

Aldus Society Notes

Winter 2023

Volume 23, No. 1

Happy Holidays, Aldines!

Our holiday season was kicked off at the annual Aldus Holiday Dinner and Auction on Dec. 1st at the Brookside Country Club, where we gathered for good food and fine fellowship. Approximately 30 members/guests attended.

Congratulations go to Jack Salling, Program Chair, for organizing the event and to those who helped create this enjoyable evening. Jack served as MC, and he was excellent in the job.

The silent auction went smoothly, with all items bid on and won. Though many worthy items were donated, perhaps the most stunning was Margo Thacker's quilt based on Ray Bradbury's book *Fahrenheit 451*.

After dinner the Carol Logue Biblio-fellowship Award was presented to Nancy and Harry Campbell (see separate article in this issue), and we were entertained with two short dramas, featuring Eve Catus, Don Rice, Tricia Herban, Dan Jensen, Jack Salling, Yorick the Skull, and the little drummer boy himself, Roger Jerome.

Thanks again to all who were responsible for this most enjoyable event!

See you next month for Aldus Collects on Jan. 12th.

George Bauman



Linda Mizejewski and George Bauman



Eve Catus, Tricia Herban, Don Rice and Dan Jensen read *Oy Vey Maria!*, a short play by Mark Harvey Levine, about the visit to the stable by Mary's parents on that special night, directed by Tricia Herban. (Not pictured: Roger Jerome as the Little Drummer Boy)

(Photos continue on page 2)

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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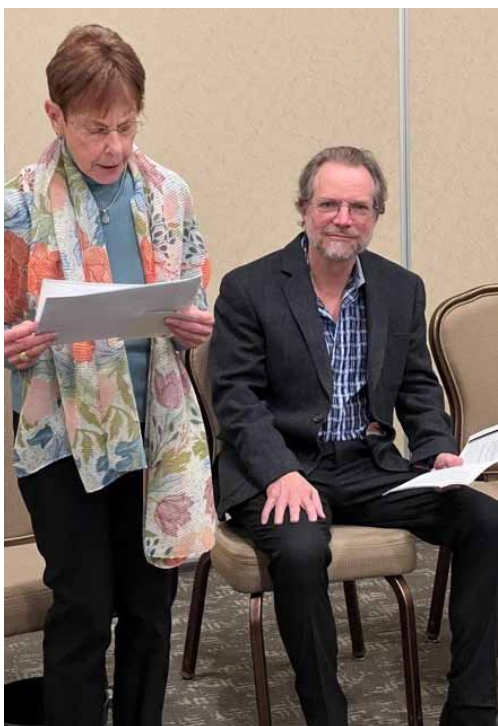
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(Photos continued from page 1)



Tricia Herban and Jack Salling present a reading of *Hamlet Investigations, Inc.*, a short play by Elen Abrams, also directed by Tricia



Willkie Cirker and Harry Campbell look over the auction items, including the beautiful and dramatic *Fahrenheit 451* quilt created by our own Margo Thacker



David Brightman, Tom Metz, Tom and Margo Thacker, Scott Williams, and Ed Hoffman

(Photos continue on page 3)

*(Continued
from page 2)*

**Don Rice,
Willkie Cirker,
Scott Williams
and Eve Catus**



**Scott Williams and Linda Mizejewski
sample the buffet offerings**



**Aldus stalwarts Geoff Smith,
Bill Evans, and Paul Watkins**

2022 Carol Logue Biblio-fellowship Award Winners Harry and Nancy Campbell

To enthusiastic applause and appreciation, it was announced at the December Holiday Dinner that Harry and Nancy Campbell are the recipients of the 2022 Carol Logue Award for Biblio-fellowship. They have worked independently yet cohesively as a team over many years to promote interest, knowledge, and friendship within the group. It was no small feat that Aldus survived – even thrived – during the Covid pandemic. The group has risen from that period of isolation with new members as well as many stalwarts, to begin regular programming this year. Harry and Nancy helped carry the torch through that dark period, fostering productive communication with the board and membership. Programming continued through Zoom and other make-shift sessions. Not knowing when the pandemic would end certainly made the task especially difficult.

Nancy has worked tirelessly in many different areas of Aldus over the years. She has served on the Board and held the labor-intensive position of Membership Chair for several years. She organized committees and provided valuable insights to the problems and questions raised. Nancy volunteered to work on nearly every Aldus social function, especially the summer picnics and holiday dinners and auctions. For the past many months she has coordinated the continuing monthly lunch gatherings of the Women Aldines. And, she has done all this while holding a research position in the State Historic Preservation Office at The Ohio History Connection.

For many years Harry has been a hardworking and faithful Aldus supporter. He has been an organizer and presenter; he has served commendably on the Program Committee; he has been a member of the Aldus Board, and, a recent past President of The Aldus Society. Currently, Harry is the editor of *The Aldus Society Newsletter*, upholding the established standards of quality that have been established by his predecessors.

Without a doubt Harry and Nancy are more than deserving of the 2022 Carol Logue Biblio-fellowship Award.



Lois Smith

Program Re-caps

September 8th, 2022 Program
Author Michael Blanding



The investigative journalist and best-selling author discussed his most recent book, ***In Shakespeare's Shadow***, winner of the International Book Award. (Originally published as *North by Shakespeare*)

What if Shakespeare wrote Shakespeare, but someone else wrote him first? The book follows a renegade scholar's (Dennis McCarthy) quest to solve the mysteries behind the world's greatest works of literature—leading him to the enigmatic Elizabethan courtier Sir Thomas North. This is a fascinating new twist on the Shakespeare authorship question.

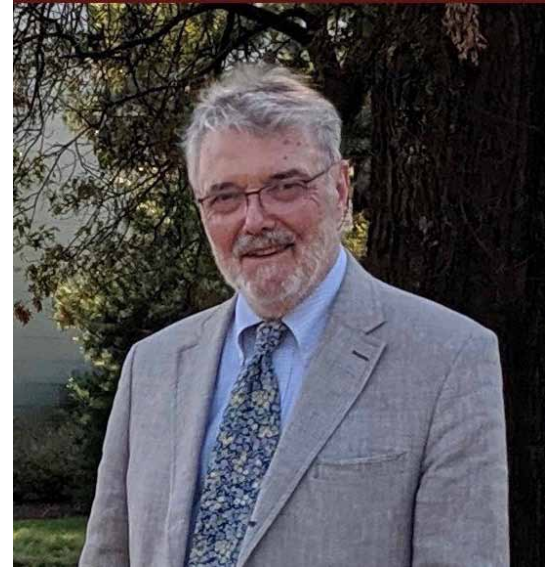
Michael Blanding is a Boston-based investigative journalist whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *WIRED*, *Smithsonian*, *Slate*, *The Nation*, *The Boston Globe Magazine*, and *Boston*. His previous book, *The Map Thief* (2014), was named a *New York Times Bestseller* and an NPR Book of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

Program Re-caps (Continued)

October 13th, 2022 Program
Author Michael Hancher

Michael Hancher, the specialist in Victorian writers and artists, presented a fascinating talk on revising his 1985 book, *The Tenniel Illustrations to the "Alice" Books*. Scholarly research is an evolving process. When first published in 1985, Hancher's book on Tenniel's well known and loved "Alice" illustrations became the definitive book on the subject but since then, a wealth of new scholarship and archival discovery has occurred. Professor Hancher discussed these new discoveries, and the process of revising his original book, in an informative and lively presentation.

Michael Hancher, professor emeritus in the Department of English at the University of Minnesota, has also written about Robert Browning, Dickens, Macaulay, Hunt, Millais; intention and interpretation; speech-act theory, pragmatics, and the law; close reading and digital search; and the history and rationale of pictorial illustration in dictionaries. His most recent publication is "Seeing and Tagging Things in Pictures" (*Representations* 155 [2021]).



November 10th, 2022 Program
Professor Sam Meier



An expert on the Ancient Near East, Dr. Meier (Ph.D. Harvard) discussed **Codes and Messages in Ancient Texts**. Sending secret messages is hardly a modern invention. Dr. Meier told the story of this phenomenon as it was practiced in the Ancient Near East in a variety of literary and political writings. The complexity and creativity of their methods gives us pause: do we have texts in our possession of whose full import we yet remain ignorant?

Dr. Meier, Ohio State University Professor of Semitic Languages and Literatures 1986-2022 (now Professor Emeritus) with specializations in Hebrew and Comparative Semitic Linguistics, has published *The Messenger in the Ancient Semitic World* (1988); *Speaking of Speaking: Marking Direct Discourse in Biblical Hebrew* (1992); *Themes and Transformations in Old Testament Prophecy* (2009).



Right: Dr. Sam
Meier and host
Don Rice



OSU RBML Saturday Spotlight: Bookselling From Canvassing Books to Modern Library Archives

Re-cap by George Cowmeadow Bauman

On November 5th, OSU's Rare Books and Manuscripts Library (RBML) presented a wonderful glimpse into their holdings on the topic of the "Book Trade from Canvassing Books to Modern Library Archives."

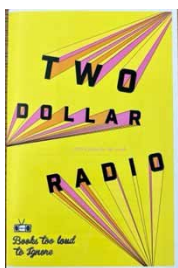
Co-curators Jolie Braun and Eric Johnson hosted this very interesting look at some amazing books and artifacts relating to the book trade.



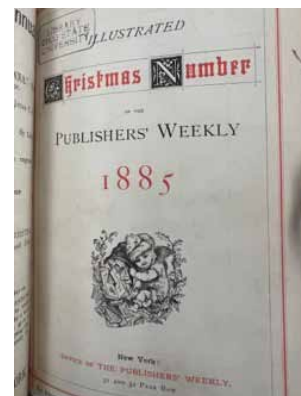
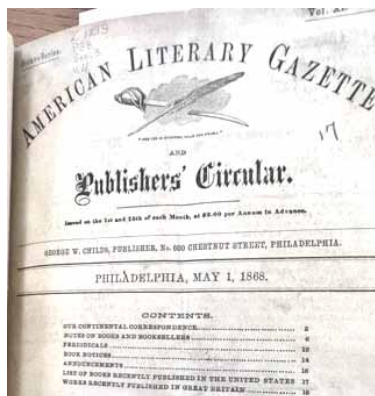
How many of us walked through the doors of Long's Book Store at 1836 N. High Street during its 98-year existence? For local booklovers, reading this article of Long's demise is heartbreaking.



Another local touch at RBML are the archives of Two Dollar Radio. You may remember our program when we were entertained by the good folks from Columbus' own Two Dollar Radio—a publisher and bookstore and even a film producer. Eric Obenauf and Eliza Wood-Obenauf founded it in 2005, and have designated OSU's RBML as the repository for their archives, a thoughtful gesture.



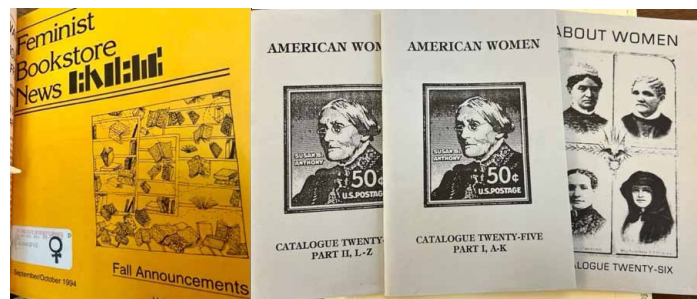
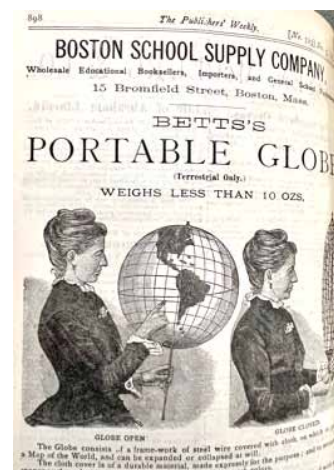
The *American Literary Gazette* was incorporated into *Publishers' Weekly* (1872), and is represented here with these remarkable 19th-century issues. A lot of fun can be had (carefully) flipping through these pages. It's fascinating to see how many bestselling books and authors were heavily promoted and well-reviewed in their day but are forgotten a century and a half later. And once prominent publishers and major players in the book world have disappeared, either gone out of business or absorbed by other publishers as the years go by.



Among the articles about the world of books in these old publications are interspersed ads for books, naturally, as well as non-book items that might sell well in a bookstore, not that much different from the bookshops of the 21st century.

This is one of my favorites. What kind of market did the Boston School Supply Company anticipate for portable globes? Maybe gifts for Christmas of 1885?

RBML has acquired a number of pieces relating to feminist involvement in the literary life. Below are two examples of their holdings, which, when browsed through, provide an interesting look at



Sunwise Turn is the story of a New York City bookstore opened in 1916 by Madge Jenison and Mary Mowbray-Clarke. It was one of the first women-owned bookshops in America.

The Sunwise Turn
the Modern
 Book Shop
 2 East 31st Street

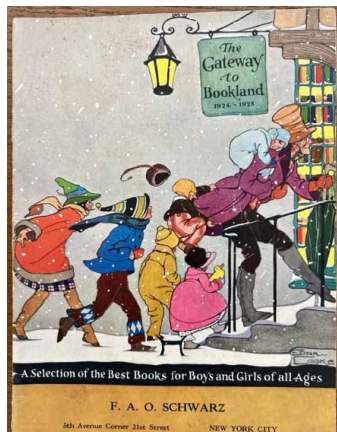
SUNWISE TURN
A HISTORY OF THE SUN
HENRY TASSMAN

October 1922	
Mr. Plumb	2
Mr. John Tod	
Samuel Laerke	3
Garrett	2
The Wind Bleweth	2
Beggar Opera	350

What is, Please tell me all you can about the scheme, and I assure
you that it will be a pleasure to me to help you in every way in my
power. Look you whenever I choose, but that you will accept
it so that it ceases to be a burden.

Yours truly,
Amy Lowell.

The next Spotlight will shine forth on December 10th, from 10:30 to 12. The topic will be curated by Eric Johnson and will be: Preaching, Confession, and Medieval Pastoral Care Manuscripts.



Jolie Braun

Aldus Collects 2023

By George Cowmeadow Bauman

Fun people and fun topics make for a fun evening at the Thurber Center as the Aldus Society meets once again for our annual "Aldus Collects" program on January 12th, at 7:00 PM.

George Cowmeadow Bauman will be back as M.C. The tentative line-up is:

Eric Johnson	The Life and Works of Robert E. Howard
Mike Strubel	Office of the Justice of the Peace
Margot Thacker	History of Sex
Scott Williams	"A Potpourri of Travel"
Jay Hoster	The Many Editions of Thurber's <i>Many Moons</i>
Jack Salling	The Letters of J. R. R. Tolkien, Robert L. Stevenson, and A. A. Milne

As they are presenting, imagine yourself up there next year talking about something from the world of books which you could share with us.

DEAD STORM CLIMBS WALL

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clouded flame or frames yr mouth
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Huesuda sonreía , desdentada dame
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CRAWLS BLIND FORMS HEAD

By John M. Bennett
10.3.22

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By John M. Bennett
10.15.22

Birthday Cake for Breakfast

By Tricia Herban

This was going to be my 80th birthday. It didn't seem possible and I didn't have any particular idea of how to celebrate. In my world, I just live each day as it comes and the day is reward enough. But friends wanted to know how I wanted to commemorate the occasion. They were more interested than my son and his family, but then, being mostly retired, and somewhat close to or past that milestone themselves, they had more time to appreciate its significance.

It turned out to be ten days celebration. On the day before, September 29th, a bunch of us had tickets to *Sondheim* at Otterbein. That event is always preceded by dinner. So first to a cozy Italian dinner in Westerville and thence to the play. The meal was good and we were able to park in the lot closest to the theatre. A good start!

My birthday itself involved lunch with an attorney friend, a personal assistant who I wanted to meet the elder law attorney, and my realtor son. The purpose was networking. I was hosting and we met at Cafe Istanbul—always a favorite. Everyone enjoyed getting to know each other and at its conclusion, I ordered and took out to go, two appetizers which were to be my contribution to an informal dinner with friends in the Hocking Hills that evening.

My close friend, Judy, with whom I walk regularly, picked me up at 3:30 that afternoon and we went off to our Book Group friend Brenda's family home in the Hocking Hills. We were joined by Pam, Melissa and Kathy—so a jolly party. Brenda led us on a lovely hike around the place and then we gorged on assorted appetizers and entrees. I had brought a box of chocolates, which I put out for dessert.

The sun rose on a chilly Saturday and we ambled into the kitchen for a pickup breakfast on our own schedules. When we were all assembled, Melissa said, in her usual boisterous, joyful way, "Okay Tricia, Birthday Cake for Breakfast"—and with a flourish, she brought forth an elegant cake from Mozart's. It was decorated with flower petals of chocolate and was absolutely stunning. And stunned I was. I don't even eat breakfast at home. But "Why not?" I thought! "After all, I'm 80!" So I cut it up and we all dug in. It was worth the years and worth the calories. And was I ever grinning at the unorthodox behavior!

The rest of the weekend was filled with hiking and chatting and we were sorry to leave on Sunday morning. But I had to get back to host my first large gathering in the "new place," my three bedroom apartment. The potluck filled the space—there were 16 of us. But my careful plans worked out well—food on the island, drinks at the bar and guests seated in both the dining and living rooms. Son Joe had sent a bouquet of hydrangeas and lilies which rounded out the festive setting.

After the guests left and the dishwasher was humming, I was glad to sink into a comfy chair. I still had one more thing to do—open my cards. It is the custom here, at Ohio Living, to put birthday cards under people's doors. I had actually begun receiving cards on September 29th, one day early. Due to my hectic schedule, I had just piled them on a dresser in the bedroom. By the time I returned from the weekend, more had accumulated. So I had my own, private, quiet celebration. It was very special—both the wishes and some of the carefully chosen, handmade cards.

Then, a few days of normal life—Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday—provided respite for my smile and my calorie count. On Thursday, Joe and his crew took me for an elegant dinner at The Avenue in Grandview. Each of the granddaughters had made me a card and Kylie's card brought tears to my eyes. She had spelled the word Grandma vertically on the page and each letter was the beginning of a word: "graceful, reliable, amazing, nice, dedicated, mindful, awesome." She added "Thank you" and punctuated it with a heart. Like so many of the thoughts expressed on the cards, I had no idea how people perceived me. It was an unexpected blessing. Too much to take in! Fortunately, reality brought me down to earth as the waiter inquired what birthday dessert I had chosen. Yummy cheesecake topped the meal off and we also took the opportunity to make tentative holiday plans for both Thanksgiving (here or there) and Christmas (here).

My final celebration was the "funnest," a chosen group of seven friends convened for a potluck at Melissa's. I was forbidden to "bring" so I just took her a big bouquet of herbs from our campus garden. This event was a curry dinner with 8 condiments, salad, veggies and a cheesecake torte for dessert. And, although I had urged against it—presents. I felt like a kid. Each gift was carefully chosen by the giver—a book about trees, a lovely scarf from the Museum, earbuds to entertain me on my upcoming flight to Japan, a beautiful fair trade paper cross and book of Celtic prayers, and two different offerings of flowers. My cup was full to brimming and I felt incredibly loved.

All told, I couldn't have imagined as wonderful a birthday—and it will always be summed up in my mind with the immortal phrase, "Birthday Cake for Breakfast!"

From the Aldus Archives: An Ex-POW and P.G. Wodehouse

By George Cowmeadow Bauman

(Originally published in the Winter 2014 Aldus Newsletter)

A tall, slender, silver-haired man in a tan summer-weight jacket slipped in the side door, and after we greeted each other pleasantly, he asked, "Do you have any biographies of opera singer Richard Milton?"

I replied that I didn't think we did. I've learned to be careful about stating definitively that we did or didn't have a customer's request. He seemed a little disappointed, but then began a story.

"Several years ago *The New York Times* asked for information on Milton for a book that was being written about him. I responded with my story about being in a POW hospital in Belgium during the war. We prisoners were told that we could listen to the Armed Forces Radio broadcast of Milton's singing if we would sweep the commissary floors. You never saw such clean floors, for we really liked his music!

"It's just as well you don't have one, for my wife would really get on me for bringing home another book. I have about 500 at home, including a 4-foot shelf of P. G. Wodehouse."

We talked about Wodehouse and how I acquired our large collection from a daughter selling her father's Wodehouse books, and who was amazed at what we were willing to pay for books she didn't enjoy.

"Well, he keeps me laughing, and after what I went through as a POW, aside from that great opera music, laughter is what helps me get through life."

From the Aldus Archives: How I Became a Collector

By Donald G. Tritt and Scott Williams

(Originally published in the Fall 2013 Aldus Newsletter)

The Collection: An Early "Extra Beat of the Heart" by Donald G. Tritt

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

How I Became a Collector of Travel Books by Scott Williams

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

Up-coming Aldus Programs

Michael Nye - February 9, 2023

Michael will talk about reviving the literary journal *Story* and running it in Columbus as well. *Story* was founded in 1931 and published fitfully for decades until finally shuttering in 1967. Authors published during this thirty-six year period included Nelson Algren, Sherwood Anderson, John Cheever, Truman Capote, Mary O'Hara, Carson McCullers, Norman Mailer, Anais Nin, William Saroyan, and Richard Wright.

In 2018, Michael Nye revived *Story*, establishing the magazine as a cornerstone of a non-profit, independent arts organization based in Columbus, Ohio. The revival issue appeared in March 2019, and featured new work by Marilyn Abildskov, Yohanca Delgado, Michael Martone, Phong Nguyen, Anne Valente, Dionne Irving, and Claudia Hinz. *Story* has consistently been one of the first to publish writers who have later been awarded literary honors such as the National Book Award, the Pulitzer Prize, and the PEN/Hemingway Award, and received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Institute of Arts and Letters, and the Guggenheim Foundation.



Sarah Brown - March 9, 2023

Sarah Brown is a letterpress printer based in Lancaster, Ohio who runs Questionable Press. 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.



Dan Brewster - May 11, 2023

Dan is the owner and manager of Prologue Bookshop in the Short North area of Columbus. Originally from Northeast Ohio, Dan has 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 2018, he left his software life to open Prologue Bookshop. When he was first working on setting up the bookstore, he had a blog (now no longer online) describing his process of deciding how and where to open a bookstore, which involved leaving the tech industry in California to come to Columbus.



Chris Lafave - April 13, 2023

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

