



Caxtonian

Journal of The Caxton Club of Chicago

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June 1997

Caxtonian Stanlis Recalls Carlos Baker at Bread Loaf

When I was teaching at Bread Loaf in 1961 and 1962, one of my colleagues was Carlos Baker. Baker was at work on his biography of Hemingway, and we had some good talks about him. The administration at Bread Loaf gave Baker the small cabin next to Route 125 in which to work on his biography.



The 1962 faculty of Bread Loaf Writers School included (seated, from l) Carlos Baker, Elizabeth Drew, Donald Davidson, Maurice Kelley and (standing, from l) Kenneth Connelly, John Berryman, Daniel Lindley, William Merideth, Reginald Cook (director), Caxtonian Peter Stanlis, and Eric Volkert.

Baker told me that he wanted to go to Detroit that fall to interview Marcelline Hemingway Sanford, who lived in Grosse Pointe, and to see her collection of Hemingway family photos and other materials. Baker also wanted to visit Bill White, who taught journalism at Wayne State University, and who had a whole roomful of books, articles, and memorabilia on Hemingway.

I suggested that if Baker would give a lecture on Hemingway at the University of

Detroit, where I was then teaching, I would escort him around the campus and city on his projects. Since I knew Bill White from when I taught at Wayne State, it was easy to make arrangements to see him. When I put out an announcement of Baker's lecture in the Detroit newspapers, I received a call from Marcelline, and we had lunch together a few days before Baker came to Detroit. She was a very interesting woman and wholly devoted to her brother Ernest Hemingway.

I also received a note from a Cuban who was living in Detroit in exile from Fidel Castro.

The exile had known Hemingway well in Cuba, and he told me that he had about 30 letters from Hemingway. When Baker learned of this, he asked me to see whether the Cuban would be willing to make copies of the letters for him. The Cuban agreed to do this, and brought copies of his letters from Hemingway to Baker's lecture.

Marcelline also attended the lecture. It was one of the most memorable evenings of my life. Bill White also came and invited Baker to view his unique collection. I drove Baker to the homes of White and Marcelline and shared his experience of viewing their collections and his talk with them. Baker made good use of all this, but the letters from the Cuban friend of Hemingway were a gold mine. For all of my help, I was listed in the names of those who had helped Baker with his biography, at the back of *Ernest Hemingway, A Life Story*. My own seminar on Hemingway at the University of Detroit was also helped by these experiences.

Peter J. Stanlis

Club Member Gwendolyn Brooks Inducted into Lincoln Academy

Honorary Caxtonian Gwendolyn Brooks, Poet Laureate of Illinois, was inducted into the Lincoln Academy of Illinois on April 26. In a formal convocation in the Capitol's House of Representatives, Springfield, Gov. James Edgar presented Brooks the Order of Lincoln, the state's highest award. (See photo at right.) John T. Trutter is the chancellor of the academy.



In the recognition, Brooks was called a "living national treasure. A Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, she is, as well, the voice of the young, the struggling, and the oppressed."

In her response, Brooks read a poem by one of her students to the great delight of those gathered there.

Other Caxtonians who are or have been members of the Order of Lincoln include Ralph Newman (1982), the late Gaylord Donnelley (1990), and the late Paul Angle (1970). *Caxtonian* Editor Robert Cotner and his wife, Norma, represented The Caxton Club at the convocation and the dinner.

Gov. Edgar inducts Caxtonian Gwendolyn Brooks into the Order of Lincoln in Springfield on April 26. (Photograph provided by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois.)

Caxtonian

The Caxton Club
Founded 1895



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Musings...

As Caxtonians prepare for the journey to Wisconsin this month, three important Wisconsin books that may illumine the trip for fellow bibliophiles come to mind.

I think of Juliette Kinzie's fine book, *Wau-Bun* (1855), telling of her days at Fort Winnebago, WI. The account of chanting Canadian boatmen ferrying Mrs. Kinzie's piano down the rocky, turbulent Fox River from Green Bay to the Agency House near Portage in 1831 is unforgettable. The report of her trip on horseback from Wisconsin across the winter prairie and the Rock River at Rockford, IL, through a Native American settlement near Oswego, IL, to frontier Chicago, stands as a testimony to the resilience that reveals the multi-cultural society of the frontier. On the return trip she was among the first pioneers to see Lake Geneva, WI. Comparing it to a fondly remembered view of the Hudson River, she wrote, "A shout of delight burst involuntarily from the whole party, as this charming landscape met our view." It was indeed a wise decision by the Publications Committee of The Caxton Club to publish its 1901 edition of Kinzie's book.

I think also of Hamlin Garland's splendid book, *Son of the Middle Border* (1917), which tells of his family's homesteading near West Salem, WI. In it, he captures the touching disenchantment that came early to frontier people, the relentless grind by tired men in their dreary routines of frontier life, and the destroying drudgery of their womenfolk in kitchens and farmyards, where never-ending toil brought depression and, often, early death. Garland's boyhood memories of his first ploughing of the thick roots of prairie grass to open fields for farming are unforgettable. Critic and historian, Vernon Louis Parrington — whose own life on a Kansas homestead after his family moved from Aurora, IL in 1877, paralleled Garland's in Wisconsin — called Garland's writing "one of the significant chapters in our total American history."

I think finally of Aldo Leopold's monumental *Sand County Almanac* (1949), which, in the tradition of Thoreau's *Walden*, makes poetry of the American landscape and details with gentle whimsy the devastation of the natural environment of the prairie and other wilderness places in America. The rich soil of Leopold's own 120-acre farm along the Wisconsin River near Portage had been reduced to sand by those before him who did not understand what Leopold called the "land ethic." The beauty of Leopold's description of the sandhill cranes, which link humankind to the Eocene is unforgettable: "Our ability to perceive quality in nature begins, as in art, with the pretty. It expands through successive stages of the beautiful to values as yet uncaptured by language. The quality of cranes lies, I think, in this higher gamut, as yet beyond the reach of words."

Each of these books stands as a masterpiece in its own special genre. Taken together, they illustrate the evolution of the intellect within the nation itself. They come from the time before television reshaped the national language into a commercial enterprise characterized too often by exploitation of baser inclinations. They represent well Wisconsin, they reflect the essential value of the book in our society, and they serve as guides to those who would understand America.

Robert Cotner
Editor

Carl Sagan, Master Craftsman in Words, a Model for Caxtonians



The southern Milky Way over Australia, April 1986. Halley's Comet is visible as a fuzzy star at the left side of the image. (Photographed with a 16mm fisheye lens at F/2.8 on Fuji 1600 film by Geoff Chester, U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington, DC. Used by special arrangement with the photographer.)

When Carl Sagan died December 20, 1996, he was eulogized nationwide. Former Caxtonian Kenan Heise wrote a two-column obituary for the *Chicago Tribune*. Known in the academic world as an educator and astronomer, Sagan is remembered by most through the public TV series, "Cosmos," which aired in 13 successive weeks in 1980. It was seen in 60 countries and was watched by more than any other series in the history of American public television until surpassed by Ken Jones' "Civil War."

In his obituary, Heise focused on Sagan's career as an author. "Mr. Sagan was the author of 20 books including the 1978 Pulitzer Prize winner, *Dragons of Eden*. His *Cosmos*, a companion to the television series, is considered the most widely read science book in the English language. His novel, *Contact*, is being made into a movie starring Jodie Foster."

Sagan had an immense control of language. In the words of Peter Vandervoort, his classmate at the University of Chicago: "Carl did not simply explain things well. He convinced you they were worth

To See the World As a Grain of Sand

*To see the world as a grain of sand,
it's best imagined if we stand
along the shore of the Milky Way,
and with Odyssean view of bay,
connecting us to boundless space;
then peering down from such a place
to find our earth and galaxy
as dust the winds might blow away:
To grieve for those of this vast land
who cannot see our grain of sand.*

Robert Cotner

understanding." He received both the Peabody and Emmy awards for his work on *Cosmos*. In his *Pale Blue Dot* he philosophized about man's future in space, leaving something for all of us to think about.

"The cosmos extends, for all practical purposes, forever. After a brief sedentary hiatus, we are resuming our ancient nomadic way of life. Our remote descendants, safely arrayed on many worlds through the solar system and beyond, will be unified by their common heritage, by

their regard for their home planet, and by the knowledge that, whatever other life may be, the only humans in all the universe come from Earth.

"They will gaze up and strain to find the blue dot in the skies. They will love it no less for its obscurity and fragility. They will marvel at how vulnerable the repository of all our potential once was, how perilous our infancy, how humble our beginnings, how many rivers we had to cross before we found our way."

The power of such words ought to inspire Caxtonians to rededicate themselves to their mission of "promoting the arts pertaining to books" by which such products of the human intellect are preserved for future generations.

Frank J. Pichl
Caxton Historian

Members Headshots Sought for Archives

Fellow Caxtonians! Send to The Caxton Club, c/o Dan Crawford, a photo of yourself for the club's archives.

Former presidents, committee chairs — and all distinguished members — please check your files at home and office and send in a photo for the Caxton files.

This is your chance to make a mark with your physiognomy in the next Caxton history!

Michael Grace, S.J.
Archivist

Florida Bibliophile's Letter Seeks Information

Continued thanks for sending me (and Florida Bibliophile Society) your most interesting and informative newsletter. I would appreciate your and/or Ed Quattrocchi's permission to reprint his "Birthday Observation" from your February issue....

May I also ask your help with a more personal request. Recently, I acquired a miniature Black Cat Press, 1938, entitled *A Six Month Autobiography* by Stepheny Eveline (Forgue), 100 copies printed by Norman Forgue in September 1938 — to

mark the six-month anniversary of his daughter's birth. If she's still alive, she is approaching her 60th birthday. Do you or any of the Caxton members know of her whereabouts or her history? There is also reference to a "Brother" who is 13 years older who "came home when I was four months old." Do you know Brother's name and history? Has anyone in Chicago (or elsewhere) published anything in detail about Forgue and his various enterprises/presses?

Lee Hansen
1908 Seagull Dr.
Clearwater, FL 34624

A Missed Opportunity in Club Publishing?

Officers of The Caxton Club often must deal with unusual inquiries. A case in point: a letter to the club with a return address from a post office box in Joliet was dated May 11, 1988. It read as follows:

"The purpose of this letter is to inform you of my interest in getting an autobiography publish [sic] by your company. Briefly, the autobiography pertains to a infamous criminal whom is currently on Death Row at a Illinois State Penitentiary. His crimes are of course well known. "I am sure that your company as well as the general public will find this autobiography most interesting and informative. For further information you may contact me at the above-mentioned address.

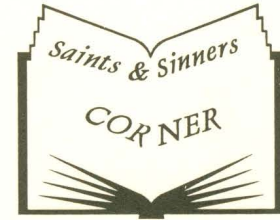
"Yours Very truly,
Mr. Ahmed A. Outlaw,
Reg No. C-74003."

Our secretary, Charles Cullen, must have been more than a little chagrined in deciding how to answer this strange inquiry. He replied diplomatically, stating that the "Caxton Club

does not publish the kind of material about which you wrote to us on May 11th. In fact, the club publishes less than a volume a year, and always they are books about printing or printers, not crime or criminals. I suggest you concentrate your efforts on commercial publishers rather than private ones."

In view of the difficulty that the Publications Committee is having in finding a suitable manuscript for the club's next publication, one cannot help but wonder if Ahmed's inquiry doesn't represent a lost opportunity.

Frank J. Pichl
Caxton Historian



Former Caxtonian Greer Allen, his wife Sue, and Caxtonian Martin Antonetti will serve on the faculty of the Rare Book School 1997 at the University of Virginia. The four-week program runs from July 14 through August 8. For information, telephone 804/924-8851.

Dartmouth College Library will offer a book art workshop, "Joseph Blumenthal and the Spiral Press," on the Dartmouth campus, Hanover, NH, August 20 through August 23. For information, telephone 603/646-2236.

Caxtonian Editor Robert Cotner gave the annual Arthur Baer Lecture, April 21, at the Chicago Literary Club. Caxtonian John K. Notz is president of the 125-year-old sister club of The Caxton Club.

From the Archives...

Members Experience Thrills in Leaving Mid-Day Club

The Caxton Club dinner meeting on September 21, 1983, started out as usual with cocktails, camaraderie, and a sumptuous dinner. Kenneth W. Rendell, who was gathering information for a future book, *Forging History - The Detection of Fake Documents and Letters* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1994), spoke on "The Detection of Forged Writing." The meeting broke up, and the members departed.

One group of Caxtonians crowded into an elevator for the usual stomach-rattling descent — Gordon and Emily Adamson, Vice President Mary Beth Beal, Michele Cloonan, Gerald Fitzgerald, Jeffrey Jahns, Gretchen Lagana, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Marshall, Secretary Richard Seidel, Florence Shay, and Frank Williams.

Then the unusual occurred. As the elevator

descended, it made an unscheduled stop at the 39th floor, acted strangely, and finally descended past the first floor. According to Jay Marshall, it "jockeyed up and down" and wouldn't come to rest at the first floor. Building attendants responded to the alarm button, offering to send the elevator back up for another descent and attempt to stop at the first floor. The occupants cried in unison, "NO WAY!" They were obliged to climb a ladder to exit at the first floor.

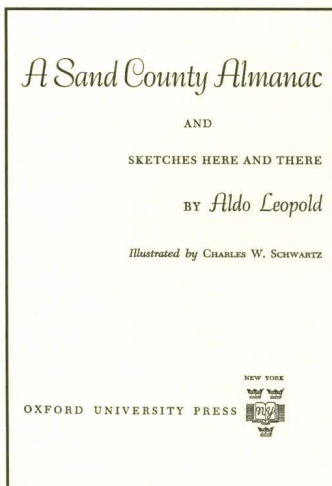
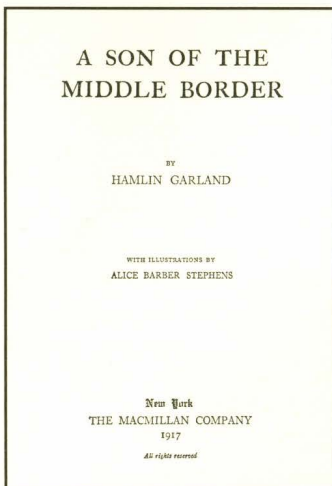
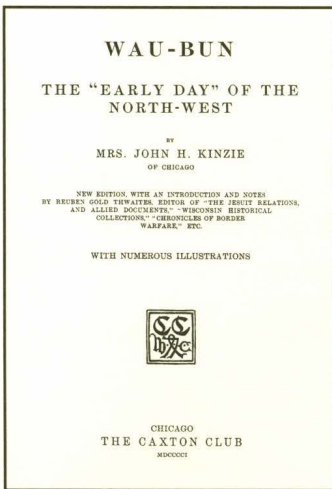
A barrage of correspondence followed the incident. The next day Secretary Seidel dashed off letters to the vice president for public affairs of the First National Bank and to the manager of the Mid-Day Club, expressing concern diplomatically but firmly. "I was especially concerned for the welfare of the two elderly persons, one of whom was feeling ill as

the result of the entrapment. Many of the women in the cab were on the verge of panic, and most of the men, to say the least, had a few anxious moments."

On October 3, the senior vice president in charge of building management made the final reply to Seidel, apologizing profusely, and reassuring that "we look upon this as a serious occurrence and are thoroughly investigating it in that light." After spelling out details of corrective action, he concluded by stating that "our analysis of this mishap leads us to the opinion that this was an isolated occurrence...and we find that aside from rare mishaps, our elevators are safe and efficient."

We sure hope so!

Frank J. Pichl
Caxton Historian



The title pages of three important Wisconsin books are illustrated above. The first is from the 1901 Caxton edition of *Wau-Bun*, from the collection of Frank J. Piehl. The second is from the first edition of *Son of the Middle Border*, provided by Errol Kindschy of the *West Salem, WI, Historical Society*. The third is from *Sand County Almanac*, first edition, 5th printing, from the collection of Robert Cotner.

A Review

Connie Goddard Co-authors Book About Chicago

Connie Goddard and Bruce Hatton Boyer.
The Great Chicago Trivia & Fact Book.
Cumberland House, 1996. \$10.95.

Anyone interested in Chicago lore will want to buy a copy of *The Great Chicago Trivia & Fact Book* by Caxtonian Connie Goddard and Bruce Hatton Boyer. You're in for a real treat of trivia and lore about the Windy City.

Departing from a chronological or alphabetical organization, the authors gathered their material into nine topical chapters: a general historical overview; commerce, business, and industry, politics, crime, social reform, authors, newspapers, and publishers, the performing arts, and sports. Each chapter is organized chronologically with tidbits of information, breaking the exposition with frequent questions and answers, and with charming quotes from Chicago's famous and infamous.

In addition to the notables, like Jane Addams, Marshall Field, the Sears Tower, and Stone & Kimball, you'll encounter second-stringers, like "Sylvester 'Two-Gun Pete' Washington, known as the deadliest cop in Chicago history," who "wore twin .357 magnums with pearl handles." And you'll meet Johann Hoch, known as the Stockyard Bluebeard, and Henry Windsor, who started a magazine for do-it-yourselfers called *Popular Mechanics*.

It's fun reading, and you can't help adding to your anecdotal quotes about Chicago and Chicagoans. As with all trivia and fact books, the authors had to choose from the encyclopedia of Chicago lore. They have chosen well to spice the necessary basics with the offbeat.

One word of caution: don't expect to find the last word in completeness and accuracy about Chicago history — the book was not intended to serve such a purpose. One example will illustrate. On page 5, we read that "Fort Dearborn was erected on the south bank of the Chicago River to guard a

point of entry to the Louisiana Purchase." This statement is not inaccurate, but it is inadequate. Milo Milton Quaife, the authority on Chicago and the Old Northwest, gives a different perspective to the need for a fort: "The settlers must be protected from Indian depredations, and the lawlessness of the traders and other frontiersmen must be curbed. . . . It was impossible, therefore, for the United States to exercise an effective control over them [the Canadian traders and the Indians], and a garrison to the west of Lake Michigan was needed to assist in wresting this commercial supremacy from the British traders." Such detail is, of course, beyond the scope of the book, but the authors might better have emphasized another reason than guarding a "point of entry to the Louisiana Purchase." The book is a valuable addition to any Chicago library in spite of its rare historical lapses.

Frank J. Piehl
Caxton Historian

Processing of Caxton Club Archives Progresses Apace

Caxton Historian Frank Piehl reports that the processing of the club's archives at the Newberry Library is moving ahead carefully and smoothly, albeit slowly. In anticipation of the formal donation of the archives that took place in December 1996, the archives were transferred physically to the Newberry stacks June 1996.

Starting last July, Piehl has been volunteering under the tutelage of Caxtonian Paul Gehl, curator of the John M. Wing Foundation Collection on the History of Printing, to prepare the archives for permanent storage. To date, work on 24 archival boxes has been completed. Many months of work remain before the project is completed.

Inquiries about the club's history may be directed to Piehl. Caxtonians are encouraged to submit to him copies of articles, newspaper clippings, and photographs, pertaining to club members, for addition to the archives.

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.

The luncheon programs will resume in September. Thank you for your attendance and support this past year.

*Ed Quattrocchi
Leonard Freedman*

Important Note: Members planning to attend luncheons must make advance reservations by phoning either the Caxton number, 312/255-3710, or Quattrocchi at 708/475-4653. Luncheon for members and guests, \$20.

"There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and dilemmas of one who cannot."

Aldo Leopold

The Caxton Club on The Web

Internet users may communicate with The Caxton Club at the following address:

<http://www.caxtonclub.org>

Webmaster of the Caxton website is Caxtonian Paul Baker.

Special Outing to Wisconsin Planned

A day trip to sites in Wisconsin is planned for June 7. Caxtonians will leave the Newberry Library aboard a bus, travel to Beloit College to view the library's special collections and have lunch. They will then travel to Janesville to view architectural treasures and visit a special library there. The day will conclude at Lake Geneva, where they will have cocktails at a magnificent historic home. Dinner will be at the Lake Geneva Yacht Club. Estimated cost of the trip and meals is \$75. For information, telephone Karen Skubish 312/255-3555; for reservations, telephone the Caxton number, 312/255-3710.



Illustration by Charles Schwartz, A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There, 1949.

Dinner Programs

All dinner meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held in the Mid-Day Club, 56th Floor of the First National Bank, Madison & Clark streets, Chicago. Spirits, 5 p.m., dinner, 6 p.m., lecture, 7 p.m.

June 18.

Donald Terras, lighthouse keeper at Grosse Pointe, Evanston, will talk about the literature of lighthouses and their lore. Terras is the author of a recent award-winning history of Grosse Pointe lighthouse.

There will be no dinner program in July. We will resume the dinner program in August. Thank you for your attendance and support this past year.

Karen Skubish

Advance reservations, which are absolutely necessary, may be made by phoning the Caxton office at 312/255-3710. Any special meal requirements (such as vegetarian) need to be made in advance. Members and guests, \$35.

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