



Aldus Society Notes

Fall 2022

Volume 22, No. 3

A Word from the New Aldus President

It is an honor to be entrusted with the presidency of this wonderful organization. I learned about Aldus because George Bauman had a brochure near the cash register at Acorn Books. I've loved the group since the first program I attended, including my time as a board member, and look forward to my term of service as your president.

Since my membership largely overlapped the pandemic, I have not gotten to know most of you, so a word about me may not be out of place. I've always loved books, but that can come as no surprise to an Aldus member. In the mid-1980s, I worked for a year in a used bookstore in Washington, DC, which was book-lover's heaven. In the mid-1990s, as an adult student at UC Berkeley, I had the pleasure of taking a course on the history of the book which met in the Bancroft Library, and included setting type, printing on a handpress, and sewing the bindings of a chapbook by poet Michael McClure. Also at that time, I had a summer job in the History of Science department at UCSF School of Medicine, doing desktop publishing work on oral histories of some of the faculty, which served as a good introduction to the process of turning content files into a published book.

Now I'm a 25-year veteran publishing professional, starting out as an editorial assistant and working my way to Executive Editor of a book series devoted to professional resources for faculty, staff, and administrators in higher education. I also completed the UC Extension Certificate in Publishing, taught by a variety of local publishing professionals, such as the then-Managing Editor of the UC Press, Marilyn Schwartz. In 2014, the 200-year-old publishing company I worked for decided that books were no longer profitable enough, so they decided to rebrand as a "Knowledge Solutions Provider," and went about laying off book people *en masse*. Fortunately, a rival press hired me, and my career continues to this day, working with authors to publish books intended to help improve higher education.

That's enough about me. I look forward to learning more about you, and welcome your ideas and input about the Aldus Society. I can be reached via email at dbrightman@gmail.com or by text and phone at 415-937-4660.



David Brightman, new Aldus Society President

David Brightman, Aldus Society President

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, Ohio** (unless otherwise announced). Socializing at 7:00 p.m. Free parking on Jefferson or behind Thurber House and at State Auto rear parking lot (between 11th St. and Washington).*

The Aldus Society

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George Cowmeadow Bauman

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

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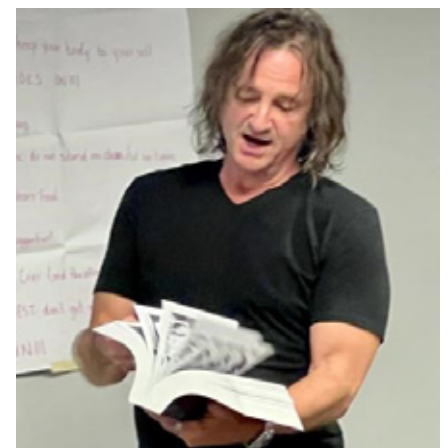
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Recap: August 11, 2022 Program Jeff Smith

About 30 Aldus members and over 20 guests enjoyed a highly entertaining program presented by pioneering cartoonist/graphic novelist Jeff Smith, who began his talk with a compelling history of popular and influential cartoonists who hailed from Ohio. Of course, we find him on that list, too, as a lifelong resident of Columbus and the creator of the groundbreaking graphic novel, *Bone*, among his other later works. He spoke of those works and displayed actual copies of several titles, as well as many slides showing his work in process, and illustrating his lifelong journey through cartooning, promotion of graphic novels, and publishing. After answering a few questions, he finished off the event with a book signing.



**After book signing, with members
Ed Hoffman and Scott Williams**



The Aldus Society PRESENTS Author Michael Blanding

Thursday Sept 8th, 2022

Thurber Center, 91 Jefferson Ave. (Next to Thurber House)

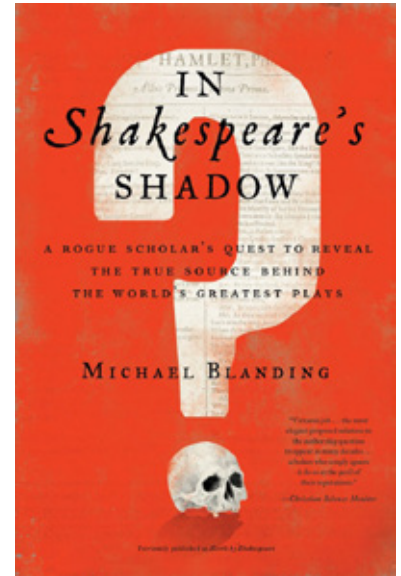
7:00 p.m. Doors Open | 7:30 p.m. Presentation Begins



The investigative journalist and best-selling author will discuss his book *In Shakespeare's Shadow* (previously published as *North by Shakespeare*), winner of the International Book Award for Narrative Non-Fiction.

What if Shakespeare wrote Shakespeare, but someone else wrote him first? The book follows a renegade scholar's quest to solve the mysteries behind the world's greatest works of literature—leading him to the enigmatic Elizabethan courtier Sir Thomas North.

Michael Blanding is a Boston-based investigative journalist whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *WIRED*, *Smithsonian*, *Slate*, *The Nation*, *The Boston Globe Magazine*, and *Boston*. His previous book, *The Map Thief* (2014), was named a *New York Times* bestseller and an NPR Book of the Year.



A Memorial Tribute for Betty Sawyers

Fellow Aldus Members,

Betty had served as Membership Chair for The Aldus Society and continued as a member of its Board of Trustees. She had a long career with The Ohio State University Libraries and was a wise and dedicated volunteer for many local organizations. Reproduced below is a memorial message prepared by Tricia Herban.

Dan Jensen

In Memoriam – Betty Sawyers

Betty passed peacefully at 5:30 am, Saturday July 23rd.

Betty found fulfillment in her many aspects of service to the community as well as in her life at Ohio Living Westminster Thurber and was ever grateful for her many friendships.

For the past few days, Betty has been unresponsive, resting peacefully in her apartment, surrounded by the carefully selected and beautifully crafted objects that she loved.

Betty has chosen a green burial at the Kokosing Nature Preserve and that will be handled through Rutherford Corbin Funeral Home. No further arrangements have been made at this time.

Clyde Dilley Obituary

Clyde Hobson Dilley passed away on April 15, 2022. The cause of death was pancreatic cancer. Clyde was born in Modesto, California in 1939. His parents, Guy and Ruth Dilley, had a small farm near Ripon, California which specialized in almonds. Clyde became interested in photography and eventually obtained a Ph.D. in that field from the University of New Mexico. Degree in hand, he was able to become a professor of that subject at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

Retiring early, he dedicated his free time to the genealogy of the Dilley family. That included extensive research both here in the U.S. as well as in Great Britain. He also was a great fan of the outdoors. In fact, a local nature conservancy called The Arc of Appalachia will be the primary beneficiary of his estate.

His two brothers, Robert and Paul, still live in California. Please visit www.schoedinger.com to share memories and condolences. Funeral arrangements entrusted to SCHOEDINGER NORTHWEST.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/columbus-oh/clyde-dilley-10713161>

Marilyn Logue Obituary

Marilyn Ann Logue, 77, of Dublin, Ohio, passed away peacefully Friday, April 29, 2022, at Senior Star's Dublin Assisted Living and Memory Support due to complications from Lewy body dementia.

Marilyn was born on March 27, 1945, in Marietta, Ohio, to parents Howard Clarence (1902-1990) and Goldie Wynn (1910-1995) Logue. Also preceding her in death was her only sibling, beloved younger sister Janet Logue Reed (1948-1980). Surviving Marilyn are adoring niece, Kimberly Ann Reed, of Washington, D.C., and nephew, Mark Howard Reed, of Buckhannon, West Virginia. Marilyn, by example, taught her niece and nephew about the importance of being committed to lifelong education and growth, loving animals and nature, engaging in cultural activities, and appreciating history.

Marilyn attended Washington Elementary School and graduated from Marietta High School in 1963. She also attended the First Presbyterian Church with her family while growing up in Marietta. Marilyn received a Bachelor of Science in Education from Bowling Green State University in 1967, Master of Science in Library Science from the University of Kentucky in 1969, and Master of Arts in Instructional Design and Technology from Ohio State University in 1989.

In 1968, at age 23, Marilyn wrote that her "main purpose in life is to help people . . . [and] the best way that I can think of to help my country is by working with its young people, helping them with their problems and teaching them to care for each other." For the twenty-eight years of her professional career, Marilyn did just that. She served as the Librarian and Media Specialist at Sedalia Elementary School (1973-2001) in Columbus where she was dedicated to and inspired her students and their literacy. According to her late friend, Dr. Clyde Hobson Dilley, Marilyn "spent countless hours of her own time supplementing the library's holdings by checking out books from public libraries and carting them in her Radio Flyer wagon."

Upon retirement, Marilyn received a letter from President George W. Bush, whose wife Laura, like Marilyn, was an elementary school teacher and librarian. President Bush noted: "I know how proud your family, friends, and colleagues must be of your record of service and accomplishment. Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for many years of happiness in the future."

<https://www.mariettatimes.com/obituaries/2022/05/marilyn-ann-logue>



Marilyn Logue Memorial Donation

I was contacted by Marilyn Logue's next-of-kin, her niece Kimberly Reed, who wanted to donate 3 items of Marilyn's which Kimberly wanted the Aldus Society to have for use in a future fund-raising auction. I have since met with her here in Columbus and received the items.

They are all Logan Elm Press publications: 1) the book *Dicing Cake*, about Cervantes and Don Quixote, written by John Bennett, illustrated by Sid Chafetz; 2) a broadside/poster about the publication of the same book also illustrated by Chafetz; and 3) a broadside/poster about Ben Franklin, also illustrated by Chafetz, nicely framed.

Harry Campbell



In Memoriam Aldus Members

Betty Sawyers

Clyde Dilley

Marilyn Logue

A DUCK OUT OF WATER

or *How to Compose a Visual Prose Poem*


Place a word *HERE* and a word

Think about how they naturally connect... *THERE.*

Consider carefully what your third word will be ...

Place it in an appropriate spot as if you were arranging *FLOWERS*

Next, *highlight* each word with different colors

Next, *draw arrows* that point from one word to another 

As if you were directing the reader's *train of thought.*

You may consider a second set of arrows for a different

Train of thought

Allow both trains to suggest

A 3rd train of thought

Ask the *3rd train* to go in an entirely

New direction &

Allow your words to F.L.O.W.~~~~~

Follow your train of thought

Like a row of ducklings

On the

Water

The background story might be in another size or **F.O.N.T.**

Fake it until your time to write is up...

Over one nation U-

Nder God is a

Thought...

Do ducklings even care about nations

As they fly south during the winter?

Ducks may decide to live in a *different country &*

As they mature they might dress in an entirely *different FONT*

FIND HERE AN ALGERIAN FONT, BUT IT ONLY TYPES IN CAPITAL LETTERS

Or does a *fake typewriter font* feel more authentic?

Never use a font people cannot read

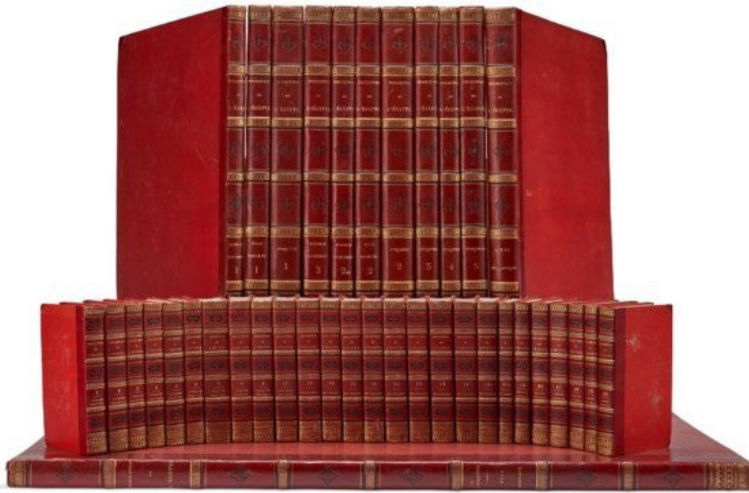
This crazy "1 Brougham DNA Font is like

A **DUCK** **OUT** of **W A T E R**

BOOK REVIEW

Pulling Back the Curtain on Egypt

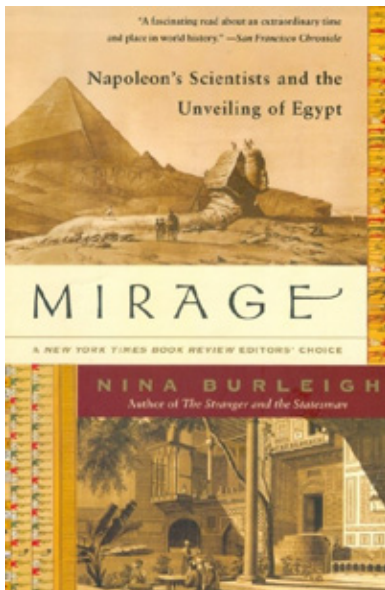
By Donald Tunnicliff Rice



Left: A complete set of *Description de l'Égypte*, Second Edition, including 11 folios of prints, 26 octavo volumes of text, and 1 elephant folio of maps. This particular set was sold by Christie's in 2021. (Photo courtesy Christie's Images)

MIRAGE: NAPOLEON'S SCIENTISTS AND THE UNVEILING OF EGYPT

By Nina Burleigh
286 pp. Harper Perennial



The original twenty-three volumes that comprise the *Description de l'Égypte* have been called “one of the great intellectual and artistic achievements of the nineteenth century.” After reading *Mirage: Napoleon's Scientists and the Unveiling of Egypt*, I'd call it one of the great publishing events of all time, right up there with *The Nuremberg Chronicle*, Audubon's *The Birds of America*, and the Shakespeare

First Folio. I'd seen references to the *Description* now and then, usually in a credit line on an illustration, but I hadn't an inkling of its true scope or the story behind its creation until I read Nina Burleigh's account. It's not often you crack open a book crammed with historical details you never even suspected, but that's what *Mirage* was for me and maybe you too.

In 1798 a twenty-eight-year-old General Napoleon Bonaparte commanded a fleet of more than 300 ships

filled with 34,000 soldiers, 16,000 sailors and marines, and, oddly enough, 151 scholars and artists. They assembled in Toulon before setting out on a voyage to—where? Until they were in sight of Alexandria a few weeks later, the destination had been a complete mystery to everyone on the ships but for Napoleon and three of his closest advisors.

France and Britain were, as usual, at war, and the general would have preferred to sail west and invade the British Isles, but Britain owned the Channel and that wasn't going to happen. Instead he proposed to the Directory—the five-member governing body of the First Republic—the invasion of Egypt. This, he argued, would undermine Britain's economy by disrupting trade with India while, at the same time, enriching France with wealth from its new colony. There was a moral purpose, of course, and that was to liberate the downtrodden Egyptians from their Mameluke oppressors. Right.

But how would such a campaign benefit from the inclusion of the 151 scholars and artists? Burleigh suggests they “gave credence to the ideal of this mission *civilisatrice*. Claiming to bring French-style culture and democracy to Arabs ruled by non-Arab tyrants offered moral cover for the invasion.” But it wasn't entirely a pretext. Terrance Russell has pointed out that Napoleon was a product of the Age of Reason and his thinking was strongly influenced by the ideals of such luminaries as Voltaire, Rousseau, and other *encyclopédistes*, whose avowed purpose, as stated by Diderot, was to “elucidate the true principles of things; record the relationships between subjects; contribute to the confidence and progress of human knowledge; multiply the number of true scholars, distinguished artisans and informed amateurs; and confer advantages to society at large.” This, Russell contends, “could have been the ‘mission

statement,' in today's parlance, of the savants and *philosophes* who accompanied Napoleon to Egypt."^[1] The point of the exercise, as Count Siméon wrote in the Preface of the *Description*, was:

To describe and illustrate the ancient edifices with which Egypt is virtually covered; to observe and to reunite all the natural phenomena [flora, fauna etc.]; to form exact and detailed maps of the country; to collect the fragments of antiquities; to study the earth, the climate, and the physical geography; and to assemble all the results which are interesting to history, to society, and to the sciences and the arts.

The end result was a series of publications printed between 1809 and 1829 containing 837 engravings (with explanatory texts) of architectural details, mammals, insects, tools, musical instruments, inscriptions, costumes, tradesmen, maps, and on and on, some engravings showing up to thirty items. It's as complete a picture of ancient and contemporary (early nineteenth-century) Egypt as one could imagine, particularly as described by outsiders. And while they were at it, they discovered the Rosetta Stone, created the first triangulation-based map of Egypt, Syria, and Palestine, and invented modern archeology. Who were these clever people? Burleigh writes:

Responding to the young general's call for *savants* to help explore a secret destination, a group of Paris's brightest intellectual lights left the safety of their labs, studios, and classrooms and boarded ships. Astronomers, mathematicians, naturalists, physicists, doctors, chemists, engineers, botanists, and artists—even a poet and musicologist—locked up their desks, packed their books, said goodbye to friends and family, and undertook what was, literally, for most of them, a voyage into the unknown.

They were officially designated the Commission on Arts and Sciences Attached to the Army of the East, and it's these interesting people who are Burleigh's main topic. Not all their experiences were pleasant. Some, in fact, were downright horrible, such as when a few engineers were not only murdered by a rampaging mob, but had their bodies fed to hungry street dogs. Other creatures chomping on the *savants* were snakes, leeches, and even camels. But though they suffered from many privations and discomforts, they gamely soldiered on, measuring, collecting, and inspecting. Against the backdrop of Napoleon's campaign Burleigh focuses on the adventures and achievements of just a handful, including such luminaries as Claude Louis Berthollet, Nicolas Conté, Joseph Fourier, and Étienne Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire. Even so, it's a huge topic to be

covered in just 248 pages. Yet she's managed to arrange an attic-full of facts, figures, and anecdotes into a cohesive account of this ambitious enterprise. Furthermore, it's a pleasure to read.

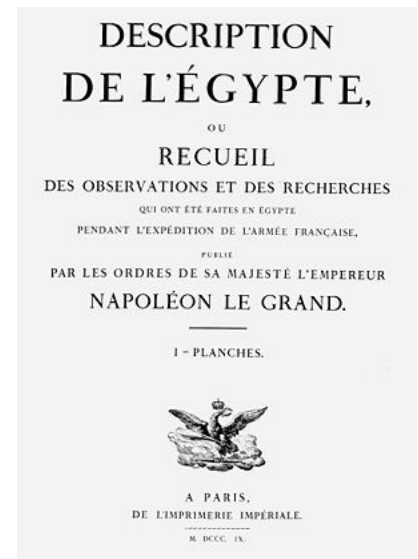
It's not giving anything away to point out that while Napoleon was successful at introducing Egypt to the rest of the world, his Egyptian military campaign was a flop. While it's true that he managed to keep the destination of his fleet a secret, there was no way to conceal a gathering of 300-plus ships. The British knew he was up to something and sent their own fleet under the command of the one-eyed, one-armed Rear Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson to find out what it was. The culmination was the Battle of the Nile which, though a devastating defeat for France, didn't stop General Napoleon from becoming Emperor Napoleon.

I was surprised to discover that the OSU library doesn't own a copy of Burleigh's book; however, the Columbus Metropolitan Library has a copy, and an electronic version is available from the State of Ohio Library. Numerous copies are for sale on line starting at \$1.00 and, of course, you can always borrow mine.

Examining the *Description de l'Égypte* itself remains a worthwhile experience. The OSU Library owns a quarto two-volume selection of engravings with English texts—*The Napoleonic Survey of Egypt* edited by Terence M. Russell—that you can find in the Fine Arts Library. In the Architecture Library there's a copy of *Monuments of Egypt: The Napoleonic Edition: The Complete Archaeological Plates from la Description de l'Égypte* published by Princeton Architectural Press.

If you'd prefer to see the real thing (the 38-volume second edition) you can arrange to do so with the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library. It's stored in the Depository so you should make a request 48 hours in advance. In fact, since transporting it would require such a major effort you'd probably want to discuss the matter with the folks at RBML well beforehand.

An electronic version is easily obtainable from the New York Public Library: <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/collections/description-de-egypte-ou-recueil-des-observations-et-des-recherches-qui-ont-t#/?tab=navigation>.

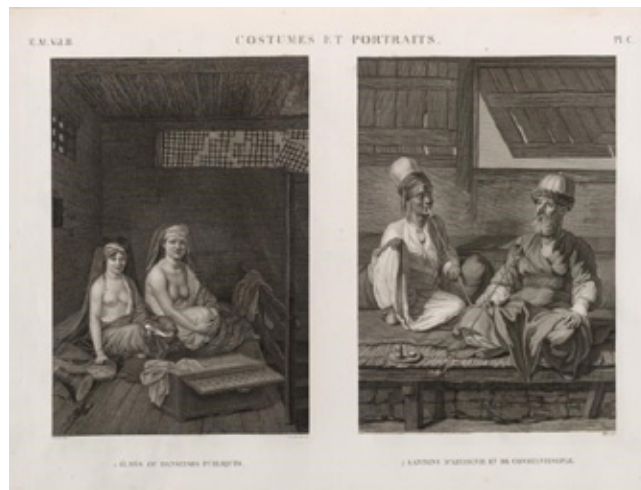
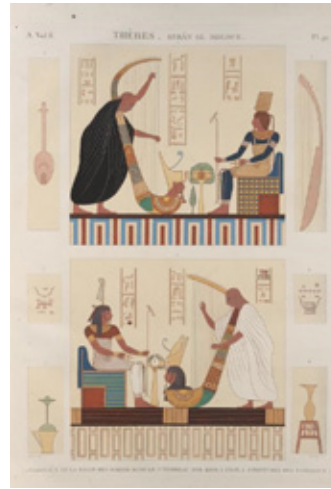
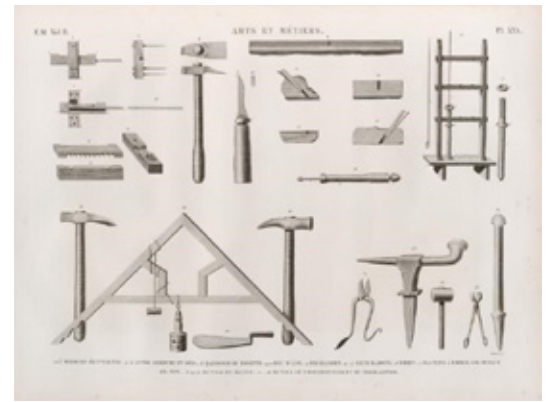


[1] Terence M. Russell, ed., *The Napoleonic Survey of Egypt = Description de l'Égypte: The monuments and customs of Egypt selected engravings and texts*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2001, p.xiv.

Maybe you're so taken with it that you'd like to buy your own set. Not a problem. I learned from Rhiannon Knol, a specialist at Christie's, that they turn up at auction every now and then. Last year at Christie's sold a very nice second edition, "handsomely bound with custom display cabinet," (see illustration above) went for \$175,000, plus a \$45,000 buyer's fee. And in 2019 Sotheby's sold a first edition, also with custom cabinet, for nearly a half million, plus approximately \$130,000.

Think about it.

I've included a selection of plates to give you an idea of their quality and the scope of the subject matter. As you'll see, some were hand-tinted and a few others chromolithographed.



San Francisco, Book City

By David Brightman

I think of San Francisco as a Book City. Obviously, it is not a book city in the sense that Hay-on-Wye is a book city: It's not primarily famous for its high concentration of bookstores. However, it is a city that cares about bookstores (and libraries), and books, and the people who have written them, are writing them now, or might write them someday.

For example, in 1988, the year that I moved to San Francisco, during the celebration of 35 years since the opening of Lawrence Ferlinghetti's City Lights Bookstore, the city renamed 12 Streets in honor of writers and artists (10 writers, one sculptor, and one dancer, Isadora Duncan). These included Mark Twain, Ambrose Bierce, Frank Norris, Jack London, Dashiell Hammett, William Saroyan, Kenneth Rexroth, and Jack Kerouac. See: <https://bccbooks.omeka.net/items/show/47>. To be honest, most of those "streets" were alleys before, but it gives you some sense of its literary heritage that there are that many names to celebrate with some connection to the city.

The Mechanics' Institute Library is another example of the importance of books to San Francisco's past: "Founded in 1854, the Mechanics' Institute is one of the oldest institutions on the West Coast of the United States," according to its website. As you may already know, Mechanics' Institutes (MI) were first created in Scotland in the 1820s to provide technical education to those for whom more traditional routes to education and advancement were not open. Founded shortly after the Gold Rush, the San Francisco MI was an important institution in the early development of the city, and although it is now simply a private library that provides a quiet oasis in the heart of downtown, the chess room and its classes continues to send a steady stream of champions out into the world.

Another special treasure trove of books was left to the city by former Mayor Adolph Sutro. Sutro made a fortune from engineering in Nevada's Comstock Lode, and spent some of that money on books. According to the Sutro Library website:

"Ever civic-minded, Sutro...wanted to provide its citizens a world-renowned research collection without equal...This special collection and educational research institution has over 125,000 rare books, antiquarian maps, and archival collections, as well as the largest genealogical library west of Salt Lake City."

No doubt most San Franciscans have no idea this amazing resource exists in their midst, but that does not change the fact Sutro gathered this treasure trove for their benefit, and his heirs saw to it that the collection would remain in the city permanently (despite several moves over the decades), as Sutro intended.

The San Francisco member of FABS, the Book Club of California (www.bccbooks.org) can provide a link from past to present. From their website: "...founded in 1912 with a vibrant tradition of preserving and promoting California

culture and the history of the book." They boast a community "comprised of passionate book collectors, publishers, printers, designers, authors, historians, librarians, book artists, students, and bibliophiles of all stripes," and offer "thought-provoking lectures, dynamic programs & exhibitions, finely printed books, and an expansive special collections library."

But not all of what makes San Francisco a book city is about looking backward. The city also celebrates those who write books now, with events like the interviews with authors on stage in City Arts & Lectures Series (<https://www.cityarts.net/events>), and at the Commonwealth Club (<https://www.commonwealthclub.org>), both of which are later broadcast on the radio. Of course, most bookstores also have author events, many now shared on the web, often live, too. Then there are the events like Litquake, a big citywide festival in celebration of literary culture (<https://www.litquake.org>).

There are numerous writing groups across the city, including the Writers Grotto, one alumnus of which is Dave Eggers, who later founded the 826 Valencia nonprofit that meets behind The Pirate Store at 826 Valencia Street to help young students develop their writing skills. The 826 model was so successful, it has since gone national. Besides the many writing groups, there are also various writing programs at the colleges located in San Francisco, including SF State (public), the University of San Francisco (private), and the California College of Arts (whose former president is now president of the CCAD here in Columbus).

Not far from CCA's SF campus is the San Francisco Center for the Book: <https://sfcb.org>. The Center seeks to foster "the joy of books and bookmaking, the history, artistry and continuing presence of books in our culture and enduring importance as a medium of self-expression." You can see a short film about the Center here: <https://sfcb.org/node/365>

But the argument for San Francisco as a Book City would be meaningless without mentioning the bookstores. My time in San Francisco coincided with the rise of Amazon, so I mourned the loss of a number of bookstores over my years there. However, it was also a city that loyally supported many existing bookstores, launched a number of new ones, and saw the expansion of others in those same years.

It's hard to know where to start with the bookstores: There are the neighborhood bookstores, typically treasured institutions for the locals. We have local chains, like Books Inc, "sharing a passion for reading since 1851" as the banner on their website proclaims (three stores in the city, and two in the airport), and Book Passage (only one store in the city, but it's in the Ferry Building, which is the North Market of San

Francisco, so you can have some great eats while you read your new book), and Green Apple Books, which recently decided to close the music annex of the main store and return their focus to books. Every museum has books in its gift shop, of course, and that could lead to another long list. But we also have a number of bookstores for particular interests and audiences:

- Architecture: William Stout books
- Anarchism: Bound Together
- Food/cookbooks: Omnivore Books
- Filipino Books and Culture: Arkipelago Books
- Japanese Books: Kinokuniya
- LGBTQ+ interest: Fabulosa
- Sci-Fi, Fantasy, & Mystery: Borderlands

Most of these are within easy walking distance of a general interest bookstore.

Our most famous bookstore is City Lights, of course. I'm sure you all know the story of poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti founding City Lights in 1953, and two years later, starting City Lights Publishers. As their website explains:

“With this bookstore-publisher combination, ‘It is as if,’ says Ferlinghetti, ‘the public were being invited, in person and in books, to participate in that great conversation between authors of all ages, ancient and modern.’”

City Lights is not the only local publisher, there is also Chronicle Books (<https://www.chroniclebooks.com>). As their website puts it: “See things differently with Chronicle Books: Inspired by the enduring magic and importance of books, we create exceptional publishing that’s instantly recognizable...” They have a store on the ground floor of their headquarters, and if you visit, you will see that despite the variety of their output, there is a certain recognizable creative quality to all their offerings.

One remarkable story of San Francisco’s book culture is the store that exists only in a couple of windows in an alley in the financial district downtown. It was G.F. Wilkinson’s when I worked nearby, and I was always happy when I found the proprietor sitting in a folding chair on the sidewalk, because it meant I could buy the books, instead of just gazing at them in the window. But in searching for it online for this article, I discovered that it is now 34 Trinity Arts and News, because a group of people came along to help Wilkinson maintain the business (see: <https://www.34trinity.com>). Located at 34 Trinity Place, between Sutter and Bush streets, the store is open Noon to 6 pm Tuesday through Friday, but the website explains “Hours are dependent on the weather. We can’t open if it rains, it can damage our books!”

I could go on and on about the various bookstores and book cultures of San Francisco, but I hope this little survey has given you a taste of why I think of it as a truly remarkable Book City.

British Booking A Bookstore-y

By George Cowmeadow Bauman

“Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey. They are home.”

**–Anna Quindlen,
*How Reading Changed My Life***

As I traveled this past May to the homeland of my grandfather Cowmeadow, I looked forward to literary London. Bookshops and libraries, cafés and pubs, and toss in a museum or two in the ancient city the Romans called Londinium. What an itinerary!

Two years ago, Linda had been asked by OSU’s Study Abroad Program to take a class of 15 OSU students to London and teach “British Horror Films” for a month, combining classes and excursions, such as visiting Highgate Cemetery—the spooky, old, overgrown Gothic graveyard. While Lin wrapped up her classes, I would have a few days to London-bop, after which we would train to Norwich, two hours north.

Bookstores were a priority, and London was a city of hundreds of bookstores. And there was one special store I wanted to visit: Word on the Water. A bookstore on a barge.

Sounds like something I just had to visit, right? Lin and I headed out one mild Saturday morning in London Town on an unusual booking adventure. We (regrettably) put our faith in Google Maps to get us to Word, whose website has enchanting pictures of their unique shop: wordonthewater.co.uk. With high expectations we found the beautiful, narrow Regent’s Canal, folks walking and biking and dogging along the water. A couple of older barges were anchored to the canalside, looking like they’d been decorated by Aldus’ own Christine Hayes; instead of art cars, they were art barges.



After an hour of walking along the canal, with inaccurate directions and decreasing expectations, we abandoned our quest and headed elsewhere.

Islington is a local neighborhood, away from tourist centers, and you know it had to be a great place to live when you find two independent bookstores along the busy main street. We took a spin around Upper Street Bookshop, eyeing several books we'd like to have bought, but our suitcases had not much room for things which would demand space and add weight. The other was a branch Waterstone's store, which reminded us that we were now heading to the biggest Waterstone's of all, to assuage our disappointment with the bookbarge.

The tube trained us to Piccadilly Circus, where the milling street crowds were substantial; Linda whispered our security code word to keep us alert as we slithered through the crowds. This was the exciting West End, famous for their Broadway-like theatre district. We had tickets to see *The Book of Mormon* that evening.

Souvenir stands abounded; Union Jacks flying everywhere. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was the following week, and merchants were hoping to make a killing with anything Royalty-related.

In awe, we stepped into the largest bookstore in Europe: Waterstone's. Five stories of stories, eight miles of aisles. Three cafés. Tens of thousands of books covering all fields. Browsers in every aisle. Registers ringing non-stop. A booklover's dream. Just being in such a busy bookstore was thrilling. Five freaking floors! With dozens of transfixed browsers everywhere, lost in the well-stocked and well-displayed world of books. A chance to select books physically, not digitally.



I asked for Books about Books, but the booksellers were unsure as to where to find them, a common occurrence in new-books bookshops, while booksellers in secondhand bookshops usually have a better grasp of the topic. One Waterstoner (Do they call themselves Stoners?) suggested Literary Criticism, while another thought of Literary Biography. I did take notes on several titles to investigate once back home, but nothing tempted me to go against the space and weight suitcase dictate.

However, as I was moving through the store to meet Linda, I happened to travel through the Travel section, one of my favorites. Just a quick glance around and I thought of Aldus member Scott Williams and his storied collection

of just such material. I found one small book which made me bargain with myself for space/weight. *Why Travel Matters: A Guide to the Life-Changing Effects of Travel*, by Craig Storti. The book won.

Some bookstores are doing just fine, thankfully. Yes, Waterstone's was a large chain of bookstores, but many of us bookstore freaks have come to find ourselves grateful for the existence of *any* bookstores—independents as well as the once-hated chains. Hard for me to say, for I acknowledge that Amazon was a big factor in chasing my own bookstore into oblivion. But would you rather live in a community with no bookstores or one with a Barnes and Noble?

Now came a special treat. Taking the elevator to the fifth floor of Waterstone's, we entered the large café with a view out over Parliament and the London Eye. We were about to be served an afternoon tea in a British bookstore! They brought us a feast of goodies: scones, little cucumber sandwiches, several kinds of pastries, and delicious Earl Grey tea. Courteous, attentive service. Tasty eats and literary treats.

The other great literary experience in London was a visit to the revered British Library. Holy smokes, what a place! Hundreds of students fully occupied all the workstations on several floors, while gawking visitors like me wandered amongst the extensive collection of literary treasures in The Sir John Ritblat: Treasures Gallery—a very large, reduced-light room.

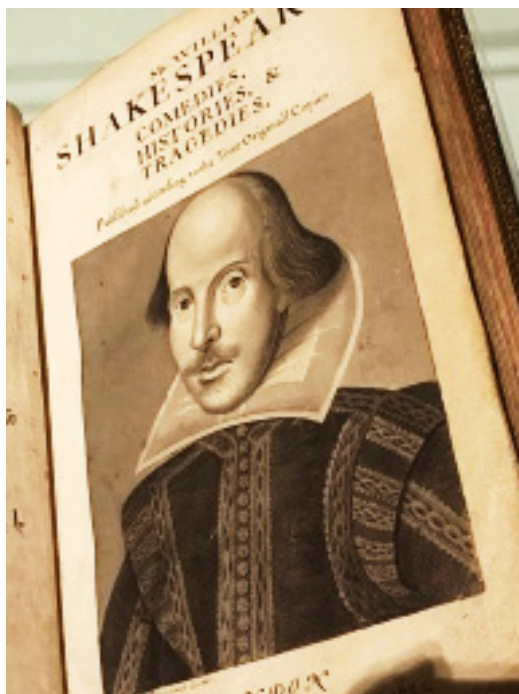
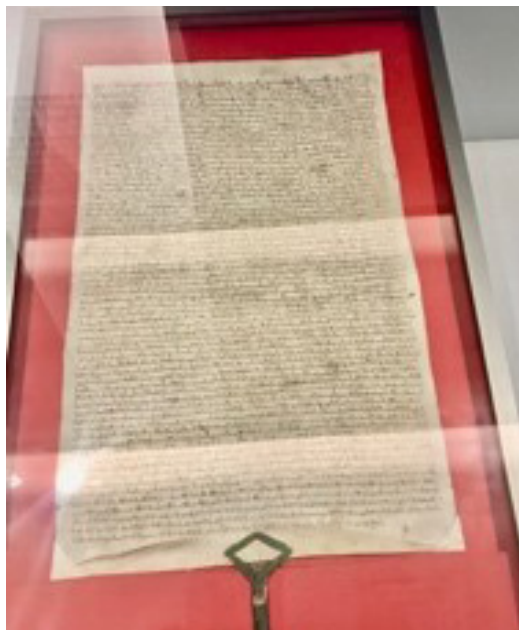


I wandered in a stop-and-read manner past every glass case, thrilled to see such amazing books and documents and maps and scrolls, under the glass, just inches from my eyes.

A Gutenberg Bible, one of two they have. The Magna Carta. Shakespeare's First Folio. Jane Austen's writing desk, manuscript pages of Sylvia Plath and the Bronte sisters. Michelangelo's anatomical drawings, stage designs by Leonardo Da Vinci.

Visitors could travel the world in the Art of the Book exhibition, with incredible illuminated manuscripts from a wide range of faiths in the Sacred Texts displays—beautiful gildings by unknown artists/scribes. Aldus member Eric Johnson had prepared me to appreciate

such treasures by the presentation of similar holy texts during OSU's Rare Books and Manuscripts Preview Nights.



And even The Beatles made the exhibition of treasures: a manuscript page of John Lennon's lyrics for "In My Life" is displayed, as well as a photograph of the Quarrymen—the earliest known picture of Paul McCartney and John Lennon playing together in a band.

The Power of Print in one amazing room.

We left London after Linda's teaching responsibilities ended. We knew she'd need some serious R&R after the hecticcy of teaching and managing the intense educational project for a month. To relax, we trained through the English countryside to the medieval town of Norwich, a couple of hours north from London. We had booked an AirBnB right on the river Wensom, a beautiful setting. After the craziness and noise of London, it was exactly what Lin needed.

Norwich is unique; it has more (28) intact medieval churches than any place north of the Alps. The Norwich Cathedral—a 1000-year-old church—was stunning. We've seen many cathedrals in our travels: Notre Dame, St. Paul's, Vienna's St. Stephens, St. Patrick's in New York, Westminster Abbey, Seville's cathedral—and Norwich's holds its own.



We visited several times, attending two concerts in the ancient cathedral, because the Queen's Platinum Jubilee was happening country-wide, a great celebration of Elizabeth II having been on the throne for 70 years. We watched BBC each evening, entranced. We were thrilled to experience this celebration of Queen Elizabeth II. A lucky coincidence to be in England for that.



As we strolled down Norwich's ancient cobblestoned streets, we had two interesting bookstore experiences. Usually I prioritize visiting secondhand bookshops, due to their much broader selection of books—potentially anything that's ever been printed. Cheaper prices for *most* of the stock are appealing as well. But occasionally a new bookstore beckons. It might be a fancy five-floored beast such as Waterstone's. Or it might be a small, local, independent store, such as Norwalk's The Book Hive, whose windows wrapped around a busy corner, and had window signs indicating that they were proud to carry small-press titles.

What was amazing was the large display of face-out of carefully curated books, a riot of color and graphics on each table and on the shelves. They weren't all spine-out, as most stores display stock. Spine out means more inventory.

They had interesting material that kept us from browsing rapidly or leaving the store quickly. These books owned your eyes! Several nooks and crannies to get lost in; everywhere you looked were interesting, unusual books.

Naturally I was looking for books on bookselling, but little is found on the topic in new-books bookstores. However, in a counter basket of small, pamphlet-like books, *The Unknown Unknown: Bookshops and the Delight of Not Getting What You Wanted* jumped out at me, thrilling me. 23 pages celebrating the finding and buying of books

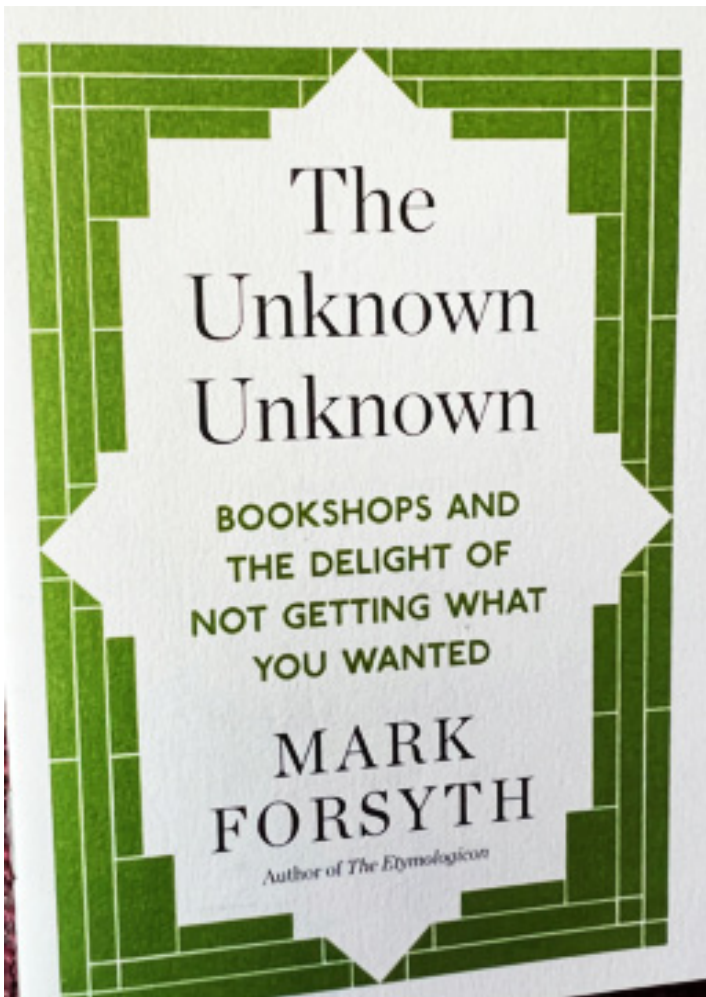
in a bookshop. Small, cheap, and transportable. Sold!

I'd noticed only one bookseller, a tall, bearded guy who was busily handling the steady traffic, running around to pull customers' requests off the shelves because he knew his inventory. He was worthy of the honored title "bookseller."

Finally he had a break and Lin asked for the Mystery section. "Regrettably, they are upstairs," he replied, "mixed in with all fiction and science fiction. If I could, I would create a separate section for each, but I don't own the place." We both praised the shop, and I added, "...my praise is from someone who has spent half a century on that side of the counter."

He said his name was Thogden. I thrust out my hand to shake his, which is such an Americanism—that openness and friendliness with strangers, including during a commercial transaction. He was a joy to talk with. We had a good chinwag about bookshops in general and this one in particular. He said business was good, and the owner was opening a second one. It was one of the most interesting bookstores we've ever been in.

We bought a sturdy black Book Hive tote bag to carry our purchase of easily-packable book and cards, and stepped out into a beautiful, wicked-to-the-ankles cobblestoned avenue which saw full cafés lining the street.



The other enjoyable, but very brief, bookshop experience was Tombland Book Shop. We had to ask about the name. It is so called because "tombland" once meant "open space," a marketplace. Each time we passed, it was closed, because of the four-day bank holiday in observance of the queen's Jubilee. So when we saw that he *was* open Saturday, we scurried in. Taking a deep breath inside, Lin said, "I love this smell of old

books.” If I had a dollar for every time I heard that in Acorn, I could travel to every major league ballpark!

A 40-ish guy behind a glass barrier said, “I’m closing in ten minutes,” barely glancing at us. I asked the glass-enclosed man where the Books about Books section was. He pointed overhead and desultorily told us where to find such books. Up the stairs we scooted, feeling time’s wing-ed chariot. Time in a good bookstore goes much faster than almost anywhere else.

My eyes were flashing over the quite-filled, spine-out shop, before finding the Literary Biography/Books section in a corner, which I surveyed, hoping for a bookstore book I didn’t have. Lin checked out her favorite section—called “Crime” in England, not “Mystery.”

Within a minute I heard, “Do you know *Bodies in the Bookshop?*”

“The one by Campbell?”

“No, by Tyler and Onatade.” She held it out to me, and it *was* something unknown to me. Be still my heart! A new collection of bookshop-centered mystery stories? Yes!

We’d found something within the 10-minute window. Ah, but then the traveler’s conundrum kicked in: Would this hardback fit into my suitcase or shoulder bag? And the answer was a definite no. “They sell online,” Linda said, reading from a posted sign. Which means that they must ship! I could buy this treasure and have it pop up at our home in a couple of weeks! Oh, boy!

Last call! Well, he didn’t actually call that out as they do in British pubs, but we knew we would soon be trespassing on his time, so reluctantly we headed down the steps, our eyes seeing wonderful books which we would have liked to browse through, but it was time to check out. I handed my treasure to the dealer, telling him we’d like it shipped to Columbus.

“How old is this building?” we asked.

“At least 500 years old,” he said with a small smile as he wrote up the sale.

“May I take a picture of you two?” Linda asked. He agreed, though was slightly confused. I told him that as a bookseller, I collect photos of my colleagues around the world. Most such booksellers also have expressed surprise and confusion. But only once, in Edinburgh, was I turned down.

Booking in Britain. Such literary adventures add so much flavor to our traveling. Books in a library brought Linda and me together. In this week of our 40th anniversary, we are still booking. May it ever be so.

“The world is a book, and those who do not travel have read only one page.”

—St. Augustine



Hotel Tumba Que Tumba

a bird wheels on yr lost back
seat my breath mask disappears
yr axle's ear chasm eye voice
turns aroundside out swims
thru gravel & shovels , a fork
gleams in the mirror door *who*
reads half the book falls open?
its shredded spine dances in
wind's grammar tree I chewed
the key slept a wake on yr
roots' heave & crackling

*Je suis un voyeur dans un poème de
Iván Argüelles, “Driving a Stolen Car
With a Goddess in the Back Seat”,
June 18, 2022.*

By John Bennett

OSU RBML Saturday Spotlights

This year the Rare Books & Manuscripts Library (RBML) is hosting a new series of occasional Saturday in-person programs. Attendees will have an opportunity to explore collection materials and hear curatorial insights. Details are below for the first two events this fall. We hope you can join us!

November 5:

Bookselling from Canvassing Books to Modern Literary Archives (curated by Jolie Braun)

December 10:

Preaching, Confession, and Medieval Pastoral Care Manuscripts (curated by Eric Johnson)

Time / Location: 10:30-12:00, Thompson Library, Jack and Jan Creighton Special Collections Reading Room (Room 105)

Women Aldine Meet-ups 4th Saturdays at Noon at MCL

Women members of the Aldus Society meet monthly to catch up and discuss our current reading. All women members are welcome to join us. No reservation is needed. The location is the MCL restaurant at Kingsdale Shopping Center. (Address for your GPS is 3154 Kingsdale Center, Upper Arlington.) The schedule for the coming program year is the fourth Saturday of each month, except for November and December.

Aug. 27, 2022

Sept. 24, 2022

Oct. 22, 2022

Nov. 19, 2022 (3rd Saturday, the week before Thanksgiving)

December – No-meet-up (See you at the Holiday Dinner on Dec. 1)

Jan. 28, 2023

Feb. 25, 2023

March 25, 2023

April 22, 2023

May 27, 2023

Questions?
Contact Nancy Campbell at
nancyhcampbell@gmail.com

Upcoming Aldus Society Programs 2022-2023

SEPT 8th 2022:

Michael Blanding will talk about his latest book, *In Shakespeare's Shadow* (previously published as *North by Shakespeare*). Michael Blanding is also the author of the *The Map Thief* (2014), which was a *New York Times* bestseller and NPR Book of the Year.

OCT 13th 2022:

Michael Hancher, author of *The Tenniel Illustrations to the "Alice" Books* (2nd edition, 2019), will present his comprehensive study of the illustrations John Tenniel drew for Lewis Carroll's two "Alice" books.

NOV 10th 2022:

Dr. Sam Meier, of the Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Department at OSU, will discuss the Dead Sea Scrolls.

DEC 1st 2022:

Holiday Party - Brookside Country Club

JAN 12th 2022:

Aldus Collects

FEB 9th 2023:

Michael Nye will tell his story about reviving the literary journal *Story*, here in Columbus. The original magazine (1931 – 1967) published authors such as Nelson Algren, Sherwood Anderson, John Cheever, Truman Capote, Nary O'Hara, Carson McCullers, Norman Mailer, Anaïs Nin, William Saroyan, and Richard Wright.

MAR 9th 2023:

Sarah Brown is a letterpress printer based in Lancaster, Ohio who runs Questionable Press (<https://questionablepress.com>). She makes posters, paper sculptures, and cards by hand carving images, pairing them with hand-set type, and printing them, one color at a time, on old letterpress machines.

APR 14th 2023:

Chris Lafave is the curator for the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library. He was introduced to the work of Kurt Vonnegut while attending Ball State University at the tender age of 23. He connected early with the KVML and in 2012 became Curator. Chris is an in demand speaker who travels around the country telling Kurt Vonnegut's life story and hosting book clubs.

MAY 11th 2023:

Dan Brewster, will talk about his transition from the tech industry in California to opening his Prologue Bookshop in the Short North here in Columbus.

