CAXTONIAN

JOURNAL OF THE CAXTON CLUB VOLUME XIV, NO. 6 JUNE 2006

Naming the Branches

One way to consider the history of the Chicago Public Library

Peggy Sullivan

There are many ways to explore the history of the Chicago Public Library. It is one of the most studied public libraries in the country, primarily because of the emphasis on research that distinguished the Graduate Library School at the University of Chicago throughout its existence. Graduate students wrote theses and faculty members conducted research studies of the Library. My focus is on the branch libraries, on their names and how they were chosen, and how the names have changed through the years. Even more precisely than that, I have narrowed the focus primarily to some of the branches named for people.

An undated view of the Blackstone Library's interior

The Chicago Public Library began soon after the Great Fire of 1871 devastated the city. The fabled "British gift," contributed by people in England, consisted of some 7,000 volumes that became the basis of the new library's collection. With true Chicago spirit, a library was almost immediately established, one of the most renowned librarians in the country, William Frederick Poole, was recruited as director, and the library board was in business.

The library occupied several sites in its early years as plans went forward for a large downtown central library. Those plans resulted in the 1897 building at Michigan and Randolph, now the Chicago Cultural Center. The architects were Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, and their Beaux Arts design won admirers from the beginning.

The first action that the Library board took in regard to branches was a decision not to have any. The board did not wish to become the caretaker for the numerous small collections that clubs or other groups of people had gathered; these groups thought that the city might take responsibility for the administration of their collections. When the board later acknowledged that there might be a reason to have branches, they envisioned one on the south side, two on the north side. All of this occurred well before the end of the 19th century, when access to transportation was quite limited compared to our own time.

Isabella Blackstone took an initiative in 1904 that virtually shamed the city into opening its first branch library. She was the widow of Timothy Blackstone who had been president of the Chicago and Alton Railroad from 1864 to 1899 and first president of the organization assuming control of Chicago's stockyards. Timothy Blackstone had provided his hometown of Branford, Connecticut, with a public library designed by the noted architect Solon Beman, who is best remembered in Chicago as the designer of the town of Pullman, now part of Chicago. Mrs. Blackstone had the twin of that Branford library built in the Hyde Park-Kenwood area (4904 South Lake Park Avenue) and simply gave it to the city. It still bears her husband's name.

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LIBRARY NAMES, *from page 1*

Timothy Blackstone was associated with railroads and stockyards, as were several other early leaders who either contributed significantly to branch libraries, or, for other reasons, had libraries named for them. George Mortimer Pullman, noted for having built the innovative company town named for him, was commemorated when his widow provided land and funds for the building of a library (11001 South Indiana) in 1927 for the Pullman community, by then part of Chicago.

Chicago has major parks named for Grant and Lincoln, and Sheridan is commemorated with a major thoroughfare, so one might think that the Sherman Park branch library would honor William Tecumseh Sherman, another hero of the Civil War. Not so. The Sherman Park Branch (5440 South Racine Avenue) is named for John B. Sherman, called "the father of the stockyards." Built in 1937, when many branch libraries were housed in Chicago Park District field houses, Sherman Park now has the distinction of being the only Library-owned building on Park District land. Only one other branch, Tuley Park, at 501 East 90th Street, is still located in a Park District fieldhouse.

George Clarke Walker was a wealthy businessman who also saw fit to provide a library for his community, the village of Morgan Park, in 1894. Having built the library at 11071 South Hoyne Avenue at a cost of $12,000, he threw in another thousand dollars for books and turned the library's administration over to the University of Chicago. That arrangement lasted for ten years. The village then took it over until Morgan Park was annexed to the city in 1914 and the library became the third branch library in the city, named for Walker himself.

Another businessman who provided for the city's library in his will was Hiram Kelly, but he provided first for his widow. It was only after her death that the Library benefited and built the Hiram Kelly Branch (6151 South Normal Boulevard), which opened in 1911, twenty-one years after Hiram Kelly's death.

All the libraries mentioned thus far are on the south side, and all are still in use; the philanthropists and civic leaders tended to live on the south side in the Library's early history. Even today, well more than half (45 of 76) the branch libraries are located south of Madison Street, the literal dividing line between north and south in the city. In actual space, of course, far more of the city lies on the south side.

Many of the branch libraries across the city derive their names from parks, primarily because they were initially located in parks. This administrative arrangement between two city units began in 1905 and continued until 1953. At that time, the Park District informed the Library board that it would start charging rent for the spaces occupied. Reading the minutes of Library board meetings for that summer of 1953, one gets a clear sense of panic and pain. Gertrude E. Gscheidle, then the Library's chief administrator, reported that she would proceed as necessary, but expressed "regret and concern over the termination of a cooperative enterprise which has existed for over fifty years and which has been repeatedly cited by social scientists and public administrators as a striking example of effective co-operation between municipal agencies."

Locations in field houses had not always been the best, and some of the libraries had moved out of them as population shifts, traffic patterns, or safety concerns called for new sites. However, as Gscheidle accurately noted, a distinction of Chicago's library development was lost when the numerous moves occurred. As noted, the only branch remaining in a fieldhouse is Tuley Park, named for Judge Murray F. Tuley who was active in the framing of the city charter in 1871. When I wondered why this library branch had remained in the fieldhouse, the answer I got from a Library administrator was that there was nowhere else to locate a library to serve the community. A look at a map, where the neighborhood is virtually a triangle marked off with railroad tracks, suggests that this is a reasonable response.

Chicago Public Library branches may also be distinguished from some other major cities' branches in that three of them have been named for chief library administrators. These administrators were Henry E. Legler, Frederick H. Hild, and Carl B. Roden. The Legler Branch Library (115 South Pulaski Road) was built as a regional library for the west side in 1924 and aptly named for the man who had directed the Library from 1909 to 1917 and who introduced the city to the idea of planned branch library development. Like Poole, the Library's first administrator, Legler came to Chicago with a national reputation for library management. He succeeded Frederick H. Hild, who directed the Library from 1887 to 1909. The regional library for the north side was

Above: Laying the cornerstone of the Legler Regional Branch at Crawford and Monroe in 1919. Participants included the mayor and board president. Right: The finished library in 1924

named for Hild. As the Library outgrew that building at 4544 North Lincoln Avenue (now the Old Town School of Folk Music) and it was determined that a new building would be necessary; the new building was referred to as the "new Hild." But the name ended with the move from the old building. The newer building at 4455 North Lincoln Avenue is named for Conrad Sulzer, a Swiss immigrant who arrived in the Chicago area in 1826, held public office as township collector and assessor, and created a livestock farm and horticultural garden as a pioneer resident of the Ravenswood community.

Carl Bismarck Roden's name lives on in the branch library (6083 Northwest Highway) in Norwood Park, the community where he lived his whole life. He worked for the Chicago Public Library for 64 years, probably a record of longevity, and he spent half of those years as the Library's chief administrator. To put that record in perspective, I will just note that in the past 34 years, 8 different people have been in that position, including 3 who had acting or interim appointments.

As one might expect, 19th and early 20th century philanthropists and businessmen, including library directors, came from the ranks more closely associated with the establishment. But during the past 50 years, some social activists have been remembered by having branch libraries named for them.

As neighborhoods changed, there was a natural reaction from new residents who wanted to see schools, parks, libraries, streets, etc., named for people from their own cultures even if it meant changing existing names. One of the more interesting examples of this occurred in the branch library serving North Lawndale. Built in 1929, the library (at 3353 West 13th Street) was named for Stephen A. Douglas, as was the park nearby. African-Americans moved into the area and sought more recognition for their own heroes. In 1970, the Library board approved adding an "s" to the name, and dedicating the Frederick A. Douglass Branch in a ceremony at which Lerone Bennett spoke. When I visited the library recently, it was not easy to find a record of the earlier name, but I remembered that on the west exterior wall there was a dedicatory panel, and Stephen A.

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Story time outside the Hild Regional Branch in 1934

LIBRARY NAMES, *from page 4*

Douglas' name is still there, literally carved in stone.

I was Assistant Commissioner for Extension Services of the Chicago Public Library from 1977 to 1981, so I participated in several ways in another of the renamings. There was a small storefront branch library in the Pilsen community near 18th Street and Blue Island Avenue. Like many others, it was slated for replacement, but there were no funds available at that time. A new high school just a few blocks south had been named for Benito Juarez, and the Mexican and Mexican-American community were clamoring for at least a new name for the Pilsen branch. Why should they have to be reminded by the name that the Pilsen community had once been so heavily Czech when so few Czechs remained there? Pilsen residents came in a group to at least one Library board meeting, and several of us, representing the administration, met with them at the branch library, but the board continued to stress that no branch library could be named for a living person, and that the person for whom a branch library was named had to have some association with Chicago. Numerous suggestions from the community were found unacceptable.

Conversations and meetings did not provide appropriate names, and time passed. At that time, there were two other library facilities quite close to the Pilsen branch, one a reading and study center at El Centro de la Causa, another the smallest branch in the city, less than 1000 square feet, in the Gads Hill neighborhood center. Two years after I had left the Library, Rudy Lozano was murdered — assassinated, as many who mourned him defined it. He was a 32-year-old community activist and union organizer who appeared to have a bright future in the leadership of the Chicago Mexican-American community and beyond. Six years later, when the new branch library (1805 South Loomis Street) was built, it was named for him. Its location and size made it possible for it to replace all three of the smaller library facilities. Incorporation of Olmec design into the building has made it especially satisfying to that community that had waited so long for an adequate library and for one commemorating one of its own heroes.

The handsome murals of the Hild Regional Branch have been retained in its new life as the Old Town School of Folk Music

Another west side activist whose name adorns a branch library is Mabel Manning (6 South Hoyne Avenue). This branch, built in 1994 and designed by Ross Barney & Jankowski, has the distinction of having been adopted by the Chicago Bulls, whose home court at United Center is just blocks away. People called Mabel Manning "the mayor of the Near West Side." They knew her as the flower lady who grew lots of flowers and loved to give them away. But she was an activist who once said that, if she should fall in any cause, people should just step over her and keep on going. Those words must have haunted her friends and fans when her body was found in a few inches of water at a building site in her community, but the bright, intriguingly decorated branch library that commemorates her may do something to satisfy any ghost that might exist.

There are more stories, some of them about names that never got used for branch libraries. Why, for example, is John Peter Altgeld the only Illinois governor honored with a branch library's name? How did Carter G. Woodson escape having his name given to a branch library (which was eventually named for Whitney M. Young, Jr.), as originally proposed by a Library board committee, and get the greater recognition of having the regional library at 95th and Halsted named for him? Is there some irony in the fact that Richard J. Daley, Chicago's mayor for 21 years, is remembered with a branch library serving Bridgeport, his beloved neighborhood, while Harold Washington, who, like Daley, died in office, but after just a few years, is commemorated with one of the largest municipal buildings in the world? Or might Daley, the man who knew and loved Chicago's neighborhoods, but especially his own, have liked it that way? And what of those whose names have been used and discarded? Carter Harrison (Chicago's first mayor), Clarence Darrow, and Lorraine Hansberry are just three of those. There are probably still more questions than answers to be discovered about branch libraries, but because libraries are places where questions almost inevitably lead to more questions, as well as to answers, that seems appropriate.

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This article has been adapted from a paper given to the Chicago Literary Club, October 20, 2003. Earlier versions were also presented at a Caxton Club luncheon and at an All-Staff Institute Day at the Chicago Public Library.

The source of most of the information in this paper is the archives of the Chicago Public Library, housed in the Special Collections of the Library at the Harold Washington Library Center. For many years, minutes of Library board meetings were published annually and are available there. There are also numerous photographs of library buildings, ephemeral publications, and notes about the development of the branch library system. This system continues to be dramatically upgraded, with new facilities completed and in construction and planning stages.

All photographs courtesy of the Speical Collections and Preservation Division of the Chicago Public Library, Harold Washington Library Center. The Blackstone Library photo bears the name of photographer F. P. Burke. The makers of the other photographs are unknown.

Four Memories of Gwin Kolb (1919-2006)

Scholar, mentor, and friend

Robert DeMaria, Jr.

Kolb in 1979

Gwin Kolb had so many personal friends and admirers in Chicago that, difficult as it is to resist praising him as a kind, generous, and loving person, it behooves me to turn this memorial in another direction. Despite his Mississippi hill country accent, his genuine humility, his devotion to teaching, and his generous attention to the work of others, Gwin made very important contributions to scholarship. I wish to say a word about these contributions. Gwin wrote three major books, all of which will forever be required reading for scholars specializing in Samuel Johnson or, more generally, in the history of books in the eighteenth century.

One of Gwin's books has already shown remarkable durability—*Dr. Johnson's Dictionary: Essays in the Biography of a Book* (1955), on which he collaborated with James Sledd, an expert in linguistics and linguistic history. The special contribution of this work is to show in great detail exactly how Johnson's *Dictionary* came into being, how it changed through the course of the eighteenth century, and how it was received. "Sledd and Kolb," as the book will forever be known, represents an immense advance on earlier accounts of the *Dictionary*, and it will always be the foundation of our knowledge of Johnson's great book, even though some scholars of the next generation—notably Allen Reddick and Anne MacDermott—have been able to contribute new information and detail. Sledd and Kolb's distinction and importance as scholars derives not only from the fact that that they found out more about the *Dictionary* than their predecessors, but also from their new approach to the subject. In assembling their picture of Johnson's work, they focused on the facts that were discoverable in books, in letters, and manuscripts. They did not allow anyone's feelings for Dr. Johnson, the great Cham of literature, to interfere with the science of their approach. At the same time, they were cautious not to allow their exclusion of the mythical or the adulatory to become itself an impediment to their knowledge (as, arguably, happened with the great Donald Greene's principled rejection of everything that Boswell added to our picture of Johnson).

In addition to being an indispensable book of knowledge about Johnson's *Dictionary*, *Essays in the Biography of a Book* makes a statement about the methodology of scholarship. The statement is implicit in the use of the phrase "biography of a book" to describe a work about the most famous biographical character in English literature. Sledd and Kolb's work exemplifies and articulates an approach to literary history that Gwin learned, painstakingly, as he reported, from Ronald Crane, one of the most important members of the so-called Chicago School of Criticism established in the years just before and after World War II. Indeed *Essays in the Biography of a Book* can be thought of as a dramatic application of Crane's methodology.

Gwin's edition of *Rasselas* (1990) is another Chicago work. In fact, Gwin's dissertation (Chicago, 1949) was, by his own account, a rough draft of an edition of *Rasselas*. As a graduate student he learned the editorial techniques that he applied in the final product—the "theory of the copy text" as developed by W.W. Gregg—and he learned to emphasize in his introduction the process of composition, the publication, and the reception of the work. For Johnson the man Gwin did, of course, have deep respect and love, but he knew that as a scholar his job was to tell the story of the work itself from inception to reception. In his notes on *Rasselas* Gwin decided to depart boldly from the principles of the Yale edition by providing much more thorough commentary than the founders of that edition directed. In these notes, Gwin traces the indebtedness of the text to earlier works and, in an important sense, fills out the history of its composition. Although it is difficult to draw the line between indebtedness and the broader topic of intellectual history, Gwin focuses

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his efforts on the former and tries not to chase the "fatal Cleopatra" of mere intellectual similarity or analogy. The notes suggest what the author of *Rasselas* might have known, and they draw us closer to the intellectual conditions under which the book was created. Gwin puts us at Johnson's side, in his library, and in what might well be his memory (without invoking his dining manners, his apercus, or other irrelevant biographical features).

The obstacles Gwin faced in his last book (*The Yale Edition of the Works of Samuel Johnson: Volume XVIII, Johnson on the English Language*) included the presence of a junior collaborator who did not understand the Crane-Kolb program. I had to be painstakingly convinced that in our volume we were not editing Johnson's *Dictionary*, and in our notes and introductions we were not writing intellectual history. Our task was to edit, principally, four pieces of writing, three of which were first published in the first edition of the *Dictionary* (1755)—the Preface, "The History of the English Language," and "A Grammar of the English Tongue." The fourth work was independently published in 1747—*The Plan of a Dictionary of the English Language*. After I had written a great deal on the intellectual history of Johnson's *Dictionary*, Gwin gently had to make me understand that my real subject should be the "generic antecedents" of the works we were editing. So I had to replace my introductions and many of my notes with writing on earlier prefaces and plans, histories of English, and grammars. This new body of writing and notes, along with Gwin's masterful treatment of Johnson's composition of the *Plan*, is designed to put the reader of our edition among the books and pamphlets that belong to the same family as Johnson's essays and which compose the true background of their existence as pieces of writing. Most of the pieces Gwin and I edited in this volume had never been edited in a scholarly fashion, and most of them never will be edited again. This is not to suggest that other scholars will be unable to improve or correct what we have done, but, as is the case in Gwin's other books, the work is thorough; it unflinchingly follows a durable editorial principle; and it is, thanks to Gwin, very accurate. There is, however, one irony to point out: this book, like Gwin's other books, evinces so many of the human qualities of its senior editor—accuracy, patience, steadiness, and generosity—that it contains an element of autobiography, which is in strict contradiction to the Crane-Kolb view of books that it also embodies. That it is impossible to speak of Gwin's books without thinking of him is, however, a flaw that his fellow Caxtonians will surely forgive.

Kolb in 2004

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Robert DeMaria, Jr., is the Henry Noble MacCracken Professor of English at Vassar College, where he has taught since 1975. He met Gwin Kolb in 1979 when he was working on his first book, Johnson's Dictionary and the Language of Learning *(1986). His work on Johnson includes two other books and the editorship of the* Johnsonian News Letter.

Paul Ruxin

Gwin Kolb was many things to many people, as we all are. He was, however, better than most at all of these roles. Although my personal experience was obviously limited, observation, and anecdote, inform a picture of an extraordinary human being, who was a loving husband, father and grandfather, an inspiring and patient teacher, a rigorous and disciplined scholar, a generous and loyal friend, a kind, gentle and courtly man. It is not an exaggeration to say that the highest values of our civilization found their brightest blossoming in Gwin. Rather than try to illustrate each of these qualities, easily done, but perhaps done better by others whose experience with other roles was more personal, let me share my own most important gift from him.

I am a lawyer and not a scholar by training. I am thus an amateur Johnsonian, a hobbyist, a dilettante, everything a professional scholar, an acknowledged world-wide expert, ought, at most, to be expected to dismiss politely on his home turf. Like professionals in every field, scholars often find it difficult to do more than barely tolerate the fumbling layman's intrusion in their territory. Not Gwin. He listened with an interest that could not have been feigned, unless he was also the world's best actor, to my views on his subject. He read my writings and offered serious criticism, without condescension, without patronizing, suggesting that what I did deserved his attention, and should meet his standards. He had a gift. It was the kind of gift the best teachers have, and that they give to their students. His was a gift given without regard to imposition on his time and his knowledge. In our conversations he was unfailingly kind, and even in his firm and insistent corrections of my errors and misreadings he was warm and gentle. This is who he was. You could see it as you watched him with his beloved wife Ruth. Love does not often have chance to grow for nearly 62 years of marriage, but that theirs had was clear to everyone who shared their shared company. His devotion and affection was nearly palpable, as was hers, and moving to observe. That same capacity for expressing warmth was an element of every aspect of this remarkable man's life. Those who heard him talk about the 18th century remember how that warmth

sounded when his passion for his subject joined his articulate and effective manner of address. If he was a superb teacher and lecturer, it was because he was a superior human being first. If he was a painstakingly careful scholar, it was because he was a painstakingly devoted man, about his family, his work, his students and his friends. As generous with his praise and his affection as he was rigorous about his standards, he was, like Johnson, unlike anyone else.

Perhaps it is best to close by paraphrasing what was observed when Samuel Johnson himself died; "He has made a chasm, which not only nothing can fill up, but which nothing has a tendency to fill up.... Let us go to the next best:—there is nobody; — no man can be said to put you in mind of Gwin Kolb."

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Ed Quattrocchi

Caxtonian Gwin Kolb died on April 3rd of Alzheimer's disease. In the adulatory obituary in the April 14 edition of the *New York Times* Caxtonian Paul Ruxin compared Gwin to Samuel Johnson: "Johnson was a poor country boy who went to London and conquered not only literary society but British society of the 18th century at the highest levels without ever becoming one of them. It was a combination of his intellectual superiority to almost anyone literary people know about and his human qualities that make Samuel Johnson so appealing and especially to someone like Gwin, whose own background was humble and who also became a great scholar." David Bevington, his long-time colleague at the University of Chicago said, "He was a great model of graciousness and generosity, noted by several of his colleagues for his charm, wit and for being a scholarly gentleman. He was utterly loyal and a genteel, caring person, taking on unglamorous administrative responsibilities, housing needs, teaching assignments, whatever it was that needed to be done to keep people feeling welcome and appreciated."

Because of the obituary's recognition of his international reputation and his widely applauded scholarship, it did not mention his commitment and involvement in the

Kolb in 1988

Caxton Club. Gwin and his wife, Ruth, were regular attendees at Caxton Club meetings from the time he joined the Club in 1966. The importance they put on the monthly dinner meetings was surely evident when Gwin arranged for his and Ruth's old friend, Eudora Welty, to read from one of her short stories at a Caxton Club dinner meeting. The attendance at that dinner meeting was the largest we can recall. The renowned writer and photographer was an old friend of Gwin and Ruth, from their days at Millsaps College, where Gwin was Ruth's teacher. Professor Bevington's comments were evident in Gwin's commitment to the Caxton Club when he volunteered to initiate the Friday luncheons with his show-and-tell presentation about his Johnson and 18th-century literature collection on December 12, 1989. That presentation, followed in January, 1990, by Caxtonian Ned Rosenhei's talk on "The History and Development of Modern Philology," of which he and Gwin had been editors, set the bar high for all the Friday speakers who have followed to the current day. Ned was president of the Club in 1989-91. It was his and Gwin's enthusiastic support of the idea for the Friday luncheons that insured their continuing success. Ned preceded Gwin in death last year.

My personal relationship and that of my wife, Carolyn, with Gwin and Ruth was warm from the time I became a member in 1986. Carolyn has a special fondness for Gwin because he helped rescue the undergraduate education of our son, Michael. Here is how she remembers his generous counsel:

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Carolyn Quattrocchi

This is a tribute to a gentle, generous man, Gwin Kolb. Our son Michael, the youngest of five children and the only boy, sometime during his high school years opted not to compete with his academically successful four older sisters. As a result, he spent the first two years of his college life at the University of Vermont perfecting his skiing skills and becoming a major player at campus parties.

After two years, realizing he was frittering away his college career, Michael took an extended trip up and down the length and breadth of South America with Marcello Ferrer, his high school and college friend, who had, with his family, fled from Pinochet's dictatorial rule in Chile. After their trip Michael came home to regroup and get serious about finishing college. At a Caxton Club meeting shortly thereafter, Ed mentioned to Gwin that Michael was attempting to sort out his life, and even though Gwin had never met Michael, he immediately offered to talk with him.

Gwin invited Michael to lunch (*sans* parents) at the Quadrangle Club at the University. A second invited guest was Ted O'Neill, Director of Admissions. As a result of that lunch, Michael was enrolled as a student-at-large at Chicago, a year later

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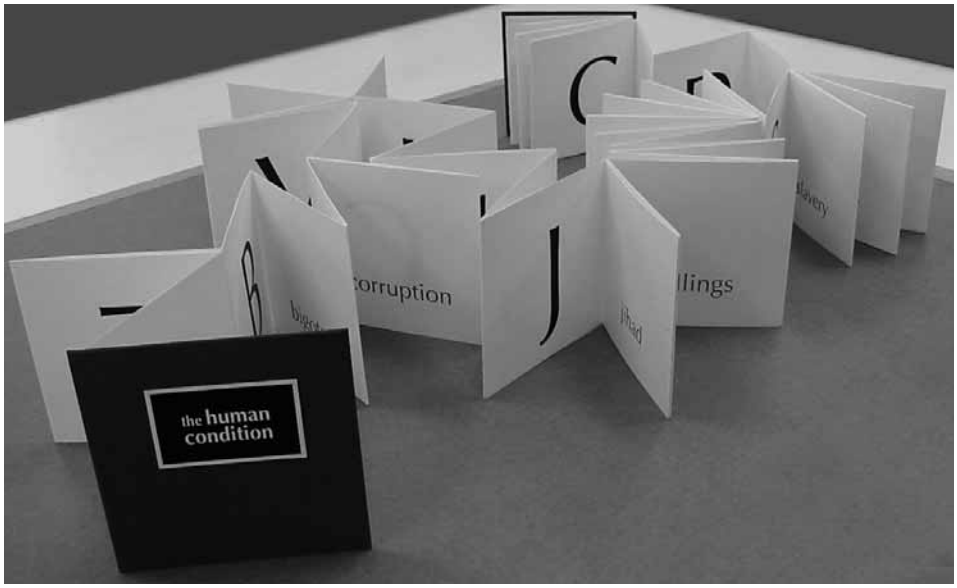
Caxton 2006-7 Scholarships Announced

On Wednesday May 3, the small "jury" committee of Wendy Husser, Bob McCamant, and Gene Hotchkiss assembled at the Newberry Library to review the work of five applicants for the 2006-2007 Caxton Scholarship award(s).

The five entries came from Jill Christian, Drew Matott, Kirstin Demer, Mark Moroney, and Jenny Kim, all students at Columbia Book and Paper Center. The committee marveled at the varied and intricately assembled works, including beautifully bound books, boxes that opened, telling a story, imaginatively folded paper telling a story, a book with trees talking, a recreated Millworker Book from another century using photography as well as found objects….all in all talented and intriguing work.

The committee picked two winners for the 2006-2007 Caxton year: Jenny Kim and Mark Moroney; each will receive a check for $2500 at the September Caxton dinner meeting and will participate later in the year, perhaps at a Friday luncheon, to describe the project that the Caxton award supported.



Above, Jenny Kim's Book of Signs. *Below, Mark Moroney's* The Human Condition.

GWIN KOLB, *from page 7*

matriculated as a real student, and two years after that graduated with an honors degree in philosophy. Gwin and Ruth came to the small party we gave to celebrate Michael's graduation and presented him with what is still a cherished possession, a University of Chicago tie.

Michael is, I'm sure, only one of countless students Gwin gave his time and counsel to. But Michael, some 15 years later, calls his meeting with Gwin, "the lunch that changed my life."

To that gracious southern gentleman, I say one last thank you.

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1979 and 1988 photographs courtesy the University of Chicago. 2004 photograph by Paul Ruxin.

CAXTONIAN FOOTNOTES

Wynken de Worde

Frank Piehl ('85), author of our prize-winning centennial history, has turned a new chapter personally. He has moved from his Naperville home to new quarters in Munster, Indiana, near his daughter. Frank previously donated his collection of Eugene Field books to his alma mater, the University of Chicago, where **Alice Schreyer** ('91) had hosted an exhibit of them in 1994.

Speaking of Alice Schreyer, I wonder how many of the duplicates from University of Chicago Libraries offered for sale in the 1916 catalogue of used books offered by Powner's Book Store, Alice might wish to have back in Special Collections? **John Blew** ('95) would probably like to have acquired the two copies of *Life and Adventures of 'Broncho John',* (Valparaiso, 1908) which were offered at both for two-bits. Those slim pamphlets would "disappear" amidst his other Americana.

Susan Levy ('92) was the midwife for all of the recent Lakeside Classics, including the 2005 annual volume, *Inaugural Addresses, W. H. Taft to G. W. Bush*. No Presidential collection would be complete without it. It is the third in the series of Inaugural Addresses, bringing up to date the earlier presidential speeches collected in 1904 and 1905. Curiously, that 1905 volume, *From Johnson To Roosevelt,* was available in that same Powner's list for only seventy-five cents, which was two-bits cheaper than the 1878 *Report of the State Entomologist on the noxious and beneficial insects of Illinois*. That should bring a smile to the lips of **Rupert Wenzel** ('67), who might have written the centennial version of that Report in 1978 when he was the Field Museum's bug man.

Lorna & **Bill Mulliken** ('93) spent three months revolving around Florence, Italy, after Christmas. They developed a more intense interest in Italian vintages. Bill especially enjoyed that they tapped bottles right out of the barrels, on demand. As the good book says, A jug of wine, a loaf of bread, and thou.… Bill is planning to read *American Theocracy* by Kevin Phillips, his classmate at Harvard Law. Bill already thinks Kevin's previous book, *The Emerging Republican Majority (1969)*, is, arguably, the single most influential book of the past forty years!

The future is now. Brave new world. **Dan Weinberg** ('05) is innovating with virtual book signings. He is collaborating with The Pritzker Military Library. It involves an author sitting in front of a book at, for example, the PML or at Dan's Abraham Lincoln Bookshop, with a video camera nearby. A client, who cannot physically attend the book-signing, can order the book, and then watch the author, via the internet, personally inscribe the book , and even create a digital record of the event. The next-best thing to being there.

But wait, there's more. Canadian Booker prize-winning novelist, Margaret Atwood—shades of Thomas Jefferson (1795-honorary)—has invented The LongPen. This is a device which allows Atwood to autograph books thousands of miles away from the convenience of her study. A pen is positioned on a flyleaf in England, while Atwood sits at her computer in her study or kitchen. The event is telecast via the internet and videocam. Atwood then personalizes an inscription on her touchpad computer screen, and moments later miles away the pen activates and writes the inscription on the flyleaf.

Such a device was foreseen by Hugo Gernsback in his science fiction classic of 1925, *Ralph124C41+*:

> She hesitated, and then impulsively, I wonder if it would be too much to ask you for your autograph?
>
> Ralph then attached the Telautograph to his Telephot while the girl did the same. When both instruments were connected he signed his name and he saw his signature appear simultaneously on the machine in Switzerland.

William Butts ('07?), proprietor of Main Street Fine Books in Galena, and a columnist for the *Autograph Collector's Magazine*, is dismayed about the appearance of The LongPen as a new category of non-authentic autographs, another kind of robotic facsimile—or is it?

Atwood was inspired by the jet lag and bad food she experienced on seemingly endless author tours to develop a means to supply autographs to demanding fans without the headaches and hassles of the Homeland Security. The patent has been applied for. http://www.unotchit.com/

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CELIA HILLIARD, *from page 11*

the projects I undertake." I can attest to that—recently she visited the Chicago Public Library's Special Collections and Preservation Department for research and to get additional images for a lecture she was preparing.

If Hilliard were stranded on a desert island she'd enjoy having a run of the first issues of *Chicago* magazine. That's actually a "the ones that got away" story. "I found a whole trove of them and I bought eight or nine issues. I should have bought the rest. I purchased the ones whose subjects interested me at the time. Now I wish I had bought the rest. You never know what is going to seem interesting in a few years. One I did buy was the first issue. It had a big article about the 1020 Art Center featuring Adlai Stevenson's ex-wife. She had grown up in the mansion that was at the corner of Lake Shore Drive and either Cedar or Bellevue. She gave it over as a headquarters for several arts groups: Artists Equity, Poetry Magazine, WFMT. They had art exhibitions there and they showed all these great photographs and this was a terrific lively issue of articles and advertisements."

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Photograph by Melanie Dunea.

Book and manuscript-related exhibitions: a selective list

Compiled by John Blew

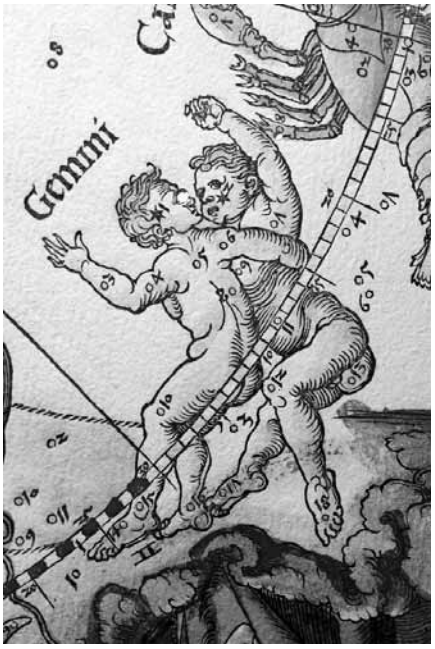
"Antonia Contro: Closed and Open" (a site-specific exhibition by the artist that highlights the Library's mission, architecture, and collections) at the Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago 312-255-3700 (closes 15 July 2006)

"Following the Twins Through History" (star charts, astronomical artifacts and related materials from antiquity to the current period that depict the constellation Gemini: the Twins; this constellation imbeds the bright stars Castor and Pollux in the images of twin boys) at the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum, 1300 South Lake Shore Drive (the Museum Campus), Chicago 312-322-0300 (closes 31 August 2006)

"Enrico Fermi, The Life of a Scientist" (images and documents including his Chicago years) at the John Crerar Library, University of Chicago, 5730 South Ellis Avenue, Chicago 773-702-8717 (closes 8 September 2006)

"The Legacy of Virdung: Rare Books on Music From the Collection of Frederick R. Selch" at the Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library, 1100 E. 57th Street, Chicago 773-702-8705 (closes 15 June 2006)

"Revolution and Invention—24 Floral Masterpieces, 1801," a recently acquired portfolio of plates by Gerard van Spaendonck, the greatest flower painter of his era, at The Sterling Morton Library, The Morton Arboretum, 4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle, IL 630-968-0074 (closes 15 July 2006)



Twins at the Adler Planetarium

A. Dürer, "Imagines coeli Septentrionales…," (1515), partial gift of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gordon. Photograph by Charron Brock.

"Chicago Sports: Creating An American Team" (traces the history of amateur sports in Chicago) at the Harold Washington Library Center (Chicago Public Library), Special Collections Exhibit Hall, 9th Floor, 400 S. State Street, Chicago 312-747-4300 (through Fall 2006)

"Timuel D. Black, Jr.: Seven Decades in the Struggle for Human Rights" at the Woodson Regional Library of the Chicago Public Library , 9525 S. Halsted Street, Chicago 312-747-6900 (closes 31 July 2006)

"Yours to Explore" Geneology exhibit (selections from the Library's collections) at the Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago 312-255-3700 (closes 14 July 2006)

Members who have information about current or forthcoming exhibitions that might be of interest to Caxtonians, please call or e-mail John Blew (312-807-4317, e-mail: jblew@bellboyd.com).

Club Notes

Membership Report, April 2006

1) New members: We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

Ann Bates Kittle, wife of Caxtonian Fred Kittle, is a long-time supporter of the Caxton Club. Her membership was proposed by Dorothy Sinson and seconded by Michael Thompson.

Greta Bever currently serves as Assistant Commissioner for Central Library Services at the Chicago Public Library. Her membership was proposed by Constance Gordon and seconded by John Chalmers. Greta's collecting interests include the history of early American printing, and especially the publications associated with her ancestor, Thomas Baker Wait.

Linda Naru is both Director of Administrative Services and Director of Advancement in the University Library at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her membership was proposed by Caryl Siedenberg and seconded by Adele Hast. Linda's interests include aiding and abetting library collections, and British and American literature from 1880 through 1910.

2) Fiscal year results to date: These three new members bring to the total to eighteen new members elected since the beginning of the fiscal year (July 1, 2005).

3) Symposium followup: Junie Sinson has sent a letter to guests at the April symposium on intellectual property, inviting their interest in the Caxton Club. In addition, some members have followed up with people they met. The Membership Committee will appreciate any contact details collected by members. With your approval we will send a second note to any such individual, mentioning that you considered them an especially interesting candidate for membership.

4) Caxtonian membership: We continue to hear stories of people curious about meetings of the Caxton Club but uncomfortable about requesting an invitation to a specific luncheon or dinner. Given that Caxtonians tend to have friends interested in books and the book arts, many of these potential candidates are likely to be your friends. If you have such friends, give us their names and we'll contact them with a standing invitation.

—Skip Landt, Bill Mulliken

Caxtonians Collect: Celia Hilliard

Nineteenth in a series of interviews with members.

Interviewd by Kathryn R. J. Tutkus

When the Art Institute of Chicago features a talk by Celia Hilliard, they describe her as a "Chicago cultural historian." But that only scratches the surface of this 24-year member. (She joined in 1982, having been nominated by Mary Beth Beal.)

For example, Celia Hilliard has a Nancy Drew collection. Complete, hardcover, with dust jackets—dating from 1932 to 1961. She has the 38 books in the original series and a few other variants, plus some foreign editions. "I read a lot of Nancy Drew books as a girl," she says, "But none of the ones I read are left, because my mother gave them to a church sale. I had to re-collect every single one of them."

But she's not complaining. "One of the greatest pleasures of collecting is the search process. The internet is a good tool. I've used it and found a few things, but there's nothing like going to a store. It's like a mini-vacation; for an hour you're in another world."

"One time in a bookstore I found a letter tucked in a book—a book I already owned. It was from Charles Wooster (an Art Institute trustee, art collector and benefactor, and an artist himself). A woman who had fallen on hard times had written him asking him if he might be interested in buying a Van Gogh her family owned. In this letter he's writing back that 'the Art Institute, right at this moment might need a lot of things more than it needs another Van Gogh.' What a letter to find tucked in a book! I didn't really want a second copy of the book, but I really wanted the letter so I bought it and now I have the letter. That doesn't happen on the internet."

She started collecting with her husband, David. "He was a collector long before I was: prints and drawings, art books and a big collection of Chicago books. When we got married he gave me an index card. This index card listed bulletins from the Art Institute, the Newberry, and other cultural institutions that were missing from his collection. I don't know how many women he might have married who would've taken a list like that to heart, but I did. Starting to pursue those items turned out to be fun. At the time I was also doing a lot of freelance writing. I reviewed books for the Chicago *Daily News* and I did features and stringer stuff for the *Tribune* and also was in general interest magazines. I found that the assignments that I liked the best always involved Chicago history. So we started to pursue a lot of this stuff together and bought a lot of Chicago books."

As time has passed, the collecting has moved toward ephemera from books. "We have catalogues, brochures, flyers, booklets, menus, programs, postcards, photographs, letters. What I like about this stuff, because I write and lecture about Chicago history, is that it is new and fresh and hasn't been synthesized by someone else."

"One of my favorite pieces is a fairly common item printed by the Art Institute during the Century of Progress Fair. They had a fabulous loan exhibition, and this brochure promoted it. I have several copies, but my favorite is one that is stamped in red, a little bit smeary, saying 'YOUR LAST CHANCE! This great exhibition positively ends November 5.' To me that conveys the excitement and importance of the event in people's lives."

Ephemera are hard to store. Celia bid on the Columbia College student's drop spine box at the last Revels, "not that it is a solution for her entire collection, but it's a start."

From time to time she gets requests to lend things. "It's fun. I have some old Chicago mysteries with dust jackets. When the Ryerson/Burnham library at the Art Institute had an exhibit that focused on graphics, they showed several Caxtonians' materials, including those jackets. Another time they exhibited a book written by a Catholic school teacher at the start of the 20th Century. She goes through the museum and makes comments about the works on display and judges them from a moral point of view."

She also has a vintage postcard collection. "What's become interesting to me about postcard collecting now are the messages. Often they have commentaries on the subject of the card."

Hilliard frequently writes and lectures about Chicago history. She does articles and has written several institutional histories, centennial books, and presentations. "The things that I collect are very useful in

See ***CELIA HILLIARD****, page 9*

Bookmarks...

Luncheon Program
June 9, 2006
Audrey Niffenegger and Marilyn Sward
"A Conversation with Audrey Niffenegger and Marilyn Sward, moderated by Dorothy Sinson"

The Caxton Club welcomes Audrey Niffenegger, artist and author of the internationally best-selling novel, *The Time Traveler's Wife* (3 million plus in sales, 33 countries, 23 languages), and several art novels including the powerfully evocative *Three Incestuous Sisters* (Abrams) and *Poisonous Plants at Table* featuring "Prudence: the Cautionary Tale of a Picky Eater" hot off member Bob McCamant's Sherwin Beach Press.

Joining the conversation will be Caxtonian Marilyn Sward, an acclaimed book artist and a founder of the Columbia College Center for Book and Paper Arts.

Questions to be answered include: how does Audrey's work compare to that of Nobel Laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez (1982), is *Time Traveler's Wife* an allegory for separated lovers (by disease, death, distances, mores etc.), is a creator's pain a necessity for producing great art and literature, how has Audrey mastered the Productive Method of Procrastination, what is it like to be a part of the artist/author scene in Chicago today and what is in the future for Niffenegger fans?

A rare afternoon!

Dinner Program
June 21, 2006
A. M. Gibbs
"George Bernard Shaw at 150"

A.M. Gibbs is Emeritus Professor of English at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia, and a fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. He is internationally known as a leading authority on George Bernard Shaw, about whom he has published many books and essays. He is a founder and member of the Council of the International Shaw Society. His most recent book, *Bernard Shaw: A Life*, has been described as "biography as it should be."

2006 is the 150th anniversary of Shaw's birth, and Professor Gibbs will discuss the man behind the writer, who famously began a letter to his future wife with the words "I want to tell you lies face-to-face." He will examine Shaw's attitude towards love and his complaints about the uses made of love as a subject in 19th and 20th century fiction and drama.

And next year...

Wednesday, **September** 20, 2006: Alistair Black, University of Leeds, England. Wednesday, **October** 18, 2006: Gordon Turnbull, General Editor, Yale University, The Private Papers of James Boswell. Wednesday, **November** 15, 2006, Joseph Parisi, former editor, *Poetry* Magazine. Wednesday **December** 20, Revels. Wednesday, **January** 17, 2007, John Crichton, Brick Row Book Shop, San Francisco. Wednesday, **February** 21, Geoffrey Smith, Curator of Rare Books, The Ohio State University Library. Wednesday, **March** 21, 2007, Gary Johnson, President, The Chicago History Museum. Wednesday, **April** 18, 2007, Stuart Sherman, Professor, Fordham University. Wednesday **May** 16, 2007, Robert Jackson, Collector, FABS co-founder, Cleveland Ohio. Wednesday, **June** 20, 2007, to be announced.

All luncheon and dinner meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held in the Mid-Day Club, 56th floor of Chase Tower, Madison and Clark, Chicago. Luncheon: buffet opens at 11:30; program 12:30-1:30. Dinner meetings: spirits at 5 pm, dinner at 6 pm, lecture at 7:30 pm. For reservations call 312-255-3710 or email caxtonclub@newberry.org. Members and guests: Lunch $25, Dinner $45. Discount parking available for evening meetings, with a stamped ticket, at Standard Self-Park, 172 W. Madison. Call Steve Masello at 847-905-2247 if you need a ride or can offer one.