

Glen Wiche: of Books and Islands

He talks about his new book, his blindness, his bookselling career, and his worldwide travels

Robert McCamant

Glen Wiche's new book is the result of a happy accident. In 1992, he and his wife Susan were wandering through a cemetery in Bermuda when they stumbled on the grave of Charles Maxwell Allen. Glen was thoroughly steeped in the Civil War so Allen's name rang a bell – he had been the U.S. (read Northern) consul to pro-Confederate Bermuda during the war.

"I wondered if he had left any papers, and whether his role had been studied," Wiche said. He had always wanted to write a book about the Civil War and here was a topic that might not have been previously explored. As it turned out, the answers to those questions were yes (he had written daily dispatches to the State Department throughout the war) and no (nobody had done a definitive study).

Wiche turned up Allen's dispatches in the National Archives, and they were conveniently available on microfilm. He soon had the microfilm in hand and was happily transcribing the first few dispatches when disaster struck

– Wiche was legally blind. A few years later, there was a second disaster – his wife of 20 years, Susan, died tragically at age 41.

So the book took a while. Eventually he found a colleague, Kathleen Moore, who was able to take over the transcription. They developed a routine. Moore would transcribe a document, then read it over the telephone to Wiche. He would think about appropriate commentary, and write it in his head. The next day, he would dictate it to Moore. At first they would do only a single document each day, but eventually they were able to do two or three.



Glen Wiche holds his copy of Richard Lassels, *The Voyage of Italy*. Paris, John Starkey, 1670.

The man who emerged from the documents was a scrupulous patriot, a man who managed to do his duty to the North while surrounded by Southern sympathizers. "Think how hard it was to walk into a room full of people with whom you disagree," Wiche explains. "Now imagine having to do that every day of your life for four years!"

Allen was able to unravel and report on the blockade-running trade in his dispatches. Two British territories, Bermuda and the Bahamas, were its focal point. Large slow ships would bring arms and ammunition from Europe to

one of the islands, where they would be transferred to smaller, faster ships that were frequently able to make it through the Northern blockade of Southern ports. If the blockade-running ships were setting out from Bermuda, their manifest would list the Bahamas as their destination – and vice-versa – so that there was no official paper trail.

But the slow rhythm of communications in the 1860s reduced the Consul's ability to aid in the capture of runners. Allen would send a letter to the State Department and it would take several days on a ship to get there. Then the State Department would forward the information to the Navy and it would take several more days to reach the blockade-enforcing ships. Wiche was able to locate one specific instance in which Allen's information aided in the capture of a blockade runner, but was unable to confirm others.

After the war, Allen stayed on in Bermuda, and eventually became a revered figure there. He lived there until his death in 1888.

Wiche is pleased with the book. "I gave a manuscript copy to a friend, one who is not particularly interested in the Civil War. She came back to me saying 'It's so clear.' I attribute

that to the way I had to write the sentences in my head. I would think about each sentence far more than if I had been able to type them on a typewriter or computer," he said. And a publisher was pleased with the book, too. "I sent out twenty or more proposals, and within three days I had an offer from Kent State University Press." There was a long period between tentative acceptance and a signed contract – endless reviews by editors and editorial boards – and then the long period of editing and production. But the result

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GLEN WICHE, from page 1

is a book that fits perfectly in one of Kent State's series, "Civil War in the North," which is first-person accounts of life and events during the war.

Wiche, pronounced Wick'-ee, is a native Illinoisan. He graduated from high school in Naperville, but went on to Allegheny College for a BA majoring in history. He came back to Chicago on graduation and found a job as assistant manager of the rare book department at Marshall Field where he learned something more about the antiquarian book trade and started saving his money to finance a store of his own. He opened London Bookshop and Gallery in 1974. It was a suite of three rooms on the 11th floor of the Bell Federal building downtown.

"That doesn't sound like a great location for foot traffic, but in those days it was. There were several bookstores in the neighborhood – Buckingham and Canterbury come to mind – and many people would take a part of their lunch hour by stopping by a bookstore. And Chicago was a convention center then as now. I didn't do much mail order business, but I sold plenty of books to out-of-towners who took advantage of trips to town to do their specialized book shopping," he explained. He also had the friendly practice of furnishing Twining's tea and the *Times of London* to read, which brought a few customers and much good will.

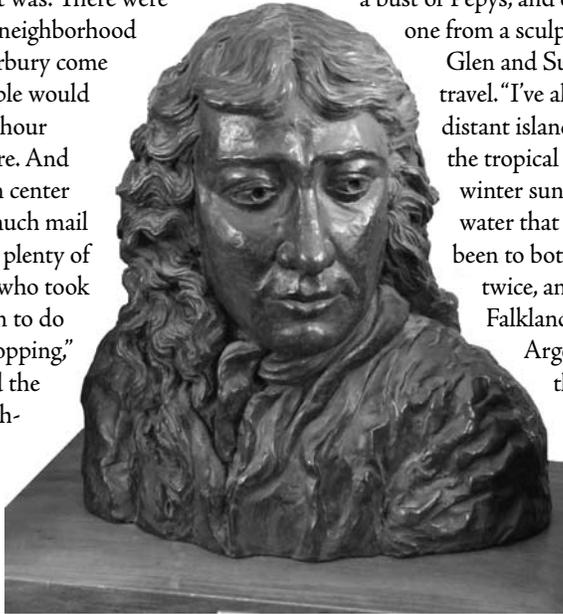
But as the store moved through the 1980s, Wiche noticed a growing problem. Back in the 70s, he had had no trouble finding books in England that he could sell in Chicago for a comfortable markup. But in the 80s the English market experienced significant price rises, and he began finding books there marked in pounds for what he was able to get for them in Chicago in dollars. That was no way to run a business. The straw that broke the store's back was when Rubloff doubled his rent.

After closing his bookstore, Wiche became a consultant, working with the Bally Corporation, Chicago Public Library, DePaul University, Marshall Field, and other companies and institutions on collection development.

Once a bookseller, always a bookseller, however. Wiche moved his stock to his home and kept on selling, at first with occasional lists, and then when the Internet came along, as Wiche Antiquarian Books, available through ABE. "The computer just

sits there and works for you 24 hours a day," Wiche marvels. "These days it's not unusual to get orders from New Zealand or South Africa – anyplace they speak English." With the encouragement and help of his assistant Sandra Sadler, the business continues to flourish.

One thing he is *not* selling, however, is his personal selection of books related to Samuel Pepys (1633-1703). "I've been collecting Pepys for forty years," Wiche explains. "It's arguably the best diary in the English language," he asserts, "and perhaps the best in any language, ever. It's always a pleasure to read his diary and imagine what it would be like to live in Restoration England." He counts himself lucky when he can add one item a year to the collection. He has one Pepys manuscript, and all the important editions of the *Diary*. He looked for many years for a bust of Pepys, and eventually commissioned one from a sculptor.



Bust of Pepys commissioned by Wiche

Glen and Susan did a great deal of travel. "I've always been fascinated by distant islands," Wiche confessed. Not the tropical islands you visit for a winter suntan, but the ones in cold water that few people visit. He's been to both Greenland and Iceland twice, and in 2002 he visited the Falkland Islands off the coast of Argentina. That trip made the cover of the July 2003 *Caxtonian*, where Wiche recounted his trip, telling of his presentation of a facsimile map to the islands' archives. As he explained at the time, "In my Pepys collection, I have an early map of South America

that depicts Pepys Island. The island was supposedly sighted on a 1683 voyage...when accounts were published in England, the position of Pepys Island was inaccurately recorded.... Not until the eminent Captain Cook had examined all of the evidence was Pepys Island finally determined to be one and the same as the Falkland Islands."

Wiche has given three talks to the Club: one on Pepys; one on book-hunting in the arctic islands of Greenland, Iceland, and the Faroes; and one on the history of the Limited Editions Club. (Wiche collaborated with Ralph Newman on a bibliography of the Limited Editions Club, published in 1989.)

Wiche believes he is the only blind antiquarian book dealer in the United States. Appropriately, for his next project he is considering a book about sightless authors and blind bibliophiles.

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Consul Allen and the Blockade Runners

Glimpse of a forgotten front in the Civil War

Reviewed by Robert Karrow

Glen N. Wiche, ed., *Dispatches from Bermuda: The Civil War Letters of Charles Maxwell Allen, United States Consul at Bermuda, 1861-1888*. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 2008. xvii, 251 p. maps, illus., tables. ISBN: 978-0-87338-938-9. \$32

This most recent entry in Kent State's series *The Civil War in the North*, which includes a study of the effects of the war on Cortland, New York, takes us even farther from the smoke of battle to the British colony of Bermuda. If pressed to discuss what Wiche calls the Civil War's "Atlantic campaign," I suspect most of us would mumble something about the *Monitor* and the *Merrimack*, but the Union's attempt at blockading southern ports meant that many hundreds of miles of Atlantic and Gulf coasts were scenes of blockade running, pursuit, and capture. Bermuda, some 800 miles southeast of Wilmington, North Carolina, was, along with Nassau in the Bahamas, a hub of Confederate commerce. A steady stream of ships carried cotton from Charleston and Wilmington to looms in the English midlands; rifles, cannon, and ammunition made the return trip.

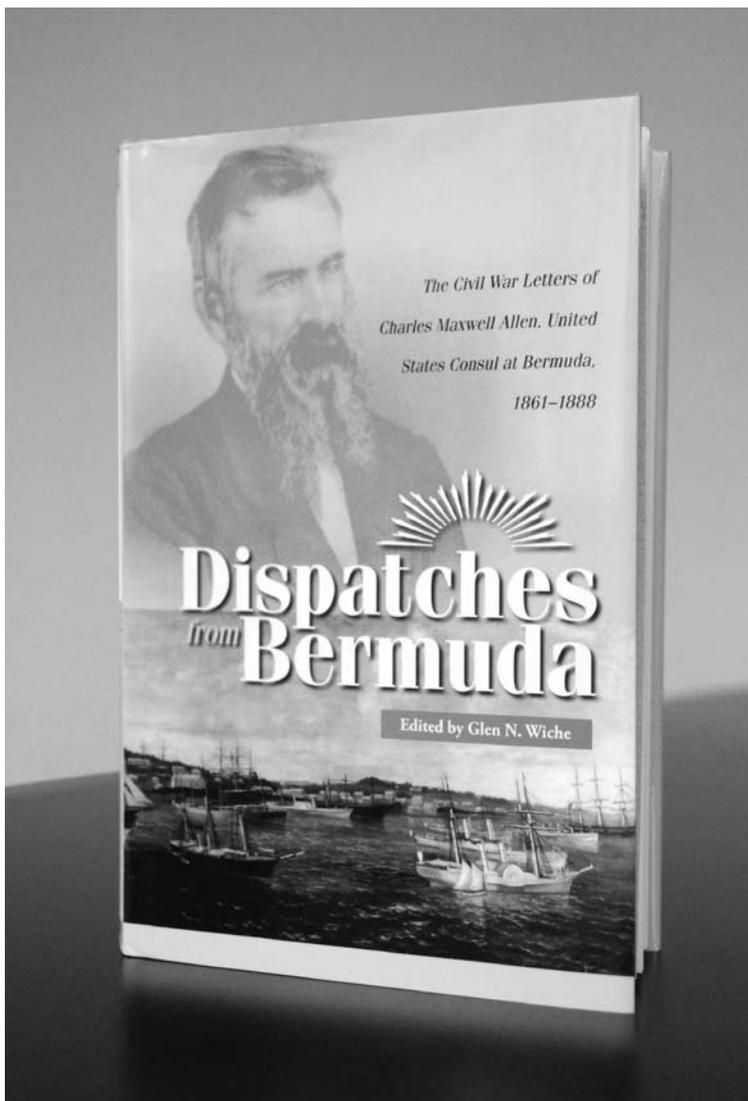
Charles Allen, a New York Republican appointed by Lincoln in 1861 as the American consul in Bermuda, was at the busy center of this trade. As consul, his duties included reporting on the overall commerce of Bermuda's two main ports, detailing the arrivals and departures of American ships, providing assistance for their coaling and provisioning, and providing relief to seamen left in the islands because of illness or shipwreck. These duties he performed for over a quarter of a century, dying at his post in Hamilton in 1888. But the Civil War years added a new layer of responsi-

bilities and dangers, and Allen found himself actively engaged in espionage as he sent detailed reports of blockade-running ships, including drawings of them, back to his supe-

cause, but Bermuda itself was known as the "offshore Confederacy," her ports filled with vessels flying the stars and bars, and her streets swarming with Southerners engaged

in the some aspect of blockade running. In April 1862 Allen wrote, in a letter to his family, "There are a great many southern people here; 14 came in the steamer *Bermuda*. They & their friends are down on me & have threatened to whip me." Allen's first years there were lonely; he was shunned, reviled, and the flagpole at the consulate was cut down.

Caxtonian Glen Wiche has combed the National Archives, several collections in Bermuda, and family papers to unearth the documents presented here. After a fine introductory chapter that provides background on Allen's life and sets the scene for the "Atlantic Campaign," Wiche skillfully threads together the official dispatches, personal letters, newspaper accounts, and other primary sources that form the bulk of the volume, with insightful running commentary and detailed notes. Among the surprising facts I learned were that some 200 tons of coal were needed for a run between Bermuda and Wilmington, and that blockade runners were routinely camouflaged with grey



riors in Washington. He kept a close eye on the docks and was obviously able to enlist the help of seamen and stevedores, for he regularly reported on the types, amounts, and destinations of contraband going in both directions.

An official tribute late in his life stressed that "he was indefatigable in his exertions to serve the Union, and, at the same time, always continued on the most pleasant terms with the English authorities." And, especially in the first years of the war, before the tide began to turn at Gettysburg, Bermuda was an extremely hostile posting. Not only were many British openly sympathetic to the rebel

paint.

One gets the impression that the blockade was highly ineffective, and Consul Allen regularly pleads with his superiors in Washington to station a cruiser closer to Bermuda to intercept runners. The scholarly value of the volume is enhanced by an appendix listing full details of 302 arrivals and departures of blockade runners, and by its thorough notes, bibliography, and index. The result is a lively and engaging portrait of Consul Allen and his work and a fascinating look at a side of the Civil War that few of us have considered.

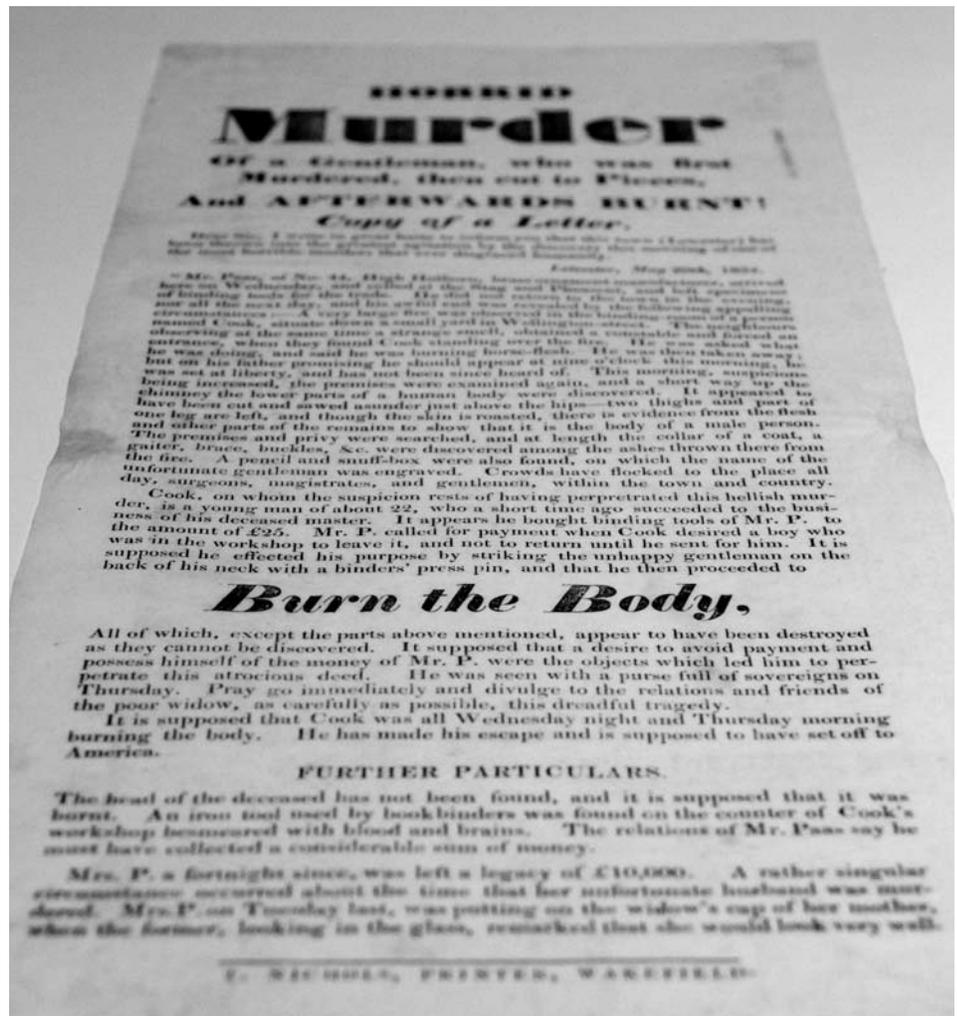
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Looking Forward to Crimes of the Book

Pillage, Punishment, and Provenance: Books as Victims of Crime – The Caxton/Newberry Symposium April 4

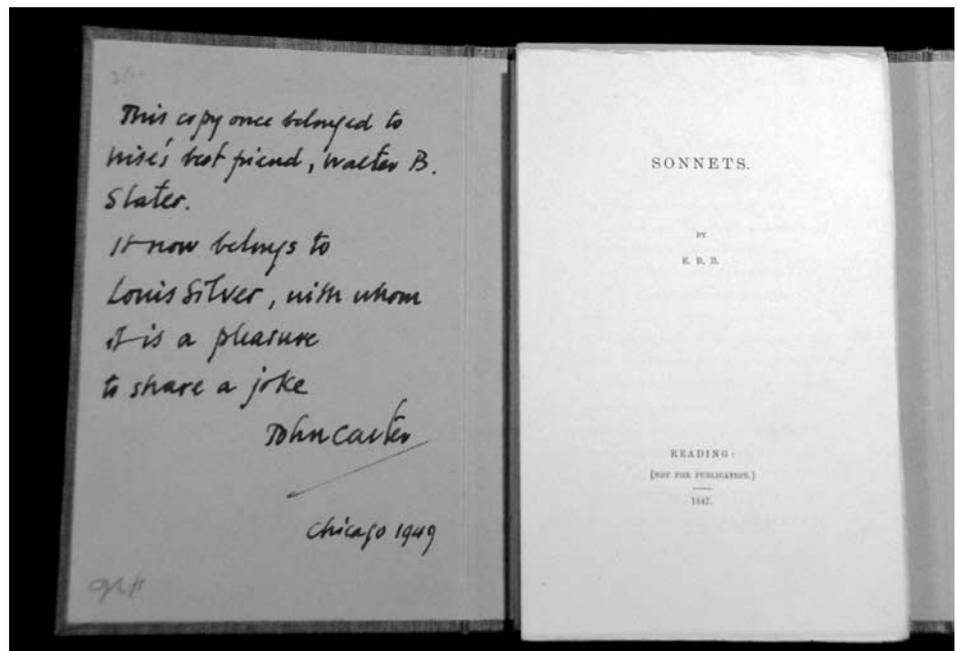


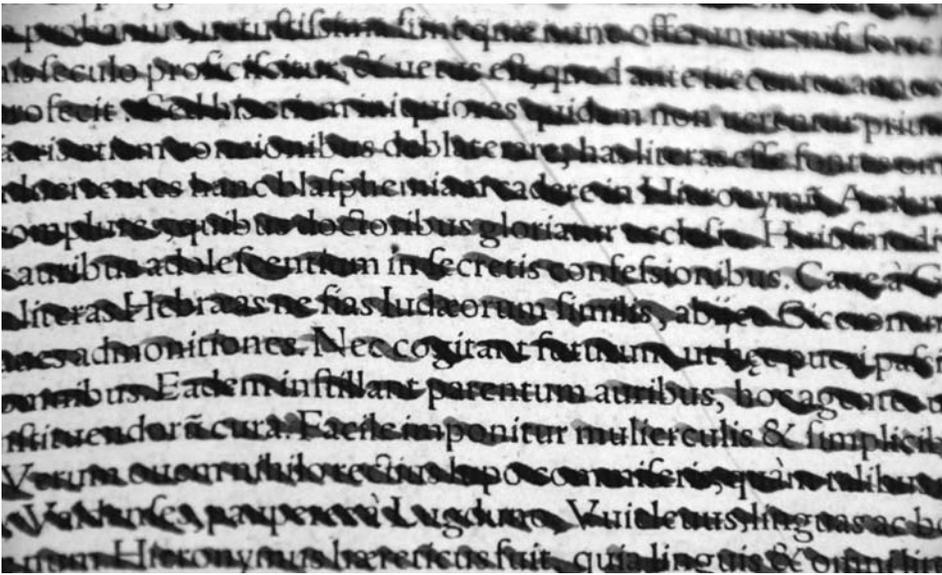
ABOVE Hooker, Richard. Of the lawes of ecclesiastical politie. London: Printed by William Stansbye and are to be sold by George Lathum, [1632]. The King's [Charles I] crown has been excised from engraved title page.



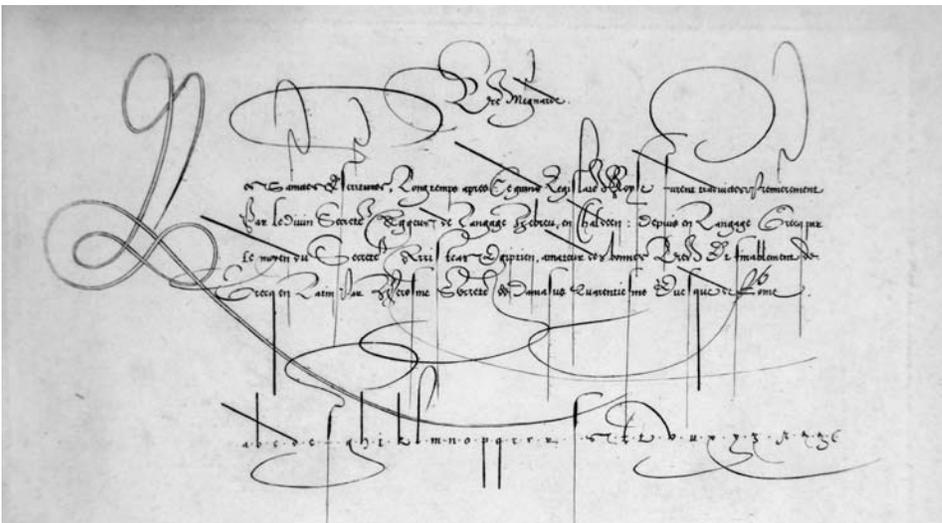
RIGHT This broadside describes the murder (possibly with a bookbinding tool) of Mr. Paas, who was an engraver and a maker of bookbinding tools. Horrid murder of a gentleman, who was first murdered, then cut to pieces, and afterwards burnt! Wakefield: T. Nichols, [1832].

Thomas James Wise was a great collector, bibliophile, and forger. In 1934 two younger British book experts, John Carter and Graham Pollard, published a book with the innocuous title, *An Enquiry into the Nature of Certain Nineteenth Century Pamphlets*. It was a devastating investigation which proved that Wise (then aged 75) had for at least twelve years invented pedigrees for worthless books and pamphlets and passed off forgeries as genuine. Wise forgeries are now collected in their own right – in some cases they're more expensive than the things he imitated. This pamphlet, of Browning sonnets, was collected by the late Louis Silver, and has a note from Carter to Silver on its folder.





The Newberry has a list of censored works originally published by order of Pius IV in 1564; arranged by category, with a special section devoted to the works of Erasmus, and indicating specific passages to be purged. This page, from Desiderius Erasmus, *Opervm secvndvs tomvs Adagiorvm chiliades...* (Basilae: Ex officina Frobeniana, 1540) demonstrates the result.



Pierre Hamon, secretary and royal writing master to Charles IX of France was renowned throughout Europe for the perfection of his writing. In 1567 he published the first copybook printed from engraved metal plates, *Alphabet de plusieurs sortes de lettres*, shown here. In 1569 he was arrested on the charge of forging the king's signature, somewhat ironic, since his office required him to sign documents for the king. It is more likely though, that his arrest – and subsequent execution – was related to his being a Huguenot. Copies of Hamon's copybooks were also destroyed, making them extremely scarce.

If crime interests you, on the morning of Saturday, April 4, the Newberry Library (60 W. Walton) is the place to be. As might be expected from the venue, the topic will not be garden-variety mugging or robbery, but the more rarefied specialty of book crime. The occasion is the fourth annual Caxton/Newberry Symposium on the Book, this year co-sponsored by the Bibliographical Society of America.

The day begins at 9 am with Sem Sutter, of the University of Chicago Libraries, talking about libraries in wartime. He'll discuss the criminal behavior of many conquering armies, whose brass promoted (or at least winked at) the plundering of the cultural patrimony of invaded states. Counterpoised against that, Sutter has stories of librarians who have gone to extraordinary lengths to preserve the books in their care.

Next comes Sara Malton, of St. Mary's University in Halifax, who will compare the severe punishment accorded financial forgery (sometimes even execution) with the relatively limited penalties doled out for crimes against intellectual property, such as plagiarism. She will focus on the life and works of Wilkie Collins as an example of the Victorian cultural imagination.

The morning will conclude with Jennifer Larson, of Jeffrey Marks Rare Books in Rochester, New York. She is the former Ethics Committee Chair for the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America. She will speak about best ethical practices for dealers, changes in the way the rare book market views emerging legal issues of title and authenticity, and whether provenance is a duty of the dealer or an obligation of the buyer.

After a lunch break, discussion will resume at the Alliance Française (54 W. Chicago). Moderator Alice Schreyer of the University of Chicago Library and panelists Susan Allen

of the Getty Research Institute Library in Los Angeles; Michael Thompson, a Chicago attorney and collector; Brian Brusokas of the FBI Art Crimes Task Force; and William L. Butts of Main Street Fine Books and Manuscripts, Galena, will consider book crime history, detection, and prevention.

The day will conclude with a reception.

Although the day's program is free, reservations are required. A form is available on the Club web site, <http://www.caxtonclub.org>

Illustrations are from items that will be on display at the Newberry the day of the symposium. They were photographed by Robert McCamant.

Book and manuscript-related exhibitions: a selective list

Compiled by Bernice E. Gallagher

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

March is an ideal month for all things Irish, so Caxtonians might be inclined to visit the library at the Irish American Heritage Center (books, periodicals, newspapers, and archival materials relating to every aspect of Irish and Irish American life, including a facsimile of the Book of Kells, the Lindisfarne Gospels, the Annals of Ireland, the Chief O'Neill musical anthologies, the Eileen McNulty Poetry Collection, the Emmett Larkin Collection on the Church of Ireland, and the Liam MacGabhann Celtic Language Collection), 4626 N. Knox Avenue, Chicago, 773-282-7035, ongoing.

Four exhibitions are offered at the Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 312-443-3600: "The Beauty of the Beasts: Artists and their Pets in Twentieth-Century Art" (a display of books featuring artists and the animals who inspired them, either as beloved friends or convenient models) in the Ryerson and Burnham Libraries, through March 16; "Multiples, Parts, and Pieces" (focusing primarily on late twentieth century artists such as Marcel Broodthaers, Jenny Holzer, Dieter Roth and Ed Ruscha, whose work provides a glimpse of how artistic concepts are employed in books and serial publications) in the Ryerson and Burnham Libraries, March 18 through May 18; "The Bill Peet Storybook Menagerie" (sketches, storyboards, and thirty-four books by Bill Peet, creator of Dumbo and Cinderella and Walt Disney's principle animator for twenty-seven years) in Galleries 15 and 16, through May 24; "Daniel Burnham's Plan of Chicago" (part of a citywide celebration of the Burnham Plan Centennial, including maps, diagrams, perspective drawings, and watercolors, historically significant and artistically exceptional, many of them in fragile condition and rarely displayed publicly) in Gallery 24, through December 15.

"A Host of Golden Daffodils: Selections from the Rare Book Collection" (delightful examples of daffodils in botanical illustration, from woodcuts to color engraving) in the Lenhardt Library, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, 847-835-8202, through May 10.

"Collaborative Vision: The Poetic Dialogue Project" (thirty-one artist-made books and mixed media art installations created by visual artists in collaboration with poets) in the Yates Gallery, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington Street, Chicago, 312-744-6630, through April 5.

"Lincoln Treasures" (a year-long centennial celebration exhibiting many of the museum's most prized Lincoln artifacts and after April 1 featuring one of five handwritten copies of The Gettysburg Address) at the Chicago History Museum, 1501 N. Clark Street, Chicago, 312-642-4600, ongoing.

"Makeready, Choke, Bleed, and Knockout" (works by artist-printers who utilized high speed rotary offset presses for reasons of speed, accurate registration, use of color imagery, and the creation of multiples) in the Gallery at the Center for Book & Paper Arts, Columbia College, 1104 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, 312-369-6630, through March 31.

"Lincolniana" (fifty books, pamphlets, graphic works, and maps relating to Lincoln, including limited editions of his speeches and poetry, accounts of his stories and jokes, biographical materials, book presentations written by Carl Sandburg and Paul Angle, artifacts from the 1909 commemorative events, and additional materials from the collections of Brunson MacChesney, son of General Nathan MacChesney, head of Illinois's 1909 Lincoln Centennial Celebration, and the estates of James R. and Betsy Needham Getz) in Archives and Special Collections,

lower level, Donnelly and Lee Library, Lake Forest College, 555 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, 847-735-5064, through April 24.

"Buckminster Fuller: Starting with the Universe" (an exhibition of Fuller's extraordinary body of work, from his geodesic domes to books popularizing the terms "spaceship earth" and "synergetics," organized by the Whitney Museum of Art in association with the Department of Special Collections at the Stanford University Libraries), Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, 220 E. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, 312-280-2660, March 14 through June 21.

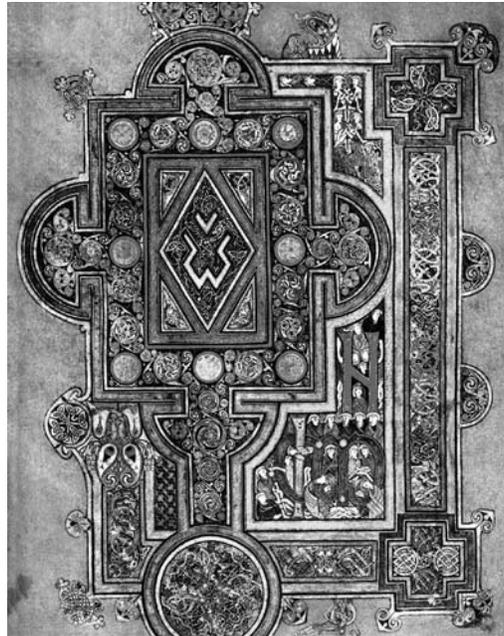
"Exploration 2009: The Chicago Calligraphy Collective's Annual Juried Exhibition" (an annual juried exhibition of members' work, including handmade artists' books and broadsides as well as three-dimensional works executed in various media and styles, from classical to contemporary)

in the Hermon Dunlap Smith Gallery, The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton Street, Chicago, 312-943-9090, through April 17.

Two fascinating exhibitions are featured in the Special Collections Research Center, Joseph Regenstein Library, University of Chicago, 1100 East 57th Street, Chicago, 773-702-0095: "East European Jews in the German-Jewish Imagination from the Ludwig Rosenberger Library of Judaica" (documents tracing the experience of German Jews, from emancipation in the nineteenth century to the eve of World War II) in the Rosenberger Library of Judaica Gallery, through June 22; "On Equal Terms: Educating Women at the University of Chicago" (archival material relating to women at the University as members of an intellectual community, one that provided opportunities for political activism and community involvement, for friendship, romance, and sexual experimentation) in the Main Gallery, through July 14.

"The 'Writing' of Modern Life: The Etching Revival in France, Britain, and the U.S., 1850-1940" (works by European and American artists including Haden, Meryon, and Whistler show how printmakers of this period intertwined the arts of etching and writing) at the Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, 5500 S. Greenwood, Chicago, 773-702-0200, through April 19.

Bernice Gallagher will be happy to receive your listings at either 847-234-5255 or gallagher@lakeforest.edu.



Book of Kells at Irish American Heritage Center

PHOTOGRAPH FROM [HTTP://WWW.AKROPOLA.ORG/](http://www.akropola.org/)

Caxtonians Collect: Ann C. Weller

Fifty-first in a series of interviews with members

Interviewed by Robert McCamant

Ann Weller became a librarian through the back door. She had majored in chemistry (and minored in mathematics) at the College of Saint Teresa in Winona, Minnesota. On graduation, she sent out applications to many chemistry-related firms around the midwest. The only one to respond with a job offer was Abbott Laboratories of North Chicago, and they wanted her to be an information scientist in the library.

As it turned out, being a librarian proved interesting – interesting enough that she decided to go to the University of Chicago's (now discontinued) Graduate Library School. While still working on her degree, she started working in the Reference Services Department of the American Medical Association, eventually becoming its director.

From there, she moved to the health sciences library at the University of Illinois in Chicago. The special collections there interested her, and she was named Curator in 2001. That library is actually a part of the larger University's library, so it was a natural step to become Director of Special Collections overall, which happened in 2006. A year later, Peggy Sullivan nominated her to join the Caxton Club.

Her job puts Weller in charge of a diverse set of collections. "The most significant rare-book collections we have are part of Health Sciences," she says. "We have amazing rare books there, since the College of Medicine is 150 years old. Nephrology and neurology are specialties, but we also have beautiful old herbals and anatomy books."

In the main library, Special Collections' strength is its Chicago collections which were started with the Gutter Collection of Chicagoana. It consists of over 5,000 items

including printed books, periodicals, maps, prints, and manuscripts relating to the history of Chicago. This collection, amassed by Lawrence Gutter beginning in 1948, was acquired by the UIC Library in 1982 and is the foundation for their rare book collection.

The Gutter Collection pointed the Chicago direction for Special Collections, and increasingly it has moved towards manuscripts. "We

there. "We're doing okay for space," Weller says. "New collections are always coming in, but we manage to almost keep up." The best collections to get are the ones which come with funds for processing. One such is the Comer collection of "City 2000" photographs of Chicago at the Millennium. "There are a half-million images! We have several people working on cataloging and digitizing them.

About 50,000 of them will be online shortly."

The archives of the Cook County Forest Preserve District are on their way – a sizeable chunk of material to accommodate. But she is eyeing potential spaces for it.

Weller does not have a personal book collection. "We do collect Weller pottery, however. It was made in Ohio in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The name is sheer coincidence." She lives in Hyde Park with her husband, Glenn, about four



Photograph by Robert McCamant

have almost 600 different manuscript collections. We have processed most but not all of them. It's very labor-intensive to process manuscript collections. So we have to practice a sort of triage, trying to estimate which collections will be of the most value for scholars or the public."

[Editor's note: I looked online at the finding aids for the Chicago designer Carl Regehr. It lists 43 folders in four boxes, some over-size. With this help, one could quickly find materials of interest, whether they were the posters for the Kennedy inaugural or Regehr's speeches from 1968 to 1981. The Carl Sandburg collection, which probably gets more use, has 17 boxes and 134 folders.]

Often when a manuscript collection is acquired there is an accompanying library, but the books are seldom so rare that they need to be a part of Special Collections. In such cases the books are compared to the general collection, and when appropriate, accessioned

blocks from the Obamas. The famous neighbors have not interrupted their life too much. "There were only a couple of times streets were closed." The Wellers have two children and three – soon to be four – grandchildren.

But she does have an impressive publication history, ranging from book reviews to studies of how faculty uses information sources. She has had a continuing interest in peer review in academic journals, leading to many articles and culminating in *Editorial Peer Review: Its Strengths and Weaknesses*, published in 2001. "I suspect I accidentally came out with that book at just the right time," she explains. "The days of formal peer review are probably numbered. Online facilities will multiply the opportunities for everyone with interest in a topic to express an opinion and critique the science and scholarship. The number of gatekeepers will increase. Personally, I believe the quality of scholarship will increase."

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Bookmarks...

Luncheon Program

Friday March 13, 2009, Union League Club

Paul T. Ruxin

“Hester Thrale Piozzi: The Emancipated Bluestocking”

Caxtonian Paul Ruxin arrives with another fascinating tale from the 18th and early 19th centuries: the story of a talented, determined, literary-minded woman who has been historically misrepresented. What did Samuel Johnson’s biographer, James Boswell, have to do with Piozzi’s historical mistreatment? And why? What is the truth about Samuel Johnson and Hester Thrale’s relationship: did it involve ritualistic whippings (of Samuel by Hester), as stated in a December 2008 article in the *New Yorker*? What action by Piozzi was unacceptable to English society of the time, and led to her being considered a bridge between the 18th and 20th centuries? Ruxin is a Samuel Johnson scholar and has assembled what is thought to be the most complete collection of Johnson and Boswell items in private hands. He is a Chicago attorney and Chair of the Board of Governors of the Folger Shakespeare Library.

The March luncheon will take place at the Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson Boulevard. Luncheon buffet (in the main dining room on six) opens at 11:30 am; program (in a different room, to be announced) 12:30-1:30 pm. Luncheon is \$30. The March dinner will take place at The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St. Timing: spirits at 5 pm, dinner at 6 pm, program at 7:30 pm. Price for dinner is \$48.

Beyond March...

APRIL LUNCHEON

The luncheon will be held at the Union League Club on Friday, April 10. Noted food historian, author, lecturer, and avid cookbook collector Penelope Bingham will entertain.

APRIL DINNER

Celebrate Tax Day, Wednesday, April 15, with Peter J. Stanlis speaking on “Robert Frost: The Poet as a Philosophical Dualist,” at The Newberry Library. Stanlis’ new book, reviewed in the September 2007 *Caxtonian*, is the first full-length study to understand and elaborate the underpinning of all Frost’s work – his philosophical dualism.

Dinner Program

Wednesday, March 18, 2009, Newberry Library

Paul Saenger

“Chapter and Verse”

“...of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.” – Ecclesiastes 12:12

When the author of Ecclesiastes penned those words, they might have appeared five or six columns in on a scroll and fifteen lines from the top. As the book gained canonical stature and became incorporated into the Bible, however, scholars needed a way to reliably refer to such nuggets. The Bible was divided into books in antiquity but the Dead Sea Scrolls had no chapters or numbered verses, nor does a Torah scroll. Where and when did our numbered chapters and verses originate? Caxtonian Paul Saenger has become preoccupied with this question and will share with us the fruit of his extensive research on medieval manuscripts and early printed books.

Paul Saenger is the George A. Poole III Curator of Rare Books and Collection Development Librarian at the Newberry Library.

*For reservations call 312-255-3710 or email caxtonclub@newberry.org; **reservations are needed by noon Tuesday for the Friday luncheon, and by noon Friday for the Wednesday dinner.** See www.caxtonclub.org for additional parking and transit information.*

MAY LUNCHEON

The luncheon will be held at the Union League Club on Friday, May 8. Speaker to be announced.

MAY DINNER

On May 20, Nancy Ramage of Ithaca College (and sister of Caxtonian Ed Hirschland) will explore the relationship between Gertrude Stein and the Cone sisters, who were her youthful friends in Baltimore, and who traveled with her to Europe. Ramage’s new book about the sisters, *Collecting at Full Tilt*, will be available for purchase.