



Aldus Society Notes

Fall 2023

Volume 23, No. 3

Rebuilding Aldus Financial Reserves

A Message and Financial Report from The Aldus Society Board of Trustees

Like many non-profit organizations, The Aldus Society is looking to the future as it expands its membership and rebuilds its financial reserves following the lean years during the Covid pandemic. (See financial report at the end of this newsletter.)

Unlike some organizations, Aldus is fortunate to have a financial reserve built gradually over previous decades through the generosity of its members and a tradition of active fundraising. We began 2019 with a financial reserve in our checking and money market accounts of approximately \$18,000. However, during the years that followed, our dues revenue suffered two years with substantial reductions in dues and fundraising revenues. Despite efforts by trustees to reign in expenditures and cut costs, the reserve has declined to about \$11,000.

Happily, The Aldus Society has a loyal membership of approximately 80 individuals, and we look forward to increasing that number in the year ahead. Early next month, the Membership Committee will launch its membership campaign by mailing a membership renewal form that provides an opportunity to help us rebuild our financial reserves. Although the annual individual and family membership fees are unchanged from last year, the 2023-24 form encourages an additional donation in one of three categories: \$125 at the “Patron” level, \$200 at the “Collector” level, or \$300 at the “Bibliophile” level. Donations will be gratefully recognized in the annual membership directory.

Program Recap: Dan Brewster — May 11, 2023

On Thursday, May 11, Dan Brewster presented a program titled “Stepping Away.” He is the owner and manager of Prologue Bookshop in the Short North area of Columbus. Originally from Northeast Ohio,

Dan, having worked in book-adjacent jobs all his life—from being a Page in the Cuyahoga County library system to working as a software engineer at Goodreads in San Francisco—in 2018 stepped away from that career and returned to Ohio to open Prologue Bookshop.



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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Deathless Fragments

Article and Photos by George Cowmeadow Bauman



On July 1st, 18 Aldines gathered for another Saturday Spotlight at OSU's Thompson Library. Our society is blessed with the ability to not only access the outstanding collections of prestigious holdings as citizens of Ohio, but also to have two members of Aldus—Eric Johnson and Jolie Braun—as library collection curators who provide professional interpretations of the material for our enhanced understanding.

Our own Dr. Eric Johnson, Associate Professor and Curator of Thompson Special Collections at The Ohio State University Libraries, offered a special tour of the library's unique "Deathless Fragments" collection, which was on exhibition this summer at Thompson Library.

From Cleveland to Dayton, Cincinnati to Toledo and all places in between, Ohio is awash in the remains of medieval books. Altogether, thousands of manuscript pages dot the Ohio landscape, found in libraries, museums and private collections sprinkled across the state. The Ohio State University's Rare Books and Manuscripts Library is home to Ohio's largest collection, holding examples of more than 530 unique western European manuscripts produced 1000-1500 CE, comprising a substantial and diverse array of medieval texts, from illuminated Bibles to scientific treatises.

Approximately 460 of these unique manuscripts are available only in fragment form as a result of various processes of historical destruction, including war, environmental factors, religious change or due to depredation of worms and vermin. The majority of these fragments, however, are the product of the deliberate breaking of manuscripts for commercial profit.



Between the 1930s and early 2000s, hundreds of medieval manuscripts were torn apart by human hands, broken and dispersed, principally by two greedy key figures: Otto Ege (1888-1951) and Bruce Ferrini (1949-2010). Although they never knew each other, together these two figures cut apart and scattered the remains of countless valuable and exceptional medieval books, obscuring their contents and complex histories, seemingly forever.

Many of these pieces now reside at Ohio State, presenting students, teachers, researchers and the public with limitless opportunities for exploration, learning,



and discovery. The exhibition of “Deathless Fragments” considers Ohio’s complex medieval manuscript legacy by exploring both its history as a site of manuscript destruction and its future as a center for the reconstruction and recovery of lost medieval books.

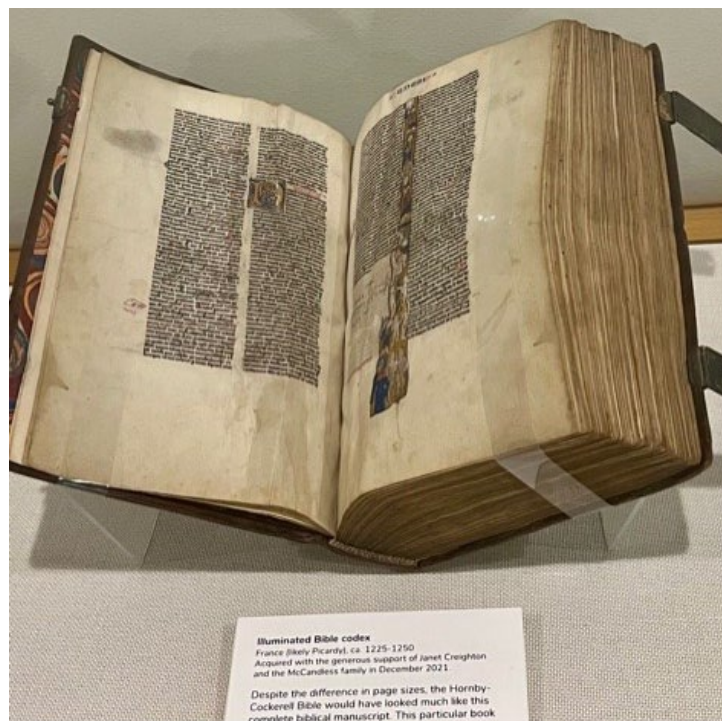
One of the many special books on display was the stunning *Hours of the Ursulines of Brown County, Ohio (Use of Troyes)* (below). It is a complete illuminated manuscript, from around 1475, well over 500 years old. It was originally commissioned by Jean Molé (1435-1493), a wealthy French nobleman.



After a convoluted journey through continents and centuries, this *Book of Hours* was given to the Ursuline convent by the bishop of Mobile, Alabama, in 1870.

Facing mounting 21st-century fiscal pressures, the Ursuline convent in Brown County approached Ohio State about buying the *Book of Hours*.

It is a very desirable book, having 14 illuminated pages, which may have been destined to be cut out of the book by one potential buyer who had put in an offer with the convent. After intense negotiations, it was purchased by Ann Dodson—who Dr. Johnson referred to as an “angel buyer,” who immediately donated it to Ohio State. She had been interested in donating something special to the RBML, and her timing couldn’t have been better. The *Book of Hours* remains intact, secure in the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library.



Another special displayed item—aren’t they all?—was this Illuminated Bible codex (left) from France, produced between 1225-1250.

As we left the amazing exhibition, Eric quipped, “If you ever come across a piece of medieval manuscript, bring it to me!”



Upcoming Programs



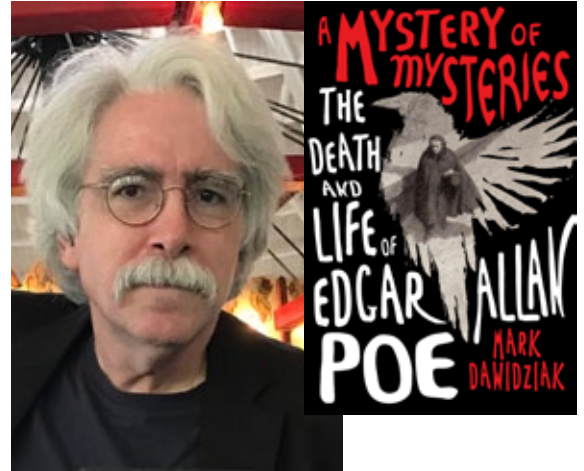
Jonathan Veley
Thursday, September 14, 2023
7:00 PM at Thurber Center

Jonathan Veley—one of the world’s leading authorities on mechanical pencils, with several books on the subject—will discuss the development and use of these instruments by generations of writers and artists.



Ashley Hope Pérez
***Tuesday*, October 10, 2023**
7:00 PM at Thurber Center

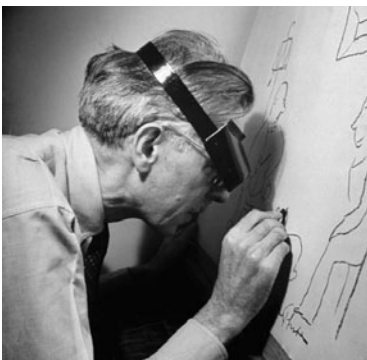
In honor of Banned Books Week (Oct 1-7) award-winning author Ashley Hope Pérez will be interviewed by independent Columbus bookseller Charlie Pugsley about her novel *Out of Darkness* and her experiences as one of the most frequently banned authors in the country. This will be a live interview in front of the audience.



Mark Dawidziak
Thursday, November 9, 2023
7:00 PM at Thurber Center

Mark Dawidziak, author of *A Mystery of Mysteries, the Death and Life of Edgar Allen Poe*, focuses on Poe’s “final days.” Dawidziak will discuss various theories about Poe’s death, using the latest information from Poe scholars and researchers, before sharing a brand-new theory.

OSU Rare Books and Manuscripts Library



Save the date for this upcoming RBML Saturday Spotlight!

“An Archival Exploration of James Thurber’s Vision”

Curated by Department of English PhD student Sabrina Durso

Date: Saturday, September 30, 10:00am-12:00pm (feel free to drop by at any time)

Location: Thompson Library, Special Collections reading room (Room 105)

Next Membership Directory—Spring 2024

The membership directory will be updated next Spring—photos too! At the October and November meetings, you can have your picture taken for the new directory. Or, if you have a photo of yourself to submit, please send it to Dan Jensen (djensen@columbus.rr.com).

Autumn Zen

Conscious of each breath, my limbs extend outward
My spine is supine, horizontal on the floor
The room is empty, quiet, lit by the morning light

With open eyes, I move each fingertip on both hands
In succession, pressing onto the tip of each thumb.
I tighten fingers into fists, then flex them out again

My knees draw up as a pair as a breath flows in
They move to one side as a breath flows out and
Back to center as a breath flows in; back & forth we go

In synch with the next breath in, arms splayed out, palms up
My heels push into the floor to raise my hips
My shoulders roll back, pressing into the floor

Feeling as if a friend were massaging my shoulders,
I think how easily the word "massage" could become "message"
Is my body is giving me a message?

Standing up straight, shoulders back, chin straightening my neck,
A deep breath in lightens my head
My feet root firmly on the floor as my breath flows out

I walk with purpose through the door and
Breathe deeply the fresh chilled air outside,
Yet I feel the rays of the sun warm my skin

Now, as I clean out dead foliage from the peony patch
I realize I'm removing the past to prepare for the future
While staying put in the present - breathing in and out

September 2022

C. Mehrl Bennett

Cathy Bennett published "Autumn Zen" in her book that came out this year through the Bennett's publishing imprint Luna Bisonte Prods.

Title: *It's a Poem or an Event: or Maybe Both.*

Author: C. Mehrl Bennett

<https://www.lulu.com/shop/c-mehrl-bennett/its-a-poem-or-an-event/paperback/product-rpnnpq.html?page=1&pageSize=4>

Arm Staring

John M. Bennett

3.17.23

Shovel floor
grate revealed
wet sky or

Breath the hat
floods yr hair's
mud impact

Thumping in
head yr book's
muffled words

Corner clus
terd cell you
ovulate

Shut the chair
reeking seat's

Escriptisismo

John M. Bennett

2.27.23

Mano o cuchillo
trajino por la tapa
, portal de tumba

Tuérzome el cogote
para ver cegado
una pared de lumbre

Deslúmbrame ,
y digo : una flojera
digital , palma o pantalla

Que toca el aire vacuo
, bolsillo infinito
que al finar nexplica .

Rígidis mis dientes
con libro no liberado

*"...mientras que la vida
esquina a los relojes"
- Manuel Maples Arce*

Columbus' Poetry Forum Comes to Final Stanza

Adapted with Permission by George Cowmeadow Bauman from the *Clintonville Spotlight*, Written by Steve Abbott

Columbus literary institution The Poetry Forum announced that its weekly Monday night reading series ended its 39-year run on July 31. Steve Abbott, the group's de facto leader and one of its founders, estimates that it was the second-longest running weekly poetry series in the country, with first place going to the Maple Leaf Bar in New Orleans.

Established in 1984 as The Poetry Forum at Larry's, a renowned campus watering hole, Abbott was quoted in *The Columbus Dispatch* as saying, "We were ragtag, and we were loosey-goosey, and we had to come up with rules like, 'You cannot use a poem to attack a member of the audience.' So, you know, it was an adventure."

When Larry's Bar closed in '08, the Poetry Forum moved to Rumba Café for five years before settling at Bossy Grls Pin-Up Joint, where it has been since then.

The readings originated in 1984 as a weekly October-to-June independent supplement to the Poets in the Gallery series at the Columbus Museum of Art and the Columbus Recreation and Parks' weekly Poetry in the Park summer readings established in the early 1980s by poet Michael Vander Does.

Each night the Poetry Forum featured a guest poet, whose reading was followed by an open mic, providing emerging writers a chance to present their work. Throughout the years, the Forum hosted hundreds of local, regional, and national poets.

The Poetry Forum acted as a catalyst for the growth of Central Ohio poetry. Within a few years, the city hosted a poetry reading on almost every night of the week.

Abbott said, "Everything has a lifespan. This thing was started to provide a specific kind of service. Maybe it's time to just let that down."

Join us for a program featuring poet Hanif Abdurraqib. Abdurraqib will read from his book *A Little Devil in America*, and two student poets (Aline Resende Mello and Isaiah Back-Gaal) will also share their work. Following the readings, the presenters will host a panel about creating art in Ohio. Abdurraqib will close with a reading from his new book, set to be released in 2024.

This event is FREE and open to the public. Refreshments will be served, so please RSVP (to Jolie Braun braun.338@osu.edu) by October 16, 2023.

Books will be available for purchase and signing at the conclusion of the program.

A GRISLY DRAMA OF
SEX, SAX, SOX, SIX, SUX & Sometimes Gristle SYX

Get *SEX* as your gateway to **Adulthood** and

Accompany it with

Great SAX music and don't **Believe** the percussive

Beat of two soggy

Green SOX, found boiled in **Curry** inside this cool

Cat's kitchen.

Grill SIX poets until they are **Dead** though we do

Declare that a "Poet

Grilled, SUX," but we would **Eat** grilled poet anyway as

Everyone is psyched about the

Gristle SYX (with a Y) Sauce; **Fully** fortified with calcified bone

& Fake teeth.

July 15 2023
C. Mehrl Bennett

Night of Poetry and Conversation with Hanif Abdurraqib

October 24, 2023 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

OSUL 11th floor reading room



The Best Books We Read This Summer Were...

Alan Woods

The best book I read this summer was *Our Italian Summer (Meet Me in Italy)* by Jennifer Probst. A family of women—three generations—reconnects as they travel through places their family members immigrated from. Touching and moving, as well as excellent descriptions of a variety of places throughout Italy.

John Bennett

The best book I read this summer/fall/winter was/is/will be *SOLENOID*, a novel by the Romanian poet/novelist Mircea Cartarescu. This is a HUGE book—both in size and conception. It's one of those books, like Roberto Bolaño's 2666 or Cervantes' *Don Quijote*, that I want to read slowly, bit by bit, so I can catch my breath and ponder what I just read, and I never want the book to end. Partly autobiographical, it shifts perspective constantly, slipping into surrealist passages so smoothly it's impossible to tell where the shift occurred. Is it meta meta meta fiction? Partly, but there's a whole new way of doing that here. I'm amazed; this is a rare book indeed.

Harry Campbell

The best book I read this summer was *Shakespeare Was A Woman and Other Heresies: How Doubting the Bard Became the Biggest Taboo in Literature*, by Elizabeth Winkler (Simon and Schuster, 2023). She investigates "Shakespeare" as a belief system that operates as a quasi-religion that MAY NOT be questioned. To do so—to have doubts—brands you as a heretic. Secondly, she suggests the authorial source of the forthright "feminism" in the Shakespeare canon needs to be explored much more deliberately as a legitimate academic pursuit. And finally, she examines the 'taboo' referred to in the sub-title as a nearly universal prohibition of the authorship question in academia. Winkler explores all these areas with journalistic diligence, intelligence, and even a measure of sympathy for the unquestioning true believers.

Wes Boomgaarden

Fiction:

The God of Small Things, Arundhati Roy (Random House, 1997). This remarkable novel is set in Kerala (southwest India) in the 1960s and 1970s, brilliantly and vibrantly describing caste and class there in the midst of tragedy.

Wes Boomgaarden (*Continued*)

Non-fiction:

The Curse of the Marquis de Sade: a Notorious Scoundrel, a Mythical Manuscript, and the Biggest Scandal in Literary History, Joel Warner (Crown, 2023). Warner intersperses his narrative of the odd life of the Marquis (1740-1814) with the remarkable travels of his holograph manuscript, the scroll of 120 Days of Sodom (1785). Found in Sade's vacated cell in the Bastille during its famous storming in 1789, the manuscript changed hands many times in the subsequent centuries in its travel from Paris, to the south of France, to Berlin, back to Paris, to Geneva, and finally to its current (likely permanent) home again in Paris at the BNF. On its journeys and stays, the manuscript helped to enlighten scientific thought about sexual behavior (Berlin), to affect artistic trends (Paris), and to create scandal in the manuscript trade (Europe).

Craig Speece

Favorite:

Code Name Verity, Elizabeth Wein (Hyperion Books, 2012). My gifts to friends' children are usually books, so that's how I ended up with a "YA" novel in my hands. Started it and didn't stop. Shifty, sneaky narrative, well-drawn characters, enough action, and a convincing portrayal of friendship set in WWII Britain and France. The story is not simplistic, and Wein doesn't gloss over the violence, suffering, or loss. Really only "young adult" because the two protagonists are young adults. Indeed the *New York Times* review correctly stated that "*Code Name Verity* will appeal more to adults than to teenagers."

Close contenders:

Blacktop Wasteland, S.A. Cosby (Flatiron Books, 2020). Entertaining characters doing violent things in modern day rural South. The pace doesn't let up.

The Wrath to Come: Gone With the Wind and the Lies America Tells, Sarah Churchwell (Head of Zeus, 2023). Carefully makes the case that GWTW, novel and film, has done more than anything else to perpetuate the "Lost Cause" mythology. Came to my attention via a great podcast, "The Rest is History."

I, Claudius, Robert Graves (Harrison Smith and Robert Haas, 1934). Same podcast did an episode on historical fiction with Tom and Dominic agreeing that

Craig Speece (Continued)

Graves was one of the best. I had read this 40+ years ago, so with that much time passed it was like a new book to me on this read.

Lani Heilman

I narrowed it down to two favorites/"best books":

The Alice Network, by Kate Quinn. It is well-researched historical fiction based on the real network of female spies during WWI, called the Alice Network. These women operated in German-occupied France and Belgium. There are passages in this book that made my heart race.

China: The Novel, by Edward Rutherfurd. While this novel is 760+ pages, it only deals with the 72-year period of 1839 to 1911, which was the dawn of first Opium War to the establishment of The Republic. It is clear he has done his research, and yet it is written as just a good story, an easy read. This book has a bit of everything for everyone, from intrigue and war, to adventure and romance.

Christine Clover

I finally managed to complete the trilogy by Hilary Mantel (who died just last year, sadly) consisting of *Wolf Hall*, *Bring Up the Bodies*, and *The Mirror and the Light*. I won't reveal how long I have been working on it!

David Brightman

This summer I read two books that were made more fun (and funny) by their footnotes. One was *Dreyer's English: An Utterly Correct Guide to Clarity and Style*, by Benjamin Dreyer (recommended to me by Nancy Campbell), and the other was *Once Upon a Tome: The Misadventures of a Rare Bookseller*, by Oliver Darkshire (recommended by *Book Page*, the magazine you only see in public libraries).

Dreyer is the head of copyediting for Random House, so the book is very helpful on all sorts of technical issues. But I read it for fun and was not disappointed. He's hilarious, and much of the fun is in the footnotes, so don't skip them, even if you normally don't read them. When I started out in publishing, I took a course in copyediting from the managing editor of the University of California Press, and she, too, kept us in stitches with her stories. I suspect copyediting either requires a sense of humor, forces one to develop a sense of humor, or both. If you are a writer, you'll want to own a copy, but if you are only reading it for fun, you can get it from the library. Deep thanks to Nancy for suggesting I might

like it.

Once Upon a Tome is a kind of fairy-tale of experiential learning in the rare book trade, told in the charming English style of humorous self-deprecation. As noted already, much of the humor in this book is also in the footnotes, so keep a magnifying glass to hand if need be. The author's voice is so charming, I imagine that even fellow Aldus members most steeped in the rare book trade may find it enjoyable. He weaves a spell that made me sorry when the book ended.

Roger Jerome

The best book I've read this summer is *Africa Is Not a Country: Notes on a Bright Continent* by Diplo Faloyin (Norton, 2022). My two nationalities lead me to provocative reading about the colonial history of the UK and the USA. The injustices of the British Empire are fair game for analysis and criticism (e.g., *Legacy of Violence* by Caroline Elkins, 2022). Those of the American Possessions are often hidden or airbrushed. My earlier reading of Martin Meredith's magisterial *The Fortunes of Africa*, 2014, gave me corrective historical facts to put beside the white man's view I was taught in the 1940s, full of Dr. Livingstone, "fuzzy-wuzzies" and heroic failures such as General Gordon at Khartoum. At universities in the 1950s we faced the post-WW2 independence movements.

Faloyin was raised in Nigeria and is fiercely critical of the images of Africa in Western media. He quotes Chimamanda Adichie: "If all I knew about Africa were from popular images, I too would think that Africa was a place of beautiful landscapes, beautiful animals, and incomprehensible people, fighting senseless wars, dying of poverty and AIDS, unable to speak for themselves." He is scornful of the condescending Western pictures of Africa, with their "White Savior" archetypes and rightly addresses the problem of stolen artifacts found in Western museums. The Somali community in Columbus is well known and I was recently enlightened by a new friend from Eritrea about their successful struggle for independence in 1993. This angry book demands a new view of the continent where many say the earliest human development took place.

Don Rice

The best book I read this summer was *The Fountain Overflows* by Rebecca West. Finding myself craving some first-class literary fiction, I poked among the unread novels on my bookshelves hoping to find something comparable to L. P. Hartley's *The Go-Between*—even though I was certain that desire didn't have a chance of being fulfilled. I did, however, come across Rebecca West's perfectly written plotless novel about a particularly odd family. Close enough.

Book Review: *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese. Grove Press, 2023 (715 pages).

Reviewed by Karen Robinson

The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese is a family saga beginning in 1900 and ending in 1977, set on the Malabar Coast, the southwestern edge of India. It has at its center a lively and intelligent matriarch, Big Ammachi, who enters into her arranged marriage with a landowner and farmer at only twelve years old, an innocent in many ways, and becomes the wise leader of her entire family. Other storylines occur in the book as well: one that describes the establishment of a rural clinic and others that follow the lives of individuals in the European and Anglo-Indian community. All are unified by Verghese's background as a doctor and teacher. (He is currently an esteemed professor and administrator at the Stanford University School of Medicine). The doctors in this book,

as in Verghese's other great novel, *Cutting for Stone*, are researchers and practitioners, and their actions depict the evolution of medical training and practice in the years of the novel. This book also clearly shows the complicated relationships between different faith communities and different castes in Indian society while describing the magnificent countryside and delicious foods of the area. Verghese's novel delivers a compelling story while creating a sense of the spiritual bond that connects the characters with each other and the land around them. Although many characters are, in Verghese's beautiful language, "cut from the fabric of loss," they are ultimately upheld by the "covenant of water" because of which "no one stands alone."

Book Review: *A Tourist in the Arab Spring* By Tom Chesshyre. Bradt Travel Guides Ltd., 2013. 245 pages.

Reviewed by Scott Williams

This travel narrative caught my eye recently and I enjoyed the journey of a travel writer bent on being the "first tourist" to return to post-revolutionary Arab Spring nations. Perhaps a cheap justification for a travel book, but a valuable one for the observations.



Cover art mimics Roman color-tiles!

Chesshyre starts in Tunisia. Most intriguing to me was the author's investigation of Mohamed Bouazizi's home town where Chesshyre gathered stories of what happened. This fruit vendor's single act of self-immolation and suicide in front of his town's governor's office on January 4, 2011, launched revolutions across the Middle East that remain unresolved to this day. We learn that Bouazizi was not an unemployed college student, as widely reported in the West. Rather, he was simply a well-liked young vendor trying to support his family amidst the rank corruption of local police and officials taking a cut of his modest cash box whenever they felt like it. Chesshyre honors Bouazizi by making a pilgrimage to his grave—a surprisingly complicated journey to an obscure village's distant graveyard. Tunisia's post-Bourguiba despot effectively corrupted the entire country. He and his family would flee, with much wealth, to Saudi Arabia, like Idi Amin.



Pro-revolution graffiti in Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia, the home town of Mohamed Bouazizi.

I love border crossing stories and this book has them. In his own words, here is Chesshyre's approach to the Libyan border:

We reached the mainland [from the Isle of Djerba] and set off through olive groves, the soul-searching Arabic music continuing on the radio. At a little town with houses hidden behind walls topped with jagged pieces of glass, we turned at a junction boasting Pizzeria Hannibal, and then hurtled onwards. We crossed another causeway with a *garde nationale* checkpoint, and I wondered if the hazy grey land I could see ahead might be the start of Libya. The landscape was flat and sandy and inhospitable – it felt as though we had come to the end of the earth. (p. 81).

I *twice* intended to visit Libya, but for Muammar Gaddafi's antics! He caused the border to be shut with Tunisia one year, and then with Egypt another year. Our author admits that *if* he knew how dangerous post-Gaddafi Libya was, he would *not* have visited it! For example, there is his own exciting kidnapping event

that turns out OK. Chesshyre is the *first* post-revolution tourist to visit the incredible Greco & Roman ruins along the coast of Libya. He is the *last* tourist to see the vast World War II Allied graveyards—as weeks later, Islamic revolutionaries would destroy them.

We move on to Cairo, which is in euphoric turmoil preparing for free elections.

Throughout the journey people of all walks express their love of free expression and their joy of having overthrown a tyrant family dictatorship. Of interest to me, we also hear from national and local folks involved with the collapsed tourist trade. Chesshyre worked with each new government to come in as a tourist, not as a journalist.

Alas, one of my favorite travel guide book publishers, Bradt, did not include an index. But this book does provide 23 color photos and a good map. At publication date, the author was on the Travel Desk for *The Times of London* and had three travel books under his belt. His fellow British critics have noted Chesshyre's "Bill Brysonesque travel writing"—evidence that American travel writers are still being admired by consummate British travel writers and critics.

Book Review: *The Truth About Lies* by Aja Raden

Reviewed by Tricia Herban

Do you ever lie? Probably only occasionally when you want to avoid hurting someone's feelings. More importantly, do you ever lie to yourself? I surely have. As I was growing up, I told myself, "When I'm grown, I will be able to do what I want. I will be in control. All of this doing what others want me to will be over. I will be my own person!" More recently, I find my self-talk reassuring as I hold on to the idea that "Soon it will all be normal and then it will be fine." And just today, I told myself "It's ok to have that dessert, there aren't that many calories in it."

Those are minor examples of lying—not even mentioned in the fascinating 2021 book by Aja Raden, *The Truth About Lies: the Evolution of Honesty and the Evolution of Deceit* (St. Martin's Press, 320 pages). But examples that are included in *The Truth About Lies* are the reason that you should want to read this carefully researched and scientifically based book. Daily, we find ourselves pondering accusations of fake news and wondering how others believe things that have been proven false over and over and OVER again.

This book will explain. It turns out that our memories can't be trusted. In fact what we see can't necessarily be believed. Furthermore, if the lie is emotionally grabbing or even just really interesting, we don't want to abandon it for the truth. For example, the book begins with a true story of Europeans who bought into an island in the Atlantic that didn't exist, attracted by tales of a land flowing with milk and honey. It was too good to be true, but oh so enticing. That's why the Brooklyn Bridge has been sold over and over again and why snake oil made its salesmen rich.

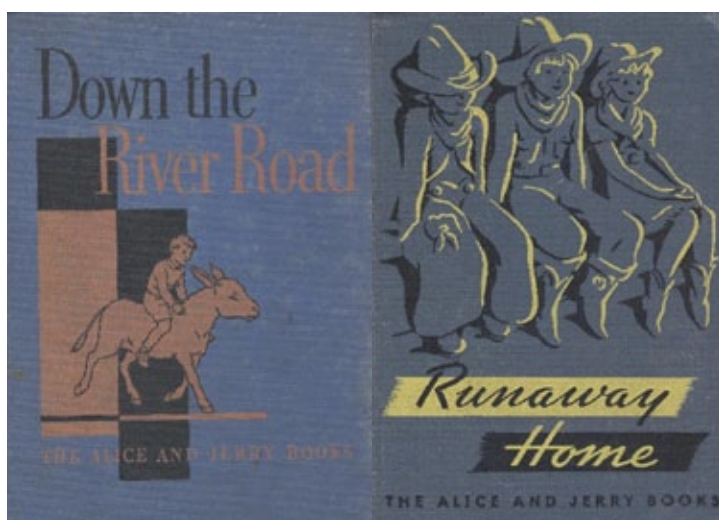
As we were told in school, reading fiction or viewing movies or plays involves the willing "suspension of disbelief". Aja Raden says that we all suspend our disbelief all the time! Our social contract is built on incredible assumptions relating to trust and honesty. *The Truth About Lies* will disabuse you of some of your "beliefs" and strengthen you in others. I ordered a copy for my realtor son when I was only a third into the book. Get it, read it, and enjoy a somewhat new perspective on "reality." The library has copies!

Something New! A Continuing Column Coordinated by Don Rice The Odd Volume

By Donald Tunnicliff Rice

Every week in the *New York Times* Book Review, there's a page devoted to asking an individual writer ten or so questions. The first question is always, "What books are on your nightstand?" and the last is often, "You're organizing a literary dinner party. Which three writers, dead or alive, do you invite?" The answers are always interesting.

Among the other questions, one that turns up now and then is, "What book might people be surprised to find on your shelves?" That always makes me wonder what answer I'd give. The other day I finally got around to scanning the shelves looking for possibilities. Here's what I came up with:



***Down the River Road* (1938)
and *Runaway Home* (1941)**

Everyone has heard of Dick and Jane and their pleasant middle-class suburban life seeing Spot run, but there was also a now mostly forgotten competing series of elementary readers called The Alice and Jerry Books. My school system adopted those, and I'm glad they did. The A&J books are much more complex and interesting than the D&Js—even edgy at times. One day I went looking for some of them on ViaLibri and bought the second-grade and sixth-grade readers.

I first read *Down the River Road* by Mabel O'Donnell at age seven. I remembered only that some boys went fishing and that they sold apples to raise money to buy baseball uniforms. The truth is that's a lot for me to have remembered for over seventy-five years, so the book must have made a great impression on me. I was pleased to discover that it held up well, and I particularly liked the fact that the children's parents allowed them to engage in some chancy adventures that today's kids could only dream about. I also remembered some of the great illustrations by

Florence and Margaret Hoopes.

Runaway Home, written by Elizabeth Coatsworth and illustrated by Gustaf Tenngren, was the sixth grade reader. While I had to make a few allowances for the period, I thought it was a pretty good story. A down-on-his-luck artist, his wife, and three children pull a small camping trailer in a meandering trail from Maine to California to start a new life; along the way they have a series of mostly stereotypical (if unlikely) adventures and sometimes were in actual danger.

I liked the two books well enough to make me want to acquire a couple more in the series and someday I will.

Japanese Book of Electrical Theory

There is no point at all in my owning this book. I can't even read the title. And if I could read Japanese I still wouldn't understand a damn thing in it. Most pages have long mathematical equations which might as well be hen scratches. Oh, I can recognize the occasional psi Ψ or phi Φ , but have no idea what they mean in the context of these pages. Here and there I found footnotes in Roman letters. One of them said, "Dielectric hysteresis," so I Googled it: "Dielectric hysteresis," Professor Google told me, "was discovered by Valasek and may be defined as an effect in a dielectric material similar to the hysteresis found in magnetic materials. In this case, the electric displacement D for one direction in the crystal (parallel to the x axis) was not only determined by the applied field E , but also depended on its previous values." I'm glad I got *that* cleared up.

This is the 1933 edition, so it's set in the Fraktur

Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*

typeface that the Nazis didn't get around to banning until 1941. I've had this for years and can no longer remember where (or why) I got it. I have no interest in reading it, even if I could. So why do I keep it? Maybe because I'm against book burning?

What about you? What books might people be surprised to find on your shelves? Let me know what they are (along with a few words of explanation) at donrice@core.com, subject line THE ODD VOLUME. Any responses will be included in the next edition of *Aldus Society Notes*.

Ohioana Book Awards, 2023

It's that time of year again! The Ohioana Library is pleased to announce the winners of the 2023 Ohioana Awards, including seven book awards and the Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant.

First given in 1942, the Ohioana Book Awards are the second oldest, and among the most prestigious, state literary prizes in the nation. Nearly every major writer from Ohio in the past 82 years has been honored, from James Thurber to Toni Morrison.

Six of the Ohioana Book Award winners were selected by juries. The Readers' Choice Award was determined by voters in a public online poll. More than 2,000 votes were cast in this year's Readers' Choice Award poll!

Ohioana Book Awards, 2023

Nonfiction: Ross Gay, *Inciting Joy*

Fiction: Celeste Ng, *Our Missing Hearts*

Poetry: Saeed Jones, *Alive at the End of the World*

About Ohio or an Ohioan: Kelcey Ervick, *The Keeper: Soccer, Me, and the Law That Changed Women's Lives*

Middle Grade/Young Adult: Jasmine Warga, *A Rover's Story*

Juvenile: Marcy Campbell, *The More You Give*

Readers' Choice: John Scalzi, *The Kaiju Preservation Society*

Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant

The Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant is a competitive prize. Named for Ohioana's second director and given since 1982, the Marvin Grant is awarded to an Ohio writer age 30 or younger who has not yet published a book. The 2023 Marvin Grant winner is Kortney Morrow. Kortney spent her early years making up stories, and she never stopped. Her writing has been featured or is forthcoming in *The Academy of American Poets*, *Obsidian*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Transition Magazine*. When she's not writing, you can find her daydreaming on her front porch. Kortney lives in Cleveland, where she was born and raised. Her winning entry will appear in this fall's *Ohioana Quarterly*.

Award Ceremony

The 2023 Ohioana Awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, September 21, at 6:00 pm in the atrium of the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus. For information and tickets, contact the Ohioana Library.

Fall 2023 Thurber House Programs

September 28

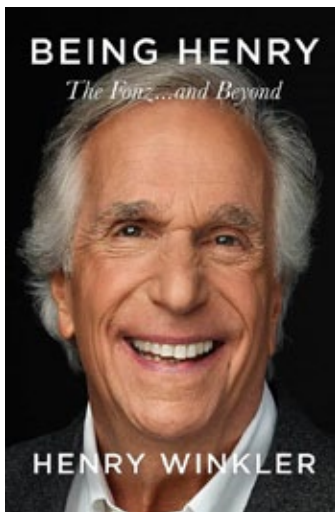
2015 Thurber Prize for American Humor Winner **Julie Schumacher**, in Conversation with Satirist **Brooke Preston**

October 14-15

ThurberCon—a writing conference packed with workshops, panels, and more!

October 28

Get your spook on with Thurber House's annual **Halloween** events for all ages



November 2

Comedian, Actor, and Author **Anjelah Johnson-Reyes**

November 8

Emmy Award-Winning Actor, Author, and Comedian **Henry Winkler**, in Conversation with Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist **Connie Schultz**

December 2

Holiday Open House and James Thurber birthday celebration at Thurber House

Aldus Society Program Schedule 2023-2024

Thursday, SEPT 14th, 2023:

Jonathan Veley

One of the world's leading authorities on mechanical pencils with several books on the subject will discuss the development and use of these instruments by generations of writers and artists.

Tuesday, OCT 10th, 2023 (*Tuesday!*):

Ashley Hope Pérez

In honor of Banned Books Week (Oct 1-7), Independent Bookseller Charlie Pugsley interviews award-winning author Ashley Hope Pérez about her novel *Out of Darkness* and her experiences as one of the most frequently banned authors in the country.

Thursday, NOV 9th, 2023:

Mark Dawidziak

Mark Dawidziak, Author of *A Mystery of Mysteries, the Death and Life of Edgar Allen Poe*, focuses on Poe's "final days." Dawidziak will discuss various theories about Poe's death, using the latest information from Poe scholars and researchers, before sharing a brand-new theory.

Thursday, DEC 7th, 2023:

Holiday Party

Thursday, JAN 11th, 2024:

Aldus Collects

Thursday, FEB 8th, 2024:

Sarah Neville

Sarah Neville, OSU English professor and author of *Early Modern Herbals and the Book Trade*, will discuss the book trade in Tudor and Stuart England and reasons behind the success of the printed herbal.

Thursday, MAR 14th, 2024:

Reid Byers

Reid Byers, author of *The Private Library*, examines the historical influences that have shaped the architecture of the private library, and the furnishings, amenities, and delightful anachronisms that make the mortal room into what Borges so famously called Paradise.

Thursday, APR 11th, 2024:

Betty Weibel

Betty Weibel, author of *The Ohio Literary Trail*, which locates over 70 literary sites across Ohio. Weibel will discuss her experiences in tracking down the writers from Ohio who helped shape culture and literature worldwide.

Thursday, MAY 9th, 2024:

Madison Good

Madison Good from OSU Library Special Collections presents the bookbindings of Margaret Armstrong, one of the most celebrated and recognized women in binding design from the late 19th century, who inspired a generation of younger women with her style and industrious output.

From the Archives: Nancy Campbell's "I'll Never Go Hungry Again Carrot Cake," Winner of the Name-the-Dish Contest at the 2016 Annual Picnic

After tough deliberation, Judge Leah Kalasky named Nancy Campbell's "I'll Never Go Hungry Again Carrot Cake" the winner of the Name-the-Dish Contest featuring names based on Southern literature. The beautiful white-iced cake had real carrot heads with somewhat war-torn wilted green tops peeking up through the icing. Nancy won a bag of Spanish moss.



2016 Summer Picnic Prize Winner!

Homemade Carrot Cake

(aka *As God is my witness, I'll never be hungry again Carrot Cake.*)

Offered by I am Baker;

Adapted by Nancy Campbell

Ingredients

Cake layers

2 cups granulated sugar
1-1/4 cups vegetable oil
3 large eggs, at room temperature
1 tsp pure vanilla extract

2-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp nutmeg
2 tsp baking soda
1-1/2 tsp salt

1 cup raisins
1 cup chopped walnuts
2-1/4 cups grated carrots
1/2 cup pineapple (drain, if canned)

Cream cheese frosting

1 package cream cheese (8 oz.)
1 stick butter (8 tablespoons)
1 tsp vanilla extract
4 cups confectioner's sugar

Directions

Cake layers

Heat the oven to 350 degrees.

Prepare (butter) two 8-inch round baking pans or one 13x9-inch pan.

Beat sugar, vegetable oil, eggs and vanilla until it is a light yellow

In a separate bowl, sift together flour, cinnamon, soda, nutmeg and salt.

With the mixer on low speed, slowly and gently add in the dry ingredients. Mix until JUST combined.

Remove bowl from mixer and fold in raisins, walnuts, grated carrots and pineapple.

Divide the batter equally between the round pans or spoon into the 9x13-inch pan. Bake round pans for 55 to 65 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Bake the 9x13-inch pan for 45-50 minutes or until a toothpick comes out. Allow the round cakes to cool on a wire rack.

Cover in cream cheese frosting.

Cream cheese frosting

Place room temperature cream cheese, butter, vanilla into mixer and blend for 1-2 minutes on medium until fully incorporated.

Add powdered sugar, 1 cup at a time, until frosting is light and creamy.

THE ALDUS SOCIETY	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 Budget	2023 To-Date	% of budget
Revenues										
Memberships (5 classes)	4,950.00	5,512.50	5,265.99	4,214.78	1,908.64	2,281.25	5,712.50	5,500.00	725.00	13.2%
Holiday Dinner Tickets	2,230.00	2,835.00	2,840.96	2,310.00	45.00	0.00	1,440.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.0%
Fundraisers (dinner raffle/auction)	2,210.00	2,777.00	2,255.00	2,024.50	14.00	0.00	750.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.0%
Donations-Ravneberg Fund	585.00	420.00	288.25	380.00	75.00	250.00	660.00	500.00	150.00	30.0%
Donations--Other	0.00	50.00	100.00	61.50	218.49	0.00	400.00	400.00	325.00	81.3%
Program Food & Drink	201.00	194.15	219.00	175.50	41.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.0%
Other Actions (generating income)	122.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	332.00	0.00	281.25	200.00	400.00	0.0%
Money Mkt Acct - Int/Div	2.80	28.71	51.17	132.17	83.12	33.81	93.06	225.00	147.48	65.5%
Total Revenues	10,301.34	11,817.36	11,020.37	9,298.45	2,717.25	2,565.06	9,336.81	10,525.00	1,747.48	16.6%
Transfer to Checking from MM	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,500.00	3,200.00		500.00	
Total Revenues and Transfers	10,301.34	11,817.36	11,020.37	9,298.45	2,717.25	6,065.06	12,536.81		2,247.48	
Expenses										
Fixed Administrative	457.86	270.00	507.86	846.72	593.12	1,223.86	1,201.86	1,200.00	1,157.49	96.5%
Meeting Space Rental	0.00	500.00	1,275.00	1,050.00	425.00	0.00	2,812.50	3,000.00	1,875.00	62.5%
Board Supplies	143.26	139.88	40.72	0.00	74.98	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.0%
Members: awards, gifts, memorials	505.66	488.00	155.94	175.00	231.73	564.44	69.50	100.00	0.00	0.0%
Summer Picnic	322.76	235.19	133.78	370.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.0%
Marketing / Publicity	659.15	649.54	425.53	110.97	76.30	0.00	0.00	100.00	163.99	164.0%
Aldus Member Directory	325.53	365.34	216.78	267.76	225.42	0.00	0.00	300.00	235.32	78.4%
Aldus Newsletter & FABS J.	350.05	703.28	450.07	932.65	743.74	564.87	1,104.60	1,200.00	577.19	48.1%
Member Renew / Dinner Mailing	167.59	0.00	187.77	90.79	0.00	0.00	65.81	100.00	0.00	0.0%
Holiday Dinner (site & food)	2,653.68	2,782.16	2,886.74	2,192.00	0.00	0.00	1,973.70	2,500.00	0.00	0.0%
Fundraisers (dinner raffle/auction)	160.76	173.59	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.0%
PrgmC: Speaker Honorariums	1,500.00	1,000.00	1,125.00	1,200.00	200.00	1,000.00	1,600.00	1,400.00	800.00	57.1%
PrgmC: Speaker Travel	979.62	466.87	715.95	121.80	747.20	0.00	2,396.85	2,000.00	0.00	0.0%
PrgmC: Speaker Meals	337.86	459.56	317.87	394.75	0.00	0.00	98.05	400.00	92.74	23.2%
PrgmC: Speaker Hotel	884.06	674.69	751.88	229.13	0.00	0.00	146.95	800.00	169.00	21.1%
PrgmC: Miscellaneous	451.72	806.25	756.44	0.00	114.77	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.0%
Program Food & Drink	257.04	184.30	146.48	335.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.0%
Other Actions (associated costs)	0.00	0.00	2.50	465.50	80.67	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.0%
Other (unforeseen)	12.50	797.19	0.00	50.00	32.00	25.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Expenses	10,169.10	10,695.84	10,146.31	8,833.50	3,544.93	3,378.17	11,469.82	13,720.00	5,070.73	37.0%
Transfers Out of MM Account						3,500.00	3,200.00		500.00	
Total Expenses & Transfers	10,169.10	10,695.84	10,146.31	8,833.50	3,544.93	6,878.17	14,669.82		5,570.73	
Change in Cash & MM Accts	132.24	1,121.52	874.06	464.95	(827.68)	(813.11)	(2,133.01)	(3,195.00)	(3,323.25)	
Beginning Balance of Cash & MM				17,745.12	18,210.07	17,382.39	16,569.28	14,436.27	14,436.27	
Ending Balance of Cash & MM				18,210.07	17,382.39	16,569.28	14,436.27	11,241.27	11,113.02	

