

# Aldus Society Notes

March 2009

Volume 9, No. 2

## First Memorial Lecture Held

Dr. Owen Gingerich, Professor Emeritus of Astronomy and of the History of Science at Harvard University, was the initial speaker in the Ron Ravneberg Memorial Lecture Series. Gingerich's presentation on March 12 was entitled "Confessions of a Puzzle Solving Addict."



Owen is given a copy of the special memorial keepsake, which was printed at the Logan Elm Press by Aldus members Bob Tauber and Helen Leibman. Pictured (l-r) are Ron's son David, Owen Gingerich, and Ron's widow Jan.

Gingerich grew up on the prairies of Kansas, where he first became interested in stargazing. Today his name is on 2658 Gingerich, a main-belt asteroid that was discovered in 1980 at the Harvard College Observatory. In his talk to Aldus, Gingerich focused on books by Copernicus and Galileo, combining the passion of a bibliophile with the acute powers of observation of a first-rate detective. Gingerich's quest in tracking down extant copies of Copernicus's *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium* was chronicled in *The Book Nobody Read*, a landmark of bibliographical research. He also shared with us his work on Galileo's *Sidereus Nuncius*, demonstrating how a close examination of typographical details can aid in a determination of whether individual copies are authentic or forgeries.

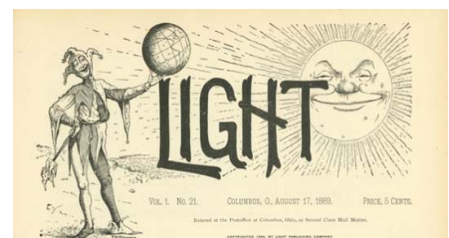
The Ron Ravneberg Memorial Lecture Series will be an annual event at Aldus, and we are grateful to Owen Gingerich for the high standards of scholarship and deep love of books that made him an ideal choice to begin the series.

- Jay Hoster

## Light Dawns in Columbus

On April 9, our speaker will be Richard Samuel West, who is an independent scholar and historian and an expert in the history of nineteenth-century American editorial cartoons. He is the owner of *Periodyssey*, which specializes in buying and selling significant pre-1950 magazines. Rich will be talking about *Light* magazine, which was perhaps the most important lithographic comic weekly to be published outside of New York and San Francisco during the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century...and it actually started in Columbus before moving to Chicago. It provided the first or early employment to a host of talented cartoonists and illustrators, including W. W. Denslow (later the illustrator of the Wizard of Oz books) and many others.

The story of his discovery of the treasure trove of back issues of *Light* magazine is fascinating, and he wrote recently about it: "About this time last year I received an e-mail from a Chicago area woman asking if I knew anything about a magazine published in Chicago named *Light*. I soon learned that she and her husband were the owners of a veritable museum to the magazine." (cont'd on pg 3)



# Presidential Ponderings

## The Aldus Society

### TRUSTEES, 2009-2010

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Jay Hoster

Marilyn Logue

Kassie Rose

Laralyn Sasaki

### PHOTOGRAPHER AT LARGE

George Bauman

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My study is filled with books. Books I've found at sales, books that people have given me, books that, ultimately, I've set aside for a time when I'll have more time to read. "For when I retire," I tell myself. The floor creaks, either from the weight of all these interesting tomes, or perhaps it could be because of termites or wood beetles, as we failed a few years back to renew our continuing contract with the exterminators.

Most of them are grouped according to my interests: books on the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas, particularly on their architectural delights (and in L.A., the architectural absurdities). There's the section on Beat writers, which includes my especially treasured biography that was signed by Jack Kerouac's wife, Anne Charters and Allen Ginsberg (probably all giddily gathered at a party somewhere and approached by an ardent fan, brandishing a pen). There's the section of "cat books," some of which I shared with Aldus members at one of our Aldus Collects programs. And the beautifully illustrated, inspiring graphic arts and design books which I started accumulating when I had my graphic design business. There's the shelf of Craig Rice mysteries; I feel like I'm watching a 1950s TV sit-com when I breeze through one of her mysteries. And there's my Maxfield Parrish shelf, complete with a proudly-displayed personal check complete with his signature that looks like it is right out of the Zaner-Bloser penmanship book; the check was made out to the Central Vermont Public Service Corporation (most likely rescued by an entrepreneurial dumpster diver).

I could go on, as there are many, many more topics that line my shelves, including, as you would suspect, a section on Book Collecting and BABS (not books about Barbra Streisand, but books about books). Before I started this letter, I randomly opened my copy of Holbrook Jackson's *The Anatomy of Bibliomania* with the hopes of finding an inspiring quotation to leave with you. And gentle readers, he has "our number":

"Bookmen, men of letters, students, and all manner of passionate readers are a species apart finding their sustenance in the printed word as plants imbibe air and fishes animalculae; they do not look upon life with their own eyes, but through the eyes of books as through an optical glass, magnifying, intensifying, distorting or glorifying, according as they fancy it; or sometimes they eschew all common affairs and use books as kaleidoscopes to make for their own delight fantastic patterns which they use as substitutes for life. They become native of a world of books, creatures of the printed word, and in the end cease to be men, as, by a gradual metastasis, they are resolved into bookmen: twice-born, first of a woman (as every man) and then of books, and, by reason of this, unique and distinct from the rest."

He wrote this in the '30s, so I'll give him some slack on the gender of the statement... it's the thought that counts. May you always find sustenance within the many realms of the printed word.

Genie

## 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)

(LIGHT, cont'd from pg. 1)

“They lived in the house that had been built by the magazine’s editor and chief cartoonist, Philo C. Darrow. Not only did the house still contain much of the original beautiful Victorian furnishings from Darrow’s day but, best of all for my interests, piles and piles of paper and other artifacts that the Darrow family had been left behind. Within a short time, I traveled to Chicago where I discovered stacks of the magazine, hundreds of original drawings, and boxes of ephemera in the home’s basement. Here was the archives of a humor magazine published nearly 120 years ago, still largely intact and crying out for the respect it deserved. The owners asked me to help them find the best home for this amazing collection.

“Within days, I had made a general survey of the collection, and called Lucy Caswell at The Ohio State University Cartoon Library & Museum. I’m fairly certain the first words I said to her were, ‘You’re not going to believe this...’”

The couple from Chicago who sold the Cartoon Library and Museum the collection plan to come to Rich's April 9 lecture, which should be fun. In conjunction to this program, our usual First Saturday program has been moved to the Third Saturday of April (April 18<sup>th</sup>) and will include a tour of the wonderful materials on display at the Museum including the *Light* materials. Details for attending this event will be given at the April 9<sup>th</sup> program.

## Aldus Elects



At the March program meeting, two new trustees, Ed Hoffman and Nancy Campbell were approved by the membership. After voting at the membership meeting, the trustees elected Genie Hoster as president (*pictured left with outgoing president Bill*

*Evans*). The other officers will be serving another term: Christine Hayes, secretary; and Dave Reiff, treasurer. Joe Perko will continue handling our publicity, and Tony Clark is spearheading our newsletter production and other computer-dependent necessities such as membership.

## Chinese Wisdom

On February 12, Christopher Reed presented an interesting program on the History of the Chinese Book. He included many pictures of examples, and included several of the famous Chinese works and inscriptions found in them including:

***“Cold can be endured without clothes or hunger without food; but books are indispensable to life.”***

***“This book was obtained with great difficulty. Let my posterity not forget it.”***

How true, and as timeless as the books these sayings were found in!



## Third Annual Ohioana Book Festival to be in May

On Saturday, May 9, The Ohioana Library is sponsoring its Ohioana Book Festival.

There will be talks and tables attended by dozens of Ohio authors including R. L. Stein, Jaime Adoff, Ann Hagedorn, Peter Mansoor, Jeff Smith, and many others. It will include a full day of readings, panel discussions, music, food, and kids’ activities.

The Festival will be held both inside and in tents outside the State Library of Ohio, 274 E. First Ave. in Columbus. It is free and open to the public.

Again this year, The Aldus Society will be a participant and will have a table at the event. If you would like to volunteer to help at our table, contact Christine Hayes (days) at 486-1860.

Hope to see you there!





## The Aldus Society

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### Mark Your Calendars!

March 29<sup>th</sup>

**49<sup>th</sup> Annual Antiquarian Book Show**, Lansing Center in Lansing MI, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

April 2 – 4

**Oberlin Public Library Sale** at the library. Thursday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

April 9<sup>th</sup>

**Aldus Program: Richard West on *Light Magazine*** (*see story on the front page*). Meeting will be held at the Thurber Center, 7:30 p.m.

April 10 -11

**27<sup>th</sup> Annual Akron Antiquarian Book Fair** (sponsored by NOBS, Northern Ohio Bibliophilic Society), Friday, 3 - 8:30 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (call 330/865-5831 for further details)

April 18<sup>th</sup>

**Aldus Third Saturday: Light Magazine at the O.S.U. Cartoon Library and Museum.** Details will be given out at the April 9<sup>th</sup> program, or contact a member of the program committee

April 16 – 18

**Friends of Shaker Heights Library Book Sale;** presale Thursday, 4 – 8 p.m.; 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday

May 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Aldus First Saturday: Raymond Carver.** To be held at our “regular venue,” the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library on Ackerman Road.

May 9<sup>th</sup>

**Ohioana Book Festival** (*see story inside*) to be held at the State Library of Ohio, 274 E. First Avenue (Italian Village). More details on their website: [www.OhioanaLibrary.org](http://www.OhioanaLibrary.org)

May 13 – 16

**FABS Bibliographic Tour and Symposium** in Minneapolis/St. Paul. If you missed this in your FABS newsletter and need further information, you can visit their website, [www.fabsbooks.org](http://www.fabsbooks.org).

May 14<sup>th</sup>

**Aldus Program: Scott Brown, former publisher of *Fine Books & Manuscripts*** Details to be announced. The program will be held at Thurber Center, 7:30 p.m.

May 25<sup>th</sup>

**Memorial Day Book Sale at the Wagnalls Memorial Library** in Lithopolis, Ohio, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

May 31 – June 5

**37<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Sale, Cincinnati Main Library** (various hours each day, go to [plch2@fuse.net](mailto:plch2@fuse.net) for more information)