



Caxtonian

Journal of The Caxton Club of Chicago

Volume VII, No. 6

June 1999

By Camel and 'Beetle' to Ancient Manuscripts in the Desert

By Ken Nebenzahl

After seven years of spending penetratingly cold Februaries in western Europe pounding the pavement seeking rare books and maps, I had developed a keen yearning for warm sunshine to follow the damp, slushy, central-heatingless, old-world winters of 35 years ago. While musing over this during a 1964 Chicago visit from Professor Derek J. de Sola Price, the internationally renowned Yale historian of science, he pointedly proclaimed, "Ken, you must go to Fez! It is one of the ancient imperial capitals and the intellectual center of Morocco: the far western frontier of Islam, a rare place in this world where you can step through a gate into the Medina, and find yourself in the Middle Ages; and, there are early scientific instruments and illuminated manuscripts! Furthermore, Morocco means warm sunshine." The seed was planted.

March 1965 found my wife Jossy and me in Casablanca. Bogart and Bacall to the contrary, we were disappointed in the fatigued former French colonial city, then in decline during the first decade of the French departure. However there were still glimpses of a Paris-in-North-Africa past. Through a mutual acquaintance we met a Casablanca Volkswagen importer who became our instant friend and guide. He took us on an excursion to his version of an historical monument: Casablanca's gaudiest house of ill-repute, in the suburb of Mohammadia. This elaborate edifice had flourished openly during the half-century French protectorate. Since independence, it came to resemble a morgue in a town without fatalities. The French madame, a friend of our guide, gave us a tour and a detailed account of the operations of a high-class house of pleasure as it had been during its heyday. Included was a multicolored, illuminated glass dance floor surrounded by intimate booths. The second floor featured exotically decorated bedrooms with leopard skin rugs, satin sheets, velvet drapes, and no shortage of mirrors on ceilings and walls reflecting the pseudo-Empire furnishings. Still managing a hopeful air of expectancy, it was a house whose hour indeed had passed.



The Librarian of Qarawiyn University with ancient Islamic manuscripts. (Photo by Ken Nebenzahl.)

From Casablanca we began our Moroccan journey in a rented VW Beetle. Our first total immersion into an exotic non-Western land occurred during the following night at the venerable city of Meknes. We arrived at the Transatlantique, a classic colonial grand hotel, now quiet, slightly down-at-the-heels; low wattage in the lamps, with considerable, if tired, charm. The absence of other guests or activity was palpable. Our room had a balcony overlooking what once must have been lovely gardens. Opening the French doors we stepped outside, and our senses were exposed to sounds and smells so



The "Librarian" at Tamagrout holds some of the rare closed manuscripts as he poses. (Photo by Ken Nebenzahl.)

unfamiliar that we were overcome with excitement. Dogs were barking, donkeys braying, roosters crowing, spices and other exotic savory scents wafted by. We stood motionless, spellbound and hypnotized until the bright moon set, and the atonal song of the muezzin calling the people to prayer echoed across the city's first gray light of dawn.

Journeying on to Fez was to retreat into the Middle Ages, as foretold by Derek Price. The old city, the *Medina*, dates back to the 9th Century when the Arabs completed their sweep across North Africa. With streets no wider than one's outstretched arms, old Fez, virtually unchanged, contained a substantial population, of mostly families who had lived within its walls for centuries. It was not uncommon for Fezians to be born, have a full life, and die without leaving the Medina. The network of tiny streets contained markets where all of life's necessities and shops of every trade were found. Small donkeys carried the freight. There were substantial emporiums where Moroccan carpets, metal work and other handicrafts were shown to the tourist by portly proprietors, hands thrust deep in the pockets of their *jalaba*—one filled with dates, the other with almonds—and they continually munched. Their eager staff would unfold and display 50 carpets if the visitor appeared qualified or even moderately interested.

Before leaving Casablanca we had introduced ourselves to the director of the public library. Holding my calling card, he smiled broadly and said, "Ah, Ben-Zahl! One of our people!" We were not sure if he was serious, but he certainly was helpful. We explained our desire to view the ancient manuscripts in the Qarawiyn University Library at Fez. We hoped to meet the muezzin of the Qarawiyn Mosque, who was the keeper

(See MOROCCO, Page Three)

Caxtonian

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The *Caxtonian* is published monthly by The Caxton Club. The Caxton Club office is located in The Newberry Library, at 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610. Telephone 312/255-3710. Permission to reprint material from the *Caxtonian* is not necessary if copy of reprint is mailed to The Caxton Club office and credit is given to the *Caxtonian*.

The *Caxtonian* is printed by
River Street Press, Aurora, Illinois
Fine Printers & Lithographers

Musings...

Ἄφ' ὧν μοι ἐγγίσει μούσα πο
λύρωτον ἱεράμαλα πολλὰ
σαλαχθῆναι τῶνδε ἱερῶν
πολίθερον ἔωβρε.

When these words were sung — for surely, in the oral tradition of early Greek culture that is how they were first communicated — they began a three-hour tale, which was at the heart of early Greek history. *The Odyssey*, which the lines initiate, became a cornerstone of Western Civilization, giving us remarkable definitions — and demonstrations — of family mores, personal courage, human wisdom, and a living relationship with divinity.

You may be surprised to learn that I never knew Homer personally — he was just a bit before my time. But his great epic, the 24-book, 12,126-line poem, in which we meet Odysseus, the greatest of Western literature's heroes, has long been my favorite. Odysseus and I have been companions on life's journey since we first met more than 30 years ago. Literature, you know, has a way of enhancing a new and powerful reality for those devoted to it.

I have known, as he did, the vertiginous dangers of Kharybdis and have skirted its treacherous currents in the course of my journey. And I too have heard the voices of the Sirenes and can show you a bruised spirit to prove my survival. But this great book is about more than survival in an alien world. It is first and foremost about the passionate love between husband and wife, which literature has the capacity to make eternal. This passion enveloped the offspring, as love always does, in a sustaining and elevating union, defining for the coming generation the essence of what may be the greatest human association, the enduring love between two human beings.

The Odyssey is, as well, the story of the first recorded voyage of humankind beyond coastal journeyings common in early days. A nine-day trip across the Mediterranean Sea from the toe of Greece to the island of Jerba on the North African coast — the land of the Lotus Eaters — was but a small part of Odysseus' 10-year sojourn in the face of constant and, at times, almost insurmountable, difficulties. He was the sole survivor of his fleet returning from the 10-year battle of Troy.

Odysseus revealed through these hardships, the essential elements of human wisdom. These included a superior intellect revealed in a certain wily nature. Odysseus, known as the "great tactician," devised the master plan of the Akhaian's defeat of Priam's army through the most celebrated trick in history, the Trojan Horse. Integral to Odysseus' wisdom was restraint and his awareness of human limitations. The recklessness of his crew brought about their own destruction when they came hungry and tired to the "island of the Sun," where Helios' cattle grazed. Against two divine commands and Odysseus' own stringent orders *not* to eat the cattle, the men did, and as they left the island, a storm arose, and "Zeus let fly/ a bolt against the ship, a direct hit," and all were lost at sea for their disobedience.

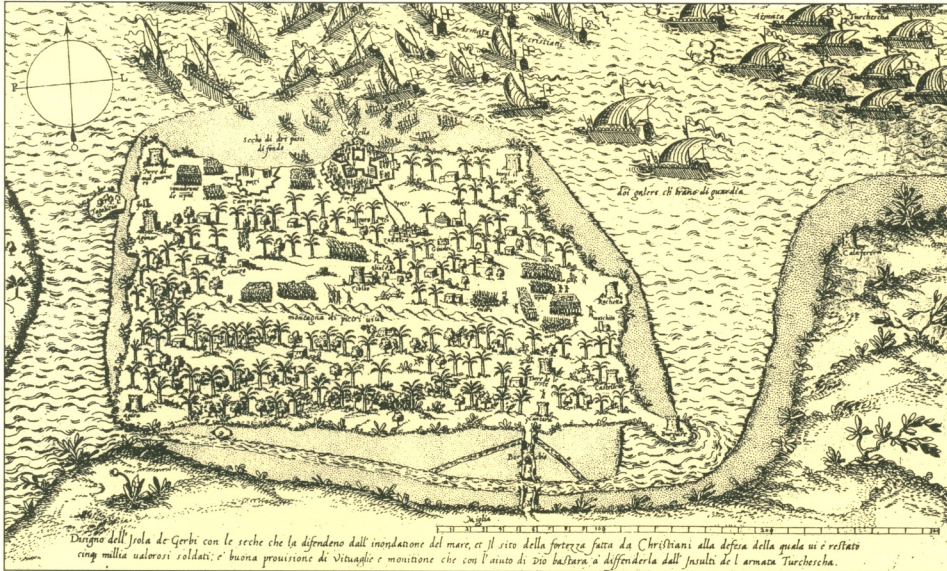
We see in *The Odyssey* the first hints of monotheism emerging from the polytheism of ancient Greek culture. But it was his alliance with and allegiance to the divinities of Greek mythology — the gray-eyed Pallas Athena, Kalypso, and Zeus himself — from which Odysseus derived his extraordinary heroic nature. This relationship provided the overarching metaphor in this classic tale. Through the metaphor humankind discovers its essential reality in the context of universal values established beyond the evanescence of individual whims. All who share these values find, in kindness, graciousness, and equality, an emerging social order of peace and justice.

But *The Odyssey* is finally a story of homecoming and the renewed love of devoted mates. We come to know Penelope, who was as "deep-minded" as her husband — and as wily. We experience the joy of son Telemakhos standing shoulder-to-shoulder with Odysseus in the spirit of equality. We realize this is not so much a Greek myth as it is a human saga. As I read again Homer's masterpiece, my own spirit sings: I become beneficiary of the sweet legacy books bestow upon us. And I am reminded of an even sweeter reality — the abiding love of my own Penelope and the maturing equality within our family. Such is the use of great literature. Such is its *raison d'être*.

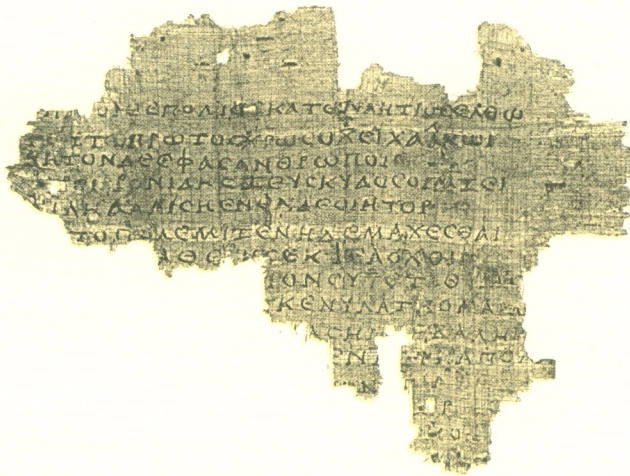
Robert Cotner
Editor

Greek text above from Homer's Works. Florence: B. Nerlins et al., 1488, used through the courtesy of the Newberry Library.

North Africa, the Site of Early Greek Visit and Rich Islamic Legacy

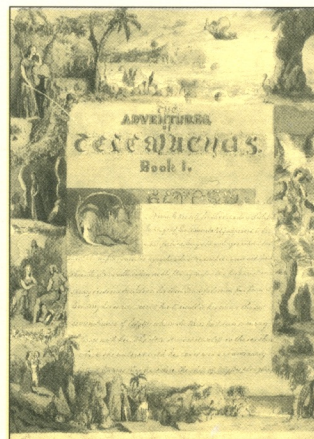


The island of Jerba — or Djerba — on the Tunisian coast of North Africa was, according to Ernle Bradford's *Ulysses Found* (Harcourt, Brace & World, 1963), the site of Odysseus' crew's encounter with the Lotus Eaters. The map above, "Disegno dell'Isola de Gerba..." [Anonymous, School of Lafreri, Rome or Venice, ca. 1560] measures 300x445 mm (12x17½ in.), is a copperplate engraving, and comes from the collection of Ken Nebenzahl.



Fragment (measuring 6½x4½ inches) of a papyrus-roll from 1st Century A. D., written in a fine early Greek uncial hand, across the fibers. It contains 15 fragmentary lines of Homer's Iliad, book XXI, verses 567-581. (Used through the courtesy of the Newberry Library.)

Richard Doyle (1824-1883), uncle of Arthur Conan Doyle, prepared an illuminated manuscript, *The Adventures of Telemachus*, in the 1840s — probably in 1843, from a pencil notation on page 77. "Dickie" Doyle did the text illustrations and his sister Adelaide wrote the text itself. The story is based on a 1699 romance by Fenelon about Telemachus, Odysseus' and Penelope's son. The Doyle manuscript was never published. It exists in a 104-page album, bound in red lack morocco gilt, top edge gilt, by Zahnsdorf. Recently purchased by Caxtonian C. Frederick Kittle, it is now a part of his important and extensive Doyle Family Collection, which has been donated to the Newberry Library. (Used through the courtesy of Dr. Kittle.)



Morocco

(Continued from Page One)

of an extraordinary collection of antique astronomical instruments and had been referred to us by Derek Price. We obtained introductions to the minister of culture for northern Morocco at Fez, who kindly arranged both visits. The Qarawiyyin was the center of the Medina. The University associated with it, one of the world's oldest, founded in 859 A.D. was the hub of religious and cultural life of the Magreb, or western frontier, of Islam.

The learned librarian of the university library proudly showed us examples of some of their earliest and most ornate kufic manuscripts.

These are written in the thick angular letter-form with long horizontal strokes that characterize earliest Arabic writing. His favorite contained a full-page, elaborately illuminated, arabesque design that he solemnly advised us was painted on gazelle skin by Mohammed's daughter, Fatima, and which was a stylized rendition of the Prophet's slipper.

We had been fortunate in obtaining the services of Ghali Reis, a very learned guide, knowledgeable in history and tradition, and fluent in five languages. He agreed to conduct me to the minaret to meet "the astronomer." Unfortunately, Jossy could not partake of this visit because women are strictly prohibited within the mosque walls. Ghali and I would rendezvous early the following morning when few were about. I was to wear a fez and slippers, which he provided, to avoid eyebrows being raised at the presence of an infidel.

We arrived at the mosque shortly after dawn. A muezzin in the 1990s does not occupy the position of his pre-electronic predecessors. Traditionally the principle function of the muezzin was to determine the precise moment for the five daily calls of the faithful to prayer and to announce this by chanting from the minaret before the service. Through past centuries in Fez when the call came from the Qarawiyyin Mosque, every other mosque in the city would promptly follow. Sadly, the modern world has eliminated this. Time is now determined by the French naval radio from an atomic clock and the call to prayer a recorded message over a loud speaker.

(See MOROCCO, Page Four)

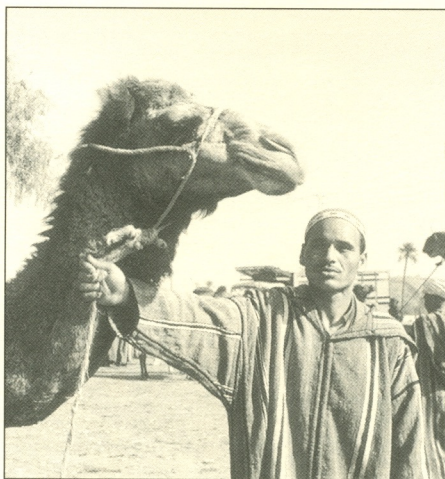
Morocco

(Continued from Page Three)

When the sultan received important state visitors, their gift was often a time-keeping device. Many of these ended up in the minaret of the Qarawiyin Mosque, home and office of Fez's number one muezzin. Enthusiastically he showed me instruments that ranged from an ancient marble sun dial found at the ruins of Volubilis, Roman capital of western Mauritania, to Renaissance and Baroque devices, and magnificent French clocks from the Empire. While most were in an acute state of disrepair, some reduced to vestiges, they nevertheless comprised a unique museum — though seen by virtually no one. Before we left, the muezzin prepared a chart in beautiful Arabic calligraphy for the time of the day I was to pray at each stop along the way, if I were to make my *hadj* to Mecca.

While reading a history of Morocco, prior to our visit, I had found a brief reference, which indicated the presence of a most unusual library in a small market town across the Atlas Mountains at the edge of the Sahara Desert. Centuries earlier the chieftains of this area, desirous of keeping their sons near at hand while obtaining their education, established a school and library. Further inquiries regarding this illusive library in the Sahara brought scanty information. We ventured closer to the source to learn more. Departing Fez in our Beetle we slowly worked our way across the Atlas Mountains in search of a small market town at the edge of the desert. Our route took us through the picturesque oasis town of Ouarzazate with its ancient fortress surrounded by palm trees. Then on to Zagora, which maps indicated was the end of the road beyond which was only desert.

Staying at a government rest house, and unsuccessfully inquiring further about the library at Tamagrout, we were introduced to the Captain of the Moroccan Camel Corps. After tortuous conversation in our poor French, the Captain thought he recalled the existence of a library out on the desert. But first he arranged for us to be taken on a local tour by camel if we would present ourselves to his lieutenant early the following morning. The camels were gathered from the desert at dawn after a night of grazing on sparse vegetation, and brought in for water. Two nimble-footed, snarly dromedaries had been elaborately saddled and awaited our



The camel, which provided the camel portion of the desert trip. (Photo by Ken Nebenzahl.)

arrival in the kneeling position. We mounted, and the Berber-to-Arabic-to-French-to-English admonition that camels arise rear end first did not penetrate, so we were unpleasantly taken by great surprise—but hung on. We bounced along on our tailbones with legs outstretched and ankles uncomfortably crossed on the camel's shoulders. No time for boredom between slapping flies and scratching fleas—a memorable experience.

After our morning's ride it was off to Tamagrout in the Beetle and fortunately the captain suggested we take a trooper with us "just in case." Five hundred yards out of town, following a *piste* marked by rock cairns across the desert, our guide became our savior, helping us repeatedly to push the car out of hub-cap-high ruts



The "Beetle," which provided the Beetle portion of the trip being pushed from desert sand. (Photo by Jossy Nebenzahl.)

in the sand. Along the way we had our first view of the biblical-looking blue men, nomadic Tuaregs with their indigo turbans and robes, coming from the horizon, heading also for Tamagrout and its market. Now, decades later, sadly, these ancient people find their traditional existence threatened by modernity, as with the world's other primitive tribes.

Tamagrout's market was colorful against the drab landscape, with fresh vegetables, grains, fruits, nuts, wool and woven fabrics, and a few bits of old Berber jewelry. It was most noteworthy for being home to all of the flies of that part of the Sahara — not still with the camels at Zagora.

An inquiry brought us to the mullah whose hereditary job was keeping the key to the library, which we were immensely relieved to learn actually did exist. Across a courtyard from the village school in a windowless, high-ceilinged mud brick building was the centuries-old library with its numerous shelves of manuscripts carefully arranged by subject: the Koran, Koranic studies and scholarship, history, geography, mathematics, astrology, and literature — all of early vintage. The books were in remarkably fine condition. They had no enemies: no light, no humidity, no heat — no readers! Illumination came from a single 25-watt bulb suspended from an electric wire. The "librarian," just awakened for the occasion, showed us with warm cordiality all the books we wished to see.

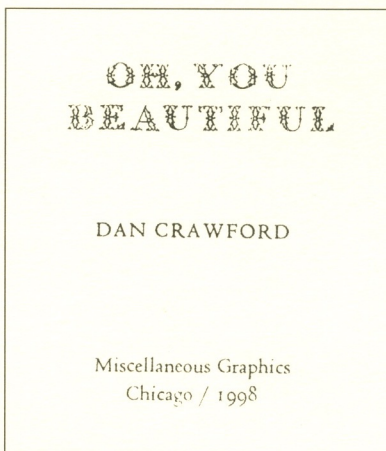
When we asked to photograph three outstanding manuscripts, he politely agreed. We then marched outside into the blazing sun, and he assented to have us photograph *him*, holding the manuscripts, closed, under his arm. While this was being organized, a large shadow engulfed us like a solar eclipse at noon. We looked up and saw an enormous man quietly towering above us, benignly observing the proceedings, arms folded across his chest, his dagger in its scabbard slung across his shoulder. We were not introduced. It is likely that the books of Tamagrout will remain there for the foreseeable future.

Our experiences exploring by "Beetle" in this colorful and culturally-rich country inspired us toward many fascinating encounters on six continents during the decades that followed.

A Miniature Review of a Miniature Book

By Jeanne C. Goessling

A collaboration between two Caxtonians has produced a small gem of a book. *Oh, You Beautiful*, written by Dan Crawford, is the story of an encounter in a toy store, poignant, perceptive, surprising. It is a delightful little story, handsomely presented. The book has 14 pages, measures 3 x 3 1/2 inches, and is illustrated with small colored pictorial ornaments and cuts. It was published in an edition of 80 copies. Muriel Underwood computer-set the type, printed it on a handpress, bound it in green cloth, and embellished it with a racy bit of red lace under the title. *Oh, You Beautiful* is published by Miscellaneous Graphics, Muriel Underwood's imprint.



Title page of the miniature book written and published by Caxtonians Crawford and Underwood.

A Stanford Response to Lewis-Winters Issue

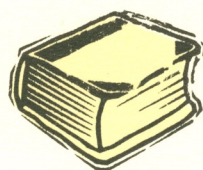
Dear Mr. Quattrocchi,

Thank you ever so much for your very kind letter and for enclosing the piece from the *Caxtonian* about Janet Lewis and Yvor Winters. No one here in the English Department is immune from their great influence, which lives on in the work of several faculty still here, especially Ken Fields, John Felstein, and others.

I will share your letter with Ken and put the *Caxtonian*, with your piece and Mr. Cotner's on our department bulletin board.

Many thanks for writing and for your very thoughtful words.

Terry Castle
Walter A. Haas Professor in the Humanities
Department of English
Stanford University



Shields Honored by Council as Caxtonian Copy Editor

Charley Shields, who has served the *Caxtonian* staff as Copy Editor since 1994, was named by the Caxton Council at the May meeting as Member Emeritus for his generous and lengthy service to the club. A four-time retired newspaperman, Shields works monthly with *Caxtonian* editor Robert Cotner in the details of each issue. A collector of Christopher Morley's works, Shields works as bookman at the Old Bookseller in Oak Park on Saturdays.

"I am delighted," Cotner said, "with the decision of the Council regarding Charley's new status with the Club. He is a remarkable bookman and editor, and we have become good friends working together on the *Caxtonian* as we do for several hours each month."

'Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's books, but thou shalt be generous to thy neighbor . . .'

By Eugene Hotchkiss

The November 17 Caxton dinner meeting will feature a talk on book collecting — *AND* (this is a significant conjunction, you will note) *a silent auction of highly collectible books contributed by members of The Caxton Club.* (This last clause is the most important sentence element in this story, as you can imagine.) The proceeds will go to the Second Century Fund.

We come to members early so that they can begin searching their collections for duplicates or other books they might wish to donate for this silent auction. The operative guideline is that each donated book should have a value of at least \$50, and it should be a book of interest — such as history of printing, books on books, Chicagoana, modern first editions, American literature, and, of course, Caxton Club publications no longer available. Members might even stumble across a book of interest, buy it, and then donate it for the auction. Members will receive a receipt for tax purposes.

Contributed books may be sent to The Caxton Club Members Book Auction, Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., Chicago, IL 60610. Or they may be given to Susan Levy, Robert Cotner, Karen Skubish, or Gene Hotchkiss at a Caxton meeting.

Caxtonian Aalhue Dies

By Frank J. Piehl

Caxtonians note with sorrow the death of Martha Aalhue on May 18, in her home in Wheaton, IL, after a courageous battle with cancer. Martha joined The Caxton Club in 1995 and attended Wednesday dinner and Friday luncheons regularly until health problems intervened. She is remembered as a witty conversationalist during the social hours and a charming dining companion. Caxtonians extend their sympathy to her sons Frederick and Robert Aalhue and their families.

Yvor Winters

Hemingway Birthday Fetes Set in Oak Park and Michigan in July

Ernest Hemingway will turn 100 on July 21, 1999. All are cordially invited to his birthday party.

The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park, IL will provide the following events, all open to the public:

***La Fete Ecrivain Opening Gala,** July 14 (\$250/person; tables of 10) - A black-tie event around the theme, "Hemingway the International Traveler," at Chicago's Four Seasons Hotel will feature dancing to the music of the Stanley Paul Orchestra, a sumptuous dinner and spirits, celebrities, and an exotic silent auction.

***Humanities Festival,** July 14-21 (Free admission) - An array of art exhibits, music, and dance, lectures, film screenings, special tours, and children's activities will be held in Oak Park from 5 to 7 p.m.

***Moveable Feast,** July 15 (Normal restaurant cover charges) - Incorporating menu items from the *Hemingway Cookbook*, this evening will feature the cuisine of Oak Park's finest restaurants, preceded by an art reception with live music at Boulevard Fine Art Gallery, 809 Lake St.

****"It Just Catches," a play premier by Carol Hemingway,** July 16-20, (\$18/ticket) - The dialog from three Hemingway short stories is featured in a new play by Carol Hemingway, to be performed by the Montana Repertory Company at the Oak Park Art Center.

***Fiesta de Hemingway,** July 16-18 (free admission) - An outdoor festival in Scoville Park featuring a Running of the Bulls, Fiesta Parade, Swing Dance competition, Spanish Flamenco Dancing, entertainment for children, and two stages of music. Also Spanish wine tasting and dishes with food prepared by Presenting Sponsor Whole Foods Market.

***International Literary Conference,** July 19-21 (\$125/full registration) - An unprecedented array of Hemingway biographers, scholars, and friends will provide keynote lectures, lead panel discussions, and present original papers. On July 19, Hemingway's son Patrick will speak about his father's latest posthumous book, *True at First Light*, which will be released by Simon & Schuster on July 21.



Ernest Hemingway with pack and trout rod, ready for a few days in Michigan, c. 1916. (Provided through the courtesy of the Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park.)

***Hemingway Birthplace Dedication,** July 21 (Admission free) - The Centennial week will culminate on Hemingway's 100th birthday at the home where he was born. The sounding of the Coronet is planned for 8 a.m. on the home's front porch to herald Hemingway's 100th birthday.

***Hemingway Birthday Luncheon,** July 21 (\$25) - Hemingway family members will be honored guests at the Oak Park Arts Center for an informative program detailing how Hemingway Birthplace is being restored to its Victorian elegance.

***Hemingway's 100th Birthday PARTY,** July 21 (\$125/ticket; table of 10) - Gather in "Hemingway Manor" with the author's friends and guests to join with celebrities and family in a festive birthday party honoring the author's life and literary genius. For more information, phone 708/848-2222 or visit website at <http://hemingway.org/hemingway>.

Michigan Hemingway Society: A Sense of Place, July 22-25, 1999 - The Michigan Hemingway Society will present "A Sense of Place," July 22-25 with the following program items:

"In Another Country," July 22 - Motor coach leaves Oak Park, 7 a.m. to travel to Little Traverse Bay and special guests and readings performed by the "Beach Bards."

"On Writing," July 23 - Papers, a luncheon, presentations by Hemingway's family, panel discussions and a play, *Lovely Walloona*, by Morris Buske.

"The Last Good Country," July 24 - Canoe trip, walking tours, readings, Irene Gordon's birthday reception, dinner, and lecture by Constance Montgomery Cappel, who is reissuing a new edition of *Hemingway in Michigan*.

****"The End of Something,"** July 25 - Keynote talk by Dr. Joseph Waldmeir, "Why We Celebrate Hemingway." Bus departs for Oak Park, 10:30 a.m. For information, costs, additional events, and reservation details, phone Charlotte Ponder at 256/350-7745 or visit the website at C2ponder@aol.com.

Hemingway Centennial Literary Conference Is Major Event in Oak Park

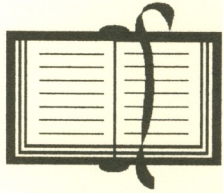
The Hemingway Centennial Literary Conference in Oak Park on July 18-21, will consider major issues in the life of Ernest Hemingway, an Oak Park native. These include problems in Hemingway biography, Hemingway for the 21st Century, Hemingway in relation to other writers and artists, Teaching Hemingway, International perspectives on Hemingway, and personal accounts of Hemingway.

Presenters will include Patrick Hemingway, Jack Hemingway, and Gregory Hemingway, Hemingway family members. Other presenters include Michael Reynolds, A.E. Hotchner, Rose Marie Burwell, and more than three-score other scholars and friends.

Three Caxtonians will participate in the conference: Michael Seefeldt is the Conference Chair, Barbara Ballinger is the Conference Coordinator, and Scott Schwar is the Executive Director of the Hemingway Foundation.

The event will be held in the Oak Park-River Forest High School and Hemingway Museum. For information, phone 708/484-2222 or visit the website at fms@uic.edu, EHFOP@the.ramp.net.

Calendar of Events



✓ **The MA and MFA Thesis Show** opened May 21 and will run through June 25, at Columbia College Chicago Center for Book & Paper Arts, 218 S. Wabash St., 7th Floor. Includes installations and performance by Christine Fabian, Julie Caffey, Patricia Buckley, Carol Gregg, Elyn Koentopp, and Yarima Ariza.

✓ **Magic Paper/Magic Book**, a juried show of work by members of the Guild of Book Workers and the Friends of Dard Hunter, will run until November 7, at the Harold Washington Library, Chicago Public Library, 400 S. State St.

✓ **The Joy of Collection:** Recent Acquisitions at the Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., are on view in the R.R. Donnelley Gallery until July 14. The exhibition includes many remarkable and extremely rare books, maps, and documents from a variety of cultures and times.

✓ **Solo Art Exhibit: "Beating Time,"** the art of M. Victoria Bianco, opens June 1 at the University of Illinois at Chicago. An opening reception in Room 207, Addams Hall, 830 S. Halsted St., June 8, noon to 3:30, will feature the artist and a Tunisian percussionist, Najib Bahri. (For information, phone 312/996-9549.)

Compiled by Barbara Lazarus Metz

Editors's Note: This is the first run of a column, which will be a regular monthly feature of the Caxtonian. Any book-related event relevant to Chicago area book lovers may be listed. Please send prospective listings to Barbara Lazarus Metz by phone at 312/431-8612, mail at 1420 W. Irving Par Rd., Chicago, IL 60613, or e-mail at blazarmetz@nwu.edu.

Ernest Hemingway

Hanes Tours British Printing Library

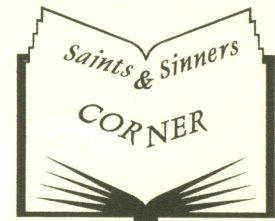
By Susan Hanes

During my recent return-visit to London, I had the pleasure of seeking out the St. Bride's Printing Library, located on a crooked lane off Fleet Street, the historic home of London's journalistic past. The library, founded in 1895 — the same year as The Caxton Club — is maintained by the City of London and contains extensive collections on all aspects of the book and printing, including binding, graphic design, typography, illustration, calligraphy, and papermaking. The library's catalog is available on-line and covers over 40,000 books and periodicals. Also in the library are examples of various tools of the book-printing trade, including an Albion handpress, which is available for use in occasional operational workshops.

While perusing the shelves, I found books on watermarks, lithography, graphic production, and bookselling techniques. I found *The ABCs of Types, Printing and Proofreading of the First Folio of Shakespeare* and a book of Caxtonian Hermann Zapf's designs. There were historical manuals of printing and numerous books on William Caxton's life and work. In addition, the library has among its special collections, broadsides and song sheets, designs by Eric Gill, photographs, and patent specifications.

Upon inquiry, I was informed that the librarians on staff are happy to help the researcher both at the facility and through mail inquiry. The library has one of the world's largest collections of type specimens, as well as type punches and matrices of leading foundries, and is one of the best sources of information in the world about type design and typography.

The library is soliciting new members of the Friends of St. Bride's Printing Library. Membership or other inquiries should be directed to the library, at Bride Lane, London EC4Y 8EE. The phone number in London is 0171-3530-4660. The library is open from 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., Monday through Friday.



Honorary Caxtonian Abel Berland presented a lecture on "Book Collectors and Book Collecting," May 6, at the DePaul University Special Collections in the John T. Richardson Library of DePaul University in Chicago. This lecture was a part of an exhibition, "The Book Beautiful," the collections of Countess Estelle Doheny at St. Mary's of the Barrens, curated by Caxtonian Kathryn DeGraff.

Caxtonian Neil Harris was the 1999 Arthur Baer Fellow at the Chicago Literary Club. Dr. Harris read a paper entitled, "Chicago Magna." Other Caxtonians who have been Arthur Baer Fellows include C. Frederick Kittle (1995), and Robert Cotner (1997).

Gaby Goldscheider Catalogue No. 42, on the Isle of Wight, England, lists the *Caxtonian*, Vol. V, March 1997 (the Arthur Conan Doyle issue) for three pounds, or about \$6. The same catalogue lists C. Frederick Kittle's "There's More to Doyle than Holmes," reprinted from *The Pharos of Alpha Omega Alpha*, Winter 1997, Vol. 60, no. 1, for three pounds.

Caxtonian Ken Nebenzahl lectured on "Map Collectors and Collections," at the Map Society of Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on May 5.



Would you buy a previously owned, probably inaccurate map from this man?

Book Marks

Luncheon Programs

Your Special Luncheon Invitation. . .

Date: June 11, 1999

Place: Mid-Day Club

Speaker: A Clutch of Caxtonians

What would you select from your book collection if you were asked to talk about your *favorite* book? Would it be the most recently acquired? Maybe the *first* acquired? Or perhaps it would be the book you'd looked a decade or more for, and finally found in an out-of-the way and seldom visited bookshop somewhere.

We asked five Caxtonians to consider two questions: What is your favorite book? and how did you come to own it? You will hear their answers at the Friday luncheon in June — and we think you will thoroughly enjoy the stories they tell about our favorite topic — book collecting!

**Caxtonian Historian Frank J. Piehl* may tell us about something from his incomparable Eugene Field collection or, perhaps, choose a selection from his Chicago collection.

**Councillor Lynn Martin* may share some rare item from her book-design collection or, maybe, exhibit something from her splendid typography collection.

**Councillor John Chalmers* may select from his history of books collection or, he may totally surprise us with his selection.

*Inveterate scholar and consummate Renaissance man *Edward Quattrocchi* will, for certain, select something from his rich collection of Renaissance literature — and that is that!

*And finally, *Councillor Len Freedman* will, we know, tell us things so important about something from his Chicago collection and then give us a complete history of the circumstances surrounding the item that it would be a total mistake not to hear him.

In short, this final program of the season will, without a doubt, be both surprising and totally entertaining. And you won't want to miss the gathering of friends and fellow Caxtonians as we hear the presentation entitled, "From My Collection, With Love," by five special people, bibliophiles all!

*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 at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., lecture at 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 \$6. 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: June 16, 1999

Place: Mid-Day Club

Speaker: Priscilla C. Juvelis

*Dreams, books, are each a world; and books we know,
Are a substantial world, both pure and good.
Round these, with tendrils strong as flesh and blood,
Our pastime and our happiness will grow.*

William Wordsworth

And for those afflicted with the "gentle madness," as book-collecting is so aptly termed, the passion for books comes in all shades and sizes. The bookseller, thus, is mandatory — the advisor, the purveyor, the finder — to keep aflame this drive to arrange books with love and meaning, with uniqueness and curiosity.

Priscilla C. Juvelis is eminent among booksellers and is acknowledged as one of the finest. Her path seems to have been almost planned: the daughter of an antique and art collector, educated in political science at Boston University, and experienced in the book trade with Harcourt Brace Jovanovich and the Franklin Library.

Her talents were recognized by the late John Fleming, a well-known New York book dealer, who suggested that she join him and learn the rare book trade. It proved fortunate and mutually beneficial for both: Juvelis was a quick-learner; Fleming, with his expertise and experience, a good teacher.

After a year with Fleming, she began her own business in Cambridge, MA, with special interests in *livres d'artiste*, soon followed by women's history and women's literature, bringing to her international recognition and distinction. She has co-authored two books: *The Book Beautiful and Binding as Art* and *French Art Nouveau and Art Deco Bookbinding*.

Her achievements include the current presidency of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (ABAA), membership in other national and international antiquarian book societies, the curatorship of numerous exhibitions, lectureships, such as the recent Elliot Lecture at Toronto's prestigious International Festival of Authors, and the editorial board of the late *Biblio*.

For an intimate, intriguing, and enlightening look at book collecting and the rare book trade, join fellow Caxtonians and friends to hear Priscilla Juvelis speak on "The Adventure of a Bookseller."

*C. Frederick Kittle
Vice President and
Program Chair*