



Caxtonian

A Newsletter of The Caxton Club of Chicago

Volume II, No.1

January 1994

A Swift Kick-Off For The New Year

"Sat [ire] is a sort of Glass, wherein Beholders do generally discover every body's Face but their Own." - J. Swift, *The Battle of the Books*

January is the month named for the Roman god with two faces, one looking forward and one looking backward. It is fitting, therefore, that our dinner meeting speaker this month is the distinguished University of Chicago Professor Emeritus, Edward (Ned) Rosenheim.

"The Battle of the Books" has been a theme essayed by Professor Rosenheim for more than 45 years, since before he was hired as a faculty member in the Department of English at U of C in 1947, during which time he has specialized in the writings of Jonathan Swift, author of *Tale of a Tub* and, of course, *Gulliver's Travels*.

What Happens in Literature? has been more than just a title of one of the professor's books; it has been his constant preoccupation, especially how satire happens, and Dean Swift was the grandmaster of satire. Why was Swift so satirical? What drove him? What does he have to say to us today? And what did Swift have to say to three generations of students?

Dr. Rosenheim first spoke to The Caxton Club on the subjects of Swift and satire, ca. 1958, 20 years before he became a member of the club;

30 years before he was elected President of The Caxton Club.



So, whether you remember his earlier talk or not, please join us for dinner on January 19, to hear our own Janus, Ned Rosenheim, who will look backward to the satire of Jonathan Swift and forward to interpret the future for us in terms of the wisdom of Swift in the ongoing battle of the books and the battle of life.

Professor Rosenheim will place these views in terms of what he has learned from his own battles of the books and life. It promises to be a stimulating, witty way to kick off the 99th year of The Caxton Club.

Tom Joyce

Caxton Committee Chairs Filled For Centennial Countdown

All committee chairs are now filled in the Caxton Club structure. Both standing committees and ad hoc committees, created to bring about the special activities for the 1995 Caxton Club Centennial, have volunteer leadership of Caxtonians.

The standing committees and their leadership are:

Archives - Gretchen Lagana
Finance - Alex E. Kleine
Membership - Howard Berman
Nominating - Robert Cotner

Programs - Thomas Joyce
Publications - Susan Rosen

Special ad hoc committees and their leadership are:

Centennial - Karen Skubish and Frank O. Williams
Constitution & By-Laws - Eugene Hotchkiss
Development - Ann Koch and Jud Scruton
First Friday's - Edward A. Quattrocchi and Leonard Freedman
Film - William Minter
History - Frank Piehl

The volunteer hours given to both leadership of and membership on Caxton committees represents a splendid dedication on the part of membership. Club president, Robert Cotner, recently commented, "Sitting as I do at the head of this organization, I am amazed by the faithful response of members to the work we are about. I see regularly 20 or more gather for our Centennial Committee, and I am pleased that we never have to worry about a quorum at the Council meetings."

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

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Fine Printers & Lithographers

Musings...

One year from this month, we shall celebrate the 100th anniversary of The Caxton Club. In anticipation, I'd like to consider some thoughts about centennials, the mind, the book, and civilization -- an admittedly awesome task for this limited space.

But, to begin: A centennial is about more than commemorating survival through time. In fact, Henry David Thoreau was right when he wrote, "Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in." How folks perform upon that stream, and what they catch, are the ultimate concerns.

I hold that, in the scheme of things, the mind is our most precious human heritage; a life of the mind is our most important human freedom. The book has been and continues to be the single most important creation toward the cultivation, refinement, expansion, and preservation of the mind, individually and collectively. The book thus is the keystone in the edifice of civilization, holding humankind and her ideas in balance with human dignity in building a truly effective society.

The survival of The Caxton Club for a century is testimony to the validity of the initial vision of the founders; it is evidence of the commitments of members through the years, necessary for that vision to mature unto this day. To quote again my good friend, HDT: "In accumulating property for ourselves or our posterity, in founding a family or state, in acquiring fame, we are mortal; but in dealing with truth we are immortal, ..."

The truth of the matter is this: The Caxton Club of 1995 will be far superior to The Caxton Club of 1895 for one magnificent reason: We are an organization with no religious, racial, gender, or national exclusions -- and that could not be said of the club of 1895. It cannot be said for some organizations in 1994. The Caxton Club has broken the barrier of provincialism to become what Vernon Louis Parrington called a model society -- a "commonwealth" of peoples.

The other day, I heard the editor of *American Demographics* speak, and he introduced me to a new word -- always a remarkable occurrence. That word, used to describe American society's current, subtle movement away from segregation, fragmentation, and division, is *affinitization*. It means the coalescing of highly diverse peoples into new relationships within groups held together on the bases of mutual interests, concerns, and commitments.

As we celebrate our centennial, we do more than observe our 100th anniversary. Most importantly, we celebrate The Caxton Club as a vital commonwealth, whose affinitizations give us an important advantage, rare in this city and the nation, as we begin our second century as Chicago's premier organization dedicated to the book in society and all that means to the life of the mind in our time, and beyond.

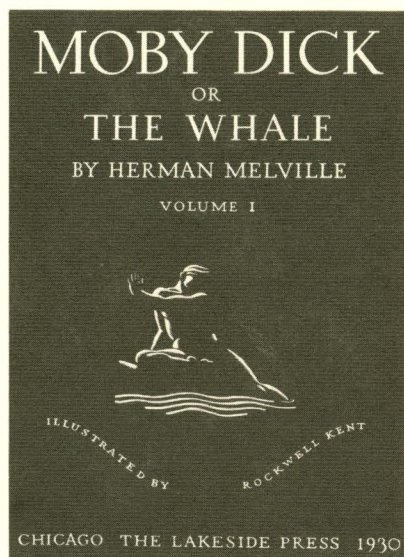
Robert Cotner
President

Caxtonian Writes of Major Donnelley Publishing Effort: A Review

American Culture and the Marketplace. By Claire Badaracco. Library of Congress. \$15

The importance of Caxtonian Claire Badaracco's monograph is, like the R. R. Donnelley Company's national role in preservation of fine printing, greater than the dimensions of its own investiture.

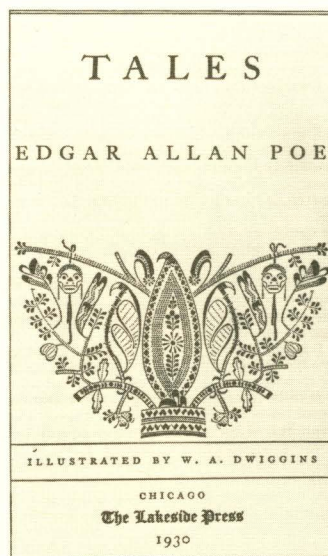
Illustrated with eight photographs and 24 stunning plates, the 68-page study explores the "cultural paradox" of the late 1920s when the finest printing of the time was given to "what is termed low culture," while the works of "high culture" were produced without the same regard for quality."



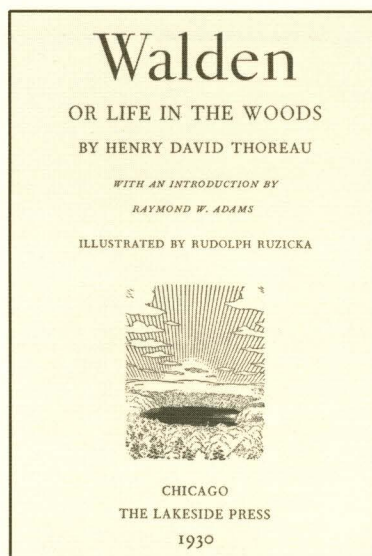
The Four American Books campaign, begun in 1925 by R. R. Donnelley Company, was intended to achieve "The goal of graphic beauty for the books and to combine the higher standards of artistic beauty with democratic utility."

Over the next five years, under the extraordinary leadership of William A. Kitteredge and C. G. Littell, the Donnelley Company prepared and

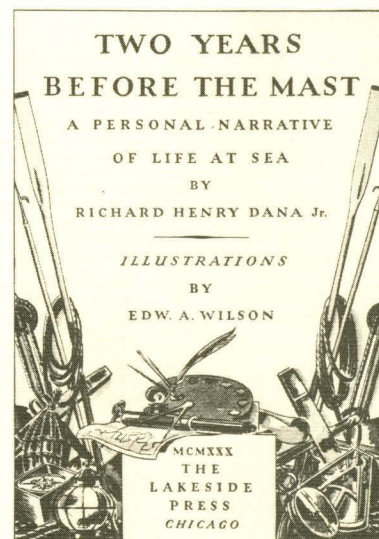
published Melville's *Moby Dick*, illustrated by Rockwell Kent; the *Tales* of Edgar Allan Poe, illustrated by W. A. Dwiggins; Thoreau's *Walden*, illustrated by Rudolph Ruzicka; and Dana's *Two Years Before the Mast*, illustrated by Edward A. Wilson.



Dr. Badaracco's scholarship, based primarily on the holdings of the Wing Foundation Collection of the History of Printing at The Newberry Library, presents a highly-readable story focus-



ing on the people of Donnelley and the contracted artists who produced four remarkable books.



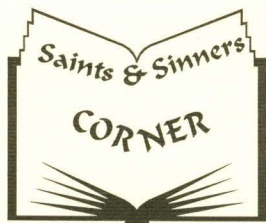
She delineates in a comprehensive form the role of Donnelley as the manufacturer of good books. But equally important, she tells of "Kitteredge's feel for publicity and Littell's long-range marketing strategy [which] would exert an influence over the way books would be publicized in the next several decades."

The Rockwell Kent *Moby Dick* and the Ruzicka *Walden*, considered "definitive illustrated editions" of the respective works, won a place in the Fifty Books of the Year competition in 1931.

Claire Badaracco makes an important contribution to the history of Chicago publishing with this intelligent, beautiful study of a company closely affiliated with The Caxton Club over the years.

RC

Editor's Note: The illustrations of the title pages accompanying this review are provided courtesy of R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company.



Holiday Revels Revealed

The Price of Sin ... The American Library Association recently reported that book thieves and negligent readers cost American libraries \$50 million annually in stolen or lost books.

About one percent of all books checked out, the association reported, are not returned. In Chicago, that figure is three percent, or 180,000 lost books a year at the 83 regional and branch libraries.

Relative Worth ... "Venerable Manhattan book dealer H. P. Kraus recently sold a copy of St. Augustine's classic *Confessional*, printed in 1675, for \$375. At an October auction in New York, a signed 1981 copy of *Danse Macabre* by horrormeister Stephen King sold for \$1,870."

Thus begins a two-page report on the current status of current first editions in *U. S. News & World Report* (December 6, 1993, pp 78-79.)

Spirited Away ... Cozener John McKinven, a.k.a. Alexander the Magican, enlightened, amused, and mystified fellow Caxtonians with his legerdemain at the December First Friday luncheon. He also reviewed the bibliography of a 16th century publication, the first book to refute witchery and its practices. Reginald Scot's *The Discoverie of Witchcraft* has gone through five editions and numerous reprintings. It is still available from Dover Publications. Anyone interested in a copy of the first edition can expect to have about \$15,000 spirited away.

The 1993 Holiday Revels, December 8, 1993, were held a bit earlier this year than customary to take advantage of the joint exhibit of the National Guild of Book Workers with that of the Chicago Hand Bookbinders at The Newberry Library.

Caxtonians and their guests -- there were more than 125 in attendance -- loosened up into the spirit of the season by releasing a few bottled spirits during the preprandials. The holiday mood was wondrously enhanced by the Christmas airs strummed and plucked by harpist and Caxtonian, Karen Skubish, who, with her Newberry staffers, had decked the East Hall with baskets of holly and poinsettias, and a Tannenbaum.

In one corner was displayed for the first time in years, copies of the available Caxton Club publications, and club tie and scarf, at special holiday prices. Two new member items debuted that night: the new Caxton Club "CC" lapel pin and tie tac. Council members Frank Piehl, Kathy Lamb, and Tom Joyce sold nearly \$1,000 worth of Caxtoniana to gift shoppers, thereby strengthening our new publications fund by that amount.

Special thanks go to Bill Minter, who developed and emceed the program, a slide show, with interpretive reading by actress, Meighan Gerahis, of *Dora's Book*, a story about one woman's dream to create her own book and how she did it. Each attendee at the Revels was then handed a booklet keepsake, needle, and thread, and simple instructions on how to bind and personalize the booklet.

New Caxtonian, Amos Paul Kennedy, distributed a keepsake from his own handpress, Jubilee Press, for the occasion, *The Twelve Days After Christmas -- Negro Folklore*. Unfortunately, there were more Revelers than items to go around, so only a lucky few received copies.

On his way out to view the exhibit, Rupert Wenzel observed that it had been the best Revels in his 27 years as a Caxtonian. The next day, one of the guests called to inquire about the "mystery meat" entree. The "mystery" was how the beef medallions were made so tasty and succulent, but Greg Norman, of Simply Elegant Catering, says only his chef knows for sure.

Tom Joyce



Rockell Kent woodblock illustration for Moby Dick, courtesy of R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company

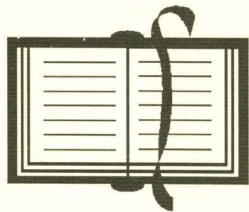
Council Makes Changes in Caxton Meetings

The Caxton Council, at its November 17, 1993, meeting voted unanimously to feature a field trip at the June 1994 meeting. The Council also voted to hold a meeting in August, 1994, as a result of the highly successful August meeting in 1993. Many Caxtonians, away from Chicago during the winter months, were pleased to have a late-summer meeting before departing.

Vice President and Program Chair, Tom Joyce, will work out the details for both the field trip in June and the August meeting.

It also was decided by the Council that members should continue to receive meeting announcements, both for the dinner and the luncheon meetings, in addition to the *Caxtonian*. The matter will be reconsidered in 1995.

The Caxton Chronicles



The publishing firm of R. R. Donnelley & Sons and its Lakeside Press has had a

long and intimate association with The Caxton Club. When journeyman printer Richard Robert Donnelley came to Chicago in 1864, he first entered the printing business in the firm of Church, Goodman & Donnelley. By 1879, he had bought out his partners and given the company its present name. It has since grown to become one of the largest commercial printers in the world.

By the turn of the century, the company had expanded the scope of its operations to include printing of private editions, editions de luxe, and books requiring taste and careful workmanship. The company also became know nationwide

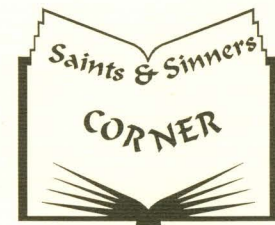
Caxton Club Receives Major Gift

When Caxton Club Vice President, Rolf Erikson, died, he left a bequest of \$5,000 in his will to The Caxton Club, designated for use by the club's Publication Committee, as it deems appropriate. These funds will be used for the publication of the nearly-completed club history, being written by Club Historian, Frank Piehl.

In December, Mrs. Gordon Adamson, in memory of her husband, donated 27 shares of ITW stock, which, when sold, will be designated for the club's centennial celebration.

Inquiries about contributions, small or large, may be directed to Charles Miner, club treasurer, Robert Cotner, or members of the Development Committee, Ann Koch or Jud Scruton.

Because The Caxton Club holds a 501(c)(3), all gifts are tax deductible.



Yours for the asking...A recently published catalogue from Oak Knoll Books lists four of the scarce Caxton Club publications on book binders: *Thomas Berthelet, Royal Printer and Bookbinder to Henry VIII*, by Cyril Davenport (1901); *The French Bookbinders of the Eighteenth Century*, by Octave Uzanne (1904); *Samuel Mearne, Binder to King Charles II*, by Cyril Davenport (1906); and, *Roger Payne, English Bookbinder of the Eighteenth Century*, by Cyril Davenport (1929). Published at an average price of under \$15, they now command \$225 - \$700 depending on content and condition. Interested Caxtonians may call 302/328-7274.



for its expertise in book restoration and conservation, and it began publishing annually its *Lakeside Classics*, an important contribution to American literature.

When Richard Donnelley and his son, Thomas E. Donnelley, joined The Caxton Club in 1895 during its first year, they began a tradition of family membership in the club that has continued uninterrupted through four generations. Various members of the family have played leadership roles in pulling the club through some of its most difficult years. Moreover, executives and employees at Lakeside Press also were active in the club. For a period of more than 35 years, the Secretary-Treasurer was either a member of the Donnelley family or staff. The club archives and book inventory were stored at the Lakeside Press during this period.

Many of the publications of The Caxton Club were produced at the Lakeside Press. The early publications were design gems, but the designers were not always identified. William Kittredge joined the Donnelley staff in 1922 and served as director of design and typography for 22 years, until his death in 1945. He joined The Caxton Club in 1925, served on the Council for 17 years, and served on the publication committee for 11 years. He designed nine of the finest Caxton publications in the 1930s and 1940s. He also instituted the tradition of the Holiday Revels in 1939.

The Caxton Club would not be what it is today were it not for its long and rewarding association with the Donnelley family, the Lakeside Press, and its staff.

Frank J. Piehl

Book Marks

Luncheon Programs

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held in the Mid-Day Club, 56th floor of the First National Bank of Chicago, Madison & Clark, Chicago. Luncheon and discussion, 12:30pm.

January 7.

Theresa Quattrocchi will speak about a rare 17th century manuscript entitled "The Tragedy of Jeptha's Daughter."

February 4.

Paul Saenger, head of acquisition, The Newberry Library, will talk about "How The Newberry Builds its Collections."

*Ed Quattrocchi
Leonard Freedman*

New Members Welcomed

Following are new club members and the persons responsible for their membership.

John P. Chalmers
Nominated by Tom Joyce

Dr. Craig Showalter
Nominated by Tom Joyce

Frank Archer
Nominated by Scott Keller

Roger S. Baskes
Nominated by Robert Karrow

R. Eden Martin
Nominated by Roger Vree

Charles Miner

Dinner Programs

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

January 19.

Edward (Ned) W. Rosenheim.
"Swift to the End: Reflections on a Life Spent with Jonathan Swift."

February 16.

Wesley B. Tanner & wife.
"The Making of The *Four Gospels*, a Work in Print and Calligraphy."

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.

The First National Bank of Chicago's parking garage, 40 South Clark Street, offers a special parking rate after 5pm to guests of the Mid-Day Club. When you leave, please tell the parking attendant you were at the Mid-Day Club and your parking fee will be \$7.00.

Constitution & By-Laws Committee Session Planned

Eugene Hotchkiss has named the Constitution & By-Laws Committee, which is responsible for studying the present document, suggesting necessary changes, and guiding those changes through the Council and membership.

Members of the committee are Hayward Blake, Gretchen Lagana, Arthur Miller, and Frank Piehl. Robert Cotner will serve as an ex officio member. The first meeting

of this committee was held December 16, 1993.

The Council voted to devote a major portion of its January meeting to a focused discussion on the Constitution & By-Laws of the club, dealing with both the current document and the future directions of the organization as it heads into its second century.

THE CAXTON CLUB



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