

## Remembering Frank Piehl

Club Historian and author of our history

Robert McCamant

Frank Piehl gave the Caxton Club the largest gift it has ever received: he wrote its history. Club presidents and council members have turned to it to give themselves an idea of what the Club stands for, what its traditions have been. In a sense, *The Caxton Club 1895-1995 – Celebrating a Century of the Book in Chicago* is the most important tangible representation of what we are.

Frank Piehl was born in Chicago on October 10, 1926. After high school he joined the Navy but it was too late in World War II for him to see much action. But service in the Navy did mean he was entitled to benefits from the GI Bill, so he studied chemistry at the University of Chicago, ultimately earning a PhD there. Out of school, he applied for a job at Standard Oil of Indiana (what is now called Amoco). That was the only employer he ever had. By the time of his retirement, in 1987, his title was Manager of Analytical Services. He met Janet Loy and married her.

While at Amoco he wrote articles like a 1952 one titled "Alkylation of Cyclopropyl Phenyl Ketone." Its abstract concludes: "It is suggested that the base-induced transformations of the nitrocyclopropyl ketones and likewise the rearrangements of epoxyketones represent processes in which ring opening and proton removal are concerted." Was it any wonder that he looked around for a hobby? In a 1996 *Caxtonian* article, "A Bibliophile Views the Rewards and Challenges of Collecting Books," he wrote:

I began building a personal library in 1967 as part of a study of Chicago and Illinois history, a hobby adopted to cope with the onset of my



Frank Piehl, right, with JoAnne Baumgartner at the opening of the Leaf Book Exhibit in 2005

"mid-life crisis." Unwittingly, I also embarked on a path of discovery that would change my life dramatically. Used book stores became my regular haunts, and new horizons were uncovered about Chicago and Midwest literature, the writings and publications of Eugene Field, and limited editions and fine bindings.

He goes on to tell how he came to join the Club. The proprietor of a Wells Street bookshop tried to interest him by telling him "We put a bottle on every table, have a good dinner, and listen to someone speak about books." But Piehl wasn't ready and declined, instead buying a book (significantly, a book published by the Caxton Club) from the man. Years later another dealer, from Geneva, repeated the offer and he accepted. Soon, he noted, "more and more Caxton Club publications adorned my shelves, reflecting my expanding interests."

In fact, he came to own a complete set of Club publications, a fact he proudly announced to the world in "A Bibliophile

Views..." mentioned earlier. "When studying the antiquity of the materials used in making books, I can do so in a gorgeous copy of Frederic Kenyon's *Ancient Books and Modern Discoveries*, designed for the Caxton Club by Bruce Rogers, signed by 155 Caxtonians, and presented to Walter Muir Whitehill when he spoke...at the Christmas Revels in 1961." For the record, the final book that finished his collection was *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Etchings and Dry-Points of James Abbot McNeil Whistler*, written by Howard Mansfield and published in 1909.

But we are getting ahead of ourselves. Piehl had eased into book collecting through photography and giving occasional talks about the area around Munster, Indiana, where he lived. He took pictures of rivers and wetlands, and started noticing an incredible variety of bridges. That interested him, but he couldn't find out much about them in the local library. So he started haunting used bookstores.

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# CAXTONIAN

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FRANK PIEHL, from page 1

Then Amoco moved him to a new research facility in Naperville. The family's new house had room for more bookshelves, and his book collection began to take on a life of its own. Early Illinois historical works by LaSalle, Wakefield, Charlevoix, and Benton – published in handsome editions by the Caxton Club – were among his purchases. In a short *Caxtonian* note he crowed about wonderful increases in value among these titles. "In the late 1930s, when the Great Depression discouraged the sale of Caxton Club publications, the secretary...issued a printed notice...announcing that copies of 17 titles were still in stock and available for purchase at reduced prices. The oldest, *The French Bookbinders of the Eighteenth Century*, published in 1904, could be had for \$9.00, as compared to the publication price of \$18.00 This book now sells for over \$400 in the antiquarian market."

But Piehl's most important area of collecting was Eugene Field. He is noted for two kinds of writing: humorous verse, often intended for an audience of children, and newspaper columns, also frequently humorous. Though Field was a native of St. Louis, he spent his final productive years in Chicago. Among his Chicago subjects were a half-real, half-mythic group of people known as the "Saints and Sinners," who were deeply involved in book collecting. Piehl argues in his Caxton history that Field's columns were influential in the formation of the Club. (Though Field knew many of the founders of the Club, for some reason he was not himself a founder, and he died a few months after the Club was formalized.)

Piehl gave his Field collection to the University of Chicago Library, which led to a major exhibition, "Eugene Field and His Books" (1994-95) commemorating the centenary of Eugene Field's death. Alice Schreyer, of the Special Collections section there, remembers that "During our collaboration on the exhibit, Frank was very pleased to see how his collection complemented the Library's. The catalogue that he produced of his marvelous collection will be of great value to researchers using [it]."

JoAnne Baumgartner got to know Piehl at the time of the Field exhibit because she interviewed him on her cable TV show. "He loved discussing Field and one could see this man was a lover of books just from the sparkle in his eyes and the zeal with which he discussed Field's life," she remembered. They soon became fast friends and would frequently come to meetings together. She remembers him as something of a gourmand. "He liked going to restaurants known for specialty dishes. I know this firsthand because we both had a fondness for the perch at a restaurant called Phil Schmidt's in Hammond, Indiana, near Frank's first Amoco office. We would often discuss how good the sauces they made were

and what great perch and frog legs they served."

The timing of the Club centennial meant that Piehl was an ideal choice to write the Club history. He had retired from Amoco and had time to complete his first retirement project, writing and publishing a family history. So when opportunity knocked, Piehl jumped at the chance. He ended up spending two years on the task.

After finishing the Club history, Piehl lingered at the Newberry organizing the Club's archives. Paul Gehl says, "My own most vivid memory picture of Frank is him sitting in the Newberry Special Collections reading room surrounded by archival boxes and folders, pencils and notepads, as he worked 3 to 5 hours each week for three years (1995-1998) organizing the archives after they were donated to the Newberry. After writing the centennial history from the poorly organized files stacked in the Newberry basement between 1990 and 1993, he was determined to make it easier for the next guy."

Gehl's summary of Frank Piehl: "Frank was as passionate as any Caxtonian I know about the Club's present and future fortunes, and he had a unique historical perspective on it. Perhaps because he knew the history so well (and collected Club imprints meticulously) he believed in our having an active publishing program, and he had firm ideas about what kinds of things we ought to put in print."

Because of his work on the Caxton history, Piehl had the unique opportunity to get in the last word on himself. In the appendix of the book, devoted to mini-biographies of members over the years, he writes:

PIEHL, Frank John (b. 1926). The Chicago-born chemist received a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago (1952) and worked in the research department of Amoco Corporation for thirty-five years until retiring in 1987. In his early forties, he became interested in local history, was infected by the *bacillus librorum*, and has since collected Chicagoana, Eugene Fieldiana, and Caxtoniana. He is a member of several historical societies and is a life member of the Chicago Historical Society, having contributed three articles to its *Chicago History* magazine. He privately published a family history in 1989. He joined the Caxton Club in 1985 and has served on the Council since 1990. He spoke at Caxton Club dinners on "The Truth About Father Marquette" (1988) and on "Eugene Field – Bard, Bibliophile and Bon-Vivant" (1992). He also spoke at Friday luncheons on "One Man's Approach to Family History" (1990) and on "Wau-Bun" (1991). In 1993 he was designated Club Historian and subsequently wrote the current history of the Club, *The Caxton Club 1895-1995 – Celebrating a Century of the Book in Chicago*.

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# Frank Piehl, Book Collector

As told by someone who sold him many a volume

Tom Joyce

From the upstairs hallway, it might have been the entrance to any suburban kid's bedroom, but one step into the room revealed that it was – in modern parlance – Frank's man-cave. It was the place where Frank did manly work. In it was a large desk surrounded on three sides with floor-to-ceiling book cases, and the shelves were teeming with Chicago and Illinois history books. There was scarcely an empty slot where even one more book could be inserted. It was the second-best collection of Chicago material I had ever seen in private hands. It was Frank J. Piehl's library.

In the beginning, it was the bridges. Bridges kept appearing

in the photographs of the waterways of the Greater Calumet Region. Why were there so many of them, and why were they so different? "Why is there so much variety in the bridges?" Frank asked himself, as he prepared another illustrated lecture on the ecology of the Calumet region.

In the 1950s Frank was a scientist, a young chemist working for Standard Oil of Indiana. In the Whiting area of northwest Indiana, Standard Oil employed a lot of chemists. In his spare time, Frank gave talks to local community groups about the oil refinery and how it tried to be a good neighbor to the locality. Frank liked science and hated history, but his native curiosity wanted to know why there was so much variety in those bridges.

That was when he started buying books

about bridges. Then it was books about Lake Michigan, and Lake Calumet, and Wolf Lake, and the Chicago River, and the Calumet River, and the Kankakee River. The books lead to more questions, which lead to more books to answer the questions.

Standard Oil, now Amoco Oil & Chemical, grew in tandem with the expansion of the

specialized in Americana. Frank was a regular customer of Brisch. One day he told Frank that a guy had opened another book shop in town, The Scholar Gypsy, Ltd. It was only three blocks away, and perhaps Frank should check it out.

It was not long before Mr. Piehl climbed the long staircase to the second floor office where I



A Centennial-era council meeting with Piehl center rear.

interstate expressway system. They decided to open a large new facility in Naperville in 1970. Frank was tapped to be one of the managers of the Analytical Division at the new plant. That was when he moved his wife, Janet, his daughter, Laura, and his book collection to their new home on Mary Lane.

Eventually Frank became the Chief of the Analytical Division, which entitled him to a corner office overlooking one of the retention ponds and its famous flock of year-round geese, and to a larger salary, which enabled him to buy more books.

One factor in my decision to open my fledgling rare book business in west suburban Geneva, Illinois, in 1975 was that the town already had a decent antiquarian bookery, The Valley Book Shop. Its owner, Tom Brisch,

was trying to find some customers. He quickly became a regular customer, often leaving work early on a Friday afternoon to visit one or both of the bookshops in Geneva, with plans to make it home in time for supper with his family.

As we became friendlier I was invited to visit his home and to see his library. I had already seen the Chicagoana acquired by Larry Gutter, who had a head start on Frank, and whose complete collection was subsequently acquired by The University of Illinois at Chicago. So I knew enough to appreciate that Frank had assembled a library of depth and breadth, with little hidden nuggets.

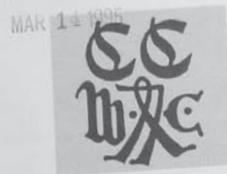
Of course Frank had a run of most of the Lakeside Classics and the four volumes by  
*See JOYCE ON FRANK PIEHL, page 4*

Alfred T. Andreas on Chicago and Cook County, but he also had a deluxe copy of John Carbutt's *Biographical Sketches of the Leading Men of Chicago, 1868*, with the tipped-in photographs of Chicago's leading lights. It was the first copy of it that I recall seeing. Reportedly, only 500 copies were made, and many of those would have perished in the Great Fire of 1871.

Another monumental book was the twin folio volumes in luxurious brown morocco, slipcased, of *The Architectural Work of Graham, Anderson, Probst, and White*. Frank had the Standard Oil copy of this work that showed architectural designs from the design firm of Daniel Burnham and John Root, and their successor firms. Each building is represented with floor plans and strong photogravures. Buildings designed by the firm each received a set of this book; the Standard Oil Building on Michigan Avenue had received one. Frank got the set when he happened past the library in the old building on a day when they were weeding out materials their librarian thought would no longer be needed. Today this is a \$5,000 set.

Once, during a late afternoon visit to my second-floor book emporium, having already selected several books, Frank almost stumbled over a green cloth book leaning against the wall. Reaching down to move it, he noticed it was written by the architect and sketcher, Earl H. Reed. On opening it, Frank found that it had a full-page pencil drawing of a sand dune. In fact the book was one of Reed's multiple books on the Indiana Sand Dunes. "What's this?" Frank demanded, "and what are you planning to do with it? And why haven't you offered it to me?"

As I recall, I stammered something about not realizing that he would be interested in it, and that I was going to offer it to the Geneva Public Library. After all, I had discovered that Earl Reed, his brother Charles, and his sister



# Caxtonian

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## Club Centennial Celebrations Continue at Appointed Times and Places

One hundred and sixty Caxtonians and friends gathered February 15, 1995 at the Fine Arts Building for refreshments and an engrossing tour of the lovely former home of the Studebaker Corporation. Caxtonians Ralph Newman and Glen Wiche were hosts, and Wiche led a tour through the halls of the old building, which yet exude the ambience of the distinguished tenants who once had their workplaces there. A special six-page publication prepared by Wiche, "Some Famous Early Tenants of the Fine Arts Building in Their Own Words," became the evening's keepsake. Arrangements for the tour were made through building owner Tom Graham, whose graciousness was much appreciated.

The dinner meeting, held following the tour under the sculpted domed ceiling of the Gold Room of the Congress Hotel, continued the joyous celebration of the Caxton centennial begun at the Newberry in January.

Master of Ceremonies Robert Cotner presented a literary prelude from *The Great Learning of Confucian Philosophers*, which, he observed, was most appropriate in honoring the distinguished Donnelley family that night and as a preface for the evening's presentation. He then read:

*"The ancients who wished to illustrate the highest virtue throughout the empire first ordered well their own states; wishing to order well their own states, they first regulated their families; wishing to regulate their families, they first cultivated their persons; wishing to cultivate their persons, they first rectified their hearts; wishing to rectify their hearts, they first sought to be sincere in their thoughts; wishing to be sincere in their thoughts,*



Caxtonian Historian and author of the Caxton centennial history Frank J. Piehl discusses the early history and development of The Caxton Club, at a luncheon meeting, February 3, 1995, in the East Room of The Newberry Library, where 45 members and guests gathered as part of the club's centennial celebration and "The Year of the Book in Chicago."

*they extended their knowledge to the utmost. This extension of knowledge lay in the investigation of things."*

Following dinner, Caxtonian Bruce Beck introduced the evening's speaker, former Caxtonian and Yale University Printer Emeritus Greer Allen, who, with his wife Sue, has maintained close associations with Chicago and many Caxtonians over the years.

In a brilliant, illustrated lecture, Allen then traced the history of the R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company of Chicago since its founding in 1860, detailing its rise to become the world's largest and most successful printing facility. With emphasis on the long-standing relationships between the Donnelley family and company with

The Caxton Club, Allen told of the unique characteristics of family members and company employees who have played such an instrumental role in the life and distinguished nature of the company in the world of books.

Following Allen's presentation, Cotner invited Caxtonian and retired company executive Thomas Donnelley, who is one of three Donnelley family members in the club and whose family has been active in it for four generations, to give a response. Noting how rare it is to have a gathering to honor a printing company, Donnelley pledged, "When The Caxton Club celebrates its 200th anniversary, you can be sure there will be a Donnelley company and some of my family will yet be members."

One Caxtonian observed following the program, "I thought we'd have a let-down after our wonderful Centennial Gala last month — but not so. This evening was equally marvelous!"

## Columbia College To Open Caxtonian Book Arts Exhibit

The Chicago Center for Book & Paper Arts at Columbia College will open an exhibit, "The Look of the Book: Work by Caxton Club Members," on March 24, 1995. An opening reception for the exhibit between 5 to 7 p.m. will also dedicate the Frank Archer College at the center's bindery.

The exhibit features Caxtonians who create fine bindings, limited editions, book designs, and artist's books. Tours of the center dedicated to the book arts will also be available. The exhibit will be held at 218 S. Wabash Street, 7th Floor. It will run through May 19.

Barbara Lazarus Metz

Myrtle were all authors who had lived for a time in Geneva, Illinois. "Well, the Library is not going to get it, because it is going home with me," he asserted as he pulled out his checkbook to make a second payment of the afternoon. In his subsequent visits, he usually departed with a barbed but friendly question such as, "What else are you hiding from me that I want?"

In the late 1970s, before any of us were inducted as Caxtonians, we started a book club for distant west suburbanites. It was first called, "The Fox and Hounds," and held its first meeting at the Wheaton College Library, where the co-founder, Paul Snezek, was the Assistant Director of the Library. Frank, of course, was a charter member. Before long, the group changed from that unwieldy name, and resuscitated the name and aims of that distinguished old Chicago group, the

DOFOBs. That group was co-founded by Roswell Martin (brother of Eugene) Field about 1900. The name stood for Damned Old Fools Over Books. The group met several times a year at the college library, my shop, or at the homes of members.

Among those listed on the DOFOB roster were other names Caxtonians would recognize such as Charles Miner, Fina Bray, Susan Hanes, Bob and Norma Cotner, Jean Larkin, and Martha Albue. In fact, little did the Caxton Club realize what it did in 1995 when it effectively ceded control of the Club to the DOFOBs. Indeed, in that centennial epoch, Karen Skubish, as Secretary, was the only elected officer who was not already a DOFOB! And on top of that, Frank Piehl crafted the official history of the Caxton Club, and was appointed by President Cotner to be Historian! The truth can finally be revealed.

Growing up, Frank decided to be a scientist,

We report with sadness the deaths of

**Helen Sclair '03,**

who died on December 16, 2009,  
and of

**Roger W. Barrett '41,**

who died on January 25, 2010.

Remembrances will appear in a future issue.

a chemist, and he disliked history in school. As an adult, surrounded by tomes of history, Frank began to conceive a history of his ancestors, and, in his spare time, composed *The Family of Johann Piehl*, a nearly 400-page history of the first Piehl in America and his descendants. Frank paid for several hundred copies out of his own pocket in 1989. The printer used the money to buy first edition books by Edgar Rice Burroughs, so it was a win-win situation.

The history of his family gave Frank the confidence he needed, when asked, that he could research and write a book-length treatment for the Caxton Club's centennial history. He threw himself into the project in the early 1990s with gusto.

In his adulthood, Frank had suffered a severe injury to his knee that required him to wear a polio-type leg brace most of the time, and made walking most distances a problem. Thus, instead of taking the train, Frank drove to the Newberry Library many, many days to research the Club archives for the book. In addition to the history, Frank undertook to re-check and update the bibliography of the more than a hundred publications of the Club. His enthusiasm for the project and the Club, and his devotion to detail is why he set out to acquire every Club publication which he did not already have in his collection. (Frank already owned two copies of Milo Quai's *The Development of Chicago, 1674-1914*, of which one belonged to Ralph Fletcher Seymour, who designed the book, and was one of only 3 special copies printed on vellum; it had been rebound – handsomely, but rebound

– after suffering damage in a fire at Seymour's home in Ravinia. So Frank tracked down and acquired one of the other two vellum copies.)

Janet Piehl received great care from a local hospice society before she died. Frank himself was not a religious person, but he was impressed by the care and treatment his wife was given. It was the beginning of multiple changes in Frank's life. For one thing, he began helping out at the hospice. He also got involved in a local group of widows and widowers, who met monthly for dinner and socializing. It offered support to people who

had recently lost their partners, as well as providing continuing interest in the longer-term adjustments of newly-single seniors. After years of managing for Amoco Oil, it was only natural for Frank to become one of the major organizers of the dinners and field trips the group enjoyed. It was not unusual for Frank to ferry members to their get-togethers in his roomy Cadillac, to help make sure that they got to the meeting, and that they returned home safely. Similarly Frank would ferry west suburban Caxtonians into the city for the Wednesday dinner meetings.

Eugene Field was a large part of Frank's life. In the introduction to his gift catalogue of the first part of Field collection, Frank wrote, "I bought my first book about him in 1978 at Powell's bookstore on East 57th Street near the University of Chicago. It was

by and about him."

Frank fell in love with the remarkable charms of Eugene Field, aka the poet of childhood, and the author of *Love Affairs of a Bibliomaniac*. Joyously, a man who had cared little for poetry began buying up green volumes of verses. Perhaps he thought they would be fun to share with his three granddaughters, and later the great-grandchildren. Eugene Field was also the first syndicated daily newspaper columnist. It was in his Sharps & Flats column for the *Daily News* that Field named the rare book department of the old McClurg's Bookstore, on State Street, the Saints and Sinners corner, as a reference to the large number of clergy who bought there, rubbing shoulders with journalists, and businessmen and other rough types.

Eugene Field was a great fit for Frank as a new enthusiasm for a Caxtonian. Not only

## Susan Hanes Remembers Frank Piehl

I first met Frank soon after I joined the Caxton Club in 1995. We became friends during the Presidential tenure of Tom Joyce, when Caxtonians living in the western suburbs periodically met as members of the DOFOBs. I was living in River Forest at the time, and Frank invited me to join this spirited group of book lovers.

When I began to fill in as secretary at the Council meetings, Frank was there to answer my questions concerning the form of the minutes and the names of members I did not yet know. His humor and warmth were infectious, and I joined others seeking a place at his table at the Midday Club dinners, where a lively evening was guaranteed.

After my husband Houston's accidental death in 1999, it was Frank who came to offer his condolences on behalf of the Club. His sympathetic counsel filled me with hope and his assurance that the Caxton Club would be a place of healing was proven true, due in no small part to the warmth of

his friendship.

In 2000, I was asked to speak at a Caxton dinner meeting. It was Frank who enthusiastically encouraged me to do it. I remember that on the appointed November evening, he was at the Club early to get a good seat right up next to the podium, where he said he could offer me the best moral support. I was anxious about speaking before this august group, but Frank assured me that if I felt nervous, I needed only to look at him as I spoke and he would put me at ease. I remember that I stood up at the podium, took a deep breath, and looked down at my friend. He was fast asleep.

Frank leaves a great legacy to the Caxton Club that goes far beyond his seminal centenary history of the Club. His appreciation of all things literary and his enjoyment of those who shared this passion infused the Club with warmth and a spirit of camaraderie. I will miss him.

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Robert Conrow's *Field Days*.... I read the book shortly after buying it and was charmed by the account of Field's life and how it related to the history of Chicago journalism at the close of the nineteenth century.

"In future visits to the antiquarian book stores I picked up a few more books by and about Field, and before long I was hooked. After reading his poetry and prose and the accounts of this talented and humorous man, I realized that I had been infected by what Field called the *bacillus librorum*. I simply had to acquire more books, letters and manuscripts

was Field a bibliomaniac himself, but his books appeared in fine editions, with deluxe treatments. What's more, Field was a careful penman who composed his poems in his small but crisp holograph and with colored inks. Thus his manuscripts are compelling, attractive, and very frameable. Frank acquired as many as he could. He also helped to underwrite the production of several small books that came out under the auspices of The Eugene Field Society and Home in St. Louis, of which Frank became a board member. See *JOYCE ON FRANK PIEHL*, page 7

# Frank Piehl, Scholar and Friend of All

As told by someone who labored with him in the vineyard of the Caxton Club Centennial

Robert Cotner

In October 1988, Frank Piehl sent an announcement from the DOFOBs, inviting members to the Cotner home in Aurora, for an evening devoted to the bookish business that so consumed all DOFOBs. On the evening of November 9, 1988, according to the announcement and memory, the Cotner Robert Frost Collection was on display and discussed. About a dozen people came that evening, and we enjoyed our usual bibliomaniac fellowship, enhanced by Norma's delicious desserts and coffees.

at the same time – at most DOFOB meetings. The meetings were fun! Because Frank was fun! He enjoyed books more than anything in life – unless it was people. He baited me at a meeting (held at our house) in 1988, asking me with a sly smile, “What do you think of Eugene Field as a poet?” Field, Frank's collecting specialty, was often denigrated as a poet in academe, and Frank was testing me, an old academic. I was cautiously politic – don't ask me what I told him that night – I passed the test, and Frank and I became fast friends.

When I joined the Caxton Club in 1990, my association with Frank doubled: I saw him

During the two years of writing, he and I consulted on an almost daily basis, regarding details or situations in reference to the book. He had a hard time accepting involvement of an outside editor, who suggested structural and textual changes that Frank was uncomfortable with, and he would call me for counseling and support. I always provided that for him. Sometimes a series of phone calls would be called for – to Susan Rosen (who, as Chair of the Publication Committee, had general oversight over the book's production), and then to Frank. We'd talk further about whatever the situation was, and resolve as required.



Club officers during the Centennial year included: (rear) Hayward Blake, Frank Piehl, Karen Skubish, Charles Miner, Brother Michael Grace, and (front) Tom Joyce, Bob Cotner.

The DOFOBs were an ancient order of book aficionados in Chicago, known in the full glory of their name as: “Damned Old Fools Over Books.” Frank Piehl loved the name and had gathered people into the group who, he thought, represented it well. Besides yours truly, Tom Joyce, Fina Bray, Jean Larkin, Peter Stanlis, Charlie Miner, Paul Snezek, Susan Hanes, and David Knowles were among the regular attendees at our irregularly-scheduled meetings, always in someone's home in the western suburbs.

In recent years, Frank Piehl had become President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Program Chair, and congenial host – all

regularly at Caxton dinners and irregularly at DOFOB meetings. During the days of the Caxton Centennial, 1993-95, our friendship was enriched by our unique roles in the events celebrating our Club's 100th Anniversary. I became the President, and Frank became the Historian, of the Club.

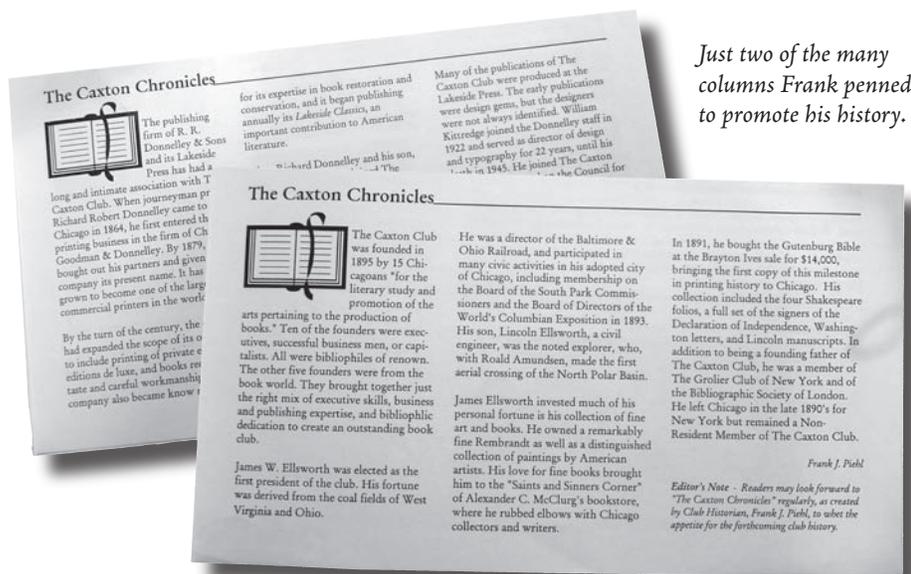
In his capacity as Historian, Frank undertook the writing of the Caxton Club history, *The Caxton Club, 1895-1995 – Celebrating a Century of the Book in Chicago*, which was published in January 1995, as part of our Centennial observance. His devotion to books and great love of the Caxton Club were magnificently fulfilled in the creation of this book.

I don't know how most books by organizations are produced, but Frank's marvelous history was a collaborative effort between dedicated people who, in spite of differing opinions regarding its creation, expression, and production, realized the creation of a splendid book.

I also knew Frank as an ardent contributor to the *Caxtonian*, which we started in 1993. He took his role as Historian seriously and produced regular articles, reviews, obituaries, and humorous pieces – the last often submitted under a pseudonym. A review of the *Caxtonian* index reveals Frank's voluminous contributions.

The University of Chicago organized an exhibition in

1995 based on Frank's Eugene Field collection and the holdings of the University's special collections. The exhibition, “Eugene Field and His Books,” was an extension, in many ways, of what Frank was writing in his history. The late Ned Rosenheim, past Caxton President and beloved U of C professor, spoke at the opening of the exhibition. His remarks were published in the March 1995 *Caxtonian*. Ned observed of Frank, “I am sure Frank's scientific and technological background has had great effect upon his habits of investigation and his analysis and organization of materials.... But more central to this occasion, to this library in which we are meeting, to the Chicagoan and



Just two of the many columns Frank penned to promote his history.

Caxtonian traditions, are those broad habits of learning, judgment, and generosity which, combined, I like to call by a rather old-fashioned word. That word is *appreciation*. Frank has the gift of appreciation in a rare degree. And toward him, we in turn are deeply appreciative as well."

The appreciation of Frank, of which Ned

Rosenheim spoke, goes far beyond the exhibition, book, or his role as Historian. It encompassed a lifetime of devotion of books, book clubs, and friends. The Club recognized this unique devotion by naming Frank an Honorary Member of the Caxton Club in April 1997. Tom Joyce wrote of Frank at that time, saying, "No other person has known our Club as

JOYCE ON FRANK PIEHL, from page 5

There he became acquainted with hand printer and future Caxtonian Kay Michael Kramer, another fan of Eugene Field.

Dr. Piehl was not above a little friendly skullduggery. After Field's death in 1896, his works were collected in a ten-volume set. Each volume had an introduction by one of Eugene's admirers, such as Francis Wilson, Field's bosom buddy and a leading stage actor, and James Whitcomb Riley. I had just located a deluxe variant of that Collected Works in which each of the volumes had been personally signed by the introducer. The price was \$1250.00. Frank said he wanted the set, but would not buy it outright. His co-workers were planning a retirement party for him. He expected that our mutual friend, Ken Albert, would be coming to see me to buy a nice retirement gift for Frank. Frank told me to sell the set to Ken, and he would make up whatever difference there was in the price. Ken did show up, and I allowed him to buy the set for the \$300 they had collected for the gift. As it turned out, the committee spent almost that much more on gag gifts, too! In the end, everyone had a good time, a few laughs, Frank still retired – and he got to go home with something he was actually delighted to receive. On another occasion, I spotted a book in another exhibitor's booth at the Chicago International

Antiquarian Book Fair, at the Palmer House Hotel. It was a drab book bearing the hideous title, *History and Transactions of the Editors' and Publishers' Association of Missouri, 1867-1876*. Between its covers was Eugene Field's first appearance in a book. It was rare. It was \$2500. It was Eugene Field's personal copy of the book, with his genuine signature inside.

A day or so later, I reached Frank and asked if he had seen the book at the fair. He had not. I asked if he would like me to get it for him. He said it was a bad time for him because he was about to give his daughter Laura and her husband Jim some money for a down payment on a house. He asked if I thought that was a fair price for it. I replied that I had no idea, but that I knew of only one other copy of the book, and that this was, after all, Eugene's own copy of his first book appearance, so it was something that the Denver Public Library had never acquired in a century of collecting Eugene Field. I added that if the price had been, say, ten thousand dollars, then we would have been having only an educational conversation; and at twenty-five hundred it would be a stretch for him, but not impossible. Frank gave the down-payment gift. Frank bought the book. Frank smiled like the Cheshire cat.

Everybody loves a good ghost story. So did Frank. One of the more memorable DOFOB meetings was in the mid-1980s when Frank

Frank does...."

After Frank's move from Naperville to Indiana, I saw him less. But his memory has a permanent place in my mind. I think often of his gentle manner, his keen wit, his devotion to books, and his abiding friendship, expressed in so many ways to so many people. We miss his steady presence among us, but we linger in the pleasure of his memory.

At the time of the Gala, January 27, 1995, I wrote "A Verse for Our Centennial" – a sort of Eugene Field verse, if you will – which I dedicated to Frank. I repeat it here.

*Bless the word,  
a nugget cast in thought,  
ringing down through time and mind.*

*Bless the book,  
a treasured vessel,  
bringing all toward hope and truth.*

*Bless the people  
of word and book,  
cherished friends,  
singing lore, forsooth, eternal.*

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shared some of his fondness for Field at a meeting he hosted in his Naperville home. For the evening's climax, Frank turned out all of the lights in the house, and by candlelight, he gave a dramatic recitation of "Dibdin's Ghost."

In December 1994 the Special Collections Department of the University of Chicago Library produced an exhibit of 36 choice items from the Piehl collection. In 2003, Frank donated the printed books in his Field collection to his alma mater, the University of Chicago. He said, "There has never been a real scholarly biography written on him, and it's my hope that the donations will interest someone in writing that book."

"How The Internet Changed My Life", was the title of Frank's Wednesday night presentation to the Caxton Club on January 19, 2000. A much longer talk would have been, "How Books Changed My Life." This is my abridged version of how knowing Frank Piehl changed my life. Frank succumbed to age and health complications, especially from Alzheimer's, which afflicted him these past four years or so. When I think of him battling that disease, I always think about that other poet, Shakespeare, whose character Ophelia spoke of Prince Hamlet, "O, what a noble mind is here o'erthrown." I pray he has found Eugene Field in another Saints and Sinners corner.

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# Bill Brace, Dominican faculty member and Caxtonian

Peggy Sullivan

When Bill Brace was a young faculty member at Rosary College, he was interested in membership in the Caxton Club, but when he inquired about it from another librarian friend, he was told that there were probably enough librarians in the Club already and there was no interest in recruiting more. It was some twenty years later, while Mike Koenig, a Caxtonian, was dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Rosary, and Bill was a senior faculty member there, that Bill sought and achieved membership. He treasured that membership, although he did not attend Club events often. He was, however, one of the first people who greeted me when I first attended one of the Club's centennial events at the Fort-nightly Club, and he encouraged me to seek membership.

Bill died on October 1, 2008, and, although there were warm remembrances of him in several published obituaries at that time, it was September, 2009, before a memorial event in his honor was held in Oak Park, where he had lived. His widow, Pam, planned the event to include references to his Welsh heritage, highlighting pictures of his life of scholarship, travel, and friendships, and to give others the opportunity to recollect some of their favorite stories about him.

Bill, who had one older half-brother and three younger brothers, was born in Cortez, Colorado on August 20, 1929, and spent the early years of his life in the west. His father had had a concession at Mesa Verde, but lost it in the Depression of the 1930s and worked and taught on several Indian reservations during the years that Bill grew up. He and his brothers attended school with Native Americans and Bill retained an interest in Indian life throughout his lifetime. Among his collections is one of Native American rugs, highlighting some of the most interesting of the traditional patterns. American Mormon missionaries had visited Ebbw Vale [sic] in the Rhonda Valley of Wales, in the late nineteenth century, and Bill's grandfather was among their converts. Declaring that hell itself could not be worse than the mines where he worked, Bill's grandfather followed the missionaries to the U.S., eventually working as a stone mason on

the Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City, later, ironically, in the coal mines of southern Utah. An explosion there left him blind, but he benefited from the good care provided by his church. Bill took pride in that Mormon tradition as well, and when it was time to choose a college, he went to Brigham Young University (BYU) in Provo, Utah. He enlisted in the U.S. Army before graduating, becoming a Korean War-era veteran, although his skill as a typist kept him stateside in office duty during his two years of military service. Getting academic credit for some of his Army work, Bill graduated from BYU and was able to consider what he wanted to do next.

Attracted to the Graduate Library School at the University of Chicago, Bill met his wife, Phyllis Ann Mayer (Pam), in one of his first classes. Although he returned to BYU to take his first library job as documents librarian, their romance continued and he returned to Chicago, where Pam was already working as a librarian, and Bill became the government documents librarian at Chicago Teachers College North, now Northeastern Illinois University. They were married February 19, 1957.

Bill's sights were set on a faculty position in library education. He taught on an adjunct basis at Rosary College in River Forest, Illinois, then spent one year on the faculty of the library school at Florida State University, but returned when encouraged to do so by Sister Peter Claver, then dean of the library school at Rosary, to accept a full-time teaching appointment. Recognizing the need for a doctoral degree if he were to continue in library education, Bill returned to his alma mater, the University of Chicago,



and completed a number of advanced classes, but eventually completed his doctorate in 1976 at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

My first memories of Bill Brace date back to the mid-1960s, when I was new to the Chicago library community, and he and I were both officers of the very active Chicago Library Club. He brought energy, humor, and intelligence to his many volunteer activities, as he did to his teaching, writing, and research. From 1995 to 1997, when I served as dean of the Graduate School

of Library and Information Science at Rosary just before it became Dominican University, Bill was among the faculty who had much of the institutional history in his head and who could be counted on to know graduates of the program who might be recommended for various honors and appointments, as well as for library positions. He kept in touch with many of those graduates, and was remembered by them as a demanding, focused instructor. Once, as I reviewed faculty assignments, I real-

ized that Bill had also constantly expanded the areas in which he taught, offering cross-listed courses in the business school, volunteering to develop new courses, and frequently adding courses new to his repertoire. He had taught more than a dozen courses while most of the rest of the faculty had seldom offered more than seven or eight.

Donna Carroll, President of Dominican University, said of Bill at the time of his death that he had been "the caring face" of the library school for many students over the 37 years he taught there (1961-1998.) Part of that time, he also served as assistant dean. Bill was a link from Rosary to the Oak Park-River Forest community. He was active in the Oak Park Rotary Club and served as its president and editor of its newsletter. He was also president of the Prairie Club in Michigan, where he and Pam had a summer home for some fifteen years. His library-related memberships included the American Library Association, the Association for Library and Informa-

tion Science Education, the Catholic Library Association, and the American Society for Information Science. Bill's collecting interests included books about Mormon life and about the American southwest, especially about Navajos. He was a fan of Tony Hillerman's books and Bill and Pam visited family in New Mexico frequently over the years. Pam has noted that his final decline in health dated from a visit there over the Christmas holidays of 2003. Bill had had several open-heart surgeries, but he continued to be active for many years thereafter. During those years, the faculty of the library school grew, and Bill became a mentor to some of the junior faculty. One of them, Bill Crowley, spoke at the memorial in Bill's honor, and recalled his continuing interest in students and alumni, his helpfulness to new faculty, and the standards he set for himself. Those are among his legacies.

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## Help Wanted

The *Caxtonian* seeks a copy editor to replace the long-suffering Wendy Husser, who has announced her intention to resign her position in order to concentrate on her duties as Vice President.

An additional proofreader is also needed to supplement the newsletter's two anonymous proofreaders, who sometimes need to be in other places when the issue needs to be read.

Occupants of either position are paid only in grief, unless you count getting to read the stories before the rest of the members as a benefit.

Requirements are sharp eyes, patience, and comfort in conducting business by e-mail. Send an e-mail to [bmccamant@quarterfold.com](mailto:bmccamant@quarterfold.com).

## Caxton Club Dinner Venues, remainder of 2010

DATE	LOCATION	ADDRESS	FOOD COST, INCLUSIVE	PARKING	PUBLIC TRANSPORT
Feb. 17 (Wed.)	The Cliff Dwellers	200 S. Michigan, 22 <sup>nd</sup> Floor; sign in at front desk	Dinner \$48 Premium liquor \$7; std. liquor, wine & beer import, \$6; dom., \$5	Grant Park N. \$26; Grant Park S. \$17 after 4; E. Monroe \$14; Millennium Park \$19	All downtown bus lines & rail routes
Mar. 16 (Tues.)	The Cliff Dwellers	200 S. Michigan, 22 <sup>nd</sup> Floor; sign in at front desk	Dinner \$48 Premium liquor \$7; std. liquor, wine & beer import, \$6; dom., \$5	Grant Park N. \$26; Grant Park S. \$17 after 4; E. Monroe \$14; Millennium Park \$19	All downtown bus lines & rail routes
Apr. 21 (Wed.)	The Cliff Dwellers	200 S. Michigan, 22 <sup>nd</sup> Floor; sign in at front desk	Dinner \$48 Premium liquor \$7; std. liquor, wine & beer import, \$6; dom., \$5	Grant Park N. \$26; Grant Park S. \$17 after 4; E. Monroe \$14; Millennium Park \$19	All downtown bus lines & rail routes
May 19 (Wed.)	The Cliff Dwellers	200 S. Michigan, 22 <sup>nd</sup> Floor; sign in at front desk	Dinner \$48 Premium liquor \$7; std. liquor, wine & beer import, \$6; dom., \$5	Grant Park N. \$26; Grant Park S. \$17 after 4; E. Monroe \$14; Millennium Park \$19	All downtown bus lines & rail routes
Jun. 15 (Tues.)	The Cliff Dwellers	200 S. Michigan, 22 <sup>nd</sup> Floor; sign in at front desk	Dinner \$48 Premium liquor \$7; std. liquor, wine & beer import, \$6; dom., \$5	Grant Park N. \$26; Grant Park S. \$17 after 4; E. Monroe \$14; Millennium Park \$19	All downtown bus lines & rail routes

## Caxton Club Lunch Venue, remainder of 2010

LOCATION	ADDRESS	FOOD COST, INCLUSIVE	PARKING	PUBLIC TRANSPORT
Union League Club	55 W. Jackson	\$30	Valet on Federal; Garage on Federal	All downtown bus lines and rail routes

# 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.)

Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 312-443-3600: "The Books of Mikhail Karasik" (works by one of Russia's leading contemporary figures in the Artists' Book movement and including other publications that influenced him, from the early twentieth century avant-garde to the contemporary), Ryerson and Burnham Libraries, February 3 through April 12; "Chicago Cabinet: C.D. Arnold Photographs of the Columbian Exposition" (from the Library's archive of platinum prints made by the Exposition's photographer, tracing the Fair's development from 1892 through to 1894), Galleries 3 and 4, through February 28; "Heart and Soul: Art from Coretta Scott King Award Books, 2006-2009" (picture books whose African American authors and illustrators promote understanding and appreciation of all cultures and their contributions to the American dream), Ryan Education Center and Gallery 10, through April 18. Chicago Botanic Garden, Lenhardt Library, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, 847-835-8202: "The Orchid Album" (by Robert Warner, illustrated by John Nugent Fitch, and setting the standard for orchid description and illustration in the nineteenth century, with more than 500 stunning chromolithographic plates), February 5 through May 9.

Chicago Public Library, Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State Street, Chicago, 312-747-4300: "Inspiring Dreams! Promoting the Burnham Plan" (documents and artifacts used to promote the "selling" of the Burnham plan to the Chicago City Planning Commission and the public), Chicago Gallery, 3rd Floor, through February 28; "Tall Man of Destiny: Images of Abraham Lincoln" (images of the president made during his lifetime, after his death in 1865 and through to today, all from the Library's Grand Army of the Republic and Civil War Collections), Special Collections Exhibition Hall, 9th Floor, through February 28.

Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark Street, Chicago, 312-642-4600: "Abraham Lincoln Transformed" (over 150 artifacts, all reflecting how the President's views were tested and ultimately transformed), Benjamin B. Green-Field Gallery and The Mazza Foundation Gallery, through April 12.

Columbia College, Center for Book and Paper Arts, 1104 S. Wabash Avenue, 2nd Floor, Chicago, 312-369-6630: "Among Tender Roots: Laura Anderson Barbata" (books, handmade paper, printworks, video and photographs, documenting how the artist collaborated with communities and explored various cultures), through April 9. Loyola University Museum of Art, 820 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago,

312-915-7600: "The Papercut Haggadah" (artist Archie Granot's fifty-five page Haggadah, telling the traditional story of Passover but using geometric and abstract shapes instead of traditional Hebrew symbols, with each word hand-cut and every page a work of art), February 10 through May 9.

Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton Street, Chicago, 312-943-9090: "Honest Abe of the West" (including rare copies of printed materials relating to the 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debates, recently discovered ephemera from the 1860 presidential election and the Republican Convention held in Chicago, letters received by Lincoln and then annotated in the president's own hand), Donnelley Gallery, through February 15.

Northwestern University, Charles Deering Library, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston, 847-491-7658: "Burnham at Northwestern" (documents, photographs, blueprints and sketches of Daniel Burnham's 1905 "Plans of Northwestern," a redesign of the University's Evanston campus), Special Collections and Archives, ongoing; "Publications from Africa Related to Barack Obama" (a selection of the library's growing collection of Obama ephemera and realia from Africa), Herskovits Library of African Studies, through March 19.

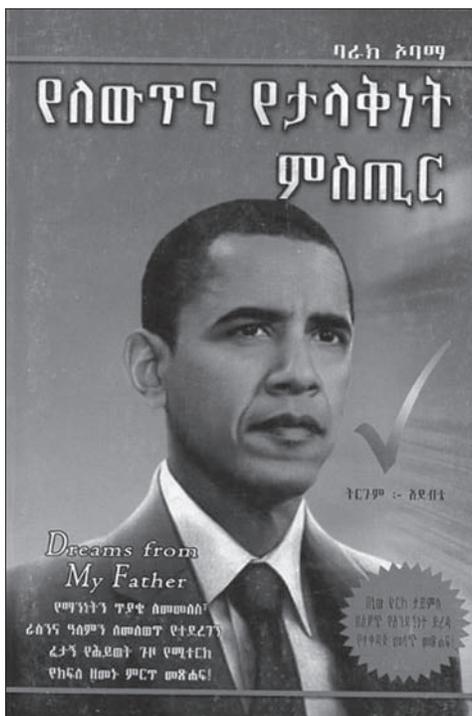
Northwestern University, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, 847-491-4000: "A Room of Their Own: The Bloomsbury Artists in American Collections" (books, drawings, decorative objects and designs by artists like Virginia Woolf, Vanessa Bell, Roger Fry, and Dora Carrington, all organized by the Johnson Museum at Cornell in connection with the Nasher Museum at Duke), Main Gallery and Alsdorf Gallery, through March 14.

Oriental Institute of Chicago, University of Chicago, 1155 E. 58th Street, Chicago, 773-702-9514: "Pioneers to the Past: American Archaeologists in the Middle East, 1919-20" (never before exhibited photos, artifacts, letters and archival documents highlighting the daring travels of James Henry Breasted, noted Egyptologist and founder of the Oriental Institute, whose post-World War I observations on the Middle East bear striking similarities to conditions today), through August 31.

Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, 5500 S. Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, 773-702-0200: "The Darker Side of Light: Arts of Privacy, 1850-1900" (revealing the private world of collectors who compiled prints, drawings, illustrated books and small sculptures, often unsuitable for public display and stored away in cabinets, objects for quiet contemplation and including works by Kathe Kollwitz, Max Klinger, James McNeill Whistler, and others), Richard and Mary L. Gray Gallery, February 11 through June 13.

University of Illinois at Chicago, Library of the Health Sciences-Chicago, MC 763, 1750 W. Polk Street, Chicago, 312-996-8977: "Embellished Medical Title Pages: The Sixteenth through the Eighteenth Centuries" (extraordinary images of decorative title pages from the University's rare book collection), second floor near administration office, ongoing.

Bernice Gallagher will be happy to receive your listings at either 847-234-5255 or [gallagher@lakeforest.edu](mailto:gallagher@lakeforest.edu).



African Obama, at Northwestern Deering Library  
DREAMS FROM MY FATHER IN AMHARIC

# Caxtonians Collect: Rick Ashton

Sixty-second in a series of interviews with members

Interviewed by Lise McKean

Rick Ashton's recent membership in the Caxton Club marks a homecoming of sorts. He knew Caxtonian Karen Skubish in the late 1960s when he frequented the Newberry Library as a graduate student in history at Northwestern University—she bent the rules once when he ran short on cash and made photocopies for him on credit. When he began his career as a professional librarian at the Newberry Library in the 1970s after completing a doctoral dissertation on the New York Loyalists, his colleagues included other current Caxtonians—Bob Karrow, Adele Hast, and Paul Saenger. Peggy Sullivan was one of his professors in the MLS program at the University of Chicago. Not long after his recent return to Chicago, she brought him to a Caxton meeting and sponsored his membership, and he says fondly, “She’s been like an aunt all these years.”

Going directly from college at Harvard to graduate school, it seemed to Rick that he was headed for a career as a history professor. The combination of a lack of job openings in academia, an available position at the Newberry, and Joel Samuels’ insistence that he obtain an MLS, launched him on a rewarding career in libraries. Rick’s work as curator of Local and Family History at the Newberry Library in turn led to him being recruited by the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana, whose collections make it a national center for genealogical research. After five years as Library Director in Fort Wayne, Rick became the Denver City Librarian, heading the Denver Public Library system for 20 years until his retirement in 2006.

When talking about his work in Denver, Rick invokes public library titan John Cotton Dana. As Denver’s first City Librarian, Dana established the city’s tradition of having a “strong public library with an important regional presence,” a tradition that afforded Rick “lots of opportunities to do big things.” Prominent among Rick’s many achievements in Denver was the passage of a major bond issue for library projects, accomplished on

the first vote and with a 75% majority. As City Librarian, he oversaw not only the construction of a new main library in downtown Denver midway between City Hall and the State Capitol, but also twenty branch library projects. He later laid the groundwork for a successful 2007 bond issue for construction of three new branch libraries.

In addition to initiating and completing building projects, Rick was also involved

had plans to pursue any research or writing projects, he answers, “I tell people librarians don’t read books all day. My time was mostly spent working on politics, publicity, and fund raising. I don’t have 25 years of note cards to turn into a book. Working as a public library director, your time is broken into small pieces and the scholarly habit of mind, working on one large project for a long period of time, has slipped away.”

Talking about his own collecting interests, Rick notes that “as a public library director, I always felt a twinge of conflict of interest in being a serious collector because it could lead me to compete with my own shop.” For example, his interests in eighteenth century maps and Western prints would have conflicted with those of the Denver Public Library. However, he enjoyed “chasing and building collections on behalf of my libraries,” including the successful pursuit of the organizational papers of the Wilderness Society and Ducks Unlimited. He comments that it’s challenging to collect twentieth century manuscripts because “you can get a lot of material that’s not as desirable and is time consuming to sort through and arrange. It’s an interesting process to decide what will be accepted and to negotiate the

terms. Sometimes donors have unreasonable expectations about what will be kept.”

When asked again to speak about his personal collecting interests, Rick decisively replies, “I’m not temperamentally a collector. I’ll probably never be on a Caxton program as a collector.” He enjoys reading American literature and history, particularly works about the Civil War and nineteenth century history. Whenever he acquires new books he makes room for them using the librarian’s time-honored tactic of weeding.

Rick finds himself “drawn to the Caxton Club because of the stories we hear after lunch and the interesting people around the lunch table,” and looks forward to “learning more and getting to know more members.” And Caxtonians will enjoy getting to know this exceptional twice-retired library leader.

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Photograph by Lise McKean

in “giving good quarters” to Denver Public Library’s important research collections on Western railways, Western conservation and environmentalism in the twentieth century, and Western maps. The library also has a notable collection of Western art, acquired well before the genre became so expensive.

Rick and his wife found themselves traveling so frequently to Oak Park to visit one of their sons and his family that after retiring in Denver, they relocated to Oak Park. His retirement was short-lived and he worked for two years as Chief Operating Officer for the Urban Libraries Council in Chicago, an organization he had been involved with during his long career in urban public libraries. He began his “second retirement” in December 2009, during which he would like to continue to teach and consult on topics related to library buildings. When asked whether he



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## Bookmarks...

### Luncheon Program

Friday, February 12, 2010, Union League Club

Sally Kalmbach

“The Jewel of the Gold Coast: Mrs. Potter Palmer’s Chicago”

Mrs. Palmer (1849-1918) would most definitely have a place on a list of Most Misunderstood Women in History. Caxtonian Sally Kalmbach tackles this situation with verve in her highly illustrated talk based on her well-received 2009 book of the same title.

Come and hear the answers to these questions (and much more). Why did the erection, organization and management of the huge Women’s Building at the 1893 Columbian Exposition (with Mrs. Palmer at the helm), lead Susan B. Anthony to state that the building “has done more for women’s suffrage than 25 years of agitation?” What did Mrs. Palmer do with the \$2 million left to her in 1906 upon the death of her husband? How did it happen that the core of the Art Institute’s impressionistic paintings were purchased by Mrs. Palmer before they became popular?

Besides being an author, Sally lectures at the Newberry Library, leads highly acclaimed customized tours of Chicago and is a co-founder of the Chicago History Women’s Club.

An afternoon to remember.

*The February 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. Luncheon is \$30. Details of the February dinner: it will take place at the Cliff Dwellers Club, 200 S. Michigan, 22nd floor. Timing:*

### Beyond February...

#### MARCH LUNCHEON

March 12, five member-collectors specializing in the book arts will show and talk about some of their recent acquisitions. At the Union League Club.

#### MARCH DINNER

On Tuesday, March 16, designer and printer Michael Russem will talk about the myriad type designers who also designed postage stamps, and show examples of their work. **Note Tuesday date!**

#### APRIL LUNCHEON

The luncheon will be April 9 at the Union League Club, with a speaker to be announced.

#### APRIL DINNER

On Wednesday, April 21, Joan Houston Hall, editor of the *Dictionary of American Regional English*, will speak at the Cliff Dwellers on “American English Dialects are Alive and Well.”

### Dinner Program

Wednesday, February 17, 2010, Cliff Dwellers

James Ballowe

“Joy Morton’s Chicago: from 1880 to the Present”

Everyone in the Chicago region seems to have heard of Morton Salt and The Morton Arboretum. But ask who their founder was and few know, even though Joy Morton had a significant and lasting impact on the city to which he came at the age of 25 in 1880. His service to his community, especially as a contributor to the Plan of Chicago and the Chicago Plan Commission, complements his legacy of salt and trees, and his personal involvement in architecture, history, agriculture, and conservation (and the Caxton Club, of which he was member for 35 years) removes him from the stereotype of the Chicago magnates of his generation. In short, like many other of his contemporaries, Joy Morton is a man who deserves to be better known today, to emerge from the shadows. James Ballowe, Distinguished Professor of English Emeritus at Bradley University, is the author of the acclaimed biography of *Joy Morton, Man of Salt and Trees*, copies of which will be available for purchase at the meeting.

*spirits at 5:00, dinner at 6:00, program at 7:30. Dinner is \$48, drinks are \$5 to \$9. 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.*