

CAXTONIAN

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Newberry Map Collection — A Chicago Treasure

Part I of II

Robert W. Karrow, Jr.

Since the Newberry began not as a collection of books, but as a collection of money, the trustees spent lavishly in the 1880s and 1890s to build up a stock of books. Along with all the other areas in which collections were being built, maps and atlases were widely purchased, particularly as they bore on central collecting interests, such as history, geography, travels, and bibliography. Cartographic acquisitions in the first few years of the library's history set the tone: the map catalog of the New York State Library (1857), Napoleon's *Description de l'Égypte*, with its elephant-folio atlas volumes (1809-22), Champlain (1632) and Charlevoix (1744) on *Nouvelle France*, Bernard Romans' *Natural History of East and West Florida* (1776), the *Proceedings and Journal of the Royal Geographical Society* (1831-89), Filson's *Kentucke* (1784), Ptolemy's *Geographia* (1541, 1542, and 1552 editions), the *Nordenskiöld Facsimile Atlas*, and De Bry's *Americae* were all in place by 1892. But the real founder of the Newberry's cartographic collections was still to come, in the person of Edward E. Ayer (1841-1927), whose collection was added to the library during the tenure of librarians John Vance Cheney (1894-1909), William N. Carleton (1909-1919), and George B. Utley (1920-1942).

As a young, unread man from rural Illinois serving in the Union Army in Arizona during the Civil War, Ayer had a chance encounter with Prescott's *History of the Conquest of Mexico*, which affected him profoundly. He began to develop an abiding interest in American history, and, in particular, the early contacts between Native Americans and Europeans. In later life, having made his fortune in railroad ties, Ayer became the consummate collector, not only of books and maps, but of Indian and other artifacts now in Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History. As early as 1895, Ayer, by then a Trustee of the library, had moved



Portrait of Edward E. Ayer by E. A. Burbank, which hangs in the fourth floor lobby of the Newberry Library, through whose courtesy it is used (photo by F. Peter Weil).

books, maps, and atlases to the Newberry and, although the collection was formally given to the library in 1911, he continued to maintain and develop it actively until his death in 1927.

To profile the maps and atlases in the Ayer collection is to give the backbone of the Newberry's cartographic holdings. Here is one of the finest gatherings of Ptolemy's *Geographia*, acquired by Ayer from Henry Stevens in 1898. The Stevens/Ayer collection includes 45 of the 51 editions printed before 1730. Renaissance astronomy, cosmography and navigation are well covered, and the French, German, and Swiss centers of cartographic activity are exemplified by the works of Apian, Fine, Münster, Honter, Vopel, and others. Thanks largely to the Ayer

The Founding of the Newberry

Robert W. Karrow, Jr.

Unlike most of the other privately endowed research libraries, the Newberry Library began not with a core of books assembled by an assiduous collector, but rather with a collection of money. Walter Loomis Newberry (1804-1868) came to Chicago in 1830, when it was still a muddy village of fewer than 100 people, and bought 40 acres of land on the north side of the river. He became a very wealthy man, active in banking, railroads, and real estate, and had formed a respectable gentleman's library by the time of the Civil War. We know nothing about this collection, destroyed in the great fire of 1871, except



Musings...

CAXTONIAN

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"Faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen."
New Testament, Hebrews 11:1

Suor Maria Celeste was born in 1600. She professed her vows as a Sister of Poor Clare at the San Matteo convent in Arcetri in 1616. Until her death in 1634, she slept upon a straw mattress on the floor of her small cell, fully robed, to be ready lest God should call her while she slept. Every night of her life, midnight's silence was interrupted by a bell summoning the 30 nuns to Matins. "Venite adoremus," the sisters chanted as they gathered near the altar for the first of the new day's devotions. Returning to their cells in silence, they had a short sleep before rising at daybreak to begin again their long day of chores. Poverty, hunger, illness, and early death were the accompaniments to the sisters' song of devotion to God.

In the wee morning hours, between Matins and rising to work as convent apothecary, Suor Maria Celeste regularly stole time in her candle-lit cell to write letters to her father, the great Galileo Galilei. The 124 extant letters to her father are the basis of *Galileo's Daughter* by Dava Sobel, a powerful *denouement* for the passing millennium.

The book is a dual biography, of Suor Maria Celeste and of Galileo himself. Through painstaking research, masterful writing, and a true gift as storyteller, Sobel allows us to live briefly in Renaissance Italy. Through the exquisite letters of Suor Maria Celeste, we come to know religious devotion in its most sublime form, and we find insight into the most creative years of Galileo. We witness first-hand the awesome power of his personality, the magnificence of his intellect, and the depth of his commitment to truths revealed in the emerging empiricism of the age.

We find a kinship with Galileo as he creates his most important work, *Dialogue*, the brilliant study explaining the "constitution of the universe" in relation to the thinking of Ptolemy and Copernicus: "These dialogues of mine," Galileo wrote in the dedication, "set forth the teaching of these two men whom I consider the greatest minds ever to have left us such contemplations in their works." It was the *Dialogue* that led to the Roman Inquisition, which found Galileo guilty, sentenced him to house

arrest, and restricted him from talking with fellow philosophers and scientists.

Suor Maria Celeste wrote her father in 1633, "had I been able to substitute myself in the rest of your punishment, most willingly would I elect a prison even straiter than this one in which I dwell, if by so doing I could set you at liberty." What Sobel does so well is recreate the spiritual, as well as historical, lives of Suor Maria Celeste and Galileo. One completes this book with a sense of reverence for the people and the work they accomplished in the face of dreadful human and social adversity. She gives expression to the futility Galileo experienced as he dealt with the intellectual and spiritual tyranny of the religious leaders of a church in which he never lost faith — though he was considered its "enemy" and his own letters were destroyed out of fear of association.

In a remarkable way, Sobel illustrates through Suor Maria Celeste and Galileo what I see as two distinct faiths: the Faith of Youth and the Faith of Age. The Faith of Youth is elegantly simple and very powerful. It is comprehensive, confident, and efficacious. Emanating from the "trailing clouds of glory . . ." to use Tennyson's words, it perfects private piety through devotion, discipline, and allegiance. With sufficient virtue to carry each through extraordinarily difficult years, in due time, it brings the believer to maturity.

Faith of Age is inordinately complex. It is anchored in that which is ultimate, fulfilling through courage, wisdom, and love the highest enterprises of which human beings are capable. Because it exists on the extremities of what can be known, a certain tentativeness is inherent in this faith. But the consummate explorations for a greater common good by a searching, mature soul holds the possibility of carrying humankind into emerging, yet-to-be understood, realms.

Robert Cotner, Editor

Galileo's 1632 *Dialogo* in Berland Collection



An engraving of Galileo Galilei at the age of 60 by Ottavio Leoni (from *Galileo's Daughter*, p. 137).



Caxtonian Abel Berland studies his copy of Galileo's *Dialogo* in the Berland library.

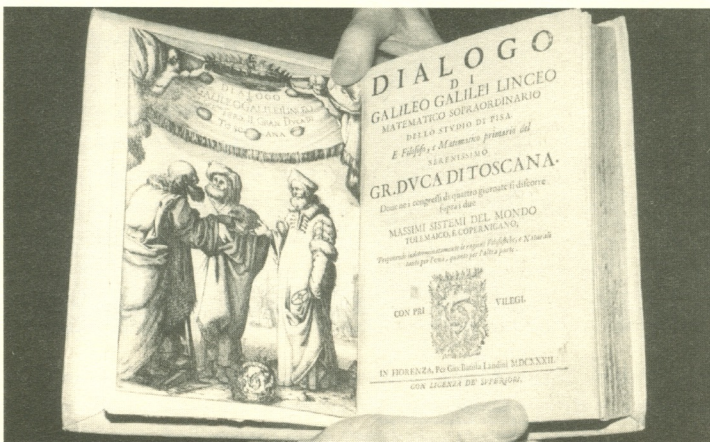


Anonymous portrait thought to be of Suor Maria Celeste (from *Galileo's Daughter*, p. 344).

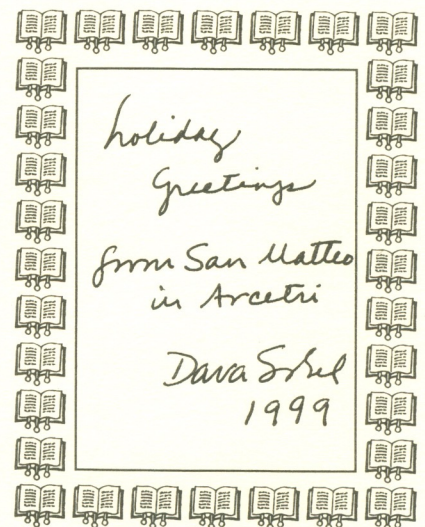
Written during a six-year period, beginning in 1624, the *Dialogo* is in the form of an extended conversation. Galileo utilized his considerable gifts as a creative writer — he had experimented with playwriting earlier in his career — in creating a four-day discourse between three characters on the difficulties of the Ptolemaic and the merits of the Copernican systems of world order. The book was published in Florence, Italy, by Gio: Batista Landini in 1632. Galileo was brought to trial in

Rome in 1633 for ideas expressed in the book, which Pope Urban VIII considered heretical.

Caxtonian Abel Berland found a fine copy of *Dialogo* at a book fair in Chicago's Merchandise Mart some years ago. "As I remember it," he recalls, "it was offered by a dealer from Connecticut, and I had to have it." The book has been a part of his Renaissance science collection since that time. ❖



The frontispiece and title page of the 1632 edition of *Dialogo*, held by Caxtonian Berland.



Bookplate signed by Dava Sobel from a first edition of *Galileo's Daughter* (1999) in the collection of Robert Cotner.

Newberry

Continued from page 1

that his daughter lamented the loss of "all Papa's favorite books, that beautiful library."

While traveling to Europe in 1867, Walter Newberry died aboard ship. At that time, there was a subscription library but no public library in the city of Chicago. Newberry had provided in his will

that one-half of his estate go to found a public library in the event his daughters

left no heirs. This must have seemed an unlikely eventuality, but both died young and unmarried. With the death of his widow, Julia Clapp Newberry, in 1885, the provisions of the will were carried out, and the sum of \$2,150,000 was set aside to establish a library on July 1, 1887.

The library's trustees made an important decision at the very beginning: the Chicago

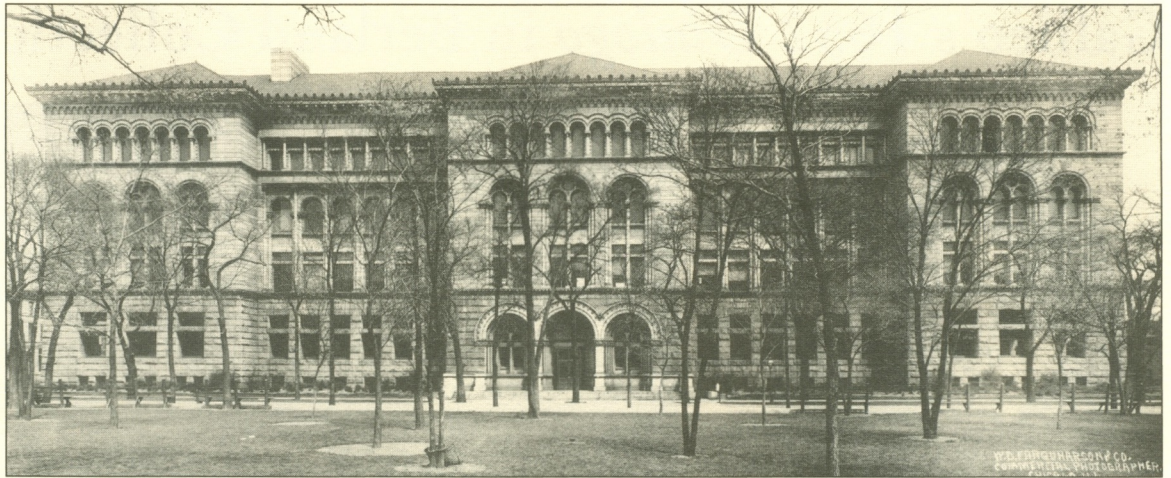
Public Library having been founded in 1872, they agreed that the Newberry would be a non-circulating reference library. They hired as their first librarian (1887-94) William Frederick Poole, then dean of American librarians, and on August 6, they appropriated \$40,000 for the purchase of "books, maps, and charts." Because the library was starting from scratch, a special effort was made to

develop a collection of catalogs and bibliographies (on which Poole was an expert), and this continues to be a major collecting interest and a particular strength. In the earliest years of the Newberry Library, there was no restriction on the scope of collecting; there were scientific and technical collections, a large medical collection, and another on fish and angling. As the books began to gather, the

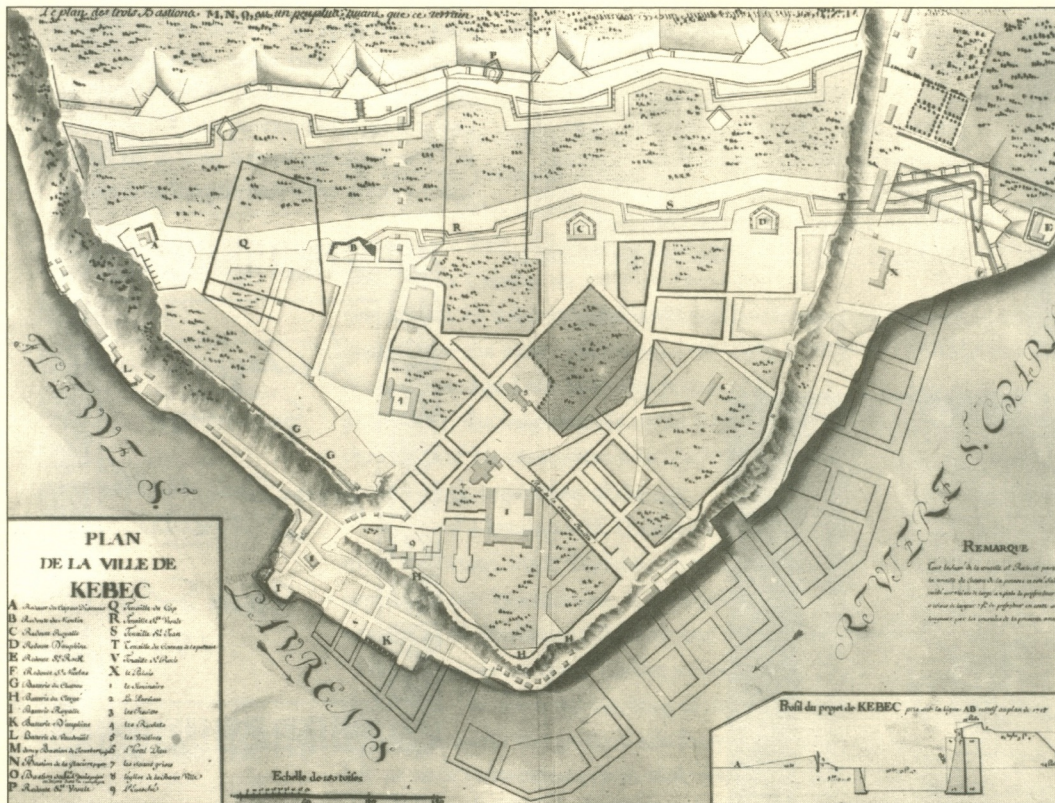
trustees moved the library through three crowded, temporary locations before the permanent building on Walton Street was completed in 1894, after a design by Henry Ives Cobb.

Over the years, the Newberry has evolved into a reference and research library in the humanities, with particular emphasis on Western European and American history and literature from the late Middle Ages to the 20th Century. Its special collections include the history of printing, the American Indian, the Portuguese colonial empire, western Americana, calligraphy, music, genealogy and local history, modern fine printing, modern literary manuscripts, railroad archives, history of linguistics, and history of cartography. ❖

To be continued



The Newberry Library from Washington Park (or Bughouse Square), around the time of World War I. (Photo by W.D. Farquharson & Co., Commercial Photographer, Chicago. Used through the courtesy of the Newberry Library.)



Plan de la ville de Kebec (ca. 1715). From the Cartes marines, a series of some 115 manuscript maps of French possessions. (From the Edward E. Ayer Collection, The Newberry Library, through whose courtesy it is used.)

Maps

Continued from page 1

collection, but backed up by the considerable strengths of the general collections and the John M. Wing Collection on the History of Printing, the Newberry possesses all the major 16th and 17th Century atlases, often in considerable depth: Ortelius (31 editions), Mercator/Hondius (nine editions), Blaeu (eight editions, including a magnificent 12-volume *Grand Atlas* in original vellum binding), de Jode, Braun and Hogenberg, Waghenauer, Lafrery, and others.

Ayer's holdings of manuscript maps were very rich, and included the earliest maps now in the Newberry's collections, marginal illustrations in a manuscript of Dati's *La Sfera* (ca. 1425). There are portolan charts by Roselli (1456), Millo (1567), Olives (1568), Martines (ca. 1581 and 1583), da Corte (1592), Oliva (1594), Voltius (1595), Maiolo (1600), and Tatton (1606), as well as eight portolan atlases

(ca. 1440 - ca. 1565) by Freducci, Agnese, and others. One of the most important of these is the atlas on vellum by Sebastião Lopes, dated ca. 1565. It contains 24 charts of the world's coasts, and its lettering and painting are extraordinary. Cortesão, who reproduced it in *Portugaliae Monumenta Cartographica*, considered it "one of the most beautiful and precious specimens of early Portuguese cartography."

Another Ayer treasure is the set of 115 manuscript *Cartes marines*. These are uniformly-colored maps of French colonial outposts dating from the first quarter of the 18th Century, and offer spectacular plans and views of some of the most crucial sites in American history. Also in the Ayer collection is a remarkable corpus of material, still largely unstudied, relating to the history of the French *Depôt de la Marine*, collected by Paul Carles and acquired in 1903. This

collection consists of some 4,000 sheet maps, of which about 3,000 are tracings of manuscript maps in the *Depôt*.

Well aware that he could not begin to build a comprehensive collection of manuscripts relating to American history, Ayer embarked on an ambitious program of acquiring transcripts, and an important corpus of map tracings and photostats began to be built in the Ayer collection, which today constitutes a unique resource. On May 3, 1927, Edward Ayer died, aged 85, secure in the knowledge that his collections would be preserved and augmented by a generous endowment. Miss Clara A. Smith, who had served as Ayer's librarian since about 1890, published her *List of Manuscript Maps in the E. E. Ayer Collection*, which remains the most inclusive (although unfortunately far from current) listing of manuscript map holdings. Also in 1927, Ruth Lapham Butler, a young Ph.D. in American history, joined the staff as Miss Smith's assistant. After Miss Smith's retirement in 1931, Mrs. Butler, as Custodian of the Ayer collection, devoted a good part of her energies to augmenting the cartography collections, particularly in the area of photostats of manuscript maps. In addition, Mrs. Butler acquired a number of reference works on cartography and early geography "so that the collection [might] be as complete as possible for students of 15th, 16th and 17th Century geography." Thanks in large part to her efforts, the Ayer collection is exceptionally strong in this area.

Through the 1940s and 1950s, under librarian Stanley Pargellis (1942-62), bibliographers maintained the collections of cartobibliographies and works on the history of cartography at a comprehensive level, although there were few acquisitions of antiquarian maps or atlases. This would change with the coming of a new librarian, whose vision and entrepreneurial skills ushered in a new era for the library and for the map collections. ❖



World map by Franz Ritter, 1610. The gnomonic projection imagines the earth projected onto a tangent plane and allows any great circle to be shown as a straight line. Ritter had produced an air-age map long before its time. (From the Franco Novacco Collection, the Newberry Library, through whose courtesy it is used.)

Editor's note: The author is Curator of Maps at the Newberry Library, a Caxton Club member, and a Councillor. This is a revision of an article first published in *The Map Collector*, 32 (September 1985).

University of Chicago Exhibition Features Galileo

Alice Schreyer

Galileo's writings figure prominently in the University of Chicago Library's collections, which have been developed to support longstanding scholarly interest in the history of science. Through gift and purchase of several private collections (Mortimer Frank, Morris Fishbein, Herbert McLean Evans, Joseph Halle Schaffner, and others), the library acquired important works, many in splendid copies with significant association.

As a result of the merger between the University of Chicago and the John Crerar Library, over 25,000 volumes of rare books in the history of science and medicine were added to already extensive holdings in the Department of Special Collections, bringing together first and subsequent early editions, as well as lesser-known works that provide the context for understanding major breakthroughs.

These extraordinarily deep resources include first editions of works by Galileo's predecessors and contemporaries — Copernicus' *De revolutionibus* (1543), Tycho Brahe's *Astronomiae instauratae mechanica* (1602), and Johann Kepler's *Astronomia nova* (1609). Among the first editions by Galileo are: *Sidereus nuncius magna* (1610), *Discorso sulle cose che stanno in su l'acqua* (1612), *Dialogo...sopra i due massimi sistemi del mondo* (*Dialogue on the Two Chief World Systems*), 1632; and the 1710, second edition of the *Dialogo*, containing Galileo's abjuration made in 1633, after the work was placed on the Index of Prohibited Books), and *Discorsi e dimostrazioni matematiche* (1638).

The University of Chicago Library holds two variant copies of the first edition of *Il saggiatore* (*The Assayer*, 1623), Galileo's treatise refuting the work on comets written by his Jesuit rival Orazio Grassi. One, part of the group of 30 copies distributed to the author's friends, contains the errata, printed at Florence and inserted in copies of the book sent to Galileo from Rome. In this copy, an additional erratum on the final page is believed to be in Galileo's hand.



Engraved title page from the first edition of Galileo's *Il saggiatore* (Rome: Giacomo Mascardi, 1623), 1 of 30 copies sent by the author to his friends. This copy has a correction that appears to be in Galileo's hand. (Used through the courtesy of Department of Special Collections, University of Chicago Library.)

A good number of these works by Galileo and others are included in the current exhibition at the Department of Special Collections, University of Chicago Library. "The Ecstatic Journey: Athanasius Kircher in Baroque Rome" was organized by Ingrid D. Rowland, Associate Professor, Department of Art History and the College. Athanasius Kircher (1602-1680), a German Jesuit priest, was called to Rome as Professor of Mathematics at the Roman College in 1635, two years after Galileo's trial and condemnation by the Roman Inquisition.

Charged to reconcile church doctrine with experimental method and to interpret Egyptian hieroglyphics, over the next 45 years, and in more than 40 books, Kircher addressed every topic of interest in his day. A master communicator who used sound effects, the magic lantern, and practical jokes to spice his live presentations, Kircher built mechanical devices of marvelous ingenuity and delved into the findings of the micro-

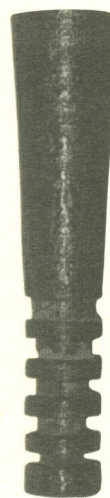
scope, the structure of the cosmos, and the mouths of volcanoes. The exhibition surveys his career and provides a lively perspective on the 17th Century debate between experimental science and religious orthodoxy at the center of Galileo's world.

"The Ecstatic Journey" is on view through April 7, 2000. Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. For information about the exhibition and the forthcoming catalogue, call 773/702-8705 or visit the Special Collections web site, www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl. ♦

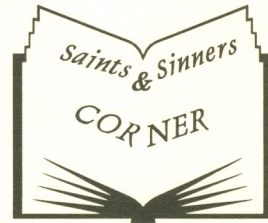
Editor's Note: Caxtonian Alice Schreyer is Curator of Special Collections at the University of Chicago Library.

Adler's Early Telescopes

Galileo created the first telescope in 1609. Chicago's Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum has a collection of Galileo-like telescopes, dating from the 17th Century. Included is the below refracting telescope by an unidentified maker, made in Italy, c. 1630. Constructed of pasteboard, leather, and glass, this telescope measures 26.8 x 7.6 cm.



(Photo used through special arrangement with the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum, Accession #M-421.)

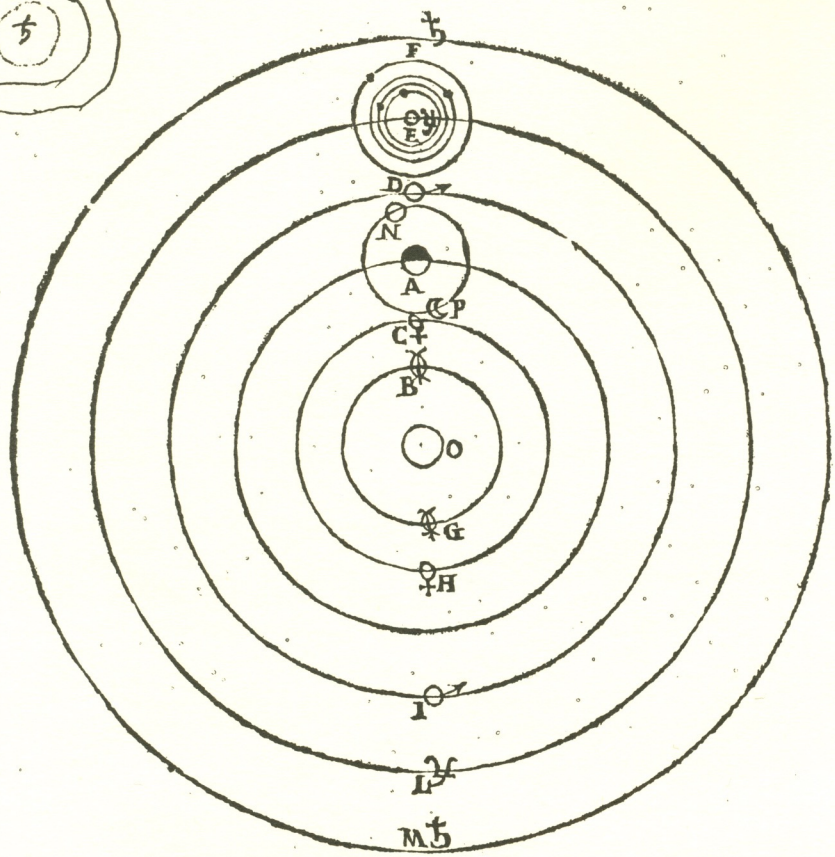
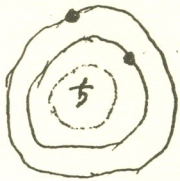


*Due altre stelle
si ragguarano
intorno a quella
di Saturno*

320

Dialogo terzo

SIMP. Sia questo segnato A. il luogo del globo terrestre.
SALV. Bene sia. Sò secondariamente, che voi sapete benissimo che essa terra non è dentro al corpo solare, nè meno a quello contigua, ma per certo spazio distante, e però assegnate al Sole qual altro luogo più vi piace remoto dalla terra a vostro beneplacito, e questo ancora contrassegnate.
SIMP. Ecco fatto: Sia il luogo del corpo solare questo segnato Q.



SALV. Stabiliti questi due, voglio, che pensiamo di accomodar il corpo di Venere in tal maniera, che lo stato, e mouimento suo possa sodisfar' a ciò, che di essi ci mostrano le sensate apparenze.

This is a cosmographical diagram showing the Copernican system from Galileo's *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems* (Florence, 1632). The *Dialogue* (or *Dialogo*) is cast in the form of a discussion between Sagredo, an educated layman; Salviati, a spokesman for the Copernican thesis; and Simplicio, an adherent of the Ptolemaic system. Shortly after publication, it was suppressed and its author was called before the Roman Inquisition. The Newberry Library copy of

the *Dialogue*, from the collection of Louis Silver, is inscribed by Galileo and has annotations in his hand. The outermost ring of the diagram above represents the orbit of Saturn. Galileo's manuscript diagram at upper left is labeled "Two other stars which rotate around Saturn" (*stella* was then used to mean any heavenly body). Using his telescope, Galileo had seen vague traces of Saturn's rings but interpreted them as satellites orbiting the planet. ❖
 -RWK

Caxtonian and Councillor William Drendel had three works of bookart in the Chicago Cultural Center exhibit, which ran from October 9 through December 5.

Caxtonian Elmer Gertz underwent surgery for a triple heart bypass and the replacement of a heart valve on January 13. Although 93 years of age, he came through the surgery well and is now recuperating at the Hallmark. He loves receiving mail and would appreciate hearing from his friends. His address is the Hallmark, #1402, 2960 N. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL 60629.

Caxtonian and artist-designer Hermann Zapf of Seitersweg, Germany, sends this greeting: "With best wishes and greetings to all members of the Caxton Club."

Caxtonians Peter Stanlis and Robert Cotner have been named to the Board of Directors of the Friends of Robert Frost, Bennington, VT. The society grew from this summer's Robert Frost Conference at Bread Loaf Center, Middlebury, VT.

The Marion E. Wade Center of Wheaton College announces the publication of volume 16 of *SEVEN: An Anglo-American Literary Review*. This volume includes articles on W.H. Auden, J.R.R. Tolkien, George MacDonald, and Dorothy Sayers. This issue marks the 50th anniversary of the publication of Sayer's translation of Dante's *Inferno*. Also available from the Wade Center are *G.K.'s Weekly: A Sampler* and *The Art of G.K. Chesterton*. For further information regarding these and other publications, phone Christopher W. Mitchell, at 630/752-5908.

Caxtonian Editor Robert Cotner inaugurated, January 26 and 27, the Kleiman Creative Writing Contest for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students in the East Noble Schools, a cooperative program between the public schools and the Kendallville, IN, Public Library.

Bookmarks...

Dinner Program

February 16, 2000

Dr. Seymour I. Schwartz

The Anatomy and Physiology of a Collection

Dr. Seymour I. Schwartz is a general surgeon exemplifying the best in his profession. After graduation from the New York University Medical School, followed by additional training in surgery and pathology, he became a member of the faculty at the University of Rochester, progressing there to become chair of surgery.

In the trioka that constitutes academic surgery — clinical skills, research, and teaching — his many achievements and his international recognitions are significant. An entire generation of aspiring surgeons have utilized and found sustenance in his textbook, *Principles of Surgery* in its many editions. Perhaps the greatest professional distinction was his recent election as President of the American College of Surgeons.

Simultaneously, his remarkable energy and talents were devoted to a passion for American history, cartography, and its companion, cartolatory, evidenced by many years of collecting and studying maps of North America. Expression is demonstrated in his books: *The Mapping of America*, 1980, *The French and Indian War, 1754-1763*, 1995, and *This Land Is Your Land*, to be published in 2000.

Currently he serves on the Board of Directors of the Museum of American History of the Smithsonian Institution and is the Distinguished Professor of Surgery at the University of Rochester. We welcome him as the speaker for the Caxton dinner meeting in February, when he will talk on map collecting and the mapping of America. This will be a rare opportunity to hear a person with remarkable breadth and depth of experience and commitment. Join us to give a hearty Midwestern welcome to our guest.

*Kenneth Houston Paterson
Vice President and Program Chair*

All luncheon and dinner meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held in the Mid-Day Club, 56th floor of BankOne, BankOne Plaza, Madison & Clark, Chicago. Luncheon and discussion, 12:30pm.

Dinner meetings begin with spirits at 5pm, dinner at 6 p.m., lecture at 7pm. BankOne's parking garage, 40 S. Clark Street, offers a special parking rate after 5pm 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 \$8. Members planning to attend luncheons or dinners must make advance reservations by phoning the Caxton number, 1 312 255 3710. Luncheon for members and guests, \$20. Dinner, for members and guests, \$35.

Luncheon Program

March 10, 2000

George Anastaplo

Lincoln and Civil War Songs

George Anastaplo is a Professor of Law at Loyola University, Lecturer in the Liberal Arts at the University of Chicago, and Professor Emeritus of Political Science and of Philosophy, Dominican University. He has published 11 books and scores of articles on a wide variety of subjects related to the U.S. Constitution and the humanities.

After graduating with distinction from the University of Chicago Law School, he was denied admission to the Illinois Bar in 1950 for refusing to answer questions put to him by the Character and Fitness Committee about whether he belonged to any Communist front organizations — which he did not. He was expelled from the former Soviet Union for protesting the harassment of another American, and from Greece in 1970 for speaking out about the Greek Colonels' suppression of Greek democratic principles. As W. C. Fields might have said, "Any man who is kicked out of Russia, Greece, and the Illinois Bar can't be all bad."

In his presentation to the Caxton Club on March 10, Anastaplo will explain how Civil War songs had an influence on Lincoln and on some of his most memorable speeches and policies. Come join us in welcoming a long-time Chicago scholar and teacher to The Caxton Club luncheon.

*Edward Quattrocchi & Leonard Freedman
Co-Chairs*

Don't forget the February Luncheon, on the 11th, which will feature Caxtonian Glen Wiche, who will present "A Pepsian Show and Tell."