

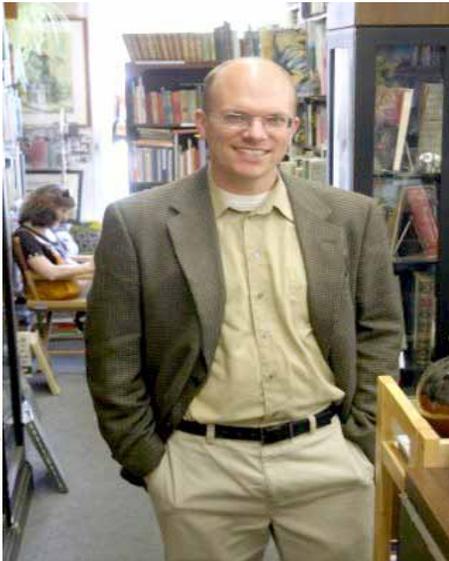


# Aldus Society Notes

June, 2009

Volume 9, No. 3

Photo: George Cowmeadow Bauman



Scott Brown co-owner of Eureka Books in Eureka, California, shared his predictions about *The Future of the Book* at our May program meeting.

## Future of the Book Was Topic of May Program

Are we near the end of the printed book as we know it? Scott Brown's talk at our May program provided Aldus members and guests with an interesting insight into the history of the book, as well as his predictions about its future, which he believes is in the hands of those who have committed the book to the realms of the internet, Kindle, Sony eBook and other electronic conveyances.

Books are one of the most mature technologies around. Yet during the twentieth century we hurtled into a dynamic information society which surpassed in technological innovations the total of those that came about during any preceding millennium. And

as a result, the printed word on paper (books, magazine and newspapers) is in jeopardy. Brown contended in his talk that this development is because we (readers) have most often chosen cheap and convenient alternatives when it has come to our reading matter.

To wit: illuminated manuscripts were replaced with less adorned printed books. Hand-painted miniature illustrations were replaced by woodblock prints. Paper made from wood pulp replaced more expensive rag paper. Then cloth binding was replaced by cheaper papers textured to *look* like cloth. And more recently, paperbacks supplanted hard covers as the preferred medium for many readers.

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## 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)

## The Aldus Society

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## The Aldus Society 2009-2010 Programming

Here's a list of programs for our upcoming program year:

**September, 2009:** A tour of the newly renovated Thompson Library on the Ohio State University campus. The tour will be led by Wes Boomgaarden, who was the project manager for this project. Wes will share the many new areas of the library, the beautifully updated spaces, and take us to areas which are closed to the general public.

THIS PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS and THEIR GUESTS ONLY

**October, 2009:** Professor Lewis Ullman, Director of Digital Media Studies at The Ohio State University, will talk to us as part of our series on the History of Text. Program is free and open to the public.

**November, 2009:** Dr. Robert Karrow, curator of Maps and Special Collections at the Newberry Library in Chicago, will share the library's many maps and collections and their fascinating stories. Program is free and open to the public.

**December, 2009:** Our Annual Holiday Dinner and Silent Auction is held at LaScala. We've usually had around 75 members and their guests attend this dinner...and the silent auction (with many donated books and literary stuff) helps underwrite our programming, including the Ravneberg Memorial Lecture. THIS PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS and THEIR GUESTS ONLY

**January, 2010:** Patrick Losinski, Director of the Columbus Metropolitan Library will share the interesting history of the library in Columbus and talk about running the #1 library in America. Program is free and open to the public.

**February, 2010:** In recognition of Black History Month, Dr. Rudine Bishop will give a program on African-American Children's Literature. Dr. Bishop has contributed significantly to the scholarship dealing with African-American children's literature. Her seminal work is *Shadow and Substance: Afro-American Experience in Contemporary Children's Literature*. Program is free and open to the public.

**March, 2010:** David Lilburne of Antipodean Books, Maps & Prints in New York state, will be the Ron Ravneberg Memorial Lecture speaker. He has been a full-time antiquarian bookseller since 1976, and is immediate past president of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America (ABAA). Program is free and open to the public.

**April, 2010:** We will be visiting the Ohioana Library and enjoy a tour led by director Linda Hengst. The library's collection has more than 45,000 books, 10,000 pieces of sheet music, and approximately 20,000 biographical files on Ohio writers, musicians, artists, and others of note. THIS PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS and THEIR GUESTS ONLY

**May, 2010 (pending):** Miniature books, those tiny books that have fascinated book collectors for years (actually centuries!) will be the featured subject for this meeting. You'll get to learn more about how and why these teeny tomes were first produced and hear more about the newly minted books which are being produced today. We'll have many examples on hand for you to see, handle and enjoy. Program is free and open to the public.

## Book Hunting Notes:

# Samuel Pepys:

## *His Books and His Diary*

by Bill Rich

Samuel Pepys (1633-1703) was an efficient civil servant in the government of Restoration England, who rose to the position of Secretary of the Admiralty. He was forced out of office in 1689, a victim of the “Glorious Revolution” that overthrew James II, the last of the Stuart kings. A man of wide-ranging interests, he was a notable book collector. His library of 3,000 books was left to his old college, Magdalene at Cambridge. It remains there to this day, an ornament of one of the greatest universities. Pepys was an amateur of science (in the best sense), being elected a member of the Royal Society in 1665, five years after its founding; he later became its president. His name is on the title page of Newton’s *Principia*, which was published by the Society during Pepys’ presidency.

With all of this and much more, Pepys’ name would figure in any history of the English Restoration. But Samuel had another achievement, eclipsing everything else by far. For almost ten years, from January 1, 1660, to May 31, 1669, he kept a diary. And what a diary.

Daily entries describe the minutiae of his personal life, as well as his interactions with the great world of affairs in which he often played a part. He gives frank evaluations of his friends and his betters, not excepting the King himself (and the King’s mistresses). He discusses his own failings, and agonizes over personal lapses from grace. He witnesses many of the great events of the Restoration, and describes in vivid, informal prose what he has seen each day. Two brief examples that are among my favorites will have to suffice here:

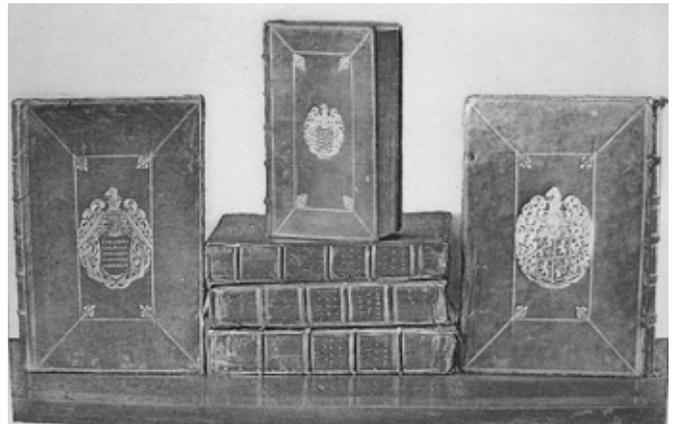
On October 13, 1660, Pepys was one of the crowd witnessing the gory end of one of the leading regicides, who had done in Charles I: “I went out to Charing-cross to see Major-Generall Harrison hanged, drawn, and quartered – which was done there – he looking as cheerfully as any man could do in that condition.”

The entry for July 16, 1662, gives a vivid analysis of the King’s current mistress: “This day I was told that my Lady Castlemayne (being quite fallen out with her husband) did yesterday go away from him with all her plate, Jewells and other best things; which I am apt to think was a design to get [her] out of town, that the King might come at her the better. But strange it is, how for her beauty I am willing to

conster [construe] all this to the best and to pity her wherein it is to her hurt, though I know well enough she is a whore.”

My quotes here seem to trivialize what is actually one of the greatest works in English literature and a major historical source. This extremely readable work must be the longest book in English by a single author. The original manuscript diaries are in six big volumes, contain some 1,250,000 words, and fill 3,100 pages. Pepys obviously had some security issues with a diary containing frank expressions of opinion throughout: he kept it in a form of shorthand fairly common at the time, but sufficiently difficult to make it unreadable to any prying eyes in his own household. In addition, for some of the most sensitive entries (notably, descriptions of his extra-marital escapades), he resorted to a form of pig-Spanish. This, when combined with the shorthand, evidently made him confident that his secrets were secure.

Nevertheless, he must have intended that his great work would some time see the light of day. He did not order the diary destroyed; the six volumes went with the rest of his library to Magdalene College after his death. They remain there today.

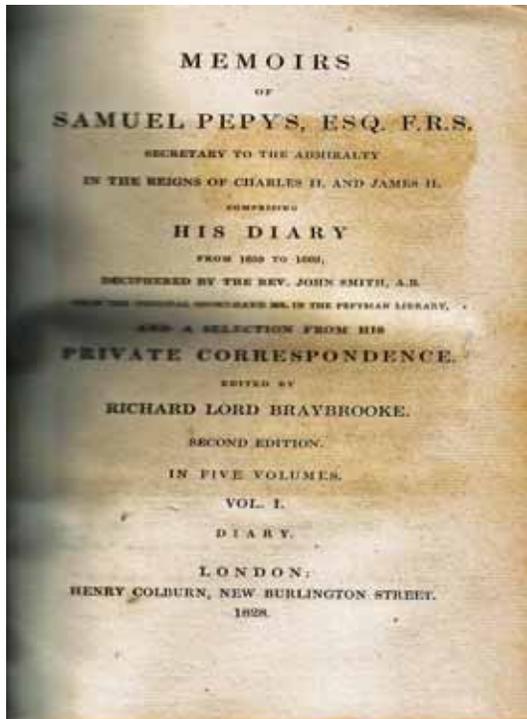


*The original manuscript diaries, bound into six big volumes, remain in the library at Magdalene College to this day.*

It was not until 1825, more than 150 years after the events described in the Diary, that any portion of it was published. Sparked by an interest in other recently-printed 17<sup>th</sup> Century diaries, notably those of John Evelyn, the Pepys diaries were re-examined, and selected portions were roughly edited and published in two quarto volumes by the firm of Henry Colburn in London. As published, these volumes contained only about 25% of the complete text.

They were an immediate success, however, and Colburn reprinted the edition in both the quarto form and in a five volume octavo form in 1825. The 1825 octavo edition is

the earliest “Diary” among my own books. The five volumes are complete with engraved portraits, fold-out maps illustrating some of the naval events, etc., and are resplendent in Edwardian half calf gilt extra bindings that look flashy on the shelf. Nevertheless, many of the most fascinating parts of the Diary are abridged, bowdlerized, or omitted entirely in this first publication.



*Selected portions of Pepys' diaries were first published in two quarto volumes by Henry Colburn (London).*

After this, more editions appeared throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, each publishing a larger portion of the huge diary, with further attempts at editorial study of the mass of material. This culminated in the edition of Henry B. Wheatley, published in 8 volumes in 1893-96. This long remained the standard edition of the Diary, and forms the basis for most 20<sup>th</sup> Century printings of what has become a literary classic. But even Wheatley omitted considerable sections, including more than 90 of the most erotic and scatological passages, which seemed impossible to print until much more modern times.

It was not until the 1970s that an absolutely complete edition was finally produced, applying all the apparatus of modern literary and historical methods. This was achieved by a brilliant scholar, Robert Latham, a don at Magdalene, who was the Pepys Librarian. The first two volumes of the new edition appeared in 1970; the remaining 7 volumes appeared at intervals through 1976, followed by “Companion” and “Index” volumes in 1983. There are 11 volumes in

all, published by G. Bell in London and by the University of California Press in the U.S. The co-editor was William Matthews of the University of California, but it is acknowledged that by far the major part of the effort was Latham's.

The first time I visited Cambridge was in the summer of 1971. I was there in connection with my day job; the “Conference on Molecular Energy Transfer” was being hosted by King's College that year. I was with my wife, Bea, and for most of that week, we enjoyed the medieval glories of the richest of the Cambridge colleges. But one afternoon I played hooky from the conference, and the two of us walked over to Magdalene to see, of course, the Pepys Library. This is on the upper floor of one of the college buildings, and, by his will, is as Pepys left it, with his original book cases (“presses,” he called them) containing the 3,000 books of his magnificent library.



*The Pepys Library at Cambridge's Magdalene College is located on the upper floor of one of the buildings, and as dictated in his will, remains exactly as he left it, including his original book cases containing 3,000 books.*

The two of us strolled among the cases, admiring the bindings and conscious of an overwhelming sense of book history. We were alone in the room, except for someone working at a large table covered with books and papers, at one end of the library. After a while, this person got up from his table, and came over to us. He was a man of about 60, looking every inch the scholar he was. He courteously asked us if “there was anything we would especially like to see,” and said he was “the librarian here.”

This was, of course, Robert Latham himself. Knowing some of the treasures in the library, I was more than a little staggered. Did he really mean I could inspect anything? Feeling somewhat incredulous, I nevertheless plunged ahead. I remember asking to see one of the Caxtons (I knew that the library had *seven* incunables by this first of English printers). One of these was promptly produced and laid on the table.

I remember turning the pages with a trembling hand, Latham at my shoulder. No gloves, no cradle, just hands on. “Anything else?” I was asked.

Well, in for a nickel, in for a dime. I am a ship modeler and an enthusiast of early wooden sailing warships. I knew that Pepys, in his capacity as Secretary to the Admiralty, had collected books and manuscripts on English ships, material that far predated his own tenure in the job. One of the most famous was a collection of the papers of Queen Elizabeth’s master shipwrights, the most notable being one Matthew Baker. Pepys had bound these papers together in a single book, which he labeled “Fragments of Elizabethan Shipwrightry”; it is often known simply as the “Matthew Baker Manuscript.” This contains the earliest scale drawings of an English warship.

On that wondrous July afternoon, to ask was to be shown. I was able to turn the pages of this famed book, and I opened it to the famous colored drawings of an Elizabethan galleon, with the outline of a fish superimposed on the underwater body of the ship. I had seen reproductions, but here was the original, the water-coloring still vivid, unfaded after 500 years. In other places, including in my own country, I knew, this book would be in a controlled-atmosphere vault, or, at least, not accessible to a casual visitor such as myself.

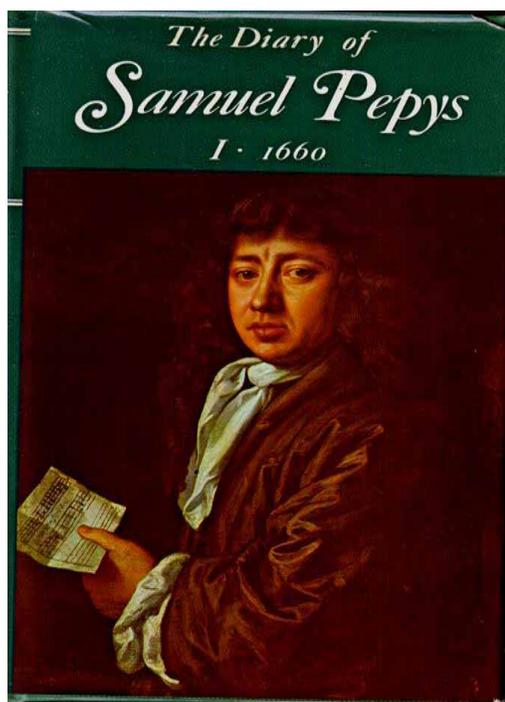
I gave voice to a passing, impious, thought: “I will try not to sneeze.” Latham gave me what can only be described as an old-fashioned look: “You won’t do that.” A command, certainly. (By the way, the entire manuscript, with its difficult Elizabethan secretary hand, is still unpublished to this day.)

Finally, I asked to see the diary. Really, nothing was easier. The volumes were on Latham’s table; one was already open. This was what he was working on, and I learned then that he was editing the definitive edition, of which the first two volumes had just been published.

As I looked at the cryptic shorthand of the Diary, Robert Latham began asking me questions. My name tag was still

on my jacket, proclaiming my attendance at the meeting on molecular energy transfer. “Are you a chemist?” was his inquiry. With my usual difficulty with describing exactly what I do, I gave my usual answer: “I do some chemistry sometimes.”

With that, we got involved on Pepys and science, with Pepys’ friend, Robert Boyle, the Royal Society, Isaac Newton, etc., etc., – a long discussion, far exceeding what I knew of 17<sup>th</sup> century English science – I am afraid I couldn’t answer one of Latham’s questions. But he was interested in what this American scientist in his library *did* know of the subject – so our conversation went on for a very long time.



*The complete set of Pepys’ Diaries remain the centerpiece of my Pepys collection.*

Bea, with her usual patience with me in libraries, sat down and looked on. But she had already determined what my Christmas present would be for that year. On December 25, I opened the first two volumes of the Diary, inscribed to me by Robert Latham. Of course, I bought the subsequent volumes as soon as they were published.

The complete set remains the centerpiece of my Pepys collection.



# And It Was!

## A Book Story

by George Cowmeadow Bauman

In the fall of 1968, I was a manager of the bookstore at Slippery Rock State College, 50 miles northwest of Pittsburgh. I also was trying to get a used book business going on the side. I made up business cards with “Cowmeadow Books” and began to hit flea markets and yard sales and country auctions to acquire inventory.

A classified ad for a farm auction at a nearby crossroads got my attention, for it advertised books, which were not often found at those rural estate sales.

The auctioneer was having a Friday night preview, so I drove over to see if the books being offered were anything more than the three R’s: Religion, Reader’s Digest Condensed Novels, and Romance.

About 25 bargain-hunters were at the preview, but none were looking over the books. After going through several boxes with books of value “only” for reading and sentiment, I hit paydirt, *real* paydirt: an early printing of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* in an old box that had once housed bottles of Heinz ketchup. And just maybe it was a true first edition.

I was astounded. Glancing nervously all around, I bent over to examine the treasure.



*Finding a leather-bound edition of Huckleberry Finn will make any book hunter's heart skip a beat.*

It wasn't in perfect condition, but the repairs wouldn't be major, and would raise the condition of the book from G+/VG- to VG, adding value to the book – *if* it were a first edition, first state.

From having taken a graduate seminar in Mark Twain and Henry James, I was aware that “Huck” went through several printings/states in its first edition, and that various “points” dictated which state the book was.

I drove home to research “Huck’s” points of issue.

I'd been married 18 months to my first wife Lori, who had accepted my proposal thinking she was going to be the wife of a preacher, not of a bibliomaniac.

Excitedly, I told her about finding “Huck,” and how it would be a great investment for us. She was pleased, but cautious – as usual when I used “books” and “buying” in the same sentence. As most book-widows are.

At that time, a true first of *Huckleberry Finn* was worth about \$1100, so I argued persuasively that if *we* – of course I had spun the angle around to talk about the book being a jointly-pursued purchase – were to get “Huck,” we could sell it at a very good profit. We discussed – or rather she told me – how much we could spend. She was in charge of our finances, the only way to keep biblioholic me from bankrupting us.

My reference books helped me learn what points to look for. I wrote it all down and had trouble sleeping that night.

Coffee-carrying people were milling about the farmyard when I arrived at 8 a.m. the next morning. I headed straight for the magic box, nervously looking around to see if anyone was watching me check “Huck” out.

I pulled the box out from underneath the table, squatted down, and with my back to the crowd, carefully opened the book on one blue-jeaned knee and laid out my notes on the other.

Let's see, was it published in New York by Charles L. Webster in 1885? OK. It was octavo in original full sheep, gilt on original red and black morocco spine labels. Did it have “Decided,” not “Decides,” on page 9? What about the “with the was” on page 57? Yes. Did it have the redrawn illustration without the curve to the fly on page 283? Yep. There were several other points that checked out as well. Be still my heart, we had a scarce first state here of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

I carefully placed it back in the box, my heart hammering.

Trying to control my excitement, I wandered over to the food stand for a cup of coffee at the little white wooden shed with three lights dangling on a string above the window, attracting attention from the early morning buyers.

I sipped my coffee while watching the table hiding the book-boxes, but saw no one hanging around.



“Let’s get this tractor *started!*” bellowed the auctioneer exactly at 9 a.m., waving his green John Deere cap as he stepped up on a small stand. With a smile and a glare, he told us how he was going to run that auction: “Hold your identifying number-card up, like you was trying to get the attention of your teacher to go to the bathroom. Don’t scratch your nose with your paddle ’cause you might buy something you don’t want. The interior of the house will go first, then the items in the barn, and we’ll conclude with these table goods.”

In my jacket pocket I had a copy of the appropriately-titled *Great Expectations*. I could follow the bidding on just so many pots and pans and dishes before joining Dickens in London, one ear constantly cocked to the cadence of the caller, and one eye on the junk-laden folding tables above the books. I had hours of waiting ahead, but it was going to be worth it.

Around noon, while the crowd was in the barn, I re-visited the food stand, and successfully bid on two hot dogs during a chapter-break in Dickens.

Soon, pickup trucks were backing up the short lane to the barn to load auction winnings. A big, old, once-red tractor with huge knobby tires as high as an elephant’s eye came chugging slowly out from behind the weather-beaten barn, parting the exiting bidders, heading out onto the country road.

A few minutes later, the auctioneer exited the farmhouse kitchen and began talking about the books. He told us all about what great readers the late couple was, joking about how he couldn’t figure out how Farmer McCullough had time to read and run a farm.

The first boxes went cheap – 50 cents for a full box of books.

Finally the Heinz box was lifted to the tabletop by the auctioneer’s assistant. Without looking inside, the auctioneer shouted, “What am I bid for this next box of classic books?!” He then began his mesmerizing cadence.

I wasn’t going to bid first and tip my hand. I wanted to see what the competition was going to be.

“Fifty cents!” yelled a large woman in overalls, who had bought the first boxes of books for that amount.

“Seventy-five!” came a male voice from behind me. Uh-oh.

“One buck!” said a woman leaning against the food stand.

“One-fifty!” said Overalls.

The man behind me bid “Two!” only to be quickly topped with a shouted “Three!” by Food-Stand-Woman.

Damn. Someone else must know about the Twain.

But then the bidding guy shook his head.

Overalls also turned away, and I jumped in at \$3.50, ready to settle in for a long bidding war with Food-Stand-Woman.

The bidding between us moved quickly... \$4, \$5, \$6, \$7, \$8, \$9, and I bid \$10. Food-Stand-Woman unexpectedly declined to go to \$11 by a quick shake of her head.

*Huck Finn* was mine for \$10!

I was ecstatic, but tried not to show it as I secured my valuable box. Curiously, the woman I’d outbid bee-lined straight at me.

“You knew what was in that box, didn’t you!” she demanded, with a smile.

I wasn’t sure where she was going with this, so I played it cool. “Obviously, you did too,” I replied enigmatically.

“Yes, when I saw you continuing to bid on a box that normally would have gone for no more than a buck, I knew you had spied those Readers Digest Condensed novels!”

She hadn’t been going for Huck after all! She had wanted the commercially worthless Readers Digest books.

“I’ll tell you what, ma’am,” I began, thinking fast. “All I wanted was this old copy of *Huckleberry Finn*. If I recall,

your last bid was nine bucks,” and she nodded in agreement.

“If you would still like to buy those for nine dollars, I’ll sell them to you, so that way we both get what we want from that box.”

She pulled a roll of bills out of her jacket pocket, counted off nine curled ones, and said, “I can’t tell you how much I appreciate you being so kind to me.”

“You’re welcome,” I replied, handing her the box, carefully extracting the Twain. “I hope you enjoy your reading.”

I drove home way too fast, anxious to share the excitement with Lori.

“We got it!” I shouted, walking in the front door of our small apartment to the sound of Saturday-afternoon vacuuming.

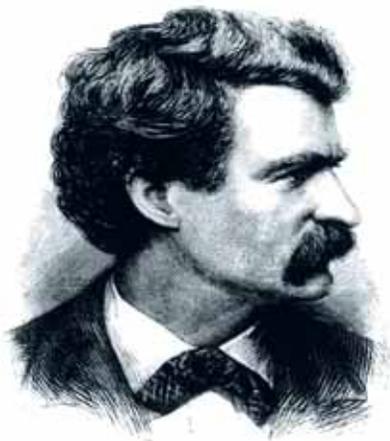
“Lori!” I yelled, startling her, causing her to jump. Her minor irritation at my scaring her evaporated when she saw my face – and the book held up in front of it.

“You got it!!” she cried, and we danced around the room with joy. Our gray cat Sloop ran upstairs to hide from the bouncing bibliomaniacs.

We opened some wine, and she looked over my shoulder as I showed her each of Huck’s points, verifying that it was indeed the rare first state of the first edition.

We went out to dinner, drank more wine, came home and caressed the book with its future importance to us. We collapsed on the bed that night in delightful exhaustion. As we turned out the lights on a great day, Lori leaned over and kissed me, and teasingly said, “If we ever get a divorce, *Huck Finn* is the first thing that I’m taking!”

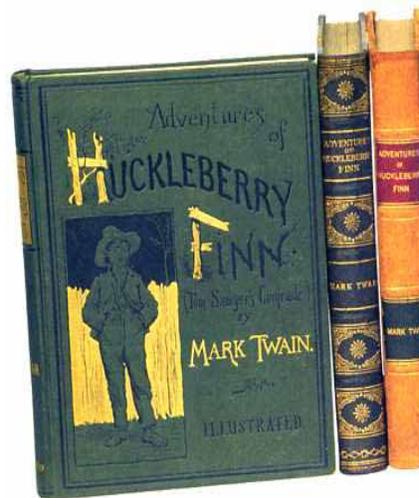
**And it was!**



## ***Huckleberry Finn:* First State (and Beyond)**

The controversy over what comprises a “first issue” or “first state” of the first edition of Twain’s universally regarded masterpiece, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (there is no *The* in the title), actually began during Twain’s lifetime and seems to have become even more convoluted with time as scholars study the detailed printing history of the book. Both typographical variations as well as the binding variations distinguish (and confuse) the different issues of the book.

Easiest to discuss is the variety of bindings of the first issue of the book, which was originally sold only through by subscription. The most common (and popular) cover was the beautiful deep green pictorial binding which had an illustration on the front cover of Huck standing in front of a wooden fence. The fence, initial capitals of the title and Twain’s full name were printed in bright gilt. The book was published as a sequel to *Tom Sawyer*, which had a blue cloth binding, so after the initial subscriptions were offered, potential buyers were also given the option of ordering their copy of *Huck Finn* with the matching blue cloth cover so the two Twain tomes would match on the bookshelf.



*The original cloth cover as well as the deluxe and the leather bound editions of Huckleberry Finn.*

Purists would consider the green binding and the leather “earlier” than the blue binding. Other options originally offered to buyers were copies with gilt edges, in full sheep with a title label, and also copies bound in three-quarter morocco.

Wading through the typographical and resulting plate changes (as well as changes to some of the illustrations) can be rather time consuming and one needs a thorough

descriptive bibliography to make a final determination of the issue at hand. However, here are a few of the more important points.



Uncle Silas as he was **supposed** to appear... and **did**, after the first state!

In the first issue, one illustration in particular had been altered by a prankster in the pressroom: before this change was caught at the binders, the press sheets of the first issue of the book pictured Uncle Silas sporting a curious protrusion near the front zipper of his trousers. The binder had the mind-boggling job of “canceling” this page (removing it and replacing it with the original, less revealing picture) in all of his copies of the book. The study of all the permutations regarding this problem alone is a matter of much scrutiny (and debate) among collectors. The leather-bound edition has several different stages of “defacement” as the pranksters became increasingly bolder. By the second press run (issue), this illustration was corrected in the plate, and the cancelled page is no longer present.

Typographical errors or changes occurred during the first press run of this book as well. On page 9 in the chapter descriptions, Huck “Decided to Leave” instead of “Decides to leave.” On page 13 (in the list of illustrations), we have “Him and another Man” listed as being on page 88 in the first state; this was corrected to 87 in the second printing. Also in this edition, page 57 has Huck “with the was” instead of “with the saw.” And on page 143, the earliest copies have the word colonel abbreviated with just the capital C, not Col.

If your copy of *Huck Finn* has these errors, you have reason to be excited. However since the early printed sheets were mixed with the second printing sheets at the

printers, there are a number of variations of the states of this book, and you might want to have a bottle of Excedrin (or wine) at hand when you decide to dive into your copy with a masterful bibliography beside you.

then dumped him into the river. Now I th  
nd got the bag of meal and my old saw o  
e house. I took the bag to where it used t  
om of it with the was, for there warn't no  
ne everything with his clasp-knife, about t  
about a hundred yards across the grass and  
to a shallow lake that was five mile wide s

PG. 57

In November, after the first printing was finished and before the second printing of 10,000 copies was begun (the third printing of another 10,000 copies did not follow until March 1885), the plates were corrected to reflect three changes in the text: at page 13 the erroneous page reference “88” was changed to “87”; at page 57 the misprint “with the was”

he Fond Parent.—Reform . . . .  
CHAPTER VI.  
Thatcher.—Huck Decided to Leave.—Political Ec  
CHAPTER VII.  
Locked in the Cabin.—Sinking the Body.—Resting

DR. 9

And then there is the page 155 controversy, for which much has been written. In a nutshell, the final five in the page number came off either before or during the original press run. Copies of the book with the page number showing as 15 instead of 155 are the rarest. After that, first printing copies will sport the additional number 5, which might be added in either above or below the original number, and some will have that pesky 5 printed in a font that doesn't match the original number.

The September 1998 edition of *Firsts, the Book Collector's Magazine* gives an exceedingly interesting history of the printing of this book and includes in-depth details of how all of these changes came about. It also includes new “paths” in Twain collecting (those relatively inexpensive areas of ephemeral Twain collectibles), as well as a great Twain reference shelf. And if you go to Google Pictures (search for Cover, Huckleberry Finn), you can treat yourself to the many, many different covers (and interior illustrations) that graphic designers have created over the years to illustrate this landmark book.

Many thanks to Twain-iac Bob Slotta for helping us with this sidebar!

# Humor from Across the Pond

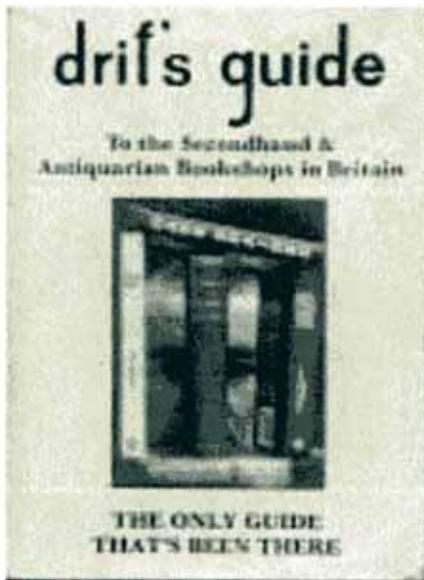
Whether you plan a trip to the U.K. any time soon or not, you'll want to visit a website published by Mike Goodenough, owner of the antiquarian bookshop Inprint, which is located in the Stroud District of England.

Mike is the creator and webmaster for an extensive on-line bookstore directory, an antiquarian book fair calendar, and an auction calendar. Mike's a regular contributor of book-related news to various book blogs everywhere. The website for his shop (with lots of wonderful links) is: <http://inprint.co.uk/>

But wait, there's more!

On TheBookGuide website, which links from his store site, is lots of fun stuff such as "bookworm droppings" and "bookshop skit." You'll love the British focus of the stories and links.

One of his sidebars is about yet another used book lovers' guide, published by a mysterious fellow (for good reason, you'll see) named Drif. With Mike's permission, We're excerpting his sidebar about Drif for your edification and smiles.



Drif published six guides, described by Simon Heffer in his review of the last one (1995) as "a scabrous collection of insults, jokes, prejudices and abuses about bookshops and their owners." Heffer regarded the 1986 edition of the guide as "one of the great anti-bibles of political correctness."

Drif offended many, particularly the self-proclaimed King of Hay whose capital he described as "a hospice for books that no-one can bear to see die in public." Litigation was in the air whenever a new edition of the guide hit the streets.

However, beneath the albeit thick veneer of abuse and invective lay a serious purpose. Drif simply loved bookshops and was horrified at their demise particularly, as he saw it, at the hands of the Bookfairies. In this regard his guides provide an idiosyncratic chronicle of the decline of the secondhand bookshop and the rise of the book fair during the 1980's and 90's.

## *DRIF'S QUOTES*

"In wine bars they have a happy hour - the secondhand bookshop equivalent is different, its called the surly hour and it lasts all day."

"The most important part of a bookshop is that it should be open."

In printed guides and catalogues space is always at a premium. Drif, raised on the the absurdities of booksellers catalogue abbreviations, produced some beauties.

## *DRIF'S ABBREVIATIONS*

BSN	Bibliographically subnormal
ETGOW	Easy to get on with
FARTS	Follows you around recommending the stock
GOB	Grand old bore
KEENON	Keen on stocking if they could get it
KUTI	Keeping up the image
NETGOW	Not easy to get on with
OOPS	Out of print books
OWOWS	Oversupplied with one way streets
POCS	Proliferation of charity shops
POCCIES	Ladies who work in charity shops
WAD	Worth a detour
WAP	Worth a pilgrimage
WYLAH	Watches you like a hawk

## *DRIF'S TERMINOLOGY*

**Alzheimer Special:** A shop where the books are totally forgettable no matter how long you look at them.

**Anoraksia Nervosa Special:** A shop so cold that you have to bring your own heating, the strange thing is that most of the owners have a warmth of personality that nearly makes up for it.

**A Samuel Beckett Special:** A secondhand bookshop where it is not always possible to tell what is going on, the windows often have just two or three drearily strange books in them, it is not always obvious how to open the door and when you go in there is a strange sense of wonderment, especially about when the last person did, and what happened to him or her.

**A Drif Special:** A shop so low key that most dealers cringe at the thought of going in it which is precisely why I like it so much. The books are even lower rent than I am, but I am quite often in better condition than them...just.

**Libricide Special:** A libricide tears the colour plates out of the books and sells them separately.

**Nouvelle Cuisine:** A bookshop usually influenced by the Bookfairies which has a minimalist stock and books you have to have a degree in semiotics to understand the importance of.

**Roast Beef:** A bookshop which is attempting to sell the same books as were popular fifty years ago...it is not so much the books themselves that make a Roast Beef shop but the way the shops price and value them.

I hope these scraps have whetted your appetite for the real thing, if you're lucky you'll find a copy of one of the guides ...in a secondhand bookshop. "They are dreadful, you are wasting your money buying this book, it will only tell you how dreadful they are in more detail"... so begins Drif's 1995 guide. "The main reasons that the shops are so bad is that they are run by people who are unconcerned by what customers want, indifferent to when customers would like them to be open, ignorant of the basics of selling and only interested in their own status."

This diatribe can't help but strike a chord with anyone who has driven miles out of their way, to sit for what seems like hours, on the door step of a bookshop that proudly displays a 'Back in Ten Minutes' sign.

I think as booksellers we need to be kept up to the mark. Whilst the eccentricities in which Drif delighted are a major part of the attraction of bookshop browsing, we need to get our act together if we are to survive. I still remember our review in the first guide: ... UNR (unreliable opening times) ... hippyish bookshop with bizarre prices. It was a relief to have at least become REL (reliable) in the next edition but I aspired to the accolade "WAD" (worth a detour). A snapshot of Drif can be found in *Liquid City* by Marc Atkins and Iain Sinclair



## **A Curse on Book Thieves**

It was traditional, particularly before the invention of the printing press when books were all hand written manuscripts, to letter a curse into the book to prevent theft. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem to have worked very well, as the books also had to be chained into place. Even chains had limited effect. Witness the many ancient libraries where there are still chains in place — but no books.

Here are a few examples...

**Thys boke is one  
And God's curse another;  
They that take the one  
God geve them the other.**

**He who steals this book  
may he die the death  
may he be frizzled in a pan...**

**Steal not this Book my honest Friend  
For fear the Gallows should be your hend,  
And when you die the Lord will say  
And wares the Book you stole away?**

*Or variation on the same theme...*

**Steal not this book, my worthy friend  
For fear the gallows will be your end;  
Up the ladder, and down the rope,  
There you'll hang until you choke;  
Then I'll come along and say -  
"Where's that book you stole away?"**

# The Belpre Farmers' Library: First in the Northwest Territory

Story & Photos by Marilyn Logue

The Belpre Branch of the Washington County (Ohio) Public Library serves this rural community on the Ohio River and is a direct descendant of the Belpre Farmers' Library, founded in 1796. Recognized as the first library in the Northwest Territory, it was located near Marietta. The pioneers brought culture in the form of books, music and the arts with them as they pushed west to the rich lands of the Midwest and beyond. The story of how the Belpre Farmers' Library originated is a fascinating one.



*Belpre Branch of the Washington County Public Library.*

Washington County was settled after the Revolutionary War, when New England veterans sought western lands as payment for their military service and formed the Ohio Company of Associates on March 1, 1786 at Boston's Bunch of Grapes Tavern. Many of these individuals were former officers, highly educated and cultured. Manasseh Cutler of Ipswich, Massachusetts, a Yale graduate, Congregational preacher, and Ohio Company member, played a vital role in lobbying the Confederation Congress to adopt the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, thereby positioning the Ohio Company to secure a land grant that would eventually include 1,781,760 acres in the western country.

Brig. Gen. Rufus Putnam, Cutler's fellow organizer of the Ohio Company, led the group of forty-eight pioneers to create the first permanent white settlement in the Northwest Territory at the confluence of the Ohio and Muskingum Rivers on April 7, 1788; this settlement, at first called Adelphia, which means "brotherhood," soon was renamed Marietta to honor the French Queen Marie Antoinette for her assistance during the American Revolution.

Colonel Israel Putnam (1739-1812), one of Marietta's early pioneers, was a son of General Israel Putnam (1718-1790), "Old Put" of Revolutionary War fame. Colonel Putnam and two of his sons arrived in 1788 after crossing the Allegheny mountains with a wagonload of farming utensils and household goods, pulled by two yokes of oxen. The next spring, Israel and about forty of the Ohio Company associates, located their farms on the rich Ohio River bottomlands just a few miles downriver from Marietta; they named their settlement Belle Prairie or "beautiful meadow" (now shortened to Belpre).

Then, in the fall of 1790, Israel Putnam returned to Pomfret, Connecticut, to fetch his wife and children. The colonel's father, General Israel Putnam, had died that spring, and Colonel Putnam inherited a portion of the Putnam family library back in Connecticut.

Unfortunately, the return trip to Washington County had to be postponed because the Indian War in the Ohio Country broke out in January of 1791. In June 1795, when peace was said to be near (the Treaty of Greenville was signed on August 3, 1795), the family prepared to leave Connecticut. Putnam and his adult children loaded the books from the Putnam family library into the wagons, hoping to use them to help fill the need for education and culture on the Ohio frontier.

Ephraim Cutler of nearby Killingly, Connecticut, and his wife and four children joined the Putnams on the journey. Cutler, also an Ohio Company associate, was a son of Manasseh Cutler; he and his family were making the trip to the Ohio Country for the first time. (Cutler would later become one of the founders and the first librarian of the famous "Coonskin Library" in Ames Township, then also in Washington County.)

The trip turned out to be a very difficult one. On the way, there was much sickness; Mrs. Putnam bore a premature baby and had to be carried on a makeshift bier over the mountains. While on the river, the "fever" claimed the lives of the Cutlers' oldest daughter and youngest son; the children were buried in the wilderness along the banks of the Ohio. The families finally arrived in Marietta by flatboat on September 15, 1795; the trip from Connecticut had taken three months.

Ephraim Cutler and his family were so ill when they landed at Marietta that they had to stay in a blockhouse for several months before they were well enough to travel up the Muskingum River to the settlement at Waterford. Colonel Israel Putnam, meanwhile, was able to go directly to his home on the Ohio River at Belpre because his son,

Aaron Waldo Putnam, had stayed there to tend the farm during the Indian War.

There Colonel Putnam began sharing the books that he had brought from Connecticut with family, neighbors, and friends. In 1796, the community formally organized a subscription library using Putnam's books as the nucleus of the collection, thus creating the first circulating library in Ohio and the Northwest Territory.

It is said that the librarian, Isaac Pierce, kept the books at his house in a basket under the bed. Subscribers could check out books equal to the value of the stock that they had purchased in the library company. Shares cost ten dollars each, which was very expensive, but this money would provide funds to add new books to the collection over the years. The early settlers were willing to sacrifice in order to purchase memberships in the library, even though they sometimes couldn't afford to buy candles with which to read the books.

Amos Dunham gave the following account in 1804 or 1805: "The long winter evenings were rather tedious, and in order to make them pass more smoothly, by great exertion I purchased a share in the Belpre Library, six miles distant. From this I promised myself much entertainment, but another obstacle presented itself — I had no candles; however, the woods afforded plenty of pineknots — with these I made torches by which I could read, though I nearly spoiled my eyes. Many a night have I passed in this manner till twelve or one o'clock reading to my wife, while she was hatchelling, carding or spinning."

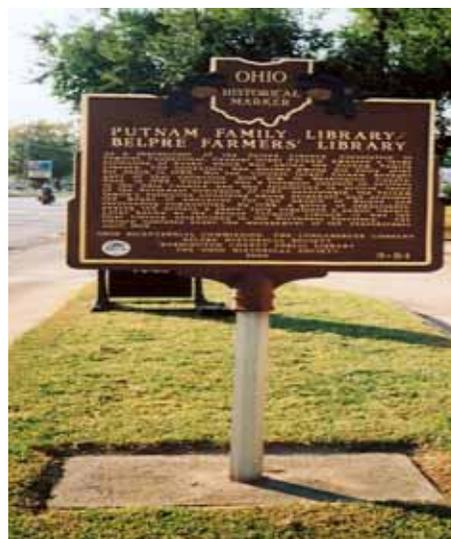
Descendants of Amos Dunham have said that "he could always find time to attend the Belpre Library meeting, regardless of hurrying work." Colonel John Stone also remembered attending the meetings for withdrawing books; he was present when the library was dissolved about 1815 or 1816 by mutual consent of the shareholders; this was after over twenty years of service to the community. (It was also about this time that Isaac Pierce, the librarian, sold his house and moved to Dayton.)

The Belpre Library books were divided among the subscribers, whose descendants proudly exhibited some of them at the centennial celebration in Marietta in 1888 and at the great Centennial Exposition at Cincinnati in the summer of that same year.

In 1879, Dr. Israel W. Andrews, President of Marietta College, went to the homes of the remaining known owners of books from this original library and wrote down

titles of existing books; Laura Curtis Preston made a similar inventory in 1915. It is not known how many books had been acquired by the library, but one of the books in the inventory had "Belpre Library #80" on it, so it can be assumed there were at least that many books.

Most of the books from the Putnam family library were identifiable because of erased or marked out inscriptions. For example, "Putnam Family Library #45" was changed to "Belpre Library #36." (Some of the books were also inscribed "Belpre Farmers' Library.") Some of these located items included practical books, such as *A Treatise on Cattle* (1795), and John Spurrier's *The Practical Farmer* (1793), dedicated to Thomas Jefferson in 1792. There were also history books, including David Hume's six-volume *History of England* (1754), Samuel Williams' *Natural and Civil History of Vermont* (1794), and Edward Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (1783). Scientific books included Oliver Goldsmith's *Animated Nature* (1773) and Thaddeus Mason Harris' *The Natural History of the Bible* (1793). A travel book in the collection was Jonathan Carver's *Three Years Travel Through the Interior Parts of North America* (1789). In the area of philosophy, there was a 1793 edition of John Locke's *Essays Concerning Human Understanding* (1690). Later additions to the library included an 1811 printing of Samuel Johnson's three-volume *Lives of the English Poets* (1779), William Robertson's two-volume *History of Scotland* (1811), and Bassett's four-volume 1810 edition of *History of England* (this must have been a rather obscure set of books; I have found no record of Mr. Bassett or his writings anywhere).



This historical marker recognizes the library as a direct descendant of the first library established in the Northwest Territory.

The year after his inventory of the Belpre Library books, Marietta's Dr. Andrews received a welcome letter from the Honorable John Eaton, United States Commissioner of Education. A group of Ohio literary scholars, appointed by the commissioner, had been charged with deciding among three competing communities (Cincinnati; Ames Township in Athens County; and Belpre in Washington County) as to the priority of the "establishment of social libraries (or public as distinguished from private) in the Northwest Territory." Hon. John Eaton wrote to Dr. Andrews that his commission had found that Belpre should be recognized as having the first library because it antedated "by a number of years, the other claims." The proof lay in the Washington County probate records: an entry for October 26, 1796 reads, "Received of Jonathan Stone, by the hand of Benjamin Mills, ten dollars for his share in the Putnam Family Library. W. P. Putnam, Clerk"

Captain Jonathan Stone was a charter member of the library, and father of Colonel John Stone, who was present when the library was dissolved. The younger Colonel Stone eventually became an abolitionist who operated along the Ohio River during the days of slavery.

And what became of Colonel Israel Putnam, whose books formed the nucleus of this pioneer library? Israel was fifty-six years old when he finally was able to bring his family to Ohio in 1795. During the rest of his life, he was an important agriculturalist, introducing choice fruits and an improved stock of cattle into the Ohio Country. His son, Dr. William Pitt Putnam was a pioneer physician in Marietta, but died at the age of thirty, and son David Putnam, a Yale graduate, was a lawyer in town.

Two of David's sons, Douglas and David, Jr., were well known abolitionists, and David, Jr.'s house was Marietta's main station on the Underground Railroad. More recently, Nancy Putnam Hollister, Col. Israel Putnam's direct descendant, served as the Mayor of Marietta and the Lt. Governor of Ohio under George Voinovich.

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A terrific internet site for book lovers and collectors alike is Americana Exchange. Jay and I been subscribers for many years, and recommend it to every one who is interested in collectible books, maps and prints, and book history.

Anyone can sign up to receive AE Monthly, their free online publication about rare books, old prints, antiquarian books and collectible books. It includes many interesting dealer catalogue reviews and links. It's a must read for the rare book collector, bookseller, rare books librarian, historian and scholar.

AE's archives, also free, provide access to past articles from AE Monthly. You can read about collecting rare books, antique books, used books, hard to find books, out of print books, rare book auctions, famous booksellers, printed Americana, collectable books, scarce books, valuable books, first editions, antiquarian books and antiquarian book auctions, ephemera, American history, bibliographies, incunabula, manuscripts, book appraisal and more.

There's also a Rare Book Auction Calendar which lists upcoming book, prints, and poster auctions so you can see where rare books, manuscript, posters and prints are coming up for auction around the world. And if you want to research the value of your holdings, they have 2,120,602 records in their database, 32 searchable auctions, and 13,955 searchable lots.

There's much, much more, but hopefully this mention will introduce you to a new favorite site for book-related news. VISIT: <http://www.americanaexchange.com/>

GMH



Preston, Laura Curtis. "The Putnam Family Library or The Belpre Farmers' Library" (Copy of paper read before the Woman's Centennial Association, Marietta, Ohio, January 18, 1915).

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The slow and painful decline of newspapers is already evident as readers seeking instant news choose the internet, radio and television for immediate gratification. And book stores offering the latest titles are in decline as readers seek their thrills at the hands of Kindle and other electronic reading media, and publishers find smaller press runs cost prohibitive. Therefore fewer books will be printed in coming years, which will contribute to the further decline of stores selling new books.

However, Brown emphasized that we should take solace in the fact that electronic books are far inferior to printed books. Brick-and-mortar book shops will still have an edge when customers want to browse, feel, smell, and turn the pages. Even though many people have made a decision to buy a new book on the 'net when the convenience of ordering is more important than price, shops offering books (particularly those that are out-of-print) still have a future. However these shops will need to modify their operations, including being internet saavy.

He emphasized that printed books lack software glitches and format incompatibilities. Several-hundred-year-old books still work perfectly. None of the electronic books of today can replace paper books for long-term storage, especially when changing technology is factored in.

Although the internet has changed the publishing of books drastically, smart authors have found ways to blend the print with the electronic to offer something more. It's a rare non-fiction book that doesn't have an associated web site with addenda, corrections and amplifications. Many authors (of both non-fiction and fiction) now have book-specific blogs that allow for a dialogue that moves beyond the covers.

There's a long and winding road ahead for readers and lovers of the book. Just as when books were first laboriously hand-written by scribes working in scriptoria by candle light, folks had no idea what ramifications would result from inventions by Johannes Gutenberg or Aldus Manutius...and (fast forward to) Jeff Bezos and Steve Jobs.

But it will certainly be an interesting trip!



***TV. If kids are entertained by two letters,  
imagine the fun they'll have with twenty-six.  
Open your child's imagination. Open a book.***

~Author Unknown

## **Picturebook Collection Moves to New Home**

The wonderful picturebook collection put together by Aldus members Ken and Sylvia Marantz has a new, permanent home in the School of Library and Information Science at Kent State University, here in Ohio. The Marantzes generously donated their collection of over 21,000 picturebooks which they have collected over the past 50 years to the university; the books are now housed in the Reinberger Children's Library Center on campus.

The Marantzes acquired this collection through their book reviewing, personal collecting, and as a result of writing resource books on picturebooks, children's literature, and art.

The Marantzes shared their collection and collecting adventures with The Aldus Society in a program several years ago. Ken is an emeritus professor of art education at The Ohio State University, and Sylvia is a retired school librarian.

The state-of-the-art Center housing the Marantz Collection features compact shelving, display areas for rare books and collections, a distance learning classroom, a storytime area, and private study locations. Original artwork, publisher's promotional posters and character toys are also included in the collection.



*The Marantzes were honored at the opening reception of Kent State University's Marantz Picturebook Collection. Photo from American Libraries magazine.*



## *The Aldus Society*

P.O. Box 1150  
Worthington, Ohio 43085-1150

### **Aldus Picnic Scheduled for Sunday, June 28**

We are pleased that Bill and Bea Rich have again invited The Aldus Society to hold their Annual Picnic at their home. We had a wonderful time last year talking with one another and exploring the many book collections throughout their lovely home.

If you haven't already done so, please RSVP to [mlogue@sprintmail.com](mailto:mlogue@sprintmail.com) with the subject heading "Picnic" by Monday, June 22nd if you plan to attend. Questions? Just e-mail Marilyn.

Aldus will supply all the makings for sandwiches. If your last name begins with A-L, please bring a side dish of some sort. If your surname begins with M-Z, please bring a dessert. We will also need a couple of 10 pound bags of ice: let Marilyn know you would like to bring ice instead of food.

See you there!

### **Malibar Farm Outing Planned for Saturday, July 18**

Lois Smith has planned a wonderful outing for Aldus members at historic Malabar Farm near Mansfield. Hopefully you have received the sign-up forms and information, but just in case you haven't (or forgot to print if from your computer), just e-mail Lois at [lsmith@earthlink.com](mailto:lsmith@earthlink.com), and she will send the forms to you right away.

We will meet at the Malabar Farm Restaurant at 11:30 a.m and have lunch together. After lunch we will amble over to the Visitors Center and gift shop. At 2 p.m. we will have a guided tour of the Big House followed by a Farm Wagon Tour of the property.

If you need a ride, contact Lois and she will arrange a ride for you, as we expect a number of members will have extra room in their cars.