



Caxtonian

Journal of The Caxton Club of Chicago

Volume V, No. 9

September 1997

Somerset Maugham — World Traveler, Famed Storyteller

September 1997 marks the 100th anniversary of the publication of W. Somerset Maugham's first novel, *Liza of Lambeth*. Written during his final year of medical school, the realistic novel draws upon his experiences in treating patients from the Lambeth slums of London. The book achieved modest public acclaim — even notoriety — sufficient, in fact, for Maugham to abandon his medical career to become a full-time writer. A year after his publishing debut, he left London for Capri in Italy, beginning a lifelong pattern of travel and story-telling that became the Maugham persona for millions of readers. Over the next 60 years, he became one of the most successful writers of all time.

When Maugham was born — in the British Embassy in Paris in 1874 — he was destined to become a lawyer. His father and grandfather had been prominent attorneys, and his oldest brother went on to become England's Lord Chancellor. However, Maugham had a severe stammer, which left him afraid to speak; so there were no plans for him to follow in the family tradition. Furthermore, he was orphaned by the age of 10 and was sent to England to be raised by an uncle, a clergyman. These circumstances led the young Maugham to be shy and withdrawn; consequently he became an observer rather than an active participant, but he was able to turn this to his advantage as a writer. The unhappiness and anxiety of his early life were recounted in his autobiographical novel, *Of Human Bondage* (1915), in which his stammer became a deformed foot for the protagonist.

It is not widely known today that Maugham realized his first major success not as a novelist or short story writer but as a playwright. After *Liza of Lambeth*, he spent 10 years turning out unsuccessful novels, short stories, and plays. An admirer of Ibsen, he wanted to write dramas confronting social issues of the day. His first produced play, *A Man of Honour* (1903), a starkly realistic drama of the consequences of misguided virtue, had little success. This play's distinction today is for the collector, and Maugham later referred to it as his scarcest work. The most readable

novel from this early period is probably *Mrs. Craddock* (1902), with its theme of a woman's liberation from traditional Victorian society. *The Magician* (1908) is based on mystic Aleister Crowley. Maugham and Crowley had met and taken an instant dislike to each other. In Crowley's *The Diary of a Drug Fiend* he refers to Maugham's portrayal of him as "malignant."

However in 1907, Maugham achieved the fame and success that he had worked for. Since his early writing was described by critics as gloomy and depressing, he tried his hand at lighter social themes. *Lady Frederick* (1907), the story of a high society lady who tries to discourage a persistent young suitor, was an instant success with a long run in London's West End. By 1908, he had four plays running simultaneously in London. With the exception of *Of Human Bondage*, Maugham did not return to writing novels or short stories for more than 10 years. He became a man-about-town, the successful, rich, and witty satirist of British society.

In 1917 Maugham took the first of



many long trips to the Pacific Islands and the Far East, which resulted in some of his finest writing. The first of these stories was *The Moon and Sixpence* (1919), a novel based on the life of Gauguin. He wrote highly readable travel books — *On a Chinese Screen* (1923) and *The Gentleman in the Parlour* (1930) — and several collections of short stories. *The Trembling of a Leaf* (1923) contained his most recognized story, "Rain," and *The Casuarina Tree* (1926) is one of the "Connolly 100." Maugham continued to write successful plays, at least one, *The Letter* (1927), with a Far East setting. He returned to social criticism with more success — and more controversy — than earlier in his career with dramas such as *The Unknown* (1920), *The Sacred Flame*

(See MAUGHAM Page Four)



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Musings...

The Razor's Edge is Somerset Maugham's love letter to America. An exile from his home, Villa Mauresque on the French Riviera during World War II because of the Nazi occupation of France, he lived in the United States, 1940-46. While here, he wrote this book. In rereading the novel this past week, I was reminded of his special discernment of America, as created in his central character, Larry Darrell. It is a vision, I believe, worthy of review.

An epigram from the *Katha-Upanishad* provides not only the title but the basis for the plot: "The sharp edge of a razor is difficult to pass over; thus the wise say the path to Salvation is hard." The story tells of Darrell's spiritual pilgrimage that begins when he, an under-age pilot in World War I, is saved in a dogfight over France by a fellow pilot who is killed in the act of saving him. To find meaning in the self-sacrifice of one human being for another becomes the driving force in Darrell's life.

Darrell embodies what James Hillman called the dominant traits of the American character: the "gift of undiluted" energy, self-discipline, and the "pure persuasive power of *belief*." Darrell's special kind of energy encompasses the intellectual and spiritual as well as the physical. He tells his fiancée, who leaves him because she will not share his sojourn toward wisdom: "I wish I could make you see how exciting the life of the spirit is and how rich in experience. It's illimitable."

Through books, imaginative, courageous thinking, and disciplined, solitary travels, he seeks "liberation from the bondage of re-birth" in the midst of decadence, superficiality, and malice. His journey takes him from Chicago to India, where, under the instruction of a mystic, he finds, an "energy that cried out to be expended. It was not for me to leave the world and return to a cloister, but to live in the world and love the objects of the world, not indeed for themselves, but for the Infinite that is in them." He returns home to become an auto mechanic, a truck driver, and, perhaps, a taxi driver.

By the end of the novel, Maugham tells us, Darrell has been "absorbed,...into that tumultuous conglomeration of humanity, distracted by so many conflicting interests, so lost in the world's confusion, so wistful of good, so cocksure on the outside, so diffident within, so kind, so hard, so trustful and so cagey, so mean, and so generous, which is the people of the United States."

By recounting story upon story throughout the novel, Maugham creates Darrell as a modern-day Thoreau, whose Walden is the world, whose inmost life is of singular importance, and whose legacy is to grow through his pilgrimage into a universal figure of towering proportions, intellectually and spiritually.

It is the *soul* of America — represented by Darrell's thorough goodness — that Maugham loves so much. Only in the human soul is true democracy possible, and only in the soul of democracy, Maugham seems to suggest, is the destiny of the world secure once the trying days of World War II are past.

His vision was prophetic: Americans — seekers since our founding — are the legatees responsible for the perpetual investment in the priceless heritage of mind and spirit that symbolizes this nation, unique among the nations of the world.

Robert Cotner
Editor

Karen Skubish Assumes Presidency of The Caxton Club

When The Caxton Club gavel passes to Karen Skubish from Tom Joyce this month, she will culminate her long, dedicated career of service to the club. Skubish exemplifies the many contributions that women have made since they were first admitted to membership 21 years ago.

By limiting membership to men, the founders of the club followed the lead of five nationally prominent book clubs already established in 1895. Wives were allowed to attend meetings and exhibitions on special occasions, but the genteel ladies seemed out of place in the choking atmosphere of cigar smoke, bourbon, and Scotch whiskey that pervaded Caxton Club meetings at the turn of the century.

Women first broke the barrier to active participation as speakers. In 1958 Mrs. Raymond Watts addressed Caxtonians on a field trip to the Morton Arboretum, and in 1967 Suzette Morton Zucher entertained members at her home, Cricket Hill, and

"Over the years, no woman has contributed more to the club than Karen Skubish."

then adjourned to the Arboretum to address the visitors. Six years later, Sue Allen had the honor of being the first woman to speak at a regular dinner meeting. The eventual admission of five women to membership in The Caxton Club in 1976, 81 years after the club was founded, is detailed in the official club history.

The first five — Mary Beth Beal, Suzette Morton Davidson, Frances Hamill, Mary Lynn McCree, and Karen A. Skubish — constitute a distinguished group. The number of women in the club has grown steadily in the ensuing 21 years. Women have contributed to the growth and vigor of the club significantly, chairing committees and serving as officers and councillors. In 1985, Mary Beth Beal was the first woman elected club president.

The club's highly successful centennial celebration would not have been possible without their leadership and devoted work. No less than 13 women — Mary Ann



Caxton President, Karen Skubish.



Karen Skubish at the harp.

Bamberger, Mary Beth Beal, Rhoda Clark, Kathryn DeGraff, Jeanne Goessling, Jean Gottlieb, Adelle Hast, Celia Hilliard, Ann Koch, Gretchen Lagana, Kathleen Lamb, Susan Rossen, and Karen Skubish — served in various ways on the Centennial Committee. Skubish shared the chair of the committee with Frank Williams. And the

"Skubish began her career as Caxton ombudsman with the Newberry Library, four years before being elected to membership in the club."

publication of the club history would not have been possible without the efforts of Susan Rossen, Celia Hilliard, and Suzan Levy.

Over the years, no woman has contributed more to the club than Karen Skubish. When support for the club shifted from R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company to the Newberry Library in 1972, Skubish began her career as Caxton ombudsman with the Newberry Library, four years before being elected to membership in the club.

Who else has enhanced our meetings with harp music? Who else has been more faithful in carrying ties, scarves, and books back and forth from the Newberry for sale at our meetings? Skubish has served twice on the Council, was a member of the Publications Committee, and was elected secretary in 1994 and vice-president in 1995. Her tireless efforts on the Centennial Committee in arranging for the historical dinner locations and the fabulous centennial gala and banquet at the Newberry Library are only two of many examples of how her leadership and drive made the centennial a smashing success.

We thank Karen Skubish for her past contributions and congratulate her as she becomes the 44th president — and our second woman president — of The Caxton Club. It should be two banner years under her leadership.

*Frank J. Pichl
Caxton Historian*

Maugham

(Continued from Page One)

(1928), and *For Services Rendered* (1932). His last play *Sheppey*, was written in 1933. Maugham published *Ashenden* in 1928, a group of short stories based on his experience as a British espionage agent during World War I. For the first time, a spy was portrayed as gentlemanly, sophisticated, and aloof. Ian Fleming, later a friend of Maugham, said that *Ashenden* influenced his own writing of spy stories.

Sometimes Maugham's stories were thinly disguised episodes involving his hosts or others he had met on his travels — circumstances that occasionally resulted in threats and lawsuits. *The Painted Veil* (1925) was revised at least twice to eliminate references to people still living in Hong Kong, and the various issues of this book remain of great interest to Maugham collectors. Wilmon Menard, an American writer, followed Maugham's footsteps throughout the Far East, interviewing those who had known and entertained Maugham. Menard's book, *The Two Worlds of Somerset Maugham* (1965), makes interesting reading.

In 1927, Maugham left England amid scandal and moved to France, where he spent the rest of his life. Although he had married the popular Syrie Wellcome, Maugham throughout his marriage (and known to his wife) had maintained a relationship with an American man, Gerald Haxton. By 1927, the situation had become intolerable to Syrie, and they were divorced. Maugham bought a villa in Cap Ferat on the French Riviera, and Haxton, who had been deported from England, joined him there. Maugham enjoyed a royal lifestyle at the Villa Mauresque, and an invitation by Maugham to spend a few weeks there was highly prized by the literary and social elite. In spite of his relocation, he continued his disciplined habit of writing several hours every morning and his love of travel.

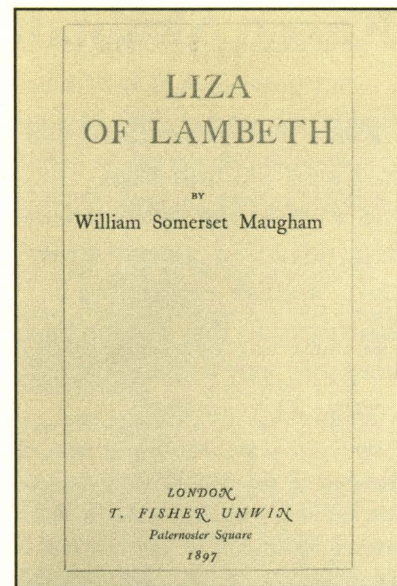
Maugham visited Chicago several times and once gave a lecture at the University of Chicago. His former wife, Syrie, was a very successful interior designer and had a studio on Michigan Avenue in the 1920s. Several of Maugham's stories have Chicago settings, including his last successful novel,

The Razor's Edge (1944), which continues to appeal to new generations of readers.

During World War II, Maugham lived in the United States and became a popular figure in Hollywood. Many of his stories and plays have been — and continue to be — made into motion pictures. "Rain" was filmed three times with Sadie Thompson first portrayed by Gloria Swanson, then by Joan Crawford, and finally by Rita Hayworth. After the war, Maugham returned to the Villa Mauresque, where he continued to write and entertain the rich and famous. He died in 1965 at the age of 91. The Maugham persona of the sophisticated world traveler and story teller, rather than the social dramatist, is his legacy.

Craig V. Showalter

Editor's note: Caxtonian Craig Showalter, a medical doctor at Chicago Lakeshore Hospital, has been a Maugham collector since the 1960s.



Title page of Maugham's first novel, *Liza of Lambeth*. (From the collection of Craig V. Showalter.)

Maugham First Editions

Novels

Liza of Lambeth. Unwin, 1897.
The Making of a Saint. Page, 1898.
The Hero. Hutchinson, 1901.
Mrs. Craddock. Heinemann, 1902.
The Merry-Go-Round. Heinemann, 1904.
The Bishop's Apron. Chapman and Hall, 1906.
The Explorer. Heinemann, 1908.
The Magician. Heinemann, 1908.
Of Human Bondage. Doran, 1915.
The Moon and Sixpence. Heinemann, 1919.
The Painted Veil. Doran, 1925.
Cakes and Ale. Heinemann, 1930.
The Narrow Corner. Heinemann, 1932.
Theatre. Doubleday, 1937.
Christmas Holiday. Heinemann, 1939.
Up at the Villa. Doubleday, 1941.
The Hour Before the Dawn. Doubleday, 1942.
The Razor's Edge. Doubleday, 1944.
Then and Now. Heinemann, 1946.
Catalina. Heinemann, 1948.

Short Story Collections

Orientalisms. Unwin, 1899.
The Trembling of a Leaf. Doran, 1921.
The Casuarina Tree. Heinemann, 1926.
Ashenden. Heinemann, 1928.
Six Stories Written in the First Person Singular. Doubleday, 1931.
Ah King. Heinemann, 1933.
Cosmopolitans. Doubleday, 1936.
The Mixture as Before. Doubleday, 1940.
Creatures of Circumstance. Heinemann, 1947.
Quartet. Heinemann, 1948.
Trio. Heinemann, 1950.
Encore. Heinemann, 1952.

Plays

A Man of Honour. Chapman and Hall, 1903.
Lady Frederick. Heinemann, 1912.
Jack Straw. Heinemann, 1912.
Mrs. Dot. Heinemann, 1912.

Penelope. Heinemann, 1912.
The Explorer. Heinemann, 1912.
The Tenth Man. Heinemann, 1913.
Landed Gentry. Heinemann, 1913.
Smith. Heinemann, 1913.
The Land of Promise. Bickers & Son, 1913.
The Unknown. Heinemann, 1920.
The Circle. Heinemann, 1921.
Caesar's Wife. Heinemann, 1922.
East of Suez. Heinemann, 1922.
Our Betters. Heinemann, 1923.
Home and Beauty. Heinemann, 1923.
The Unattainable. Heinemann, 1923.
Loaves and Fishes. Heinemann, 1924.
The Constant Wife. Doran, 1927.
The Letter. Heinemann, 1927.
The Sacred Flame. Doubleday, Doran, 1928.
The Bread-Winner. Heinemann, 1930.
For Services Rendered. Heinemann, 1932.
Sheppey. Heinemann, 1933.
The Noble Spaniard. Evans Brothers, 1953
 (Written 1908)

Travel Books

The Land of the Blessed Virgin: Sketches and Impressions of Andalusia. Heinemann, 1905.
On a Chinese Screen. Doran, 1922.
The Gentleman in the Parlour. Heinemann, 1930.

Essays, Memoirs

Don Fernando: or Variations on Some Spanish Themes. Heinemann, 1935.
The Summing Up. Heinemann, 1938.
France at War. Heinemann, 1940.
Books and You. Heinemann, 1940.
Strictly Personal. Doubleday, 1941.
Great Novelists and Their Novels. Winston, 1948.
A Writer's Notebook. Heinemann, 1949.
The Writer's Point of View. Cambridge University, 1951.
The Vagrant Mood. Heinemann, 1952.
Points of View. Heinemann, 1958.

Caxtonian McCutcheon's 'Injun Summer,' a Part of History



Sid Smith of the Chicago Tribune staff recently (April 15) wrote of John T. McCutcheon's own memory in creating his memorable fall classic, "Injun Summer": "There was, in fact, little on my young horizon in the middle '70s [in his Indiana boyhood] beyond corn and Indian traditions. It required only a small effort of imagination to see spears and tossing feathers in the tasselled stalks, tepees through the smoky haze..."

McCutcheon, who was the first Chicago Tribune staff member to win a Pulitzer Prize, became an Honorary Caxtonian in 1944, and The Caxton Club published his collection of drawings and writings in John McCutcheon's Book (1948).

This cartoon was first published on September 30, 1907. (Used by special arrangements with the Chicago Historical Society [ICHi-11710]).

Piehl Speaks to the Pittsburgh Bibliophiles on the Caxton Club History

Caxton Club Historian Frank Piehl addressed the Pittsburgh Bibliophiles on May 15 on the history of The Caxton Club. His presentation, which stressed the club's dedication to publishing, was accompanied by a hands-on display of about 20 representative Caxton Club publications from his private collection.

The Caxton sister club in Pittsburgh meets six times a year from October

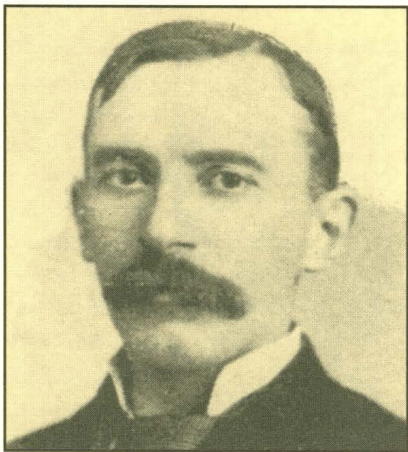
through May on the third Thursday of the month. Dinner is served only at the annual business meeting in May. The club was founded in 1962 "to further the interest of book lovers through studies in book collecting, fine printing, and related graphic arts, bookbinding, and the many amenities of book design, typography, and bibliography; to promote and encourage public interest in and support of such pursuits

through exhibitions, lectures, courses of study or instruction, awards, scholarships, fellowships, and other means of public education."

In September 1996, the Pittsburgh Bibliophiles began publishing a newsletter, which resembles the *Caxtonian*.

*Frank J. Piehl
Caxton Historian*

Who Was Caxton's Prime Mover in 1895?



W. Irving Way

If someone asked you to name the founder of The Caxton Club, how would you answer? Being an informed Caxtonian, you might consult the recently published history. On page 14, you would find: "The early records do not make clear the identity of the new club's prime mover. At least six men — George A. Armour, James W. Ellsworth, George Higginson, Jr., Charles L. Hutchinson, George S. Payson, and John H. Wrenn — were involved in the earliest discussion." And you would probably conclude that one of them must have founded the club.

Well, that conclusion turns out to be wrong. It is based on an apocryphal statement that has troubled the club historian ever since the history went to press. The detailed minutes of the organizational meeting of the club held on January 26, 1895, specify the names of 11 men who are correctly given in the history, but the minutes do not identify the person who started it all.

While processing the archives of The Caxton Club, now part of the John M. Wing Collection at the Newberry Library, your historian had occasion to examine a bound book of our secretary's correspondence from February 1895 to December 1899. He found a letter dated March 12, 1897, from Secretary George S. Payson to Dr. J.S. Wood, Collinwood, OH. It contained the following statement:

"The Caxton Club originated in the mind of Mr. W. Irving Way; at least he was the first, to my knowledge, to speak of it.

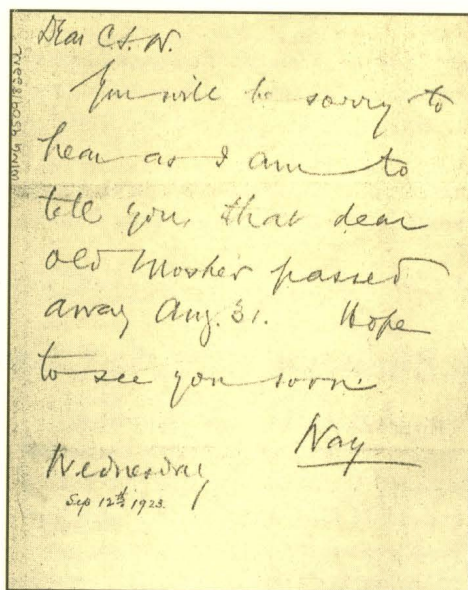
Mr. George Higginson and I cooperated with him, and spoke to the various gentlemen who attended the first meeting, at which it was decided to incorporate the club."

So at last the "prime mover" of The Caxton Club is identified correctly.

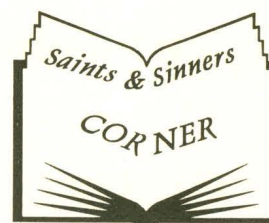
W. Irving Way came to Chicago from Kansas in 1890, founded the publishing firm of W. Irving Way & Company in 1892, and joined with Chauncey L. Williams in 1895 to form Way & Williams, an exceptional private press that published in Chicago for three years. He had been a member of New York's Grolier Club since its founding in 1884. He was also one of the 12 members of the elite group of bibliophiles known as the Duodecimos and was one of the 15 founders of The Caxton Club. Way moved to Los Angeles in 1899 to scout books for collectors. Later he became involved in founding the Zamorano Club.

For more on the life and career of The Caxton Club's founder, see his brief biography in the club history, and for more details, consult *A History of Way & Williams*, by Joe W. Kraus (Philadelphia: George S. MacManus Co., 1984).

Frank J. Piehl
Caxton Historian



Correspondence from W. Irving Way in John M. Wing Collection, Newberry Library. Used with permission.



Caxtonian Gwendolyn Brooks was awarded an honorary degree during the Commencement ceremony at Smith College, Northampton, MA, May 18, according to correspondence from Caxtonian Martin Antonetti, Curator of Rare Books, Neilson Library, Smith College.

Caxtonian Susan Rossen was a speaker at Stanford University's Professional Publishing course. Her topic — "a very unsexy title, 'Publishing in the Non-Profit World'," she reports, was a nice balance for the speaker who preceded her, the very sexy John F. Kennedy, Jr., who spoke on his new magazine, *George*.

Caxtonian Connie Goddard, president of Goddard Book Group, was featured in the *Chicago Sun Times* (August 5) in a piece by Gary Wisby on her experiences helping young and unpublished writers get published. She hopes to build a community of writers in Chicago — and already has 120.

The Third Annual Illinois Authors Literary Weekend is set for October 24-25 at the Illinois State Library in Springfield. Co-sponsored by the Illinois Center for the Book and the Illinois State Library, the event provides the opportunity to showcase state authors and their contributions to the state's literary heritage. The event includes readings, poetry sessions, writers' workshops, exhibits, and storytelling for children and adults. For information, telephone Margaret Pearson at 217/782-9260 or check the Web Site at: <http://www.sos.state.il.us/depts/library/programs/fair97.html>.

Three "Lost" Caxtonians: mail to Caxtonians David Bell, Georgene Paskuly, and Bonnie Schultz is being returned to the Caxton office. If any one has current addresses for the above, please contact Dan Crawford.

Caxtonian Stanlis Speaks at Anniversary Tribute to Edmund Burke

Caxtonian Peter J. Stanlis was the keynote speaker on July 9 at the Leadership Institute, Arlington, VA, in an evening honoring British statesman and philosopher, Edmund Burke. The event marked the 200th anniversary of the death of Burke. Stanlis spoke on "Edmund Burke as Statesman: The Philosopher in Action."

Stanlis has written hundreds of articles and six books on Burke, including his recently reissued, *The Best of Burke* (Regnery Publishers, Inc.). His best known book, *Edmund Burke and the Natural Law* (1958), revolutionized the study of Burke.

He was, as well, for 13 years the editor of *The Burke Newsletter and Studies of Burke and His Time*.



Peter Stanlis (l) with artist Bradley Stevens and Stevens' new portrait of Edmund Burke.

RC

W.S. Maughan

FABS Plans Set for Chicago Octoberfest

The Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies (FABS) will meet in Chicago on October 16. The meeting of representatives from most of the 17 societies in the United States, planned for Fellowship Hall of the Newberry Library, will begin at 9 a.m. and run through lunch.

Under the direction of Larry Siegler of Cleveland's Rowfant Club, the group will consider revisions to the Articles of Association of FABS and other matters of business. All Caxtonians are invited to attend the meeting. Reservations should be made in advance by phoning 312/255-3710 if lunch will be required.

RC

Letters Link Members and Friends

Recent *Caxtonian* Article Inspires 'Footnote' Letter

I have always read the *Caxtonian* and enjoyed the many articles written by people with diverse backgrounds adding new knowledge and expanding my horizon.

In the July 1997 issue your reference to James Hillman's book, *The Soul's Code*, reminds me of the many Japanese folklore containing similar stories of the "Invisible." "The copresence of visible and invisible sustains life" — a statement attributed to Hillman — is a revealing thought.

As you, I enjoy keeping several books on hand in my reading corner and pick one up as the mood fits. I don't know at what point we cross the line from being a Bibliophile to becoming a Bibliomaniac!

The other point I wish to make is that the antique bookcase (referred to by David Meyer), which used to be in the fine prints section of Marshall Fields on Wabash Avenue, was purchased by the Union League Club of Chicago under my suggestion while I was serving as chair-

Club Wisconsin Trip In June Brings Letter of Thanks

On behalf of the Hedberg Public Library, Janesville, WI, I would like to acknowledge with our thanks the hardcover copy of *Celebrating a Century of the Book in Chicago* by Frank J. Piehl.

The book will be added to the library's adult circulating collection, where it will be a handsome addition to the collection.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and support of the library.

Karen Krueger
Library Director

man of the Library Committee of the club. It now resides in our club library and is used for special exhibits. Although I am not sure this case is the one referred to by Mr. Meyer, it is a beauty, and we are making good use of it. At the time of our discovery, Fields had been using it to display lady's scarves!

Ralph F. Fujimoto
Caxtonian

Book Marks

Luncheon Programs

Your Special Luncheon Invitation. . .

Nationally Known Expert To Speak on Printing Art

On September 12, Michael Intrator will begin the autumn schedule of Friday luncheons with a show-and-tell presentation of Continuous Tone Printing (printing without dots).

A new Caxtonian and the general manager and technical director of Black Box ColloTYPE Studios, Michael has been with the firm 22 years and has been a printer since he was ten years old.

He is nationally recognized as an expert at facsimile reproduction, what he calls "legal counterfeiting." His proudest achievement of this art is the reproduction of three copies of Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address," which are displayed at three of our most revered national repositories: the Gettysburg Battle Field Memorial, the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian Institution.

His personal interests in the history of chromolithography, photography, illustration, typography, and design in the applied arts will be utilized through samples in this talk. Bring your magnifying glass and join fellow Caxtonians for conversation, a delightful buffet luncheon, and a great beginning for a new year of luncheon programs.

Lunch is \$20. Please make reservations by calling 312/255-3710.

Leonard Freedman
Edward Quattrocchi

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.

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.

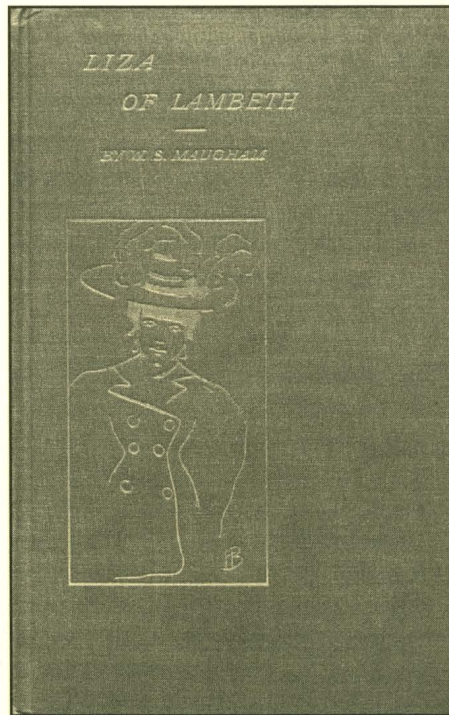


Club Meeting Notices To Be Discontinued

In a unanimous decision, the Caxton Council at its August 20 meeting, voted to discontinue, as of October 1997, the Dinner/Luncheon invitations, mailed monthly to every club member.

The invitation will appear on the re-designed back page of the *Caxtonian* monthly. This will be the only announcement of the monthly dinner and luncheon meetings except for special occasions.

The cost of preparing and mailing the monthly announcement has exceeded \$5,000 and sometimes ran as high as \$7,000 a year. Because of this cost and because the *Caxtonian* over the last four years has become the dependable voice of the club, the Council decided to make the change for the future.



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.

Dinner Programs

Your Special Dinner Invitation . . .

An Evening with Somerset Maugham and His Friends

September 1897 is the publication date of the first novel by the famous storyteller, W. Somerset Maugham. *Liza of Lambeth*, a controversial book because of its realism, is set in the London slums near St. Thomas' Hospital, where Maugham studied and interned to earn his medical license.

On September 24, members and friends, Craig Showalter, Karen Skubish, Leonard Meldman, and Wilfrid DeFritas, all avid Maugham collectors, will mark this special anniversary with you as they talk about their collections and Maugham's contributions to life and literature over the past 100 years. The collectors will discuss Maugham's life and their lives collecting this great artist.

The setting for the dinner — The Casino, a true Art Deco gem — will enhance the elegance of the evening. The chef has planned a special menu reminiscent of the repast served at Maugham's famous Villa Mauresque at St. Jean, Cap Ferrat.

This is an evening — in a city Maugham loved — so thoroughly appropriate for reminiscences of Maugham and your own travels in romance. It is not likely to be repeated, and you will not want to miss this splendid occasion as we begin our 103rd year.

The cost of the dinner is \$35. A cash bar will be available.

The dinner meeting will be held at The Casino, 195 E. Delaware St., directly east of the John Hancock Building and across from the Westin Hotel.

Parking is available by valet service (\$16) or at the parking facility at 200 E. Delaware St. Tickets for discounted parking at 200 E. Delaware will be available and validated at The Casino.

C. Frederick Kittle

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.