

THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE®

A Bimonthly Journal About Miniature Books and the Book Arts

Vol. XXX No.1

January 2011



The Microbibliophile returns with an attractive collection of new miniature books

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THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE© welcomes letters to the Editor, Display and Classified advertising, and all news about miniature books, miniature book publishers, authors, printers, binders, and the book arts. Please contact the editor at the address shown on our title page for further information about submission of articles for publication, and subscriptions. Reviews will be published of all new miniature books submitted to the Microbibliophile.

Email: editor@microbibliophile77.com

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A Bimonthly Journal About Miniature Books and the Book Arts

Robert F. Hanson, Founder, 1977

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The Microbibliophile, P. O. Box 5453

North Branch, NJ 05759 U.S.A.

Jon H. Mayo, Publisher

James M. Brogan, Editor

A Note from the Old Farmhouse:

My message comes with a mixture of sadness and joy as well as with hope for the future of the Microbibliophile. Some of you may already know, as word travels across the WEB, that Jon suffered a catastrophic brain injury as a result of anesthesia during a routine surgery in March of 2010. Though now residing in an adult care facility, Jon still spends many of his days ‘lost’ in the world of the past where books were his passion. He has fretted over the many aspects of the Miniature Book Society and worried about his role in the Conclave; wondering if all was going well. He spends his hours “on book trips” meeting wonderful people and searching stacks of books for that little gem. After fifty years immersed in books it is no wonder among them is where he seeks solace.

In the meantime, Jim Brogan contacted me with a request to help with the process of publishing the Microbibliophile once again. Since it is an excellent venue for artisans of the trade to showcase their works and the curious to learn, I was more than glad to hear from Jim and agree with his offer for assistance. With my blessing and hopefully some help from the followers of the miniature book world, Jim has delved into the world of publishing this truly unique newsletter. I would encourage all who treasure and enjoy the world of miniature books to lend a hand whenever possible so that Jim and Jon’s treasured “Microbib” will enjoy longevity and the support of shared knowledge that have always been its corner stone.

With warm regards,
Sherry Mayo

Greetings From The Squeaky Roll Top Desk:

In March of 1977, the first issue of the MICROBIBLIOPHILE was published by Mr. Robert F. Hanson. His opening words were:

“This newsletter is intended to uncover information, both current and historical, about miniature books in their many aspects. Reader’s contributions, offered as further assistance in this regard are always welcome.”

Twenty years later, in January of 1997, Jon Mayo took over the duties of the editor and publisher of the Microbibliophile. Jon’s opening words were:

“I appreciate your support and your vote of confidence as I begin our new year.” “If you have ideas, suggestions, things that you would like to see published, comments or criticisms; I would like to hear from you.”

These two statements, sum up in essence, the heart and soul of the Microbibliophile, what it is, its purpose, and the secret for continued success, and of course the value that it provides to you, our customers. Here we are almost 33 years since the first issue, at another milestone, the third editor. Let me introduce myself, my name is James M. Brogan. My children and grandchild all have different names for me but please call me Jim. I have been a book collector for a long time but really became an active miniature book collector about six years ago. I have made the acquaintance of many wonderful people in the world of miniature books and hope to continue meeting more great people, our readers. I hope that I will be able to exceed your expectations as your editor and bring you a wealth of valuable information related to the world of miniature books. Robert and Jon have done an excellent job over the years, I only hope to be able to continue their long and fruitful tradition engrained within the pages of the MICROBIBLIOPHILE.

Please feel free to send me a message, email or snail mail, and let me know your thoughts, ideas, suggestions, and subject content that you would like to see published.

Welcome Back to the Microbibliophile,




Email: editor@microbibliophile77.com

Food For Thought:

“Those of us who live and move among books are probably among the happiest earthly creatures for we are more apt than others to learn their lessons and live by their tenets.”

-Msgr. Francis J. Weber
December 9, 1977
Azusa Pacific College

A Miniature Book Review:

A Gipsy Caravan, by Peter and Donna Thomas 2010. The text is from “*Wind in the Willows*” by Kenneth Grahame. Watercolor illustrations and calligraphy by Donna have been color copied on Peter's handmade paper, a treasure in itself. The paper seems to make the journey come alive on the pages. Peter and Donna have again provided a fine example of just what talented book artists they are. The book is a case bound accordion book and covered using gypsy print cloth, has a leather spine and a handmade, by Donna, porcelain medallion beautifully set into the front cover. The illustrations are so well done that they seem to draw you into the journey of the colorful gipsy caravan, the landscapes viewed from its windows as well as the fold-up table, the lockers, and bins inside the wagon, all of the many little details. You can just hear the hanging pots ‘clanking’ as the wagon moves down the road. The actual text is from the “*Wind in the Willows*” but is certainly representative of the journey that Peter and Donna started in April 2010, which is the adventures of the wondering book artists, crisscrossing the country in their gipsy wagon, delivering talks and workshops as well as collaborating with book artists and printers along the way. “*There you are! Cried the toad. There’s real life for you, embodied in that little cart*”. I would expect the journeys of the wondering book artists to be the source and inspiration of additional miniature volumes from Peter and Donna. The Gipsy Caravan will be a showpiece in your collection. 2 5/8” x 2 1/8”, 26 accordion pages, 150 copies, each numbered and signed \$75. 

Contact information for Peter and Donna Thomas, 260 15th Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 or peteranddonna@cruzio.com

Why Miniature Books, by Anne C Bromer,

(Reprinted with permission from Southeastern Antiquing and Collecting Magazine, September 2010, www.antiquingmagazine.com)

People have always been fascinated by extremes: the highest mountain, the tallest building, the oldest person, and the smallest objects. Miniature books are often represented as book collecting in the extreme. They are generally defined as measuring a maximum of three inches in either height or width. Some are much smaller and are collected by dollhouse fanciers for their miniature libraries. Those one-inch, micro-miniatures are, in fact, on the outer edges of book collecting, but most miniatures are not extreme at all and are easily read without a magnifying glass. If you square off a two-inch block of type in a newspaper column or on a page in a paperback, you will be reading a type size that is similar to that in a miniature book.

Since the 15th century, thousands of texts were printed in miniature formats. Because they invite attention to every minute detail – the fineness of the paper, the clarity of the engravings, the size of the type and the artistic bindings – printers have accepted the challenge to create these intimate volumes. They were also used to train printing apprentices; the theory being that if you can print and bind a miniature book well, you will better succeed in printing full-sized volumes.

How does one describe miniature Books? Let me count the ways! They are distinctly beautiful and unusually fascinating. They provide practical information, as in the annual miniature almanacs which flourished in Europe from the 17th to the 19th centuries. They were used for propaganda purposes in the former Soviet Union and for political campaigns in the United States. The range of subjects explored in miniature books is as varied as those in standard- size volumes. Nearly every human endeavor has reached their pages. There are miniatures of Greek and Latin classics, cookery, religion, travel guides, books for children, and x-rated texts for adults. Miniature books have made important contributions to the world of books and to the world in general.

History changed because of Abraham Lincoln. Our sixteenth President chose the format of small miniature pamphlets to announce the most important change of his presidency and in American society. The *Emancipation Proclamation* was printed in miniature form first as a preliminary document and then as the proclamation itself. Slightly taller than three inches in size, these pamphlets announced the end of slavery. Printed by Lincoln's abolitionist friend, John Murray Forbes of Boston, it is believed that a million copies were issued in December 1862 and again in January 1863. Copies of these eight-page, lightweight, miniature books were given to the Union soldiers to carry in their knapsacks and distribute as they traveled the countryside.

The first book on birth control measures 2 7/8 by 2 1/2 inches. *Fruits of Philosophy*, or *The Private Companion of Young Married People* is the first medical text of any size treating the subject of contraception. It was highly controversial in 1832 when first published. Its author, Dr. Charles Knowlton, did not include his name on the title page, as he suspected that his work would run counter to the social proprieties of the day. Indeed, he was correct about its lack of public acceptance and was fined and imprisoned for depravity and corrupting minds with his theories.

A miniature book was aboard the Apollo 11 Mission to the moon in 1969. The *Autobiography of Robert Hutchings Goddard, Father of the Space Age* measures 2 7/8 inches tall and pays homage to the man who invented rocket propulsion. When the handsome leather volume, one of an edition of 1,926 copies, returned from space, Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin Jr., commander of the spacecraft, presented the copy to the Goddard Library at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. There the celestial object remains today.

Miniature books were used as presidential campaign literature. Zachary Taylor, Franklin Pierce, and Theodore Roosevelt all ran for president using miniature political tracts to skewer their opponents and tout their own accomplishments.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the only president to collect miniature books, amassed a grouping of 750 volumes on history, the classics, fishing and children’s literature. Only one president participated in the publishing of a miniature book, in fact, two miniature editions. Two speeches of President Gerald R. Ford form the texts of *Global Stability*, which is a message of world peace published in 1980, and *The Tenth Convention* is remarks made at the Republican National Convention in New Orleans in 1988. Both books are signed by President Ford.

Miniature almanacs were once the equivalent of today’s digital appointment devices. They were designed for beauty as well as functionality, bound in sumptuous leathers or decorated in needlework bindings. They list astronomical events, including the eclipses of the moon, currency exchanges, names of bishops and kings, and the schedule of the tides. A series of annual miniature almanacs were produced in London for nearly 250 years, one of the longest publication runs in history. Each of these two-inch volumes begins with an engraving of a building or monument in London. Architectural historians are able to trace two-and one-half centuries of English architecture through these almanacs.

Thumb Bibles, no bigger in size than one’s thumb, are the most frequently printed religious miniature books. They were first introduced in the 17th century and continued to be printed for the next 300 years in England, Europe, and America. A thumb *Bible* is a shortened form of the *Bible* in either poetry or prose and was primarily intended for the religious education of children. In addition to keeping children occupied during church services, the thumb *Bible* provided reading exercises and proper use of simple grammar.

Miniature books have entertained and educated me for more than three decades. My first sighting was in an old wooden tool chest with many drawers containing dozens of very small books. I examined them for hours and eventually bought every volume. Today, we still keep miniature books in our shop in that tool chest. They are available in all price ranges, usually from \$100 to \$1500.

Small books continue to capture my imagination. This interest has led to writing and lecturing about miniatures, as well as publishing fourteen miniature books under the imprint of Anne and David Bromer. I am always thrilled to see the happy surprise in someone's face when first turning the pages of a miniature book. It reminds me of my own initial pleasure in being introduced to the subject many years ago.

Guidelines to beginning a collection of miniature books are the same as buying antiquarian books of any genre. Our mantra of 45 years in the world of rare books is to buy what we like and to purchase the best copies our pocketbook can afford. Seeing and holding real books will ensure these basic concepts; virtual reality cannot substitute for the satisfaction of turning the pages of an actual book and touching its paper, type, and binding.

When looking for miniature books, there are still antiquarian shops to visit in every major American city and annual antiquarian book fairs held throughout the United States. Every year, international rare book shows are sponsored through the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (www.abaa.org). These are held in California, New York, and Boston. At each, attendees have the opportunity to examine the books of nearly 200 dealers who exhibit. Bromer Booksellers is usually on the scene with a display of rare books, including miniature books. In addition, The Miniature Book Society (www.mbs.org) fosters and promotes the enjoyment of miniature books worldwide. The Society sponsors an annual conclave where participants can examine hundreds of new and antiquarian miniature books. 📖


Anne C Bromer is the owner of Bromer Booksellers in Boston. Anne can be contacted at books@brommer.com, or www.bromer.com, the regular mailing address is 607 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

More Great Miniature Books:

Shakespeare's Birds created at the studio of Marian and Stephen Byrne, The Final Score, West Yorkshire, England, 2010. The special edition that I have reviewed here is a miniature visit to a literary and art museum in itself. The finely prepared oak presentation box with a transparent sliding top reveals the green leather cover with a hand embroidered scene titled 'Lapwing and her chicks' from the play Hamlet. The color matching endpapers are hand marbled. The following pairs of accordion pages each contain a hand illustrated and colored image of birds from various plays of the Bard. There are twelve additional illustrated vellum pages each done with the finest level of illustration and hand coloring by Marian Byrne. Each illustration is framed with a delicate gold lined border giving the illustration an almost three dimensional presentation. The companion page for each illustration contains the reference lines from the play, act and scene. Included are the birds from the following plays: King Lear, King Richard III, Venus and Adonis, Henry IV, Love's Labour Lost, Richard II, Anthony and Cleopatra, Much Ado About Nothing, Troilus and Cressida, Two Gentleman of Verona, and The Taming of The Shrew. Each illustration is more captivating than the previous, if I had to pick a favorite it would be the owl. The subtle shades of gray define the night with just enough moonlight to reflect the bright eyes of the wise owl in the old tree, '*Then nightly sings, The staring owl, To-who; Tu-Whit, to-who, a merry note..*' *Love's Labour Lost, Act V scene 2*. Shakespeare's Birds, one of those special books that is deserving of a place on the 'high shelf' of every collectors library. There are 7 deluxe bindings as well as 25 standard bindings, with a blue cloth cover, in the press run. Shakespeare's Bird's is the first of a very special series by Marian and Stephen, the second title will be Shakespeare's Flora, the third will be Shakespeare's Music, 7 deluxe as well as 25 standard editions of each title are planned.

Finally, Marian and Stephen have also produced another special series with yet again another beautiful set of illustrations that is made up of three titles; *Medieval Labours*, *Medieval Wine*, and lastly *Medieval (Book Making)*, the exact title has yet to be finalized. As I have a copy of the Medieval Labours, I will provide a review of this little treasure with the next issue of the Microbibliophile. 📖

Contact information: Stephen and Marian Byrne 6 Packhorse Close, Clayton West, Huddersfield, W. Yorkshire HD8 9LU, England, sb@finalscore.demon.co.uk

Victorian Gingerbread by Ellis Rawnsley. Illustrated by Claire Campbell. Cincinnati, Ohio: Flying Pig Press, 2009. 2" x 2-1/2", 48 pages. Illustrated throughout, an open edition commissioned by Virginia Fenton. The cover of the book is done in a two color foil stamping on treated paper with an illustration representative of the book title. The spine is also color stamped with the book title and author's name. The author provides a brief history as to the origins of gingerbread and its application to American homes in the 1870's after its introduction in England in the early 19th century. As wood manufacturing techniques became more mechanized the utilization of gingerbread expanded, till a point when it began to provoke laughter and criticism. The book is decorated with several styles and various applications of architectural wood gingerbread details, which may appeal to some and not to others. Despite criticism thru various periods of time gingerbread today is enjoying a 'rebirth' of approval as it has regained a respectful place as architectural detail that also helps to preserve a bit of our history and a view into a time period when life was a bit simpler. Included with Victorian Gingerbread is a brief biography of the author who completed the book in 2001 but unfortunately died before it was able to be published. Victorian Gingerbread is printed on a Cougar paper with a Harrington 10 pt type using an Epson inkjet printer by Mark Palkovic. This is the fourth book Mark has published. The book itself is presented in a most professional format with a nonpareil marbled pattern utilized for the endpapers, the binding done by Karl Grummich at the John Galt Bindery. As a person who appreciates woodwork as well as a good book I recommend Victorian Gingerbread. There are 80 copies, unnumbered, in the press run, all standard editions. \$30, postpaid. 

Contact information: Mark Palkovic 620 Clinton Springs Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45229-1325, mark.palkovic@uc.edu

The Shame is Ours, by Caroline Y. Brandt, Cyclone Books 2010, and Richmond, VA 2010, 3 x 2 3/8" 24 pages. Hand bound by John M. Field, letterpress printing by Paul Morris, B. Franklin Printing Company. The Shame is Ours is the second offering by Cyclone Books, As I have said before life is just a continuous stream of learning events. It is certainly a well-known fact that contemporary criticism suggested that Twain's Huckleberry Finn as being racist and offensive to blacks. The title of this book is derived from a letter that Mark Twain had penned to the dean of the Yale Law School offering to pay for the boarding expenses of a black student. The Shame Is Ours goes on to explain Twain's character development of Huckleberry Finn as a 'moral awakening to injustice'. Also included in the book is a biography of Warner T. McGuinn, the student who was the recipient of Twain's offer for boarding expenses. McGuinn after graduating from Yale, went on to lead a long and successful

professional career, his friendship with Twain lasted till Twain's death in 1910. The binding is of excellent quality, the cover as well as the spine carries the title applied using a paper that matches the regular text. The endpapers are provided with an 'earth tone' marbled paper to complement the color and the slightly textured binding. The colophon provides us with all of the publication and printing details: the book was printed using Mohawk Superfine Soft White paper, the text is set in a Garamond font, and the first edition press run includes 75 signed and numbered copies \$75. The Shame is Ours is certainly a fine job and a well done piece of Americana for your collection. 📖

Contact information: Caroline Y. Brandt 1500 Westbrook Court #1109, Richmond, VA 23227

26, by Jeanne Goessling, Grey Goose Press 2010. 26 is an interesting book bound with black paper over boards and the 'pages' arranged and folded in such a unique way to emulate the bellows of a concertina, certainly no keys included, paper boards covered in a semi-gloss black paper. There are nine squares folded and arranged to form the book, all handmade and assembled by the author. The inspiration for 26 can from another book 'Alpha Beta' which highlighted the importance of our alphabet to Jeanne. Things that immediately come to mind are a telephone directory, a dictionary, indexes, or a table of contents each requires an alphabet and without one would be difficult or impossible to use. Each letter uses a different font and size. 26 is Jeanne's 20th book. 26 is great addition to your collection of alphabet books. 1 ½" x 1 ½", the total press run will be 50 copies, each signed, \$25, US shipping included. 📖

Additional information, please contact: Jeanne Goessling, Grey Goose Press, 127West Stark Road, Esko, MN 55733-9422 or Jeanne@goessling.com

Mary Katherine Goddard, by Muriel Underwood, Miscellaneous Graphics 2010. There is always a bit of the unknown when you first open the cover of a new book, that is what new fact, thought, or idea will you be treated to as you turn the pages, the opportunity is always there to increase your knowledge no matter what the subject. So is the case with Mary Katherine Goddard. Born in 1738, she became an accomplished printer in colonial America and in January of 1777, in spite of the fact that she was a women, "scooped" the competition, and was awarded the job to print the first issue officially authorized by Congress of the Declaration of Independence. Mary Katherine continued to grow her trade, was the post mistress of Baltimore from 1775 till 1789 and published several newspapers. Mary Katherine Goddard is a very interesting and informative story indeed. The book is handmade by Muriel using a Wausau Royal Fiber, smooth finish, natural colored paper. The typeface is Caslon, with a very

readable font size. Printing was completed on an HP color laser jet printer. The cover is done with a unique pink French marbled paper; the endpapers are handmade and were purchased from a Mexican supplier. Mary Katherine Goddard is the 28th book that Muriel has created, an excellent production about an excellent subject; early American women, a welcome addition to any collection, American history, woman in colonial America, American printers. 3” x 2 5/8”, 14 pages, 27 copies in the numbered press run, each signed, with a colophon, \$30 postpaid. Muriel’s next book may be based on a poem from a 1905 women’s magazine or a fantasy story. 📖

Additional information, contact information: Muriel Underwood 4431 North Monticello Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625-5943 or miscgraphics@att.net.

Hidden Gems, A Library Visit: Rutgers University Library, Miniature Book Collection,

www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/libs/scua/scua.shtml

On a crisp fall day this past October, I visited the Rutgers University, Alexander Library, 169 College Avenue, New Brunswick, New Jersey. The miniature book collection is located in the Special Collections Department of the library. Mr. Michael Joseph, the librarian in charge of rare books was most cordial and informative regarding my visit. The collection is comprised of about 1000 volumes which were bequeathed to the university by Alden Jacobs, Rutgers alumni, former Miniature Book Society member, and a resident of a town neighboring the university, Highland Park.

The library has not yet completed their cataloging of the collection however they are currently working on an electronic ‘finding aid’ that will make the collection more available from a perspective of research and catalog searching. As I mentioned the collection contains about 1000 volumes from many authors and book artists crossing many subject and topic areas. The first part of the collection that Mr. Joseph presented was the titles published by St. Onge. When I opened the box containing the books, the gilt edges were glistening in the light; the collection was absolutely pristine as if it had just come out of the publisher’s case. The list of titles was a complete set, including copy number 2 of *Noel*, with the exception of the *Inaugural Address of Thomas Jefferson*. The collection also contained several titles by REM Miniatures, Peter and Donna Thomas, Black Cat Press, Mosaic Press, as well as a sizable collection of thumb bibles. A book that caught my eye, for some possible research preceding my trip to Dublin next July, was *Winding Roads of Ireland*, by Jane Conneen.

Some of the earlier published titles as part of the collection are:

- 1727, *Biblia*, published by R. Wilkin, in St. Pauls Church Yard, London
- 1780, *Bible in Miniature*, A Concise History of the Old and New Testament, published by E. Newberry, at the corner of St Pauls Church Yard, London,
- 1842, *Dew-Drops*, published by the American Tract Society, several copies are included in the collection with many cover variations
- 1848, *Friendship's Offering*, published by Rock Brothers and Payne, London
- 1896, *Holy Bible*, (chained with a tiny lectern), published by David Bryce & Son, Glasgow
- 1904, *A Christmas Carol*, (5 volume set with a silver stand), published by Henry Frowde, London

The list would go on and on. My message here is that there is a wealth of information held in the various libraries that have miniature collections. I certainly was able to see several things that I had never seen before and learned some very interesting facts about miniature books that are new to me. My recommendation is to visit a library that has a miniature collection, meet a new person interested in miniatures, write a short article on what you saw, what you learned, what was new or maybe old, submit it to the Microbibliophile so that we can share the knowledge. 📖

Fifty and Counting by Robert F. Orr Hanson,

Editor's note: Robert F. Orr Hanson is the originator and first editor & publisher of the Microbibliophile.

Recently, I was looking for some specific information for an article about miniature books. As I was perusing Robert F. Bradbury's superb reference book titled, *Twentieth Century United States Miniature Books*, (2000) I began to wonder how many publishers of little books reached the publication of fifty titles. For instance, from my bibliography of Juniper Von Phitzer books, I know that Lloyd Neilson and Marvin Hiemstra had produced sixty-one books. Further, he now hovers near the one hundred mark since the 1999 publication date of my biography. And, I know that our esteemed colleague, Msgr. Francis Weber, has completed one hundred miniature titles under the imprint of Junipero Serra Press. But I questioned myself, who else had arrived at my arbitrarily set milestone of fifty titles?

This article will list, in alphabetical order, the fifteen publishers that reached that milestone, (50 titles), as well as the beginning and ending dates of the publications, according to *Twentieth Century United States Miniature Books*. In some cases, a publisher has produced a greater number of titles than found in the reference work because of that book's year of publication, i.e. 2000. I must state that the number of

fifty in no way disparages any other publishers or their titles as mentioned in the Bradbury book. Indeed, some publishers have produced only one book while several others have almost approached the fifty title milestone. I guess it was my need to be brief in selecting the parameter of '50 titles' or Jim Brogan would not be able to print such a lengthy article in the MICROBIBLIOPHILE. So let's discover who is part of this group of publishers. Finally, if you do not already have your own copy of the Twentieth Century United States Miniature Books, it is a great reference addition for any collector of miniature books.

1. AMISTAD PRESS – the late Yolanda Carter published both micro-miniature and miniature sized books whose subjects, mostly, were centered around the state of Texas – her home was in Austin. Yolanda published 64 titles between 1976 and 1999, in addition to 24 issues of her newsletter between 1980 and 1984.
2. BLACK CAT PRESS – Personally, I thought that the late Norman Forgue (Stokie, IL) was a perfectionist. His miniature books are favorites of mine, and his miniature rooms were works of art. Between 1937 and 1985 he published 103 miniature titles.
3. BORROWERS PRESS – Jane Bernier, based in Maine, published doll house size books from 1974 to at least 1987. There are 70 titles documented, the last two are not specifically dated.
4. BRONTE PRESS – Two sisters Suzanne Pruchnicki and Elmira Wilkey from Manteno, Illinois formed the Bronte Press and produced 51 titles between 1981 and 1999, additional tomes have since been added to their list of accomplishments, the total today stands at more than 90 titles.
5. DAWSON'S BOOK SHOP – Glen and the late Mary Ellen Dawson were the paramount benefactors of all manner of enthusiasts in the world of miniature books. Glen was the first subscriber to the MICROBIBLIOPHILE in 1977. There were 92 titles published under the imprint of Dawson's Book Shop (Pasadena, California) from 1949 to 1994.
6. HILLSIDE PRESS – The late Frank and Eleanor Irwin published 65 titles from 1961 – 1987. The Irwins printed their books first in New Hampshire and later in Buffalo, New York. Eleanor moved to Georgia, after Frank passed, then back to Buffalo, and finally to Bellevue, Washington. I will always remember the Irwins, especially, Eleanor, for her long telephone calls to my wife Helen and me.

7. JUNIPER VON PHITZER PRESS – High on a hill in San Francisco, the creative genius of Lloyd Neilson and Marvin Hiemstra published 64 titles between 1985 and 1999. The press has drawn on astute imagination, endless artistic talent and highly skilled craftsmanship to create their books. Juniper, Von, and Phitzer were three beloved cats for who the press was named. The total number of titles today hovers at 100.
8. KITMAUG PRESS – Frank Anderson, of Spartanburg, South Carolina christened his press ‘*Kitemaug*’ which means “the place of good fishing” in the Mohawk Indian language. KITMAUG has published 89 titles between the years of 1965 and 1999, the total number of titles through 2010 is an incredible 108.
9. MOSAIC PRESS – Miriam Owen Irwin, Cincinnati Ohio was the organizer and hostess for the first Miniature Book Society Conclave in 1983, and we all owe her a great debt of gratitude. Her mostly micro-miniature books add to a total of 99 titles and were published from 1977 thru 1999, with additional titles added in recent years.
10. BARBARA J. RAHEB – (Agoura Hills, California), The most prolific publisher of tiny books is my dear friend Barbara, who produced volumes and volumes under the imprints of: Mudlark Miniatures, The Littlest Library, and the Pennyweight Press. This extremely talented artist published 515 titles between 1976 and 1999. No one in the field of miniature books has produced anywhere near this total and she is to be congratulated – and thanked. Alas, this dear lady was forced to retire from book making in 2002, due to a vision condition. An additional 15 titles that are not part of the ‘Bradbury list’ are added to the total produced for a grand total of 530 titles.
11. REM MINIATURES – One of the earlier publishers of miniature books and other items I will call ‘curiosities’ is Bob Massmann, New Britain, Connecticut. My first contact with Bob was over twenty years ago when he graciously sent me a copy of the ‘Miniature Book Collector’ magazine published briefly by Achille J. St. Onge. Between 1962 and 1999, Bob has created and published 104 titles, with additional titles published **since** the Bradbury volume was compiled.
12. THE PRESS OF WORD SCHORI – A long time printer and publisher from Illinois and a close friend of Norman Forgue was the late Ward Shori. He was especially noted for his designer bindings – a few of which were bound by the very talented bookbinder from Spain – Josephina Diez. Ward Schori passed

away in 1994, after publishing 84 titles from 1964, the last four title published by his wife and son.

13. JUNIPERO SERRA PRESS – Msgr. Francis J. Weber is the Archivist of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. However, here we are concerned with his miniature books. The Bradbury reference work lists a total of 67 titles published under the Junipero Serra Press imprint. However, in 1995, Opuscula Press published a full size book of essays by Msgr. Weber, the title of which is ‘*Little is Beautiful of Make Mine A Small One*’, it contained my annotated bibliography of the *Junipero* Serra Press titles 76 through 100. I think that there are even a few additional titles; to be exact through 2009 the Monsignor has titled 126 miniature volumes. As an aside you the reader may be interested to know a few additional facts about other writing of this productive writer: by 1980 he had written 72 full-size books as well as 250 learned essays and articles, 250 book reviews, and nearly 1000 newspaper articles. Lastly, I am grateful to him for the contributions that he has made to the MICROBIBLIOPHILE over more than 20 years.
14. TABULA RASA PRESS – I first met the late John Lathourakis and his lovely wife, Gizella, while I and my wife Helen were visiting central California several years ago. I remember that John had the greatest sense of humor of anyone whom I had met. The Tabula Rasa Press had published 91 miniature titles by 1999.
15. Peter and Donna Thomas – Originally, these artists published under the press name of the Good Book Press. They are still located in Santa Cruz, California. Peter and Donna had published 56 titles between 1980 and 1999, the total today for the press has passed the 100 title milestone.

And There You Have It




The three following short features, 'Meet the Collector', 'Meet the Book Seller', and 'Meet the Publisher' are our way to get to know each other. Our intention is to include these three items in each issue. Please feel free to contribute your own short story to the Microbibliophile, so we can share the knowledge.

MEET THE COLLECTOR:

Downsizing Is the Answer! By Joan Knoertzer:

Once upon a time, I started collecting books, I was small, and the books were large. They were music books! When I became an adult, I continued to amass large books. One day it dawned on me that I had no more room for the many accumulations I had made, and started to downsize! My many music books went to a university. I even moved to a smaller home. But I missed my addiction. I needed books again. That's when I met Don Sanford, a miniature book collector. He had an exhibition of his collection in Chicago. I got on the train and went to see it. He gave me the answer: "Downsize your books! Buy miniatures!" What a genius! I began collecting again. My smaller house became filled with miniatures. Then I began a business built around my books: The Library Bed and Breakfast. I named my rooms after various kinds of books. One room became "The MiniatureRoom". I filled it with my collection of commercial miniatures. I kept the finely made miniatures for the "Well Red Room" where guests could eat breakfast and quickly review a small book. The books are all red, and well read! You see, who has more fun than those who have discovered these miniature wonders. As I continued my collecting, I found that my miniature books had also downsized. Microbibliophiles became my next focus. My latest purchase actually has three sizes of the same book...a miniature, mini, and a micromini. So you see, downsizing is the answer to happiness...and you thought it was chocolate! So did I! So I found a mini chocolatier who made me a mini chocolate book! NOW, I can live happily ever after.

So downsize! "I have 2000 books and no bookcase. No one will loan me a bookcase." Henny Youngman (1906-1998) 

Joan Knoertzer is a board member of the MBS (Miniature Book Society), and represents the organization at the yearly meeting of our affiliate, FABS (Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies). She is past president of the Book Club of Detroit, and has served in all executive positions. She was co-chair of MBS Conclave XXIV in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Joan was also the chairperson of the FABS Book Tour of 2010 in Ann Arbor and Detroit. She started collecting books at an early age and has several collections in major libraries. She is a board member of the William L. Clements Library of Americana at the University of Michigan, and has served on the Detroit Public Library Burton Special Collections board. She chaired the MBS committee to redesign the MBS Traveling Exhibit, and is the chair of the MBS Distinguished Book Award for 2011. She has written many articles and one

miniature book, "Jeanne d'arc". She has a small business in Ann Arbor, The Library Bed & Breakfast, where there just happens to be a Miniature Room. Joan is also a professional musician (pianist) who continues to perform regularly. Say hello to Joan at either librarybandb@gmail.com or P O box 3387, Ann Arbor, MI 48106

MEET THE BOOKSELLER:


Do Some Books Take French Leave, by Micheal Garbett:

I found my first fore edge painting by chance. Serendipity is probably a better word to use, because I was more than happy with the book. The painting was a huge bonus.

It was a copy of the *Petit Paroissien Bijou...suivis De La Messe Du Mariage*, printed by Perroux in Dijon, circa. 1860. It was bound in full dark blue morocco with silk end papers, gilt patterned doublures and a very fine gilt decorated spine. A choice item. I was handling the book later, while measuring for a description, when I rippled the fore edge and there it was, 'a distant view of a church, probably in Paris, seen through a pointed archway'.

I was very new to the business of bookselling, and sold it on too quickly, and I never thought I would ever see it again—until this week. A local antique dealer rang to say he had a book that might be of interest to me. As if!

Sometimes it seems to me that some books just hang around, waiting to be found. I do know that many times, when I have been asked to look out for a book that I have never seen before, within a short time I have found a copy. Some people believe that there is no such thing as synchronicity. What is happening, they say, is 'apophenia', the ability we have of finding meaning and significance where none actually exists.

They may be right, but I cannot help feeling that this book's journey is by no means finished, and that there is someone out there waiting for it to surface again, and continue the story. 

***Editor's Note:** For those readers not acquainted with the term 'fore edge painting' it refers to the painted images that are revealed when the pages of a book are 'fanned' but then disappears when the book is 'closed'. The unique art form flourished in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. A more extensive explanation and examples of fore edge decorations can be reviewed within 'Miniature books, 4,000 Years of Tiny Treasures', A. Bromer and J. Edison, Abrams, New York, 2006 and The Microbibliophile: Volume XII, Issue No. 3 'Miniature Fore-Edge Paintings' Msgr. Francis J. Weber.*

Micheal Garbett is an antiquarian book seller, fulltime for the last 30 years, based in England. Mike was originally a schoolmaster who collected books, eased into selling books, and then decided to give up teaching and pursue his selling fulltime.

He opened a bookshop but so liked attending book fairs with his wife Jeanne, he decided to sell the book store and specialize in old miniature books. Mike has attended every Miniature Book Society Conclave since Williamsburg in 1991. He is a member ILAAB and ABA, Grolier Club, Bristol Golf Club, and the Knowle Cricket Club. A side benefit of dealing in miniature books, "Did the Hong Kong Antiquarian Book-fair with a carryon bag.

Contact information is: 1 Over Court Mews, Over Lane, Almondsbury, S. Glos. BS32 4DG, England, or www.mgbooks.co.uk

MEET THE PUBLISHER:

Bronte Press: The press was founded in 1977, in Manteno Illinois by Suzanne Granzow Pruchnicki and her sister Elmira Smith Wilkey. Suzanne, in discussing the history of the press, explained that her love of books and art goes back to her childhood during which she received one book a year. Suzanne was also an art teacher as was her grandmother and has traveled extensively throughout the world building her experiences and knowledge of hand colored printed art. The connection here is that all of the illustrations that are contained in each published book from the press are original art, often they are hand colored by Suzanne. Early on the two founders were "resolved that a happy marriage between text and illustration would be integral to Bronte Press books."

The actual beginning of the press started with a printing 'press' that Suzanne was able to purchase along with the other required materials from a local weekly newspaper printer, Bill Mansfield, who occupied the same building as her family's farm implement business. "If I had a problem he solved it for me".

Over the years the press has produced more than 90 handmade miniature titles as well as larger volumes each with the signature hand colored original illustrations. In 1981 Suzanne married Paul Pruchnicki, today they both operate the Bronte Press as well as their art museum. A list of available titles is: *Gilbert & Sullivan, The Beautiful Vivien Leigh, Ireland's Golden Age, Anna Pavlova, Princess Pipsqueak, Shakespeare's Seasons, Charlotte Bronte's Best Friend, Sir Laurence Olivier, The Poet and the Feminist, Edgar Allan Poe, Moliere, Twang Dillo Dee, Vaslav Nijanska, Mischka and the Magic Picture, Twilight of an Empire, Marie Antoinette and the Diamond Necklace, Kate Greenway, and a Visit to St. Petersburg, Russia.* The most recent title from the press is 'Robin Hood' and work is underway on yet another new title 'Christmas in the Coaching Days'. 📖

Contact information is: Suzanne Pruchnicki Bronte Press and Museum, 6712N, 4180W, Bourbonnais, IL, 60914

A BOOK SHOP VISIT:

A Rainy Day on Cape Cod, by Jim Brogan

Early in November, I was spending a few days on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and decided it was time to visit a bookstore. A bookstore visit is a good cure to chase away the cold wind and rainy clouds of the day and as always find something of interest for your collection. The bookstore I choose to visit was Isaiah Thomas Books located in Cotuit, not far from Hyannis if you are familiar with the area. The shop is stocked with thousands of books on every conceivable subject.

The owner of the shop, Jim Visbeck, was a most gracious and informative host. As soon as I said that I was interested in miniature books Jim proceeded to pull several boxes of books from their safe keeping on various shelves. My first search was through at least a hundred St Onge books, looking for any variants or a few books in better condition than those in my collection, one being a near perfect copy of *The Last Will and Testament of An Extremely Distinguished Dog*. No variants per say but a very good selection of St. Onge materials. Next I looked through several items that were the work of REM Miniatures, finding an absolutely mint copy of the publisher's 'bibliography'.

Jim told several interesting stories gathered over his many years in the book business. What a great way to spend an afternoon. How about sharing a short story about your favorite book shop, write it up and send it to Microbibliophile, so we can share it with all of our readers. Who knows when you may find yourself in a new place or even take a trip to visit a new bookshop. 📖

The contact information for Isaiah Thomas Books is: 4632 Falmouth Road, Cotuit, MA 02635 – 2533, telephone 508-428-2752, email: isthomas@aol.com

SECOND TIME AROUND:

The world of miniature books is large and there is always an influx of new people looking to gain knowledge and understand just what is what. So as to be a service to the newcomers we will provide a previously published book review from an earlier issue of the Microbibliophile from time to time. Do you have a miniature that has not been previously reviewed or if you would like to share your favorite book, please let us know about it. Send an email or stick a stamp, we will be waiting for your review.

Microbibliophile trivia, the first miniature book to be reviewed in the Microbibliophile (1977) , was a set of books, 'Pleasant Beth' and 'The Darling Twins' offered at \$1.75 each by Robert L. Merriam of Conway, NH.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Annual Oxford Antiquarian Book Fair

January 22 -23 Oxford, UK www.oxfordbookfair.com

50th Stuttgart Antiquarian Book Fair

January 28 – 30th Stuttgart, Germany www.antiquare.de

36th Cambridge Antiquarian Book Fair

February 18 – 19th Cambridge, UK www.cambridgebookfair.com

44th California International Antiquarian Book Fair,

February 11-13th 2011, San Francisco, CA www.abaa.org

4th Annual Savanna Book Festival,

February 18-20th 2011, Savannah, GA www.savannahbookfestival.org

51st New York International Antiquarian Book Fair,

April 7-10th 2011, New York City www.abaa.org

Grand Conclave XXIX, Miniature Book Society

July 29 – August 1st, Dublin, Ireland www.mbs.org

PUBLICATIONS EXCHANGED:

1. Miniature Book Society Newsletter, No 85 November 2010, membership information activities, and miniature book information;
newsletter contact: Joan Boring, Editor 3204 Wildwood Road, Middletown, OH 45042 USA joan-boring@yahoo.com www.mbs.org
2. University of North Texas, Book & Friends Vol. 24 No. 1 2010, news and information from the Willis Library, Rare Book Room, contact Jennifer Sheehan, Curator UNT Libraries 1155 Union Circle, Denton, TX 76203-5017 Jennifer.Sheehan@unit.edu
3. Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies, Vol. XIV No. 2 (Fall 2010) contact information: Kay Michael Kramer, 1717 Winesap Lane, Kirkwood, MO 63122 USA editor@fabsbooks.org

CATALOGUES RECEIVED:

1. Bromer Booksellers, Fall 2010, Boston, MA,
e-mail: books@bromer.com, www.bromer.com
2. Bromer Booksellers, New Acquisitions, Catalog 133 and Catalog 134,
Boston, MA, e-mail: books@bromer.com, www.bromer.com
3. Tracy Bradbury Miniature Books, Catalogue #54 & Catalogue #55, Brooklyn,
NY, e-mail: bradburyminibooks@gmail.com
4. Karen Nyman, Catalogue #27 & #28, San Diego, CA
e-mail: karennyman2@cox.net
5. Bubb Kuyper, November 2010, Haarlem, Netherlands,
e-mail: info@bubbkuyper.com www.bubbkuyper.com
6. Michael Garbett Antiquarian Books, Almondsbury, England,
e-mail: garbettt469@btinternet.com, www.mgbooks.co.uk
7. Lux Mentis Booksellers, September 2010, Portland, Maine, USA,
e-mail: ian.luxmentis.com www.luxmentis.com
8. Gail Curry – Books, Series II, Catalog Number 9, Overland Park , KS
e-mail: curry.gail@att.net

CLASSIFIED WISH LISTS:

As a feature for subscribers the Microbibliophile will offer a ‘classified listing service’ with each issue. We do not plan, at this time, to charge for this service, each message should be no more than 250 characters. Send your information to the Editor for inclusion in the next issue.

Neale Albert is looking for two miniature books by Aseo Hoshino -- Kwaidan and Ichiaku No Suna, and also for the special editions of the Aseo Hoshino books." I am thinking of doing a Hoshino bibliography. Contact information: nma8156@yahoo.com

Katherine Bakunas is looking for the printed copies of the early MBS Newsletters, prior to October of 1989, contact information: kkbakunas@gmail.com

‘Riley’ the IRWS, Associate Editor, ‘on the ground’ in Dublin



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