



Aldus Society Notes

January 2016

Volume 16, No. 1

January 14 - Strutting Our Stuff: Aldus Collects 2016

Moderated by George Cowmeadow Bauman

What kind of program could possibly feature Baseball in January, H. P. Lovecraft, Vietnam War Literature, City Lights chapbooks, James Thurber connecting with children, and something called “Exonumia”?

We’ve got ‘em all for you, Columbus’ best variety show, coming this January 14th. Our annual Aldus Collects program kicks off 2016, featuring six of our members talking about their reading and collecting interests. You won’t need to bring your rotten tomatoes, for this show is always a winner.

- Bill Evans starts off the evening with his talk, “Complete the Set - The City Lights Pocket Poets series.” He’ll discuss the challenge of finding their first editions.
- Jay Hoster will present illustrations from children’s books written by James Thurber. You’ll see how various artists from different countries have interpreted Thurber’s texts.
- Debra Jul, who’s going to talk on “Exonumia.” You gotta come and find out what that is. No cheating by Googling!
- Kassie Rose will be there with “Dispatches from the Vietnam War.” She’ll be sharing books that are prominent in the canon of Vietnam War literature while telling stories about their authors.
- Tom Thacker is going to step aside from his responsibilities as deli, wine and cheese host. He’ll discuss “Eldritch Things: Some Curious Examples from my Lovecraft Collection.”
- Jim Tootle, indulging George’s and Geoff Smith’s (and hopefully others’) love for baseball with a talk titled “Books and Baseball.” His presentation will focus on nine books from the extensive and ever-growing literature of America’s national pastime. His talk will reflect upon baseball’s relationship to American social history and culture.

Once again, George Cowmeadow Bauman will MC the event.

The social hour starts at 7:00 p.m., with the program beginning at 7:30 p.m. It will be a warm evening, regardless of weather, as we celebrate Aldus Collects.

February 11, 2016: Matt Kish – “Illustrating Text”



Matt Kish is a self-taught artist and librarian from Ohio, where he lives with his librarian wife, their African clawed frog, and far, far, too many books. A childhood spent immersed in imagery, from comic books to video games to illustrated folk and fairy tales created in Matt a passion for visual narrative. He is drawn to illustration that tells a story and is fascinated by the manner in which

sequential images and visual vocabulary build meaning through juxtaposition and repetition. Using pages and paper harvested from old and discarded books, Matt’s work employs seemingly random elements of layering, collage and a variety of media to create unique personal visual interpretations of classic literature.

Matt asserts that his initial drawing process was so extraordinarily and obsessively detailed that it became both physically and psychologically uncomfortable. That led him to experiment with painting over found paper and re-thinking his process of making marks and images. He will share more of his artistic process and inspirations with us at our February program.

Matt is the author of *Moby-Dick in Pictures: One Drawing for Every Page*, Tin House Books, 2011.

He has illustrated:

The Revelator: A Novel by Robert Kloss, Unnamed Press, 2015.

The Desert Places by Amber Sparks and Robert Kloss, Curbside Splendor, 2013.

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad, Tin House Books, 2013.

The Alligators of Abraham by Robert Kloss, Mud Luscious Press, 2012.

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. Meetings are held at **Thurber Center, 91 Jefferson Avenue, Columbus, OH.** Socializing at 7:00 p.m. Free parking behind Thurber House and at State Auto rear parking lot (between 11th St. and Washington)

The Aldus Society

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President's Message

At our annual "Aldus Collects" programs, I'm always fascinated by the variety of collections my Aldus friends accumulate. I never thought of myself as a collector because I used to move frequently and traveling light was easier. However, after being happily "stuck" in Columbus for 30 years, I look around my house and realize that I've built **many** collections according to the adage that owning three of something qualifies. How many of something do you have to own before it qualifies as hoarding?

I've been trying to curtail my book buying until I have read more of the books I already own so I'm focused on two non-book-related collections right now. The first are ruby-painted souvenir glasses, dated and bearing a name. My favorite glass reads "Marie Alt 1906." A second fledgling collection is of tokens issued by Ohio tradesmen and retailers. I'd love to collect tokens issued by early American publishers and printers, but I haven't had the nerve to spend the money they fetch!

Alas, my goal to reduce my intake of books is as unsuccessful as my goal to reduce my intake of calories. I cannot summon the will to visit a bookstore and leave empty-handed. And I believe that sweet addiction, my friends, is something we have in common.

Here's to collecting, Debra

Editor's Note

As you settle down in the warmth of your homes this January, you'll be delighted and entertained by the marvelous articles in this issue of the newsletter. Matthew Schweitzer contributed an article about witches and there is another installment of Bill Rich's Book Hunting where he's seeking printing forgeries. George Cowmeadow Bauman regales us with a tale about Hemingway and serendipity. Two intrepid travelers, Don Rice and Laralyn Sasaki Dearing, each write of their biblio-travels in Europe. In between the longer articles are pieces about exhibits, books, our members, authors in our midst, a recap of past talks, and, of course, upcoming programs. George Cowmeadow Bauman graciously takes and sends photos every month. George took all the photos at the fall events. Don Rice, as always, copy-edited the articles.

If you have an idea for an article or want some help shaping your ideas, please e-mail me or catch me at the next meeting.

Thanks so much to all our contributors. Miriam

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Body copy is set in Garamond, and headlines are set in Franklin Gothic.

March 10, 2016: Collecting the World and Beyond - A Remembrance of Ronald Ravneberg Presented by Geoff Smith

The evening's program will be a tribute to Ronald Ravneberg, early member and second president of the Aldus Society, whose enthusiasm and insight was a profound contribution to the fledgling association. "A Celebration of the Book," organized by the Aldus Society in 2004, was largely Ron's inspiration and production and provided the central Ohio book community with two days of varied events including keynote addresses by Barry Moser and Nicholas Basbanes, panel discussions, book signings, and a book appraisal clinic.

Ron was foremost a focused collector and articulate chronicler of the voyages and explorations of Captain James Cook whose 18th-century expeditions throughout the Pacific Ocean vastly expanded the scientific and navigational knowledge of his age. Geoffrey D. Smith, Professor Emeritus and former Head of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library at the Ohio State University, will present and moderate tributes by Ron's friends. Ravneberg is best known for his Captain Cook collection and his associated interests in the book arts and



astronomy. The scientific field sparked and held Ron's interest in Cook. Did you know that the primary purpose of Cook's first voyage to Tahiti in 1769 was to observe the transit of Venus, a relatively rare astronomical phenomenon?

Ron Ravneberg is remembered as a Cook scholar, who published his bibliographical findings with the Captain Cook

Society and addressed bibliophilic groups on a frequent basis. Ron died too young of pancreatic cancer in 2009. The Aldus Society memorialized him by the establishment of the annual Ron Ravneberg Lecture and it seems fitting, at this time, that we revisit Ron the man. Ron left his outstanding collection to the OSU Rare Books and Manuscripts Library. The speaker honorarium for this special presentation will be donated to the OSU RBML.

Photos of Ron Ravneberg by George Cowmeadow Bauman.

April 14, 2016: Freed From a Parchment Jail: A Bibliographic Story of the Birth of the Avant-Garde Lecture by Olchar E. Lindsann

The Revenant Archive collects relics of 19th century avant-garde communities, a long, rich, and complex intellectual network that has been almost effaced from cultural history. For much of the past century, most scholars have placed the beginning of "the avant-garde" in a period between 1890 and 1909.



Recent research has uncovered a rich, complex history of a community calling itself the avant-garde dating back to at least 1829, from which the Dadaists and Surrealists still explicitly claim descent. The archive developed organically as a tool for Olchar Lindsann's research into this history. It now contains over 225 items, primarily books, dating from 1800-1950. The Revenant Archive functions as an historical, cultural, and pedagogical resource. Revenant Editions publishes translations and annotated editions of texts from the archive and responses by contemporary avant-gardists. Lindsann will present the recently uncovered history of the first 30 years of the avant-garde, as revealed by books from the archive's collection. He will delve into the roots of avant-garde literature and illustration and show this forgotten community formed the context in which the next generation of avant-gardists including Baudelaire, Verlaine, Mallarmé and Courbet grew into maturity. And he will describe the role bibliography, archiving, and publishing played in the foundation of the avant-garde itself.

The updated, partially annotated catalog of the archive is available at <http://revenant-archive.blogspot.com/>. Much of the research facilitated by the archive is posted at <http://bouzingo.blogspot.com/>.

Olchar E. Lindsann lives in Roanoke, Virginia, where he teaches Humanities and Writing at Community High, an alternative-model, discussion-based school, and administers the library and research lab. In addition to his other activities, he is active in Roanoke's progressive local history community centered on the psychogeographic project Philosophy Inc., and writes, lectures, and leads tours focusing on under-represented aspects of the city's past. Lindsann graduated in Fine Arts from CCAD in 2002, then studied at the experimental community at Dartington College of Arts, taking his Masters in Performance Writing in 2006. He co-founded (in Columbus) the Post-NeoAbsurdist Anti-Collective, became involved in the international Mail Art and Micropress/Zine communities, edited the avant-garde journals *Appropriated Press* and *Synapse*, and researched and wrote heavily on the history and historiography of the avant-garde.

May 12, 2016 – Richard Ring speaks on “The Alchemy of Special Collections: Undergraduate Fellowships & Courses based on Unique Materials at Trinity College, 2011-2016”



The impact on undergraduates of encountering rare books, manuscripts, maps, prints, ephemera, and the diverse array of artifacts that may be found in special collections is a fundamentally opening, broadening, and deepening experience. It connects students with aspects of human creative and intellectual endeavor in ways that are otherwise impossible. This is the alchemy of special collections, and the Watkinson Library has been my laboratory since 2010. In 2011, we began offering “Creative Fellowships” to undergraduates and I began teaching courses based on special collections. In this talk, I will share the outcomes of this activity, and present examples of student projects, events, and publications we have issued.

Richard Ring is originally from Columbus, Ohio. He holds a B.A. in English literature from the Ohio State University, and an M.L.S. from Indiana University, where his specialization was rare books librarianship. From 1998 to 2007, he served as the Reference & Acquisitions Librarian of the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University. From 2007 to 2010, Ring was the Special Collections Librarian at the Providence Public Library. Most recently, in August 2010, Ring was appointed Head Curator & Librarian of the Watkinson Library at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

Exhibits and Book News

Early Visions of Ohio: 1765-1865 (September 12-December 31, 2015) at the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio in Lancaster, Ohio.

This beautiful exhibit is a pictorial narrative of the early years in oil, watercolor, and gouache paintings, maps, drawings, prints, photographs, textiles and ceramics that portray Ohio between 1765 and 1865. This collection was displayed with a pure humanities take and created a broader/deeper interest in early Ohio. Christopher Busta-Peck, a librarian at the Cleveland Public Library curated the exhibit. He is working on a book-length catalog to accompany the exhibition. For more information about the catalog, <http://www.decartsOhio.org>

***Audubon's Birds of America* – Double- Elephant Folio edition now on display!**

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County owns one of the few intact copies of John James Audubon's *Birds of America*. Housed in its Cincinnati Room, one page of only one of the double elephant folio editions was turned each week. At that rate, it took over eight years to see every page. Now, thanks to the cases, the library unveiled during a November 16, 2015 ceremony, the exhibit also features a new computer touch screen allowing visitors to digitally flip through the books and zoom in on the artwork. If you want to look at their Audubon *Birds* from home, follow the link: <http://digital.cincinnatiLibrary.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16998coll33>.



Triumph of the Witches: Joseph Glanvill's *Sadducismus Triumphatus*

by Matthew S. Schweitzer



The “Sadducismus Triumphatus” (Triumph Over Disbelief) of Joseph Glanvill, originally published in 1681, is one of the seminal English works on witches, demons, ghosts, and other paranormal happenings. Glanvill was a distinguished member of the famous Royal Society (of which Isaac Newton was a member) and was disturbed by the growing skepticism concerning the reality and danger of demons and witches in the late seventeenth century.

Glanvill believed, perhaps justly, that a rising disbelief in ghosts and spirits would eventually lead to a rejection of Christianity. Glanvill, as an active opponent of the “spiritual scourge” of atheism, set out to prove, using scientific means, that witches and specters were in fact real, and continued to be a menace to a good Christian society. In doing so, he produced what has been called the first book of physical research and what is generally considered a significant and influential scholarly work on witchcraft and the paranormal.



Glanvill relates a number of stories that he collected from friends and colleagues concerning witchery, demons, and other supernatural beings, and at least one incident he himself witnessed. Glanvill personally visited the Mompesson house and claimed to witness the doings of the famous Demon Drummer of Tedworth, supposedly the disembodied spirit of a dead soldier who was thought

to haunt the estate. The other tales deal with an assortment of phantasmagoric incidents of levitations, blood-drinking witches, troublesome poltergeists, diabolic Sabbaths, and much more.

It is understandable why this work was so popular in its day despite the growing doubt concerning the validity of such stories. In fact, the *Sadducismus Triumphatus* itself was a direct challenge to Glanvill's nemesis, the author and scholar John Webster. Webster, a notorious witchcraft debunker, had only recently published *The Displaying of Supposed Witchcraft*. This sharp-tongued condemnation of the witch-hunts thoroughly blasted what he saw as the credulous and superstitious beliefs that were detrimental to a modern scientific society and that ultimately led to the suffering and death of many innocent

victims.

Interestingly, Glanvill's works were also highly influential on the Boston clergyman Cotton Mather and were referenced glowingly in his *Wonders of the Invisible World*, a defense of the Salem Witch Trials published shortly after that infamous affair. Glanvill's attempt to use science and reason to empirically document the supernatural was a first and it sparked what could be seen as a long line of paranormal investigations that continue to this very day.

My personal copy of Glanvill's book is the fourth edition of 1726. Bound in contemporary paneled English calf boards, it has been nicely rebacked, but yet retains its early eighteenth-century charm. There are two engraved frontispieces, one for each of the two major sections. The first shows King Saul meeting the Witch of Endor in a story from the Old Testament. The second frontispiece depicts several scenes illustrating tales from the book itself, showing Glanvill observing the dreaded Demon Drummer of Tedworth along with other scenes of Devil worship, magic, and sorcery. This engraving has become quite popular in modern books on the history of witchcraft and the occult and is frequently reproduced.



BOOK HUNTING NOTES 30

The Frauds of “The Donation of Constantine” and “The Description of Formosa”

by Bill Rich

Literary forgeries have an incredibly long history. Such forgeries are made deliberately for motives of power, esteem, and, of course, financial gain. The creation of the forgeries is often a fascinating tale of literary skullduggery. Equally interesting are the stories of the systematic literary detection involved in exposing the forgery for what it is. All of this is a suitable subject for collecting, and often is even more fun than collecting purely fictional “bibliomysteries.” Here is a tale of two book fakes, whose widespread acceptance by a believing public staggers the imagination.

The Donation of Constantine

One classic forgery with extremely long-lasting success was the famous “Donation of Constantine” in the Middle Ages. Written by an unknown cleric, most probably somewhere around 750 - 800 A.D., this piece of brazen effrontery was purported to be by the Roman Emperor, Constantine the Great, who ruled from 306 to 337 A.D. In it, this first Christian emperor deeds the whole Roman Empire to the then Pope, Sylvester I, and his successors, lock, stock and barrel; baby and bath water – the works. All territories, cities, armies and their standards (specified), and even good old Constantine’s imperial robes, crowns, and scepters (also specified) go to the Roman Church. The document is lengthy, an English translation of the original Latin running to ten pages. The “Donation” was widely copied and promulgated in the Middle Ages. It was often appended to the Roman law codes which formed the basis for jurisprudence and legal teaching in Europe at this time. Obviously, this was just dandy to the pontiffs in Rome, giving a legal basis for all efforts to exert primacy and control over the kings, princes, dukes, and so on of splintered Europe in the Middle Ages.

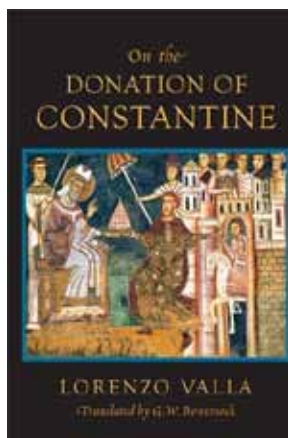
Since most teaching, reading, and legal instruction was in the hands of clergy in this Age of Faith, it is perhaps not so surprising the Donation went unchallenged for so long. It was not until the awakening of the Renaissance that the thing was examined critically. Our literary hero and forgery detective in this case was one Lorenzo Valla, one of the major Italian humanists, a founder of source criticism and skeptical historical inquiry. Himself a cleric, a scholar who had been in the employ of various popes and princes in Italy, Valla undertook a study of the Donation. By his time, the entitlement given in the Donation was already a subject of squabbling among the princes of Italy, but some time in

April and May of the year 1440, Lorenzo Valla produced his inquiry into it. Not a guy to pull punches, he called it, “On the Forged and Mendacious *Donation of Constantine*.” It immediately circulated widely in manuscript form, this being just before the invention of printing.

Valla knew well what Latin of the fourth century should be. With the classical revival, he had read everything surviving from that period, and was thoroughly familiar with the history of those times. The work of earlier humanists had discovered many historical and literary survivals that had passed through the Dark Ages in sometimes single manuscripts – these discoveries themselves are a wonder of true book collecting. The Donation was written in Latin definitely from centuries later than its purported date and was filled with absurd historical inaccuracies and anachronisms. For example: Constantine is supposed to have handed over big lamps to illuminate the “churches of Rome.” As Valla sarcastically notes, addressing the forger, “You miserable dog, did Rome have churches? ... nowhere was there any place for Christians apart from secret places and hidden dens.” By the way, the invective is typical. Valla is offended by the naked effrontery of the silly cleric who was just trying to shore up his boss’s case. Another example: “With God as my witness, I cannot find the words, I cannot find the brutality of language for striking down this utterly shameless wretch. All the words he keeps spewing out are full of lunacy.” That’s telling ’em.

Surprisingly, Valla’s manuscript circulated rather widely in the Italy of his time, being used to oppose or support pope or princeling in the political squabbles then occurring. No penalty was incurred; Valla found further employment even at high levels in the Church. But, with the advent of the Reformation and printing in Europe, printed versions of the exposé began to be widely circulated, and were taken up by Protestant leaders, including Martin Luther, to beat up on the Pope. This, of course, got the work on the Church’s “Index of Prohibited Books,” starting with the first authorized Index in 1559. Over the centuries, Valla was in good company in the notorious Index, which has included works by Galileo, Gibbon, Locke, Hume, Voltaire, and so on. Indeed, collecting books that have appeared on the Index is an interesting exercise in forming a library of high spots in the Western humanist tradition. Getting your book on the Index was not a sentence in perpetuity, however. By the time the Index was abandoned in 1966, Vallo and Galileo, for example, were not

FIG. 1



on it. We do get smarter, perhaps.

Fig. 1 is the cover of the modern translation of Valla's exposé and a translation of the Donation itself by G. W. Bowersock, published by the I Tatti Renaissance Library, Harvard University Press. The cover illustration shows Constantine humbly handing over his crown, the army, and the walled city of Rome to an enthroned Pope Sylvester. Beats the dickens out of merely exempting certain church property from taxes, as is the current United States practice.

George Psalmanaazaar and the "Description of Formosa"

In the year 1703, a very unusual visitor arrived to swell the burgeoning population of London, England, which already stood at 600,000. He had come most recently from Amsterdam in the Netherlands. A rather dark-complexioned man, apparently in his twenties, his accented English revealed he was not native to Britain. Soon after his arrival, he brought off one of the most preposterous literary frauds in English history.

George Psalmanaazaar was not the man's real name, nor has his true name ever been discovered. In Holland, he had been passing himself off as a native of the island of Formosa (Taiwan) in the Far East, who had made his way to Europe after many wanderings. He was brought to England by one of the chaplains of the British army in the Netherlands who had baptized the exotic heathen. "George Psalmanaazaar" was a baptismal name. He was presumably named by the good chaplain after the Assyrian king, Shalmaneser V, who spared the Israelites after conquering their nation. (He merely deported them all to Babylon, rather than slaughtering the bunch of them, as was the rather rough custom of the times.) But George was a social success in Britain. Not only was he the first resident of an exotic far eastern country to appear in London, he also claimed that he had fallen out with the Jesuit missionaries in Formosa and, after coming to Europe, appreciated the truths of the Protestant religion and the evils and deceptions of Catholicism. This resonated with the aggressively Protestant outlook of early eighteenth-

FIG. 2



century England. Psalmanaazaar met the Bishop of London and was feted by other stalwarts of society.

This was quite an imposture for someone who had never been further east than Italy, as it later appeared. In 1704, he published *An Historical and Geographical Description of Formosa*, printed for Daniel Brown, et al., London (Fig. 2). The book was dedicated to the Bishop of London, who by this time was a benefactor and patron. This dedication alone runs to a fulsome five pages. A more brazen and extended fraud has rarely been equaled in the history of English books. The next section of the book extensively describes the author's mostly imaginary travels all the way from Formosa to England. This is followed by a long section of more than 100 pages, describing the reasoning and influences that finally led to George's seeing the light, and converting to the one true Anglican form of Protestant Christianity.

FIG. 3



Finally, the good part: the last half of the book is the actual description of Formosa. It is a marvel of pure invention, and contains many plates, of which a few examples are shown here. Fig. 3 is one of the typical dress plates, showing here "a burgher," "a country bumpkin" (don't you love this?), "a virgin," and "a bride." The lower classes were typically shown with a decorative piece covering their privates, and little else. Psalmanaazaar was questioned about his surprising light colored skin, and the glib reply was that the upper classes (to which George, of course, belonged) "mostly lived underground." From the chapter on religious practices, Fig. 4 shows the principal tabernacle and sacrificial altar. This was the one in which 18,000 male infants were burned alive annually. The ovens for these sacrifices are shown on the left of the plate. The ovens seem surprisingly small for the job, but this was accepted with the rest of the nonsense. Finally, our fraudster created a language for his Formosans. Fig. 5 shows the foldout plate with the Formosan

FIG. 4



FIG. 5

The Formosan Alphabet

Name	Power	Figure	Name
A ^m	A a ao	⌈ I I	⌈ I
M ^m	M m	⌋ J J	⌋ J
N ⁿ	N n	⌋ U U	⌋ U
T ^{aph}	T th t	⌋ b b	⌋ b
L ^{ando}	L ll l	⌋ F F	⌋ F
S ^{ando}	S sh s	⌋ s s	⌋ s
V ^{omera}	V w u	⌋ Δ Δ	⌋ Δ
B ^{agdo}	B b b	⌋ / /	⌋ /
H ^{amno}	H th h	⌋ h h	⌋ h
P ^{edlo}	P pp p	⌋ p p	⌋ p
K ^{aphi}	K k x	⌋ y y	⌋ y
O ^{nda}	O o o	⌋ o o	⌋ o
I ^{lda}	I y i	⌋ o o	⌋ o
X ^{atara}	X xh x	⌋ x x	⌋ x
D ^{am}	D th d	⌋ d d	⌋ d
Z ^{ampli}	Z th z	⌋ z z	⌋ z
E ^{phi}	E e q	⌋ e e	⌋ e
F ^{andem}	F ph f	⌋ x x	⌋ x
R ^{aw}	R rh r	⌋ r r	⌋ r

“alphabet.” Amazingly, even the use of an alphabet to write a far Eastern language raised no alarms at the time. Indeed, European lexicographers included this alphabet in their books for decades after the fraud was exposed.

The book was immensely popular. It quickly went into a second English edition and was translated into French and German. Gradually, the more learned public realized the imposture. But no ill consequences came to Psalmanaazaar. He worked at various enterprises and even became a chaplain in the British Army. He became a minor litterateur, publishing various articles, and gradually fessing up to the

fraud perpetrated in the “Description of Formosa.” He long outlived his youthful folly, playing a role in London literary society and becoming a fast friend of Samuel Johnson, among others.

Surprisingly, he received enormous respect from the often-critical Johnson. Johnson declared that, “George Psalmanaazaar’s piety, penitence, and virtue exceeded what we read as wonderful even in the lives of the saints.” This was forgiving the redeemed sinner with a vengeance. Psalmanaazaar died in 1763. In 1764, his *Memoirs* were published, in which he completely fessed up (Fig. 6). He never gave his real name, and the best information was that he was born in Southern France around 1680. Only the good die young.

A final book hunting note: I acquired first edition copies of the *Description of Formosa* and the *Memoirs* in contemporary eighteenth-century bindings ten years ago, from a U.S. dealer. At the time, these once-popular books did not seem particularly rare; several copies were on the market.

However, a quick recent search using Bookfinder.com doesn’t turn up any copies of either first. Maybe these copies are scarcer than I once thought. But they certainly grace a collection of literary frauds and forgeries.

FIG. 6



Ladies Luncheons

Dear Lady Aldines, It seems to be time to look toward the new year and plan ahead for our 2016 quarterly meetings. Please, make note of the noon luncheon dates at MCL Kingsdale. The dates for lunches are January 16, April 16, July 16, and October 15.

All Lady Aldines are welcome to join us. For more information contact Sue Johnson.



The Aldus Society
www.AldusSociety.com

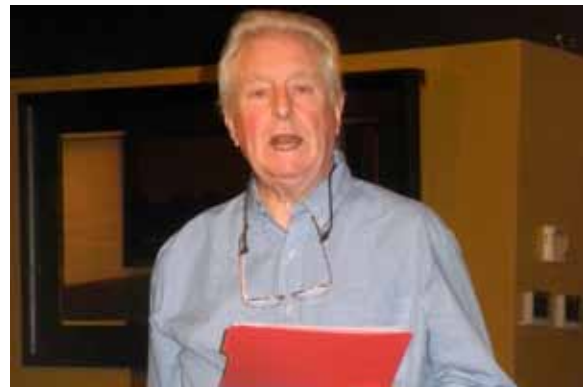
Holiday Dinner

Roger and Judi Jerome and Mary Saup deserve high praise and thanks for working so hard to make our wonderful holiday party a smashing success. We would be amiss not to include Debra! We all look forward to the Holiday dinner and, as usual, this year's event provided us with a relaxing time to chat with our friends and peruse interesting books.

This year's Carol Logue Biblio-Fellowship Award honoree was Lois Smith whose beautiful spirit of fellowship and tireless work for Aldus are constantly demonstrated through her caring and hard work on special events and committees. The past recipients of the Carol Logue Biblio-Fellowship Award nominated Lois. Congratulations Lois!

Other comments about the dinner were: "What a wonderful choice for the Carol Logue Biblio-Fellowship Award. Lois does, as Debra says, has worked tirelessly over the years for Aldus and certainly does have a beautiful spirit." And, "as much as we have all enjoyed the silent auctions, it was nice to share a book and come home with something from a friend." Many went home with lovely books to add to their ever-growing collections.

Thanks to all of you who shared your good company and books!



A FALL WRAP-UP

As we look back on the balmy fall, we remember the wonderful presentations. In September, David Lynn, Editor of the *Kenyon Review* gave an engaging talk about the history of the journal, its various editors, and its evolution over the past 75 years. Lynn spoke about the various authors, now famous, who contributed to the journal over the decades. Today, the Kenyon Review nurtures fellows, budding students of creative writing. Best of all, Lynn announced the new digital editions for the review. To read more about the journal, see <http://www.kenyonreview.org/>.



In October, Arnold Hirshon wowed us with his collection of illustrators of *Alice in Wonderland*. Hirshon discussed how Alice is illustrated and seen by artists of all ages and over the past 150 years. There was no Tenniel in sight, but plenty of other illustrations to delight the eye and tantalize the mind. Carroll would be pleased!

November brought Lucy Caswell with cartoons, artwork, and drawings of WWI from the Billy Ireland collections at OSU. The focus of Caswell's talk was about public opinion and attitudes toward World War One. Many of the cartoons and illustrations are featured on the walls of the galleries and remind viewers of events in Europe 100 years ago. The current exhibit runs through January 25, 2016 <http://cartoons.osu.edu/exhibits>.



Book Treasures at The Ingalls Library & Museum Archives at the Cleveland Museum of Art

On November 13, eleven intrepid Aldus members drove to Cleveland in the howling wind to take in the treasures of the Ingalls Library & Museum Archives at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Nestled on the third floor of the museum, this busy library houses over five hundred thousand books about art and artists and subscribes to over 1120 current journals and 3600 auction catalogs with sales prices. Many more books are stored off-site. Established in 1913, the library opened with six hundred books and a librarian. Today, the collection is second only to the Metropolitan Museum of Art library in New York City. The library collection supports research needs of the curators, staff, and general public including the art students at Case Western Reserve University and other colleges across northeastern Ohio. After a short talk and tour of the public areas of the library by Betsy Lantz, Director of Library & Archives, our group was ushered into the library's Special Collections and Archives rooms to look at the book treasures pulled by Leslie Cade, Archivist and Records Manager, and Louis V. Adrean, Head of Research and Public Programs.



Some highlights of the amazing rare book collection are the “Copper Printing Plate(s) for Tapestry Square Panel” in the Peru Wari style, books of arms and armor by Freidrich Martin von Reibitsch *Der Rittersaal...*, and a William Morris Kelmscott edition of *Beowulf* on vellum. We looked at four folios of *Les Ruines de Pompéi* by François Mazois and Franz Christian Gau, and a modern facsimile manuscript of *al-Maqāmāt al-Harīriyah* illustrated by Y. Al-Wasiti showing Arabic illumination. Andy Worholl's *Photo Red Books*, some contemporary artists' books, and examples of gold granulation rounded out the selection. Leslie Cade pulled some of Howard Carter's correspondence from his early expeditions to Egypt from the archival collections.

The Ingalls Library & Museum Archives staff members include reference librarians, art historians, a conservator, and digitization specialists. Digitization and digital facsimiles are an integral part of the collection, providing international access to the vast resources in this world-class institution. If you want to explore the library, check out their website <http://library.clevelandart.org/>.



British Literary Societies

by Donald Tunnicliff Rice

Great Britain is crawling with literary societies whose members honor, study, and promote writers ranging alphabetically from Jane Austen, whom we all know, to Francis Brett Young, whom we don't. Well, some do.

There are only 125 or so member organizations in the Alliance of Literary Societies <http://www.allianceofliterarysocieties.org.uk/index.html>, so you might think I'm exaggerating when I say *crawling with*. But consider this: the United States has 116 comparable societies affiliated with the American Literature Association, yet we have nearly 255 million more people spread over 3.7 million more square miles, so by comparison I think it's fair to say *crawling with*. I also think, and I'm sure you'll agree, that I'm belaboring the point.

What I really want to discuss for the moment is just one of those 125 organizations, namely, The Arthur Ransome Society (TARS). As with a number of my reading interests, I first discovered Arthur Ransome's books in my old friend Keith Clinker's Owl Creek Book Store in Mount Vernon, Ohio. Ransome wrote many books and hundreds of articles, but those considered canonical are the Swallows and Amazons books, the twelve children's novels named for the first book in the series. The first volume was published by Jonathan Cape in 1930. The final book, *Great Northern?* was published in 1947.

The books are set mostly in Great Britain, in the Lake District, the Northern Broads, Suffolk, Essex, and the Isle of Lewis. I've made it a point to visit all the sites and I can't tell you which I prefer most. If I had to choose, I suppose I'd name the Lake District only because it was my very first such trip (2002) and the area where the Swallows and Amazons had their first adventures. A very close second would be the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides, the setting for *Great Northern?*

At the time of the first trip,

having no knowledge of TARS, I was strictly on my own. While visiting the Isle of Lewis eight years later, I was in the company of eighteen or so other TARS members, after attending the 2010 Annual General Meeting in Oban, Scotland. We'd entirely taken over a small inn on Uig Bay, site of the 1831 discovery of the famous twelfth-century Uig Chessmen. During our stay we visited locations specifically associated with Ransome along with other notable places such as the Callanish Standing Stone Circle, constructed over 4,000 years ago and second in height only to Stonehenge.



A guided tour of Winchester during the 2015 TARS Literary Conference

Local TARS groups have activities throughout the year, but there are also national meetings. In addition to the Annual General Meetings (AGMs), there are biannual Literary Weekends. I attended the first of these at the University of East Anglia in Norwich in 2005. I was expecting maybe forty to fifty odd ducks from around the country, but there were at least a hundred. I would have been the oddest duck of all, having come all the way from

Ohio, if there hadn't been an odder duck who came from California. One participant, Hsing-chin Lee, came all the way from Taipei to discuss her translation into Chinese of *Missee Lee*, the ninth book in the series.

Since 2005, I've attended a number of AGMs and three more Literary Weekends, my favorite being at King's College in Cambridge. I love recalling a reception before the formal



A tea and biscuit (cookie) break during the 2009 TARS Literary Conference at King's College, Cambridge

dinner, when we stood in the thin evening light on a carefully tended greensward stretching to the River Cam. We made clever but polite remarks while sipping from flutes of wine served by a uniformed wait staff. As with all Literary Weekends, we were regaled for three days by interesting talks and scholarly papers. Imagine, if you can, an entire year of Aldus programs compressed into a single weekend. It's that intense and that enjoyable. Judging from the quality and scholarship of the papers, you might think you were attending

a conference of the Thomas Hardy Society or the Friends of Coleridge. But, no, it's just the author of some books about a bunch of upper-middle-class boys and girls engaged in innocent pleasures.

There's more to Arthur Ransome than that, of course. As a young man he learned to speak Russian for the sole purpose of traveling to that country to collect folk tales that otherwise might be lost to history. And he did it. As a result of his language and writing skills, he became a newspaper correspondent covering the Russian Revolution, played chess with Lenin, and ran off with Trotsky's secretary, whom he later married. Some people still believe he was a spy, but Ransome denied it, claiming his only politics was fishing, about which he wrote extensively.

AR, as he is known to his fans, has a connection with two previous Aldus speakers. Among the books about books published by Bob Fleck's Oak Knoll Press is *Arthur Ransome: A Bibliography* by Wayne G. Hammond. I'm pleased to own a copy of this 371-page labor of love. Another guest, David R. Godine, spoke to us a few years ago about illustrated children's books. He happens to be the current American publisher of the twelve Swallows and Amazons novels. I made it a point to pin an enameled TARS burgee to my lapel the night he spoke, and David was delighted to see it.

I mention all this not only so I can relive some pleasant moments, but also to encourage you to have similar

experiences by finding a literary society that suits you. It's great fun having friends in distant places who share a passion and are pleased to shake your hand after a year or so's absence. I realize it's a bit much asking you to travel overseas just to attend a literary conference, but if you're planning a trip to the UK anyway, why not spend an enjoyable, civilized weekend with a group of welcoming new friends in a location you probably wouldn't have visited otherwise?

Two examples of conferences in 2015 were the Tolkien Society's observance of Yulemoot on December 5 at the Old Contemptibles Pub in Birmingham with prizes for the best costumes. On that same day at the Sloane Club in London, Emma Laws, Curator of Children's Literature at the Victoria and Albert, entertained the members of the Beatrix Potter Society with a talk entitled, "The Secret Success of Peter Rabbit."

There were many AGMs including that of the James Hilton Society on September 26 in Cambridge, the Lewis Carroll Society on November 13 at the Art Worker's Guild in London, and the Barbara Pym Society in September at St. Hilda's College in Oxford.

If you consult the Alliance of Literary Societies List of member organizations <http://www.allianceofliterarysocieties.org.uk/id11.html>, you'll be able to research your favorite author's site with a click of the mouse. Not all of them have full-blown weekend conferences, but there's usually a luncheon or dinner to attend.



Puffin-watching on Lundy Isle during the 2014 AGM in Barnstaple

OSU Rare Books and Manuscripts Library Events

On Saturday, August 29, 2015 at the customary hour of 10 a.m., OSU RBML featured their intern Isabelle Bateson-Brown in the Jan and Jack Creighton Special Collections Reading Room at Thompson Library. Ms Bateson-Brown discussed a selection of RBML's chronicles, annals, and related texts.

Ms. Bateson-Brown, a current graduate student in Museum Studies at Buffalo State College as well as an OSU alumna & former RBML student assistant, spoke about her special exhibit entitled "A Continuous Register: Examples of the Chronicle Tradition from Classical Roots to Early Modern Incarnations." Using the rich materials in RBML's collection, this exhibit charts the history of chronicles from Greek and Roman historians like Thucydides and Sallust through the ecclesiastical work of Bede and the printing masterpiece of the Nuremberg Chronicle to Holinshed's Chronicle, as well as many others along the way. It includes literary examples, secular documents, and other whimsical incarnations of the chronicle tradition. You can see a few images of selected items here: <https://www.facebook.com/RBMSatOSU/>.

On October 22, 2015, RBML held the annual "Preview Night" at the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library in the Special Collections reading room at Thompson Library. As usual, a wide range of materials was displayed for all to examine. All these materials are new to OSU (read: acquired during the 2014-15 academic year), and they range from medieval manuscripts to modern photography, with a little bit of everything in between!

Watch for more OSU RBML events in the Aldus Listserv.

Sailing Back Through Time with Books

by Laralyn Dearing

Fellow Aldine Amy Bostic and I took a whirlwind “sampler” tour of Central and Eastern European capitals via Viking River Cruises in October. Visiting Europe reminds us of our country’s relative youth. It was humbling to compare our history, even going back to the Pilgrims in 1620, with cities that formed in the 900s or the 1400s that still thrive today. The stories and folklore are more impressive than the longevity of the cities. Today’s residents keep these tales alive through memory and recitation. In these countries, the world wars of the past century and decades of communist rule seem to be simply recent chapters, albeit tragic ones, in an age-old, common local history.

Through all those ages, there have been manuscripts, books and other versions of the written word. **[Photos 1, 2 and 3]** We peered into the book-lined Philosophy and Theology rooms at Strahov Monastery in Prague and the mind-boggling library at the Melk Abbey in Austria, both of which housed countless scrolls and books, most out of sight of visiting tourists. **[Photos 4 and 5]**

We dove into bibliophile havens, including Shakespeare and Sons English bookstore in Prague’s Mala Strana district, **[Photo 6]** and Antikvariat Steiner, a used and a rare bookstore in Bratislava, Slovakia. **[Photo 7]** In a final, bittersweet moment, we discovered a city block-long row of antiquarian bookstores or “antikvarium” in Budapest, Hungary; all closed for the weekend. **[Photos 8-12]** This was probably for the best, as we undoubtedly would have depleted any funds saved for the *next* vacation, but I admit leaving several “nose prints” on store windows.

To bring us back to the present in our book-related European sightseeing, we saw a prominently displayed copy of Ohio-born Anthony Doerr’s current best-seller *All The Light We Cannot See* in Czech. **[Photo 13]**

Unfortunately, Amy didn’t find any first editions in any language of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but I unpacked a few book souvenirs when I returned home, including Pearl S. Buck’s *Sons* and Louis Bromfield’s *Mrs. Parkington*, both in Czech. **[Photos 14 and 15]**



Photo 1: Painting



Photo 2: Painting



Photo 3: Painting



Photo 4: Monk’s Travel Breviary



Photo 5: Manuscript from Melk



Photo 6: Amy at Shakespeare and Sons in Prague



Photo 7: Amy at Antikvariát Steiner in Bratislava



Photo 8: Budapest Antiquarian Bookstore



Photo 9: Budapest Antiquarian Bookstore



Photo 10: Budapest Antiquarian Bookstore



Photo 11: Budapest Antiquarian Bookstore



Photo 12: Budapest Antiquarian Bookstore Sign

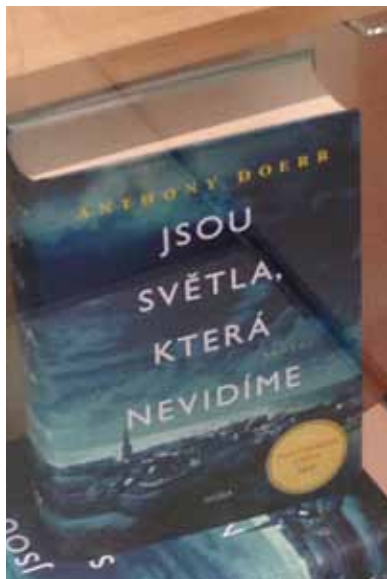


Photo 13: Prague New Books Store Selling Tony Doerr's best-seller



Photo 14: Pearl Buck's Sons in Czech

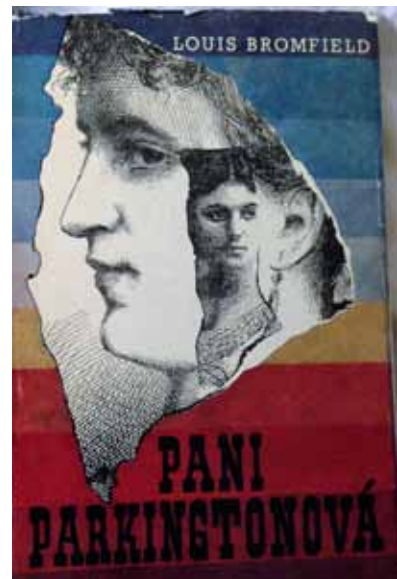


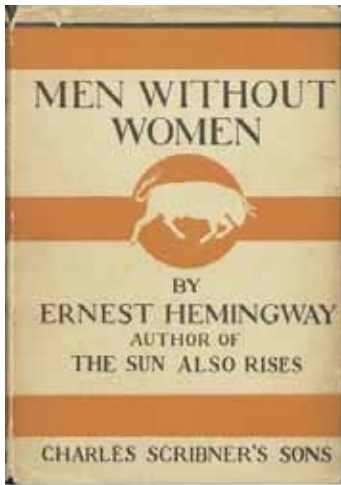
Photo 15: Louis Bromfield's Mrs. Parkington in Czech

Hemingway Helped Hire a Columbus Bookseller

A Bookstore-y by George Cowmeadow Bauman

Most of you know Acorn's Jack Salling. He once presented a program to the Aldus Society about collecting the history of medicine, and many of you have seen him in our bookshop. This is the unlikely store-y about how Jack came to Acorn. The fact is, I hired Jack as our Internet specialist because Ernest Hemingway wrote *Men without Women* in 1927. And also because seventy-eight years later a young Indianapolis couple decided to open a secondhand bookshop.

The hopeful Indianapolis booksellers broadcast a call to family, friends, and community for book donations to fill their empty shelves. They received dozens of boxes packed with books from readers and collectors who wanted to help buck the trend of declining non-chain bookstores.



As these budding bibliopoles (look it up) sorted through the hundreds of literary, and many not-so-literary, offerings, they came across something special: a signed copy of Ernest Hemingway's *Men without Women* in a scarce dust jacket.

What should they do, they wondered, with this valuable volume. They decided to ask Nicole Wolfersberger, a good friend who was studying book

conservation and preservation at Indiana State University. Nicole was from Columbus, where she used to work in [name of] bookstore.

Nicole examined the book closely and gave them some good news and some bad news. She told them the book *was* a first edition, indicated by the famous Scribner "A" on the copyright page, and that the scarce dust jacket would increase its value. Furthermore, the Hemingway signature appeared to be authentic.

The bad news was found inside the book. The previous owner had pasted a large bookplate on the front free endpaper and had unadvisedly taped down the edges of the bookplate with cellophane tape, which had yellowed with age over the years, becoming as ugly as a pimple on a prom-queen's nose.

Through her book connections in Columbus, Nicole knew Harry Campbell, the book-conservation wizard at the Ohio State University library. She knew that if anyone could

turn this monstrosity into a desirability, it was Harry, if he had the time.

She thought it was worth a try and told the couple that during her next visit to Columbus, she'd take the book with her and see what could be done about giving Hemingway a makeover.



A few weeks later, a slim, dark-haired young woman was browsing at Acorn and as she brought several books to the counter, she began talking about how she formerly worked for [name of] bookstore on High Street. Then she mentioned her friends who were opening a secondhand bookshop in Indianapolis, how they had found the Hemingway, and how she was on her way to see Harry that very day about repairing it. "They really don't know what to do with it, so I'm trying to help them out."

I thought to myself: "I know what to do with it. Sell it to me and let me deal with its flaws."

When Nicole mentioned that she had the book with her, I asked to see it. While she went to her car to retrieve it, I quickly researched online prices, and learned that if it were bookplateless and in very good condition, it might list for up to \$6000.

We examined the book together, and I casually mentioned that if the couple needed some bucks to get their bookstore ready to open, I might be interested in purchasing it.

"What do you think it's worth?" Nicole asked.

"As crazy as this sounds," I replied, "with the bookplate mess, they'd be lucky to get \$4000 for it at retail, which is still a decent price, especially for a start-up bookshop. If Harry can clean it up, it might go for as much as \$6000."

We both thought about that for a moment, and then I said, "Tell them that if they would choose to sell it wholesale now, as opposed to waiting until they develop a market for it, I'd pay them \$3000 and cover the restoration myself."

"I'll pass that along," she replied, "and I appreciate your time to talk with me about this."

Nicole came back the next day and reported that Harry said he would take a crack at the Hemingway, as time permitted, and the charge would depend on how much time the operation took.

Once again, I asked her to tell her friends about my offer. Several weeks went by without any word, so I emailed Nicole

to ask how things stood. She wrote saying she had conveyed my offer, but the couple was unsure about what to do. After another fruitless query a month later, I gave up and resigned myself to having had the opportunity pass me by.



Oh, ye of little faith.

Several months later, I received word from Nicole that the couple had decided they needed the money more than the book and were willing to sell it to me for what they thought was an amazing amount. They hadn't even opened their store, yet were about to sell a book, a donated book, for \$3000.



The transaction concluded, the book went to OSU, where in good time paper magician Harry Campbell restored the Hemingway beautifully, leaving but a ghost of the bookplate and no evidence of the offensive tape. I put the fragile dust jacket in an archival book cover, priced the Hemingway at \$6000, and placed it prominently in one of our glass-front showcases.

I would have listed it on the Internet, as many bookdealers were doing, but we hadn't taken that mighty leap to cyber-selling. We'd been wanting for several years to go online, as we had many books, such as an extensive collection on the geology of Canada, that would be more desirable in markets far beyond central Ohio.

However, Internet selling requires someone knowledgeable, with dedicated time to research and list the books, as well as to process the orders that came in. My colleague Christine Hayes and I had our hands full just handling the buyers and sellers at Acorn. We needed someone to join the staff, but had no idea where to find the right person.

So Hemingway began its life in our showcase, receiving many admiring glances and comments, but the price was intimidating. I didn't care whether I sold it right away or not. Having such an outstanding book on display was great PR for the store.



Most folks don't come to a secondhand bookshop to spend thousands of dollars, but one man did. He was a book-dealer from Atlanta on a buying trip through the Midwest and was doing the bookshops of Columbus that day when he

spied *Men without Women*. Uh-oh.

We dickered a bit about the price. I had the upper hand since I wasn't eager to sell, and if the deal fell through, Acorn still had its prized possession. On the other hand, it would be nice to ring several thousand dollars through the register. Finally we agreed on a price, and I lovingly and sadly packed our peach of a book in bubble-wrap for its trip to the Peach State. The showcase looked drab without Hemingway to brighten it up.



About a week after we sold the book, Aldus member Laralyn Sasaki came in with her usual cheerful, "Aloha!" Laralyn worked Saturdays for us at the time, and was also a trusted book scout, going to yard sales and other venues where she could buy books on our list of needed volumes. She would sell them to us to build up her store credit. As she walked past the showcase, she did a double-take. "What happened to the Hemingway? Did you sell it?"

I told her the story of selling it to a book dealer from Atlanta. At that point, a browser appeared with a stack of books from the American History section. Tilting his head and smiling, he asked, "Did you say that a dealer from Atlanta bought a special book?"

Laralyn and I exchanged a glance before I replied that yes, "we sold a signed first *Men without Women* to an Atlanta dealer."

"Which dealer?" he asked, and I told him the dealer's name.

He nodded and said, "I know him. I used to work in the book business in Atlanta and though I never met him, I ordered books from his store."

Naturally that begged the question from me, "What did you do in the book business in Atlanta?"

He had worked for Tony Ramos, a dealer I'd visited just the year before, so that gave him some credibility with me. He said he'd worked for an appraisal company as well, dealing in manuscripts and autographs. But the most exciting thing was that he sold books on the Internet for himself. And he seemed affable enough to work with customers. As he was talking about his experience, I wondered about inviting him to join my staff. What were the chances that he was available?

Nah, too coincidental to happen.

But I did ask him what he was currently doing.

"My wife is an executive with Scotts Miracle-Gro, which is why we came to Columbus," he said. "I'm thinking about taking a few classes at OSU, and perhaps working on a Ph.D. in history."

Oh, lordie, he might be available.

I rang up his sale and while bagging his books I told him that we'd been thinking about selling books online, but we didn't have anyone to take charge of that aspect of the operation. Then apprehensively, I asked, "Would you be interested in coming in to talk with me about the possibility of working here, specifically to get us up and running on the Internet?"

I think that caught him by surprise. How often do you go out shopping and come home not only with a bag of books, but also with an unsolicited job offer? Then he said, "Sure. Why not?"

Because he happened to come to the counter when he did, not five minutes earlier nor five minutes later, Jack ended up being hired. Initially he worked only two days a week, but the response to our online books was so strong that within a month he was working fulltime.



As I write this store-y several years later, Jack has listed over 60,000 Acorn books online, and we've sold about 30,000 of them, a very satisfactory percentage of sales to listings.

During that time, our online sales have zoomed to over fifty percent of Acorn's total sales. Now we call him Jack-in-the-Back, for he works mostly in our office behind the sales floor.

Thanks to Ernest Hemingway, Nicole Wolfersberger, Harry Campbell, Laralyn Sasaki, and the young Indiana booksellers, Jack found a home at Acorn.



Lois Smith Receives the Carol Logue Biblio-Fellowship Award



The past recipients of the Carol Logue Biblio Fellowship Award were asked to nominate this year's candidate. The tribute was written by Laralyn.

While we are lucky to have many practitioners of "biblio-fellowship" in The Aldus Society, Lois enthusiastically demonstrates these qualities in many ways:

- her initial support and hard work to help launch this merry band of bibliophiles,
- her tireless work organizing and running numerous book-related field trips across Ohio,
- her creation of countless opportunities for book fellowship such as special luncheons and the auction raffle, and
- her service on the board and on numerous committees.

Lois continues her "can do" attitude on or off the Board. When an Aldus need arises, Lois rolls up her sleeves and gets the job done or engages others to share the task. Whether it is sending a get-well card to an ailing

Aldus member or organizing volunteers and materials for an event, even when she can't attend herself! Lois steps up to meet the need.

What distinguishes Lois from other hard-working Aldus members is her beautiful spirit of fellowship. Lois has a warm and welcoming nature that draws others into the social bonds of Aldus membership. A retired teacher, her love of books and reading and learning is eclipsed only by her love of her fellowship with fellow Aldus members.

This award is named for Carol Logue who embodied the very spirit we hope will be our legacy in this organization; a true and abiding fellowship founded on a deep love of books. The first recipients of this award, Marcia Preston and Paul Watkins, were recognized as constant in their love for books and their joy in nurturing the fellowship of the Aldus Society. Lois shares this legacy and we gratefully acknowledge that by presenting her with the Carol Logue Biblio-Fellowship Award.



Join Thurber House for the Winter/Spring 2016 Season of Evenings with Authors!

All events are held at the Columbus Museum of Art and begin at 7:30 p.m. For tickets or more information, visit www.thurberhouse.org or call Erin at 614-464-1032 x 11.

Melanie Benjamin: *The Swans of Fifth Avenue*
Wednesday, January 27

Augusten Burroughs: *Lust & Wonder*
Thursday, March 31

Fergus Bordewich: *The First Congress*
Monday, February 22

Joyce Maynard: *Under the Influence*
Thursday, April 14

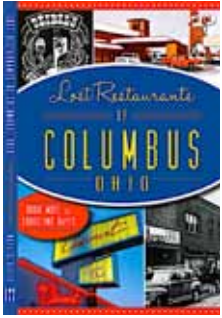
Ethan Canin: *A Doubter's Almanac*
Wednesday, March 2

Willam Geroux: *The Mathews Men*
Monday, April 25

Tracy Chevalier: *At the Edge of the Orchard*
Monday, March 21

Laura Lippman: *Wilde Lake*
Wednesday, May 4

MEMBERS' NEWS



Aldus member Christine Hayes is the co-author, with Doug Motz, of the just-published book, *The Lost Restaurants of Columbus*.

The national book launch was held December 14th at the Acorn Bookshop, where Christine has been a bookseller and hostess for 13 years.

Many of the authors' and Acorn's friends, including several Aldus members, came to party and celebrate the debut of the fast-selling book. The timing was perfect with the holiday gift-buying season in full-tilt boogie mode.

Christine is usually available to sign copies each Tuesday through Saturday at the Grandview area bookshop, whose hours are available at <http://acornbookshop.com/>.

Two books of John M. Bennett's poetry were just published. *Select Poems*, with an introduction by Ivan Argüelles (Poetry Hotel Press & Luna Bisonte Prods, 2016) is a massive selection of over 40 years of Bennett's poetry and visual poetry including an in-depth essay on Bennett by Ivan Argüelles. From the introduction: I recommend checking out his short video (one of many he has created) called "Olvido del surr," in which he reads with Luis Bravo; one gets both the intended oral quality of the poem (which sounds like some eerie Meso-American Indian ritual chant) as well as its visual and typographical effects. For, above all, Bennett's "poetry" is more like a meta-poetry that requires all the visual and aural senses to appreciate it. <https://youtu.be/XGOBGDUMtXs>

Bennett's second book, *The Inexplicaciones of the Dreams of Bibiana Padilla Maltos*, including *Bibi's Dreams* by Bibiana Padilla Maltos and *Several Reinexplicaciones* by Ivan Argüelles, is now available at Luna Bisonte Prods. In this collection of poems, John M. Bennett interprets, deinterprets, inexplains, and generally expands upon the dreams of Fluxus artist Bibiana Padilla Maltos. The poems are surreal, resonant, and full of unexpected connections, like dreams themselves, and, in fact, like poetry itself. Bibiana's original dreams are

included in a special section. Some of the Dreams, as well as some of the *Inexplicaciones*, are in Spanish. If you want to know what your dreams "mean", this is a good place to start figuring them out! Includes some reinexplicaciones of Bennett's poems by Ivan Argüelles.

We welcomed Christopher Reed to the Aldus Society in November. He became acquainted with us from his association with Bill Rich via the OSU Faculty Club and through his neighbor Ed Hoffman. He is a specialist in the history of modern China with particular focus on the period from the mid-eighteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries. His teaching at OSU as an Associate Professor covers the Qing, Republican, and People's Republic periods. He has been at Ohio State for 19 years.

Prior to coming to Ohio State, Chris taught on the faculties of the University of San Francisco, University of Oklahoma and Reed College (in fact, when he was there, he was the only Reed at Reed). The recipient of three Fulbright awards among other research grants, he has lived in China and Taiwan for over five years. He has also worked and traveled widely throughout Asia, the South Pacific, Europe, and North America.

Born and raised in Buffalo, NY, Chris's educational history includes University of California, Berkeley 1996; C.Phil., University of California, Berkeley 1990; M.Phil., University of Glasgow, Scotland 1984; B.A., McGill University, Montreal, Canada 1978.

His occupational path was formed by coming of age in the 1970s and by the United State's involvement in the Vietnam war. At that time, he searched out every available source to better understand the reasons for the war and the history of Vietnam. That led to learning about the relationship and history of that country and China.

Other interests in Central Ohio include visiting the major museums and local galleries with his wife, Leah Wong, a visual artist, and serving on the Historical Preservation Subcommittee of the Clintonville Area Commission. Welcome, Chris!

SAVE THE DATE

FABS 2016 Book Tour & Symposium: June 15 – 19, 2016

<http://www.fabsocieties.org/meeting.html>

The Book Club of California is proud to host this year's FABS Tour and Symposium from June 15th to the 19th, with a host of activities, collections, and conversations about books and collecting all over the Bay Area. Highlights of the tour include a visit to the venerable Bancroft library, a June 17 gala dinner at the San Francisco City Club, and a talk by Robert Hirst, Director of the Mark Twain Project, at the June 16 luncheon. At press time, very few places remain. To reserve yours, or find out more details, visit bccbooks.org/programs/fabs2016, call (415)-781-7532, or email us at fabs.sanfrancisco@gmail.com. (Questions can be directed to Dr. Anne W. Smith.) Individual tickets for the gala dinner will also be available at the BCC website.