

Caxtonian

A Newsletter of The Caxton Club of Chicago

Volume I, No. 2

October 1993

INJUN SUMMER

Yep, sonny, this is sure enough Injun summer. Don't know what that is, I reckon, do you?

Well, that's when all the homesick Injuns come back to play. You know, a long time ago, long afore yer granddaddy was born even, there used to be heaps of Injuns around here—thousands—millions, I reckon, far as that's concerned. 'Jibways, Pottawatomies, Iroquois, an' lots o' others—reg'lar sure 'nough Injuns—none o' yer cigar store Injuns, no much. They wuz all around here—right where you're standin'. Don't be skeered—hain't none around here now, leastways, no live ones. They ben gone this many a year. They all went away and died, so they ain't no more left.



But every year, long about now, they all come back, leastways, their sperrits do. They're here now. You can see 'em off across the fields. Look real hard. See that kind o' hazy, misty look out yonder. Well, them's Injuns—Injun sperrits—marchin' along and dancin' in the sunlight. That's what makes that kind o' haze that's everywhere—it's just the sperrits of the Injuns all come back. They're all around us now. See off yonder, see them teepees. They kind o' look like corn shocks from here, but them's Injun tents, sure as you're a foot high. See 'em now? Sure, I knowed you could. Smell that smoky sort o' smell in the air? That's the campfires a-burnin' an' their pipes a-goin'. Lots o' people say it's just leaves burnin', but it ain't. It's the campfires, an' th' Injuns are hoppin' round 'em t' beat the old Harry.

You jest come out here tonight when the moon is hangin' over the hill off yonder an' the harvest fields is all swimmin' in th' moonlight, an' you can see the Injuns and the teepees just as plain as kin be. You can, eh? I knowed you could after a little while.

Jever notice how the leaves turn red 'bout this time o' year? That's just another sign o' redskins. That's when an old Injun sperrit gits tired dancin' an' goes up an' squats on a leaf t' rest. Why, I kin hear 'em rustlin' an' whisperin' an' creepin' round among the leaves all the time; an' ever once in a while a leaf gives way under some fat old Injun ghost and comes floatin' down to the ground. See—here's one now. See how red it is. That's the war paint rubbed off'n an Injun ghost, sure's you're born.

Purty soon, all the Injuns'll go marchin' away agin, back to the happy huntin' ground, but next year you'll see 'em troopin' back—th' sky jest hazy with 'em and their campfires smolderin' away jest like they are now.

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Centennial Committee on Constitution Formed

Council member, Eugene Hotchkiss III, has accepted the chair of a newly-formed, ad hoc Constitution & By-Laws Committee. Working with Club Historian, Frank Piehl, and members of his selection, Dr. Hotchkiss will review the current Caxton Club Constitution & By-Laws; incorporate changes made over the years; propose changes; guide through the Council and membership the voting on these changes; and, present prior to the Centennial, January 1995, a new Constitution & By-Laws for The Caxton Club.

Caxtonians are urged to study the present document and forward suggestions to Dr. Hotchkiss for consideration. The January Council meeting, it has been suggested, will be an expanded session dedicated solely to the consideration of the direction of The Caxton Club as it moves into its second century.

Council Votes to Change Holiday Meeting Dates

The Council of The Caxton Club, on September 15, 1993, voted unanimously on the resolution that, whenever the regular meeting of The Caxton Club falls on a major national or religious holiday, the meeting of the club be moved to another day within a week, depending upon the availability of the meeting facility, and that sufficient notice be given the membership for the change of meeting date.

The Council will publish in April of each year the proposed meeting dates for a thorough review regarding holidays and meeting dates. The Council regrets that the high holy day, Rosh Hashana, was scheduled for a Caxton Club meeting this year. Such will not happen in future years.

Blake to Represent The Caxton Club in New York

As part of his responsibility to link The Caxton Club with other major urban book-arts groups across the United States, Past President Hayward Blake will represent all Caxtonians at The Grolier Club in New York City, November 5, 1993.

The meeting is designed to organize and plan closer working relations among book clubs across the country. An expected outcome from the meeting is a possible mid-1994 symposium of major book clubs.

Clubs expected include: The Rowfant Club, The Philobiblon Club, The California Book Club, The Club of Odd Volumes, and The Baxter Club.

Caxtonian

The Caxton Club of Chicago
Founded 1895



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Vice-President - Thomas J. Joyce

Secy-Treasurer - Charles L. Miner

Past President - Hayward L. Blake

Council

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Paul F. Gehl
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Stuart J. Murphy
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Bruce W. Hubbard
Susan F. Rossen
Alice D. Schreyer
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Class of '96

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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

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Musings...

"Writing an introduction to John McCutcheon is a large order, something like writing an introduction to *Autumn or Winter*; it is not just writing an introduction to 'Injun Summer.' It is writing an overture to the spirit of America..."
-Vincent Starrett

I never met John McCutcheon. In fact, I did not know his name until joining The Caxton Club. But I knew and grew up in tune with the melodious "overture to the spirit of America" so integral to his life and art that he was often ranked with Booth Tarkington and Mark Twain, as a leading local-color artist and social critic of his day.

Somewhere in early springtime of childhood, I first experienced the autumnal tones of "Injun Summer," and it cast a seasonal spell that returns each year as regularly as the first frost. No Indian Summer has passed since my seeing McCutcheon's sketch that I have not remembered and, remembering, been touched by the profundity of McCutcheon's art, linking living spiritual myths of Native Americans with all who hold trust to this grand land--whether we are aware of it or not.

It is significant that the *Chicago Tribune* has republished "Injun Summer" every September, year after year--although, I am sorry to report, the newspaper will not publish it this year. It is important, therefore, that, on the cover of our second issue of the *Caxtonian*--especially for Indian Summer 1993--we commemorate the 87th anniversary of "Injun Summer," by Caxtonian John T. McCutcheon.

A member of The Caxton Club from 1944, when he was chosen Honorary Member, until his death in 1949, McCutcheon yet stands as one of the great journalists, adventurers, and creative spirits of this city and nation.

McCutcheon and Caxtonians are intricately bound, through the pages of *John McCutcheon's Book*, a 1948 publication of The Caxton Club. This beautiful volume is a comprehensive collection of McCutcheon's art and writing throughout his life, a lasting and living legacy to both the artist and our club.

As we look forward to the Centennial of The Caxton Club, we celebrate, in general, the book and intellectual heritages that encompass our own and other civilizations. But, in a more specific way, we celebrate *our* books and those who created them--among whom John T. McCutcheon was, well, like *Autumn, or Winter*.

Robert Cotner
President

Harold W. Tribolet Dies at 82

Caxtonian Harold W. Tribolet died, September 8, 1993, at the age of 82 in Perry Park, Colorado, where he had been living in retirement for the past 20 years. He had been a member of The Caxton Club since 1942 and was elected to Honorary Membership in 1974.

Mr. Tribolet enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a book binder and conservationist. He served his apprenticeship under one of the outstanding binders of the 19th and 20th centuries, Alfred de Sauty. De Sauty had been sent to America in 1921 by Douglas Cockrell, a pupil of Cobden-Sanderson, to form the Extra Bindery at the Lakeside Press. Mr. Tribolet was employed by R. R. Donnelley & Sons in 1927 and spent most of his career there as manager of the graphic arts department. He retired in 1973.

He was a lecturer for the University of Chicago, Library of Congress, and the New York State Historic Association. In 1966-67, after the flood in Florence, Italy, he was called as a consultant in the subsequent restoration work, receiving as U. S. Presidential commendation in 1970 for his efforts.

Harold Tribolet joined The Caxton Club in 1942 and was active in the club for many years. He served as secretary/treasurer and was a member of the publications committee from 1953 to 1959; he served on the Council from 1960 to 1969. When The Caxton Club held its first evening dinner meeting at the Mid-Day Club on Tuesday, November 28, 1948, Mr. Tribolet addressed the membership on "The Tool in the Hand of the Extra Binder." When he spoke to the members again in 1971, the announcement referred to him in warm

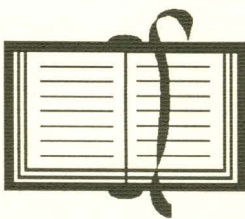
and friendly terms, "Austere and recondite as his domestic and international operations have made him, Harold can be as interesting and as humorous as any abandoned japer who ever held forth at The Caxton Club."

The membership of The Caxton Club mourns the loss of a truly great Caxtonian and extends its sympathy to his wife, Mildred, and to his children and grandchildren.

Frank J. Piehl



The Caxton Chronicles



The Caxton Club was founded in 1895 by 15 Chicagoans "for the literary study and promotion of the

arts pertaining to the production of books." Ten of the founders were executives, successful business men, or capitalists. All were bibliophiles of renown. The other five founders were from the book world. They brought together just the right mix of executive skills, business and publishing expertise, and bibliophic dedication to create an outstanding book club.

James W. Ellsworth was elected as the first president of the club. His fortune was derived from the coal fields of West Virginia and Ohio.

He was a director of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, and participated in many civic activities in his adopted city of Chicago, including membership on the Board of the South Park Commissioners and the Board of Directors of the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893. His son, Lincoln Ellsworth, a civil engineer, was the noted explorer, who, with Roald Amundsen, made the first aerial crossing of the North Polar Basin.

James Ellsworth invested much of his personal fortune in his collection of fine art and books. He owned a remarkably fine Rembrandt as well as a distinguished collection of paintings by American artists. His love for fine books brought him to the "Saints and Sinners Corner" of Alexander C. McClurg's bookstore, where he rubbed elbows with Chicago collectors and writers.

In 1891, he bought the Gutenberg Bible at the Brayton Ives sale for \$14,000, bringing the first copy of this milestone in printing history to Chicago. His collection included the four Shakespeare folios, a full set of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, Washington letters, and Lincoln manuscripts. In addition to being a founding father of The Caxton Club, he was a member of The Grolier Club of New York and of the Bibliographic Society of London. He left Chicago in the late 1890's for New York but remained a Non-Resident Member of The Caxton Club.

Frank J. Piehl

Editor's Note - Readers may look forward to "The Caxton Chronicles" regularly, as created by Club Historian, Frank J. Piehl, to whet the appetite for the forthcoming club history.

Book Marks

Luncheon Programs

Caxton Membership Grows

Dinner 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, 12:30pm.

The Caxton Club grew by four new members in September. New members and those responsible for their membership are:

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

William D. Mulliken
Nominated by John K. Notz, Jr.

Bonnie Schultz
Nominated by Glen N. Wiche

Dr. Claire M. Badaracco
Nominated by Paul Gehl
and Jean Gottlieb

Clyde Engle
Nominated by Florence Shay

Charles Miner

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

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

Reservations for luncheon programs are requested. Reservations for dinner programs are required. Please make them by calling 312/943-9090, ext. 204, no later than 24 hours prior to the event.

Hayward Blake

In Memoriam - John Michael, 1918-1993

John Michael, a resident Caxtonian for 13 years, died on September 2, 1993. He will be remembered for his good humor, intelligence and sensitivity. John was active on the publication committee for several years and participated with Jim Wells, Greer Allen and Gordon Martin on many club projects.

As designer, typographer and printer, he produced one of our more special publications, *William Caxton*, a paper read before the club by Jim Wells. John returned last year to give us an illustrated talk, "Mastering The Black Art," about Acorn Press, which was owned and operated for 43 years with his wife Jean, who preceded him in death, August 16, 1993. His death is a great loss to the graphic arts community and to The Caxton Club.



The Caxton Club of Chicago
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