

## Jules Verne and America

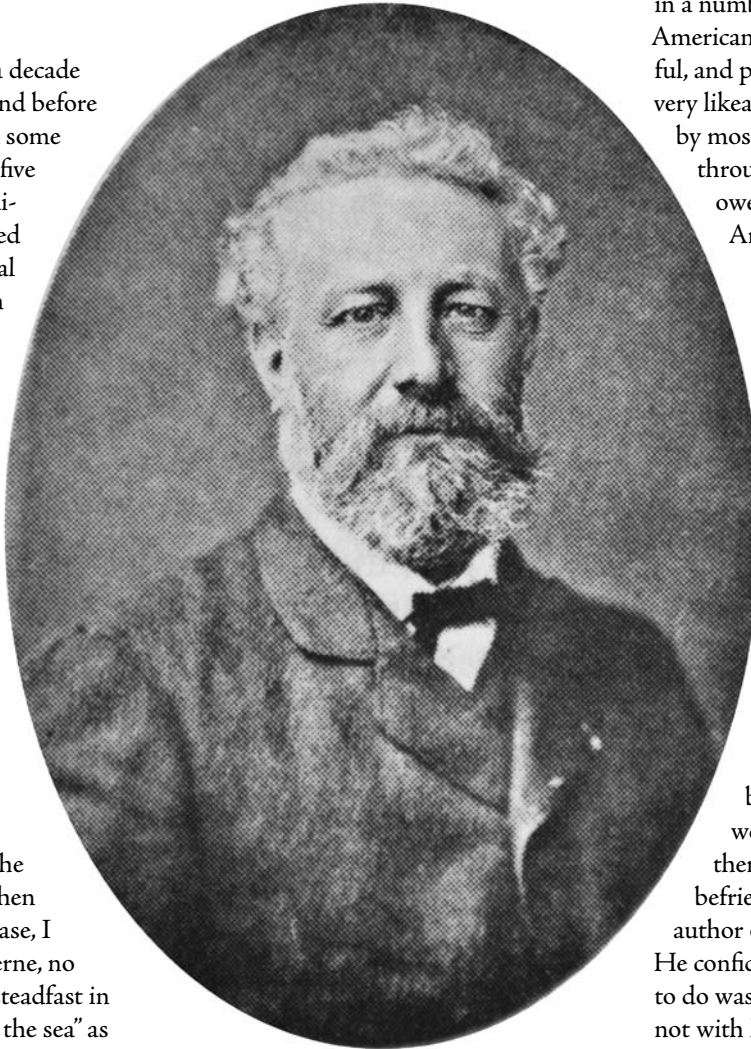
For most of his life, an admirer of American invention, individualism, and enterprise

*Pierre Ferrand*

In the early thirties, nearly a decade before I came to the U.S. and before I was a teenager, I had collected some twenty of Jules Verne's seventy-five novels of his series of "Extraordinary Journeys." These constituted some five percent of my personal library. I had accumulated them by the time I left France, at the age of sixteen, to escape the Nazis. This library I prized was confiscated by the Gestapo who took over our last Paris home, together with all the household goods of my family that we had not carried across the frontiers. We left with four moderate-sized pieces of luggage as described in detail in my book, *A World I Never Made: Memories of the First Half of the Twentieth Century*, which I just finished writing.

What the Gestapo did with the some four hundred volumes I then owned I never learned. In any case, I doubt they appreciated Jules Verne, no Germanophile, who remained steadfast in his love of "freedom, music and the sea" as he put it at one time. Also, they could not have relished his cosmopolitan interests and his liking of America.

Since I landed in the U.S. in March, 1941, I have again picked up a number of Verne's novels and read many more, as well as biographies and studies of Verne. They are only a very small fraction of my library of more than ten thousand books in a dozen languages I am now getting rid of because I am eighty-three and legally blind from macular degeneration. But I want to pay



tribute to Verne here, not merely because of my fondness for him during my childhood but also because his works reflect the fundamental decency of the French, eagerness for progress which continues to be desirable, and liking for the America of inventors like Samuel Morse, Alexander Graham Bell, and Thomas Alva Edison as well as of lovers of individualism, enterprise, and freedom.

Jules Verne featured American locales

in a number of his books, and portrayed Americans as eager for adventure, resourceful, and practical, inventive and mostly very likeable. He was read with fascination by most youngsters of my generation throughout the Western world, and owed some of his best inspirations to America.

Jules Verne, born in Nantes in 1828, was sent to Paris to study law. His father had a prosperous practice in Nantes and wanted Jules to take over eventually, but Jules wanted to become an author. Although he wrote poems, songs, short stories, and some 15 plays and librettos including a play on the Gunpowder Plot, a playlet dealing with Leonardo and Mona Lisa, a play on the Gold Rush he called *Castles in California* and various librettos, including one set to music by Jacques Offenbach, only six of his stage pieces were ever produced, and none of them proved to be a great hit. He was befriended by Alexander Dumas, the author of innumerable historical novels. He confided to him that what he intended to do was to write a series of novels dealing not with history, but with science and geography. Dumas told him that it was a worthwhile ambition.

He had little training in science or as an engineer but he yielded to no one in his enthusiasm for technology and technological progress. He was to be conscientious in documenting himself, accumulating thousands of notes on inventions and ideas for inventions, often gathered from newspapers and magazines. He was repeatedly misled by his sources and was apt to guess wrong

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# CAXTONIAN

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about future developments, but his enthusiasm proved contagious and his readers forgave him his mistakes. These included the use of a cannon to propel a capsule with passengers out of the earth's orbit, and of a plane with flapping wings. His documentation about geographical aspects of the world was sounder, on the whole, though

some of it was fiction or based on unsound theory. Still, he taught a lot of world geography to generations of his readers.

No great traveler himself, Verne made short trips to Scotland, Scandinavia, and, later, Rome. He visited the U.S. only once, in the late 1860s, sailing on the Great Eastern, which, in an earlier incarnation, had been used to lay the first Atlantic cable. He was one of four thousand passengers, including 1500 immigrants. He briefly stayed in New York City, and then traveled up the Hudson to

Albany and later to Lake Erie and Niagara Falls. He did not see anything else in America. Niagara Falls made a lasting impression on him and are a part of the dramatic climaxes of several of his books, including his two novels featuring heavier-than-air flying machines, *Robur the Conqueror* (1885) and *Master of the World* (1904). Verne presented a fictionalized version of his trip to the U.S. in *A Floating City* (1861).

Verne actually started his career as a novelist of "geography and science" or, better, geography and technology, when he was 35 years old in 1863, with the publication of his *Five Weeks in a Balloon*. Edgar Allan Poe's balloon tales, which he read at the time (in translation), encouraged Verne to write a balloon tale of his own. Poe proved to be one of his favorite sources for ideas, though he

did not share a taste for the macabre. Verne's use of balloons in a number of his works also owes much to Verne's friend, Nadar, the greatest of contemporary French balloonists and a pioneer photographer.

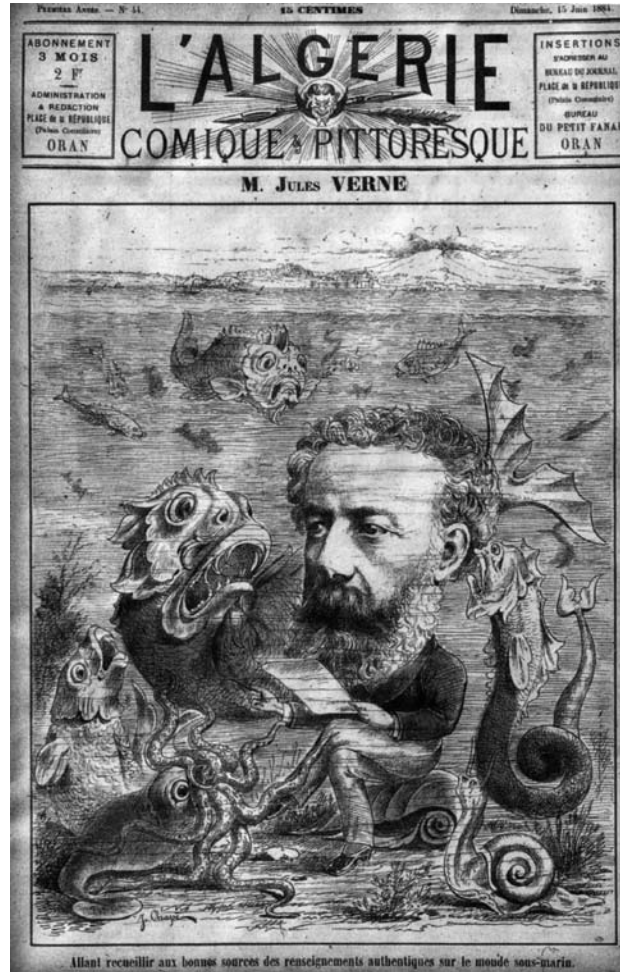
Verne's second "extraordinary journey," the *Journey to the Center of the Earth* (1864), was based on the theory of the American Captain

Synnes to the effect that the earth is hollow and that its interior can be accessed through the poles or dormant volcanoes. Verne had found this theory in one of his favorite Poe stories, *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym*, and used it in several subsequent novels. Though pseudo-science, it was the basis for an exciting yarn. It has also been suggested that he had been impressed by Fingal's Cave which he had visited in Scotland.

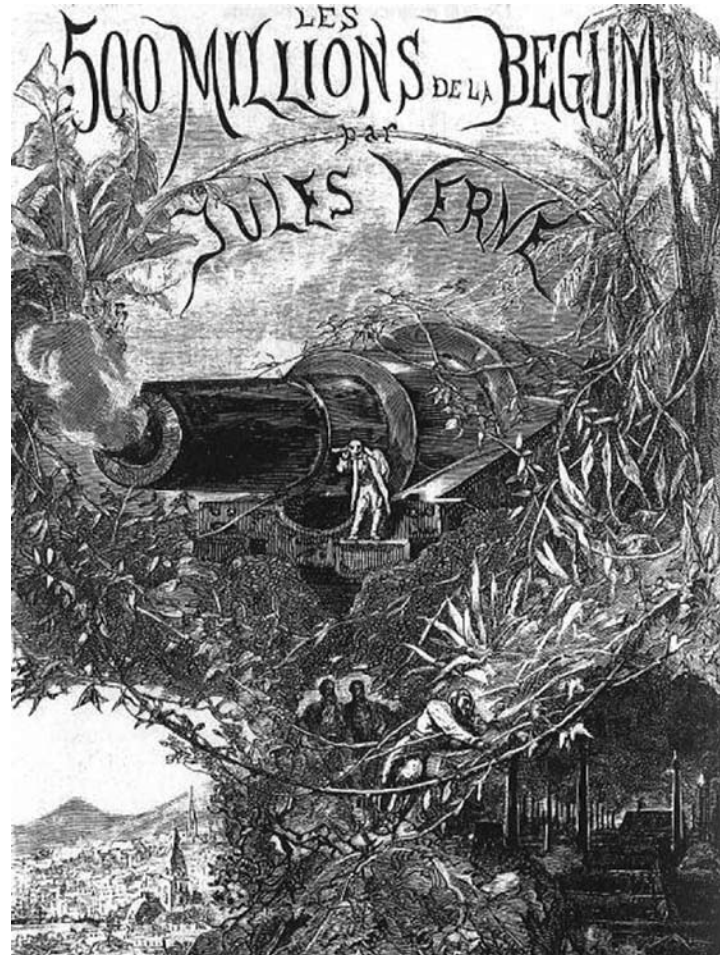
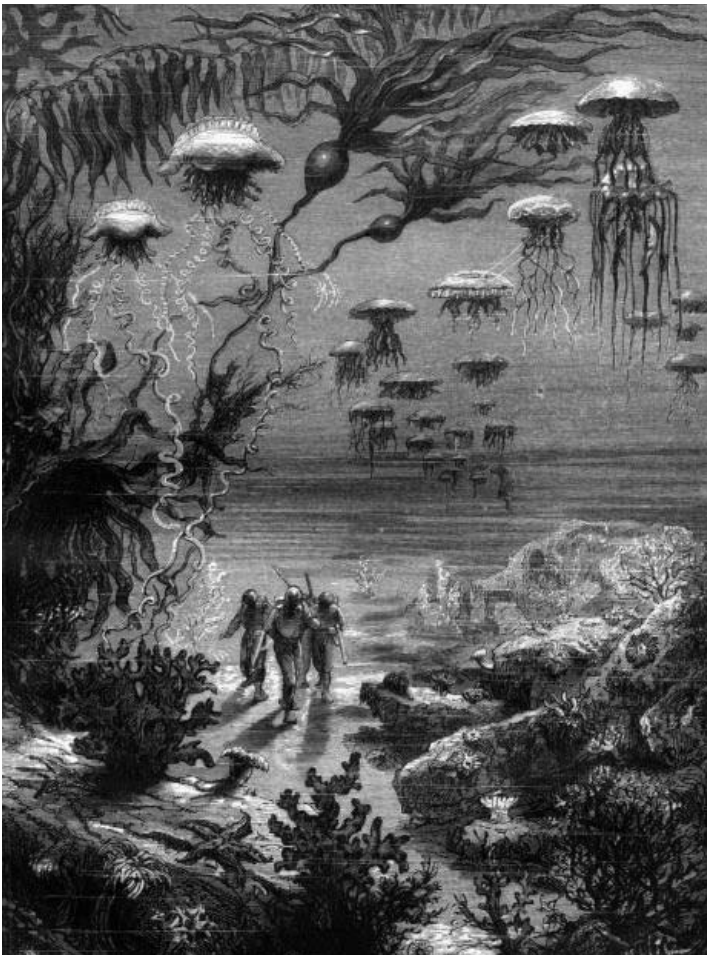
His next novel, *From the Earth to the Moon* (1865), concluded in a sequel, *Around the Moon* (1870), was, beyond doubt, an even

more extraordinary voyage, and the first of his novels in which he introduced Americans as chief characters. Written after the end of the Civil War, it features members of the Baltimore Gun Club, great fans of artillery, designing a gigantic cannon to shoot at the moon. The shell is a cabin in which two rival and argumentative gunnery experts intend to travel. They are joined by a witty Frenchman, Michel Ardan (an anagram of Nadar). As a boy I was fascinated by Verne's account of their trip around the moon, and their return to earth, splashing into the Pacific.

The fact that some of the details of his story are scientifically incorrect, including the idea of an inhabitable cabin shot from a cannon with the necessary escape velocity, has not prevented quite a few astronauts from being inspired by



Jules Verne and some of the creatures from his novels adorned the cover of *L'Algerie*, 1804, as reproduced on Wikipedia



Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea was one of Verne's most famous books. The Begum's Fortune (right) was less famous, but set in Oregon. These are illustrations from early French editions, as reproduced on the Zvi Har' El Jules Verne collection web site.

Verne's tale. I have long been fascinated by the fact that Verne placed his cannon on the tip of Florida, pretty close to NASA's Cape Canaveral. His choice of a cannon as a method of propulsion was influenced by the fact that he had followed with great interest the progress made by Americans in developing more efficient cannons during the Civil War.

*The Mysterious Island* (1875), a sequel to one of Jules Verne's best-known novels, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* (1870), links Captain Nemo, its hero, with Americans, who were Northern prisoners of war. They escaped by balloon (as Nadar had from besieged Paris in 1870), from a Confederate prison camp. Their balloon drifted to an island, and they proceeded, with Yankee ingenuity, to find ways to survive. They are not aware until the end that they are unobtrusively helped by Captain Nemo who has his base on the island. He dies of natural causes but not before he reveals himself and tells about his history. The Americans inherit from him two large trunks full of gold and jewels,

treasures from the deep, and they manage to leave the island and return to America setting up a utopian community somewhere in the Middle West. Verne, who abhorred slavery, later wrote an entire novel dealing with the Civil War, *North Against South* (1887).

Most of Verne's novels about "extraordinary journeys" dealt with travels to exotic places on the surface of the earth including China, India, Siberia, Eastern Europe, South America, the Pacific, and the Polar regions. He compiled (1870-1880) a series of six volumes entitled *The Discovery of the Earth*, dealing with travelers and explorers through the ages. His most successful book was *Around the World in Eighty Days*, (1872). It also became a long-lived international success as a truly spectacular play whose royalties made Verne a wealthy man.

The novel has a connection to America in addition to the fact that its British hero, Fogg, dashes over our continent in his effort to win his bet. It is widely believed that Verne was inspired by the first world trip of the American businessman, Georges

Francis Train, in 1870. At any rate Train, who wanted publicity for his feat, later complained that Verne had stolen his thunder.

A less-well-known novel, *The Begum's Fortune* (1879), has an American locale (Oregon), and one of the few true villains in Verne's substantial output. It deals with two rival heirs of the richest man in the world, an Indian prince. One of them is Dr. Sarrasin, a Frenchman who uses the inherited wealth to set up a City of Health in America and who believes in peace and progress. The other is Professor Schultz, who follows him to America because he wants to destroy Sarassin's city and then conquer the whole world. He has set up a rival town in Oregon, Stahlstadt (Steel City), a ruthless military dictatorship. In the end Sarrasin and his city prevails. The book is one of Verne's better tales, though his anti-German bias since the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 is apparent.

The other notable villain is Robur, in *Master of the World* (1904), one of the

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# 2008 Caxton/Newberry Symposium on the Book

“Rare Books & the Common Good: American Perspectives” to be held Saturday, April 12, 2008

The third annual Caxton Club / Newberry Library Symposium on the Book will discuss the future of books and libraries under the rubric “Rare Books & the Common Good: American Perspectives.” Although the term “rare” suggests costly and inaccessible, the program’s goal is to demonstrate that the research materials in specialized libraries are of enduring public value. The symposium will ask fundamental questions about the role of printed books in the digital age, as well as what collectors and collections will look like as the twenty-first century progresses. It will move from an historical perspective on the book collecting and libraries in the United States to suggest paradigms for collectors and readers of the future.

As in past years, the day-long symposium will bring together expert speakers from several book-related fields with a broad public of professionals and interested lay persons. The afternoon’s panel discussion will provide an opportunity for exchange and interaction. This year we will examine the history and future of rare book collecting and rare book libraries in America. Understanding this rich past is essential to informing public opinion on issues important to the preservation and development of our common intellectual heritage.

Among the themes of the symposium: the power of our printed and manuscript heritage to stimulate both scholarship and public discourse; the value of books on paper in an increasingly digital world; the rationale for libraries, especially in America, to collect books that are, deliberately or by historical accident, rare and expensive; and where such books stand in a hierarchy of public priorities for the still-new century.

The program will begin with three formal talks on Saturday morning. The speakers and topics are:

**Daniel Meyer** (Associate Director, Special Collections Research Center, and University Archivist, The University of Chicago) on how Chicago history offers an interesting paradigm for the place of rare books in American life. Meyer has studied the collecting history of the city and will set the scene for the more future-oriented talks that follow.

**Edward Tenner** (Princeton University, University of Pennsylvania, and The Smithsonian Institution) on “Treasures and Tools, Creating Rarity.” Professor Tenner will describe his research into the role of collectors in expanding the frontiers of scholarship, especially in his own field of the history of technology. He will argue that in the age of the Web, the uniqueness and physical features of each printed book become more rather than less important.

**Francis Wahlgren** (Books and

Manuscripts Department, Christie’s) on “Dealers Going, Going, Gone: The Role of the Auction House.” Mr. Wahlgren, well known from his appearances on Antiques Road Show, believes that the role of the auctioneer has changed radically, moving in recent years from a removed and exclusive realm to a retail approach. Auctioneers deal more and more directly with collectors, and are sometimes blamed for the decline of retail bookselling in the U.S.

In the afternoon, **Alice Schreyer** (Director of the Special Collections Research Center at the University of Chicago) will lead a panel discussion. In addition to the morning speakers, the afternoon panel will include **Mark Dimunation** (Chief, Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Library of Congress).

Each of the afternoon panelists will be invited to offer a brief response to the morning session, and then to discuss the problems of rare book collecting today. Based on past experience we can anticipate that the audience will take a lively part in this panel discussion.

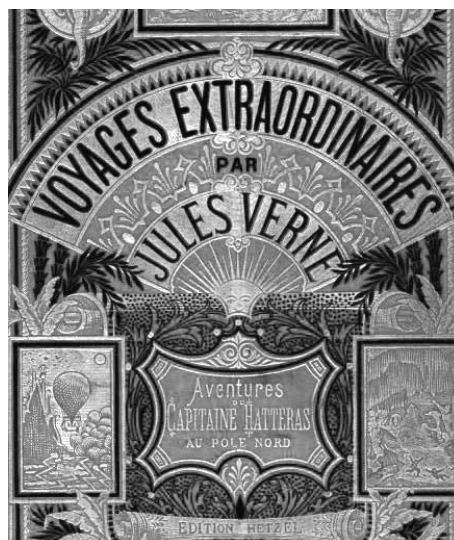
Attendance at the first two annual Caxton / Newberry Symposia on the book has nearly filled available space. Members are advised to watch for notice that registrations are being accepted, and act promptly.

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JULES VERNE, *from page 3*

last books published during Verne’s lifetime. In contrast to his first incarnation in 1886 where he represents progress and the science of the future, he has become a megalomaniac like Professor Schultz. His invention, a plane/automobile/submarine, is called “Terror.” Verne, during his last days, had become increasingly pessimistic and no longer believed in the beneficent effect of scientific progress. He died in 1905.

Much of Verne’s appeal had been his optimism. It is also worth remembering that his sympathetic portrayal of Americans shaped international perceptions for a number of decades. He helped me to



discover the earth as a kid, teaching me a lot of geography. I was inspired by his wide-ranging curiosity and enjoyed his sense of humor. Also, despite my awareness of two world wars, genocides, and terror during the past century, I owe to him my continued faith in progress and my belief that the cause of freedom and human rights will prevail in the end.

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*Left, detail from the cover of a Hetzel edition of one of Verne’s Extraordinary Voyage books, as pictured on Wikipedia.*

# CAXTONIAN FOOTNOTES

“O, what a noble mind is here o’erthrown!”—Ophelia. Club Historian **Frank Piehl** (‘85) is suffering from creeping Alzheimer’s disease. His family has moved him into the medical side of the facility in Munster, Indiana, and recently celebrated Frank’s 80th birthday, surrounding him with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I spent a fun hour with Frank in July, communicating freely, and left him one of the newly finished Caxton Club DVDs, which he watched later. Ever the history buff, Frank was eagerly anticipating his daughter, Laura, reading to him the new book on the Everleigh Sisters! Cards and letters to Frank could be addressed to Care Center at Hartsfield Village, 503 Otis R. Bowen Dr., Munster, IN 46321.

**R. Russell Maylone** (‘76) has retired from his post as Curator of Rare Books at Northwestern University Libraries. This leaves a temporary vacancy not only in his “chair,” but also in his wonderful gothic office in the old, cathedral-esque **Charles Deering** (1895) Library. If one could force one’s eyes to look up from some of the excellent rarities, and to look out the office windows, one would have to strain neck muscles to see anything else but some grass and the expanse of Lake Michigan. It is the kind of room that many bibliophiles aspire to retire to, not from. Wynken wishes Wussell well.

I think the office may previously have been occupied by **Theodore Wesley Koch** (‘25) back when he was Director of the University Library. I wonder if **Sarah M. Pritchard** (‘07 ?), the newest University Librarian, might like to reclaim it?

One collection at Northwestern which is special to me and many older Caxtonians is the papers and letters which chronicle the history of **Frances Hamill** (‘76), Margery Barker, and **Terence Tanner** (‘95), and the operation of nearly eighty years of the legendary rare booksellers, Hamill & Barker. Terry Tanner intended to publish accounts of these remarkable women, and would have used these records from the vault of the firm. Who knew, for example that Margery Barker was employed as a county probation officer in LaPorte County, Indiana, in 1925? H&B had a remarkable



*Frank Piehl sends greetings from his new quarters in Munster*

connection with Leonard and Virginia Woolf, which deserves to be better known. Somebody ought to write the history of this while people still read books.

**Bill Hesterberg** (‘05) announces a small Bewick book for sale to Caxton members before he offers it at Oak Knoll Fest October 7. *The Blocks Revisited*, including 6 prints from his own Bewick blocks, was produced as a 12-page keepsake for the Typocrafters meeting in Chicago in 2002, and has now been given a hard cover. It’s \$100 including an extra print, suitable for framing. Contact him at 847-328-4382.

It seems that book thieves never rest. Certainly they were not resting or arresting in Evanston around Labor Day. In late August, a world map by Ortelius disappeared from George & Mary Ritzlin’s map and print shop. About that time, Bookman’s Alley noted that a first edition of Twain’s *Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County* was missing from a locked display case. Also missing were some Ezra Pound first editions. It all appears much more than casual. No losses noted at The Chicago Rare Book Center, happily.

Sometimes stolen books do not travel very far. Circa 1980, following the death of Lawrence Kunetka, his firm, J. Stephen Lawrence Rare Books, was ransacked by some amateurs, and a number of books purloined. Very shortly thereafter, the

books were offered for sale to other dealers in the Chicago metro area. Too bad for the crooks, but there were numerous former Kunetka employees around who recognized the books and or the markings, knew that they were stolen, and instigated the arrest of the ne’er-do-wells.

Unfortunately, the legal system often takes a jaundiced view of stolen books and maps and documents, when they are not world-famous originals like Munch’s painting, “The Scream”, when it vanished. Thus, even arrests rarely translate into convictions and jail time. Happily, also in August, **John LaPine** (‘03) testified against a book thief which resulted in a conviction and jail time. It was not the first book thief John has caught. The previous one had stolen (in Evanston) a multi-volume, leatherbound, set of Shakespeare (!).

The latest thief had lifted a first edition of Faulkner’s *The Unvanquished* from O’Gara & Wilson’s bookshop in Hyde Park. When LaPine confronted the man in his Printer’s Row shop, the man exclaimed, “I ain’t goin’ to jail for no book,” and headed toward the door. That was when John summoned his bookshop German Shepherd whose enthusiasm caused the thief to resume his seat in the chair, which he maintained until Chicago’s Finest arrived and took him away in handcuffs.

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# Book and manuscript-related exhibitions: a selective list

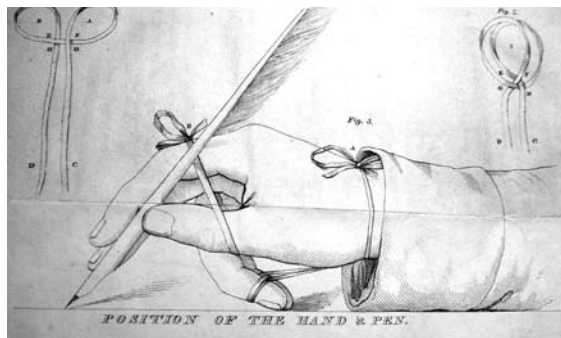
Compiled by John Blew

Note: on occasion an exhibit may be delayed or extended; it is always wise to call in advance of a visit)

"Highlights from the Mary W. Runnells Rare Book Room" (over 30 stunning works, many never before seen by the public, have been chosen from the Field Museum Library's spectacular rare book collections to inaugurate the Museum's new T. Kimball and Nancy N. Brooker Gallery) in the Brooker Gallery, second floor at the north end of the Field Museum, 1400 South Lake Shore Drive (the Museum Campus), Chicago 312-665-7892 (10 October 2007 - 20 January 2008)



"The Capital of the 19th Century: Paris in Maps" (maps of Paris, drawn from the Art Institute's Ryerson and Burnham Libraries, highlight urban planning and architectural and artistic developments in the "capital of the 19th century") at the Ryerson and Burnham Libraries of the Art Institute of Chicago, 111 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago 312-443-3671 (closes 3 December 2007)



Reading, Writing & 'rithmetic at Columbia College  
IMAGES SHOWN FROM THE ROBERT WILLIAMS ('92) COLLECTION

"What's in a Name? Carl Linnaeus's 300-year Legacy" (materials from the Library's collections which celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of this great botanist) at the Sterling Morton Library, The Morton Arboretum, 4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle, IL 630-968-0074 (closes 26 January 2008)

"Reading, Writing & 'rithmetic" (this exhibition features writing manuals, early readers and spellers, flash-cards, alphabet books and other learning tools widely used before the age of television and video games) at the Columbia College Center for Book and Paper Arts, 1104 South Wabash, 2nd Floor, Chicago 312-344-6630 (closes 27 October 2007)

"The Virtual Tourist In Renaissance Rome: Printing and Collecting the Speculum Romanae Magnificentiae" (prints and maps depicting major Roman monuments and antiquities originally published in the 16th Century by Antonio Lafreri which tourists and other collectors in Renaissance Rome and later periods acquired in various combinations and had individually bound)

at the Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library, 1100 E. 57th Street, Chicago 773-705-8705 (closes 11 February 2008)

"The Origin of Darwin's Revolution" (rare books by Charles Darwin and his colleagues, selected from the Garden's collection as well as from several private collections, which present the background for the publication of *Origin of Species*, con-

sidered the most important book in the natural sciences) in the Lenhardt Library at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe 847-835-8202 (closes 28 October 2007)

"An Admirable Nucleus: The Prussian Purchase at the Heart of Today's Northwestern University Library" (features highlights from the 20,000-volume personal

library of Johannes Schulze, an influential 19th century Prussian educator and collector, and tells the story of its purchase for Northwestern in 1869 by University librarian Daniel Bonbright) on the third floor of the historic Deering Library at Northwestern University, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston 847-491-2894 (closes Autumn 2007)

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).

BRETT MURPHY, from page 7

were very nice, and interesting, and I really enjoy the atmosphere at the Mid-Day Club.

CAXTONIAN: What is your occupation?

MURPHY: Classifieds Advertising Manager at the *Chicago Reader*.

CAXTONIAN: What are your favorite things to read?

MURPHY: My first choice would be *East Of Eden* by John Steinbeck, but I'd include poets, including Richard Brautigan and William Stafford, a poet from Kansas who spent most of his life writing in Oregon.

CAXTONIAN: What does your wife think of your collection?

MURPHY: Actually, she has a pretty nice collection of modern first editions herself, in addition to an enormous collection of more than 500 cookbooks.

Actually, my wife, Kristal's, collection of cookbooks takes up so much space, her collection takes up a lot more room than mine in the house. I'm not complaining, though. After all, she gave me a very rare first edition of *A River Runs Through It* by Norman Maclean for my 40th birthday. What do I have to complain about?

CAXTONIAN: My biggest love is hearing stories about the one that didn't get away. Do you have any of those?

MURPHY: I don't have one of those stories, but I do have a story about purchasing *Travels With Charley* by John Steinbeck in an eBay auction. The book was advertised as a first edition, which, for most collectors, means it's going to be a first edition, first printing unless it's stated otherwise. The person who advertised the book failed to mention that it was an 8th printing, which made the value closer to \$5 than the \$100-\$150 it would normally be worth. The person refused to give me my money back until, finally, a threat of reporting her to eBay worked in getting me a refund.

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# Caxtonians Collect: Brett Murphy

Thirty-fourth in a series of interviews with members

Interviewed by  
Kathryn R. J. Tutkus

CAXTONIAN: The Directory lists that you collect first editions of Vonnegut, Burroughs, Steinbeck, Dos Passos, Brautigan. Are all these correct?

MURPHY: Yes.

CAXTONIAN: Have you added other things to your collection?

MURPHY: Yes. Charles Bukowski, along with the poets William Stafford and Stan Rice.

I did want to mention that many books are signed, including Truman Capote, Robert Frost, Maya Angelou, Bret Harte (who my parents named me after), Kurt Vonnegut, William Burroughs, and Charles Bukowski.

CAXTONIAN: How did you start collecting books?

MURPHY: My interest in book collecting probably started back when I was 12 or so, when I started reading a juvenile detective series called "Alfred Hitchcock and The Three Investigators." I gathered all of the volumes into one area on my bookshelf

after having read them. Now that I think back on it, my fascination with collecting in general probably came from my mother, who got up at the crack of dawn every Saturday morning and circled all of the garage sales in our neighborhood in the paper. An hour later, our family was in the car going from one garage sale to another. As I grow older, I'm trying to be less a gatherer and be more selective about what I purchase.

CAXTONIAN: When did you begin collecting in earnest?

MURPHY: I must have been 21 when I met the writer William Burroughs in Lawrence, Kansas while attending school there.

The reason I met him in the first place was that I used to be a manager at a local Lawrence coffeehouse that his secretary frequented. A friend of his secretary worked with me in the coffeehouse and invited me along one night to a birthday party they were throwing for him in his tiny little farmhouse about 5 miles outside of town.



Other people from the coffeehouse also came, and we sat around the living room with his 8 or 10 cats and listened to him tell stories (mainly about his days in New York) for the entire evening. He was cordial and I had a great time. I later attended readings and in-store signing appearances in Lawrence. He was pretty frail by then, but highly entertaining. You probably don't want to print this next part, but the single incident I remember most was attending one of his student union readings where he read in front of a completely packed room of hundreds of people. Keep in mind this was smack in the middle of a growing conservative movement throughout the United States. He started the evening off by saying, in his ratty-pitched voice, "Ronald Reagan in the Nineteen Eighties. WHAT A \*\*\*\*SUCKER." The room went wild.

Then, in the early 1990s on the north side of Chicago around Belmont and Broadway I discovered at least 10 really decent

used bookstores, almost all within a 3-mile radius. Unfortunately, hardly any of these bookstores are around now. EBAY and the Web, in general, took away most of the business from the independent bookstores. I think a great part of the city was lost when this happened.

I loved that you didn't have to have a lot of money to get started collecting modern first editions. For example, most of Kurt Vonnegut's first editions could be had for \$15 to \$50. It wasn't until I later added some more rare volumes (e.g. the first printing of *Sirens of Titan* available only in paperback, etc.), that the cost escalated.

CAXTONIAN: Did you go to the bookstores on a regular basis?

Murphy: I did go regularly. I would make the rounds weekly starting in the late morning and going from one bookstore to another. One bookstore by the Biograph in

Lincoln Park had a decent selection of Kurt Vonnegut. I gave the owner a list of some of the editions I wanted but he didn't have, and he would call me when he was able to obtain one. I was able to obtain *Sirens of Titan* this way. Keep in mind, this was before the days of the Internet. Collecting was done much more by phone, mail, etc.

CAXTONIAN: Do you read all the books that you collect?

MURPHY: I do try to read the books that I collect, but, like everyone else, I'm never able to catch-up in the end.

I collect only the writers I really love and have read extensively, although occasionally I find a book I love by a writer I've never read, and start collecting the rest based on the first one. For example, Stan Rice.

CAXTONIAN: What were your first impressions of the Caxton Club when you joined in 2002?

MURPHY: I liked it a lot. The people

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CAXTONIAN, OCTOBER 2007

photograph by John Dunlevy

# Bookmarks...

## Luncheon Program

October 12, 2007

Robert Karrow

“Maps Maps Maps: From Clay Tablets to Satellite Navigation Systems”

Caxtonian Robert Karrow, Curator of Special Collections and Curator of Maps at the Newberry Library, will present a program about the truly incredible Festival of Maps, opening in our city on November 2, 2007, involving the Newberry, the Field Museum and 25 collaborative institutions and celebrating the history of mapmaking and its significance to our understanding of the world around us.

The centerpiece exhibition will be *Maps: Finding Our Place in the World* at the Field Museum. Co-sponsored by the Newberry Library, the exhibition will showcase 130 of the world's greatest maps, including a clay map of Nippur, manuscripts by Leonardo da Vinci, and maps drawn by three American presidents. The Newberry itself will host two major cartographic exhibitions, on *Ptolemy's Geography and Renaissance Mapmakers* and *Mapping Manifest Destiny: Chicago and the American West*.

As co-curator of the Field/Newberry exhibition, Bob will present a profusely illustrated preview of highlights of the exhibitions and he will share some of the experiences he has had in putting it all together.

Find your place in the world at the Festival of Maps.

## Dinner Program

October 17, 2007

Paul Gehl

“Chicago Graphic Designers of the 20th Century”

**2007** is the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Society of Typographic Arts, a unique organization that represented Chicago design (especially the city's talent with type) for most of the 20th century.

Its membership at all periods overlapped with that of the Caxton Club—ranging from STA founders like Robert Middleton and Raymond DaBoll to present leaders like Bruce Beck, Hayward Blake, and Robert McCamant.

To celebrate the anniversary, Caxtonian Paul Gehl will review the major figures, show examples of their work from the collections of the Newberry Library, and address the question of whether it is useful or even possible to describe a “Chicago School” in graphic design.

## Beyond October...

### NOVEMBER LUNCHEON

At the November 9 luncheon, Adam Muhlig, Caxtonian and Director of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Department at Leslie Hindman Auctioneers, will entertain the group with a talk entitled: “My Encounters With 20th Century Authors, Living and Dead.”

### NOVEMBER DINNER

Peter Barber, a diplomatic historian by training, has been at the British Library since 1975, most of that time working with the rare map collection. He is currently Head of Map Collections. He has published extensively on the history of cartography, and will speak Nov. 14 (note date change).

### DECEMBER LUNCHEON

Writer, scholar and raconteur Thomas O’Gorman returns to the Caxton Club at the luncheon on Friday, December 14. His topics include his new book, *End of Watch: Chicago Police Killed on the Line of Duty 1853-2006*, and other compelling subjects.

### DECEMBER DINNER

December 19 brings the traditional Caxton Revels with book auction and entertainment. Get your book contributions to the office as soon as you can.

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](mailto:caxtonclub@newberry.org). Members and guests: Lunch \$27, Dinner \$48. 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.