

CAXTONIAN

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Find the Women

The untold story of how women came to join the Caxton Club

Dan Crawford

From the outset, there were those in the Caxton Club who thought the club should admit both men and women. The Club, they said, was for people interested in the book arts. Women were: a) interested in the book arts and b) people. But most clubs of the 1890s were single-gender groups, and since a bunch of the boys at A.C. McClurg's Bookstore had originated the idea, the Caxton Club opened as a masculine establishment.

The Club was not stag at every event. Eliza Gates Starr addressed the Club in 1908, while Evelyn Shaw McCutcheon was allowed to attend a meeting honoring her husband, John T. McCutcheon, in 1948. Suzette Morton Davidson hosted the Club in 1967. But despite a few other fleeting visits, the frail sex was a rare exception to the rule. It wasn't for lack of trying. A proposition to admit women as members or at least as guests of the Club came up just about every decade. But each decade also had its Perfectly Good Excuse not to open the membership to the other half of the human race.

In the early 1960s, for example, the idea was stymied because the Caxton Club was meeting at the Cliff Dwellers, who at that time did not themselves admit women. As a private club, the Cliff Dwellers felt they had the right to forbid the presence of women, and did so.

Time passed. In the early 1970s, the idea came up again, with some fairly strong supporters. Three officers have their names attached to the effort: Dick Seidel (Club Secretary and the most persistent voice in the movement), Sam Rosenthal (Caxton President whose wife, Marie-Louise, was a noted book collector but not eligible for membership), and Herb Pinzke (Chair of the ad hoc Committee on Female Membership). They laid a foundation with care. A series of Ladies' Nights was instituted, to get the group used to female company.



ABOVE, Karen Skubish, in center of back row, with other dignitaries during the Centennial year of 1995. LEFT, Mary Beth Beal (the Club's first female President) with son Alexander in May of 1980 at a U of C/Vassar Mark Twain exhibition.



This subversion did not go unnoticed, and opposition was fierce from the get-go. A number of members saw the Caxton Club meetings as their time away from the rest of the world; and these men wanted it to stay that way. As this group included major donors, officers of the Club, and an important source of new members, it carried some weight. They appealed to the Mid-Day Club, a male only club itself, hoping it would forbid this infil-

tration, as the Cliff Dwellers had done. The attitude of the Mid-Day, though, was that any organization renting space for a meeting had the right to invite whom it wanted (provided the organization

accepted the fact that a male-only club would lack a Ladies' Room.).

The problem was broader than just the admission of women. The movement was tied up with other new notions: the offering of wine at dinner in addition to the usual Scotch, an occasional choice of entrée beyond prime rib, and other highly-charged deviations from recent tradition. Some said it was only reason-
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CAXTONIAN

Caxton Club, Founded 1895

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able to move with the times, while others considered this all a cowardly concession to effete influences from outside. Those in the middle – people who wanted the Club to involve whiskey AND women – were buffeted from both sides. Still, when the issue was called to a vote in 1975, the men of the Caxton Council voted by two-thirds majority in favor of women.

That did not, however, mean women would be admitted. The conservatives had made enough noise that all the Council really approved was the admission of women IF a poll of the entire membership of the Club agreed. If the members favored this strange new idea, only then would women become members.

All members were sent a ballot with the following choice:

"I favor the election of properly qualified women to membership in the Caxton Club."

"I oppose the election of properly qualified women to membership in the Caxton Club."

The phrasing made it clear where the Council stood. That phrase – "properly qualified women" – drew plenty of attention from the male only crowd.

Unfair, charged the loyal opposition. What husband would dare suggest that his wife was NOT properly qualified? And once WIVES got in, wouldn't they take advantage of this to attend meetings and turn the venerable and highly serious Caxton Club into some kind of a SOCIAL organization?

But the ballot went out, leading question and all. All it required was a checkmark in the blank, but the men responding had things to say in the margins.

"When will you admit some properly qualified MEN?"

"Is nothing sacred?"

"This will change the nature of the Club. And about time, too."

One member raised all manner of important questions. Could we still refer to our FELLOW Caxtonians? Would the women accept Scotch and cigars or insist on bourbon and Caxton lipsticks? He finished by demanding that if the Club insisted on admitting women that it bring in not only "old leathery females who smell of stale powder and old bindings, but some bright, sexy broads." (Okay, you don't have to

believe that a member of the venerable and highly serious Caxton Club wrote that. But it's all in the archives.)

176 members replied, an amazing percentage. (We don't do that well nowadays with the dues notice.) The opinion of the voters was certainly clear: 142 voted for the proposal and 30 against, with 4 abstaining. It was further noted that most of the no votes came from non-resident members who seldom attended a meeting. Women had won the right to be Caxtonians by a margin of about 81%.

There was apparently further debate – not preserved in the archives but remembered by surviving victims – about what women deserved the honor of being the first admitted to the Club. There were some worries about the nature of the Club if women were allowed to join in droves, so the first

group was limited to five. Karen A. Skubish, Mary Beth Beal, Mary Ann McCree, Suzette Davidson, and Frances Hamill were the first; two of them later served as Club President. (Mary Beth Beal, the first female President, tried during her term to break the Mid-Day Club tradition of serving cheese instead of ice cream with its apple pie. This was not permitted.) Restrictions on the number of women admitted did not last long, and by 1985, Histo-



Frances Hamill, right, with Terry Tanner in the backroom of Hamill & Barker, late 1970s or early 1980s. Courtesy of Eileen Tanner.

rian Frank Piehl noted that 19% of Caxtonians were women. The current percentage is around 25%.

Of course, the Mid-Day Club WAS still a men-only establishment: it would take twenty years to achieve restroom parity. In the early years, women had to make use of what was basically the Mid-Day Club's staff toilet, as evidenced by the fact that there was no wall between it and the adjoining broom closet. When the Mid-Day Club liberalized its own membership policy, a Ladies' Room was added... one-third the size of the men's room. Not until nearly the turn of the century were the two facilities rearranged again, to make them the same size.

Word gets around in the Club world. In the same file in the archives where the balloting of 1975 is preserved, one can read a letter from the Grolier Club, asking how Caxtonians had succeeded in introducing a second sex to its gatherings. Unfortunately, the reply to this letter was dignified and noncolloquial. We could have answered "By the seat of our pants."

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CAXTONIAN FOOTNOTES

Wynken De Worde

"The Turnings of a Bookworm"

Love levels all plots.
Dead men sell no tales.
A new boom sweeps clean.
Circumstances alter bookcases.
The more haste the less read.
Too many books spoil the trade.
Many hands make light literature.
Epigrams cover a multitude of sins.
Ye can not serve Art and Mammon.
A little sequel is a dangerous thing.
It's a long page that has no turning.
Don't look a gift-book in the binding.
A gilt-edged volume needs no accuser.
In a multitude of characters there is sagety.
Incidents will happen even in the best regulated novels.
One touch of Nature makes the whole book sell.
Where there's a will there's a detective story.
A book in the hand is worth two in the library.
An ounce of invention is worth a pound of style.
A good name is rather to be chosen than great characters.
Where there's so much puff, there must be some buyer.

– Carolyn Wells

Continuing the previous theme of South Side women of literature who deserve to be better known, my mind is drawn to Harriet Converse Tilden Moody. Like her neighbor, Mrs. D. Harry Hammer, who had the world-class collection of Uncle Sam, Mrs. Moody lived in a fine house on a street that no longer exists. The Moody house was at 2970 Groveland Avenue in Chicago. That address is sited today as 2970 S. Ellis Avenue, but you would look in vain for the house, which disappeared in the formerly expanding campus of the famous lakefront hospital named for Michael Reese; 30th and Ellis became, effectively, the southern entrance to the hospital grounds.

Even North Siders should recognize the place. For months the Michael Reese hospital campus was all over the news when the city spent tax monies to buy the decaying, emptying hospital and acreage to have it as a block of developable land upon which new buildings could be constructed to house the athletes who, it was hoped, would be in Chicago for the 2016 Summer Olympic Games.



Portrait of Harriet Moody by L. C. Earle, 1883. From the book Letters to Harriet by William Vaughn Moody, Houghton Mifflin, 1935.

As everyone knows, Chicago lost in the first elimination round, but the problem with the hospital campus remains a challenge for the city. The hospital entity that sold the property to the City of Chicago also sold off as much of the furnishings as they could in advance. So it was that rookie book auctioneer, **Mary Williams** (2009), spent hours and hours walking and climbing the vast abandoned rooms, floors, and tunnels of the hospital trying to find the large storage room that had housed the decaying rare medical books glimpsed once, briefly, decades before. The institutional memory of the hospital had been devastated, as if by corporate Alzheimers, because the

current employess did not know, and the ones who would have known about this buried treasure had already been set free.

Ever the fashion plate, Mary made the rookie mistake of not having a back-up pair of shoes, comfortable shoes. She ruined her pair of stylish flats walking what seemed like miles through the catacombs of the underground tunnels that linked the hospital buildings. And then she clambered around in the daylight with a flashlight through the ruins of the once-splendid wood-lined art deco style medical library which was filled with rotting books and mold that flourished in the damp.

See CAXTONIAN FOOTNOTESi, page 4

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Photo / http://www.wellswooster.com/earle/harriet_moody.htm

Was it from a broken pipe? or lake water leaking up from the foundation? And finally, Mary carefully but with the agility of youth, wound her way through forgotten storage rooms filled with tangles of pipes and detritus, an on up to the rooftop of the 110-story Victorian building named for the man whose statue kept vigilant guard upon it from out beyond the front entrance, Michael Reese.

Flanking the useless elevator shed on the rooftop were two sizeable but, I suspect, illegal rooms (how likely was it that the building inspector would ever find them?). A pathway of narrow, rotting boards led to the entrances. After climbing up ten flights of concrete stairs, Mary had to force herself to step nimbly along the boards to keep from stepping onto or through the old roof. Like Nancy Drew in *The Secret of the Old Manse*, Mary found the south building essentially empty. She turned and retraced her steps back to, then around the center shed, leaped a break in the wooden path, and strode into the northerly apartment. There Nancy – I mean, Mary – found three rooms of rows of bookshelves filled with old medical books and journals. This is where the Nurse's Library had been relocated and housed for use by all the anonymous Cherry Ames, Student Nurses. And there it was that she found only one title rare enough and old enough that it might have been in that medical treasure room. It was a three-volume set from 1824-30, of David Hosack's *Essays on Various Subjects of Medical Science*, housed in a custom-made cloth solander box.

But the bigger mystery remains unsolved. Whatever did happen to the thousands of volumes of ancient medical lore contributed by generations of fine physicians for the glory of Michael Reese Hospital?

From that rooftop, had Mary peered over the north edge to the street below she might have seen the spectral image of Harriet Moody's house, which was the temporary home of many of those authors who passed through Chicago during the Teens and Twenties of the Chicago Literary Renaissance.

Harriet Tilden Brainerd Moody was an amazing person. Her father, William Tilden, flew high from his seat at the Chicago Board of Trade until he crashed and burned. After graduating from Cornell, his daughter, Harriet, matriculated at the Women's Medical College at Philadelphia – against her father's wishes. She was not as happy in her studies there as she thought she would be, and her

parents opposed that vocational choice. They wanted a more traditional role for her. After taking a sabbatical from medical college, Harriet did, in fact, marry the well-to-do but caddish son of Dr. Daniel Brainerd. Harriet filed for and was granted a divorce.

Chastened but unbroken, Harriet now became the sole support of her mother. Harriet began to teach English at several Chicago high schools. While at the Hyde Park High School, circa 1898-9, she acquired a printing press for her home on Groveland and produced a handful of books of her students' writings under the imprint of The Wind-Tryst Press – genuinely scarce items.

A family friend told Harriet that Harry Gordon Selfridge, then the director of Marshall Field's tearoom, was looking for some distinctive gingerbread treat that he could serve to his clientele. Thus inspired, Harriet concocted some little cakes of gingerbread. Very impressed, Selfridge immediately ordered 500 cakes. Limited by the size of her oven, Harriet could only cook 24 at a time. Next came an order for chicken salad. Cooked chickens left residue of chicken broth. This, with some bread, was fed to homeless men who appeared at her back door.

So it happened that, at first, while keeping her teaching job, Harriet created a catering business, the Home Delicacies Association, and broadened her enterprise beyond Marshall Field's to the dining cars of a number of Chicago's railroads. Business boomed. In 1931 her cookbook appeared as *Mrs. William Vaughn Moody's Cookbook*, 475 pages.

But first she had to become Mrs. William Vaughn Moody. Moody came from Harvard to be a lecturer at the University of Chicago. Already an acclaimed poet, he also became renowned as a verse dramatist. Soon after they met, Moody became a frequent visitor to 2970 Groveland. After a decade-long courtship, they married. Their extended honeymoon in Great Britain was shadowed by the return of Moody's illnesses, and before two years of marriage had passed, Moody had expired, leaving Harriet widowed and childless.

Moody's death only set the table for the next course of Harriet's ongoing adventures with poets.

Vaughn Moody's friend and fellow poet, Ridgely Torrence, wrote to Harriet that Robert Frost had visited him one day too early to taste the bounteous cake that Harriet had sent to Torrence. "I wish the [cake] had arrived yesterday, for Frost came here to dinner last night and he is so eminently worthy of the

CAKE and the CAKE so deserving of him that I'm sorry they couldn't have met. A King of men and of poets (and he is both) should know the Queen of Cakes."

Harriet did meet Frost and often negotiated paying appearances for him in Chicago. They frequented each others homes. William Butler Yeats also became a visitor, although his 1904 visit to Chicago was in advance of their friendship. Their first approaches must have been rough, as she wrote declining another chance for an introduction that "she would not again expose herself to 'being bruised by Willie Yeats!'"

Yet another Nobel Prize for Literature-winning writer – with his family – who was often hosted at her Groveland/Ellis Ave. address was Rabindranath Tagore. A Bengali, Tagore visited his son at the University of Illinois in Urbana, in 1913, and was summoned to Chicago by Harriet Monroe of *Poetry*.

Tagore dedicated his book *Chitra* to Harriet Vaughn Moody.

Other poets were in her sphere of influence and friendship, especially Edgar Arlington Robinson, Padraic Colum, James Stephens, John Masefield, Wilfrid Wilson Gibson, and two of her students, Lydia Avery Coonley and Alice Corbin, and 16 year-old Hart Crane. Carl Sandburg was a regular, as, for a while, was Edgar Lee Masters. With Sandburg, Harriet also bonded over their mutual interest in Irish setters.

Another downstater, and part of the Chicago Renaissance in Literature was Springfield's Vachel Lindsay. Olivia Howard Dunbar's biography of Harriet, *A House in Chicago*, records that Harriet made Lindsay stay for supper, then, with others, took him for a drive through the parks. "On this drive Lindsay recited 'The Congo,' then unpublished, with tremendous vehemence, while, on returning to Groveland Avenue, his rendition of 'The Fireman's Ball' (Miss Kellogg reports) 'actually made people congregate in front of the house, thinking there was a fire inside.'"

Vachel Lindsay snuffed out the fire inside when anxieties pushed him to suicide in December 1931. Harriet Vaughn Moody passed away two months later in February 1932. At some time, that storied home to poets and poetry was torn down for the expanding needs of Michael Reese Hospital, which, now, too, lies in ruins. It proves once again the old Latinized aphorism of Hippocrates, *Ars longa/Vita brevis*.

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Scholarship Winners Announced

One each from Columbia College, the School of the Art Institute, and the University of Illinois at Champaign

Martha Chiplis, Scholarship Committee Chair

On Thursday, May 13, the Caxton Club Scholarship Committee, consisting of Michael Thompson, Alice Schreyer, and Kathryn Tutkus, met at the Newberry Library to consider the applicants for 2010-2011. After the committee looked over each of the entries and held a thoughtful yet spirited discussion, it was determined that three of the applicants were deserving, based on their quality and the appro-

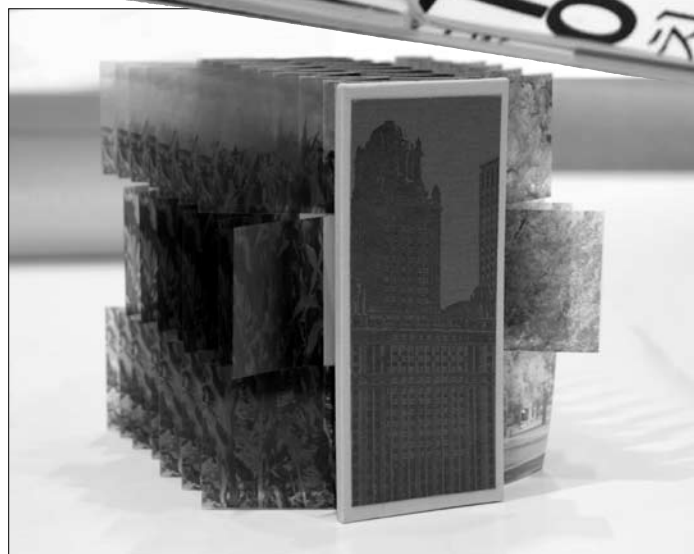
priateness of their proposals to the Club's mission.

The Scholarship Committee's choices

were presented to the Council the following Wednesday and approved. The successful applicants are Jana Sim, a second year MFA



Books by Jana Sim. ABOVE AND NEAR BELOW: spreads from *Konglish*.
BOTTOM LEFT: *Nesting Place*. NEXT PAGE: *ESL*.



candidate at Columbia College Chicago's Center for Book and Paper Arts; Ashley Hairston, a first year MFA candidate at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; and Linde M. Brocato, a student

in the program for a Certificate of Advanced Study in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Jana Sim wowed the committee immediately with her beautifully crafted bookbinding. Her use of digital technology also impressed: laser cutting for a tunnel book and large-scale type printed from photopolymer. Included in her application was a small booklet (including prices!) in which she very helpfully showed how to open and handle the unconventional book forms.

Ms. Sim states in her letter to the committee: See *SCHOLARSHIPS*, page 6

SCHOLARSHIPS, from page 5

tee that she came to the U.S. from Korea to study seven years ago and still struggles with the English language and the very different culture. Her proposal is to complete an edition of her book titled *TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)*. She further explains that the TOEFL test is divided into four parts: speaking, reading, writing, and listening. In her book, she will relate the parts of the test to the issue of language and the cultural differences of an international student, and to her own personal memories and stories.

Ms. Sim's skills as a bookbinder and interest

in books as art were fostered in the conservation lab in at University of Illinois library, where she worked on basic book repair. She also was a teaching assistant for book artist Bea Nettles in her box-making workshop in the School of Library and Information

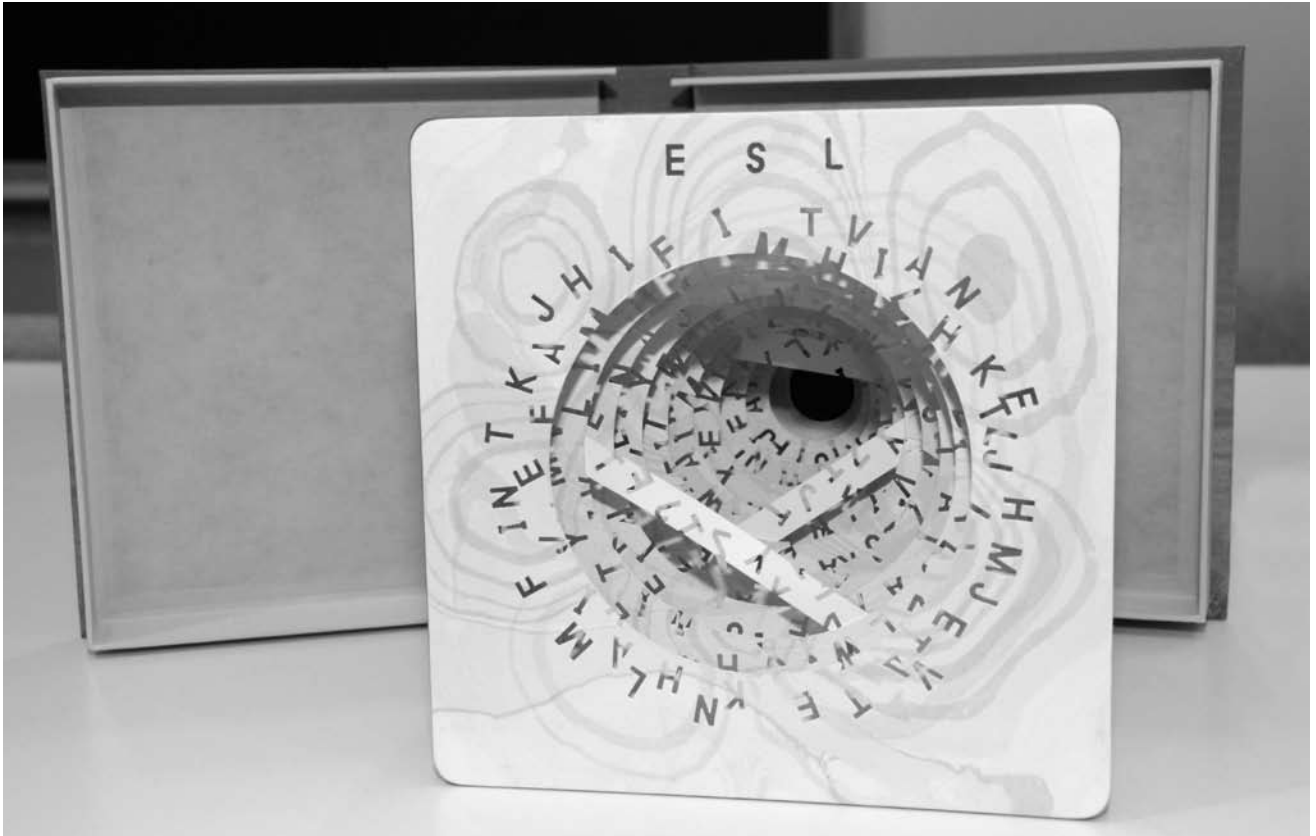
Science at University of Illinois, as well as being the artists' studio assistant. Since entering the MFA program at Columbia College, Ms. Sim has been awarded the 2010 Weisman grant, and has shown her books in many juried and curated exhibitions.

"I find joy in making things, whether it is a pen and watercolor illustration, a hand-bound letterpress book, or risotto with white wine and Parmigiano Reggiano." – Ashley Hairston

Ashley Hairston submitted two books with her application, one titled *The Daily Routine of the Addy-Dog*, which the committee found especially charming. This book tells the story of the humorous and lovable traits of her family pet, Addy. Written with

input from her mother, father, and brother, their funny stories and observations result in a breakdown of Addy's typical day. The comment from one committee member was, "I don't know this dog, but I like him." The story is told using very few words and linoleum-cut illustrations. The binding is an accordion fold format, with decorative paper forming hinges between them. The bright yellow cloth of the cover is echoed inside as a yellow printed shape follows the dog along, appearing in different guises (shaft of light, yellow blanket) on almost every page. The book was printed from handset metal type and matboard cut

taught classes in a scrapbooking store. She has been a student in the letterpress studio at SAIC since she returned to school as a graduate student last fall. In 2010, Ms. Hairston has shown her books in the Fred A. Hillbruner Artists' Books Fellowship Exhibition, and been selected as a recipient of a Grabhorn Fellowship. (In its second year, the Grabhorn Fellows Program selects 12 to 15 student members of the College Book Art Association to visit the widely-respected Arion Press in San Francisco for a week during which they will observe as a group the operations of the Press and visit nearby Special Collections.)



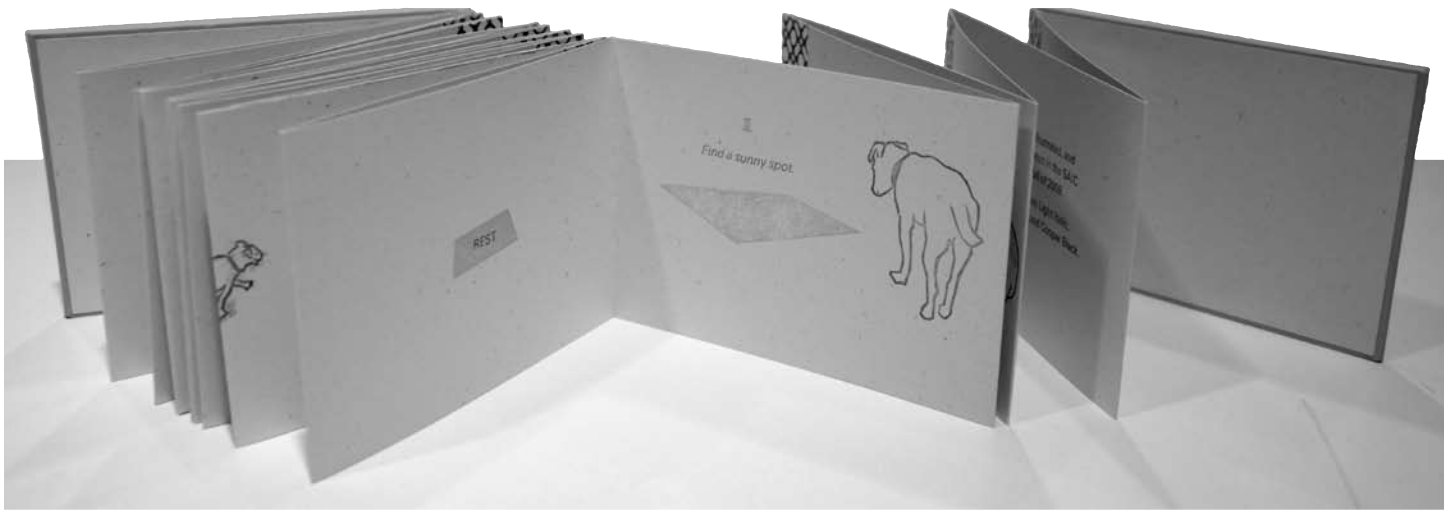
with a digital home die-cutting machine and mounted type-high.

Ms. Hairston's book *The Beading Club* is unusual in its complete lack of digital technology. The type is completely handset, metal and wood type, and functions as the book's only illustration. The text is semi-random phrases taken from an article in *O* magazine. This book showcases Ms. Hairston's sense of color and design; the phrases set in small type thread through large wood-type letters, evoking a beaded necklace.

Ms. Hairston was exposed to letterpress printing as an undergraduate at Washington University in St. Louis, where she studied visual communication and anthropology. Her interest in making books continued after graduation when she worked as a designer and

She plans to use her scholarship money for materials to make a series of handmade books inspired by her Addy-dog book and based around the idea of a daily routine.

Linde M. Brocato has a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Emory University and an M.A. in Spanish from the University of Alabama. She presently works as a Special Projects Cataloger at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is also a student in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at UIUC. Her proposal is "A Bibliography and Study of the Early Imprints of the Works of Juan de Mena." From her project summary: "Juan de Mena (1411-1456) is one of the most important poets of 15th century Spanish literature, one of the first 15th century Spanish poets to be printed, and the first



vernacular poet to be edited with commentary. His most famous and influential work, *Laberinto de Fortuna* (1444) was also one of the most frequently printed books of the 15th century and is said to have inspired Isabel and Ferdinand in their military and cultural projects, including the discovery and colonization of the Americas.”

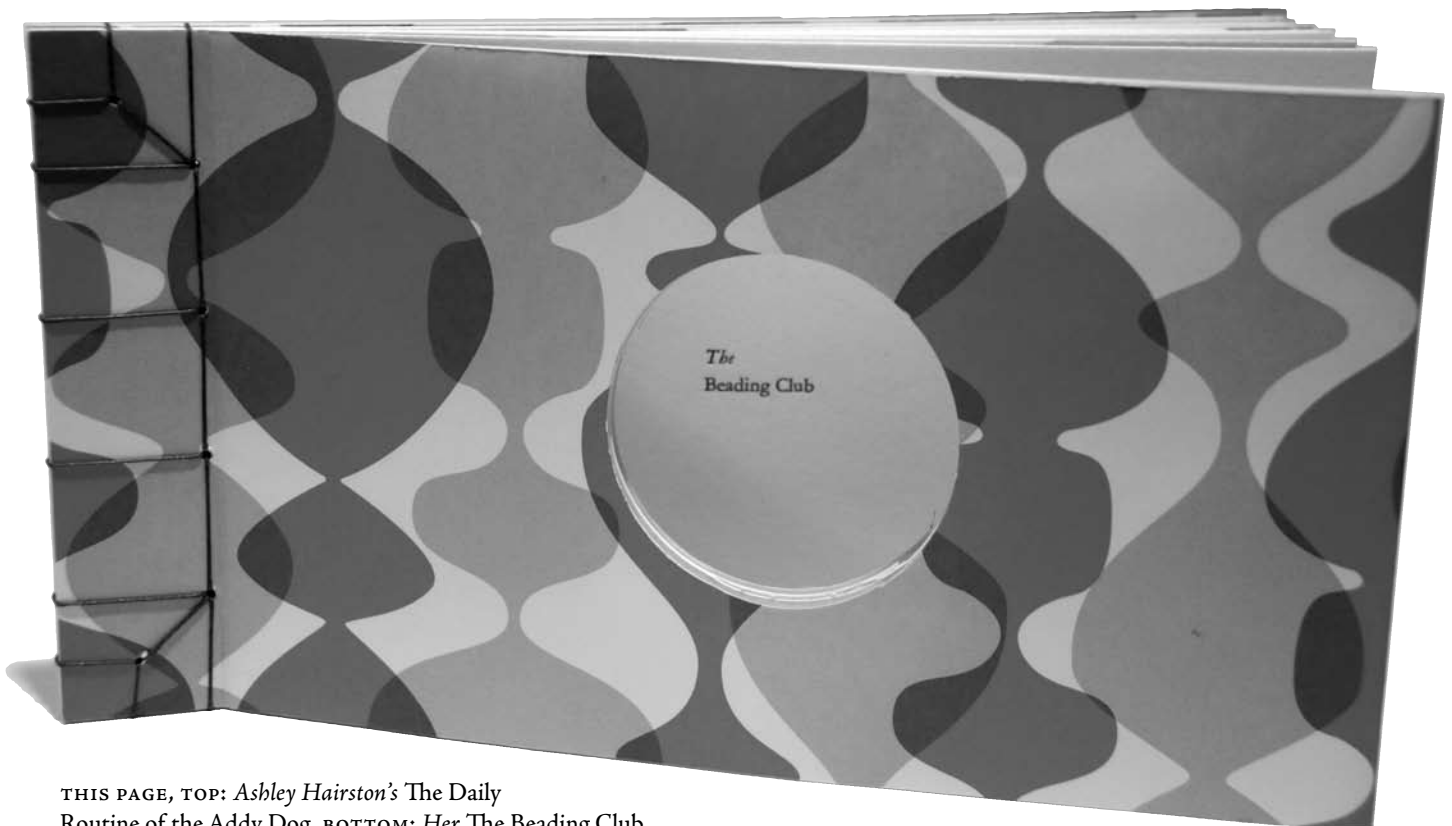
Ms. Brocato plans to use her support from the Caxton Club to travel to examine Juan de Mena exemplars and to “evaluate the way his books were read, bound, and handled, in order

to study the living use of his books in the 15th and 16th centuries, the time of his editorial zenith.” In Ms. Brocato’s previous career, before her bibliographic librarianship, she did scholarly work on de Mena and so came to understand the need for her current work. Her examination of exemplars is in order to integrate our understanding of the book as a material object with that of the text in its literary and intellectual context. “The literary and intellectual are hardly accessible without understanding the material book, and the

material object also bears important traces of reading and therefore culture, without which our understanding is limited.”

The Scholarship recipients have been invited to attend the September dinner meeting, where they will receive their checks. Ms. Sim and Ms. Hairston have also been invited to show their work on a table during the cocktail hour; in the case of Ms. Brocato, we will have the opportunity to question her on the subject of her bibliography.

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THIS PAGE, TOP: Ashley Hairston’s *The Daily Routine of the Addy Dog*. BOTTOM: Her *The Beading Club*.

Membership Report, 2009-2010

The Membership Committee has had an excellent year, adding the 16 new members listed in the brief sketches that follow. Our thanks to the members responsible for putting forward the names of these new Caxtonians.

We hope that while enjoying your summer, you will identify additional friends or associates who would be good additions to our conversational circles: those who personally or professionally have a lively interest in collecting, publishing, designing, curating, preserving, researching, or otherwise encouraging, enjoying, and honoring the printed word. They may be nominated for membership after attending two Caxton activities. If you know a promising candidate but are unable to serve as his or her host for a luncheon or dinner meeting, let us know. Based on your recommendation, we will invite the candidate to a meeting and arrange for a host, asking only that the prospective member pay the cost of the meal.

Dan "Skip" Landt – Co-Chair
(skiplandt@sbcglobal.net; 773-604-4115)

Margaret Oellrich – Co-Chair
(margaretoellrich@hotmail.com)

Madeline Baum, Robert Blythe

Robert Blythe is an historian whose employers have included the National Park Service; he is currently writing a book about the cotton-mill towns of the south. His book collection numbers about 3,000 volumes, focusing on American history and architectural history. Madeline Baum is a designer with interests in book design and typography. She studied under Caxtonian Craig Jobson at Columbia College, where she was a top student in publication design. Nominated by Muriel Underwood, seconded by Craig Jobson.

Nina Barrett

Nina Barrett is a highly accomplished academician, print and broadcast journalist, chef, and nonfiction author. Her list of publications is prodigious and includes four books. Between food reports for Chicago Public Radio, Nina recently curated an exhibition on Leopold and Loeb for the Northwestern library, telling their story with what has been noted as a remarkable and varied selection

of books, ephemera, notes, newspapers, and objects. Three of her books have to do with women and motherhood and were published by Simon & Schuster. Her first appeared in 1990 and is still in print. One of them has been optioned for a feature film. Her book on the Deering Library at Northwestern was published last year. She has taught at DePaul, UIC, and Northwestern. Nominated by Ed Hirschland, seconded by Bob Karrow.

Michael Gorman

Michael Gorman has had many distinctions and honors in his career, including serving as the President of the American Library Association. In that regard, he will be in especially good company in the Caxton Club, joining other former ALA Presidents, Caxtonians Peggy Sullivan, Beverly Lynch, and Barbara Ford. In his native England, Michael Gorman acquired a rich background in librarianship based on practice and study. His international recognition in the field of cataloging and organization of materials resulted from his contributions to the field on an international basis, much of this achieved during his tenure at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He became a library director at California State University at Fresno and, upon his retirement from that institution, moved with his wife to Chicago. He is regularly sought out as a speaker and continues his work of writing inspirational books about the world of librarianship. The Caxton Club will be honored by his membership and enriched by his fellowship in our conversational circles. Nominated by Peggy Sullivan and seconded by Beverly Lynch.

Hal Kugeler

Hal Kugeler is a book designer with more than 20 years of experience, first with Lipman Hearne, a marketing and communications firm, and then as director of publications at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. Under his aegis, the museum published many outstanding catalogues, significantly improving the quality of its publications and its graphic identity, and attracting bringing national attention. Working with Caxtonian

Susan Rossen and others, he has had an important role in organizing three national museum publishing conferences in Chicago. His historical knowledge of graphic design and typography has led him to lecture and to teach graphic design at the University of Illinois Chicago. His lectures have always been rated at the very top for their eloquence, humor, and smarts. Nominated by Susan Rossen, seconded by Kim Coventry.

Mark Samuels Lasner

Mark Samuels Lasner describes himself as "The most determined book collector he has ever met." In fact, he is regarded as one of the most distinguished and respected book collectors of our time and a recognized authority in the area in which he collects. He serves as Senior Research Fellow at the University of Delaware, which houses much of his "period library" – one of the country's foremost private collections of books, manuscripts, letters, and artworks of British cultural figures who flourished between 1850 and 1900. The materials relating to Aubrey Beardsley, Max Beerbohm, Oscar Wilde, and other writers and artists of the 1890s have provided the basis for many publications and exhibitions. His most recent volume, *The Bookplates of Aubrey Beardsley*, appeared in 2007. His other memberships include the American Printing History Association and the Grolier Club. Nominated for non-resident membership by Bob McCamant, seconded by Alice Schreyer.

Eileen Madden

Eileen Madden describes herself as having spent most of her professional life as a teacher "caught between reluctant adolescents and books." She adds "While fond of the former, it was my love of the latter that brought me to my current occupation as co-owner of the Evanston Print and Paper Shop. As a teacher, I became increasingly fascinated not only by what was in the books I taught but also the materiality of them. I always felt, and tried to convey to my students, that opening a book was a way of having history reach out to you. In the novel *Jazz*, Toni Morrison addresses the reader in the voice of the book saying, 'make

me, remake me. You are free to do it and I am free to let you because look, look. Look where your hands are. Now.' The weight of books has always meant so much to me – in every sense of the word. I love that the Caxton Club values both the inside and outside of books, and I look forward to becoming a Caxtonian!" Nominated by Martha Chiplis, seconded by Bill Hesterberg.

Annie Morse

Annie Morse is Senior Lecturer in Museum Education and liaison to the academic community at the Art Institute of Chicago, where she has worked since 1996. Among her responsibilities is coordinating the annual Graduate Student Seminar and *Artists Connect*, a Chicago-based artist lecture series. With an undergraduate degree from the University of California at Santa Cruz and a Masters in Modern Art History, Theory, and Criticism at the School of the Art Institute, she recently received her Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is also an independent curator who has served with the Contemporary Arts Council, The Three Arts Club of Chicago, and the Hyde Park Art Center. Nominated by Catherine Thompson, seconded by Bob Brooks.

Patrick Olson

Patrick Olson is currently finishing up as Visiting Assistant Professor of Library Administration at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he has been working with Caxtonian Valerie Hotchkiss as Rare Book Cataloging Project Manager. In spring 2009 he curated "Collating Caedmon: Editing Old English Texts and the Evolution of Anglo-Saxon in Print." He has done expert work in cataloging at DePaul University, where he received his undergraduate degree, and is also noted by Paul Gehl to be a careful and accomplished student of early printing. In January, he will be starting a new job as Vail Cataloger at MIT, working through a collection of 25,000 rare items on aeronautics and electricity. Patrick's collecting interests include early Anglo-Saxon printing and mountaineering memoirs. Nominated by Paul Gehl and seconded by Katherine DeGraff for junior non-resident status.

Kevin Perrizo

Kevin Perrizo and his wife Cynthia are patrons and supporters of the Newberry Library, where they have been Newberry

Library Associates since 2004. A reader and collector with eclectic tastes (including J.K. Huysmans), Kevin has "mastered the art of reading while walking" (apparently without consequence to fellow members of the pedestrian public), and may be easily engaged in convivial discussions of his interests, which in addition to books, include beer and cigars. Nominated as a non-resident member by Bob Karrow, seconded by Ed Bronson.

John R. Power

John Power is an accomplished historian, newspaperman, and collector from Jacksonville, Illinois. Retired after 23 years as publisher of the Jacksonville *Journal-Courier*, the oldest continuously published newspaper in the state, he is now publisher emeritus. His collection of books, directories, maps, atlases, and views of Illinois counties is one of the best in private hands, and he is the "go-to" authority on Central Illinois history. As the past president of the statewide Illinois Historical Society, John has curated shows at the local Jacksonville Historical Society. His service in the business and cultural realms is too extensive to list but includes director of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, the Illinois Humanities Council, Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois, and the Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce. He is past-chairman of the Governor's Task Force on Historic Preservation, past-chairman of the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission, past-president and current treasurer of the Morgan County Historical Society, treasurer of the Governor Duncan Association, and director of the Jacksonville Area Economic Development Corporation. He serves on the federal government's Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Advisory Board, which planned the celebration in 2009 of the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth. Nominated for non-resident membership by Ed Hirschland, seconded by Bob Karrow.

Brenda Rossini

Brenda Rossini is a Sherlockian, friend of the late Caxtonian Eli Leibow, and a self-described "avid reader rather than a collector." She participates in the activities of the Centuries & Sleuths Bookshop in Forest Park, is a member of the Dickens Fellowship of Chicago, and is a Board member of the Off Campus Writers Workshop. With other interests including maps and cartography, she is a member of the Map Society of the Newberry Library. In addition, Brenda is the

new copy editor of the *Caxtonian*, and as such will be free to adjust any infelicities in the text or content of this brief book-lover biography. Nominated by Bob McCamant, seconded by Tom Joyce.

Richard D. Smith

Richard D. Smith is internationally known for his Wei T'O system of de-acidification for paper and for his work in addressing the most pressing problem facing the preservation of our written and printed history. Mr. Smith has a Ph.D. from the Graduate School of Library Science of the University of Chicago. His interest in the book extends to libraries and collections. Smith was nominated and approved by the Council for membership in December 2003, but decided not to join when his work took him to Canada. Now returned to the area, he reapplied for membership and looks forward to being an active member of the Club. Nominated by Peggy Sullivan and John Chalmers.

Michael F. Suarez, S.J.,

Michael Suarez is a literary scholar and a book historian who previously held a joint appointment at Fordham and Oxford universities. He is co-editor of *The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain, Volume 5, 1695-1830*, to be published in September; and co-general editor of *The Oxford Companion to the Book*, published this year. He has just taken up his duties as University Professor, Professor of English, and Honorary Curator of Special Collections at the University of Virginia. Most significant for many Caxtonians, Michael Suarez is the newly-appointed director of the Rare Book School at the university. In that role, he will be instrumental in fostering knowledge and appreciation of the book among a broad audience. He is erudite, charming, and a staunch advocate for the values of the Caxton Club. Nominated as a non-resident member by John Chalmers, seconded by Alice Schreyer. Donna M. Tuke provided an additional second to the nomination, noting his passion for scholarship and books, his energy, and his compassion.

Mark Tewfig

Mark Tewfig is North American representative for acquisitions, appraisals, and sales for Maggs Bros. Ltd. of London, one of the world's leading antiquarian booksellers. He previously served the company as a travel and military specialist, and before that had been
See MEMBERSHIP REPORT, page 12

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: "Text/Image: Books from the Dorothy B. Edinburg Promised Gift" (a selection of rare books promised to the Harry B. and Bessie K. Braude Memorial Collection, including French works antedating 1860, some major monuments of the French *livre d'artiste* tradition 1860-1960, plus illustrated works from England, Germany, Italy, and Russia), Ryerson and Burnham Libraries, ongoing; "Everyday Adventures Growing Up: Art from Picture Books" (works by award-winning illustrators Nancy Carlson, Peter McCarthy, and Timothy Basil Ering, showing how picture books help children to decode images and develop critical thinking skills), Ryan Education Center and Gallery 10, through November 28.

Chicago Botanic Garden, Lenhardt Library, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, 847-835-8202: "Japonica: The Artistry of Rare Books" (delicate and artistic books with floral themes such as peonies and irises, often on rice paper and in watercolor), through August 15; "Emily Dickinson's Garden: The Poetry of Flowers" (illustrated books, manuscripts, and rare nursery catalogs showing how Dickinson's horticultural knowledge influenced her use of plants and flowers in poetic metaphor; part of a traveling exhibit created by the New York Botanical Garden's Mertz Library), August 20 through November 14.

Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington Street, Chicago, 312-744-6630: "Louis Sullivan's Idea" (an installation of photographs, drawings, documents, and artifacts relating to Sullivan's life, writings, and architectural works, presented by Chicago artist Chris Ware and cultural historian Tim Samuelson), Chicago Rooms, through November 28.

Chicago Public Library, Carter G. Woodson Regional Library, 9525 S. Halsted Street, Chicago, 312-747-6900: "Chicago Alliance of African-American Photographers Presents a Ten Year Retrospective" (work that informs, educates, and records history, by Pulitzer Prize winning photographers Ovie Carter, Milbert Brown, Jr., and John H. White), through January 7, 2011.

Columbia College, Center for Book and Paper Arts, 1104 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, 312-369-6630: "Marilyn Sward: Speaking in Paper" (spanning four decades of work by the founder of the

Center for Book and Paper Arts, whose groundbreaking work inspired many and helped handmade paper come into its own as a fine art medium), through August 21.

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society, 361 E. Westminster Avenue, Lake Forest, 847-234-5253: "Nature by Design: Drawings of the Foundation for Architecture and Landscape Architecture, 1926-1935" (a collaborative project with Special Collections at Lake Forest College, featuring watercolors, measured drawings, sketches of estates, and gardens at home and abroad, drawn by students from Midwestern universities who participated in an innovative summer program founded over 75 years ago by renowned landscape architect Ferruccio Vitale and housed at the college), through December 16.

Northwestern University, Charles Deering Library, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston, 847-491-7658: "Only Connect: Bloomsbury Families and Friends" (rare materials from the McCormick Library, including

numerous personal letters sent by members of the Bloomsbury group to friends, lovers, siblings, and cousins – at times some of these simultaneously; a selection of first editions from Virginia and Leonard Woolf's Hogarth Press; a copy of E. M. Forster's novel *A Room with a View*, signed by the author), third floor, Main Library, extended through August 20; "The Once and Future Saint: Two Lives of Hildegard von Bingen" (documents focusing on Hildegard's extraordinary 12th century life as a famous author, composer and visionary, as well as her twentieth century revival as feminist and New Age icon), Main Library, through August 27; "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.

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), through August 29.

Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, 5500 S. Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, 773-702-0200: "People Wasn't Meant to Burn: Ben Shahn and the Hickman Story" (16 original drawings by artist Ben Shahn, originally appearing in *Harper's Magazine* and documenting the murder trial of James Hickman, who shot and killed his landlord after the four Hickman children died in a 1947 Chicago tenement fire. Note: the drawings were donated by legendary Chicago alderman Leon Depres, who served as one of Hickman's original defense lawyers.), through August 29.

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



Emily Dickinson's Garden, Chicago Botanic Garden Library
FRITILLARIA IMPERIALIS, D.W. MOODY, AMERICAN FLORA, VOL. 4, GREEN & SPENCER, 1850

Caxtonians Collect: Nancy Lynn

Sixty-eighth in a series of interviews with members

Interviewed by Robert McCamant

Nancy Lynn is quick to point out that she is not a book collector. True, she grew up with books (her father sometimes had to sneak new purchases into the house because her mother said there was no room for any more), she has worked for a bookstore, she has worked (twice) for the Newberry Library, she now works for the Chicago Public Library Foundation, and she does have quite a few books about gardens and gardening. But it is not a collection. Nonetheless, she loves to come to Caxton meetings because the people she meets are so interesting, and because she runs into old friends from her bookstore and library days.

She joined the Club in 2008, recruited by Susan Levy and Tom Joyce.

Lynn spent her childhood in Palmyra, New York, a small town between Lake Ontario and the Finger Lakes. Palmyra is notable as the place where Joseph Smith founded The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. (Most of them moved on to other places; however, many come back annually for a summer pageant.) She escaped to Vassar as an undergraduate.

After graduation, travel took her through Chicago, which she found quite agreeable. When it was time to look for a job, she took a job as a schoolteacher. That lasted for a few years, followed by two years in the fiction department of Kroch's & Brentano's flagship store on Wabash Avenue. "Book selling was so different in the 70s," she explained. "Every Saturday morning Carl Kroch would summon us all in for a pep talk before the store opened. He'd tell us what was happening in the literary world, make sure that we knew what our customers ought to know about."

On the side, she was a volunteer for Common Cause. A fellow volunteer told her she ought to go to work at the Newberry. She ended up in the development office, where she stayed for five years. "It was an exciting time at the Newberry," she explains. "Bill Towner was building things, not the least of which was the bookstack. The programs for scholars were being funded well by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The bookstore sold

prints made from original Bewick woodblocks for \$5, and when we were running low they would send me up to hang out with Bob Middleton while he printed some more. Even the pages were an interesting lot: I remember one who used to choose to shelve items only at night, so he could be alone with the books."



Her specific job was to raise operating support for the library during the larger campaign to fund the bookstack and build endowments for the four "centers" that administer the scholar programs.

Lynn's first stint at the Newberry was from 1979 through 1983. Then she had her first child, and chose to work as a consultant with Charles R. Feldstein & Co., a firm that helps not-for-profits with fund raising, especially capital campaigns. After ten years, she went back to the Newberry, then to Metropolitan Family Services. Seven years there brings us to 2007, when she joined the Chicago Public Library Foundation.

She is enthusiastic about the foundation, for which she is the director for individual giving. "We're a very small staff," she laughs. "I don't direct anybody." But she finds the founda-

tion a good fit with her interests and contacts. "Chicago Public Library is like Metropolitan Family Services in that they are both all about bringing life-affirming resources and services to neighborhoods. Each of the library's 75+ branches has a perspective on the people it serves. Few American cities have the breadth

and depth of commitment to creating a city of readers and lifelong learners."

Though Lynn recognizes that Mayor Daley is not uniformly loved by Chicagoans, she is inspired by his dedication to the Chicago Public Library. "During Daley's 20-year tenure, Chicago has built or renovated more than 50 branch libraries. People love to have a new branch library in their neighborhood."

People are often confused about the role of the foundation. "Chicago Public Library has a \$120 million annual budget. The foundation provides about \$5 million in private funds per year, which supports programs and initiatives which benefit the entire Library system." Their web site currently lists 13 programs they support. Ones Lynn mentioned to me include the Summer Reading Program (which currently has 50,000 student participants earning a t-shirt by reading 25 books in eight weeks), the Teacher in the Library Program (which puts accredited teachers in 55 branch libraries to help kids with their homework), and Cyber Navigators (which puts mentors in 42 branch libraries to help with on-line

access). One notable Foundation initiative some years back was underwriting for Sunday hours: for a time the Foundation provided the funds, but it was not long before the city recognized its value and found the means to reinstate this important public service.

Lynn lives in Oak Park with her husband, Andy Teitelman, who works for the Chicago Housing Authority. Oak Park is where she gets to pull weeds in her garden, something she very much enjoys doing. They have two children, a daughter who lives in Chicago and works for Lyric Opera (currently raising funds!), and a son who lives in Jersey City, New Jersey, trying to make his way as a jazz percussionist.

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Photograph by Robert McCamant



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Coming in September...

Luncheon Program

Friday, September 10, 2010, Union League Club
Don Chatham

"Algonquin Round Table: the Epitome of a
Decadent, Significant Decade (1920-1930)"

Dorothy Parker, Robert Benchley, Alexander Woolcott, Harold Ross, George Kaufman, Robert Sherwood, Edna Ferber – among others – lunched daily at the Algonquin Hotel for 10 years, and along the way their irreverence, their stinging wit, and their brilliant interactions greatly influenced American literature for years to come. Caxtonian Don Chatham, Associate Executive Director of the American Library Association and Head of its Publishing Department, has long been fascinated by this noisy, impertinent, impecunious, but, oh-so-clever gathering.

He'll tell us about it at our September luncheon.

Dinner Program

Wednesday, September 15, 2010, Cliff Dwellers

Robert Williams

"Teaching America to Write: Early American
Penmanship Books and Pedagogical Theory"

Writing masters in the newly formed United States were very concerned about penmanship, and introduced some surprisingly novel and unique approaches to this basic skill. Caxtonian Robert Williams will share some of his discoveries about how Americans learned to write, illustrated with materials from his collection and that of the Newberry Library.

(If the description of this talk sounds familiar, it's because this was to be our January talk. Unfortunately, technical difficulties made it impossible for Bob to show his slides on that occasion. He has kindly agreed to come before us again, and the required offerings have been made to the gods of PowerPoint.)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, from page 9

responsible for the publications department of Hordern House, antiquarian booksellers and publishers of Sydney, Australia. As a freelance writer, Mark Tewfig has contributed reviews, articles, and interviews to the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Australian Book Review*. Nominated by Anthony Mourek, seconded by Skip Landt.

Steven Woodall

Steven Woodall is the director of the Columbia College book and paper center. He came to Columbia last year after 12 distinguished years as education director and then artistic director at the Center For Book Arts in San Francisco, one of the nation's leading book arts programs. He is widely experienced as an exhibit curator and is a distinguished book artist in his own right. He considers himself "split between the second and third

coasts," since his family remains in San Francisco, where he is also a long-time member of the Book Club of California and on the board of the Codex Foundation. Having Steven Woodall as a Caxtonian provides him with an additional community of book lovers, and will provide our membership with the benefit of his West Coast insights and perspectives. Nominated by Paul Gehl, seconded by Bob McCamant.

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