



Caxtonian

A Newsletter of The Caxton Club of Chicago

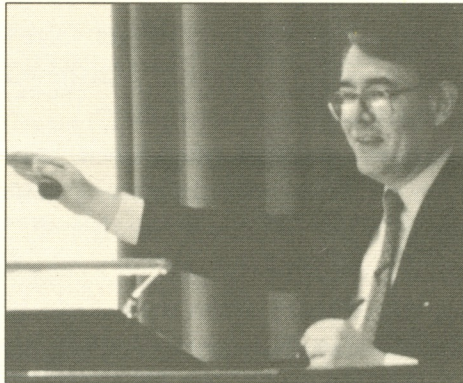
Volume II, No. 11

November 1994

Sotheby's David Redden Scheduled as November Dinner Speaker

The November dinner speaker, David Redden, Senior Vice President, Sotheby's in New York City, will speak on "Attic Archeology: A Tale of Great Treasures Found in Unlikely Places," November 16, 1994, at The Mid-Day Club.

Among others, Mr. Redden has presided over the sale of H. Bradley Martin's ornithological library and the Collection of The Garden, Ltd., which included the four folios of Shakespeare.



Mr. Redden auctioning the Russian Space History sale, December 11, 1993.

Those collections were rather well-known quantities. Perhaps more significant is Mr. Redden's innovations, and risks taken. One of the risks he took was in creating the Russian Space History sale of space artifacts, which featured a used space capsule and some moon rocks.

This is a speaker, this is a Caxton dinner program, that members and guests will not want to miss. All are urged to make reservations immediately.

Rand McNally Grant to Underwrite Exhibit Catalogue

Through the generous assistance of Caxtonian Andrew McNally III, Rand McNally is funding the publication of the catalogue accompanying The Newberry Library exhibit, "Personal Treasures - Favorite Books from the Collections of Current Caxton Club Members."

The illustrated catalogue, designed by Caxtonian Muriel Underwood, will be 20 pages in length. It will feature a complete listing of the exhibits of the 50 Caxton members in "Personal Treasures,"

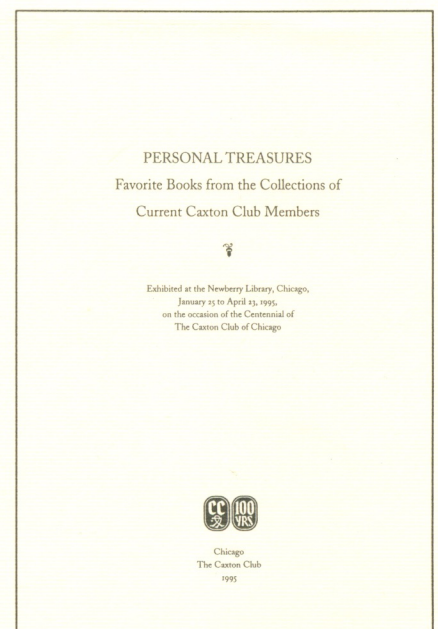
scheduled for display at the Newberry, January 25 through April 23, 1995.

The catalogue will be 6 3/4" x 8 3/4" and is designed to fit within the cover of the centennial history. It will be printed on 80-pound Strathmore smooth white stock, and the cover on Splendorlux cover stock. The catalogue will be set in Caslon type and printed in two-colors, the standard Caxton red, and black.

Andrew McNally III has been a Caxtonian since 1959. His collecting interests are, as one would expect, old maps and atlases. He has, as well, an extensive collection of antique fore-edges. Mr. McNally recently became Chairman Emeritus of Rand McNally Company, a family-owned, Chicago firm in its 138th year as a famed publisher of maps, atlases, tickets and books.

commented, "We are thoroughly delighted to have Rand McNally's generous and important donation to the Caxton centennial program through this gift."

The title page of the catalogue appears below.



Fore-Edge Painting: The term is most commonly used for a technique whereby the fore-edge of a book (the edge opposite the spine), very slightly fanned out and then held fast, is decorated with painted views or conversation pieces. The edges are then gilded in the ordinary way, so that the painting remains concealed (and protected) while the book is closed: When one fans out the edges, the picture appears.

Based on John Carter,
ABC for Book-Collectors

Caxton President Robert Cotner

Caxtonian

The Caxton Club of Chicago
Founded 1895



President - Robert Cotner
Vice-President - Thomas J. Joyce
Secretary - Karen A. Skubish
Treasurer - Charles L. Miner
Historian - Frank J. Piehl
Archivist - Brother Michael Grace, S. J.
Past President - Hayward R. Blake

Council

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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

Class of '97

Brother Michael Grace, S. J.
Edward Quattrocchi
Florence Shay
Glen N. Wiche
Robert Williams

First Fridays Program

Chairman - Edward Quattrocchi
Co-Chairman - Leonard Freedman

Secy - Bookkeeper - Jane Smith



Newsletter Staff

Publisher - Robert Cotner
Editor - Michael Braver

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Musings...

It was one of those magnificent, late fall days along the eastern seaboard: The sky was a soft blue, a few high clouds drifted lazily, the air was still and yet warm. At 11 A.M., I stood with a small group in the ancient churchyard cemetery of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in the heart of Rockville, Maryland. Reporters from *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Star*, and other large-city dailies were there. The Rev. William Silk, pastor of the church, presided. Professor Matthew Bruccoli, then at the University of South Carolina, offered the Eulogy.

We gathered on a treed knoll, among headstones dating back to the 18th century, to celebrate with daughter Frances "Scottie" Fitzgerald Smith the reinterment of her father and mother, F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, in the consecrated ground of the church's cemetery and to witness the last rites, which had been denied them when they died—he in 1940 and she in 1948.

By this day, November 7, 1975, times and attitudes had changed sufficiently, and authorization had been granted to move the bodies and headstone from the Rockville Union Cemetery to St. Mary's. The event made bigger news than the happening itself suggested. The papers gave the service many column inches and good placement in the next day's issues although only about 50 people attended.

The Women's Club of Rockville, which had spearheaded the whole program, called it, "Tender is the Day." It was indeed very tender, a gentle reminder of the evanescence of human life, of the fragility of the human spirit, and of the enduring nature of literature and the book. There is something more subtle, as well, which I glean now from my presence there that day and remembrance of the literary perspective observed from that knoll.

John Sherwood of *The Washington Star* wrote most sensitively of the circumstances. He reminded us, "the Fitzgerald legend is an epic American romance with the most disastrous consequences The relationship of Scott and Zelda was almost destined. It was haunted, suicidal, devoted, and their thoughts of one another in those desperate, catastrophic last years can reduce the most hardened reader to tears."

If books alone could redeem, such tragedy as we know in the lives of the Fitzgeralds would never occur. Perhaps tragedy is integral to what a democracy does in creating and then worshipping heroes. "Show me a hero," Fitzgerald once wrote, "and I will write you a tragedy."

While the relationship between artist and art remains mysterious, it occurs to me that the tragedy of Jay Gatsby and Daisy may indeed have been a masque portending the *denouement* we had gathered to witness that day in Rockville.

Robert Cotner
President

COUNCIL TO WORK DOUBLE-TIME TOWARD CENTENNIAL

The Caxton Council will be meeting monthly between September and the January beginning of the centennial celebration of The Caxton Club, President Robert Cotner reports.

"We have so much important business to conduct," he explained, "and I don't want to rush through any of the major issues." At the September 21 meeting, the Council voted unanimously to join the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies. Cotner had invited Past-President and first woman president of the Caxtonians, Mary Beth Beal, to attend and give her special insights into the matter relating to the alignment of The Caxton Club with organizations that remain male-only.

After assurances that the rights and privileges of all Caxton members would be honored equally in FABS, the Council voted to join the organization. President Cotner will attend the next

organizational meeting, November 4, 1994, at The Grolier Club in New York City.

The second matter of major importance discussed at the September meeting was the pricing and marketing of the Caxtonian history, *Celebrating the Century of the Book in Chicago: The Caxton Club - 1895-1995*. The Publication Committee detailed the extraordinarily fine working relationship between the club and the R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company in arranging for the printing of the history.

Lengthy discussion and debate preceded the vote to give the Publication Committee responsibility of pricing the book for sale to both members and non-members. It was further decided to designate Oak Knoll Books, New Castle, Delaware, as primary distributor for both the Caxton history and other Caxton publications still in stock.

Historian Frank Piehl will negotiate this arrangement.

The next Council meeting will be at 4 P.M., October 21, 1994, immediately preceding the Caxton dinner meeting.

Notes Of Appreciation

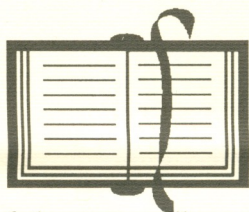
Many thanks for the six copies of the September *Caxtonian*. The lead article about R.R. Donnelley's and The Caxton Club's joint venture in the club's centennial history was excellent and the mutual relationship goes back a long time.

Sincerely,
Thomas E. Donnelley II

What a magnificent achievement your Sandburg issue [October] of the *Caxtonian*. I am proud to be part of the issue and will try to be more active in the ranks.

Cordially,
Elmer Gertz

The Caxton Chronicles



Bibliophiles have been the backbone of The Caxton Club ever since its founding. Most of the 15 founding

fathers were collectors, and four — George A. Armour, Edward E. Ayer, James W. Ellsworth, and John H. Wrenn — put together world-class collections. During the early formative years of the club, other noted collectors, like John Alden Spoor, joined the ranks of the founders.

Spoor was born in New York in 1851, traced his ancestors to the "Mayflower," and was educated at the Hudson River Institute in Claverack, New York. He became a respected capitalist in Chicago, serving on the board of many railroads and banks. He also was a trustee of The Newberry Library, the Chicago Historical Society, St. Luke's Hospital, and other civic organizations.

Like many prominent Chicagoans of the 1890s, he was an active book collector, focusing on the English poets and essayists of the 19th century — the Brownings, Byron, Lamb, and Shelley. He joined The Caxton Club in 1896 and was elected president of the Club in 1903.

In the *Dictionary of American Book Collectors*, Donald C. Dickinson tells the following story about the disposition of Spoor's library 13 years after his death in 1926. His "books were placed in the vaults of the First National Bank of Chicago. Speculation about their disposition became one of the favorite topics of conversation among American bibliophiles. When the sale was finally announced for the spring of 1939, book reviewer John Winterich suggested that the event would be the 'pyrotechnic climax' of an otherwise dull season." Unfortunately the lingering effects of the Great Depression and the clouds of war in Europe dampened enthusiasm among

the buyers, and the sale brought disappointing prices.

Caxtonians will be able to examine one gem from Spoor's library in our centennial exhibit. Spoor owned the original copy of Eugene Field's poem, "The Old Story," in Field's minute script, embellished with his elaborate, illuminated letters. Spoor had the manuscript preserved in an exquisite turn-of-the-century binding by Sangorski and Sutcliffe. After the auction in 1939, it went to the library of the noted California book collector, Estelle Doheny, and now resides in Caxtonian Frank Piehl's collection of Eugene Fieldiana, which will be featured at the centennial exhibit.

Many noted collectors grace the membership roster of the club. Caxtonians will enjoy viewing the gems from their collections at the forthcoming "Personal Treasures" exhibit at The Newberry Library.

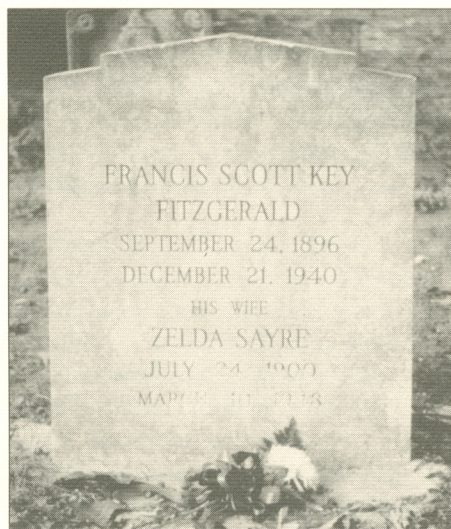
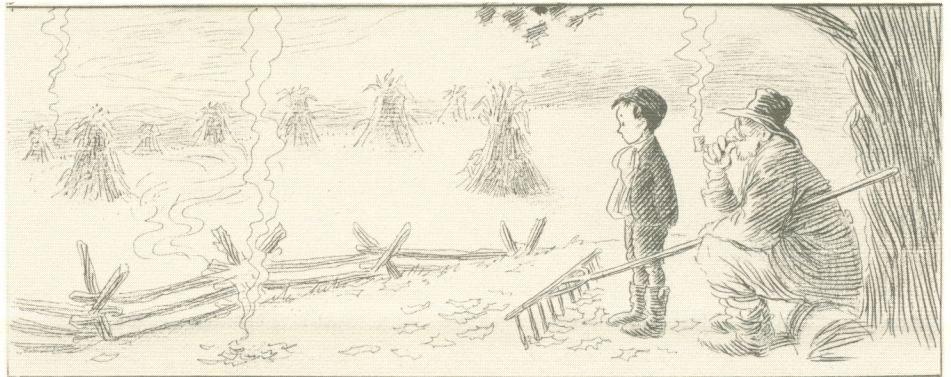
Frank J. Piehl

**The Fitzgerald Legend . . .
Haunted, Suicidal, Devoted . . .**

September 24, 1896
Scott born in St. Paul, MN
July 24, 1900
Zelda Sayre born in Montgomery, AL
July 1918
Scott and Zelda Sayre meet
at a country club dance in Montgomery,
where Scott is stationed
September 16, 1919
Maxwell Perkins of Scribner's accepts
This Side of Paradise
Published March 26, 1920
September 10, 1920
Publication of *Flappers and Philosophers*,
Fitzgerald's first short-story collection
April 3, 1920
Scott and Zelda Sayre married in New York
March 4, 1922
Publication of *The Beautiful and The Damned*
September 22, 1922
Publication of *Tales of the Jazz Age*,
second collection of short stories
May - December 1925
Fitzgeralds rent apartment in Paris
January 1926
Zelda takes "cure" at Salies-de-Bearn, France
Spring-Fall 1930
Zelda has mental breakdown in Paris;
enters a series of clinics outside Paris
February 1932/January 1934
Zelda has a series of breakdowns in America,
and periodically enters hospitals
October 7, 1932
Publication of Zelda's
Save Me the Waltz
March 29-April 30, 1934
Zelda's art exhibit in NYC
April 12, 1934
Publication of *Tender Is the Night*
February 1935
Scott, convinced he has TB,
stays at Oak Hall Hotel in North Carolina
February 1939
Scott travels to Dartmouth to work on *Winter
Carnival*;
fired for drinking
April 1939
Scott drinks heavily in Cuba,
is hospitalized in New York.
Zelda and Scott's final meeting
October 1939
Scott begins work on *The Last Tycoon*
December 21, 1940
Scott dies of heart attack in Hollywood
April 15, 1940
Zelda leaves hospital to live with mother
in Montgomery, AL
March 10, 1948
Zelda dies in a fire at Highland Hospital, NC,
where she is hospitalized for treatment and rest

Norma J. Cotner

Remembering McCutcheon's Memorable Fall Piece



Gravestone marking the burial site of the Fitzgeralds in Rockville (MD) Union Cemetery, 1970. Taken by and from the collection of Robert Cotner.

Integral to fall, for many Mid-westerners in their growing-up years, was the annual publication on the cover of the *Chicago Tribune* of Caxtonian John T. McCutcheon's "Injun Summer." This fall, the *Caxtonian* presents an ink-drawing version of this significant piece of print Americana, first published September 28, 1907, in the *Tribune*. Used by special arrangement with Chicago Historical Society.

Thistles and Books, or How I Became a Field Marshal at Seven Years of Age, and Later Found Atonement for Sins Visited Upon Young Officers

When I was a child growing up in Scotland, a land that reveres books, my Uncle James introduced me to the magic of the word on paper. James Hawthorne Houston was a newspaper man and spent most of his life working for the venerable *Glasgow Herald*, the conscience of Scotland. My father, a major in the British Army, was on the frontline, so Uncle James took me under his wing. Starting when I was seven, he brought me into the *Glasgow Herald* on weekends and showed me how a newspaper worked. I learned about photography, shooting and printing, courtesy of the *Herald*. I loved the hot smell of type being set, the excitement of seeing the presses roll, and getting the latest news when the rest of the country was still pondering yesterday's paper.

My school, St. Rollox, had a paper drive to help the war effort, and the Headmaster had the idea of awarding military ranks to the students in proportion to the amount of waste paper they brought to school by a certain date. When my uncle heard of this, his enthusiasm knew no bounds. The *Glasgow Herald* was pillaged for any scrap of paper possible. Sad to say now on reflection, but many review copies of books were taken off dusty shelves and on the appointed day found their way down the long hill from our home to the stone Gothic of St. Rollox.

As each child's paper hoard was weighed, ranks were assigned. Teachers said, "Congratulations, Private, or Sergeant, or Lieutenant," but it quickly became obvious that indeed, as befits any good army, there were many more privates than officers. Parents were there helping pull bags of paper in small wheelbarrows and in carts all loaded with the detritus of dusty attics and closets. I shudder today to think that in that mountain of paper common

statistical practice says that treasures were there, hidden under piles of saved Christmas wrapping paper and yellowish newsprint.

Did I imagine it or did parents look sour-eyed as they saw my Uncle James pull in the large handcart loaded with the *Herald's* offerings? Even to an innocent Scots child, it became apparent that I was destined for military greatness! When my papers and books were loaded on the ornate black and gold Victorian industrial scale, the pointer went way over and hovered near the top. I don't know what the weight was, but after a quick huddle of teachers, the Headmaster walked forward serious of mien and shook my hand, "Young Paterson, congratulations, you are our first Field Marshal," he said in a suitable-for-the-occasion Scottish oratorical voice. That was the only paper drive that St. Rollox ever had, and I remain their only Field Marshal to this day.

Possibly guilt feelings dating back to this dubious triumph have spurred me on as a book collector and book lover. I have tried to atone for my early sins in destroying books for that brief, early moment of glory. When I became a member of The Caxton Club, it became obvious to my friends that I was serious about my membership. I stopped wearing my regimental tie and donned The Caxton Club red tie and tried to make every meeting and pay my dues on time. But to the point of this brief essay, for I believe now that I have been forgiven for my past sins. A sign has been given, and you know about Celts and mystical signs.

Several weeks ago, I headed west to business in Arizona. During a break in the day, I went over to Scottsdale and visited one of my favorite bookstores, George Chamberlain's Antiquarian Books, just a few doors down from an

exotic middle eastern nightclub and restaurant. George has been in business for many years and is a wonderful gentleman of indeterminable years, with great humor and an infinite knowledge of books. The shop is sprawling, Victorian in appearance, with wooden shelves and antique maps and albumen photographs on the walls, and faded oriental rugs here and there. It does not seem like Scottsdale. Which is one of the charms of Scottsdale.

After talking with George for a moment, I said I was just browsing and had nothing in particular in mind. I walked over to a shelf without noting the category and reached out for a small book that had called to me, with a slim spine of orange, yellow, and blue. I looked at the bright, vibrant little book and read the title. It was set on a paper label inset on a field of red squares, containing yellow tulips and small blue circles. It was *The Old Book Peddler and Other Tales for Bibliophiles*, by Stefan Zweig. I looked inside and saw, "The Caxton Club, 1937, an edition of 200 copies printed by The Lakeside Press, R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company, Chicago, Illinois."

I paid for the book and walked out into the sunlight. I had gone into the desert, resisted the temptations of the dancers at the Moroccan nightclub next to George's bookstore, and I had been given a sign of forgiveness for my past sins.

Kenneth Houston Paterson



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.

November 4.

Elmer Gertz, lawyer, author, book collector and fellow Caxtonian, offers a few of his personal relationships with a fascinating and somewhat notorious trio of literary figures - - Frank Harris, Henry Miller and George Sylvester Viereck, in a presentation entitled, "Three Literary Voyeurs."

December 9.

This very special luncheon will be held at the **University Club**, Monroe and Michigan, and feature a double presentation. Following lunch, Chicago architect Ed Noonan, will lead a tour of Cathedral Hall. Ed Quattrocchi then will discuss the relationship between the University Club, The Caxton Club, and Crosby Hall, from which Cathedral Hall was adapted.

*Ed Quattrocchi
Leonard Freedman*

New Caxtonians Welcomed

A hearty welcome is extended to the following new Caxtonians:

Morrell Shoemaker
Nominated by Evelyn Lampe
Seconded by Karen Skubish

Michael Godow
Nominated by Paul Gehl
Seconded by Michael Koenig

Bruce McKittrick
Nominated by Russell Maylone
Seconded by Bruce Beck

John R. Nabholtz
Nominated by Thomas Joyce
Seconded by Michael Grace

Jean Larkin
Nominated by Thomas Joyce
Seconded by Robert Cotner

Jack Roadman
Nominated by Charles Shields
Seconded by Thomas Joyce

Daniel Meyer
Nominated by Mary Beth Beal
Seconded by Alice Schreyer

Martha Aalbue
Nominated by Frank Piehl
Seconded by Thomas Joyce

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

November 16.

David Redden, Senior Vice President, Sotheby's, will speak on "Attic Archeology: A Tale of Great Treasures Found in Unlikely Places."

December 21.

Several Past-Presidents of The Caxton Club will entertain at the Holiday Revels in a program entitled, "Thanks for the Memories: Recollections of My Years in Charge."

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, or \$5 if validated at meeting.

THE CAXTON CLUB



FOUNDED 1895

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

