CAXTONIAN

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Visionary Enchantment

The Books of Lewis and Clark

Bruce Hatton Boyer

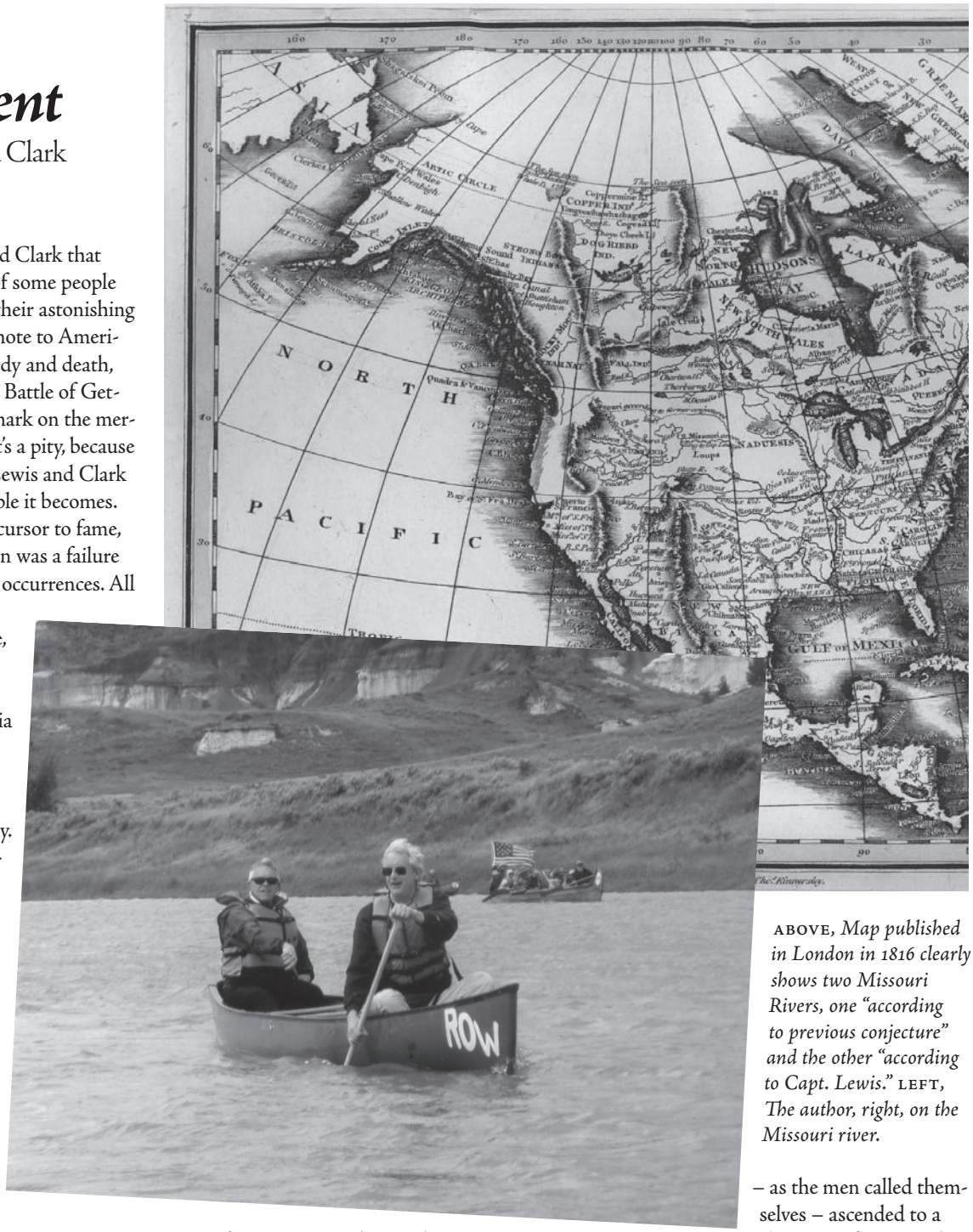
What is it about Lewis and Clark that so rivets the attention of some people – myself included – yet keeps their astonishing accomplishment a minor footnote to American history? Does it take tragedy and death, a la Custer's Last Stand or the Battle of Gettysburg, to leave an indelible mark on the mercurial American mind? If so, it's a pity, because the more one delves into the Lewis and Clark expedition, the more remarkable it becomes.

Indeed, if tragedy is the precursor to fame, the Lewis and Clark expedition was a failure – it was remarkably free of sad occurrences. All of the men who left St. Louis in 1804 returned alive save one, and he died of appendicitis, a fate he would have met just as surely in the finest Philadelphia hospital. Quite unlike Custer, all except one of the expedition's encounters with the native peoples ended peacefully. That fact is even more remarkable when we consider the extraordinary language barriers the explorers faced, often having to go through as many as four translations to talk to their hosts, from English to French to Shoshone to Nez Percé and back again. Best of all, not only did these explorers get along with the Native Americans, it was only timely intervention by natives at several critical junctures that saved the expedition from danger.

Finally, the Lewis and Clark expedition was the epitome of teamwork and cooperation. There were no Captain Blighs or Captain Queegs, no dramatic standoffs or grumbling crew members to add drama or conflict, and, except for a minor incident at the outset, the men worked as a harmonious team for over two years. The faith the men had in their leaders was total and freely given. One example shows as much:

On June 8, 1805, the Corps of Discovery – as the men called themselves – ascended to a place east of present-day Fort Benton, Montana, where the Missouri River divided into two equal forks. Lewis and Clark carried with them a rough map, based on accounts from French traders, which sug-

See LEWIS AND CLARK, page 3



ABOVE, *Map published in London in 1816 clearly shows two Missouri Rivers, one "according to previous conjecture" and the other "according to Capt. Lewis."* LEFT, *The author, right, on the Missouri river.*

CAXTONIAN

Letter from the President

Dear Caxtonians:

Your officers, Vice-President Wendy Husser, Secretary Bruce Boyer, Treasurer Tom Swanstrom, and I look forward to the upcoming Club year and hope you do too. It should be exciting and, if you have any ideas on how it could be even better, please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

We want to thank the 2010 Council Class: Dorothy Anderson, Don Chatham, Mary Ann Johnson, Phil Liebson and Bill Locke for their service to the Club, and welcome the 2013 Council Class: Jackie Vossler, JoEllen Dickie, Lynn Martin, Matt Doherty, and Tom Joyce – we know the new class will make itself quickly felt. Of course, the Club functions through its appointed officers: Bob Karrow – Programs, Paul Gehl – Archivist/Historian, and Hayward Blake – FABS representative, as well as through the chairs of the various By-Law Committees: Bill Locke and Dorothy Sinson – Friday Luncheons, Skip Landt – Membership, and Susan Rossen and Kim Coventry – Publications and Exhibitions. They are joined by the chairs of the other important committees: Martha Chiplis – Scholarship, Charles Spohrer, John Dunlevy, and Matt Doherty – Website and Directory, and Margaret Oellrich – Audio Visual. And, if you are reading this, you know the handiwork of Bob McCamant – the editor of the *Caxtonian*.

Our dinner meetings return to the Cliff Dwellers Club, except that the annual Revels will remain at The Newberry Library. Lunch meetings continue at the Union League Club.

At the September dinner meeting, we will award scholarships to three extremely deserving recipients: Jana Sim, a second-year MFA candidate at Columbia College Chicago Center for Book and Paper Arts, Ashley Hairston, a first-year MFA candidate at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Linda M. Brocato, a student in the program for a Certificate of Advanced Study in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Each winning work was exceptional and I recommend you read the Martha Chiplis article on the winners and their works in the August issue of the Caxtonian, if you have not already done so.

As most of you know, Kim Coventry and Susan Rossen are getting ready for the February 2011 publication of the Club's book on association copies. Like the Club's previous publications, this one is sure to be highly praised and sought after. In future issues of the *Caxtonian*, there will be additional articles on the book, and how to purchase a copy or two for your library.

The publication of the association copy book will be followed, in March 2011, by a symposium on association copies. Like prior Club symposia, this one should be very informative and entertaining.

Together with the other officers and Council members, I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming luncheon and dinner meetings.

– David S. Mann

Ron Offen '06

died on August 9.
A remembrance will appear in a future issue of the *Caxtonian*.

"Why I Collect What I Collect" is the title of a column appearing in each issue of the *FABS Newsletter*. Members of the Caxton Club are encouraged to submit articles. Entries should be between 800 and 1200 words, and may include images. Submit your entry to Goerge Singer at ashleybkco@aol.com.

LEWIS AND CLARK, *from page 1*

gested that the fork leading to the north and west was the true Missouri. Since part of the expedition's mission was to find a northwest passage to the Pacific Ocean, "the whole of my party to a man except myself," Lewis wrote "were fully persuaided that this river was the Missouri." (In this, and subsequent quotes, I retain original spelling.)

Lewis himself was not so sure. Rarely a man to follow conventions, he looked at the topography and spent several days sending scouting parties up both rivers. He knew that if he made the wrong choice, the success of the entire expedition would be in danger. Finally, he gathered the company together:

> We examined our maps, and compared them with the information derived as well from them as from the Indians and fully settled in our minds the propriety of adopting the South fork for the Missouri, as that which would be most expedient for us to take. Those ideas as they occurred to me I indeavoured to impress on the minds of the party all of whom except Capt. C[lark] being still firm in the belief that the N. Fork was the Missouri and that which we ought to take: [but] they said very cheerfully that they were ready to follow us any wher we thought proper to direct. (*Journals*, p. 134)

Such trust seems nearly incredible today but it was well-placed. Forty-nine days later, on July 28, the party reached the Missouri River headwaters at Three Forks, Montana. Mission accomplished.

And yet, even these remarkable traits pale beside the greatest single distinguishing accomplishment of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Unlike previous explorations into the American unknown, this expedition was not about plunder or imperialism. Think about that. Until 1804, the names of famous explorers are associated primarily with quests for glory or gold – Cabeza de Vaca, Coronado, DeSoto, Cartier, LaSalle, as well as Cortés, whose expedition into Mexico gave us another great chronicle of North American exploration, that of fellow soldier Bernal Diaz' *The Conquest of New Spain*. Even the journey of Alexander Mackenzie, who in 1793 became the first European to cross North America by land (albeit in Canada), was about trade and profit.

Not so with Lewis and Clark. Their primary goal was knowledge – the discovery of the then-hoped-for Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean. Even more than that, they were driven to the discovery of wonders which Thomas Jefferson was convinced lay within the vast but uncharted territory of Louisiana.

Junction of the Madison, Jefferson and Gallatin Rivers, facing downriver.

Wonders Lewis and Clark did find, and wonders they recorded. For the field of biology, they identified 178 new plant species, 12 new species of fish, 15 of amphibians and reptiles, 51 of birds and 45 of mammals, including the first classification of that most famous of North American mammals, *ursus horribilis* – the grizzly bear. Of these identifications, virtually all still hold their place in the canon of biological taxonomy. Only Lewis' early death prevented him from publishing his discoveries and achieving, in historian Stephen Ambrose's words, "a rank not far below Darwin as a naturalist." (*Undaunted Courage*, p. 470.)

The expedition recorded accurate bearings along the entire route, including the meticulous accuracy of the course of the Missouri River. One example of their work can be seen in a map in my own collection, which I have here reproduced. (See p. 1.) Published in London in 1816, it clearly shows two Missouri Rivers, one "according to previous conjecture" and the other "according to Capt. Lewis." So it went. After Lewis and Clark, the unknown was no longer unknown.

When all is said and done, however, there is really only one way to truly appreciate Lewis and Clark, and that is to "go there."

I first encountered the Lewis and Clark trail 40 years ago – when I was traveling west of Bozeman, Montana, and saw a sign for Three Forks. Curious, I got off the highway and traveled until I reached the spot where three rivers converged into what Lewis called "the essential headwaters of the Missouri River." It was the geographical feature Thomas Jefferson had sent them to discover, and which had taken 14 months and nearly 3,000 miles to find. Even today, it is a lovely spot. The three rivers, which lend the place its name, run clear and swift, in the way that only Western rivers do. The Corps named the rivers the Madison, after the Secretary of State; the Gallatin, after Alfred Gallatin, the Secretary of the Treasury; and, in Lewis' words

> Both Capt. C. and myself corrisponded in opinion with rispect to the impropriety of calling either of these streams the Missouri . . . In pursuance of this resolution we called the S.W. fork, that which we meant to ascend Jefferson's River, in honor of that illustrious personage Thomas Jefferson, the author of our enterprise.

Since then, I have traveled much of the Corps' route, crisscrossing the Missouri River in scores of places. It is one of America's great natural wonders. Twice as long as its cousin, the Mississippi, it flows through far more varied countryside, lifting up the prairie soil and moving it ever southward. From North Dakota westward to its headwaters, a distance of around 600 miles, it remains today much as it did back then, with only two "civilizing" interruptions from the Corps of Engineers.

The most wondrous part of the Missouri River is the hardest part to see – the Missouri Breaks in north central Montana. Here, the

See ***LEWIS AND CLARK****, page 4*

LEWIS AND CLARK, *from page 3*

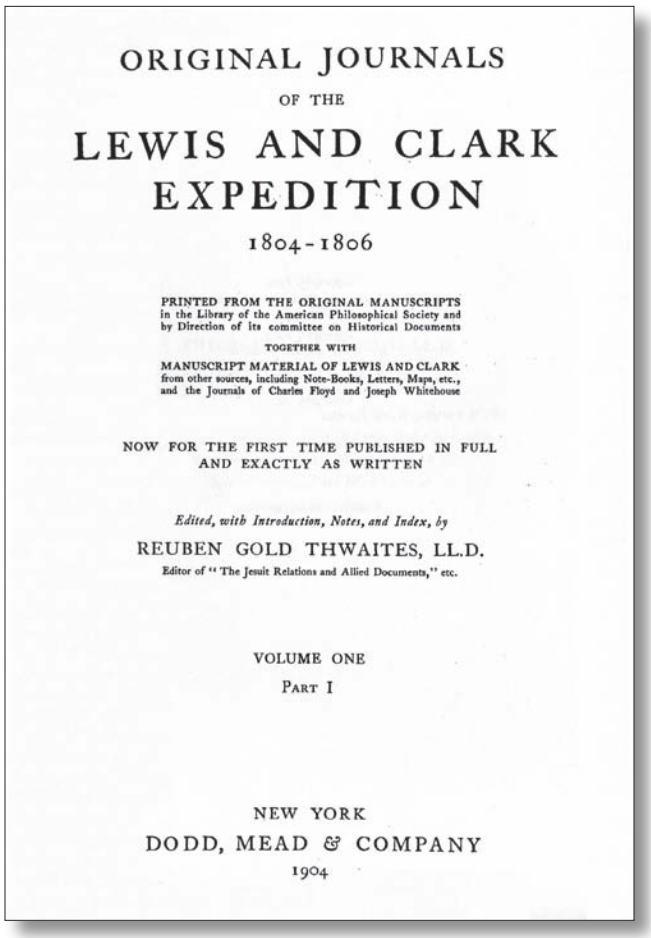
river has cut through sandstone cliffs spiked with basaltic outcroppings. It is the Missouri's version of the Grand Canyon, and when the Corps encountered it 200 years ago, they were stunned by its beauty:

> Friday May 31st, 1805. . . . The bluffs of the river rise to the hight of from 2 to 300 feet and in most places nearly perpendicular; they are formed of remarkable white sandstone . . . The water in the course of time in descending from these hills and plains on either side of the river has trickled down the soft sand clifts and woarn it into a thousand grotesque figures, which with the help of a little imagination and an oblique view, at a distance are made to represent elegant ranges of lofty freestone buildings . . . As we passed on, it seemed as if these seens of visionary enchantment would never have an end.

Today, most of this land is in private hands. No roads permit access. What's more, the river itself has been designated wild and scenic by the Department of the Interior, so no motorboats are allowed. As a result, there is only one way to experience it – by canoe, which I did three years ago.

Our expedition spent four days and three nights on the Missouri, moving through the canyons as if in a trance, or so Lewis' words would echo continually in my brain. With the immensity of the Montana sky, the majesty of its cliffs and the abundance of wildlife – eagles, pelicans, osprey – here is perhaps the only place left to see the West the way Lewis and Clark saw it.

We also experienced the not-so-friendly Missouri River about which Lewis and Clark also wrote – fierce forces of nature, as on May 22, 1805, when "the wind continued to blow so violently hard that we did not think it prudent to set out until it lulled a little." We ourselves got up one morning to find just such a wind blowing through our campsite. When my canoeing partner and I put out into the river, it took him only half a minute to yell back at me, "Boy, this was a big mistake!" And it was. The winds were blowing so fiercely up the channel, that I, steering from the stern, could neither see nor feel the river channel. Worse, the winds seem to lift the canoe high enough that we lost our friction with the water – I later described the sensation as "roller skating on ice." My partner and I had to dig at the water with all of our might to make any headway against the wind – and we were going *downriver*. We were so exhausted by the work that we capsized at one point and had to drag the canoe to the riverbank to right it. It certainly helped me appreciate those times when the *Journals* record a mile or two of progress, at most, in an entire day.



ORIGINAL JOURNALS
OF THE
LEWIS AND CLARK
EXPEDITION
1804-1806

PRINTED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS
in the Library of the American Philosophical Society and
by Direction of its committee on Historical Documents
TOGETHER WITH
MANUSCRIPT MATERIAL OF LEWIS AND CLARK
from other sources, including Note-Books, Letters, Maps, etc.,
and the Journals of Charles Floyd and Joseph Whitehouse

NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME PUBLISHED IN FULL
AND EXACTLY AS WRITTEN

Edited, with Introduction, Notes, and Index, by
REUBEN GOLD THWAITES, LL.D.
Editor of "The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents," etc.

VOLUME ONE
PART I

NEW YORK
DODD, MEAD & COMPANY
1904

But this being the Caxton Club, I would like now to devote my attention to the *books* of Lewis and Clark.

Of these, one remains paramount – the *Journals* themselves. They are one of the great treasures of American literature. In the classic 1904 edition edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites, the *Journals* run 10 volumes. In the more recent edition, edited by Gary Moulton and published by the University of Nebraska Press, they run eight thicker volumes. Either way, they represent what would have been an immense accomplishment for any regular team of writers. If we consider that the originals traveled every one of the 6,000-odd miles with the expedition, that they were written on precious sheets of paper with equally precious ink which had to be carried every step of the way, that there is an entry for every single day of the entire 862 days (and sometimes more than one), and that the *Journals* were nearly lost to history on May 14, 1805 when the pirogue piloted by Charbonneau, the French-speaking husband of Sacagawea, capsized in the middle of the Missouri River, and that the manuscripts were saved only by the quick intervention of the Bird Woman herself – while she was carrying a six-month-old infant on her back – our minds simply boggle.

For learning about Lewis and Clark, the *Journals* are the starting and ending points, the *sine qua non*. The longitude and latitude of the campsites, the details of the days' events, sometimes down to the dinner menu and to the nature of the river current, everything is in them. To read the *Journals* is to be there with the men, fighting off mosquitoes, sweltering in the summer heat, or freezing in the harshness of the Bitterroot Mountains. Even in the one-volume abridgment by Bernard DeVoto (Houghton Mifflin, 1953), which I use in my classroom, the impact of the accomplishment still comes through.

Equally fascinating is what the *Journals* reveal about their authors. On the one hand, there is Clark, the steadfast one, whose prose is sturdy, reasoned and lucid. It is no accident that after the expedition, Clark held a series of governmental appointments, moved into banking, and died a respectable, venerable citizen of St. Louis at the age of 68. On the other hand, there is Lewis, the perpetual loner, a restless spirit always striking out for new and uninhabited lands. Mercurial and moody, no doubt today he would be diagnosed as bi-polar and prescribed medication. But he was brilliant, both intellectually and intuitively. He, of all the members of the Corps, most reveled in the joys of the unknown and in the majesty of the new worlds he encountered. His prose bursts with poetry and philosophy. It was his melancholic nature which drove him to write one of the most haunting passages in the entire *Journals*:

> Sunday, August 18, 1805. . . . This day I completed my thirty first year and conceived that I had in all human probability now existed about half the period which I am to remain in this Sublunary world. I reflected that I had as yet done but little, very little, indeed to further the happiness of the human race or to advance the information of the succeeding generation. I viewed with regret the many hours I have spent in indolence, and now soarly feel the

"The Mandan Village on the Upper Missouri," copied from a print by Karl Bodmer circa 1840.

> want of that information which those hours would have given me had they been judiciously expended. But since they are past and cannot be recalled, I dash from me the gloomy thought, and resolve in future to redouble my exertions and at least indeavour to promote those two primary objects of human existence, by giving them the aid of that portion of talents which nature and fortune has bestoed upon me; or in future, to live for *mankind*, as I have heretofore lived *for myself*.

Such thoughts tormented Lewis his whole life. At one point, he did not make a single entry in the *Journals* for over four months. When the expedition returned, Lewis wore his mantle of fame so awkwardly that, on October 11, 1809, at the age of 35, he committed suicide.

There are naturally hundreds of books about the expedition, so let me suggest just a few. One of the best is only incidentally about Lewis and Clark but is a good beginning – Bernard DeVoto's *The Course of Empire*. DeVoto lays out the entire settlement of North America from the time of Columbus, making clear the motives attributable to the nations warring over the New World – the Spanish came to plunder, the French to trade, and the British to colonize. He reminds us that in 1804, any claims to the Great Plains were unsettled, the Louisiana Purchase notwithstanding, and the primary mission of Lewis and Clark was to claim the Northwest Passage for the United States.

Stephen Ambrose's *Undaunted Courage* was a bestseller 15 years ago, and it remains a fine read because Ambrose was such an engaging writer. Despite the disrepute attached to Ambrose's name since his death, *Courage* remains, perhaps, the best single-volume account of the expedition for those unable to read the *Journals*.

A number of people have written about traversing the Lewis and Clark trail today, but the book I recommend is Dayton Duncan's *Out West*. Duncan, who has since teamed up with Ken Burns in the documentary film business, set out to follow the Corps' trail. It took him only a fraction of the time it took Lewis and Clark, but he certainly had his own curious encounters with the natives. He spent a night in an Indian shelter in North Dakota so he could experience the same numbing cold that the explorers endured in their winter at the Mandan villages. For those wishing to follow in these footsteps, the National Park Service published *Lewis and Clark, Historical Places Associated With Their Transcontinental Exploration*, a 1975 guidebook which lists every marked location of their expedition.

Besides these writers, the other great historian who contributed so much to Lewis and Clark was the late Donald Jackson. His outstanding contribution was the *Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, a 728-page compilation of letters, correspondence and miscellany not in the *Journals*, but which contribute mightily to our feeling of what the trip was about.

There are scores of books about specifics of the expedition. Paul Russell Cutwright's *Lewis and Clark, Pioneering Naturalists* (University of Illinois Press, 1969) details their biological discoveries. James P. Ronda, another outstanding Lewis and Clark historian, contributed, among other works, *Lewis and Clark Among the Indians* (Nebraska, 1984). Charles G. Clarke's *The Men of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* (Nebraska, 1970), Bruce C. Paton's *Lewis and Clark, Doctors in the Wilderness* (Fulcrum, 2001), Robert J. Moore, Jr. and Michael Haynes' *Tailor Made, Trail Worn: Army Life, Clothing and Weapons of the Corps of Discovery* (Farcountry, 2003), and Richard Mack's handsome, photographic odyssey, *The Lewis and Clark Trail* (Quiet Light, 2004) all make unique contributions. Finally, there is Ken Burns' documentary about the Corps, told with perhaps a few too many of his trademark silhouetted sunsets but stirring nonetheless.

Now I return to my original question – despite these written treasures, why does the Lewis and Clark expedition not hold a larger place in American consciousness? I think the answer to that question is timing. Lewis was the real writer of the two, and he was supposed to prepare the *Journals* for publication. His suicide deprived a waiting public of his words. In 1814, historian George Biddle used the journals to publish *The History of the Expedition Under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark* but it did not sell especially well. Perhaps the bloom was off the rose by then. And the *Journals* themselves, which would, in my opinion, have astonished the American public, had to wait a century before Thwaites finally published them in time for the Corps' Centenary. In the intervening time, America had fought a civil war, conquered the Native Americans, spurred the Industrial Revolution and lived through the Gilded Age. Perhaps the public outlived its readiness.

Today, with our renewed interest in environmentalism and historic preservation, and with a different approach to the question of Native American history and culture, Lewis and Clark should find an appreciative audience. In a world where business and political figures are consumed with corruption and egotism, Lewis and Clark are a reminder of what true leadership entails. Thomas Jefferson said it well when he wrote of Lewis some years after the latter's death:

> Of courage undaunted, possessing a firmness & perserverance of purpose which nothing but impossibilities could divert from its direction, careful as a father of those committed to his charge, yet steady in the maintenance of order & discipline, . . . I could have no hesitation in confiding the enterprise to him (Jackson, *Letters*, pp. 589-90).

True enough. It is, in Stephen Ambrose's words, "a great story."

§§

Photographs by the author.

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: "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.

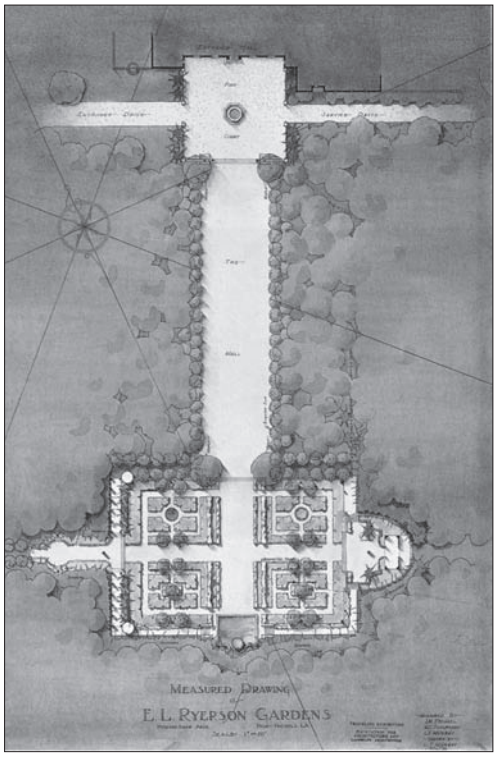
Chicago Botanic Garden, Lenhardt Library, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, 847-835-8202: "Emily Dickinson's Garden: The Poetry of Flowers" (illustrated books, manuscripts and rare nursery catalogs, showing how Dickinson's horticultural knowledge influenced her use of plants and flowers in poetic metaphor; part of a traveling exhibit created by the New York Botanical Garden's Mertz Library), through November 14.

Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington Street, Chicago, 312-744-6630: "Louis Sullivan's Idea" (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.

Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State Street, Chicago, 312-747-4300: "Alfred Appel on Classic Jazz" (works by the late Alfred Appel, Northwestern University English professor for over thirty years, who wrote widely on the history of jazz in its larger context of 20th century art, with a special focus on Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Fats Waller), Upright Case, Eighth Floor, through June 30, 2011.

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 seventy-five years ago by renowned landscape architect Ferruccio Vitale and housed at the College), through December 16.



Nature by Design, Lake Forest Historical Society
top 1931 sketch of Crabtree Farm, estate of William McCormick Blair, in Lake Bluff by Russell Deeter. *bottom* 1930 student drawing of the Edward L. Ryerson home and gardens, Lake Forest.

Newberry Library, Center for Renaissance Studies, 60 W. Walton Street, Chicago, 312-255-3516: History of the Book Lecture, "The *Letters* of Lupus of Ferrieres" (Michael I. Allen of the University of Chicago discusses the content of the *Letters*, unique documents providing a window into the life of Lupus, a teacher, book-borrower, abbot, and scribe who affected the shape and survival of major works we still read), 2:00 p.m. Friday, September 10, **registration required**; History of the Book Lecture, "Catholic Book Publishing in the Vernacular after the Council of Trent: A European Overview" (Francois Dupuigrenet-Desroussilles of Florida State University discusses the geography and chronology of these "ghost" books that, despite being banned by the Church from 1545 until 1962, survived and resulted in several lucrative editorial endeavors), 2:00 p.m. Friday, October 1, **registration required**.

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.

Oriental Institute of Chicago, University of Chicago, 1155 E. 58th Street, Chicago, 773-702-9514: "Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond" (illustrations of new research on the origins of writing: artifacts from the four "pristine" writing systems of Sumer, Egypt, China, and Mesoamerica; examples of the forerunners of writing, such as rock paintings and pot marks, photographic tablets from Uruk (today's Iraq), seal impressions from the tombs of early Egyptian kings, and oracle bones used in Chinese rituals; examples of early alphabetic texts in Proto-Sinaitic, Old South Arabian, and Hebrew, all of which re-evaluate the origins of the alphabet; a video kiosk demonstrating how photographic techniques can examine sealed clay Token balls ca. 3350-3100 BC, whose previously unread contents are thought to be the ancestors of Latin letters), September 28 through March 6, 2011.

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

Caxtonians Collect: D.W. Krummel

Sixty-ninth in a series of interviews with members

Interviewed by Robert McCamant

Don Krummel joined the Caxton Club in 1962, shortly after he went to work for the Newberry Library. Stanley Pargellis, who recruited him, also gave him to know that he needed to belong to the Caxton Club. As it turned out, Krummel had the time of his life at the Newberry, and has enjoyed the Club and its members and activities with great gusto ever since.

"Bibliography is my life," Krummel explains. "And at the Caxton Club you can see the world of bibliography personified by the different members. It's partly about collecting – and we certainly have collectors among our members. But it's also about physical books, so it's great that we have designers and bookmakers, readers, librarians, booksellers, authors—the world of those who take seriously the written record of our civilization. And of course the heart of bibliography is understanding a topic, and all you have to do is sit at dinner with a random member to see how Caxton members are devoted to their topics."

Krummel talks at the farewell-to-MidDay event in December, 2007.

Photograph by Robert McCamant

Over the years Krummel's topics have included bibliography, music, librarianship, and Americana. His next writing (to be published this summer) is about music crime: specifically, about a 19th-century lute book that he acquired for the Newberry not knowing that it had been stolen. His best-known book is probably *Bibliographies: Their Aims and Methods*, first published by Mansell in 1984 and also translated into Spanish and Chinese. Other books include the Norton/Grove dictionary on *Music Printing and Publishing*, of which the Caxton Club heard a preliminary condensation in the 1970s.

After the bureaucratic constraints of the Library of Congress, the intimacy and responsibility at the Newberry were a delightful contrast. In 1964 he became Associate Librarian. On the side, he was responsible for the collections in bibliography and music and is proud of acquisitions he made. And he also had responsibilities for the building. He and his family could live in the Newberry-owned Irving Apartments so he might be available for calls from the alarm company when the night watchman failed to punch in on his regular rounds. "I'd throw some clothes on over my pajamas and paddle over and wake up the watchman," he explained. "Thank goodness it was never anything serious." He is also very proud of the staff he hired at the Newberry, including his successor, David Stam, and two former Caxton Club presidents, Arthur Miller, who worked briefly in cataloging, and Karen Skubish, whose long career at the Newberry began as an evening desk supervisor.

But the Newberry kept him busy, and the fun there (he called it the "happiest years of my life") kept him from extensive pursuit of original scholarship. So in 1970 he began teaching at the library school at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "Frankly, one of my considerations was that I didn't want to go too far away from my friends in Chicago, at both the Newberry and the Caxton Club," he says, although he admits that over the years the trip takes longer than he realized, especially when you get on in years. As for the Illinois library school, it is still top-ranked in the nation, and has expanded several times over by the time he "retired" in 1997. I put quotes around "retired" because he's still teaches one course each semester, either in bibliography or in library history, and works extensively with former students and colleagues on their projects.

Among his students, he points with pride to local Caxtonians Jill Gage and Katherine DeGraff, and nonresidents Michèle Cloonan (now Dean of the School of Library Science at Simmons College, who gave a luncheon talk in June of 2008) and Vincent Golden (curator of newspapers and periodicals at the American Antiquarian Society, who gave a dinner talk in January of 2006). He is also happy to have emulated Stanley Pargellis by advising his friends and students who move to Chicago: join the Caxton Club. Notable among them is another former President, the late Frank Williams.

He has also taught at the Rare Book School, beginning in the 1990s at Columbia University, and continuing now at the University of Virginia. His earlier course was on bibliographies as reference sources, his later one on American music printing and publishing.

Krummel met his wife, Marilyn, when she took his opera course, the last elective on her master's program at Ann Arbor. In Washington, she had a plum job as supervisor of music in the public schools of Prince George's County, Maryland, but chose her man over the plum job when he came to Chicago. Their children, both born during the Newberry years, are Karen, a cellist in the Grand Rapids symphony and on the Calvin College faculty, and Matthew, an immunologist at the University of California/San Francisco. The Krummels still live in Urbana. Most summers they visit the Kneisel Hall chamber music program in Maine, but this last year they opted for a visit with old friends in London, and went to Paris, where their son was on a research assignment.

Two more books are in progress. He is collaborating on a history of American music publishing. The main work, however, will be *The Anatomy of Bibliography*, a distillation of his overview of the field. A short book, but he finds that it's harder to write short than it is to write long! From the foreword, however, I take this to be the summary of his goal: "There are millions of books, and countless readers who use them in countless ways. Many different bibliographical practices have been designed to help the readers find and use the books. This anatomy book – in its concern for breadth rather than the depth – is an anthology of perspectives on the practices."

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Bookmarks...

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 (and others) lunched at the Algonquin Hotel every day for 10 years, and along the way their irreverence, their stinging wit and their brilliant interactions influenced American literature. Caxtonian Don Chatham, Associate Executive Director of the American Library Association, has long been fascinated by this noisy, impertinent, impecunious, but, oh-so-clever gathering. Come and hear: how did such a group get together? How did the American public learn what was going on? How the members carried "togetherness" to an extreme: secluded island trips, poker nights, etc. Many members produced major works of literature. What was the Round Table's influence? Why did some members (on hindsight) express embarrassment at their previous participation in the Round Table?

A great story: the sadness of the clown.

The September 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 September dinner: it will take place at the Cliff Dwellers Club, 200 S. Michigan, 22nd floor. Timing: spirits at 5:00, dinner at 6:00, program at 7:30. Dinner is $48, drinks are $5 to $9. Special Cliff Dwellers parking rate, after 4 pm: $10 at the System Parking Garage at the SE corner of Jackson & Wabash. 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.***

Dinner Program
Wednesday, September 15, 2010, Cliff Dwellers
Robert Williams
"Teaching America to Write: Early American Penmanship Books and Pedagogical Theory"

The use of printed books to teach handwriting goes back to the sixteenth century. It may come as a surprise to some that printing has always been a friend of penmanship, spreading examples of different writing styles and teaching methods beyond local borders through printed exemplars and instruction manuals. Writing masters in the newly formed United States joined in this tradition 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.)

Beyond September...

OCTOBER LUNCHEON
Thursday October 7, visual historians Richard Cahan and Michael Williams will talk about how they produced books on Edgar Miller, Richard Nickel, and others, and the future of such books.

OCTOBER DINNER
On Wednesday, October 20, Debra Mancoff of the Art Institute will talk about Edward Burne-Jones, William Morris and their outstanding offspring, the Kelmscott *Chaucer*.

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON
On November 12, William Tyre, Executive Director of Glessner House, will present a program on John Glessner: the man, his writings, his house and Tyre's research into Glessner's library.

NOVEMBER DINNER
On Wednesday, November 17, Paul Gehl will speak at Cliff Dwellers about Caxtonian Norma Rubovits and her collection of marbled papers (including her own work and others').