



Caxtonian

A Newsletter of The Caxton Club of Chicago

Volume I, No. 1

September 1993

Two Caxtonians Join Ranks of Honorary Members

From 1895 to 1992, 30 members have been elect to Honorary status in The Caxton Club. This year at our May meeting, two very deserving members, Abel Berland and Bruce Beck, were elected unanimously to join the ranks of honored members like John T. McCutcheon and King Adolph of Sweden.

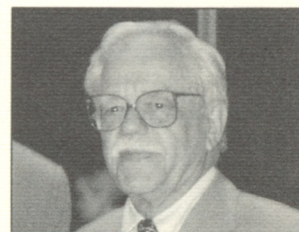
Abel has been a Caxtonian for 36 years and has proven to be a pillar of strength and dedication to the club and its objectives; moreover, he is a real friend to all who share his love of books. He is an astute collector of Early English Literature, Incunabula, poetry and the Landmark Books of Science. In addition to his service to the club, Abel is a member of five of the great book clubs,

six bibliographic societies, and is active in several academic, professional and civic organization.

Bruce, although a member for only 16 years, has acquired the honorary title through some heavy duty publication committee responsibilities -- most notably the R. H. Middleton book, for which he created the multi-authored format and then designed and produced the book. His latest achievements are the logotype and stationery for the centennial celebration and the new, first ever, membership brochure, *A Gathering of Book Lovers*. Bruce, now the proprietor of the Turtle Press, is designer, typesetter, pressman and binder of this letterpress facility.



Abel Berland



Bruce Beck

These two men truly rank as equals with the distinguished list of Honorary Members of The Caxton Club.

Hayward Blake

Late Summer Meeting Launches New Year and Conference of Humanists

In a rare, late summer meeting, August 13, 1993, 60 Caxtonians and guests gathered to hear Michael Winship, Associate Professor of English, University of Texas, Austin, discuss the relationship between C. Waller Barrett, considered by most as the greatest collector of American literature of this century, and Jacob Blanck, editor of the *Bibliography of American Literature*.

Citing private correspondence in the archives of BAL and other documents, Dr. Winship traced the growing relationship through the 1950's and concluding in a close personal friendship, which, he observed, lies at the heart of the best of book collecting.

Dr. Winship was one of six humanists in Chicago for a Saturday conference at The Newberry Library to lay groundwork for the film, *Words and Pages*, to

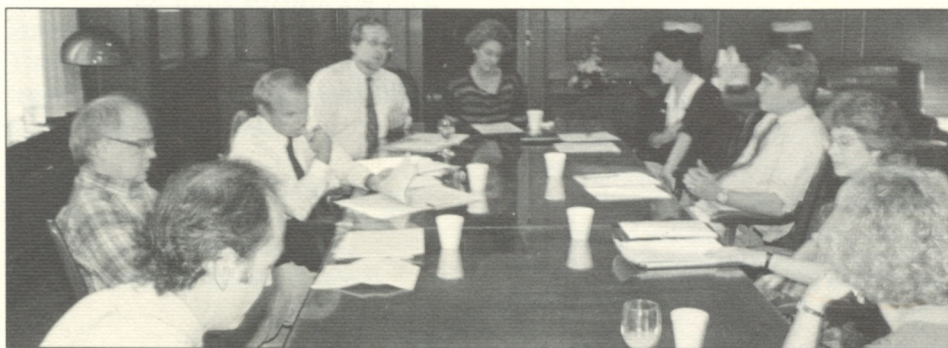
be produced by McGowan Film & Video, Inc., in cooperation with The Caxton Club. The visiting scholars were funded by a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council and selected by David McGowan and Laurie Kennard, producers of the film.

Caxtonians Alice Schreyer, University of Chicago, and Paul Gehl, The Newberry Library, served as moderators for the day-long discussion. According to

McGowan, the conference was a "splendid success," and gave the sort of direction needed.

RC

Pictured below at the conference (l-r) are: David McGowan; Terry Belanger, University of Virginia; John Cole, National Center for the Book, Library of Congress; Mr. Gehl; Claire Badaracco, Marquette University; Anne Anniger, Harvard University; Dr. Winship, Dr. Schreyer, and Laurie Kennard.



Caxtonian

The Caxton Club of Chicago
Founded 1895



President - Robert Cotner

Vice-President - Thomas J. Joyce

Secy-Treasurer - Charles L. Miner

Past President - Hayward L. Blake

Council

Class of '94

Paul F. Gehl
Jeanne Goessling
William D. Minter
Stuart J. Murphy
Sem C. Sutter

Class of '95

Howard A. Berman
Bruce W. Hubbard
Susan F. Rossen
Alice D. Schreyer
Harry L. Stern

Class of '96

Robert L. Brooks
Eugene Hotchkiss III
Gretchen L. Lagana
Kathleen Lamb
Frank J. Piehl

First Fridays Program

Chairman - Ed Quattrocchi

Co-Chairman - Leonard Freedman

Secy - Bookkeeper - Jane Smith



Newsletter Staff

Publisher - Robert Cotner

Editor - Michael Braver

Caxtonian is published monthly by the Caxton Club of Chicago. The Caxton Club office is located at 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL, 60610. Telephone, 312/943-9090, ext. 204. Permission to reprint material from *Caxtonian* is not necessary if copy of reprint is mailed to the Caxton Club of Chicago office and credit is given to *Caxtonian*.

Caxtonian is printed compliments of River Street Press, Aurora, Illinois
Fine Printers & Lithographers

Musings...

A SHAKESPEARE SORT OF SUMMER . . .

It was my pleasure to attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology this summer, taking an intensive course, Literature of Leadership, in July on the Cambridge campus. Aside from perfect weather, a short jaunt into Maine to do some Parrington research prior to the course, and a bright if Spartan room in a dormitory along the Charles River, I enjoyed reading Shakespeare for the first time in 20 years.

It was *Henry the Fourth, Part I* and *King Lear* that framed the course, under the splendid leadership of Dr. Michael Kaufman. And I heard again what we have known for years: The values of our civilization are best contained in the literary traditions of our culture, and leaders without personal heritage in those traditions are hardly leaders at all.

But, pleasant as it was to read again the works of the Bard and to share in intensive, intelligent discussions of his writings, the greatest pleasure of this summer came when, with wife Norma, I sat in the personal library of Caxtonian Abel Berland and held in my own hands the First Folio of William Shakespeare, dated 1623.

I was reminded that the book itself is the fragile but sacred vessel containing the essence of what we know to be truths of our civilization. The understanding and preservation of books of worth, ancient and current, are enterprises that have driven Caxtonians for almost 100 years. Today, as we approach our centennial, we hold a responsibility unique in this great city. To better fulfill that responsibility among ourselves and with others, we have founded the *Caxtonian*, a newsletter of The Caxton Club, occasionally spoken of among Caxtonians over the years, and now a reality.

Caxtonians are urged to comment upon, make suggestions for, and, of course, read the *Caxtonian* as it arrives, around the second week of each month. Members also are invited to submit short pieces for consideration. Deadline for submission of materials is the 10th of each month for the next month's publication.

It was Shakespeare who told us, "Brevity is the soul of wit."
And we always shall be.

Enjoy!

Robert Cotner
President

Caxton Club Centennial Exhibitions Slated

Two exhibitions are planned as part of The Caxton Club Centennial in 1995. Both events are scheduled to take place at The Newberry Library from January 25 through April 30, 1995, and promise to play a vitally important part in the Club's 100-year celebration.

One exhibition will take the title of the celebration, "Celebrating the Book in Chicago - 100 Years of The Caxton Club." The exhibition, curated by Paul F. Gehl, will focus on the history of The Caxton Club and will be drawn from the resources of the club's archive and collection of publications, which presently are located at The Newberry Library.

The second exhibition, "Personal Treasures - Favorite Books from the Collections of Current Caxton Club Members," will be co-curated by Mr. Gehl and Kathleen Lamb, with the assistance of the Centennial Exhibitions Committee. All Caxtonians are invited to submit suggestions from their own collections for this exhibition.

The objectives of "Personal Treasures" are to be as inclusive as possible, and to illustrate the greatest possible variety of collecting interests within the Club today. Due to space considerations, no more than one object per member will be included in the exhibition. It is presently estimated that the gallery can accommodate 50 to 60 books or related objects. This means it will not be possible to include something from each member's collection.

The exhibition Committee encourages all members to submit for consideration descriptions of two or three treasures from their collections. This will insure that the exhibition reflects the great variety of themes, subjects, authors, bindings, ephemera, manuscripts, etc., which comprise Club members' collections.

Caxton Club Welcomes 16 New Members for 1992-93

Sixteen new Caxtonians joined the Society in 1992-93. Currently there are 181 Resident Members, 44 Non-Resident Members, and 3 Honorary Members for a total of 228 members on the roster. New members, and those responsible for their membership, include the following:

Margaret H. Barton (Jan. 93)
Nominated by R. E. Martin

David L. Bell (Jan. 93)
Nominated by C. D. Oakes

David F. Bishop (Feb. 93)
Nominated by S. J. Murphy

Using the enclosed form, each member is asked to submit his or her suggestions. In addition to a description, space has been allocated for a personal statement regarding the object's significance to the collector. An accompanying photograph of the object would be helpful, but is not necessary.

The deadline for submitting suggestions is February 1, 1994. The curators and Exhibitions Committee will meet after that time to make decisions regarding the content of the exhibition. Members will be notified by early Spring, 1994. The customary loan forms, security measures, and arrangements for a museum installation will be arranged later in 1994. All objects will be on loan to The Newberry Library and will be insured for the duration of the exhibition.

The Exhibitions Committee looks forward to hearing from all members of The Caxton Club, and working together on this important contribution to the Club's centennial.

Members of the Exhibitions Committee are: Mary Ann Bamberger, Kathryn DeGraff (Chair), Paul Gehl, Gretchen Lagana, Kathleen Lamb and Edward Roseheim.

Kathleen Lamb

Michael Evanoff (Oct. 92)
Nominated by T. Joyce

Scott D. Fehlon (Feb. 93)
Nominated by R. E. Martin

Carla Hayden (Oct. 92)
Nominated by H. Blake

Samuel Huang (Jan. 93)
Nominated by T. J. Joyce

Amos Paul Kennedy (May 93)
Nominated by B. Beck

Julia W. Kramer (Feb. 93)
Nominated by S. A. Friedberg

Barbara Metz (Nov. 92)
Nominated by B. Beck

Ernest Mond, M.D. (April 93)
Nominated by B. Metz

K. H. Paterson (Oct. 92)
Nominated by H. Blake

David M. Sullivan (April 93)
Nominated by T. J. Joyce

Patricia K. Swanson (Jan. 93)
Nominated by A. Schreyer

Muriel Underwood (April 93)
Nominated by F. O. Williams

Robert Williams (Oct. 92)
Nominated by E. W. Rosenheim

Charles Miner

December Meeting Note

At the annual Holiday Revels on December 8, 1993, members will be guests of the Guild of Hand Bookbinders and the Chicago Hand Bookbinders for a special exhibit and lecture. Dinner will be held in the East Hall of the Newberry.

Book Marks

Luncheon Programs

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held in the Mid-Day Club, 56th floor of First National Bank, Madison & Clark, Chicago. Luncheon and discussion, 12 noon.

October 1.

Florence Shay, antiquarian bookseller, proprietor of Titles, Inc.

November 5.

Ralph Newman, long-time Caxtonian, author, specialist in the Civil War, and book dealer for 60 years – the city's oldest dealer in rare books.

Ed Quattrocchi

1993-94 Caxton Club, Council and Centennial Meetings

The following dates represent the schedule of Council and Centennial Committee meetings, which precede, at 4:15pm, the monthly meetings of The Caxton Club. All meetings are in the Mid-Day Club.

September 15, 1993	Council
October 20, 1993	Centennial
November 17, 1993	Council

Caxtonian Paul F. Gehl Departs for Italy

Paul F. Gehl, Caxtonian and Council member has left for an academic year's fellowship at Villa I Tatti, Harvard University's U. S. Center for Renaissance Studies outside of Florence, Italy. He will be on sabbatical from his position at The Newberry Library.

In his absence, Kathleen Lamb will serve as the Curator of Exhibits, and Kathryn DeGraff will serve as chair of the Centennial Exhibit Committee.

Mr. Gehl will remain on the Council while in Italy. He is scheduled to return to Chicago on June 20, 1994.

RC

Dinner Programs

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held in the Mid-Day Club, 56th floor of First National Bank, Madison & Clark, Chicago. Spirits-5pm; Dinner-6pm; Lecture-7pm

September 15.

John G. Delly. "Microscopical Study of a Late XVth Century French Book of Hours."

October 20.

Philip Krapp. A life in and with literature.

November 17.

Gloria D. Timmel. The Volland Press of Chicago and Joliet, and its books for children.

December 8.

The Holiday Revels. At The Newberry Library for the occasion of a major exhibit of modern bookbindings. Dinner, music, and a talk.

Tom Joyce

RC



The Caxton Club of Chicago
60 West Walton Street
Chicago, IL 60610

