

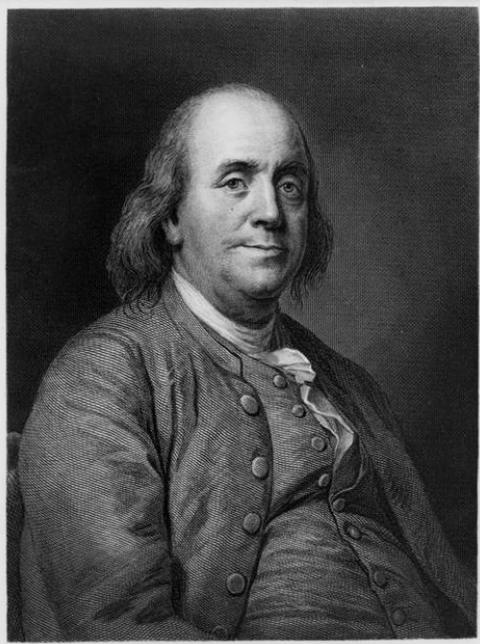


# Aldus Society Notes

Summer 2006

Volume 6, No. 4

## September to Feature Kay Kramer Speaking on Benjamin Franklin



It has been 300 years since Benjamin Franklin was born, and the Aldus Society will open its regular program season on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> with an anecdotal presentation by Kay Michael Kramer that celebrates Franklin as author, publisher, and printer. Topics will include his apprenticeship to his brother in Boston and the Silence Dogood letters; his employment by Samuel Keimer and his curious relationship with Governor Keith; his youthful sojourn in London and his work for Samuel Palmer; his return to Philadelphia and the estab-

lishment of what would become the largest and most successful printing office in North America. Tales regarding his printing of *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, *Poor Richard* and the death of Titan Leeds, *The Charters of the Province of Pensilvania and City of Philadelphia* and ... *all the Laws of the Province of Pennsylvania*, *Cicero's Cato Major*, along with anecdotes involving his fellow tradesmen: William Caslon, John Baskerville, William Strahan, and David Hall. His retirement, his 19 years in London, and his ten years in Paris, with a special focus on his press at Passy will be included. The talk will close with the curious publishing history of his *Autobiography*, and end with the history of his epitaph.

Kay Michael Kramer, retired Director of Art & Design at Mosby, a St. Louis based health science publisher, is a graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology with a degree in Printing Management. He operates The Printery, a private press employing traditional methods and materials to produce books, keepsakes, and ephemera. The Printery has its work represented in the collections of over 100 libraries and in numerous private collections on three continents.

Kay is a frequent guest lecturer on the history of typography and the printed book, modern fine printing, the private press, and book design and production. He has received numerous design awards from the Chicago Book Clinic and has also received awards from The American Institute of Graphic Arts, Association of American Publishers, Association of

Medical Illustrators, Printing Industries of America, and the New York Art Director's Club.

Kay has both judged and chaired the Chicago Book Clinic's Book Show. In addition, he is a member of the Board of Direction of the St. Louis Mercantile Library, has served on the boards of The Eugene Field House and the Kirkwood Landmarks Commission, and is the Editor of The Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies' *Newsletter*.



## Aldus Calendar

### July

**29 (Field Trip)** — Field trip to Indiana University's Lilly Library in Bloomington, Indiana (details inside).

### August

**26 (Special Program)** — Hands-on paper marbling workshop (details inside).

### September

**14 (Regular Meeting)** — Kay Kramer on Benjamin Franklin (details opposite).

### October

**12 (Regular Meeting)** — Jack Matthews, noted Ohio collector and author, on book collecting.

### November

**9 (Regular Meeting)** — John Crichton, proprietor of San Francisco's Brick Row Book Shop and Past President of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America speaking on the antiquarian book trade.

### December

**? (Holiday Dinner)** — Our annual holiday get-together. Date to be announced.



## The Aldus Society

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#### MEMBERSHIP

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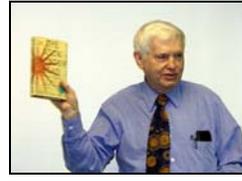
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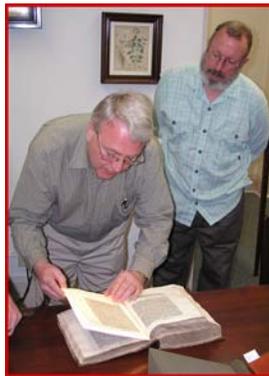
## Read • Eat • Sleep

Bill Evans

Recently, my son Paul introduced me to an experimental music duo called The Books and a song(?) called "Read, Eat, Sleep." The words are never spoken, but are spelled out as part of a trance-like sound collage. Dick Clark wouldn't give it a ten and you sure couldn't dance to it, but what a great mantra! Read, Eat, Sleep. I like that. I guess some mention of a day job would make it more realistic, but as summers have become less relaxing and more tightly scheduled, it sure sounds good to me.



This year has been slipping steadily away, but has been full of good book things. Both the Thurber House Evenings with Authors and Literary Picnics series are always worth consideration and it's good to see other Aldus members at those events. The New York Antiquarian Book Fair has quickly become an annual addiction of mine. This year I actually bought something and as Ron Ravneberg knows perfectly well – it's a slippery slope! The monthly Aldus Society meetings just keep getting better and better. So far this year we've featured Harry Campbell (*This Old Book*), Bob Tauber (*Logan Elm Press*), Michael Zwettler (*Arabic Manuscripts*), Owen Gingerich (*The Book Nobody Read*), and Fred Pfening (*Circus Collectibles*). Bill Rich and Helen Liebman really deserve a lot of thanks for their programming efforts. Yet to come this summer are a trip to the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Indiana and a Paper Marbling workshop at the studio of Ann Woods.



Then there's my personal favorite – Geoff Smith's First Saturday program at the OSU Rare Books room. Month after month, Geoff and his staff pull copies of some of the rarest and most important books in the world. Today was yet another treat as Ron Ravneberg and Willkie Cirker presented some high spots in the science collection at OSU. Pliny the Elder, Galileo, Darwin, Einstein, Galen, Pavlov, Euclid . . . an incredible trove of knowledge. Last month it was Bill Rich speaking about 18<sup>th</sup> Century English literature. If we don't take advantage of Geoff and the OSU collection we are really missing out. (How many people do you know who have held – not just seen – one of the eighteen known first edition copies of *Don Quixote*?) Enjoy and have a great summer!

Read, Eat, Sleep.



## Aldus Society Meetings

Regular meetings of the Aldus Society are held at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of the month at

The Thurber Center  
91 Jefferson Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio

☞ Socializing Begins One-Half Hour Before ☞



Visit the Aldus Society web site for up-to-date information about our programs and activities, in-depth articles about many of our speakers, and links to other book related organizations.

[www.AldusSociety.com](http://www.AldusSociety.com)

# A “Bookstore-y”

**George Cowmeadow Bauman**  
Co-owner, The Acorn Bookshop

## A Coffee Booktable

There seems to be an American cultural fascination with bookstores and booksellers. Apparently there is a mystique to our profession that intrigues even those whose Visa cards would never be slapped down upon our counters.

Articles about our trade appear on a regular basis in mainstream newspapers and magazines. Back in the 1930s, Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach was considered the dean of American antiquarian book-selling. His successes at the most exclusive auction houses were so publicized that he was asked by the *Saturday Evening Post* to become a regular contributor to that mainstream weekly American magazine. His articles and his entertaining books detailed his bibliopolic adventures and were eagerly read and purchased by a public enamored of such high-end bookdealing. A *BOOK-HUNTER’S HOLIDAY* and *BOOKS AND BIDDERS* were quite popular in their time, capitalizing on the headlines he made by the books he bought and sold.

Within this last decade, Nancy and Lawrence Goldstone have written several wonderful books about hitting the bookshops and book fairs of New England to build a small personal library. *USED AND RARE* and *SLIGHTLY CHIPPED* have sold well, and have added to that public perception of bookdealers as magicians – able to find good books everywhere and to turn them into an appealing inventory that lures readers and collectors into their shops. Quite willingly those booklovers leave behind a few dollars or more to take home books for their own collection, no matter how modest.

Hollywood has added to that cultural attachment to bookstores with movies such as “You’ve Got Mail”, “Notting Hill”, “The Love Letter”, and “84 Charing Cross Road”, all featuring major film stars. (I’m holding out for Robert Redford to portray me in the film adaptation of my bookstore-ied life!)

The book industry has for years published non-fiction books about bookstores, and that large body of work is the focus of my longtime primary research project – an annotated bibliography of the literature of American bookselling. But those volumes generally don’t get much attention outside the trade.



However, there are several fictional series of booksellers as protagonists that have caught the reading public’s imagination: Lawrence Block’s “The Burglar Who” series, Carolyn G. Hart’s “Death on Demand” books, and Joan Hess’ “Claire Malloy” series. All do well for their publishers.

This fascination may have something to do in part with the widely-held perception that owning a bookstore would be a cool way to spend one’s life.

Countless times booksellers have been told by customers that “this would be my dream job”. I’d have a fantastic library if I had been given one collectible book each time I had heard someone confess to a secret desire to have their own bookstore. Just last week, one of my customers sighed and said, “In my other life, this is what I would do – own a bookstore.”

Many of those folks imagine us sitting around all day, reading and waiting for customers to come in and share a few bon mots. Christopher Morley wrote in *THE HAUNTED BOOKSHOP*: “Some of my habitués expect me to be on hand to gossip about books.”

They envision us in rather a “Lord of the Bookshop” setting.

The conversations with patrons do happen, and are (mostly) quite enjoyable, but as for having time to read the day away, that’s as big a fantasy as “Lord of the Rings”.



Recently our own modest bookshop has been in the public’s eye, along with others in the Columbus area. And no, not in the bankruptcy notices in the Business section of the local paper. We’re doing just fine.

Along with our Central Ohio colleagues, we were part of positive articles in both *Business First* and *The Columbus Dispatch*, published within several months of each other.

I’ve been interviewed quite a few times over the last 40 years as a bookseller, so, while these latest articles were complimentary, I wasn’t going to let my head get to be the size of a Victorian Bible.

I remember one interview from the past in particular, when I was the manager of the Bethany College (WV) Bookstore. A serious sophomore from a Sociology class came to my tiny office at the back of the bookstore and inquired if she could ask me a few questions.

While at Bethany, I’d become something of a character, known widely – and almost exclusively – as “Bookstore George”, on campus and in the small village of Bethany (pop. 800). Those days are worthy of many store-ies of their own.

I’d been interviewed many times for a variety of reasons by the various Bethany media – radio, TV, and campus paper. I was a good interviewee – a fun subject, ready with quips and quotes.

I asked the Sociology student why she had chosen me for her class project, and her reply resonates in me 20 – no, almost 30 years later: “We were assigned to interview someone middle-aged, and you were the first person I thought of.”

As a 32-year-old bachelor, I was a bit shaken by this 19-year-old’s perception of me as “middle-aged”. I was partying late nearly every night in those days of the post-hippie 70s, having a great time in a college environment. I probably could have out-partied that young co-ed, who was waiting for some quotable response to her statement from her middle-aged interview subject.

A large part of that sensitivity to aging came about for those of us who came of age along with Abby Hoffman and Jerry Rubin around the 1970 cusp of the activist 60s and 70s. One of the protest chants against the Vietnam War, against pollution, against multi-national corporations, and more, was “Don’t trust anyone over 30!”

As one of those protesters and chanters, I had a very difficult time turning 30. Though memories of the actual birthday remain lost in the mists of ... those days, my family tells me that I was a very miserable person that December, unwilling to talk to anyone as I joined the age of untrustworthies.

Maybe I was still smarting from that uncomfortable rite of passage when that interviewer caught me in my Bethany office, but I don’t remember a thing about the rest of the session, though I’m sure she went away with good copy. For me, just getting through the rest of the day knowing that I was now being perceived as having joined the great masses of the middle-aged – the same chronological age-set that I perceived my parents and their friends in – was a challenge.

When the young woman from *Business First* called this past spring for an interview about the viability of books as investments, appropriate for her business-oriented readership, I said, sure, come on out. It went well – she’d asked for 10 minutes and taken 45. She refrained from commenting on my age bracket, which now at 58 entitles me to membership in AARP, which has long been perceived as the organization for – how can I say this? – senior citizens. Ouch!

That *BF* article didn’t receive all that much public scrutiny, as the circulation is much less than the *Dispatch*. But the business community did read it, and a couple of customers did comment on it. I received a phone call from one guy congratulating me on the wonderful write up, which I thought a bit effusive for modest significance of this article. Turns out he was a salesman for a company that wanted me to buy a laminated and framed reproduction of the story – for only \$299...

A few months later, the *Dispatch* – which is now the only daily in Capitol City – ran a large article with photographs on the secondhand bookstores of Columbus, in which my quotes were featured prominently. The article’s author – and *Dispatch* book editor – Bill Eichenberger, had asked me for

updated information on the city’s bookshops. I’d made some phone calls on his behalf and reported back to him on their hours and areas of specializations.

Over the next several days, regulars to the shop either brought in extra copies of the *Dispatch* story for us, or commented on the rather large article, placed in a position of significance – above the fold on the back page of the “Accent” section of the paper, considered the second lead story after the front page of the section. We had posted the article in the store for our customers to see.

Bookscout Mike Giffin came in talking about the piece, and noted that “Karen (of Karen Wickliff Books) got the picture, but you got the quotes!”

One couple walked in and, waving aloft the boxed listings of the Columbus bookshops, announced, “We saw the article in the paper yesterday about the secondhand bookshops in town, and decided to just start at the top with Acorn and work our way down the list, so here we are!”



The best post-publication store-y came from a 23-year-old blonde who was buying a couple of paperback fictions. (I learned her age from the OSU credit card she used to pay for her books. The back of the card said to ask for an ID, and when her driver’s license was offered, I noted – as I do in most such situations – the year of birth.)

“I saw the article about you in the paper (We were learning that a number of readers thought the article mainly about Acorn.), and we wanted to stop in and look around.” I thanked her for visiting, and noted that she seemed hesitant to take her bag of books and leave.

Then her curly-haired male friend nudged her, and with some embarrassment she said, “I have, like, probably the weirdest question you’ve ever heard!”

I knew immediately that it wouldn’t, like, be The Weirdest Question I Ever Heard, and it wasn’t – though the thinking behind the question *was* original. (Perhaps the strangest request we’ve had was for a book that was big enough to hollow out in order to hide a gun inside.)

With an infectious smile she said, “I would like buy a lot of very cheap books, as many as 60!”

No surprise so far. We get occasional requests such as this one, including one from the owner of a popular local bar who wanted to create a wall of books as tavern décor: “They might actually be looked at, but usually customers aren’t in my bar to read books!”

(Apparently Linda and I have not visited his establishment with our books along, not for décor, but to read several chapters while relaxing in a comfortable environment, as we have many others. Perhaps the best example of this kind of bar was at the Prince of Wales Hotel in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. The tavern has been designed to look like a library, with handsome book-filled bookcases on every wall

and dark brown leather chairs to read and drink in. We visited that place three times in the four days spent at Niagara Falls.)

So having someone interested in buying a quantity of inexpensive books – “books by the yard” – was not new to us.

I mentioned our clearance table and carts, which featured books priced mostly at \$1, with a few daring to rise as high as \$4 or \$5. She replied that she needed something a little cheaper.

“Perhaps going to a thrift store would fill your needs and meet your budget, for most of the books there sell for just 79¢,” I informed her, but that was also too much for her limited budget. She seemed surprised that I would recommend another store and lose the sale for our shop.

I was willing to send her someplace else for her books because of the philosophy that was espoused by Macy’s Santa Claus in “Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street”: if we don’t have what you’re looking for, we’ll provide information – if we can – as to where you might find your desired merchandise.

On many occasions throughout the year, we call other stores to help customers find their desiderata. And if we can’t find it locally for them, we suggest they try the various used-books websites on the Internet. This really surprises some people, as they have heard about the serious competition between online and real bookstores. They would find out about where to search on the Web anyway, so why not earn some warm and fuzzy for being the book director in their lives? It might pay off with sales in the future; it might not. But we look like the good guys for having helped them along their path that day.

To gain time to think about her request for cheap books, I asked the purpose of the purchase.

She giggled, and her friend bemusedly shook his head.

“I want to make a bedside table out of books, topped with glass!” and without prompting, she chattered on. “At Banana Republic I saw this really cool display of boxes covered with paper that had a book design! And knew I could do something like that in my bedroom!”

(She spoke consistently with exclamation marks, her enthusiasm! out! of! control!!!)

A very creative idea, I told her, thinking that I would appreciate something like that table. (But I have no do-it-yourself abilities, which must send my carpenter-grandfather’s body into a serious grave-spin. Anytime I pick up the hammer for even the most minor of projects, Linda scoops up the cats in her arms and runs screaming to the bedroom, foreseeing disaster.)

I then remembered the boxes of books we had downstairs ready to donate to the Friends of the Grandview Library, and said, “Have I got a deal for you!”

She laughed with anticipation, and he looked skeptical – far too young to be so obviously distrustful.

“How about 60 books for 50¢ each?”

“Yeah! That would work!” she quickly enthused.

“Come with me,” I directed them, and we clomped noisily down the steps in the back, all of us wearing winter boots because of the recent snowfall.

Moments later the two of them carried two large boxes out into the snowplowed parking lot, happy to have found books within her budget.

Someday she’ll set her morning beverage on her project; my books that became coffee tablebooks.

And I can mention that the next time I have a chance to tell a store-y about bookstores and booksellers.

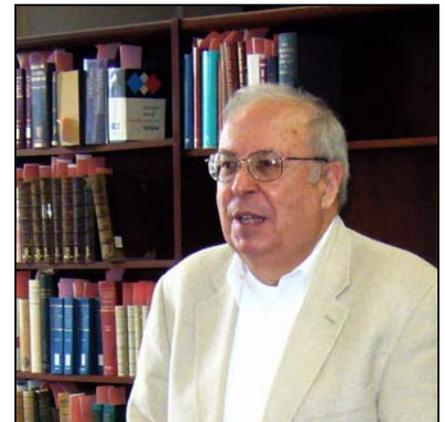


## Book Hunting Notes

Bill Rich

Archaeology is not one of the most avidly pursued areas in book collecting, although there seems to be some slightly increasing popularity. Perhaps media hits, from “Indiana Jones” to the “Da Vinci Code” and the “Judas Gospel” are awakening consciousness. Nevertheless, it is possible to pursue the great books in archaeology on a reasonable budget, with some notable exceptions. I have done this for quite a while, and particularly sought the first publications of the famous archaeological discoveries. Such “armchair archaeology” has a special thrill of discovery, and has the added interest of a basis in fact, in contrast to the legendary aspects of the thrillers just mentioned.

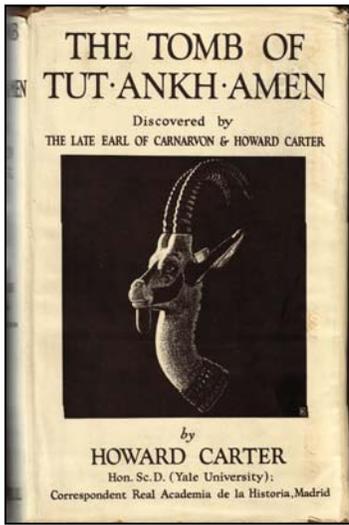
Compared to the great books in literature, the high spots in archaeology do not necessarily gravitate to the specialist antiquarian booksellers in the major centers of the trade. Key books may be found in many a second hand dealers stock – perhaps put aside, in recognition of being something special, but still there for the book hunter. Looking over my collection, I have selected two mighty books in the area, both obtained during my residence in town, off the shelves of Columbus dealers.



**Howard Carter and A. C. Mace,  
“The Tomb of Tut-ankh-amen”  
3 volumes, London, 1923, 1927, 1933.**

This is the prototypical great discovery book in archaeology, and was published over a period of 10 years, following Carter’s finding of the tomb in 1922. It is hard to assemble a matched set of all 3 volumes, the last volume being espe-

cially difficult, having come out in the depths of the Depression with a smaller printing, when interest in the great discovery had begun to wane. The illustration shows the scarce Vol. 3 of this set. The image on the dust jacket is one of the less commonly-reproduced treasures from the tomb. It is a beautifully carved, painted and gilded ibex head, which is

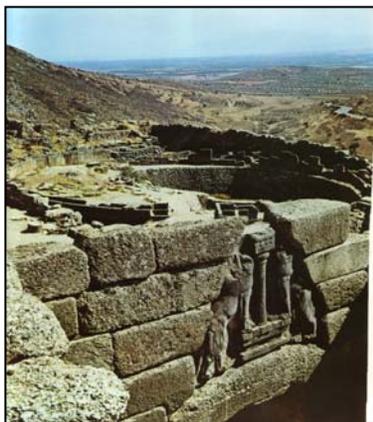


actually the figurehead of a small model boat, which, in Carter's words, is a "centerpiece-piece (for what else could it be?)." I had long contented myself with owning copies of the first American printings of the first two volumes, published the same years as the London true firsts. But in 1990, Pengwyn Books had these fine copies of the 3 volumes of the London firsts, in very good dust jackets. There is a slight bar sinister on these copies, in

that volume 1 is a 4<sup>th</sup> printing, and that there are two or three pages with minor marginal notations, by a previous owner. I was told this owner was an elderly gent interested in Egyptology as part of his studies of African origins of the human species. At the time, I had the opportunity to buy many other anthropological/archaeological books from his library. Unfortunately, he had discovered fluorescent highlighters, and ruined most of these for a collector, a treatment that, for some reason, "The Tomb..." had escaped. All in all, these are as fine "King Tut" firsts as I can ever hope for.

**Alan J. B. Wace,  
"Mycenae. An Archaeological History and Guide"  
Princeton, 1949**

The second illustration shows the famous "Lion Gate" at Mycenae. This ancient capital of the Greek heroes of the Trojan War is only a 60 mile bus ride from Athens. The great lions over the main gate are the oldest monumental sculpture in Europe, and were built around 1350 BC, almost a thousand years earlier than Athens in her heyday. The lions, and the massive "cyclopean" citadel walls they surmount, have always been there, for more than 3 millennia; these are not an archaeological discovery. No one knows when the heads were lost.



By the time of the classical Greeks, Mycenae was a small village, with only the great ruined walls remaining to suggest the glories of Homeric

times. But none of these Greeks doubted the essential truths of Homer's account of the Trojan War and its aftermath. The ancient citadel was the capital of Agamemnon, "King of Men", who led the expedition against Troy. But in modern times, scholars began to have serious doubts. Perhaps the Odyssey and the Iliad contained only myth – or, at best, only a small kernel of historical truth. In the 1880's Heinrich Schliemann excavated at Mycenae, and uncovered the Palace and the circle of princely graves immediately within the main gate. This famous "Grave Circle" remains uncovered to this day – it can be seen immediately behind the lion portal in the illustration. The graves were filled with sumptuous artifacts, wrought in gold and other precious materials, which are now centerpieces in the National Museum in Athens.

Schliemann was convinced he had uncovered the graves of Agamemnon and his family, but within a decade of his discovery, the serious doubts returned. Sir Arthur Evans uncovered an even earlier European civilization on Crete. Beginning in 1900, and continuing for more than 20 years, Evans excavated the great palace at Knossos on the island. Here was evidence of a great civilization, which Evans dubbed "Minoan", after the legendary King Minos, who created the fabled Labyrinth at Knossos. Evans believed that the later palace at Mycenae and other palaces on the Greek mainland were cultural offshoots of Minoan society, perhaps even colonies ruled from Knossos. And his Minoans were literate – in the ruins of Knossos, thousand of clay tablets were found, written in a phonetic system that Evans could not decipher. The writing method was certainly not the Greek alphabet, not even in an early form. At the time, there was no such evidence of literacy in the ruined Homeric palaces on the Greek mainland. Most archaeologists now doubted that this early civilization was that of any Greek-speaking people, and this doubt extended to the mainland palaces. Perhaps the Homeric poems were indeed pure legend, or, at most, a fiction contrived by the later-arriving Greeks to explain the "Cyclopean" ruins even then visible above ground, a founding myth such as many ancient peoples have devised.

All this was changed by the work of Alan Wace and a small group of brilliant archaeologists and philologists, working in the decades around 1950. Arthur Evans died in 1940, and Wace became the Director of the British School of Classical Studies at Athens. Wace's excavations at Mycenae gave a sound modern scientific complement to the earlier work of Schliemann and his successors. Wace uncovered the throne room of Agamemnon's palace. If you have the wind power (in the hot Peloponnesian sun) to hike up the top of the citadel at Mycenae from the Lion Gate, this can be seen to this day. There is the location of the throne, before the great hearth in the center of the throne room, even a basin and a drain beside the throne, for King Agamemnon to pour out libations, and wish confusion on the Trojans, or implore Zeus to get him a better sister-in-law. And Zeus it was who was evidently being implored. Wace and his colleagues found, finally, written clay tablets at Mycenae, and, most importantly, in the ruins of the other Homeric palaces –

King Nestor's Pylos, excavated by University of Cincinnati's Carl Blegen at this time, yielded extensive documents. The form of writing was one of the phonetic scripts, the form called by Evans "Linear B", that he had found at Knossos. But in 1952 this script was deciphered, and found to be an early form of Greek, predating the alphabetic way of writing Greek by some 500 years. And the names of the gods, the familiar Olympian pantheon, were there to be read. Wace and his colleagues had extended the roots of Western civilization back 3,500 years.

While I have managed to collect the English language firsts of Schliemann, Evans, Blegen and many of the others, I had long been content with a humble reprint of Wace's "Myce-nae". But last year, there was this fine copy of the 1949 Princeton first in Hoffman's Book Shop. Immediate discussion with Ed Hoffman ensued, and this seminal book was mine for 80% of the asking price plus the reprint as a "trade-in". And I feel much better for having spent four times the price of my reprint. It isn't true that a reprint reads "just as well".



## The 2006 New York Antiquarian Book Fair

David Reiff

I have been to the 2003 and 2005 book fairs but this year I attended in a semi-official role as the new Treasurer of the Aldus Society. It left quite an impression.



On the Thursday afternoon prior to the start of the book fair The Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies (FABS) holds its annual meeting at the Grolier Club on East 60th Street. It has the atmosphere of one of those Victorian gentlemen's clubs; I almost expected Sir John Gielguld to stroll in wearing

black tie and tails carrying good cigars and old scotch on a silver tray. Anyway, the Aldus Society was well represented: Bill Evans looking natty in his official blue FABS bowtie, Geoff Smith listening intently with his hands folded before him on the table, Ron Ravneberg (the new FABS secretary) hunched over his laptop typing furiously as he glanced furtively at whomever was speaking, and I trying to keep from gaping at the paneled walls lined with impressive-looking books. Others represented bibliophilic societies from around the country such as Dr. John Carson (California), Bob Jackson (Cleveland), Bruce McKittrick (Pennsylvania), Kay Kramer (Missouri), Leslie Overstreet (Washington D.C.) and some others whose names escape me. The meeting was uneventful other than a rather long discussion regarding how best to publicize the 20% FABS member discount on the recently published book *Book Talk*. The meeting was followed by a lovely reception in the exhibit hall for Grolier Club and FABS members.

The FABS meeting was impressive but the book fair's opening charity soiree that evening was memorable. It's held at the Armory on Manhattan's poshy upper eastside. After entering, you can gander at paintings of important, if not too famous, soldiers and some very ragged banners hanging from the ceiling including one from the duly famous Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>.

After providing our \$100 donations to The New York Public Library, Bill, Ron and I boldly strode where certainly no Reiff has gone before. What an opportunity to hobnob with the glitterati of the bibliophilic world. I grasped a glass of champagne and looked around the room. There were aisles of booths with books, prints, maps, memorabilia, documents, etc. But what first caught my eye was a woman in a short, slinky silver dress with spiked silver high heels and long, curly bleach-blond hair. She turned to speak to someone and I blinked as I stared at one of the homeliest people I've ever seen. When she spoke to her companion the voice was quite deeper than mine! Realizing at what I was by this time staring, I turned about, grabbed another glass of champagne and headed off in another direction. (I later learned the book fair does indeed have a transvestite regularly attend each year – imagine that.)

We spent the next two days (off and on) browsing the book fair. Dealers from all around the world bring their wares to display and (it is hoped) sell. One dealer from Argentina displayed two near life-sized posters of Eva and Juan Peron. At another, I beheld a stunning display of antiquarian maps; I was especially impressed with one of late medieval Venice. I could have picked up a first edition of the very first Harry Potter novel for a mere \$16,000 or a first edition of *De Revolutionibus* by Copernicus for a not-so-mere \$1.3 million (it's the same book we saw last year for \$1.25 million). It is interesting to note that this year, for some reason, there seemed to be a greater emphasis on modern first editions, maps, and prints than before.

There was one interesting juxtaposition. A dealer was asking \$33,000 for a scribbled note on White House stationary and signed by George W. Bush in mid-February, 2006. Another dealer had a 1787 letter from George Washington at Mt. Vernon to John Dickinson in Philadelphia; they were asking \$35,000. There just seemed to be something wrong with that picture. I should add that the Washington letter sold; the Bush letter did not.

Soon, I needed some fresh air. As I was standing in front of the Armory where the book fair is held, I was approached by someone who appeared to be Zero Mostel dressed as Max Bialstock from *The Producers*. He really did look like Zero/Max with hair sticking out in all directions from underneath one of those flat golf caps and completely mismatched clothing. He was actually a book dealer but did not have a booth this year or so he said. After about a half hour listening to him complain about the unfair competition from well-heeled book dealers and his unrequited attempts to ply Katie Couric with gifts, I rudely walked away in mid-sentence.

Geoff Smith spent a good deal of his time at the book fair identifying acquisitions to make on behalf of the Ohio State University. His focus was on antiquarian cook books, significant scientific books and papers as well as 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century English and American fiction. Ron and I sort of assisted in keeping an eye out for those things in which he was interested and he was able to make some important additions to the university's collections.

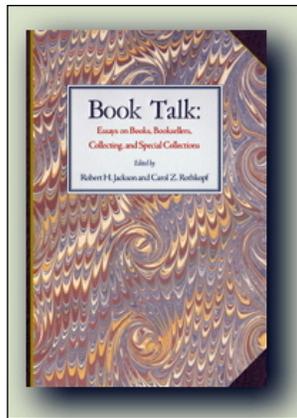
By Saturday afternoon we all were about spent. We trudged toward the Armory on Manhattan's posh upper east side for our last visit. We had just crossed a street when we noticed a very dirty presumably homeless man sitting on the sidewalk half leaning against the wall of a building. He turned a weary head in our direction, lifted a shaky hand and spoke. "Hey, you got any change for an iced cappuccino?" We looked at each other as if to ask "Did you hear what I think I did?" We had indeed.

The New York Book Fair and FABS meeting provided me a genuine introduction to art and science of book appreciation and collecting. Where else can you meet with some of the top bibliophiles in the country or walk through a museum on the history of books and printing and you are not only permitted, but encouraged, to touch the artifacts.



## Book Talk

The Fellowship of Bibliophilic Societies (FABS) and Oak Knoll Press have collaborated on the creation of a publication for today's book collector. Following in the tradition of John Carter, Graham Pollard, and Michael Sadlier, *Book Talk: Essays on Books, Booksellers, Collecting and Special Collections* takes the reader on a tour of some major ideas and controversies now current in the rare book world. Aldus Society member Robert H. Jackson has assembled these writings of an eminent group of scholars, publishers, librarians (including Geoff Smith), booksellers, and collectors that address issues facing contemporary society. Topics such as the future of the book in a printed-format, the internet and collecting trends are some of the issues discussed. This important work belongs on the reading list of all book lovers.



The book lists for \$49.95 is available directly from Oak Knoll Press:

[www.oakknoll.com/](http://www.oakknoll.com/)

Be sure to mention that you're a member of the Aldus Society, a FABS organization, to qualify for a 20% FABS discount.



## A July Trip to the Lilly Library

The Aldus Society is heading out of state! We have checked with Joel Silver, Curator of Books at Indiana University's Lilly Library (Bloomington, Indiana), and he would be pleased to entertain members of the Aldus Society for a personal tour of the Lilly Library on Saturday, July 29th.

The Lilly Library is one of the great special collections libraries in the world, and its holdings include about 400,000 books, more than 100,000 pieces of sheet music, and more than 6.5 million manuscripts. Information about the library can be found at:

[www.indiana.edu/~liblilly/index.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~liblilly/index.html)

Unfortunately, our group size and security issues preclude the option of really getting "behind the scenes" in the vault. However, Joel has said he would have some of the Lilly's treasures out and available for us to view. And, like any good radio station, Joel is willing to take requests. If there's something that the Lilly Library has that people would like to see, we need to let him know in advance so he could have it for us to see (the Four Shakespeare Folios perhaps?). He'd need to know beforehand, however. Their staffing is limited on a Saturday afternoons (the Library formally closes at 1:00 PM), so it would be difficult for him to pull things on the spot. (Only a portion of the Lilly Library's collection is online, so if there's something you don't "see" in their computerized catalog, they might still have it, but we'd need to ask.)

If there's enough interest in this trip, the Aldus Society will look into transportation. Otherwise, we can arrange car pools. We plan to leave Columbus around 7:30-8:00 AM, get to Bloomington around noon, grab a quick lunch, and be at the Lilly around 1:00 PM for an afternoon tour. After a few hours at the Library, we'll think about heading back, stopping for a group dinner along the way.

If you're interested in this field trip, please respond by e-mailing Ron Ravneberg at [AldusSociety@aol.com](mailto:AldusSociety@aol.com). Don't forget to mention any special items in the Lilly collections that you'd particularly like to see and whether you'd be willing to drive if we car pool.



## Hands-On Paper Marbling Workshop in August

To lovers of old leather-bound books, the enticing patterns of marbled end sheets and decorated bindings are not new. What may be new, though, is how those patterns were achieved and why they don't just wash away. Join Aldus members for a marbling workshop, led by Ann Alaia Woods, to find out. Using special tools and equipment, we will reproduce some of the traditional patterns of Turkish (watercolor) marbling and, as time allows, play with some freestyle approaches. All the chemistry has been done ahead – just come prepared to have a good time!

The workshop will be on Saturday, August 26, 2006, at Ann's studio, 3304 Grasmere Avenue, Columbus 43224. We're scheduling two sessions, as interest permits: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM and 1:30 PM – 5:30 PM. Space is limited to 8 people in each session. The cost for Aldus members is \$35 per person, which covers all supplies.

Please respond, indicating your preference as to the morning or afternoon session, by e-mailing Helen Liebman at [hlliebman@jonesday.com](mailto:hlliebman@jonesday.com). Further details will be provided to those who sign up.



## Picturebook Symposium to be Held in September

What are the criteria used to evaluate picturebooks by those who create them, those who publish them, those who review them, and those who purchase picturebooks?

To help answer this and similar questions, the Center for the Art of the Picturebook will be sponsoring a Picturebook Symposium on September 30<sup>th</sup> at the Canzani Center of the Columbus College of Art and Design.

There will be four panel presentations. Different panelists will address issues that impact their involvement with picturebooks: creating, publishing, marketing, reviewing, and selecting for stores, schools, public libraries and personal uses.

Panelists include authors/illustrators David Macaulay, Will and Jane Hillenbrand, and publishers/editors Judy O'Malley, Stephen Roxburgh, and Margery Cuyler. Columbus area children's literature specialists will be included in the discussions.

The registration fee is \$45. This includes rolls and coffee before the symposium, a box lunch and beverages. The deadline for registration is September 15. There will be no registration at the door. Make checks payable to Columbus College of Art and Design. Your canceled check will be your receipt.

Sponsors of the symposium include The Ohio Arts Council, Columbus College of Art and Design, The Ohio State University, Borders Books, and Boyds Mill Press.

If you have questions or would like more information, contact Beth Clark at 3252 Avalon Road; Columbus, Ohio 43221, or at [clark\\_beth@mail.dublin.k12.oh.us](mailto:clark_beth@mail.dublin.k12.oh.us).



## OSU Library Update

### Rare Books and Manuscripts Library Temporarily Closed

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Library of The Ohio State University Libraries was closed from May 30 to July 10,

2006. In preparation for the \$105 million renovation of the Thompson Library beginning in the fall of 2006, the building must be emptied. Rare Books was the first unit to vacate the building. For the past year, staff have been moving the materials into a temporary facility.



On July 10, Rare Books reopened in its temporary home at the Ohio State University Archives, 2700 Kenny Road, Columbus. It is anticipated that Rare Books will be in this location until Autumn 2009. Please address questions via e-mail to Geoffrey D. Smith at [smith.1@osu.edu](mailto:smith.1@osu.edu) or by phone at (614) 292-5938.

### Thompson Library Move Scheduled for this Summer, Closing Set for September

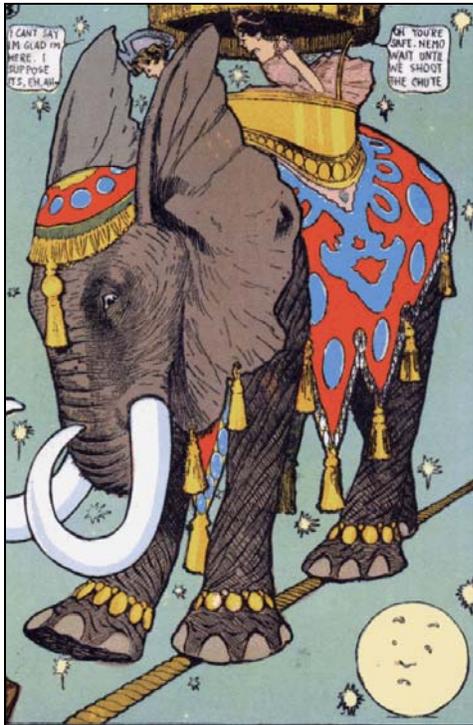
Preparations will soon begin for the move of materials and staff from the Thompson Library as the renovation project begins. Plans call for materials to be moved beginning in mid-August and continuing through early October. The Thompson Library collections will be moved to the new Ackerman Library, 600 Ackerman Road (set to open this summer), the Sullivant Library in Sullivant Hall, and the Libraries' Book Depository. Library staff and offices will be relocated in September and October. The Thompson Library is set to close for the three-year renovation project during the fall. Library services will be maintained during the renovation, from the Ackerman Library and the other central campus libraries. Bus service will be provided from central campus to the Ackerman Library, which also has convenient nearby parking. The Libraries will provide students with information on alternate study spaces that will be available across campus during the renovation. See the Libraries' renovation site for complete details on the project.

[www.lib.ohio-state.edu/sites/renovation/](http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/sites/renovation/)

### Cartoon Research Library Acquires Winsor McCay Collection

The OSU Cartoon Research Library has acquired original, hand-colored drawings from Winsor McCay's first comic strip, *Tales of the Jungle Imps*. Best known for his comic strip *Little Nemo in Slumberland*, McCay has been described

variously as ‘the first authentic genius in the comic strip medium,’ ‘one of American’s rare, great fantasists,’ and a cartoonist for whom there has been ‘no equal before or since.’



During the 1890s McCay worked as an artist for the Vine Street Dime Museum and Palace Theater in Cincinnati. In 1900 he joined the staff of the Cincinnati Enquirer as an artist/reporter. In 1903 he created 43 episodes of *The Tales of the Jungle Imps*, illustrated stories about pixies and the imaginary animals they encounter that were printed full-page in color.

Until January 2006 none of the original drawings created by McCay had been seen for more than a century. The Cartoon Research Library acquired five of the original hand-colored drawings from their finder, who has asked to remain anonymous: ‘*How the Turtle Got His Shell*,’ ‘*How the Quillpig Got His Quills*,’ ‘*How the Rhinoceros Lost His Beauty*,’ ‘*How the Hound Got So Thin*,’ and ‘*Fourth of July in the Jungle*.’

The works are currently undergoing conservation treatment. They will be exhibited to the public in the Cartoon Research Library’s Reading Room Gallery June 15<sup>th</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup> and a digital album of the strips is forthcoming on the library’s Web site: <http://cartoons.osu.edu/>.

For additional information, contact The Ohio State University Cartoon Research Library at 614-292-0538 or [cartoons@osu.edu](mailto:cartoons@osu.edu).



## Bookmaking Workshop Held

In July, Peter Chan, Assistant Professor in OSU’s Department of Industrial, Interior and Visual Communication Design, and Bob Tauber, Book Arts Specialist in OSU Libraries Office of Preservation, teamed up to offer an in-

tensive one-week workshop/seminar introducing OSU graphic design students to the bookmaking process. Each student explored basic concepts and practices in the construction of books, including editorial decision-making, writing, design, illustration, layout and production of a hand-bound prototypical book or finished dummy.



Using their own names as the theme for their books, and using mostly non-adhesive bookbinding structures and techniques, along with commonly available tools and materials, students employed typographic elements, graphic elements and images (photography, illustrations, etc.), assorted papers, shaped and folded pages, along with collage, embossing and die cutting techniques to develop skills, insights and appreciation for the role of different materials, structures and design concepts in the bookmaking process. Simple pamphlet bindings, unusual folds, inventive sewing, multiple sections sewn and hinged directly into self-wrapped covers, and concertina pleats or accordion folds, were introduced to the students along with historical book formats to provide opportunities for innovation and variation.



## I’ll Never Forget ...

*There’s one day that I recall, though it was years ago.  
All my life I will remember it, I know.  
I’ll never forget the day I read a book.*

*It was contagious, seventy pages.  
There were pictures here and there,  
So it wasn’t hard to bear,  
The day I read a book.*

*It’s a shame I don’t recall the name of the book.  
It wasn’t a history. I know because it had no plot.  
It wasn’t a mystery, because nobody there got shot.*

*The day I read a book – I can’t remember when,  
But one o’ these days, I’m gonna do it again.*

(I’LL NEVER FORGET) THE DAY I READ A BOOK  
Jimmy Durante and Jackie Barnett



# Announcing the New Device: Built-In Orderly Organized Knowledge (BOOK)

The BOOK is a revolutionary breakthrough in technology: No wires, no electric circuits, no batteries, nothing to be connected or switched on. It's so easy to use even a child can operate it. Just lift its cover!

Compact and portable, it can be used anywhere - even sitting in an armchair by the fire - yet it is powerful enough to hold as much information as a CD-ROM disc. Here's how it works...

Each BOOK is constructed of sequentially numbered sheets of paper (recyclable), each capable of holding thousands of bits of information. These pages are locked together with a custom-fit device called a binder which keeps the sheets in their correct sequence. Opaque Paper Technology (OPT) allows manufacturers to use both sides of the sheet, doubling the information density and cutting costs in half.

Experts are divided on the prospects for further increases in information density; for now BOOKs with more information simply use more pages. This makes them thicker and harder to carry, and has drawn some criticism from the mobile computing crowd.

Each sheet is scanned optically, registering information directly into your brain. A flick of the finger takes you to the next sheet. The BOOK may be taken up at any time and used by merely opening it. The BOOK never crashes and never needs rebooting, though like other display devices it can become unusable if dropped overboard. The "browse" feature allows you to move instantly to any sheet, and move forward or backward as you wish.

Many come with an "index" feature, which pinpoints the exact location of any selected information for instant retrieval. An optional "BOOKmark" accessory allows you to open the BOOK to the exact place you left it in a previous session -even if the BOOK has been closed. BOOKmarks fit universal design standards; thus, a single BOOKmark can be used in BOOKs by various manufacturers. Conversely, numerous BOOKmarks can be used in a single BOOK if the user wants to store numerous views at once. The number is limited only by the number of pages in the BOOK.

You can also make personal notes next to BOOK text entries with an optional programming tool, the Portable Erasable Nib Cryptic Intercommunication Language Stylus (PENCILS).

Portable, durable, and affordable, the BOOK is being hailed as the entertainment wave of the future. The BOOK's appeal seems so certain that thousands of content creators have committed to the platform. Look for a flood of new titles soon.

*The above piece has been floating around for years and is variously attributed to one writer or another. It is, however, drawn heavily from an essay by Isaac Asimov entitled "The Ancient and the Ultimate" which was first published in The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction in May 1971, and appeared in the Doubleday collections The Left Hand of the Electron (1972) and Asimov on Science (1989).*



## The Colorado Antiquarian Book Seminar

**Rob Rulon-Miller**

**August 6th through August 11th  
Colorado College, Colorado Springs**

Please visit [www.bookseminars.com](http://www.bookseminars.com) for this year's program highlights and schedule.

We proudly announce this year's program which includes our Keynote Speaker, Terry Belanger, a recent MacArthur Fellow and founder of the Rare Book School and Book Arts Press at the University of Virginia; specialty dealer John Crichton of the Brick Row Book Shop, San Francisco; and our newest faculty member, Chris Volk of Bookfever.com, an early member and past officer of the Independent Online Booksellers Association (IOBA), a member of the first advisory board for ABE books, and a current member of the advisory board for Biblio.com.

Other members of the faculty include Tom Congalton and Dan Gregory of Between the Covers; Dan De Simone from the Library of Congress; independent booksellers Mary Francis Ciletti, Mike Ginsberg, Ed Glaser, and Rob Rulon-Miller; and our conservator, Angela Scott.

Nearly 30 years ago, Jake Chernofsky (Editor of AB Bookman's Weekly) and others established a week-long seminar in Denver aimed at providing education for persons interested in entering the used / OP / academic / rare book trade. Under various administrative configurations, the Seminar, long well-known and highly respected in the rare book community, has continued to fulfill this function to this day. Given the enormous changes in the antiquarian book world since 1978, the curriculum has changed accordingly, with increasing emphasis on the realities of bookselling in the electronic age. Over the years more than 2100 students have graduated from the Seminar, many of whom have gone on to become prominent members of the book-selling community.

This year both the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America (ABAA) and the Rock Mountain Antiquarian Booksellers' Association (RMABA) will offer a total of five scholarships for the Seminar. Applications should be sent to each respective organization by July 1, 2006.

Please direct questions about any seminar information to:

Kathy Lindeman, Local Coordinator  
Colorado Springs: (719) 473-6634  
E-mail: [KathyL@bookseminars.com](mailto:KathyL@bookseminars.com)





## The Aldus Society

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Worthington, Ohio 43085-1150

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### THE LOGAN ELM PRESS

at The Ohio State University Libraries, in celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Don Quixote*, announces a limited edition of *Dicing Cake (Dizen que)*, *The Joys of an Unstable Text* or *Who Wrote Don Quixote?* The text comprises three versions of *Don Quixote*, Part II, Chapter 44: the first is from *Vida y hechos del ingenioso cavallero Don Quixote de la Mancha, compuesta por Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra* (1662); the second is from *The second part of The History of the valorous & witty knight-errant, Don Quixote of the Mancha, Written in Spanish by Michael Cervantes and now translated into English* (1620); and the third is an original transduction by John M. Bennett accompanied by a 4-color reduction woodcut portrait frontispiece of Cervantes by Sidney Chafetz, along with *Origins and Orality*, an afterword by James A. Parr. Limited to 125 numbered & signed copies, this edition will be handprinted on a letterpress on Rives Heavyweight mouldmade paper, and will be hand-sewn into Hahnemühle Bugra mouldmade paper wraps. Copies will be available July 2006, priced at \$200.00 per copy. Included with each copy is a separate broadside with the woodcut portrait of Cervantes. Copies can be reserved now at the pre-publication price of \$100.00, which includes Ohio sales tax and insured shipping, by ordering before September 1, 2006. To reserve your copy(s), please send a check or purchase order to OSU Libraries Logan Elm Press, Attn: Robert Tauber, 1858 Neil Avenue Mall, Room 011, Columbus, Ohio 43210-1286. For further information, please contact: [tauber.1@osu.edu](mailto:tauber.1@osu.edu) or phone: (614)688-3973

