



Caxtonian

A Newsletter of The Caxton Club of Chicago

Volume III, No.10

October, 1995

President Tom Joyce Presents Thoughts at Outset of Tenure

I believe this is one more precedent in a sequence of more than two years of precedents that have occurred in the process of The Caxton Club's both celebrating a century while at the same time re-inventing itself. In the absence of a vehicle like the *Caxtonian*, could any preceding president-elect have addressed the members as I now do? I doubt it.

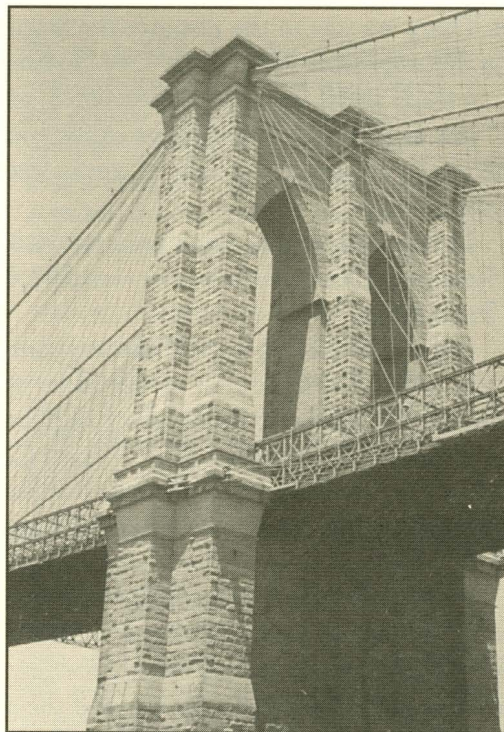
In fact, prior to the new constitution and by laws, customarily only minutes separated a nominee from election to assumption of the office. The new rules, however, call for election at the Annual Meeting in May but give empowerment officially at the beginning of the new year in September. This wise change gives the new officers several months to plan, adapt, and hit the ground running — and to have anxiety attacks.

Why anxiety? Why not! Consider that the excitement of the centennial galas are now fond memories. Consider that President Cotner is a tough act to follow. Consider that the officers, Council members, and Centennial Committee members have worked prodigiously since President Stan Friedberg started the ball rolling six years ago by launching centennial planning and creating the Centennial Committee. Furthermore, the Publications Committee produced an award-winning book this year, only the second book published by the club since 1976. Finally, in the last 12 months, membership has risen 25 percent, soaring from about 240 to more than 300 — with no end in sight.

In short, The Caxton Club has been reinvigorated with renewed enthusiasm

in vintage members and with the fresh blood of new members, a number of whom extend the cross-cultural depth of the membership roster. All this results in a club with unlimited potential to celebrate and promote books and the book arts through the 21st Century.

The recent Caxton election ratified the hard work done by the Nominating Committee to slate high quality new officers and Council members. They will



*O harp and altar, of the fury fused,
(How could mere toil align thy Choring strings!)
Terrific threshold of the prophet's pledge,
Prayer of pariah, and the lover's cry —*

*From Hart Crane's,
"To Brooklyn Bridge," 1930.*

*Brooklyn Heights pier of Brooklyn Bridge. Photo by
and from the collection of Robert Cotner.*

join the experienced Council members to work hard and to face the challenges of the next three years of their terms. Issues they will face include membership procedures, ongoing publishing efforts, a possible new meeting site, programs, cooperative relations with sisters clubs through the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies (FABS), funding for the *Caxtonian*, conclusion of the donation of the Caxton archives to the Newberry Library, and location of safe storage for Caxton books and other stock.

I look forward to the first years of our next century with optimism as, with cooperation, collaboration, and camaraderie, we consolidate the successes that The Caxton Club achieved during the centennial, and go on to a stronger, smoothly functioning organization that will preserve our 19th Century goals and values, as reinterpreted through the *fin-de-siecle* technology for the bibliophiles of the 21st Century.

*Tom Joyce
President*

Muggeridge Event Set

Members of The Caxton Club are invited to attend the dedication of the Malcolm Muggeridge Papers, 3:30 p.m., November 18, 1995, at Barrows Auditorium, Graham Center, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL. The event, one of the final exhibits scheduled as part of the Caxton centennial, will feature Canon David Winter the former head of religious broadcasting for the BBC. An open house is set in Special Collections, the Buswell Library, 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. For additional information, phone Larry Thompson, at 708/752-5851.

Caxtonian

The Caxton Club
Founded 1895



President - Thomas J. Joyce
Vice-President - Karen A. Skubish
Secretary - Glen N. Wiche
Treasurer - Bruce W. Hubbard
Historian - Frank J. Piehl
Archivist - Brother Michael Grace, S J
Past President - Robert Cotner

Council

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
John K. Notz, Jr.
Edward Quattrocchi
Florence Shay
Robert Williams

Class of '98

David L. Easterbrook
Susan M. Levy
Jane M. Rosenthal
Susan F. Rossen
Willard E. White

First Fridays Program

Chair - Edward Quattrocchi
Co-Chair - Leonard Freedman

Secy - Bookkeeper - Dan Crawford



Newsletter Staff

Editor - Robert Cotner
Associate Editor - Michael Braver
Copy Editor - Charles Shields

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Musings...

In my first graduate course at the University of Maryland in 1968, when I began work on a PhD in American Studies, I chose Alan Trachtenberg's 1965 book, *Brooklyn Bridge, Fact and Symbol*, to read and critically review before the class.

The "Prologue," which begins, "Brooklyn Bridge belongs first to the eye...." was so poetic, so wonderfully descriptive, I decided that I needed to *see* the great bridge if I was to understand fully the book and the structure that has become such an important symbol in American cultural history. So Norma and I loaded the kids into our Buick station wagon early one Saturday morning and drove from our home in Rockville, MD, to New York City, to photograph — and to experience — the Brooklyn Bridge.

It was a post-card perfect summer day. We parked the car, mounted the steps to the Brooklyn Heights side of the bridge, and walked the center promenade over the East River, above traffic, toward Manhattan, among cyclists and other walkers. We strolled through the enclosure formed by the downward thrusting steel cables that support the bridge, past the old fashioned gaslights, and up the balcony around the massive granite pier fashioned as twin Gothic fenestrations, to the center of the great bridge. There we saw in the distance the Statue of Liberty, the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and the incomparable New York City skyline.

I made slides, sentence-by-sentence, of Trachtenberg's brief and lovely "Prologue," just as he wrote it and as we experienced it that splendid summer day. With a 20-slide photo sequence a couple of weeks later, back at the College Park campus, I began my review.

In late August that same year, we visited friends at State College, PA — to see Penn State play Pitt, I think it was — and I called Trachtenberg, who was then teaching at Penn State.

After introducing myself and explaining my recent photo project, I said, "I'll make you a deal. I'll trade a set of my slides of the 'Prologue' for a signed copy of your book." He accepted: I sent him a duplicate set of slides, and he sent me a first edition of his book, inscribed, "For Robert Cotner/in appreciation of his appreciation/Alan Trachtenberg/State College Pa/Summer 1968." He sent with the book a brief letter, in which he wrote: "The slides are wonderful, and a complete pleasure to me. They tempt me now to make a set of my own. I hope all goes well for you."

Book collecting has been like this for me for more than 30 years now. It is the discovery of a keen personal interest, which is shared with mutual intensity by others, and, for a moment at least but usually longer, we have that delectable experience of extending thought and discourse beyond the point any of us had originally intended or expected. It is what Peter Gay called a "certain ground tone," which has the potential of influencing one's intellectual perspectives, forging new friendships, and enhancing the height and breadth and depth of life itself.

Book collecting includes not only the acquisition of books but the inspiration that comes from associations related to books, or so it has for me these many years.

Robert Cotner
Editor

City's Old Caxton Building Had Early Connection with Club

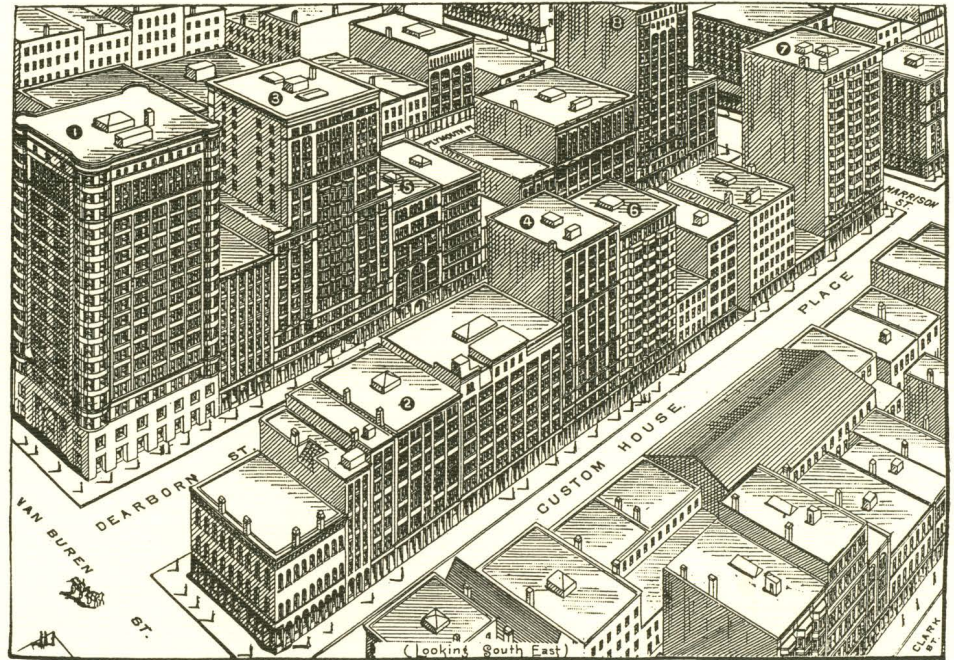
Although The Caxton Club has leased private rooms for its meetings at three locations, it has never owned its own rooms or building. There once was, however, a building in Chicago called the Caxton Building, and there was a definite tie between that building and the club.

The Caxton Building was designed by the noted architectural firm of Holabird & Roche and completed in 1890. It was located at 328-334 Dearborn Street, or what would be 500-08 Dearborn in today's street numbering system, in the heart of Chicago's famous Printing House Row. The building was 12 stories high, had a frontage of 80 feet, and extended all the way from Dearborn to Custom House Place, now Federal Street.

An early guide book, *Bird's-Eye Views and Guide to Chicago*, published by Rand, McNally & Company in 1898, described the building as follows: "This is a great hive of industry with printers, binders, and publishers on each one of its 12 stories. The building rises to a height of 150 feet, and has three passenger elevators, which carry 3,000 persons daily. There are 110 offices and five stores."

One of the tenants of the building was the noted fine press of Stone & Kimball. In 1893 Herbert Stuart Stone and Hannibal Ingalls Kimball, both students at Harvard College, founded the firm in Cambridge, MA. They moved it to Chicago in 1894 and by 1895 were located in the Caxton Building. From 1893 to 1897, Stone & Kimball published 106 works by the finest authors, designers, and illustrators of the day.

In his history of the firm, Sidney Kramer relates how entertainments were held at Stone & Kimball's offices in the Caxton Building. "There were regularly held public readings of



Printing House Row, from Van Buren Street (looking southeast). The Caxton Building is numbered 6 on Custom House Place. (From Frank A. Randall, History of the Development of Building Construction in Chicago, 1949.) The section of the book from which the above was made was, in reality, a reprint from a guide book, Bird's Eye Views and Guide to Chicago, 1898, published by Rand McNally & Co. Custom House Place is now called Federal Street.

manuscripts, book and picture exhibitions, 'Chap-Book Teas' and Vaudevilles." One contemporary newspaper account related: "The Caxton Building last evening was the scene of an elaborate and highly successful affair....Back of the seats the sawdust-strewn floor held many round tables, from which were served during the performance sausages, oysters and beer."

When the Caxton Club was founded in 1895, the firm of Stone & Kimball was in its heyday. Herbert Stuart Stone was one of the 15 founding fathers of the club. He was an active Caxtonian, serving on the Council and the Publications Committee. He retained his membership until he moved to New York in 1910, after the demise of the fine press.

The Caxton Building was condemned and demolished in 1947 by Chicago's Department of Subways and Superhigh-

ways to make way for the extension of Congress Street, east from Wells Street to Michigan Avenue, to serve as the eastern connection between the Congress Expressway and Grant Park and the Outer Drive. So, as Caxtonians pass the new Harold Washington Library Center on Congress Street, they pass the site where the Caxton Building once stood.

Frank J. Piehl

A Correction

Peggy Sullivan's name was erroneously included in the new-member list of the September *Caxtonian* as Perry Sullivan.

We apologize for the error and welcome *her* rather than *him* to membership in The Caxton Club.

Keeping up with the Present by Remembering the Past

Editor's Note: Caxtonian Ken Paterson sent along the following piece that merits reading -- and remembering -- as Caxtonians continue developing an understanding of the ever-changing world of books.

Every so often I run into publisher David R. Godine. Usually we meet at Stanford University, where David is a visiting lecturer on the power and magic of typography. Sometimes, we meet at the American Booksellers convention or David's publishing turf, downtown Boston, where his business is based.

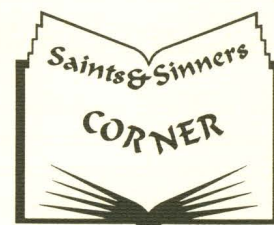
One particularly enjoyable evening we walked the length of California's Sausalito Harbor, admiring the boats docked there and comparing their lines to fine typography. Of late, the mad charge to total automation, whatever that is, has engaged us in brief conversations. By the end of the conversation, we usually retreat to the sanity of talking about sailing. I thought Caxtonians might like to read David's comments on change in his Fall/Winter 1995-96 catalog, *David R. Godine, Publisher*:

"One can hardly attend a lecture or seminar these days without being told that we are living in a time of momentous change, and that one had better adapt or perish. To anyone who has survived 25 years of publishing consolidations, mergers, and disappearances, or has taken the time to read any of the countless books dealing with the history of the profession, this observation seems like a real canard. Publishing has always been in the throes of change. Imagine the change that exploded in Europe after Gutenberg perfected the adjustable matrix and movable type. Some 16 million books in 45 years: *that* was change. Consider the introduction of the affordable octavo by Aldus, putting books and literature within

everyone's reach. Think what the invention of the steam-driven rotary press and machine-made paper meant to 19th Century Europe, or the invention of mechanical typesetting machines, or the ability of the offset process to fully integrate illustration and text. What all these inventions foreshadowed were radical realignments of costs, production, and distribution. All of them were driven by an inexorable desire to hold down production costs, increase print runs, and make more information available more quickly to more people.

"Is the digital revolution any different, or any more significant, than the long line of technical advances that preceded it, the steady stream of mechanical processes that have made the display, production, and diffusion of intellectual property more efficient and less costly? Maybe. But I doubt it.

"The real point is not that these 'inventions' and 'revolutions' have occurred throughout publishing history with stellar regularity, but rather that behind each of them were a few individuals whose taste, judgment, and acuity managed to guide our steps forward, to take advantage of what was available through a knowledge of and appreciation for what had already been solved. One thinks of Gutenberg, Jenson, Aldus, Plantin, Kippenberg, Meynell, and Knopf as among the presiding geniuses who were not in the least intimidated by technology but who used it creatively and consistently to enhance their lists and their reputations. Of course change is with us; it has *always* been with us. The trick is not to lose sight of what we have learned in the past five centuries in our headlong rush to keep up with the present."



Non-Resident Caxtonian Bob Kantor reports that a Chicago book, *Sanitary Fairs — A Philatelic and Historical Study of Civil War Benevolences*, won the grand prize at the Canadian National Philatelic Literature Exposition, May 7, in Ottawa. The book was designed by Michael Glass Design; photography by the Newberry's Ken Cain; typesetting by Caxtonian Paul Baker; printing by Rohner Printing Company; binding by Zonne Bookbinding, and distribution by A-Three Services Agency, Ltd.

Among the faculty of this summer's Books at Virginia: Rare Book School, the University of Virginia, were Caxtonian Martin Antonetti, Librarian of the Grolier Club, and former Caxtonian Greer Allen and his wife Sue. School founder Terry Belanger was a panelist at a Caxton dinner meeting, August 1993.

Mark Holmes of Pinehurst, TX, recently paid 50 cents for what is thought to be the original manuscript of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "The Village Blacksmith." University of Houston English professor Dorothy Baker, a specialist in early American literature, said, "It was clearly a working copy. The poet had crossed out lines, changed words, made different rhyme choices, and it was done by someone who was aware of the kind of editorial symbols you would expect." Reuters reported that the manuscript may bring as much as \$7,000 at auction. Houghton Library of Harvard, is listed as a potential buyer.

Recent news accounts indicate that screen writers "took liberties with" Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. The film, starring Demi Moore, opened in the fall at area theaters.

Caxtonian Ned Rosenheim Named Honorary Caxton Member

The Council of The Caxton Club has named Professor Edward W. Rosenheim an Honorary Member of the Caxton Club. In nominating him, Past-President Robert Cotner said, "This man is a presence in The Caxton Club, a bookman whom all know, respect, and appreciate."

Known affectionately to his friends as Ned, the native Chicagoan was educated at the University of Chicago, where he received his Doctoral Degree in English in 1953 after an interruption to serve in the U.S. Army Infantry during World War II. He joined the faculty of the English department of the University of Chicago in 1947, eventually achieving the rank of Professor Emeritus upon retiring in 1988.

During his long and distinguished career, Ned published prolifically, became a noted authority on the writings of Jonathan Swift, received a Guggenheim Fellowship, and was awarded the Alumni Service Award of the University of Chicago after serving as Chairman of the Alumni Committee for the University's Centennial Celebration.

He was introduced to Caxtonians in 1960, when he spoke at the Holiday



Edward W. "Ned" Rosenheim delivers the Helen Harris Perlman Lecture, University of Chicago, June 2, 1995.

Revels on "The Lost Art of Anger" and was recognized at once as an outstanding speaker. He was invited back to speak at the Holiday Revels in 1971, expounding on "An Argument Against Abolishing Scholarship." Ned was invited to join The Caxton Club in 1980 and once more pleased Caxtonians with his eloquence in the following year, speaking on "Editing, Publishing and Perishing." After serving on the Council, he was elected vice-president (1987-88) and president (1988-89). His tenure as president is remembered

especially for his eloquent command of the English language, for his unequalled and instantaneous wit, and for the infinite variety of charming ways in which he introduced the 10-minute break between dinners and speakers. The following account of Ned's last address to The Caxton Club in 1994, taken from the club's history, testifies to the esteem which Caxtonians extend to him.

"Ninety people signed up for 'Swift to the End: Reflections on a Life Spent with Jonathan Swift'....The temperature had hovered at 21 degrees below zero on January 18, the day before Rosenheim's presentation. Both the speaker and the Secretary-Treasurer Charles Miner worried that the meeting might have to be canceled. However, on the day of the meeting, the temperature rose to an almost balmy five degrees above zero. Not only did the 90 show up, but an extra eight joined them to hear his scholarly, witty, and thought-provoking talk, which prompted a standing ovation from the audience."

Caxtonians welcome Edward W. Rosenheim to the distinguished list of Honorary Members of The Caxton Club.

Frank J. Piehl

Caxtonian Reviews Caxtonian-Written, Caxtonian-Published Book

Stage Flying. John McKinven. Glenwood, IL: Meyerbooks, 1995. \$35.

I always wished I could fly, but my lifestyle precludes my ever becoming an angel. Furthermore, I wouldn't want the wings or the effort it would take to get me airborne.

One Sunday afternoon a couple of years ago at the Chicago Theatre, I saw David Copperfield just take off and flit about the stage like a weightless astronaut, and that's what I had always wanted to do. I had seen Peter Pan many times and for years I had watched marionette shows, but I always saw the wire or the strings. This time,

David moved up and down and across the stage, and I couldn't see anything holding him up. I'm older now and maybe it was my eyes. I turned to the fellow seated next to me, and he said, "Very good." And it was.

After the show, we were invited backstage to Copperfield's dressing room, where David asked the fellow who had been next to me how he liked the flying. They talked for a few moments about some of the technical aspects of the presentation before David returned to talk generalities with the rest of us. The fellow who had been next to me was Caxtonian John McKinven, and that conversation let me know that

John knew how it was done, and that he knew certain technical things about which David wanted guidance and advice.

Stage Flying traces the mechanics of simulated flying back to 431 B.C., and is well illustrated with original art work, diagrams, photographs, and patents. It brings you right up to Peter Foy, the world-recognized expert, and stops just short of telling you how David Copperfield flies; But John McKinven knows. If you plan to go to heaven by mechanical means, this book will tell you how. I enjoyed it.

Jay Marshall

Book Marks

Luncheon Programs

All luncheon 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.

October 13.

Mark Olson, Director of the ARTFL Project, University of Chicago, will speak on "The Computer in Research in Humanities Texts."

November 10.

Ed Quattrocchi will conclude a three-part presentation on the use of the computer in the study of the humanities. He will focus on great works of art as they relate to Renaissance literature.

*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, 708/475-4653. Luncheon for members and guests, \$20.

Book Fair to Feature Many Illinois Authors

More than 50 Illinois authors have circled a special date on their calendars, and Caxtonians are invited to do so as well. The date is November 18. The place is the Illinois State Library, Springfield. The event is the Illinois Authors Book Fair.

Readers interested in subjects, from poetry to politics, will have an opportunity to meet authors, purchase autographed books, and, in some cases, hear authors read from their works. Librarians and teachers will have a first-hand look at some outstanding presentations that they may wish to bring to their communities. Book topics include mystery, romance, photography, science fiction, history, biography, education, philosophy, and poetry.

A temporary book store will be set up for the fair, offering bestsellers at a 20-percent discount, including popular children's books.

The Book Fair will be held from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the Atrium and meeting rooms at the Illinois State Library, 300 S. Second St., Springfield — across from the State Capitol.

Dinner Programs

All dinner 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.

October 18.

Philip Smith, British bookbinder and author of *New Directions in Bookbinding*, will speak on "New Directions in Hand Bookbinding."

November 15.

Robert Galvin, CEO, Motorola, will speak on "The Voyage of Communications," a presentation on the state of international communications — drawing from his interest in and personal collection of maps.

Karen Skubish

Advance reservations, which are absolutely necessary, may be made by calling the Caxton office, 312/255-3710. Any special meal requirements (such as vegetarian) need to be made in advance. Members, \$25, guests, \$30.

The First National Bank of Chicago's parking garage, 40 S. 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



The Caxton Club
60 West Walton Street
Chicago, IL 60610