



Caxtonian

A Newsletter of The Caxton Club of Chicago

Volume III, No. 5

May 1995

Club Honors Women Members at April Centennial Dinner Meeting

With 120 members and guests present, Bob Adelsperger welcomed all to the Cliff Dwellers with well-chosen, humorous remarks.

Caxton President Robert Cotner then led the club in a salute to the predecessors whose wisdom brought women members into the club in 1974. "Women have given vitality and strength to this organization," he said, "and we have seen it in a very special way during the centennial activities in which women have held at least half of the significant positions of leadership in what has turned out to be, all will agree, a splendid celebration."

He invited women members to stand for acknowledgement and then invited the first woman president of the club, Mary Beth Beal to the rostrum to read with him a poem honoring Emily Dickinson, a literary prelude for the evening honoring women.

Council member Gretchen Lagana introduced West Coast Caxtonian Beverly Lynch, who read an important paper, "The Past, Present, and Future of the Book in Chicago." She emphasized institutional collections at the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Each institution achieved its present significant state as a research institution, she noted, through distinctively different means of assembling suitable libraries for scholarly use. At the University of Chicago, William Rainey Harper pursued a unique vision for a research institution in assembling a faculty capable of scholarship, and then

purchasing a complete library in Berlin, Germany. He created the largest library in the city and the second largest university in the United States.

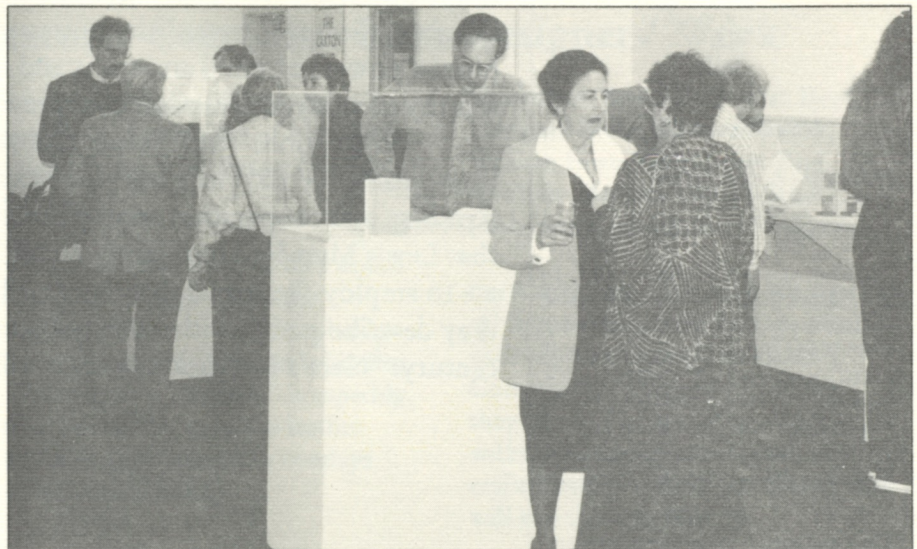
Melville Herskovits illustrated the role played by a "passionate faculty member" in assembling the largest separate library for the study of Africa in existence. This collection became an important element in the development of Northwestern University as one of the country's leading research institutions.

The University of Illinois at Chicago, which when opened in 1965, was not intended as a research institution. Within ten years however, led by the imperative that libraries grow with the academic and scholarly interests of faculty, the institution became a significant national research institution, in great part, like other such universities, because of its library.

What is important, Lynch added, has been the inter-relationships between and among librarians in all of Chicago's great libraries, ensuring that collections are not duplicated and that an openness exist in the exchange of information. The Caxton Club, she also noted, has for a century played an important part in providing a setting for this exchange and in fostering goodwill and cooperation among the many libraries in Chicago and the people who use them, work in them, and support them. "It is a pleasure to acknowledge that legacy and to be a part of its celebration," she concluded.



Center for Book & Paper Arts Exhibits Caxtonians' Works



Caxtonians and friends view "The Look of the Book: Work by Caxton Club Members," at Columbia College's Chicago Center for the Book and Paper Arts exhibit. (See articles inside.)

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

Class of '95

Celia Hilliard
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...

May 1995 marks the conclusion of the official centennial year of The Caxton Club. Although exhibits will continue throughout 1995, this seems a suitable time for a summation.

The state of the club has never in its history been better than it now is, it seems to me. Membership is at an all-time high — 240 Resident and 60 Non-Resident Members. Involvement of members and guests, as measured in attendance at meetings, has never been better, more consistent, or more thoroughly enjoyed.

We have a splendid Council at which attendance is nearly 90 percent at each session, and meetings have been held monthly, rather than bi-monthly this year, because of the press of club business. The club operates under a completely rewritten Constitution and By-Laws, and the Council will, before the new administration begins in September, have a complete set of job descriptions for all officers.

Fiscally, we have paid all debts associated with our centennial and have launched the "Second-Century Fund," which will provide resources for publications, exhibits, and other programs of the club during our second century.

With the publication of our centennial history and its universal acclaim, there is a revived interest in publication within the club. The rich variety of exhibits and their success have renewed interest in this form of communication between the club and the wider community. Proposals have, as well, been made that may link club publications and club exhibits in the future.

But, underlying all of these tangible, important, and much-to-be-praised accomplishments of The Caxton Club in 1995, "The Year of the Book in Chicago," lies an important philosophic base, the reaffirmation of which has given the club a camaraderie of spirit making all of the other aspects even richer and more meaningful.

Kenneth Clark, in his important study called *Civilisation*, observed that "civilisation depends upon [humankind] extending [its] powers of mind and spirit to the utmost...." As Caxtonians, we hold to that premise and enrich it in this measure: the book, because it continues to be the primary means of extending the human powers of mind and spirit and is, per se, a legitimate art form, remains worthy of study, celebration, and preservation.

In addition, The Caxton Club, as Beverly Lynch recently reminded Caxtonians, for 100 years has played a major role in fostering goodwill, understanding, and cooperation among book people in Chicago and beyond. In an age that Lewis Mumford has rightly called "The Age of Violence," it seems appropriate to employ the words that my dear friend Studs Terkel continually uses, for they describe precisely the spirit of our centennial and give vision for our second century: "Here's to Peace, Grace, and Beauty!"

Robert Cotner
President

Caxton Club and Council Extends Thanks to Members and Friends

Some Faces of the Caxton Centennial

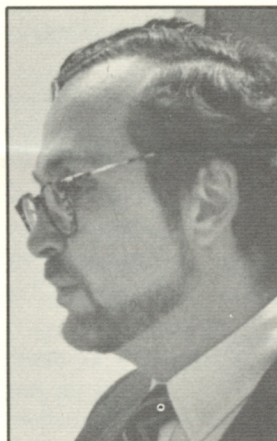
Shown below are photographs of people not yet recognized who have made vital contributions to The Caxton Club centennial. Besides centennial co-chairs Karen Skubish and Frank O. Williams, history author Frank Piehl, and book designer Bruce Beck — all who have been featured photographically in the pages of the *Caxtonian* — the following persons deserve commendation for their outstanding work on behalf of the club.



Gwin Kolb, member of the Centennial Committee, arranged the programs and scheduled the dinner speakers for the five months of the centennial celebration.



Susan Rossen, Chair of the Publications Committee, shepherded the Caxton centennial history through the entire process of conceptualization, editing, and publication.



Paul F. Gehl, Co-Chair of the Exhibition Committee, organized and planned the extensive exhibits among institutions throughout the Chicago area.



Kathryn DeGraff, Co-Chair of the Exhibition Committee, handled the details of the final arrangements for exhibits while Paul Gehl was on a year's sabbatical in Italy.

Nominating Committee Presents Slate of New Officers and Council

The Council accepted unanimously the following 1995 slate of officers and Council members:

President - Thomas J. Joyce
Vice President - Karen A. Skubish
Secretary - Glen N. Wiche
Treasurer - Bruce Hubbard

Council Class of 1998

David L. Easterbrook
 Susan M. Levy
 Jane N. Rosenthal
 Susan F. Rossen
 Willard W. White
 John K. Notz (Class of 1997,
 replacing Glen N. Wiche)

This slate will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting, May 18. In addition to the presentation of the slate, the committee offered the following comments to be shared with members:

"The 1995 Nominating Committee recognizes that this is an exceptional moment in the history of The Caxton Club. Under the extraordinary leadership of President Robert Cotner, the club's centennial stimulated growth in both membership and programs. The committee acknowledges with appreciation the input it received from many individuals who expressed their views on how best to ensure the continued vitality of the club.

"The club's incoming officers and Council members hold responsibility for maintaining and nurturing the goodwill and energy generated by the centennial and implementing procedures to manage a new level of activity. In discussions with Council members and others, the committee identified a particular need to define the duties of the Treasurer so as to provide support for the financial opera-

tions of the club without unduly burdening a volunteer officer.

"The committee requests that the Council prepare a written description of the Treasurer's role that emphasizes the following: analysis and evaluation of current operations; planning for new procedures, including automating files, and outlining strategies for implementing new procedures. The Nominating Committee suggests that a finance committee be formed to assist the Treasurer in these responsibilities and that consideration be given to allocating or obtaining funds to employ a consultant.

"The Nominating Committee further recommends that the Council ask President Robert Cotner to continue in his capacity as publisher of the *Caxtonian* during his term as Past President."

*Alice Schreyer, Chair
 Gwin Kolb, Arthur Miller*

Whose Efforts Achieved a Superb Centennial

Newberry and Caxton Relationship Enhanced By Means of Centennial

The Newberry Library, long the home of The Caxton Club, has played such a significant role in the club's centennial that, according to Caxton President Robert Cotner, "Without the whole-hearted assistance of the Newberry and its splendid staff, the centennial of the club would have been far less effective and successful than it has turned out. We are in special gratitude for the unlimited support provided by the library."

Among those persons deserving special commendation are Charles Cullen, President; Karen Skubish, Karen Smith, Paul F. Gehl, Moyra Knight, Tracy Edling, Ken Cain, and Ruth Hamilton.

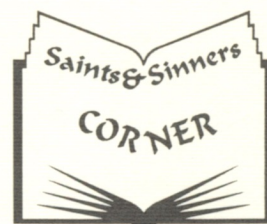


Caxton President Robert Cotner and his wife Norma greet guests at the Centennial Gala, January 26. Cotner explained that he selected this photo because he believes the spouses of book collectors should be recognized during the Caxton centennial. Spouses put up with a whole range of devious behaviors by their mates, a practice widely cited in literature as integral to book collecting. "I am also deeply indebted to Norma for not divorcing me when she learned, substantially after the fact, of my January expenditure of \$1,200 for four rare Robert Frost items," Cotner confessed.

A Very Special Thanks to Exhibiting Institutions

The Council and membership of The Caxton Club extends to the following institutions the club's heartfelt thanks for designing, underwriting, and hosting special exhibits as part of club's centennial and the "Year of the Book in Chicago."

The Newberry Library
The Art Institute of Chicago
Chicago Public Library
Columbia College
DePaul University
The Field Museum
Lake Forest College
North Central College
Northwestern University
Rosary College
Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies
University of Chicago Library
The University of Illinois at Chicago
Wheaton College



Caxton Chronicled... *The Daily Herald*, March 25, carried a major story on The Caxton Club centennial and the excellent exhibition at Rosary College, which opened April 3 and features rare materials on Ernest Hemingway and Frank Lloyd Wright. Curated by Caxtonian Michael Koenig, the exhibit runs through June 30.

Thomas Go Bragh... Caxtonian Tom O'Gorman has been named Managing Editor of *The World of Hibernia*, whose first issue is scheduled for May 1995. The magazine is a glossy, upmarket quarterly, printed in full color, and focusing on the "Irish Diaspora." O'Gorman, who is an scholar-in-residence at the Newberry Library, is currently completing a biography of Chicago artist and Irish patriot Lady Hazel Lavery. He will remain in Chicago during this new assignment. Caxtonians extend congratulations to O'Gorman in his latest literary enterprise. For information regarding the publication, contact O'Gorman or write *The World of Hibernia*, 220 East 42nd St., Ste. 401, New York, NY 10017.

Caxtonian Covered... Caxtonian Paul Saenger of the Newberry Library was featured in photograph and text by the *Chicago Tribune*, April 21. The article detailed the donation of more than 400 rare religious and historical texts from the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries found in the attic of the Immaculate Conception Monastery by the Rev. Sebastian MacDonald. Saenger said, the donation is an "extremely valuable addition to the library's holdings of 1.4 million volumes and 5 million manuscript pages."

Columbia College Opens Chicago Center for Book and Paper Arts

Two Chicago non-profit organizations, Artists Book Works and Paper Press, merged last year with Columbia College to form the Columbia College Chicago Center for Book and Paper Arts. The new facility, part of the college's interdisciplinary Arts Masters program, housed in its downtown location, promotes the book and paper arts through classes, workshops, and exhibitions.

The Center developed through two years of meetings by a dozen printers, calligraphers, binders, and artists involved with Paper Press and Artists Book Works and who wanted to establish a major book center in Chicago.

Paper Press, founded in 1980 by Marilyn Sward, Sherry Healy (now Giryotas), and Linda Sorkin Eisenberg, was a paper-making workshop in Evanston. After a number of moves around Chicago, their last location on West Jackson provided exhibition space, classrooms, workshop areas, and rental studio spaces.

Barbara Lazarus Metz, who taught bookbinding at Paper Press in the early years, and Robert Sennhauser started Artists Book Works in a northside store in 1983. They began offering classes and workshops in binding, letterpress printing, and artists books. Classes grew, the window exhibits created excitement on Irving Park Road, and their curated exhibits held at galleries and art centers flourished throughout the area.

Both organizations provided workshops for children in elementary and high schools. Eisenberg, Metz, and Sward worked closely with Suzanne Cohan-Lange, director of Interdisciplinary Arts Program, to facilitate the merger and the donation of their combined equipment and materials to the new space.

Each spring, summer, and fall, non-credit classes and workshops in bookbinding, letterpress, papermaking, and related topics are offered. Credit classes in these disciplines are available through Columbia College. Students in

masters degree programs can now do a concentration in book and paper.

Exhibitions have included work by individual book and paper artists, Childrens Bookworks, and 3 Dimensional Paper. The current exhibit, "The Look of the Book: Work by Caxton Club Members," part of the centennial celebration of the club, features bookworks by Caxtonians.

Caxtonians are urged to visit this valuable resource in Chicago and to view the Caxton exhibit, running through May 19. They will also want to examine the Frank Archer Collection in the bindery, donated by Vivian Archer in memory of her husband, a fellow Caxtonian. The center is located at 218 S. Wabash St., 7th Floor, and is open Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Barbara Lazarus Metz

A Review

Columbia College Exhibit Features Caxtonian Book Designers' Work

"The Look of the Book: Work by Caxton Club Members," a book design and binding exhibit at Columbia College Center for the Book and Paper Arts, part of the club's centennial program, demonstrates the creative skills and the artistry that have ensured the lively survival of the club over the past 100 years.

Members' talents featured in the exhibit ranged from a humorous interpretation of Pope John Paul II's encyclical, *Laborem Exercens*, on the dignity of human work, interpreted in ribbons streaming from the end of a yellow

Rubbermaid mop handle (by Bill Drendel), to the elegance of a jewel-like binding of a work by Proust (by David Dangler).

A whimsical small book offers a dozen thoughts about eggs (by Jeanne Goessling), most of which I probably had not thought of. A patristic binding of Washington's "Farewell" is superbly carried out in blue goatskin leather with stirring red and white overlays (by Norma Rubovits).

Other Caxtonians exhibiting are Francis L. Archer, Mary Ann

Bamberger, Bruce Beck, Pam Beck, Hayward Blake, Edward Colker, William Hesterberg, Amos Paul Kennedy, Barbara Metz, Muriel Underwood, and Robert Williams.

For Caxtonians who have not seen this exhibit, organized by Barbara Metz with the assistance of her Exhibit Committee, I strongly recommend they do so. The works on display, without exception, are superb in craftsmanship and design. The exhibit, will run through May 19.

Kenneth 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, 12:30 p.m.

May 12.

Caxton President Robert Cotner, who will be ending his tenure this month, will give a brief reading from his own writings, both verse and essay, in a program he has called, "A Peripatetic's Notes to Himself." This is the final luncheon program until September.

*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 Quattrocchi's number. Luncheon for members and guests, \$20.

Parking for Dinner Meetings

Now that we have returned to the Mid-Day Club for our dinner meetings, please remember the First National Bank of Chicago's parking garage, 40 South Clark Street, offers a special parking rate after 5 p.m. 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 \$5.25.

Caxton Club Welcomes Fifth Generation of Donnelley Family

Shawn Donnelley, granddaughter of Gaylord Donnelley, has joined The Caxton Club, representing the fifth generation of that distinguished family to be Caxtonians.

The daughter of Elliott Donnelley, she just moved to Chicago from Florida to work in the Communication Department of R. B. Donnelley & Sons Company. She was nominated to membership by James R. Donnelley, Thomas E. Donnelley, and Susan Levy.

Levy commented, "Although she is young, she has already developed a love for Donnelley's history and traditions, including the world of books. She is eager to join in carrying on the family and company commitments, including membership in The Caxton Club."

It is, of course, a delight for the club to receive, during the centennial year of the organization, a new-generation Donnelley who maintains this family's an uninterrupted membership since 1895 — the only such record existing. All Caxtonians welcome Shawn Donnelley!

Dinner Programs

All meetings, unless otherwise noted are held in the Mid-Day Club, 56th Floor of the First National Bank, Madison and Clark Streets, Chicago. Spirits, 5 p.m., Dinner, 6 p.m., Lecture, 7 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.

June 20.

U.S. Consul to Mexico, Tijuana, Mexico, Peter Cozzen, who is working on a biography of Ambrose Bierce, will talk on his research and on the life and disappearance in Mexico in 1913 of Bierce.

July

No dinner meeting.

August 16.

Nick Karanovich, noted Mark Twain collector from Ft. Wayne, IN, will speak on "Adventures of a Collector in Pursuit of Sam Clemens."

Tom Joyce

Advance reservations, which are absolutely necessary, may be made by calling the Caxton office, 312/255-3710. Members, \$30, and guests, \$35.

THE CAXTON CLUB



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

