



Caxtonian

A Newsletter of The Caxton Club of Chicago

Volume III, No. 4

April 1995

Caxton Club Celebrates Centennial at Fortnightly

Caxton President Robert Cotner welcomed 137 Caxtonians and guests to The Fortnightly March 15 for the third centennial dinner meeting, and Suzanne Hotchkiss, Fortnightly President, gave a brief history of the club and offered a toast to The Caxton Club.

Following a fine dinner of baked salmon in the elegant setting of the main dining room of The Fortnightly, Cotner recited Robert Frost's "Spring Pools" before introducing Gwin Kolb, Caxtonian responsible for the excellent centennial programs given at the club's monthly dinner meetings. Kolb introduced Richard Wendorf, director of the Houghton Library at Harvard University, who spoke on "Rare Book and Manuscript Libraries in the 21st Century."

Looking "through the lens of one institution," he offered eight propositions — observations and predictions — regarding these special libraries. The

Rosary College to Open Caxton Exhibit April 3

The Oak Park Public Library, the Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park, and Rosary College will hold a reception and exhibition viewing April 3, in honor of The Caxton Club Centennial.

The reception will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Fine Arts Building at Rosary College. At 7:30, Wilbert R. Hasbrouck, Architect and Frank Lloyd Wright scholar, and Scott Elliott of the Kelmscott Gallery, will make presentations in the college's Recital Hall of the Fine Arts Building.

The exhibition will open at 8:30pm on the 3rd Floor of the college's Rebecca Crown Library at 7900 W. Division St., River Forest, IL.

propositions delineated his view of libraries in general, technologies supporting libraries, their holdings, the increasing diversity of peoples using the libraries, and the pressures of financial needs libraries constantly experience as they serve an ever-expanding public.

The next 10 to 15 years, he stated, will be a time of "survival of the fittest" for the country's great rare book and manuscript libraries, such as the Houghton and the Newberry.

The evening was a glowing success, and one Caxtonian observed following the dinner, "I thought leaving the Mid-Day Club was a bad idea when I first heard it. Now I believe it is a great idea to visit these former haunts of the club and earlier Caxton members, month after month."



"Woman Reading," an oil by Frank W. Benson (1903), owned by the Vanderpoel Gallery, Beverly Art Center and on display there. (See "Saints & Sinners Corner" for more details.)

Chicago Public Library Opens Two Interesting Exhibits During April

Two new exhibits open in April at the Chicago Public Library. The first, a rare collection of photographs on the funeral procession of Ulysses S. Grant in 1885, will be unveiled at a ceremony at noon April 1, 1995, in the Grand Lobby of the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State Street.

The collection, *Seven Mile Funeral Cortege of Genl. Grant in New York, August 8, 1885*, was donated to the library by Albert and Rosemary Joseph, through the Union League of Chicago's Civic and Arts Foundation. Only 25 of the historic photo albums are known.

At the unveiling, Civil War re-enactors from Taylor's Company Battery B First Illinois Light Artillery will perform a changing of the guard ceremony. Battery B appeared in the motion picture *Gettysburg*.

The second exhibit, "At Your Service: The Story of The Chicago Public Library," will open April 22 and run through July 1, in the Main Exhibition Hall. This is the first exhibition in more than a decade on the origins and history of the library.

The latter exhibit celebrates graphically and dramatically an institution that has served Chicago for more than 130 years.

Questions regarding both exhibits should be directed to Caxtonian J. Ingrid Lesley, Chief of the Special Collections & Preservation Division, Harold Washington Library Center, at 312/747-4740.

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

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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...

Dining together is a very special activity in which those sharing a fine meal establish, if they're perspicacious, a transcending bond of equality that lives beyond the occasion.

So it was at the March Caxton dinner meeting, when I sat between two very special people. Early in our conversations, I learned that both of my dinner partners were alumnae of Smith College in Northampton, MA. Susan on my left, a Caxtonian, was a 1963 graduate, and Ann on my right, a guest, a 1950 graduate.

Susan had been back to Smith for her 25th class reunion, and, although hesitant about returning, had been delighted with what she found. "There was no posturing among the women in my class, and that surprised and pleased me," she said. "Would men have postured more?" I asked. "Some, perhaps," she replied.

Susan also recalled a comment by Prof. Oliver Larkin when she was a student. He told the young women that their duty while at Smith was to prepare to be mothers and wives. Without actually saying so, he implied they should aspire to nothing more. "This depressed me thoroughly," she said. Ann piped in, laughing "That's why I never liked his book." I sensed Susan's lingering concern, a concern all share who are aware of the painful metamorphoses necessary, it seems, for women to claim what ought to be their natural birthright as Americans.

But Ann's interests lay elsewhere. She had recently returned from a Harvard-sponsored trip to India. It had been a sojourn, I learned, a search for something — Something, which now in retirement from her life as a social worker, she desires in a special way. Each cautious about such profound discussions in a public setting, she and I skirted the issue of religious faith and its practice these days, finally settling upon mutual doubts regarding traditional Protestant conclusions that often seem insufficient to the task of forging a usable understanding of the human circumstance at this stage of our lives.

I mentioned a book I've been writing for several years. "I call it 'Pilgrimaging,'" I explained. "That's exactly what I'm doing," she exclaimed — "that's the word: *pilgrimaging*!" She had been impressed with the Hindus' religious vitality in India and, as a result, her own religious vantage point had broadened, bringing a wisdom of significance where once absolutes reigned supreme. As we talked, I thought of Somerset Maugham's observation in his *The Razor's Edge*: "A God that can be understood is no God. Who can explain the infinite in words?"

We talked of C.S. Lewis — we both had read him, had seen *Shadowlands*, and like Lewis very much. I commented on Lewis' persistent call to maturity. Integral to that, or so it seems to me, is an underlying philosophic principle that the three of us, on the occasion of a Caxton dinner in March of our centennial year, fellow human beings — beyond gender, and religious and age demarcations — understood. We had come as individuals to dine and hear a fine speaker. But we had discovered this important mutuality in the course of dining: on our respective pilgrimages, it is in our departures as much as in our arrivals that we define ourselves.

Robert Cotner
President

Two Caxton Club Exhibits at Newberry Rate High Marks from Reviewer

The two Caxton Club exhibits on view at The Newberry Library until April 23 do great credit to the club, to the committee that chose and organized them and to the Newberry staff, which provided the handsome installation.

Of the two, I prefer "Personal Treasures: Favorite Books from the Collections of Current Caxton Club Members." It reflects the great variety of tastes, interests, and incomes of the membership. High spots are the two Caxtons and the splendid, decorated cartographic manuscript. There are also renaissance and medieval manuscript fragments, contemporary designer bindings, as well as an elegant trade binding, press books, association copies, autographs, and much more. One of the most interesting is a nondescript pamphlet on how to protect oneself from crooked gamblers, whose poor but honest printer-publisher went on to success as a horticulturalist and banker and, incidentally, founded the family fortune. The pamphlet is loaned by his grandson, a Caxtonian.

The exhibition on the history of the club is larger, and more static, being based mainly on publications and invitations. There is little except an empty brandy glass and a cigar to suggest the fellowship (personship, now that we are gender-neutral), which is one of the club's greatest virtues. This is inevitable where archival material is thin.

One can trace the development not only of the club but also of American cultural, intellectual, and even economic history, in the publications display. The earlier ones, usually sumptuously produced, were often the work of foreign scholars and were usually printed by R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company. Gradually the content changed, with more American and regional material. And in recent years the volumes became far more restrained in design and far cheaper in production.

One of the most engaging parts of the exhibit is the display of invitations, many written by Caxtonian Harry Owens and printed at the Lakeside Press. These too were a victim of economics; even though billed by Donnelley at or near cost, they consumed an inordinate part of the club's revenues.

There are also exhibits on a book in the making: F. G. Kenyon's *Ancient Books and Modern Discoveries*, designed and printed by Bruce Rogers at the press of William E. Rudge in Mount Vernon, NY with color plates printed by Emory Walker in England. Proofs of Roger's typographic ornaments, and layouts are included.

There is also a display of a type in the making: Eusebius, based on Nicolas Jenson's 15th Century Venetian type. Also shown are Bruce Roger's copy of Jenson's 1470 original, which he used for

his version, Centaur; Detterer's and Middleton's photographs, drawing, and patterns for the Ludlow type called Eusebius, and the 1994 digitized version made for the club's centennial history by Paul Baker, assisted by Bruce Beck.

I urge viewers who have seen the exhibitions, probably at the gala opening, to have another look, in less crowded conditions. They are worth another visit. And those who have not yet seen them should not miss the opportunity to enjoy and learn from the experience.

Jim Wells

A Word of Praise from The Grolier Club

"You must be congratulated on The Caxton Club's splendid centennial volume — it is indeed a glorious publication, one which does the club's heritage proud. And you must be thanked, heartily, for sending us a copy for the library. It will go on the very long shelf of Caxton Club publications in the Council Room."

Martin Antonetti
Librarian
The Grolier Club

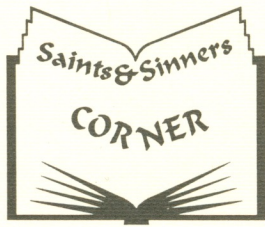
WBEZ Radio Covers Caxton Centennial

Heidi Goldfine of Chicago's WBEZ-FM aired on February 7, a seven-minute program focusing on the club's centennial. Speaking of "the legendary organization," she interviewed Caxtonians Robert Williams, Frank Piehl, Susan Levy, and Paul Gehl.

A copy of the audio tape will become a part of the club's archives.



Caxtonians and guests view "Personal Treasures" during the Centennial Gala reception.



Competition Announced... The John H. Vanderpoel Art Association announces a Poetry Competition for poetry dedicated to "Woman Reading." Contestants should send poem (any form) with title on one page; on next page, type the poem and poet's name and address. The poem should be accompanied by \$3 and a SASE for notification. Send to the association, 2153 W. 111th St., Chicago, IL 60643. Information about the artwork and the contest is available at 312/737-6735.

And The Winner Is... "An illustrated Leonardo da Vinci manuscript outlining his theories on water, hydraulics and the universe was sold at auction [November 11, 1994] for a record \$30.8 million to an anonymous private collector who won a dramatic bidding war." — *Chicago Tribune*

And So It Grows... A rare first edition — one of 500 copies published — of T.S. Eliot's first book, *Prufrock and Other Observations* (June 1917), which a King's College student bought for \$2.40 at a second-hand bookstore in southwestern England, "fetched \$2,800 at a Christie's auction," according to a recent Associated Press story.

And To All A Good Night... The Associated Press reported in December 1994 that "Ralph Gadiel [Northbrook, IL] won a bidding war, . . . paying \$255,000 for a rare handwritten copy of "A Visit From St. Nicholas." The 56-line poem, written in 1822 by Clement Clarke Moore, was auctioned at Christie's, which had estimated the 8-by-5-inch piece of paper at between \$70,000 to \$90,000. This particular document, "transcribed by Moore at the request of

an admirer in 1860 when he was 81 years old," is one of three surviving handwritten copies.

Information Sought... Any Caxtonian who knew Jerry Nedwick, a used book dealer who operated a bookstore in Chicago from the late 1920s through most of the 1960s, and would be willing to share with a scholar his/her information and insights, should contact Ekkehard-Teja Wilke, Institute for the Study of Nineteenth Century Europe, 1881 Lawton Road, Riverside, IL 60546.

Caxtonian Honored... Caxtonian Charley Shields was honored by the village of Frankfort, IL. Upon his most recent retirement (his third, he says), from the Joliet *Herald-News*, Mayor Ray Rossi commended Charley for "his dedication and service to the community," and the village board proclaimed October 3, 1994 "Charley Shields Day" in Frankfort. All Caxtonians join in congratulating a fellow Caxtonian for this signal honor.

Yeatman Anderson III Dies in Cincinnati

Non-Resident Caxton Club member Yeatman Anderson III died, January 11. A Caxtonian since 1965, Mr. Anderson was, before retirement, Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections at the Public Library of Cincinnati.

His wife Harriet writes, "He was proud to be a member of The Caxton Club for many years and appreciated being a 'Senior Status' non-resident member."

She adds, "As a Chicagoan of many years, I especially enjoyed your recent mailing "Celebrating a Century of the Book in Chicago, 1895-1995." The exhibits are a real temptation to attempt a trip 'back home.'"

All Caxtonians extend their sympathy to Mrs. Anderson and family.

Welcome, New Members

A warm centennial welcome to the following new Caxtonians:

Paul Baker

Nominated by Bruce Beck
Seconded by Hayward Blake

Dan Landt

Nominated by Charles Shields
Seconded by Robert Cotner

Susan Zilkowski

Nominated by Kenneth Paterson
Seconded by Hayward Blake

J. Frederick Hoffman

Nominated by Jean Goessling
Seconded by William Hesterberg

Patricia Hoffman

Nominated by Jean Goessling
Seconded by William Hesterberg

Harvey Plotnick

Nominated by Alice Schreyer
Seconded by Alfred Perlman

Richard Mallette

Nominated by Paul F. Gehl
Seconded by Karen Skubish

Robert McCamant

Nominated by Bruce Beck
Seconded by Hayward Blake

Henry Gregory

Nominated by Kim Coventry
Seconded by Susan Meyer

William Drendel

Nominated by Scott Kellar
Seconded by Karen Skubish

Reinstated Members:

Neil Harris

Requested by Tom Joyce

Richard Cady

Requested by Abel Berland

Robert Coale

Requested by Karen Skubish

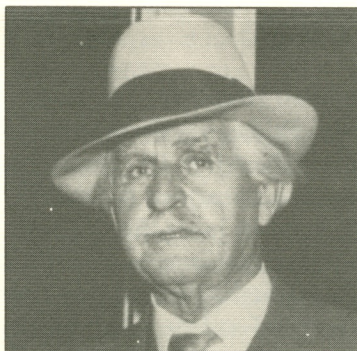
The Cliff Dwellers, Once Site of Caxton Meetings, is Setting for April Dinner

The seed for the idea that later found expression in the formation of the Cliff Dwellers originated with Hamlin Garland, when he moved to Chicago in 1892, drawn by the creative atmosphere surrounding preparations for the 1893 World's Fair. Garland found acceptance immediately among a group of established writers and artists residing here. Some, including Lorado Taft, George Ade, Henry B. Fuller, Eugene Field, and Harriet Monroe, met regularly and informally as "The Little Room," taking their name from the title of a contemporary short story. They gathered in Ralph Clarkson's studio in the Fine Arts Building, where The Caxton Club later had quarters.

The ferment of the '90s subsided with the end of the decade, and Garland later recalled some of his ideas for enlivening the cultural scene. He spoke to Taft and others about his idea for a club of writers, artists, musicians, architects, and businessmen with serious interests in the arts. With their encouragement, he wrote to a larger group of men, inviting them to what proved to be the founding lunch of the Cliff Dwellers, June 12, 1907. There they approved an organizing committee, later enlarged, and agreed to a letter to be sent to others. The formal organization of the club, which was to be the "rallying point for Midland Arts,"

took place November 6, 1907, when the name was changed from the Attic Club to the Cliff Dwellers.

The inauguration of the "khiva" (as the club space is traditionally known) took place January 6, 1908, with an Indian pageant and ceremonial lighting of the fire. The club was then in its new



Cliff Dweller Founder, Hamlin Garland

quarters atop Orchestra Hall in a penthouse designed by Daniel Burnham and the interior by Howard Shaw. Despite the "standard legend of Michigan Avenue" that the Cliff Dwellers' name came from the title of Henry Blake Fuller's novel, there is still some debate on that point, and Fuller was never a member. The connections to the cliff-dwelling Indians of the Southwest is underscored by original club activities and artifacts,

such as the pageant and the fine Indian pottery and incised silver punch bowl which adorn the khiva.

Entering the large room from the west door, one faces a panoramic view of Lake Michigan to the east. Little changed over the years from the original relaxed and comfortable design with the dining space. Its spare wood tables to the north and the lounge area, fireplace, and bookshelves to the south, invite members and guests to linger. The walls are wainscoted in oak and provide space for exhibits of art as well as a backdrop for the club's many musical evenings. Memories that haunt the quarters are threatened now by plans to expand the building's orchestral area.

During the period from 1958 to 1964, The Caxton Club had its dinner meetings at the Cliff Dwellers, bringing its own special blend of camaraderie and interest in the book to the Cliff Dwellers, whose clubroom provided an appropriate and hospitable venue. The April dinner meeting offers the opportunity for Caxtonians to return to an earlier setting that was once theirs.

Robert Adelsperger

'The Bible As Book,' Conference Set for England

The Scriptorium: Center for Christian Antiquities announces its first international conference dedicated to the consideration of the Bible as book. "The Bible as Book: The Manuscript Tradition," is set for May 31 through June 3, at Hampton Court Estates, near Hereford, England.

Founded upon an important collection of ancient and rare bibles, The Scriptorium is committed to the preservation and scholarly research of all aspects of

biblical text and tradition.

Questions and letters of reservation should be addressed to The Scriptorium: Center for Christian Antiquities, Attn: Conference Registration, 926 Robbins Road, Suite 183, Grand Haven, MI 49417.

The cost of the conference is \$150, and a check for that amount should accompany the reservation.

In Memoriam

Howard W. Winger, professor emeritus at the University of Chicago's Graduate Library School, died at the age of 80, March 5, at his home in North Manchester, IN. A noted historian of books and libraries, Professor Winger also served as managing editor of *Library Quarterly*, an international journal of investigation in library science, published by the University of Chicago Press. Although not a member of The Caxton Club, he was the author of the club's 48th publication, *Printer's Marks and Devices* (1976).

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, 12:30 p.m.

April 7.

Caxtonian Elmer Gertz will speak on "The Immortal Common Man: Harry S. Truman." Attorney, educator, and author of 16 books, Gertz was a close personal friend of Truman and will share his intimate knowledge of this American President. On the first Friday of April.

May 12.

Caxton President Robert Cotner, who will be ending his term this month, will give a brief reading from his own writings, both verse and essay, and will comment on backgrounds and originations, as well as clarities and confusions, past and present.

*Ed Quattrocchi
Leonard Freedman*

Important Note: Members planning to attend luncheons must make reservation in advance by calling either the Caxton number, 312/255-3710 or Mr. Quattrocchi's number. Luncheon for members and guests, \$20.

Newberry Staff Member Hired as Club Aide

Dan Crawford, author of children's books and part-time Newberry Library staff member, has been hired to serve The Caxton Club as part-time Secretary/Bookkeeper. Crawford takes the place of Jane Smith, who retired in January after 23 year's of service to the club.

David John McKittrick To Speak at November 18th

David McKittrick, Fellow and Librarian of Trinity College, Cambridge, will give a public lecture, "Building an 18th Century Library: The Wren Library at Trinity College, Cambridge," 6 p.m., April 18, in the Deeming Library, Northwestern University, Evanston.

McKittrick is a renowned scholar, librarian, and editor, whose work is internationally known and acclaimed. Caxtonians have received special invitations to this event.

Correction

It was reported in the March Caxtonian that Columbia College would dedicate the Frank Archer College on March 24. That should have read the Frank Archer Collection.

Dinner Programs

Caxton Centennial meetings will be held at historic sites throughout the city rather than at the regular meeting site, The Mid-Day Club. Members will want to consult the Centennial brochure for more details and read carefully their program announcements for information regarding parking.

April 26.

The Cliff Dwellers will be the locale of West-Coast Caxtonian Beverly Lynch, Dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of California at Los Angeles, to speak on "The Past, the Present, and the Future of the Book in Chicago." Cocktails, 5:30 p.m.; dinner and program, 6:30 p.m.

May 18.

We return "home" to the Mid-Day Club to hear Paul Banks, Senior Lecturer at the Preservation and Conservation Studies Program, University of Texas at Austin. Cocktails, 5 p.m.; dinner and program, 6 p.m.

Tom Joyce

Advance reservations, which are absolutely necessary, may be made by calling the Caxton office, 312/255-3710. Members and guests, \$40.

THE CAXTON CLUB



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

