

Theodore Roosevelt in North Dakota

Searching for a Young Bull Moose in the Badlands

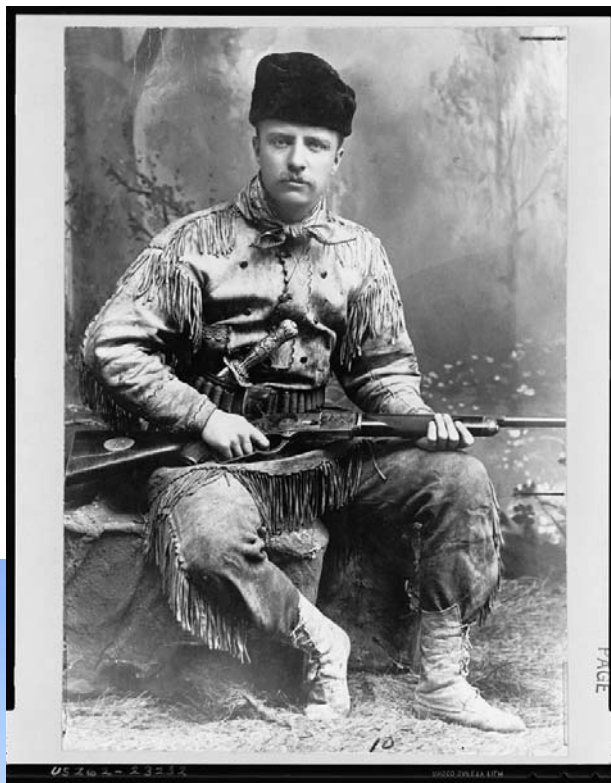
John C. Roberts

Theodore Roosevelt may well have been our most fascinating president. At the end of his presidency in 1909 he was enormously popular, considered to rank with Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln, and in a more recent poll of historians he was placed among the top six American presidents. He is remembered for the Panama Canal, trust busting, the Rough Riders' charge, the Great White Fleet, progressive politics, the national parks, and as one of our first conservationists. He rose to prominence at an astonishingly early age—member of the New York legislature at age 23, unsuccessful candidate for Mayor of New York at 28, U. S. Civil Service Commissioner at 30, president of the New York Board of Police Commissioners at 36, Assistant

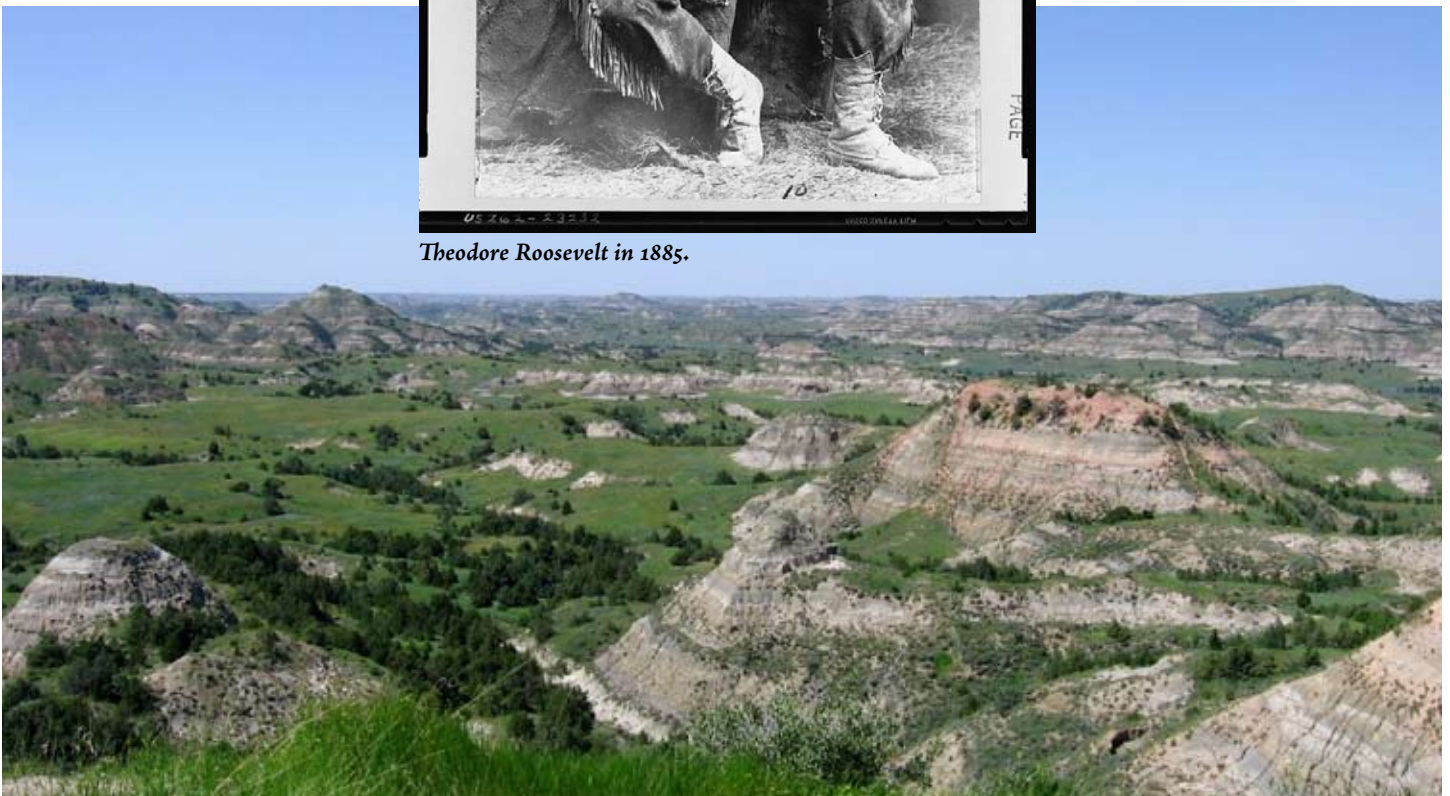
Secretary of the Navy at 38, Army Colonel in the Spanish-American War at 39, Governor of New York at 40, and, finally, Vice President and then President after McKinley's assassination in 1901. He was only 42. "I rose like a rocket," he later wrote about his early career.

TR was certainly one of our most cosmopolitan presidents. He was well traveled and spoke German and French. Roosevelt was also a man of massive contradictions. Described by historian John Morton Blum as "the most learned of modern presidents," and a Harvard graduate, he cultivated the rough and ready image of a cowboy. Member of an aristocratic New York family, he saw himself as a representative of the common man and an advocate for economic justice. A lover of war and an advocate for a bellicose foreign policy, he was also the first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize, for his successful mediation of the Russo-Japanese War. Addicted from an early age to

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Theodore Roosevelt in 1885.





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THEODORE ROOSEVELT, from page 1

shooting wild animals of all sorts and on several continents, he was also an able naturalist and the father of the modern conservation movement in America. Though TR was a very sickly child and suffered greatly from asthma through his life, he became the very symbol of vigorous athleticism and courage to many Americans.

Theodore Roosevelt thought of himself as a professional writer as much as a politician, and in fact had no peer among presidents as an author. He published his first book, on the Naval War of 1812, soon after graduating from Harvard, and produced a steady stream of serious history, adventure books, and essays throughout his life. He was even elected president of the American Historical Association in 1912. TR could be a charming companion, but many saw his boyish impetuosity and unusual speaking style as extremely annoying. Mark Hanna was said to have remarked upon McKinley's death that

"that damned cowboy is now President." Perhaps most interesting of all, for our purposes, though Roosevelt was a certified aristocratic easterner, he spent some of his formative years as a rancher in North Dakota, and thereafter went to great lengths to promote the public perception that he was somehow a westerner at heart. His experiences in the West played a major role in forming the mature president Theodore Roosevelt.

When Roosevelt traveled west in 1883 at the age of 24, the vast area between Bismarck, Dakota Territory and Billings, Montana Territory was virtually empty of white settlement. It was, and in some ways remains, a wild and open place. The hostile Sioux and their allies had been vanquished in the Great Sioux War seven years earlier, and their great leader Sitting Bull had surrendered at Fort Buford in July of 1881. The Northern Pacific Railway, just completed and key to the development of the region, was America's second transcontinental railroad and the first to cross the northern plains. Change was coming to the Badlands area of what is now North Dakota. The huge northern buffalo herd, heavily

hunted by both Indians and white hunters for years after the Civil War, was now virtually gone. Large Indian hunts in the summer of 1882 had killed most of those that remained. Starting in that same year, Texas ranchers moved into the area, looking for new ranges closer to rail connections that led to eastern markets. Now that both the Indian tribes and the buffalo were removed, they sought to exploit the rich



ROOSEVELT IN 1883

Image from Roosevelt in the Badlands

grasses of the area.

During the Victorian era there was great fascination with the American West and cowboy culture. It was not unusual for rich aristocrats from the eastern states, and from Europe, to travel and hunt in Dakota and Montana. A number of foreigners invested in the nascent cattle industry. One of those, the Marquis de Mores, arrived in the Little Missouri Badlands just before Roosevelt in the spring of 1883. He founded the town of Medora where the Northern Pacific crossed the river and named it after his American wife. Using money from his wealthy wife's family, he started a ranch and an ambitious meat-packing operation. De Mores became a dominant figure in the short history of big-time cattle operations in the area.

Historians differ as to exactly what motivated Theodore Roosevelt, just finishing his first term as the youngest member of the New York legislature, to travel to the Little Missouri Badlands. He may have been interested in investing in the local cattle industry, as indeed he already had in Colorado. He certainly wanted to shoot a buffalo before there were no more to hunt. Despite his fragile health and bad

eyesight, TR also craved outdoor adventure and loved to travel. Roosevelt always exhibited a boyish side and saw himself early in life as a heroic figure out of the popular novels of Sir Walter Scott and James Fenimore Cooper. The New York dude arrived in Medora on a Northern Pacific train in the middle of the night on September 8, 1883. Had he arrived the day before, he would have seen



The Little Missouri near Roosevelt's ranch.

the Golden Spike Special pass through on its way to celebrate the completion of the Northern Pacific, carrying, among other dignitaries, former president Grant. In the morning, Roosevelt found a hunting guide named Joe Ferris and set out southward along the Little Missouri River to bag his buffalo. Several new ranches were already operating along the river on both sides of the railroad. He met Ferris's brother Silvano and his partner William Merrifield, and spent several nights with a recent arrival from Scotland, Gregor Lang. Lang and Roosevelt talked far into the night, as TR was wont to do, about the potential for ranching along the Little Missouri, and the future

President decided then and there to invest in a ranch of his own. At Lang's suggestion, he asked Ferris and Merrifield to partner with him, and impulsively gave them a check for \$14,000. Their Maltese Cross Ranch, also called Chimney Butte Ranch because of its location on the river across from Chimney Butte, became Roosevelt's.

Theodore Roosevelt in his later life carefully nurtured his popular image as a cowboy and rancher, though he frequently exaggerated the time he spent on his North Dakota ranches. All told he spent less than a year there between 1883 and 1887, though he used

his Elkhorn ranch house for brief hunting trips into the 1890s. But he said and wrote with great feeling that he never would have become President but for his years in North Dakota. "Here the romance of my life began," he told an adoring crowd at Medora during the 1900 presidential campaign. I wanted to understand why his experiences in the West had such a profound influence on his life and career and to see firsthand the Dakota Badlands he had roamed in the 1880s.

To experience TR's western sojourn, I drove from my family home in Nebraska across the picturesque Sand Hills of novelist Mari Sandoz, through the Black Hills of South Dakota and north to the Little Missouri watershed. The western region of the Dakotas is still sparsely settled, featuring endless rolling grassland interspersed with austere buttes. Because of unpredictable cycles of wet and dry weather, the area is sometimes brown and arid, but the years 2010 and 2011 have been unusually wet and the landscape was lush and green. In the far southwestern corner of North Dakota, the Little Missouri River flows north toward the Missouri. With hundreds of bends and loops, it has carved a large badlands area of multicolored cliffs and rugged buttes interspersed with green bottomlands. It is a forbidding, lonely, and beautiful landscape. On each side of the Little Missouri Badlands the flat grassland reemerges. Even today there are few farms, because of the uncertain rainfall, and ranches are widely dispersed. Much of the grassland is part of the National Grassland

Wild horses graze near the road in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.



See *THEODORE ROOSEVELT*, page 4

THEODORE ROOSEVELT, from page 3 system, land purchased by the federal government from failed farmers in the Depression and returned to its natural state.

Except for the signs of fast-growing energy development, this part of the West looks as it did when TR rode upriver from Medora to the Maltese Cross Ranch in 1883. Some of the most striking portions of the Little Missouri Badlands have been preserved in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park where I hiked, surrounded by striking scenery and wild horse herds. In Medora I stayed at the Rough Riders Hotel originally built by the Marquis de Mores in 1884 and later renamed. During TR's time in North Dakota it was a center of activity for local cattlemen. The building has now been extensively restored and enlarged, and its lobby features a fine library of books by and about Theodore Roosevelt.

I have a personal connection to this area. Some of the same motivations that brought Roosevelt to the Little Missouri also led my great-grandfather and grandfather to homestead there in 1907, during a later ill-fated wave of farm settlement. I have located those original homesteads near the town of Marmarth, which is only 30 miles upriver from the Maltese Cross Ranch. Indeed, Roosevelt shot his first buffalo in 1883 not far from my great-grandfather's homestead, west of Pretty Butte.

Though local cowboys and ranch owners initially saw TR as a dude, he eventually became a respected member of the community and was elected president of the local stockmen's association. He brought a knife made at Tiffany's and some expensive guns, and also had a buckskin shirt (reminiscent of his heroes Natty Bumppo and Davy Crockett) made by a local woman. He had several staged photos taken in his cowboy getup. His large thick glasses made him the subject of some ridicule among the locals. Despite this, Roosevelt became a real rancher, and actually participated in working his cattle during his visits to North Dakota. He wrote of his



The Maltese Cross cabin as presently located (ABOVE) with its original location.

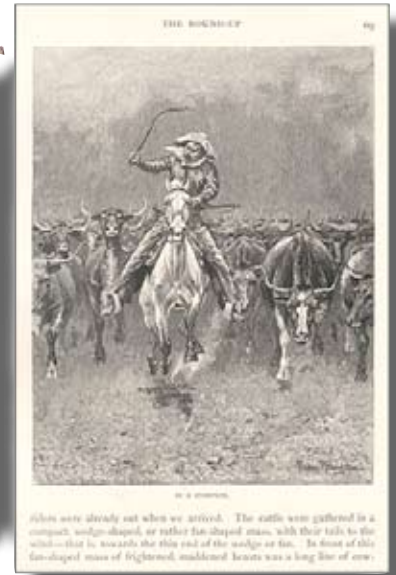
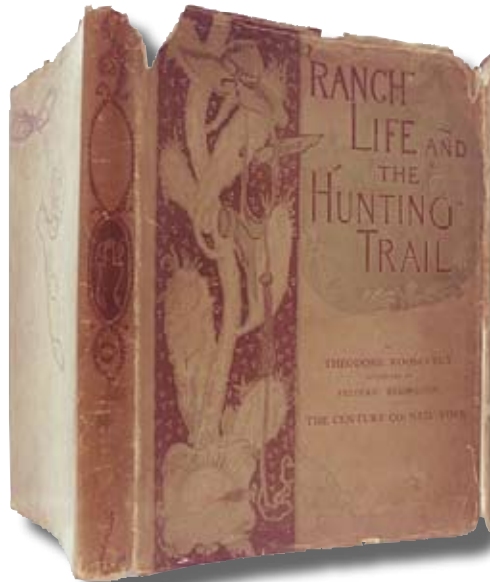
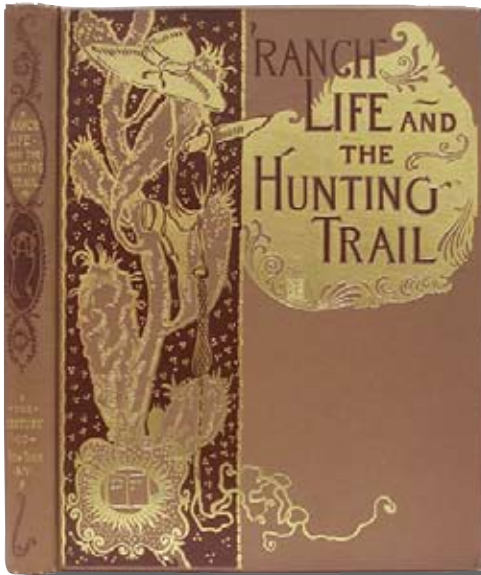
adventures in three exuberant books, *Hunting Trips of a Ranchman* (1885), *Ranch Life and the Hunting Trail* (1888), and *The Wilderness Hunter* (1893). Though they embellished his exploits a bit, and were criticized by some for inaccurate details about cowboy life, they were very popular and cemented his image as a real cowboy in the public mind.

Roosevelt's friends and neighbors in the Badlands realized that he was not just another rich easterner, but a rising young politician of some promise. In 1886 he was invited to deliver a speech at the first Fourth of July cere-

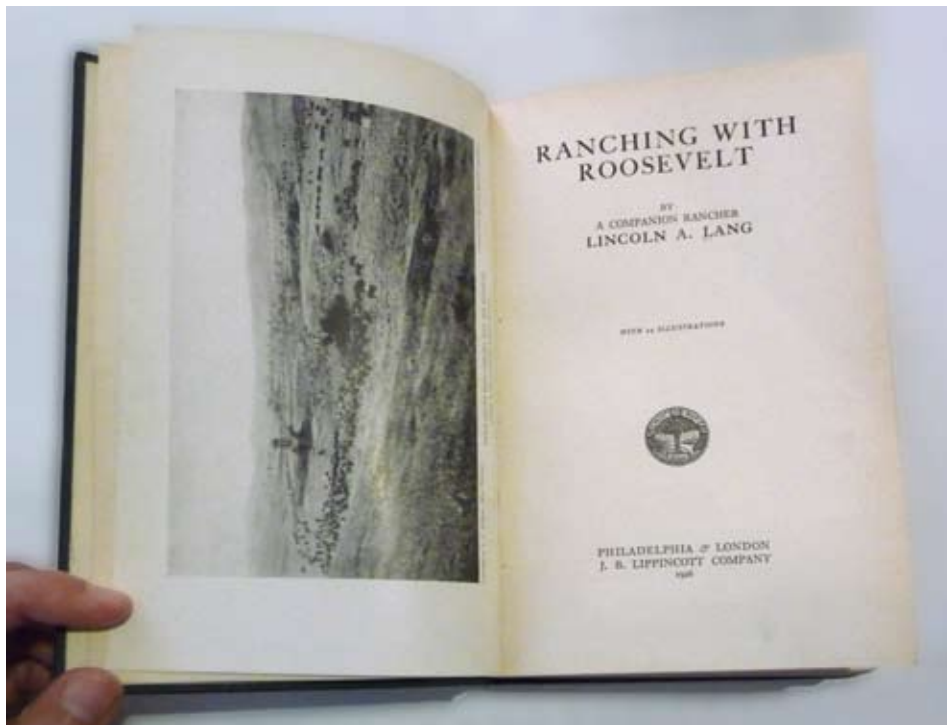
mony ever held in western Dakota in the fledgling town of Dickinson. It was one of his first truly national speeches, and he sounded the patriotic and expansionist themes for which he became famous. With the cooperation of the staff of the Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University, I stood on the site of his speech exactly 125 years later. It will be commemorated this fall with a statue of the young TR in his much-loved buckskin shirt, as part of an important scholarly symposium about Roosevelt and the West.

During my trip to North Dakota, I visited the site of the Maltese Cross Ranch on a mile-wide stretch of rich bottomland along the Little Missouri with Chimney Butte in the background. I also explored the original cabin TR lived in on the ranch, which is now on exhibit at the Theodore Roosevelt National Park near Medora. The small cabin is well traveled, attesting to the public's fascination with TR's western adventures. It was taken apart and reassembled at the St. Louis World's Fair during his presidency in 1904, moved to Portland for the Lewis & Clark Centennial

Exposition in 1905, and then relocated to the State Capital grounds in Bismarck for many years before finding its current resting place. Roosevelt, however, was dissatisfied with the location of his first ranch, as it was on a well-traveled trail along the river, and in 1884 built a second ranch house some 30 miles north of the railroad, still on the Little Missouri. Known as the Elkhorn Ranch, this site is truly remote even today. With some difficulty, I was able to drive the dirt back roads to experience firsthand this idyllic spot overlooking the river which TR wrote about often in his books.



This handsome copy of the Roosevelt/Remington 1888 collaboration is/was offered for sale on the Wessel and Lieberman (Seattle) web site.



Lincoln Lang was only a teenager when he met Roosevelt, but his early book on his relationship to the Dakotas was insightful nonetheless.

The Elkhorn Ranch house was quite large, in contrast to the Maltese Cross cabin, and had a wonderful porch for TR to sit reading in his rocking chair. During his visits, Roosevelt read prodigiously, and worked on whatever writing project was then underway. The house and outbuildings no longer exist, though one can hike to the site and visualize the buildings with the help of Park Service signs and a few remaining foundation stones. It is easy to appreciate the solitude that was so important to Roosevelt.

As a business venture, Theodore Roosevelt's

North Dakota ranches were not a success. Overgrazing and the terrible winter of 1886-87 pretty much destroyed the cattle business in the area and left Medora nearly deserted. Roosevelt, like many cattlemen of the day, never owned any of the land on which his cattle grazed. Not really a rich man, he gambled a considerable part of his fortune on the venture and lost a significant sum. Though he had initially toyed with the idea of making ranching his "regular business," TR never really committed to it, only visiting the Badlands for a few weeks at a time before returning

to the East. But those years were important to his development as a person and a leader. Roosevelt went west partly to improve his health, and indeed his physical strength and health noticeably improved during those years – leading "the strenuous life" actually did have its benefits. An arduous seven-week hunting trip to the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming in 1884 was probably a turning point in his quest to become physically fit. Friends and family members commented on how different he looked.

TR often said later that the self-reliance and individualism of the West profoundly affected his own attitudes, and he greatly admired the common cowboys and businessmen he met in Dakota Territory. To him, the western society he found there exhibited all the heroic characteristics he admired – closeness to nature, harsh physical challenges, open spaces for expansion, financial opportunity, rough and ready democracy. These themes were more fully developed in one of his more enduring works of history, the multi-volume *The Winning of the West* (1889-96), which focused on the settling of Ohio and Kentucky. They also infused his biography of Thomas Hart Benton, written mostly in North Dakota and published in 1887 as his western period was ending. Roosevelt became an exponent of the "Turner thesis" concerning the influence of the frontier on American life before historian Frederick Jackson Turner articulated it. Ironically, his western sojourn also helped form his ideas about conservation. Though he loved to shoot all kinds of wild

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ROOSEVELT IN THE BAD LANDS

BY
HERMANN HAGEDORN

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS



BOSTON AND NEW YORK
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY
The Riverside Press Cambridge
1921



THEODORE ROOSEVELT
On the road-up, 1889

Hagedorn's was the first serious study of Roosevelt's life in the west.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT, from page 5
game, sometimes in prodigious numbers, he also saw in North Dakota how native species like bison, elk and deer could be hunted to near extinction, and how over-grazing cattle could destroy the grasslands. These experiences led him to help found the Boone and Crockett Club in 1887 with his friend George Bird Grinnell, and to become our greatest conservation President.

Perhaps most significant, the Elkhorn Ranch helped Theodore Roosevelt recover from the greatest personal tragedy of his life, the death of both his young first wife and his mother on Valentine's Day 1884, just days after his daughter Alice was born. Devastated, he retreated to the Badlands and took long rides alone to deal with his grief and to recover his characteristic enthusiasm and optimism. He immersed himself in hunting and ranch work, spending long days in the elements with his ranch hands. Clearly both the strenuous work and the solitude helped his recovery immensely. Roosevelt never publicly referred to or wrote about his first wife after her death, not even in his autobiography.

Theodore Roosevelt's experiences in North Dakota and their effect on his career and character have been analyzed in many books by both popular writers and academic historians. TR's somewhat romanticized accounts appeared not only in his hunting trilogy, but also in his very readable autobiography, published in 1913. It has been described by Edmund Morris as "for all its sins of omission, a fairly complete portrait of TR the man – alternately tender, preachy, humorous, boring, boastful, inspiring, cozy, and sad."

Probably the most influential chronicler of Roosevelt's life and work was the indefatigable Herman Hagedorn, a fellow Harvard man who was close to the Roosevelt family. In addition to writing several books about TR, he was the long-time president of the Theodore Roosevelt Association, which is still very active today. Hagedorn was also the editor of a complete collection of Roosevelt's works, known as the National Edition, published in 20 volumes between 1919 and 1926. A 24-volume set of his works, effectively identical in content but differing in organization, was published in 1926 and is known as the

Memorial Edition. Hagedorn's *Roosevelt in the Badlands* (1921) was the first and probably the most influential account of TR's western adventure, though it is uncritically worshipful and not up to modern standards of documentation. The book is now scarce, particularly in the illustrated dust jacket which features the cattle brands of TR's two ranches. Hagedorn, mindful that many of Roosevelt's cowboy buddies were still alive, used different names to disguise their identities. His extensive notes of interviews with many of those who knew and worked with Roosevelt in North Dakota have continued to be a treasure trove of material for later biographers.

Most of the writing about TR soon after his death in 1919 was laudatory, but Henry F. Pringle's *Theodore Roosevelt: A Biography* (1931) took a new tack, portraying him as an irresponsible jingoist. Later historians have struggled with the contradictions in his character and with his glorification of war, but have taken a generally favorable view of his life and career. Carleton Putnam wrote the best treatment of Roosevelt's time in the West, in what was to be the first of a multi-volume

biography that was never finished, *Theodore Roosevelt: Vol. 1, The Formative Years, 1858-1885* (1958). The meticulous Putnam corrected many errors and filled in gaps in Hagedorn's work, and added material from other primary sources. The first volume (*The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt* [1979]) of Edmund Morris's masterful three-volume biography of TR covered the Badlands period in some detail and with great verve. It deservedly won the Pulitzer Prize. Soon afterward, David McCullough published an insightful and well-written account of Roosevelt's early years, but with only brief attention to his ranching experience, *Mornings on Horseback* (1981). It won a National Book Award. Perhaps the best one-volume life of TR is Kathleen Dalton's *Theodore Roosevelt: A Strenuous Life* (2002). John Morton Blum's *The Republican Roosevelt* (1954) is still

Carleton Putnam's excellent book on Roosevelt's time in the West.

useful. Recently, Douglas Brinkley's excellent *Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America* (2009) explored in depth TR's contribution to the environmental movement and America's national parks.

Theodore Roosevelt was a prodigious letter writer along with his large published output of books and articles on history, politics, hunting and other subjects. A large eight-volume edition of his letters was expertly edited and published by Elting E. Morison and others between 1951 and 1954. He also kept extensive diaries. His *Diaries of Boyhood and Youth* were published in 1928.

Many books have also been written by those who knew and worked with Roosevelt. An especially good one that provides insight into his Badlands experience was written by Lincoln Lang, son of the rancher who first

encouraged TR to invest in a ranch. He was only a teenager when he met Roosevelt, but later wrote an excellent book, *Ranching with Roosevelt* (1926), which provided rich material for historians of this period. It is now hard to find in collectible condition. William W. Sewall, a Maine guide who had been lured to North Dakota by TR to help run the Elkhorn ranch, also wrote a useful memoir, *Bill Sewall's Story of TR* (1919).

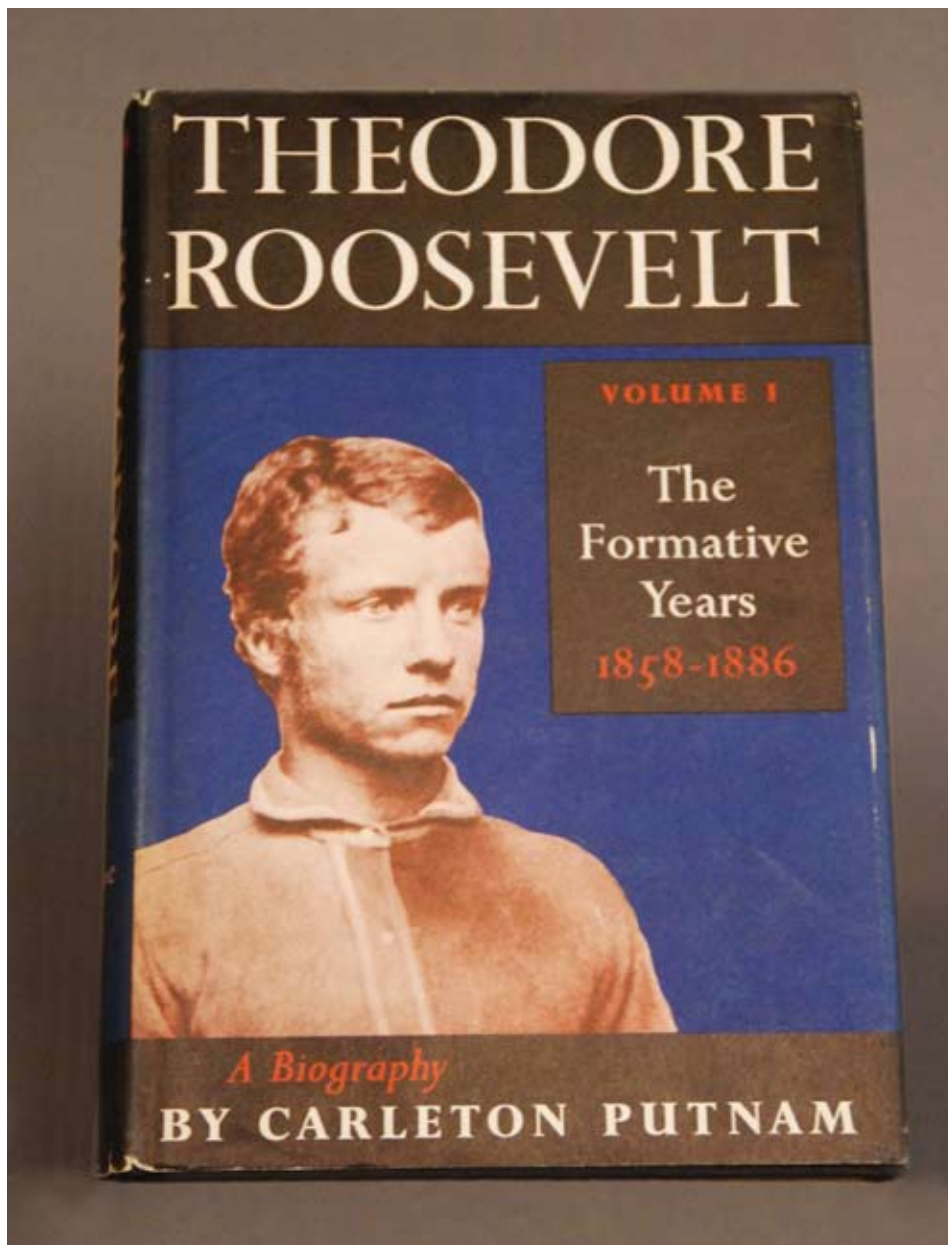
The best book on the French nobleman who was a key actor in the Badlands ranching boom of the 1880's and sometime rival of TR's is Jerome D. Tweton's, *The Marquis de Mores, Dakota Capitalist, French Nationalist* (1972).

Finally, an early book by legal historian G. Edward White lends a unique perspective to Roosevelt's stay in the Badlands. Entitled *The Eastern Establishment and the Western Experience: The West of Frederic Remington, Theodore Roosevelt and Owen Wister* (1968), it analyzes the similar experiences of these three patrician easterners and how their exposure to the West affected American history and culture. Remington and Wister were part of Roosevelt's wide circle of friends, and Remington illustrated TR's hunting book *Ranch Life and the Hunting Trail*.

Theodore Roosevelt will continue to be one of our most admired and most analyzed historical figures. My trip to North Dakota certainly deepened both my respect for this unique President and my fascination with the several different phases of his life. Despite his time in North Dakota, Roosevelt never really became a westerner. Ranching in the Little Missouri Badlands allowed him to live his heroic fantasies and to play the part of the brave, solitary, and enterprising cowboy. Ultimately, he could not escape the pull of his extended patrician family or the lure of New York politics. But there is no doubt that his time in the West, though he later exploited it for political purposes, profoundly changed his life and career. What he later characterized as "the free, self-reliant, adventurous life" affected not only his psyche but his physical health. Historian G. Edward White summed it up well: "In the 'free and hardy life' of the West he found an outlet for his creative energies; there he buried his sorrows; there he found health and confidence of a lasting nature."

§§

North Dakota photographs by the author.



Biblio-Connecting

A Florida bibliophile's diary of eight years spent cataloging other people's books

Jerry Morris

March 2, 2010:

James Caudle, Associate Editor of the Yale Editions of the Private Papers of James Boswell, prepares to correspond with Terry Seymour, an independent researcher, and with me, a volunteer online cataloger. We are working on separate but similar projects concerning James Boswell. Terry is compiling a provenance record of the Boswell family library intended for publication. I am entering the Boswell library online at Library Thing, a website where one can catalog books for all to view. [The entries are from the records of the 1893 Auchinleck sale of the Boswell library and other contemporary lists. The result can be seen at <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/JamesBoswell>.] James Caudle says to himself, "You should connect these guys... so they can exchange research findings where relevant." So he sends an email introducing us to each other.

And that's what this piece is all about: how a bibliophile connects with other people in the book world, corresponds with them, and even meets some of them.

Sept. 3, 2003:

Prior to publication in the London newspaper, *The Independent*, Gabriel Austin emails Nicholas Barker's obituary of Mary Hyde Eccles to family members and friends in the book world. I am one of his friends. I had responded to one of Gabriel Austin's threads on Ex-Libris-L about a year earlier and we had been corresponding ever since. ExLibris-L is a mailing list for librarians, booksellers, and book collectors. I soon discovered that Gabriel Austin was a close friend of Donald and Mary Hyde and the editor of *Four Oaks Farm* and *Four Oaks Library* (Somerville, 1967), two books about the home and library of Donald and Mary Hyde. I was a Samuel Johnson collector. I soon became a Mary Hyde collector as well.

July 2004:

The online edition of *AB Bookman's Weekly* publishes "The Story of a Bookplate," a piece I wrote about Edward Martin's bookplate. His bookplate tells the story of his service to the great state of Pennsylvania as a General in the National Guard, as a Governor, and as a Senator.

Sept. 19, 2004:

At the September meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society, Lee Harrer, a founding member, hands me a copy of the September 2004 issue of the *Caxtonian*; Lee is a member of the Caxton Club as well. Because I have similar collecting interests with its author, Paul T. Ruxin, Lee knows I will be interested in reading the feature article, "Other People's Books: Association Copies and Another Pleasure of Collecting." The article is about a book in Paul Ruxin's library that was formerly owned by Samuel Johnson.

Sept. 20, 2004:



I contact Paul Ruxin, congratulate him on his article, and tell him that I collect association copies as well, but on a mailman's salary (Paul is a partner in a prestigious Chicago law firm). I tell him that I was going to acquire a copy of his book, *Friday Lunch* (Cleveland, 2002), containing his talks before the Rowfant Club. I explain that I was going to give talks before the Florida Bibliophile Society and planned on reading his book beforehand. Paul Ruxin responds the next day, and we have been corresponding ever since.

Oct. 2004:

The online edition of *AB Bookman's Weekly* publishes "The Sentimental Airman," a piece I wrote about collecting association copies pertaining to the military. My "Sentimental Airman" collection included books formerly owned by Charles

Lindbergh, General Billy Mitchell, a Tuskegee Airman, and the Air Force attaché at the Embassy in Tehran who was one of the 52 hostages in Iran.

March 20, 2005:

Paul T. Ruxin comes to Florida to be guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society (I invited him). He visits my library before the meeting then delivers his talk about Samuel Johnson, "Soft-Hearted Sam."

Oct. 16, 2005:

I read my paper, "William Targ, Bibliophile," before the Florida Bibliophile Society. Targ is one of the bibliophiles in my library. He was a book collector, bookseller, editor, and publisher from Chicago. Afterwards, I post the paper on my Bibliophiles in My Library blog.

Feb. 19, 2006:

I present my talk, "Mary Hyde and the Unending Pursuit," before the Florida Bibliophile Society. Mary Hyde is one of the bibliophiles in my library. I post this talk on my Bibliophiles in My Library blog as well.

March 2006:

I have heart problems and can no longer deliver the mail. To make ends meet until my disability is approved, I sell most of my pre-1800 religious and history books to my good friend the historian Fred Farrar, who donates many of the books to his alma mater, Washington & Lee University. I sell my "Sentimental Airman" collection to Bill Clark, an aviation enthusiast who is the husband of Jan Clark, a friend who collects books about



books. I manage to keep most of my other collections intact.

Jan. 2007:

I take a break from bibliomania. I resign as president of the Florida Bibliophile Society. My wife and I fly to Hawaii to watch some of our grandchildren while their father deploys to Iraq.

Jan. 26, 2008:

(I am back in Florida now.) I catalog my books on Library Thing. I no sooner finish when Dave Larkin invites me to help him enter Samuel Johnson's library. Dave contacts me because I have the largest Samuel Johnson collection on Library Thing. It takes us four months to enter the 1784 sale catalog of Samuel Johnson's library.

Feb. 11, 2008:

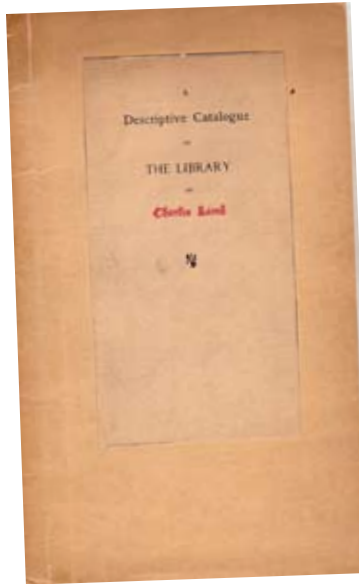
Lee Harter informs me that the Caxton Club is requesting submissions for a book on association copies, tentatively titled, *Discovery By Association: Insights From Collectors About Their Books*. I submit several essay proposals to the Caxton Club.

March 2008:

One of my essays, "Hither-Unpublished *Obiter Dicta*," is eventually selected as one of the essays to be published in the upcoming Caxton Club book. My essay is about Augustine Birrell's annotated copy of *Lectures on the French Revolution* by Lord Acton. Birrell, the author of a number of essays, most notably *Obiter Dicta*, *First and Second Series*, was the Irish Secretary in Ireland during the Easter Rising in Ireland. I submit my first draft to editor Susan Rossen in March 2008. There will be several revisions in the months to come.

June 2, 2008:

Dave Larkin and I begin cataloging the library of Charles Lamb. We refer to *A Descriptive Catalogue of The Library of Charles Lamb* published by the Dibdin Club in 1897, lists of books identi-



fied by W. Carew Hazlitt and E.V. Lucas; and specific books mentioned in letters written by Lamb to his friends. I have both the Bibliophile Society and Marris' editions of Lamb's letters. Additionally, I query librarians on the ExLibris-L mailing list, asking if they have any books from the library of Charles Lamb in their book stacks. The response is huge! I receive input from the Lewis Walpole Library at Yale University, the John Hay Library at Brown University, the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas, the Lilly Library at Indiana University, the Dunedin

Public Libraries in New Zealand, and Cambridge University Library in England. It takes us three months to enter Lamb's library.

Oct. 2, 2008:

Dave Larkin and I begin entering the books listed in the 1825 Catalog of James Boswell on Library Thing. We are joined by Anna Ritchie in Scotland. It takes us 13 months to get through 2,957 entries.

Oct. 19, 2008:

I query Gabriel Austin about cataloging the Library of Donald and Mary Hyde in the new year – such high hopes I had. Gabriel provides me with contact sources and lists of books.

Jan. 2009:

I query John Overholt, Assistant Curator of the Hyde Collection and Early Modern Books and Manuscripts at Houghton Library, Harvard, requesting that Harvard export its MARC records of the Donald and Mary Hyde Collection of Samuel Johnson to Library Thing.

March 2009:

John Overholt notifies me that Harvard approved my request to export the MARC records of the Donald and Mary Hyde Collection of Samuel Johnson. It takes months See *BIBLIO-CONNECTING*, page 10

Title	Author	Date	Tags	Comments	Review	Entry date
The Odyssey of Homer	Homer	1760	Greek poetry, Epic, Homer, Alexander Pope	Part of lot number 17 of the 1916 Sotheby sale. False imprint information, although date is correct. Bound together with the Iliad in eight volumes.		Jul 11, 2011
The Iliad of Homer, Translated by Alexander Pope, Esq	Homer	1759	Greek poetry, Epic, Homer, Alexander Pope	Part of lot number 17 of the 1916 Sotheby sale. False imprint information, although date is correct. Bound together with the Odyssey in eight volumes.		Jul 11, 2011
Sophocleus huius septem tragoediae. Sophoclis Tragoediae VII una cum omnibus Graecis scholiis et Lat. Vrb. Winsemi ad verbum interpretatione. Quibus accesserunt Joach. Camerarii nec non H. Stephani annotationes Angeb. Henrici Stephani annotationes in Sophoclem et Euripidem: quibus variae lectiones examinantur et pro mendosis emendatae substituantur. Eiusdem tractatus de orthographia quorundam vocabulorum Sophocli cum caeteris Tragicis communium. Eiusdem dissertatio de Sophoclis imitatione Homer.	Sophocles	1560	Greek drama	Listed in the 1810 Catalogue of Greek & Latin Classics in the Auchinleck Library. Coptic shows 1568 editions published in Geneva and Paris		Jul 10, 2011
Silii Italici de secundo bello punico	Silii Italici	1631	Poetry, Second Punic War	Listed in the 1810 Catalogue of Greek & Latin Classics in the Auchinleck Library. Samuel Johnson had an unidentified edition of this work in his Undergraduate Library. Image of title page is from another edition.		Jul 10, 2011
Silii Italici opus de secundo bello punico	Silii Italici	1514	Poetry, Second Punic War	Listed in the 1810 Catalogue of Greek & Latin Classics in the Auchinleck Library.		Jul 10, 2011
L. Annaei Senecae Tragoediae	Lucius Annaeus Seneca	1662	Latin drama	Listed in the 1810 Catalogue of Greek & Latin Classics in the Auchinleck Library. Lucius Annaeus Seneca is also known as Seneca the Younger.		Jul 10, 2011

for John to coordinate the project through the various Harvard offices of responsibility.

March 21, 2009:

I read my paper, "Cataloging Dead People's Books, Namely the Libraries of Samuel Johnson, James Boswell, and Charles Lamb," at the monthly meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society and post it afterwards on my Bibliophiles in My Library blog.

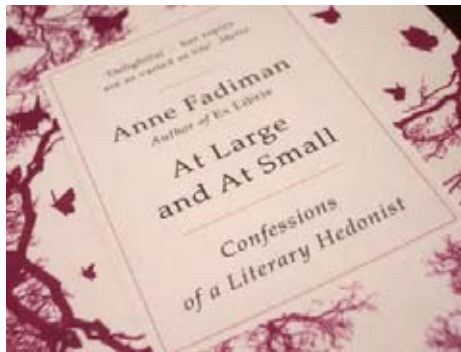
June 2009:

I become a member of the Bibliographical Society based at Oxford. Membership provides online access to the archives of *The Library*, the journal of the Bibliographical Society.

July 30, 2009:

Dear Anne Fadiman,
I am a student of the essay, and just ordered a copy of your book, *At Large And At Small: Familiar Essays*. Several reviews of your book mention your love of Charles Lamb, an author I'm most familiar with; I recently helped catalog Charles Lamb's library on Library Thing, and thought you might enjoy browsing the catalog of his library.

best,
Jerry Morris,
book collector



July 31, 2009:

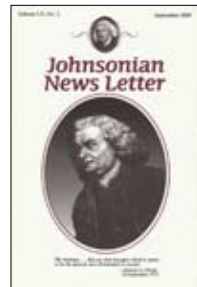
Anne Fadiman responds, thanking me for my efforts and for forwarding the link to Lamb's library.

Sept. 2009:

The *Johnsonian News Letter* publishes my notice that the libraries of Samuel Johnson and James Boswell can be viewed online at Library Thing. The Johnson library is complete but we are still cataloging the Boswell library.

Sept. 28, 2009:

I post a thread to ExLibris-L informing its members that the Donald and Mary Hyde Collection of Samuel Johnson is available for viewing on Library Thing. I congratulate John Overholt for coordinating the export of the MARC records of the collection, saving us months of manual entries.



Sept. 28, 2009:

Maureen E. Mulvihill, a scholar and writer in NYC, contacts me, thanking me for my ExLibris-L post. Maureen had recently posted her auction report on the Peyraud Collection (Bloomsbury

Auctions, May 2009), which contained a number of items about Samuel Johnson and his circle. Maureen and I share over 100 emails in the next 18 months.

Oct. 6, 2009:

I post to ExLibris and to My Sentimental Library blog about "An Unexpected Find in Umatilla." It was Sidney Ives's annotated copy of W. Jackson Bate's biography of Samuel Johnson – with a letter from Mary Hyde enclosed. Philip Bishop, proprietor of Mosher Books and the author of several books about Thomas Bird Mosher, compliments me on my article and on my three blogs: My Sentimental Library, Biblio Researching, and Bibliophiles in My Library. Philip Bishop is also one of the authors whose essay will appear in the Caxton Club book about association copies.

Nov. 24, 2009:

We announce on Library Thing that the entry of James Boswell's library is complete. It took Dave Larkin, Anna Ritchie and me over 13 months and 2,957 entries to complete the 1825 auction catalog.

Nov. 29, 2009:

Dave Larkin starts cataloging the Donald

and Mary Hyde Collection of Japanese Books. Dave, who used to work in Japan, enters the books in both English and Japanese script and refers to the copy of the 1988 Christie's auction catalog I gave him (I had two copies).

Nov. 2009 – Oct. 2010:

In the next year, I would complete cataloging of the following Hyde collections on Library Thing: Drama, Henry Fielding, Fine Binding, Forgeries, Architecture, and Sporting Books.

Dec. 3, 2009:

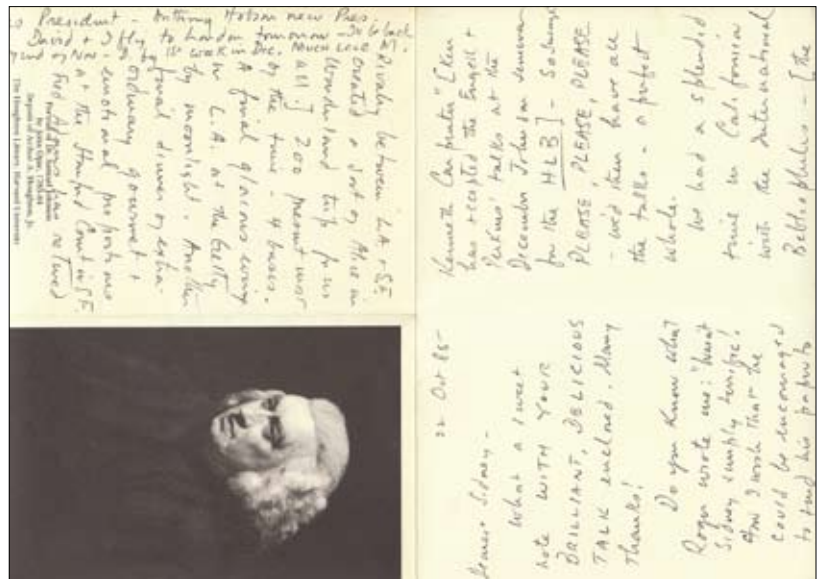
I query Andrea Lloyd, Books Reference Specialist for the British Library, requesting that the British Library export the MARC records of the Oscar Wilde Collection to Library Thing. Mary, Viscountess Eccles (Mary Hyde) bequeathed this collection to the BL. I mention that the Houghton Library at Harvard exported the MARC records of the Donald and Mary Hyde Collection of Samuel Johnson to Library Thing, saving us months of cataloging time.

Dec. 17, 2009:

Andrea Lloyd informs me that the BL approved my request. I post to the ExLibris-L mailing list, thanking Andrea Lloyd for coordinating the upload to Library Thing of the MARC records of the Oscar Wilde Collection.

Dec. 2009 – June 2010:

I enter the undergraduate library of Samuel Johnson on Library Thing. When Samuel Johnson was forced to leave Pembroke College in December 1729 because of lack of funds, he left his books behind. While I was corresponding with G. B. Hill scholar Catherine



Dille, she informed me that Johnson wrote a catalog of these books on the back of a 1735 letter to Gilbert Repington, who was caring for his books. I research further. In the footnote to this letter in the Hyde Edition of *The Letters of Samuel Johnson* (Princeton, 1992), Bruce Redford noted that A. L. Reade described these books in detail in vol. V of *Johnsonian Gleanings* (New York, 1968; originally published in 1928). I refer to Reade's book while entering Johnson's undergraduate library.

Feb. 4, 2010:

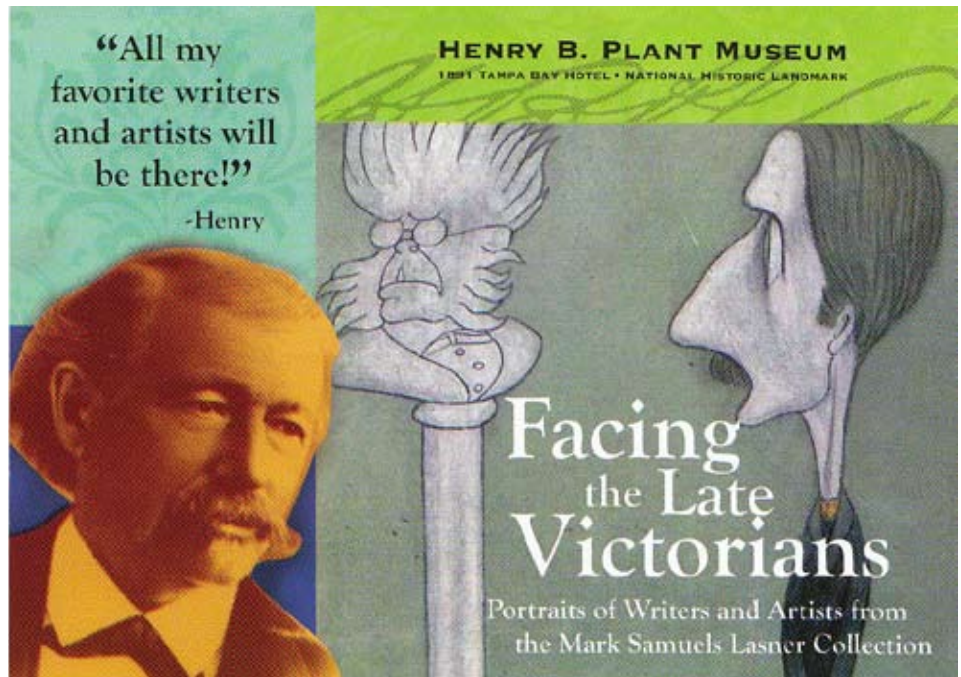
James Caudle contacts me after reading my notice in the Sept. 2009 issue of the *Johnsonian News Letter* about the Boswell Library being online at Library Thing. James introduces himself, and we begin corresponding. When he learns I am looking for a copy of the 1893 Auchinleck sale to extend the Boswell Library, he sends me a copy.

March 2, 2010:

James Caudle prepares to correspond with Terry Seymour, an independent researcher, and with me, a volunteer online cataloger. We are working on separate but similar projects concerning James Boswell. Terry is compiling a provenance record of the Boswell Family Library. I am entering the 1893 sale online at Library Thing. James Caudle must be saying to himself, "You should connect these guys – or at least provide the means for them to contact each other – so they can exchange research findings where relevant." He sends a joint email introducing us to each other.

March 2, 2010:

Terry Seymour and I respond to James Caudle's joint email. We would exchange over 100 emails in the next year. We are both contributors to the upcoming Caxton Club book on association copies. I mention that I am taking a break from cataloging to spruce up my library for some visitors. Mark Samuels Lasner and Donald Farren visit my library the day after the opening of the Tampa exhibition of Mark's "Facing the Late Victorians." My wife and I attend the exhibition as Mark's guests. Terry replies that he's on the Princeton Library Council with Mark and Don, was unaware of Mark's exhibition in Tampa, was in Port Charlotte, Florida for the summer, and would drive up for the exhibition. I invite Terry to visit my library as well, but he already has plans for Saturday.



March 5, 2010:

My wife and I attend the Lasner exhibition in Tampa. Terry drives up from Port Charlotte. We meet before the exhibition begins. I finally get to meet Mark Samuels Lasner. We had been corresponding for about ten years. Donald Farren does a double-take when he sees Terry Seymour here in Tampa. I buy a copy of

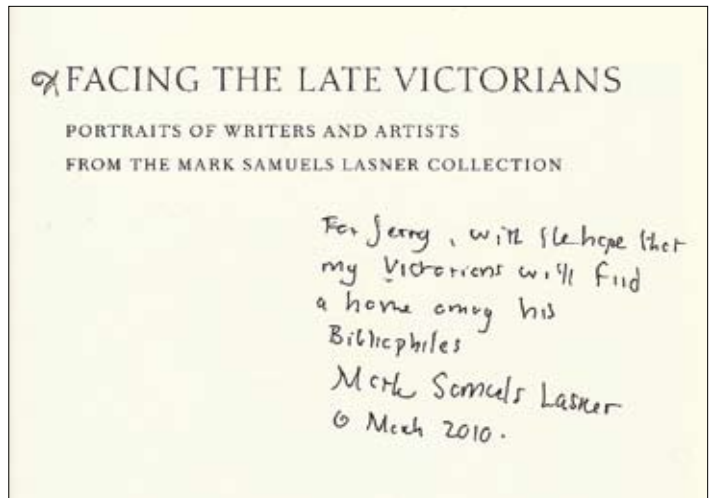
Facing the Late Victorians. The cashier asks if I'd like the author to sign it. I reply, "Mark will sign it when he visits my library tomorrow."

March 6, 2010:

Mark Samuels Lasner and Donald Farren visit my library, browse my books, and we have a bibliofest. They notice a book that Paul Ruxin gave me when he visited my library in 2005. I mention that Paul came down to speak before the Florida Bibliophile Society. Both Mark and Don say they want Paul to speak before the Baltimore Bibliophiles. I forward the invitation to Paul, introducing him to Mark and Don in a joint email.

March 8, 2010:

I present a talk on Mary Hyde before the Crescent Oaks Book Club, a local women's group.



March 8, 2010:

In a joint email to Terry Seymour and me, Paul Ruxin introduces us to each other. Terry informs Paul that we met at the Lasner exhibition in Tampa just two days prior.

April 17, 2010:

In an email to Terry Seymour, James Caudle, and me, Paul Ruxin introduces the Caxton Club book project editor, Kim Coventry. She will be writing the Preface for the upcoming Caxton Club book whose revised title is *Other People's Books: Association Copies and the Stories They Tell*. Kim wants our assistance in identifying the Caxton Club member who was the owner of James Boswell's copy of *Johnson's Lives of the Poets*, London, 1790, lot number 1482 of the 1825 auction catalog of Boswell's library. This was one of the works

See *BIBLIO-CONNECTING*, page 12

BIBLIO-CONNECTING, from page 11

mentioned in the first Caxton Club exhibition catalog of association books in 1896. Samuel Johnson was the only author from the 1896 book mentioned in the forthcoming Caxton Club book. I'm on vacation in a beach-front cabin at Bellows Air Station, a recreation area for the military in Hawaii, but that does not prevent me from working on the problem.

April 18, 2010:

To Kim Coventry:

Everyone is still sleeping here in our cabin in Hawaii –except for me – I'm listening to the waves and researching Johnson and Boswell on the web. Here are a few things I found to help you in our research while I con-



tinue my vacation:

The Bookman reviewed the catalog. The owner only had three of the four volumes. Growoll, in *American Book Clubs*, shows two editions of the catalog. The word "Exlibris" is omitted in the second edition.



Everyone is waking up now so I'm going back to vacation mode.

Aloha,

Jerry, on the beach in Hawaii

April 20 – 22, 2010:

I was to send two additional emails concerning Dewitt Miller from my beachfront cabin in Hawaii.

May 2, 2010:

(I am back in Florida now.) Dave Larkin, Anna Ritchie, and I begin entering the books listed in the 1893 Auchinleck Sale of the Boswell Library. Anna is now in the Netherlands.

May 3, 2010:

Kim Coventry provides the Boswell Group (Terry, James, and me) with a list of the subscribers to the 1896 Caxton Club exhibition catalog on association copies.

May 5, 2010:

I research the Caxton Club members. Jahu Dewitt Miller, a flamboyant book collector, appears to be the most likely owner of Boswell's copy of *The Lives*; he even had two copies of the Caxton Club catalog.

May 10, 2010:

I query the ExLibris-L mailing list with the following subject line: "Is Boswell's Copy of *The Lives* Sitting in Your Stacks?"

I receive a few leads but nothing pans out. Caxtonian John Chalmers suggests we contact Nicholas B. Sheetz, Manuscripts Librarian at Georgetown University Library, who collected Dewitt Miller's books. Ironically, Nicholas is also a contributor

to the forthcoming Caxton Club book on association copies. And, his essay is about Dewitt Miller! Norman Kane, proprietor of *The Americanist*, recalls that Miller stored his books in the library of an all-girls school on property that was eventually taken over by the government and used to house personnel from Walter Reed Hospital. Norman gives me the name and city of Paul Jung, a retired army colonel from Walter Reed, who was interested in the Miller Library.

May 11, 2010:

I track down Col. Paul Jung (ret.) in Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania by phone. We have an extended conversation which brings back pleasant memories for him, but no evidence that Boswell's copy of *The Lives* was ever at the National Park Seminary, the name of the school in Forest Glen, Maryland.

May 13, 2010:

I query Don Farren and ask him to bring up my Dewitt Miller query at the meeting of the Baltimore Bibliophiles on the 19th. Don posts a joint email to all the members of the Baltimore Bibliophiles. We receive several substantial leads but nothing that identifies Dewitt Miller as the owner.

May 14, 2010:

I contact Kim Coventry conceding that I could not prove that Miller was the owner of Boswell's copy of *The Lives*. We were, however, able to track the trail of provenance from "Jesse" (possibly Edward Jesse), who bought it at the auction in 1825, to the Johnsonian J.W. Croker, to Gen. Horatio Rogers, and then to the still unidentified Caxton Club owner of 1896.

June 7, 2010:

I drive up to New York for a family memorial service in the beginning of June. On the following Monday, Terry Seymour drives from Pennsylvania, picks me up in West Harrison,



New York, and we meet Dave Larkin in the lobby of the Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University. We then meet James Caudle, who gives us a tour of the library, and introduces us to Gordon Turnbull, Editor of the Yale Editions of the Private Papers of James Boswell. Joining us for lunch is the eminent bookseller Robert J. Barry. A fine biblio day was had by all.

June 8, 2010:

I drive to Pennsylvania to visit Terry Seymour's library. The entire basement is devoted to the books of the Everyman's Library series – over five thousand books from every edition J. M. Dent published and more.

June 2010:

I acquire a KB pass from the Library of the Netherlands. The pass gives me access to online scholarly journals (JSTOR, Project Muse) and numerous online databases.

July 8, 2010:

Paul Tankard, a scholar from New Zealand, queries me about James Boswell's library. He is preparing an edition of Boswell's journalistic writings and wants to know how many books were in Boswell's Library. Good question. No good definite answer. No one knows which books belonged to James Boswell and which belonged to his sons or to his father.

July 24, 2010:

I am guest blogger on Lew Jaffe's blog, "Confessions of a Bookplate Junkie." I provide a "collector profile" and display my Henry Blackwell bookplates. Blackwell was a bookbinder in New York City. He wrote a chapter on the study and arrangement of bookplates for W.G. Bowdoin's book, *The Rise of the Book-Plate*, New York, 1901.

Oct. 24, 2010

I review the final layout of my essay, "Hither-Unpublished *Obiter Dicta*," and submit it to Kim Coventry, the editor of *Other People's Books: Association Copies and the Stories They Tell*. It had taken months of coordination with the editor, Susan Rossen, to get the essay in perfect shape. The book would be released in March 2011.

Feb. 2, 2011:

On My Sentimental Library blog, I post "Changing Bookplates: Multiple Bookplates of Famous People," displaying bookplates from my own collection and from the collection of Lew Jaffe, the bookplate maven. Linde Brocato, a scholar of Early Spanish Literature, provides information on a Picasso bookplate belonging to Nelson Rockefeller in Jaffe's collection.

March 6, 2011:

Maureen E. Mulvihill appears as guest

blogger on my blog, My Sentimental Library, providing a comprehensive list of all her hosted essays online.

March 11, 2011:

I take a break from entering the 1893 Auchinleck Sale on Library Thing and make preparations to drive up for the Caxton Club book signing and dinner in Chicago. We expect to complete the cataloging of the 1893 Auchinleck Sale by June 2011.

March 18, 2011:

I go to Chicago to attend the book signing of *Other People's Books: Association Copies and the Stories They Tell*. I walk from my hotel to Paul Ruxin's residence. I finally get to visit Paul Ruxin's library. In one word, his library is fabulous! I meet two of his friends and fellow authors of the Caxton Club book: Sam Ellenport, the Boston bookbinder, and Steven Enniss, the Eric Weinmann librarian at the Folger. Together we walk to the Newberry Library, enjoy cocktails before dinner, and sign other people's copies of *Other People's Books: Association Copies and the Stories They Tell*. We have other authors sign our copies. I proudly wear a name tag that says "Jerry Morris, Author." Terry Seymour and I sit at the dinner table with Paul Ruxin, Sam Ellenport, and their wives. A night to remember! A night to write about!

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Book and manuscript-related exhibitions: a selective list

Compiled by Robert McCamant

(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: "Windows on the War: Soviet TASS Posters at Home and Abroad, 1941–1945" (huge exhibit of very large posters created during the war and widely distributed at the time, but unseen since), Regenstein Hall, through October 23. "Design Inspiration: 19th-Century American Builders' Manuals and Pattern Books" (popular pattern books throughout the 19th century as well as pre-World War I catalogs offering ready-to-construct home kits) Ryerson and Burnham Libraries, weekdays only, through November 1.

Chicago Botanic Garden, Lenhardt Library, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, 847-835-8202: "Genus Rosa" (historic rose illustrations from the collection), through November 13.

Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark Street, Chicago, 312-266-2077: "Out in Chicago" (150 years of urban history through the lens of

gender, sexuality, and nonconformity), Bessie Green-Field Warshawsky Gallery and Green-Field Gallery, through March 26, 2012.

Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State Street, Chicago, 312-747-4300: "Actors, Plays & Stages: Early Theater in Chicago" (memorabilia of the first performance at the Sauganash Hotel, vibrant 19th century theaters and the rise of the Loop's grand auditoriums), Chicago Gallery, Third Floor, into 2012. "One Book, Many Interpretations: Second Edition" (commemorates the program's 10-year anniversary with a juried exhibition by bookbinders and book artists interpreting the 10 most recent selections), Special Collections Exhibit Hall, Ninth Floor, through April 15, 2012.

DuSable Museum of African American History, 740 East 56th Place, Chicago, 773-947-0600: "EVERYWHERE with Roy Lewis" (a narrative of the African American experience spanning five decades), opening October 7.

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society, 361 E. Westminster Avenue, Lake Forest, 847-234-5253: "Uncanny, Unabridged, Unforgettable: 150 Years of Lake Forest" (honors Lake Forest's Sesquicentennial), through December 29.

Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, 312-280-2660: "Pandora's Box: Joseph Cornell Unlocks the MCA Collection" (Cornell's work in dialogue with objects from the MCA's collection), through October 16.



Northwestern's Block Gallery: Views and Re-Views: Soviet Political Posters and Cartoons
 MIKHAIL BALJASNIJ, COMMUNISM MEANS SOVIETS, 1930; ARTIST UNKNOWN, STUDY FOR ROSTA WINDOW #188, CA. 1920



Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton Street, Chicago, 312-943-9090: "Ballistics and Politics: Military Architecture Books at the Newberry" (architectural books from the 16th to the 18th centuries displaying the military and political power of European rulers), through October 29.

Northwestern University, Block Museum of Art, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, 847-491-4000: "Views and Re-Views: Soviet Political Posters and Cartoons" (a post-Cold War assessment of Soviet graphic arts with 160 posters, cartoons, postcards and photomontages from a private collection), through December 4.

Northwestern University, Charles Deering Library, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston, 847-491-7658: "René Binet and Ernst Haeckel's Collaboration: Magical Naturalism and Architectural Ornament" (Binet had received the prestigious commission to design the principal gateway to the Paris Exposition Universelle of 1900 – which he did from coral structures as they had been elucidated by the German biologist Ernest Haeckel. Binet's work parallels the Art Nouveau style but is unique in its geometric developments taking off from Haeckel's studies of biological morphology), Special Collections through October 28.

Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, 773-702-9514: "Before the Pyramids: the Origins of Egyptian Civilization" (the most fundamental aspects of ancient Egyptian civilization – architecture, hieroglyphic writing, a belief in the afterlife, and

allegiance to a semi-divine king – can be traced to Egypt's Predynastic and Early Dynastic eras), through December 31.

Smart Museum of Art, 5550 S. Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, 773-702-0200: "Process and Artistry in the Soviet Vanguard" (exposes the experimental creative processes that generated iconic Soviet propaganda in the 1920s and 1930s), through December 11.

University of Chicago, Joseph Regenstein Library, 1100 East 57th Street, Chicago, 773-702-8705: "Adventures in the Soviet Imaginary" (the Soviet Union as a world in pictures, facilitated by a vibrant image culture based largely on new media technologies, is explored through two of its most striking manifestations – the children's book and the poster – looked at in the wake of the Russian revolutions of 1917 and followed by periodic re-makings – during Stalin's Great Leap Forward, 1928–1932; World War II, 1941–1945; the Thaw, 1956–1964; and Perestroika, 1987–1991), Special Collections Research Center Exhibition Gallery, through December 31.

For complete information on events and exhibits of the Festival of the Architecture Book, see www.1511-2011.org.

For complete information on events and exhibits of the The Soviet Arts Experience, see www.sovietartsexperience.org.

Until a replacement exhibit editor is found, please send your listings to bmccamant@quarterfold.com, or call 312-329-1414 x 11.

Caxtonians Collect: Roger Baskes

Interviewed by Robert McCamant

Roger Baskes arrived early for a meeting at the Palmer House in 1985. The meeting had nothing to do with books, but the hotel was simultaneously housing a book fair, so Baskes poked around. His attention was caught by a table manned by George Ritzlin, who specializes in maps (and now runs a store in Evanston). Before long, Baskes found himself owning a 19th-century German atlas, a small investment at \$50.

With that purchase began one of the greatest book collections amassed in Chicago in recent times. Baskes denies that he has the collecting gene. "My son Daniel, for example, was always collecting something from an early age," he says. "But I simply found books of maps interesting. I had been practicing law, and I wanted to stop doing that, so I needed an interest. It turned out that collecting atlases, guidebooks, geography textbooks – in fact any kind of book with maps in it – was an ideal pursuit."

Note the fine distinction here: Baskes is not a map collector, but a collector of books with maps. "Maps are hard to store and catalog, and often they exist as individual entities because someone has plundered a book. I have a few separate maps, but generally it's because they've fallen out or because they came along with something else I really wanted. I never seek out individual maps," he says.

Learning all he could about the topic, and collecting what was available, proved to be an engrossing occupation. "Starting in the late 1980s my wife and I would go to London every June to be there for the annual antiquarian book fairs, auctions and associated activities. It's always a pleasure to go to London, but the opportunity to get to know the world's map dealers made it even more interesting." He has found that book collectors are generally interesting people, as well.

He quickly found the Newberry Library to be a great help in his efforts. He got to know the map-knowledgeable staff there, and by the mid-90s he had become a trustee. "At some point I fixed on the idea that what I should be doing is augmenting the Newberry's collection. I made a short-title catalog of their atlases that I could carry with me to be sure that a purchase I was contemplating wouldn't duplicate something the Library already had."

Over the years, the combination of previous Newberry acquisitions and Baskes acquisi-

tions has covered a very large percentage of the high spots in the world's supply of map books. (For an example you need look no farther than the Club's own *Other People's Books*, where Baskes documents a 1538 map book he acquired. It was part of the negotiation between the University of Helsinki and the Russian Tsar, but its location between 1902 and 1993 was unknown.)

But those times are pretty much over. "These days I don't get many dealers calling me up with amazing things that the Newberry or I don't have. But there are still many items out there of great interest. For example, geography textbooks have been ignored until very recently. Even the Library of Congress used to dispose of them. But now they've been recog-



nized for their historic interest: the way maps are drawn tells quite a bit about the history of politics and the history of education." So though he still keeps in touch with dealers, and sometimes cruises the pages of ABE or Alibris, the majority of his recent purchases have been from eBay; especially for American,

British, and German books. "The amazing finds are coming from kids looking in their grandparents' attics and putting them up on eBay," Baskes concludes.

I asked him how he managed to sort through the thousands of offerings on eBay at any one time. "You learn the tricks. A general search on 'atlas' gets you items relating to Ayn Rand or Charles Atlas. But there's a category for antique books that narrows it down, and 'geography 18' does a good job of finding 19th-century geography books. And with experience, you begin to recognize series of books just by the little pictures."

Baskes is the immediate past chair of the Newberry board of trustees. I asked him for the inside dope on the state of the library. "It's

in better health today than any time in the past 25 years," he replied without a moment's hesitation. "It's better run. More cataloging is going on than in most similar libraries. We're about to announce a \$25-million capital campaign, of which \$14 million is already raised."

Baskes has already given the Newberry some 9,000 volumes. Deciding what to send at any particular time is "a dialog" with Newberry staff. Once in a while, a particular book makes more sense to be given elsewhere. He cites as an example an atlas of India he gave to the British Library. "It had belonged to a British officer. He had penciled in the dates and places of skirmishes, battles, and retreats as the British were losing to the locals," Baskes says.

He joined the Club in 1993, nominated by Bob Karrow. He's been married to his wife Julie for 53 years. Among their many shared interests are music – especially opera – and their children (3) and grandchildren (6).

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Luncheon: Friday, Oct. 14, 2011, Union League Club
Steve Woodall

From Cab Fare to Art Fair:

The startling journey of Caxtonian Steve Woodall

After 23 years as a cab driver in San Francisco, Caxtonian Steve Woodall went on (in 1996), to help create the San Francisco Center for the Book and, as its Director, saw to it that the Center became a national-level institution in 12 short years. In 2008 he came to Chicago to assume the directorship of Columbia College's Center for the Book and Paper Arts. Hear about Steve's circuitous career path; how his love for the book began; the recent changes at the Columbia College Center regarding exhibitions, research, and the MFA and residency programs; what future is in store for the Center in this digital age; Steve's "take" on the future of books (all kinds) and his comparison of artists' books as an art form, to say, painting and photography.

Steve has brought his special talents for building alliances and his deep passion for the book to Chicago. We all benefit.

The October 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 October dinner: it will take place at the Cliff Dwellers Club, 200 S. Michigan, 22nd floor. Timing: spirits at

Dinner: Wednesday, October 19, 2011, Cliff Dwellers
Ed Hirschland
Chicagoana

October 19 will be Ed Hirschland talking about his extensive collection of Chicago materials. Watch for your postcard for details..

*5:00, dinner at 6:00, program at 7:30. Dinner is \$48, drinks are \$5 to \$9. For reservations call 312-255-3710 or reserve online on the Club web site; **reservations are needed by noon Tuesday for the Thursday luncheon, and by noon Friday for the Wednesday dinner.***

Beyond October...

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON

On November 11, Caxtonians Sarah Pritchard, Dean of Libraries and Jeffrey Garrett, Director of Special Collections (both of Northwestern University), will speak about how librarians work with donors to solicit collections, and what are the trials, tribulations and serendipities along the way.

NOVEMBER DINNER

Note: **Second** Wednesday!

On November 9, map collector Wesley Brown will discuss 15th and 16th century maps that focus on discovery of the New World in a talk illustrated by images of maps from his own collection.

DECEMBER LUNCHEON

On December 9, 2011, Caxtonian Sam Ellenport, proprietor of the Harcourt Bindery (a hand bindery in Belmont, Massachusetts since 1900), will speak about a bookbinding anomaly: linked-spine bindings (used on sets of books) among other fascinating topics.

DECEMBER DINNER

Note: **Second** Wednesday!

Our annual Revels, including fundraising auction, will take place at the Newberry Library on Wednesday, December 14. Get your auction items to Dan Crawford at the Newberry!