



# Caxtonian

Journal of The Caxton Club of Chicago

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January 1998

## N.C. Wyeth: Artist of Heroic Vision

N.C. Wyeth needs little introduction to Caxtonians interested in illustrated books. Many have read adventure classics illustrated by Wyeth. Some may even collect these books.

Newell Convers Wyeth (N.C.), was born October 22, 1882, in Needham, MA, a descendant of Welsh forbears who had settled in Cambridge in 1645. Some had attended Harvard and many had played roles in the history of the colonies. N.C.'s maternal grandfather, John Denys Zirngiebel, had been director of the Harvard Botanical Garden.

As a youngster growing up in Needham, N.C. enjoyed physical work and every kind of farm chore. Later, when he painted a rider on horseback or a farmer working in his field, he put himself into the work mentally and complained of aching muscles afterwards. Much to his father's dismay, N.C. disliked school. He loved drawing. His father, who had other pursuits in mind for N.C., wanted to send the teenager to Vermont to work on a farm for a year.

Fortunately, N.C.'s mother took the boy's drawing to a teacher at the Boston Mechanical Arts School. She discovered that N.C., indeed did have talent, and he then studied at various other art schools. After learning all he could, he had the good fortune to be admitted to Howard Pyle's school in Wilmington, DE. Pyle was an author and illustrator who had grown tired of teaching mediocre students and had decided to accept only the exceptionally gifted. In the summers the school moved to Chadds Ford, PA, and this was how N.C. was introduced to a region of America that would come to be uniquely associated with him and his family.

N.C., a strapping, confident youth, arrived at Pyle's school in 1902. He brought with him a love of nature, history, books, and music. Pyle, a great teacher, preached his credo: get to know by direct experience the subjects you are going to paint. Pyle was unusually free of professional jealousy. For instance, he saw to it that his best students received commissions to illustrate articles in *Scribner's* and the *Saturday Evening Post* magazines.



*Title page of Rip Van Winkle (1921), with illustrations by N. C. Wyeth, from the library of Thomas Joyce.*

N.C.'s illustration for "Bronco Busters" done at this time showed his complete mastery of the subject. N.C., always fascinated by the West, took Pyle's advice. He travelled to Colorado, where he worked as a cowpuncher, herding 300 head of cattle his first day on the job. After his stint at a cowboy, he lived with the Navahoes, sleeping in a hogan where he felt perfectly at home. He wrote, "I am in the Great West and I'll tell you it is the great West." He returned with a cargo of Western and Native American clothing, saddles, blankets, and all sorts of props for accurate Western illustrations.

He was not above an occasional prank. In January 1905, N.C. and his fellow classmate, Harvey Dunn, traveled to

*(See N. C. WYETH, Page Four)*

## Caxton Club Connection with Jekyll Island, GA, Spans Century, Cultures

Jekyll Island is a natural paradise nestled in the Atlantic Ocean between St. Simons Sound and St. Andrews Sound, east of Brunswick, GA. The island was at the southernmost end of the slender chain of settlements that made up the British Empire in North America in pre-Revolutionary War days. In 1742, during the territorial war between England and Spain, William Horton built a house on the island, which became a link in Governor Oglethorpe's chain of early-warning outposts against raids by Spanish pirates. Jekyll Island became part of the United States when Georgia ratified the Constitution in 1788.

A century later, a consortium of millionaires from the Northeast and Midwest purchased the whole island for \$125,000. The Astors, the Goulds, the Morgans, the Pulitzers, and the Rockefellers formed a society there in what became a secluded winter version of Newport, RI. In 1886 members formed the Jekyll Island Club. The mansions that they built have long been dormant, and the club closed its doors in 1947, but tourists still visit the island to see the "cottages" of the founders and the gardens created by architects such as John Russell Pope and Horace Cleveland for the notable founders.

Prominent families from Chicago, including Marshall Field, Wirt Dexter, and Ezra B. McCagg, also rubbed shoulders with the Easterners on the island. Their pretensions did not escape the keen mind of Franklin H. Head, a Chicago lawyer, who engaged in manufacturing and banking. He was an accomplished speaker, and his sharp wit delighted his audiences. He joined the Chicago Literary Club in 1884, and on December 5, 1892, delivered a paper entitled "The Legends of Jekyl [sic] Island." His remarks were privately printed in a 41-page booklet which has become a collector's item.

*(See JEKYLL ISLAND, Page Three)*



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# Musings...

We first vacationed on Jekyll Island, GA, in 1973, and haven't missed a year visiting the island since then. It has become our family's favorite escape. We go to Jekyll and hide, I tell people. With our two children now married, we take their families to a beautiful beachfront home every other year, and the other years Norma and I stay at the restored 1887 Jekyll Island Club, now a Radisson Hotel.

The island is a place of subtle natural beauty, a part of the coastal plain, surrounded by extensive salt water marshes. The great sea turtles come to the island each year to lay eggs, and egrets, tern, heron, and grebe are as plentiful as the lush, semi-tropic flora. And on occasion we have seen wild turkeys in the dense undergrowth at the south end of Jekyll.

The island is for me, however, a place forever associated with books because Norma and I are both readers. Jekyll Island is the site for our total annual withdrawal from the routines of professional life — we bike, we swim, and *we read*. *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, *Time Must Have a Stop*, *The Moon and Sixpence*, and *The Marshes of Glynn* are titles — among dozens of others — that shall always be linked to the island in my memory because I read these books there.

In June 1996, just a few minutes before leaving our home for the three-day motor trip from Illinois to Georgia, our postman called to tell us an overnight package had arrived at the post office, and, since he knew we were leaving on our vacation, he thought we might like to have this piece of mail to take with us. The package was from Caxtonian Jim Miller, who had sent me copies of his two books on Walt Whitman at my request. I was so pleased to have them to take with me to Jekyll — through Jim Miller, who, in kindness, sent the books by overnight mail, and our postman, who, in kindness, took time to phone me about their arrival. Thus, during our 1996 Jekyll Island get away, I read the fine scholarship of Jim Miller and developed final plans for the August 1996 *Caxtonian* on Whitman, one of my favorite issues, in part, perhaps, because of its association with the island.

In 1976 we first met on the neighboring island of St. Simons the author, Eugenia Price, and I made a set of photographs of her for the dust jacket of a forthcoming novel. Every year thereafter, my wife Norma and I had dinner with her, usually at Alfonzo's Olde Plantation Supper Club, a delightful eating establishment in the interior of St. Simons not far from Genie's home.

I remember one of our last dinners at Alfonzo's with Genie before she died in 1996. In a typical playful conversation, I told her I considered myself a "radical moderate." She became earnest and said, "You can't be that — it's an oxymoron." I replied, still playful: "But you call yourself 'born again.' Isn't *that* a contradiction?" Her eyes shone brightly, as they always did in serious conversation. She inhaled from the stem of her long cigarette holder, let the smoke pass through her smiling lips, and then promptly changed the subject.

There is a secluded stretch of beach at the north end of the island that Norma and I have found. Occasionally, very late at night, we walk there, spread a blanket on the sand as the waves lap nearby, and... But, because that's a story with nothing whatsoever to do with books or book collecting, I'll save it for another venue — perhaps under the title, "Private Beach Tales of a Bibliophile on Jekyll Island: Fantasy or Reality?" Maybe I could read it at the Literary Club one of these days. Who knows — maybe it will be published!

Robert Cotner  
Editor

## Jekyll Island

(Continued from Page One)

The title page bore the misleading heading, "Studies in Early American History." Head fabricated his own version of the island's history with tongue in cheek. He quoted Chicagoan Jim Kelly, who described the island as follows. "I have a cousin who owned an island off the Georgia coast, 17,000 acres of sand and swamp. You couldn't raise anything on it; there was some scattering, but utterly worthless, timber. He had tried for years to sell it, to trade it off, or to mortgage it, but he couldn't do either. In fact, the whole thing wasn't worth a damn, but lately he picked up a lot of rich suckers from New York, Boston and Chicago, and sold them his Jekyl [sic] Island for \$125,000."

Head went on to create a history of the island. The following excerpt from a fabricated letter from Governor Oglethorpe's wife to "Sir Theophilus" illustrates his style. "We are now established in our new home on Jekyl [sic] Island.... We sleep on beds made of pine leaves, which are most comfortable and exhale a balsamic fragrance supposed to be conducive to health.... The secretary of the colony, Charles Wesley, dwells with us upon the island, and is zealous to save the souls of the Indians who come hither to hunt and to fish."

Her letter then describes a pleasure trip to the beach. "The most perfect art could devise nothing more beautiful than the tropical glories of this forest drive. When we reached the cove the servants waded into the water and brought ashore great baskets of oysters, which they roasted in a fire kindled from branches of the fragrant pine. General Oglethorpe brewed a large tub of rum punch, while I made a bowl of delicious sangaree. No one neglected these beverages, and with the oysters, the cheese and other viands with which we were provided, a royal banquet was enjoyed. Many of the gentlemen



An architectural feature of the Jekyll Island Club, now a Radisson Hotel, which was designed by Chicago architect, Charles A. Alexander. It was built at the cost of \$45,000. For a history of the hotel and people associated with its founding, see William and June McCash, *The Jekyll Island Club, Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1989.* (Photo by and from the collection of Robert Cotner.)



*Ye marshes, how candid and simple and nothing-withholding and free  
Ye publish yourselves to the sky and offer yourselves to the sea!*

From "The Marshes of Glynn"  
Sidney Lanier

Legend has it that Georgia poet, Sidney Lanier, sat beneath this live oak tree — now called the Lanier Oak — in Brunswick, Glynn County, GA, and composed one of his most famous poems, "The Marshes of Glynn." These marshes are the most extensive salt water marshes in the U.S., covering approximately 400,000 acres. Jekyll Island lies in the distant background. (Photo by and from the collection of Robert Cotner.)

were nearly overcome with the rum punch, although insisting that it was the roasted oysters which made their legs unsteady, and this had nearly led Mr. Wesley into serious trouble with Mr. Moultrie, whose almost maudlin attentions to his sweetheart, Miss Mercy, were constant and even annoying to her."

Head's entire narrative is equally delectable. The frontispiece of the booklet is a photograph labeled "Gen. James E. Oglethorpe" that bears a striking resemblance to Edward G. Mason, president of the Chicago Historical Society, and one of the founders of the Chicago Literary Club. Head dedicated the booklet to him: "Not alone as a mark of high personal esteem, but in recognition of his equally painstaking and accurate labors in similar fields of historical research."

Where is The Caxton Club's Jekyll Island connection? It began when Eugene Field, a columnist for the morning edition of the *Chicago Daily News*, wrote to James W. Ellsworth, a distinguished Chicago book collector, on May 22, 1893, as follows. "I have suggested to Franklin H. Head, Esq., that he send you a copy of his *Legends of Jekyl [sic] Island*, just printed. As this publication is wholly for private distribution, it will certainly become rare, eventually, and there should be a copy of it in your library. I am sure that you will pardon my seeming presumption in suggesting the propriety of this remembrance to Mr. Head, when you have seen and read this curious and humorous contribution to literature." Head complied and sent a copy to Ellsworth, who had it bound, with Field's letter tipped in, in full crushed morocco by the club bindery.

Ellsworth was one of the founders of The Caxton Club and served as its first president in 1895. Field died in the year The Caxton Club was founded, never having been invited to join the club in spite of his bibliomania and close friendship with many of the early Caxtonians. Head joined The Caxton Club in 1898 and

(Continued on Page Four)

## Wyeth

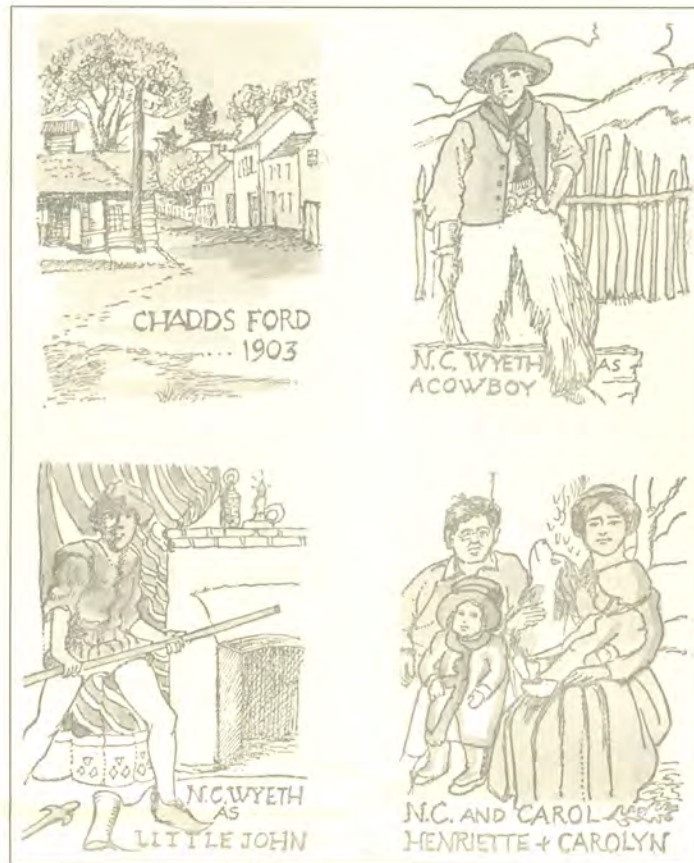
(Continued from Page One)

Washington, DC, for the Inauguration of Teddy Roosevelt as President. Friends dressed as cowpunchers and pretended they were originals from the West. They were given horses to ride alongside 126 Native Americans in full ceremonial dress. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves but declined an invitation to attend a formal reception later at the White House.

In 1906 N.C. married the lovely Carol Bockins of Wilmington. Of their children, Henriette, Carolyn, and Andrew would become artists. The Wyeth children loved to play among the ship models, antique busts, and Native American artifacts in N.C.'s studio.

All the while the children were growing up, N.C. was working at white-heat painting large oils for his illustrations, which were then reduced in scale and printed in color. He excelled in the depiction of the American Colonial period and of the Middle Ages. Of his illustrated books, *Treasure Island* is a masterpiece, followed by three other Robert Louis Stevenson tales: *Kidnapped*, *The Black Arrow*, and *David Balfour*. Next came *The Mysterious Island* and *Michael Strogoff: A Courier of the Czar*, by Jules Verne. *Robin Hood*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *The Boy's King Arthur*, *The Scottish Chiefs*, *Drums*, and *The Last of the Mohicans* were among the favored books to which he brought his genius. Thousands of youngsters were attracted to books they might never have discovered but for N.C.'s powerful cover illustrations, which whetted their interests in the story between the covers.

Technically, N.C.'s illustrations are brilliantly conceived, emotional projections of imagined scenes. His ability to paint men in action is unrivaled. His heroes are muscular, graceful, and virile. Their stances, facial expressions, and gestures all tell their stories. N.C.'s use of light and dark created powerful contrasts and illu-



*Caxtonian Pruchnicki and her Bronte Press published the miniature book, N. C. Wyeth: Artist of Imagination and Heroic Visions (1997). Each illustration is actual size and drawn and hand-colored by the author.*

mine faces and forms in the manner of Rembrandt. In his paintings, there is always the feel of the atmosphere — gusty winds, blinding snows, hazy, distant hills. He created a sense of space and air around his characters whose shadows fall on the ground as they stride through a painting. His color is symphonic in its tonal variety. Men and Nature appear in heroic scale in N.C.'s illustrations.

In 1945, N.C.'s long career came abruptly to a close. He and his four-year-old namesake, N.C. Wyeth II, stopped to watch a farm couple bundling corn stalks into shocks. N.C. was heard telling the youngster that he wasn't likely to see anything like that again.

Minutes later, as N.C. was driving over a nearby railroad crossing, the car stalled. An unscheduled mail train bore down upon the car, struck it, and shoved it 143 feet, rolling it over. The neck of the little boy was broken, and the life of one of America's greatest painter-illustrators was taken.

## Jekyll Island

(Continued from Page Three)

served on both the council and the publications committee. He was the club's vice president from 1903 - 1911. His wit won him the permanent honor of serving as auctioneer of the vellum copies of the club's publications at annual meetings. In 1926 The Caxton Club published one of his presentations to the Chicago Literary Club, *Shakespeare's Insomnia & The Causes Thereof*. Ellsworth's copy of Head's booklet now resides in the library of Frank Piehl.

The Jekyll Island connection continues with Past President and *Caxtonian* editor Robert Cotner and his wife, Norma, who sojourn there annually in historic splendor. One is tempted to ask whether they have had any parties on the beach.

Frank J. Piehl  
Caxton Historian

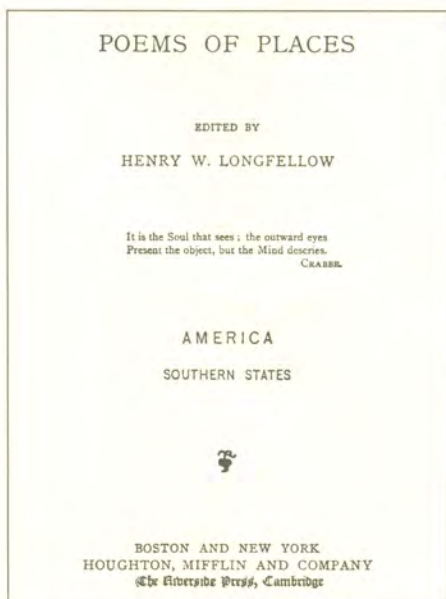
## Holiday Revels Is One of the Best

The 1997 Holiday Revels at the Belmont Yacht Club, December 17, brought back memories of the Caxton Centennial meetings, club Historian Frank J. Piehl observed. President Karen Skubish entertained with her remarkable harp music, Past Present Robert Cotner gave the group an opening poem — Gerard Manley Hopkins' "The Windhover" — and the three magicians, Jay Marshall, John McKinven, and John Railing, were a delight. Auctioneer/performer/attorney Earl Talbot auctioned the Oliver Wendell Holmes volume, *Astraea, The Balance of Illusions*, and Caxtonian Martha Aalbue bought it for \$180 — which will go to the club's Second Century Fund. Then speaker of the evening, James Finn Garner, gave a splendid presentation on celebrating the season in a politically-correct way. It was a fine evening!

## Anonymous 'Marshes of Glynn' Published in 1878

To provoke critical and popular attention, Boston-based Roberts Bros. published unsigned American works in a "No name Series." For their volume, *A Masque of Poets* (1878), Sidney Lanier wrote what would become his most frequently reprinted poem, "The Marshes of Glynn." Lanier himself believed that the volume was an "intolerable collection of mediocrity," although it contained anonymous poems by Henry Thoreau, Emily Dickinson, Christina Rossetti, Bronson Alcott, and others. It was, in fact, the first appearance of Dickinson in book format. Two months later, editor Henry Wadsworth Longfellow requested permission to reprint "The Marshes," this time signed, in the American Southern States volume (1879) of his 31-volume series, *Poems of Places*.

Diana Haskell  
The Newberry Library



Title page from Longfellow's *Poems of Places* (1879) in which "The Marshes of Glynn" first appeared under the author's name. (From a copy owned by the Newberry Library, through whose courtesy it is used.)

## Actor John Astin Recalls Lanier Statue in Baltimore

*Editor's note: When actor John Astin performed "Edgar Allan Poe: Once Upon a Midnight" at Chicago's Mercury Theater, he and Caxtonian editor Robert Cotner became friends. This piece is the first of several by Astin planned for the Caxtonian.*

I have warm memories of the Sidney Lanier statue at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Having entered college on a scholarship as a math major, and, transferring to Hopkins as a junior lacking but three credits for a math degree, I rejected all good advice and recklessly abandoned the sciences in favor of literature and the arts. I eventually received one of the few degrees in drama ever granted by Hopkins.

That this august university would harbor a statue of a poet was a source of continuing encouragement for an errant son-of-a-noble-scientist during those chaotic days when he strayed from his ordained path and committed to a life in the Arts.

Many hours of study and quiet meditation were spent by this bas-relief of the musician/poet Lanier, seated on the rocks, writing in his notebook, impervious to the Charles Street traffic. Above Lanier, to the right, are two muse-like figures, one with a scroll, the other with a pipe. At his feet are a flute and a sheet of music.

Lanier, a noted musician, played the organ, piano, violin, guitar, and banjo, but

### Chronology of Books by Sidney Lanier

1842-1881

Poet, linguist, musician,  
Mathematician, teacher, attorney

*Tiger Lilies* (novel), 1867.

*Poems*, 1877.

*The Science of English Verse*, 1880.

*The English Novel*, 1883.

*Poems*, 1884.

*Poems*, 1891.

*Shakespeare and His Forerunners*, 1902.

*Poems*, 1916.

*Complete Works, Critical Edition* (10 vols.), 1946.



Memorial statue to Sidney Lanier on the campus of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. (Photo by and from the collection of Robert Cotner.)

was a master of the flute. He was the first of the "poet-professors" at Johns Hopkins, joining the faculty in 1879 and serving until his death at 39, from consumption, in 1881.

His "Ode to Johns Hopkins University," read in February 1880, on Commencement Day, closes with these lines:

*Bring Tolerance, that can kiss and disagree, —  
Bring Virtue, Honor, Truth, and Loyalty, —  
Bring Faith that sees with undissembling eyes, —  
Bring all large Loves and heavenly Charities, —  
Till man seem less a riddle unto man  
And fair Utopia less Utopian,  
And many peoples call from shore to shore,  
The world has bloomed again, at Baltimore!*

John Astin  
Actor, Director, and Writer



Lanier birthplace, Macon, GA. (Photo by and from the collection of Robert Cotner.)

A Letter from Evanston...

## Quattrocchi on Tour Visits Rare Bookshops

(Part Two)

On our summer trip to San Francisco I stopped into the bookshop of Jeffrey Thomas, Fine & Rare Books. The friendly proprietor, Jeffrey Thomas, himself greeted me in the gracious style and manner of an old-fashioned lover of books and bookmen. He asked if he could show me anything in particular, and I pointed to one of the books listed in his catalog, *Dante Alighieri; Guido Cavalcanti; et al.* It is the first edition of an early anthology of Italian poetry, including the poems of Guido Cavalcanti, published in Florence in 1527. To my surprise, Thomas could not locate the book on the shelf where it was supposed to be. He double checked in his computer and searched a few other likely locations where the book might be hiding, but with no success. I offered my condolences and added that I was not really a hot prospect for the book anyway. As a seasoned commodity trader who has witnessed all manner of cowardly and often violent reactions to sudden losses in the pit, I was professionally impressed by the aplomb with which Thomas reacted to the possible loss of such a valuable book, listed at \$1,250 in his catalog. I was more concerned than he seemed to be. He explained that a lot of librarians had been prowling the shop in the past couple of days, and one might have misplaced it. He added, with a noble confidence, that it was not the kind of book that is usually stolen. I thought to myself that librarians are probably not good thieves, but I wondered that if there be such knaves in their ranks, what kind of books would they prefer to pilfer?

Our conversation moved to other topics. I mentioned my connection with The Caxton Club, and he was familiar with our club. By coincidence he informed me that the Book Club of California was having its weekly open house from 5 to 7 p.m. and invited me to drop by for a drink. I thanked him for his courteous introduction to his shop and his kind invitation to the open house and indicated that we would drop by if time permitted. Before returning to our hotel, I stopped in two other fine shops, Goldwasser & Wilkinson, and John Windle Antiquarian Bookseller, two more excellent

shops in this one building, which seemed to have only tenants of superior taste and refinement. I could have spent the whole day in that building, but it was frustrating to me like a kid in Toys R Us with only a C-note to spend.

Because neither Carolyn nor I is comfortable at cocktail parties unless we know the players, we were hesitant to stop by the Book Club's open house. But we threw caution to the wind and ventured up to the 5th floor of a building on Sutter Avenue, a short walk from our hotel and from the Antiquarian Book Building. There we were greeted by an old gentleman who looked like a transplanted Caxtonian in casual garb. He gave us a drink and told us a bit about the history of the California Book Club and its members. As you know, the club is big and rich and devoted mainly to publishing. It has about 1000 members and publishes books and keepsakes on a regular schedule. It does not have regular dinner meetings as does The Caxton Club, but it has its regular open house cocktail hours in its own library room every week. It has a large endowment and has had the good fortune to have had the free services of the librarian for the State of California for the past several decades.

We met several friendly bibliophiles, particularly a young man by name of William Kostura, who had written the club's keepsake volume for 1993, entitled *William F. Lewis, A San Francisco House Builder*. He gave us a copy, which is usually sold only to Book Club members. We learned he is an architectural

historian, working mostly on environmental impact studies. We were impressed that he was writing a multi-volume work on the architecture of the Russian Hill section of San Francisco. He had published the first volume himself and had almost sold out the first run.

Shortly before leaving for our reservation at the Waterfront restaurant on Fisherman's Wharf, Thomas showed up at the reception nattily dressed with a handsome bow tie and a wide smile, apparently unfazed by the missing rare book from his shelf. After the customary introductory remarks, he told the brief saga of his travels from Yale undergraduate school to graduate school at Berkeley with a Ph.D. specializing in American literature and a dissertation on Bret Harte. He knew his books as a dealer and a scholar. I liked the guy and felt comfortable enough to call him "Jeffrey." I don't think he is the kind of fellow who ought to be called "Jeff," anymore than I would use that appellation in referring to Geoffrey Chaucer. (And I don't think we should countenance anyone's referring to our club's namesake as *Bill Caxton*.) I inquired after the lost 16th-century Italian poetry anthology and offered my sympathies at his fruitless search.

Recently I received a letter from him with this thoughtful reassurance that he had found the lost book: "You doubtless thought that I was taking altogether too lightly the disappearance of my Cavalcanti volume. But I was convinced that it was around somewhere; and my confidence was rewarded the next day when I happened to gaze at my display case and saw it proudly on exhibit. (I had not set up the display, so I didn't put the book in the case — but I suppose that I should have remembered that it was there.) Permit me to remind you of the pertinent details." And the fetching details entice me to want to see it, but I will have to wait until my next visit to that fine shop in that fair city. But I hope he sells it before then.

(To Be Continued)



Spine of *The Works of Sir Thomas More*, Sometime Lorde Chancellor of England wrytten by him in the English tonge, London, 1557. (From the collection of Edward Quattrocchi.)

*Ed Quattrocchi*

Editor's note: This is the second in series of pieces selected from a 22-page epistle to Caxtonian editor, Robert Cotner, in which a rich selection of important issues are presented, all worthy of consideration.

## Caxton President Inherits Legacy of Leadership

When Past-President Tom Joyce handed The Caxton Club gavel to President Karen Skubish, a legacy of strong leadership came along with it. That legacy was initiated by Hayward Blake and continued by Robert Cotner and Tom Joyce. These three presidents have revitalized the club and brought it into its second century with a new vision. Much of what was accomplished was done by way of committees, but it was the wisdom of these three presidents in selecting the right people to head the committees, and it was their diligence in guiding the committees that made it all happen.

A few highlights from the long list of changes and accomplishments are: a fantastically successful centennial celebration; a modernized constitution and by-laws; an enlarged and diversified membership; better and faster communication by way of the widely-acclaimed *Caxtonian*, journal of the club, and a website on the Internet, as well as a brochure for new members; new and improved accounting and auditing procedures; publication of the club's history; and donation of the club's archives to the Newberry Library. In perspective, these represent progress, not simply change. Caxtonians owe a debt of gratitude to Past-Presidents Blake, Cotner, and Joyce for their leadership in bringing them about and in making The Caxton Club an interesting, educational, and exciting club.

President Skubish has inherited a vigorous and healthy club. Her challenge is to continue in the tradition of her predecessors by resolving the distracting issue of club rooms, by launching the proposed program of exhibitions, by re-energizing the publications committee, and by opening new vistas for the future. Caxtonians are urged to become more active in the club's affairs, and to support her in making our second century even better than our first.

Frank J. Pichl  
*Caxton Historian*

*Sidney Lanier.*

## Christie's Will Exhibit In Chicago Books From Haskell Norman Library

The Haskell F. Norman Library, the finest collection of medical and scientific books in private hands, will be sold by Christie's in New York at three auctions in 1998. The collection comprises more than 2,500 works, ranging from incunabula to 20th Century offprints and includes nearly all landmark books from both fields. The library is particularly strong in presentation, dedication and association copies, the author's own annotated copies, and special bindings.

For more than 40 years, Dr. Norman bought the most important and rarest books he could find in his fields of interest. A well-known psychiatrist, he started with a first edition of Freud's *Die Traumdeutung*. The library then grew into other areas of psychiatry, its origins and development, from the 18th Century works of Mesmer to the 20th Century studies of Jung. Later Dr. Norman began collecting widely in all other branches of medicine and in most sciences. The most striking aspect of the library is the extremely fine condition on which he invariably insisted.

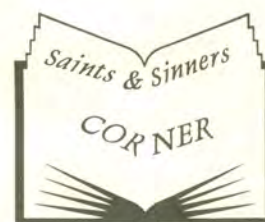
This is most fully demonstrated by the remarkable illuminated copy of the first edition of Andreas Vesalius' *De humani corporis fabrica libri septem* (Basel: 1543), bound in imperial purple velvet for the book's dedicatee, Charles V, and presented by him to the French ambassador, Jacques Mesnage.

The library will be auctioned at Christie's in New York City in March, June, and November, 1998. On January 20-21, selected books from the collection will be exhibited at the Chicago Club, 81 E. Van Buren St. For information regarding books in the Chicago exhibition and the public exhibition hours, telephone Christie's in Chicago at 312/787-2765.

## Welcome New Caxtonians

We are pleased to welcome to club membership the following new Caxtonians:

William V. Jackson  
Nominated by Peggy Sullivan  
Seconded by William Grace



### Caxtonian Richardson L. Spofford

read a paper, "Intrepid Women" at the Chicago Literary Club on December 15.

**Caxtonian Peter Stanlis**, Distinguished Professor of Humanities Emeritus, Rockford College, published "Robert Frost's Poetic Underpinning: Conversation," *The New York Times* (December 13, 1997). This piece was an adaptation of his, "Robert Frost: The Conversationalist as Poet," published in *Modern Age, A Quarterly Review*, Fall 1997, pp. 323-334.

**Past President Thomas Joyce** was featured in an excellent, illustrated (in full color, no less) article by Connie Lauerman in the "Tempo" section of the *Chicago Tribune* (December 16, 1997). The article focused on Joyce's work as an antiquarian bookseller and collector and is illuminating regarding the antiquarian book business in these days.

Ed Minor

Nominated by Abel Berland  
Seconded by Robert Cotner

Eric Werner

Nominated by Robert Cotner  
Seconded by Leonard Freedman

Rod Accurso

Nominated by Robert Cotner  
Seconded by Thomas Joyce

Paul Ruxin

Nominated by R. Eden Martin  
Seconded by Abel Berland and Charles Cullen

Katherine Bateman

Nominated by Alice Schreyer  
Seconded by Thomas Joyce

# Book Marks

## Luncheon Programs

### *Your Special Luncheon Invitation. . .*

**Date:** January 9, 1998  
**Place:** Mid-Day Club  
**Speaker:** Robert Williams

Caxtonian Robert Williams, calligrapher par excellence, will share his expertise at our luncheon program this month. Williams, a professional calligrapher for three decades, has studied his craft in London and has taught it at the Newberry Library, in various major cities of the U.S., and the university of Chicago, where he is the assistant design manager. He is a co-founder of the Chicago Calligraphy Collective and is the author of several articles on the history of calligraphy.

Of his work, Williams writes "Many people, when they hear the word 'calligraphy,' think of medieval or renaissance illuminated manuscripts. But calligraphy as a distinct art form did not begin until the 16th Century and was propagated by its apparent archrival, printing"

A collector as well as an artist, Williams will discuss this paradox and use his extensive collection of calligraphy and calligraphy books, as well as slides of the most important printed calligraphy books of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, to illustrate his presentation.

This is an opportunity to hear one of our own, and one of America's, finest calligraphers speak on a vital artistic enterprise, past and present.

*Edward Quattrocchi  
Leonard Freedman  
Co-Chairs*

*All luncheon and dinner 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. Dinner meetings begin with spirits, 5 p.m., dinner 6 p.m., lecture, 7 p.m. 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. Members planning to attend luncheons or dinners must make advance reservations by phoning the Caxton number, 312/255-3710. Luncheon for members and guests, \$20. Dinner, for members and guests \$35.*

## Dinner Programs

### *Your Special Dinner Invitation. . .*

**Date:** January 21, 1998  
**Place:** Mid-Day Club  
**Speaker:** Bernice E. Gallagher, Ph.D.

Bernice Gallagher of Lake Forest College will speak on "Illinois Women Novelists in the 19th Century." She will focus on novelists whose were exhibited in the Women's Building Library of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

As background to her own research, Dr. Gallagher writes: "I am a third generation Chicagoan, whose Irish immigrant grandparents visited the Columbian Exposition and told me it was 'like a dream.' I first learned about the Women's Building and its female architect, Sophia Hayden, in a Master's course taught by Franz Schulze on Chicago art and architecture (I began to wonder what they actually put in this building and was surprised to learn that the entire first floor was a library, in fact, the *first* women's library in America). Edith Clarke, head cataloguer at the Newberry Library in 1893, was able to prepare only a partial listing of the holdings in the Women's Building Library, and a complete bibliography of this important collection has yet to be compiled. My current project is a literary biography of Mary Hartwell Catherwood, one of these 19th Century Illinois women novelists, who debated Hamlin Garland at the Congress of Authors, held during the exposition and also was the most popular woman novelist in turn-of-the-century America." Dr. Gallagher will give us the rest of the story at our January dinner meeting — and you won't want to miss it.

Dr. Gallagher has degrees from Northwestern University (Ph.D., English), Lake Forest College (M.A., Liberal Studies), and Barat College (B.A., English). She was given the Award for Superior Achievement by the Illinois State Historical Society in 1995 for *Illinois Women Novelists in the 19th Century*. She has published widely and is well known as a lecturer in areas of her specialties.

You will not want to miss this important and enlightening program.

Internet users may communicate with The Caxton Club at the following address: <http://www.caxtonclub.org>

*C. Fred Kittle  
Vice President and  
Program Chair*