and various other anecdotes from the perspective of Ms. Whittaker's position as head of the University of Kansas's Spencer Research Library, a rare books and manuscripts library.

Join Thurber House for the Fall 2014 season of Evenings with Authors!

Wednesday, August 27: Susan Elizabeth Phillips, *Heroes Are My Weakness*

Monday, September 29: Kathy Reichs, *Bones Never Lie*

Tuesday, October 7: Simon Winchester, *The Men Who United the States: America's Explorers, Inventors, Eccentrics and Mavericks, and the Creation of One Nation, Indivisible*

Tuesday, October 21: Nicholson Baker, *The Paul Chowder Chronicles: The Anthologist and Traveling Sprinkler*

Monday, November 24: Garth Stein, *A Sudden Light*

Tickets and more information available at www.thurberhouse.org or 614-464-1032 x.11!

