CAXT©NIAN

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OCTOBER 2013

C. Frederick Kittle, MD, Caxtonian Exemplar

Surgeon, Doyle Collector, and Newberry Donor

Wendy Cowles Husser

harles Frederick Kittle was ✓ introduced to the world in Athens, Ohio, a small Appalachian town boasting proudly its Ohio University (1804). Because Athens was a small farm and coal mining town, and because Fred's family, while intelligent and interested in education, was poor, he worked every summer during high school. In high school, where Fred was a superior student, his 10th-grade record entitled him to take extra courses in biology, allowing him an entire year "out in the woods," half of the year studying flowers, and the other half animals. This stimulated his interest in biology; he studied orchids. And following this, being introduced to chemistry - and enjoying it - he decided to make a career of science.

Things were close to ideal through Kittle's high school years. He came from a good family. His beloved maternal 'Bishop' grandfather had started a school for girls on his 150-acre farm, and the Bishop home became part of the underground railway system

helping slaves to freedom. Fred's father maintained a lumber company for about twenty years, and Fred himself worked on building houses. Even today, he retains some drawings he made while working with his father. But Fred nonetheless says, his "childhood was not normal." And when it came time for higher education, he shouts he was "just so happy to get out of Athens, Ohio!" even though it took graduate school to achieve that goal.

There were, however, two things not quite ideal during high school, through no fault of Fred's. He was tall, thin, lanky, and intelligent. These characteristics were accompanied by



another less positive one: he was very talkative. The result from this characteristic was letters describing problems. The letters were sent to his home. He, on the other hand, was sent to the principal. Often, that is.

The second bump in the road that Fred had no part in was being born with abundant red hair. Red hair is not, after all a disfigurement or a disease. It happens, to be accurate, however, to only 3% of the population of the earth. But in Athens, Ohio red hair was not valued for its rareness and was apparently a beacon for bullies. He details one time when a boy broke a raw egg on his head. And he

recounts his still-upsetting memory of being locked in a box on stage during a carnival passing through town; it was his red hair again that earned him that humiliation. These events not only embarrassed Fred, but also rather demoralized him to the point of reducing his self-confidence, even though it appears to us that he should have known he was destined for serious, meaningful success.

Despite these stumbling blocks Kittle remained a superior student, earning first prizes in all high school subjects. After college (1938 - 1942, BA) at Ohio University in Athens, Kittle went on to the University of Chicago for his MD degree, graduating in 1945 with honors in surgery. "I was so happy to get out of Athens!" he laughingly repeats. And at this point the multi-talented young man began to find opportunities to satisfy many diverse interests nurtured from childhood. He spent four years in residency for general and thoracic surgery at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Here his love of libraries, and books, intensified; "the University of Kansas has a world class library of the history of

medicine." Fred Kittle could meld his science interests with his science career, and books, books, books.

When he finished college, Fred married and had children. Altogether 4 children, 13 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren resulted from his first marriage. Then in 1981, he married Ann Bates, whom he met in Chicago. She has been active with Fred and the vast Doyleana collection and often gently finishes statements or adds to them when Fred is searching for some thought. In 2002 Dr. Kittle suffered a stroke, but being with See FRED KITTLE, page 2



CAXTONIAN

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Michael Gorman

him and discussing his long (93 years) life, this small inconvenience is hardly noticeable. Fred still has a thick head of healthy hair, now white, but the same intelligent eyes and ready smile.

Dr. Kittle also took special training in radioiso-

topes for medical use at Oak Ridge, Tennessee for three months before he began at Kansas as an Instructor in the School of Medicine. Interestingly his assistant professorship at Kansas was "of Surgery, and Lecturer in the History of Medicine," from 1953 - 1959. He was made Associate Professor in 1966.

But soon it was Professor Fred Kittle, Head of the Section in Cardiovascular Surgery back where he began, at the University of Chicago. At the same time he was appointed an attending surgeon at Cook County

Hospital, where so many young doctors received an outstanding educational experience that was not possible in most other places.

Kittle's list of memberships and organizations is long and appropriate for this complex thinker and serious worker, reader, writer, collector, and surgeon, Caxtonian exemplar. Whether stationed at Los Angeles in the US Navy working in a laboratory, reading history of medicine tomes, collecting Arthur Conan Doyle (ACD) manuscripts and other important paraphernalia, Fred dedicated thoughtful energy to everything he undertook (evidence later).

In addition to Kittle's Honorary LLD degree in 1966 from Ohio University, his undergraduate alma mater, he was Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Omega Alpha, a John and Mary R Markle Scholar in Medical Sciences (1953-1958), was listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Cancer, Who's Who in the Midwest, a member of American Men and Women of Science, and on and on.

An interesting aside, important, and early in Dr. Kittle's career in March 1964, was his recommendation that cigarettes be banned at the state schools of the University of Kansas. His report to the Regents of this university system said:

A causal relationship between cigaret [sic] smoking and cancer of the lung is the single most important advance in the prevention of cancer that has occurred for many years.

The Chicago Tribune reported at the time that Kansas then barred cigaret [sic] sales at all six colleges thanks to Kittle's wise recommendations.

Kittle's last career move was to join Stanton Friedberg at Rush, in 1973. And this almost brings us to the Caxton Club. Stan Friedberg was President of the Club in 1987-1988, sponsored Fred into Caxton



membership and, equally enticing, was another doctor whose friendship and partnership included a book collection of medical history. Stan was a very active member in the Club from 1956, and in the Society of Medical History of the Institute of Medicine in Chicago, and not only donated some of the history books to the Newberry Library, but also left a large donation at his death to the Caxton Club. He and Kittle had a long partnership and friendship with their books, the Caxton Club, and practicing medicine at Rush.

If you were to ask Kittle today when he retired, his answer would be, "I have not."

When Kittle, the reader, began collecting while still in high school in Athens, Ohio, his interests were originally stimulated by the Dr. John Doolittle stories written by Hugh Lofting. They were about a doctor who didn't deal with humans, but had the paranormal powers to speak the languages of most animals. His stories are still popular; they have been made into films in 1998, 2001, 2006, 2008, and 2009.

What is perhaps coincidental is that the real doctor used as the model for the Doolittle character was the *very* some say famous, but surely celebrated, John Hunter. And if you have ever heard a lecture in surgery, you have seen the photo and heard about John Hunter ad nauseum. One of Hunter's well-known collections was about 14,000 preparations of

more than 500 species of plants and animals housed in a teaching museum. Hospitals have been named for him, a bust is displayed outside St. George's Hospital, and some say it was his house in Leicester Square that was the inspiration for the home of Dr Jekyll. (To digress briefly, Hunter is a principal character in Hilary Mantel's novel of 1998, The Giant, O'Brien. The connections are fascinating. We can link forward from Kittle and his year in the outdoors with plants for half a semester and animals for the other. So it began with Hunter, then Doolittle, then Bell, then Holmes, then the living Kittle, a heady group of noteworthy living and imagined doctors and writers.)

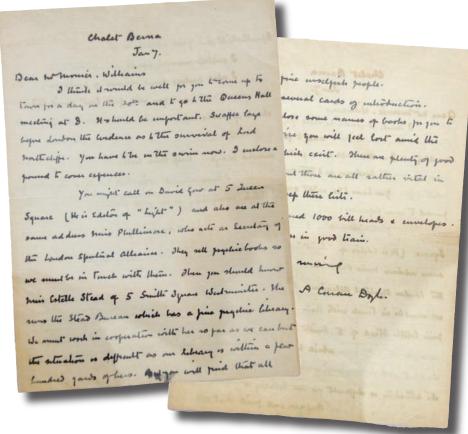
But back to the real doctor Kittle. While looking around for more of these super Doolittle hero stories, he chanced across ACD's Sherlock Holmes. Imagine how his interest exploded when he learned that Arthur Conan Doyle, author, was in fact, Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle, doctor. Kittle's reading, and from then on his book collecting, in particular the Doyleana, began long before he knew about the Caxton Club, or any organized book club (at one time later in life he also belonged to the Grolier Club in New York).

It was in the 1950s that Kittle began his collection seriously by buying an original manuscript of Doyle's *The Romance of Medicine*, a 19-page, hand-written medical lecture given by Doyle in 1910 at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London.

Myriad is known and has been written about the two doctors, our Kittle, and his Doyle, and certainly about Bell, the inspira-

Early English editions of Doyle tales.





A letter from Doyle.

tion for the character of Sherlock Holmes in Doyle's works. Bell himself was a revered Edinburgh physician and many a surgeon has in the office a photo or an article about this special man. In March 1997 the Caxtonian published a very inclusive issue entitled, Dr. Kittle and Dr. Doyle; Kinsmen Through Medicine and Belle Lettres. Readers are urged to refresh their knowledge or become acquainted

with these fascinating living

and illusionary doctors by accessing: http://www.caxtonclub.org/reading/doyle.html.

Here is what then Caxtonian editor Robert Cotner commented in that publication.

The Doyleana collection is by all accounts one of the most thorough of any in the United States, and, perhaps, in the world. To be shown through the collection by Kittle is tantamount to having Doyle himself revealed by one so closely a kin to him that you would swear you are in Doyle's very presence. I

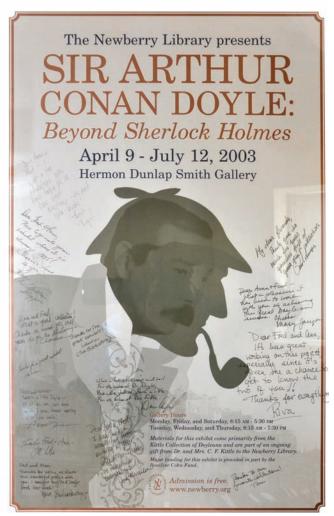
wonder to myself as I listen whether the good Dr. Doyle has indeed returned in the person of the good Dr. Kittle.

Surely everyone who knows Fred Kittle can echo these sentiments. You cannot be in presence of either Fred or Ann Kittle without becoming caught up in the infective Dr. Doyle information and it happens in the Kittle presence, almost immediately. They offer you coffee with a comment, for example, about what you thought about the beautiful cigarette 'collecting cards' that were used for terrific marketing of the Sherlock Holmes stories? The conversations move from Kittle to Doyle to Kittle and are difficult to distinguish and monitor as they move back and forth. Are you speaking as Kittle? Is this Doyle now?

As mentioned earlier, Kittle stumbled on ACD when he was a high school student. Several vectors placed the young Fred in just the right place at just the perfect time in his maturation. Kittle had always been a hard worker, both in studies and outside school, and the town had a very good library; libraries were just coming into their own, and he was at the right place at the right time.

With his keen interest in the history of medicine Kittle first wanted to write about ACD as an doctor, not so much as an author, See FRED KITTLE, page 4

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Heavily autographed copy of the Newberry poster advertising the show which celebrated Kittle's Doyle gift.

FRED KITTLE, from page 3

and because of this he became interested in the lives of other doctors, including Conan Doyle's own doctor, Joseph Bell, mentioned above. Bell also happened to be a poet, a birdwatcher, and a sportsman with wide interests. Within only two years of study under Bell, Doyle was so appreciated that he became assistant on Bell's ward where what he learned would later apply equally for both our Dr. Kittle, and for his Dr. Doyle. Kittle became immersed in Bell's history and read a great deal.

The important concepts that Bell taught his students in medicine stressing close observations as crucial and mandatory in making diagnoses, were thoughtfully used by Dr. Doyle for his detective work, just as well as these concepts would work for the real practicing doctor, Kittle. And because Dr. Bell is known to all students of medicine, the following could be elementary, as they say.

Dr. Bell observed the way a person moved. The walk of a sailor varied vastly from that of a soldier. If he identified a person as a

sailor he would look for any tattoos that might assist him in knowing where their travels had taken them.

He trained himself to listen for small differences in his patients accents to help him identify where they were from. Bell studied the hands of his patients because calluses or other marks could help him determine their occupation.

and

In teaching the treatment of disease and accident all careful teachers have first to show the student how to recognize accurately the case. The recognition depends in great measure on the accurate and rapid appreciation of small points in which the diseased differ from the healthy state. In fact, the student must be taught to observe. To interest him in this kind of work we teachers find it useful to show the student how much a trained use of the observation can discover in ordinary matters such as the previous history, nationality, and occupation of a patient.

It is hard not to hear Dr. Kittle himself in an examination of a patient, asking questions (he even practiced this on me during our hours together) and these words of Bell seem suggestive of Sherlock observing tiny details and regaling Watson with them, letting Watson know that these observations were merely, of course "elementary." The mandate from Dr Bell to his students about medical examinations sounds just like crime investigation dialogue.

The Caxton Club's purpose, as outlined in its bylaws, is to promote the arts pertaining to books and to foster their appreciation. Listening to Dr. Kittle reflect on his adventures from early life in Athens, Ohio, to Chicago, is like hearing the reading of a primer for Caxton membership. We are enriched because Kittle did become a member in 1985, and served as President from 1999 into 2001. And because he donated the vast and important Dr. and Mrs. C.F. Kittle Collection of Doyleana to the Newberry, generations of future doctors and students will be able to



foster their own appreciation.

And, in fact, sleuthing to enrich a collection has a lot to do with examining materiel and making informed decisions, just as practicing medicine does. And what it did for C. Frederick Kittle was to amass what must be the world's finest Doyle collection and to help Kittle himself become a scholar in medical history, his favorite subject from way, way back. When visiting the Kittles it's nothing to hold a beautiful three-hole notebook with Doyle's original handwritten letters perfectly preserved and completely readable. Some were found by Kittle in a small town in Ohio, even; the Kittle Collection has owned more than 300 such letters. Only a few people collected these letters of Doyle that speak to his various interests earlier than Kittle did. The New York Public Library, for comparison has about 250 letters, according to Dr. Kittle. The Kittle home is nearly overflowing with the objets d'art of Doyle, and then the file drawers documenting this enormous and ever growing collection take up the remaining space. It can't be easy being responsible for so much history.

Photographs by Robert McCamant of items in the subject's collection.

We are sad to note the passing of

Ernest Mond '93, who died on September 2.

A service will be held at 2 pm on Friday, November 1st at the Newberry Library. A remembrance will be published in a future issue.

CAXTONIANS COLLECT, from page 11

station was to have been his next stop. But he got away and took a cab to Caracas (partly because he did have some money, how we don't hear). One month later he obtained a visa to the USA.

But not before he had been put in a South American jail. And as he says quietly in an aside, South American jails are beyond descriptions of evil. Somehow he managed to find a temporary friend here, again, a sympathizer, a concert pianist in Caracas, and because she was on his side about his plight, she told the government that she was going to cancel her upcoming concert if they did not let Joe Girardi leave the country with a visa. The government, she knew, would lose face if she canceled her concert. Was he just lucky? In any case, this is how he left Venezuela, and came to the USA, a student visa in hand. It was 1949, a decade since he began his trek. One officer interrogated him at his debarking and



told him to "get good grades!" He enrolled in a Jesuit school, the University of Detroit, close

to where his uncles lived.

Was it smooth? Not exactly. His one-year student visa expired and he was to be sent back to Eastern Europe. A friend of his from the University, a kind of big man on campus, interviewed Joe for an article to run on national television, and then local papers picked up the story. There was a warrant for his arrest at this point. Did things turn out in Joe's favor? Well, sure. More than 1500 students petitioned to save Girardi from "communist vengeance." He graduated in 1950 with a degree in political science. This charming man simply accepted friends and life's changes and moved on, and on, and on.

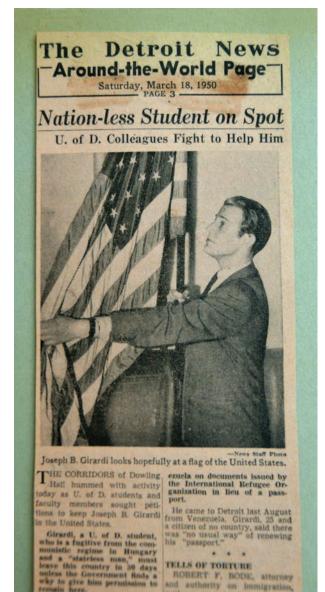
But what does this have to do with the Caxton Club in Chicago? Even while Girardi was in Caracas working in a book store (he had many jobs) he was a serious reader. He began buying books. He read Hungarian literature, bought more books, and then began collecting. Of course he also had a regular life as he collected and collected and collected. When he came to Chicago it was to work for Sears and Roebuck, which at that time

provided a nice management job in merchandising, first in Irving Park and then Highland Park. He married a Wellesley graduate who became a PhD in taxonomy (classification of animals), and who also went on to be the mother of their two daughters, and, among other pursuits, president of an international woman's club called the Pan Pacific and Southeast Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA). They were married for 58 years until her death a few years ago.

Joe and family traveled a great deal, especially to England; it was in Howes's bookstore in Hastings that he bought a book with a letter signed by Churchill. Unfortunately for his collection he learned that this was, in fact, only a very, very good copy. Joe has continued to buy books; at one time his collection totaled 17,000; currently it is just under 9,000. There are, to be sure, books on walls, books on tables, books on shelves, books in the basement, books, books. He recently sent about 400 leather-bound books of English history to a dealer in Winnetka.

The book collecting began at house sales when he was in his 60s, after retirement from Sears, and includes all but fiction, mostly topics of history and economy. On his way he met other booksellers and dealers, among them Abel Berland. It was Herb Furse and Abel Berland who sponsored Joe Girardi into the Caxton Club. True to his other adventures, he embraced the Club with energy and attended nearly every dinner while he was able to get to the meetings. And we are all grateful for it, and for his courageous and positive long, winding road.

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CAXTONIAN FOOTNOTES

Wynken de Worde

I am reminded of that distinguished Chicago Daily News columnist, Sidney J. Harris, who reported on things he learned while looking up something else. I was investigating an undated copy of John Bunyan's The Pilgrim's Progress which had to be older than the 1905 date ascribed to it by a library cataloguer. That is when I noted the bookseller's printed advertisement on the book's front free endpaper. It proclaimed, "From GOODSPEED'S EMPIRE BOOK AND MAP HOUSE. 148 Lake St., CHICAGO. Branch Houses: St. Louis & New Orleans."

It was that "Empire" of books which particularly caught my mind – An Empire of Books stretching down the Mississippi River from Chicago to New Orleans. Why was it unknown to me? Furthermore, I found no reference to it in *The Encyclopedia of Chicago*. Nor was there an entry on it or its proprietor in Andreas' seminal *History of Chicago*.

There have been a number of Goodspeeds related to Illinois and Chicago, but the only one I knew for certain related to bookselling was the venerable Boston firm of Goodspeed's, but I could not find a direct connection to that firm or its founder, Charles Eliot Goodspeed.

But I did have some slight familiarity with two brothers, Baptist ministers in Chicago.

The elder, Thomas Wakefield Goodspeed, in poor health, yielded his ministry to the Second Baptist Church, on the West Side, to his brother, Edgar Johnson Goodspeed, in 1864. Edgar was inspired by the burning flames to write one of the two major contemporary books on the Great Fire of 1871: The History of the Great Fires in Chicago and the West (1871). It was published by H. S. Goodspeed – whoever that was – although some copies cite J. W. Goodspeed as the publisher.

But who started Goodspeed's Empire Book and Map House? And why were there no references to him in St. Louis or New Orleans (according to Google and OCLC)?

By manipulating some inquiries on World-Cat, I was able to isolate a publisher, J. W. Goodspeed, with dates in the 1870s. He also wrote books, mostly on Americana and government. That seems a ways from an empire, despite the fact that he sometimes cited an official connection with New York City.

Finally, somehow, I made a connection that suggested that his little-used initials might

stand for Jerome Washington. That led me to the hard-to-read *History of the Goodspeed Family*. There I found that J. W. was an omnivorous reader from an early age, which was blamed for a loss of eyesight in his sixteenth year, and from which he never fully recovered.

Eyesight notwithstanding, the family history records that he did establish a successful publishing house at Chicago circa 1865, and that one of his personally authored titles, *Footprints of the Ages*, had phenomenal sales.

That was the apex of his life. The Family History relates that,

The Chicago Fire destroyed all he possessed. But he resumed and again succeeded, though he lost heavily through dishonest employees. In 1879 he removed to Gunnison County, Colo., and became interested in mining. While engaged in perfecting his claims, he was suddenly killed by a tremendous snow-slide down Gothic mountain, near the town of Gothic, January 25, 1883. The last he was seen alive by his devoted wife and chil-

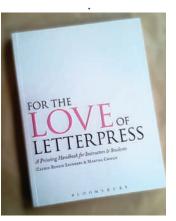
dren, was when he waved them a fond good bye from the hill as he left home that morning to carry supplies to his men. He was buried under 500 feet of snow, and his body was not recovered until the last of the following June. He lies buried in Graceland Cemetery in Chicago- p. 175.

I guess with that bad eyesight he did not see the avalanche coming.

With Goodspeed, that means that there are at least three Chicago booksellers or publishers buried at the amazing Graceland Cemetery. The others are **Gen. A. C. McClurg 1895** and **Herbert Stuart Stone 1895**. They rest eternally in company with at least the following other Caxtonians: **Gov. Frank O. Lowden 1899, Daniel H. Burnham 1897, Franklin MacVeagh 1897** and honorary Caxtonian **Vincent Starrett '42**. Also there is **Harry Gordon Selfridge 1897**, whose Evanstonian doppelganger, Jeremy Piven, has been impersonating Harry on the PBS Masterpiece series, "Mr. Selfridge."

Many Caxtonians will recall **Daniel**Mellis, who was a Club scholarship
winner for 2008-9. He attended our meetings

frequently during that year. At the time, he announced that he would "create an artist's book examining Chicago's past. Using current and historic photographs, it will look in detail at specific locations in the city, comparing inhabitants and activities at different times. Funds will be applied for paper, ink, binding materials, plates, press time, and to pay for rights to historic photos from the Chicago History Museum." Well, the promise has finally come true. The book is now complete, and can be viewed on his web site at http://danielmellis.com/projects/a-history-of-light/



Artha Chiplis
2000 has written
a book with fellow School
of the Art Institute
faculty member Cathie
Ruggie Saunders. It's
called For the Love of
Letterpress, subtitled
"A Printing Handbook
for Instructors and
Students" and published by Bloomsbury
and dedicated to our

own Muriel Underwood '93. John
Dunlevy 2003 took most of the pictures.
Copies are shipping as you read.

Nonresident member D. W. Krummel '62 received the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for American Music for his research and teaching in American music printing and publishing. He's associated with the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, which he joined after the Caxton Club, in 1970!

Previous Caxtonian editor Robert Cotner'90 calls attention to the New York Times Magazine of August 18, 2013, and its interview with illusionist Penn Jillette. Asked "what is the best joke you've read in a book," he replies:

"The Aristocrats," told by **Jay Marshall '79** in Rationale of the Dirty Joke by Gerson Legman. Jay was on 'Ed Sullivan' a zillion times doing magic and was the most knowledgeable person about comedy and magic I ever met. He told this classic backstage insider's joke that changed my life. Even after doing a movie about it. I'm still obsessed."

A t a recent Holiday Revels, during the Live Auction portion of the fundraiser, Caxtionian **Debra Yates 2008** was the high bidder for literary immortaility. The opportunity to name or be named as a character in her forthcoming novel was extended by sophomore novelist and former Oak Parker, Diane Gilbert Madsen. In fact, Debra Yates did appear as a minor character in *Hunting For Hemingway*, the second book in Madsen's Literati Mystery series, which appeared in 2010.

In that mystery, published in manuscripts typed on Hemingway's personal, portable typewriter (a Corona #3) reapppears after disappearing ninety years ago. But, similarly, the whereabouts of that typewriter continued to irritate Madsen, who did some detecting herself. The results are better told by Diane Madsen in her blog earlier this year.

ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S ORIGINAL CORONA #3 LOCATED BY LITERATI AUTHOR DIANE GILBERT MADSEN

Ernest Hemingway, one of the most prominent authors of our time, was born and raised in Oak Park, Illinois, but traveled throughout the world as he wrote his famous novels. When Hadley Richardson, his fiance and soon to be wife, presented him with a Corona #3 typewriter for his 22nd birthday, it changed his life. The typewriter was lightweight with a unique design where the carriage folded down to fit neatly into a carrying case. It was really the first portable typewriter on the market, and Hemingway fell in love with it. He brought it along when he and Hadley sailed for Europe in December 1921, he wrote a poem to it, and he carried it with him everywhere on his travels through Switzerland, France, England, Spain, Germany, and Cuba.

When I began writing my DD McGil Literati novel, *Hunting for Hemingway*, I started searching for the Corona. Not only were the lost works typed on the Corona, but he also used it to type his first novel and arguably one of his most famous works, *The Sun Also Rises*. I began the quest, not really believing I would locate it after all these years, even though his biograher A. E. Hotchner said Hemingway didn't like to throw anything away.

No one seemed to know its whereabouts. It wasn't on any inventories, and no one had photos of it. Gradually the pieces came together, and I located Hemingway's original Corona #3 typewriter at the Museo Ernest Hemingway, Finca Vigia, San Francisco de Paula, Cuba. With the help of the Museum Director Ada Rosa Alfonso Rosales and Assistant Director Isabel Ferreiro Garit, the See FOOTNOTES, page 9

Caxton Club on the Move: Columbia College

Monday evening, November 11

Columbia College Center for Book and Paper Arts, 1104 South Wabash, Second Floor, Chicago, Illinois.

The Center for Book and Paper Arts will have several outstanding exhibits, including: • works of Thomas Ingmire, a leading American calligrapher, • Soviet posters from the collection of Caxtonian Bill Cellini. Jr., and • DIY: a juried show of print-on-demand photo books. Our host will be Steve Woodall, Caxtonian and director of the center.

5-5:30. Welcoming remarks from Steve Woodall. Light refreshments.

5:30-6:50. Concurrent 20-minute presentations and tours.

Exhibition Overview:

Form and Expression: The Written Word - the works of calligraphic artist Thomas Ingmire;

DIY: Photographers and Books, an exploration of print-on-demand photo books:

Soviet Posters from the Collection of Bill Cellini, Jr. on reading and literacy awareness.

Remarks by Bill Cellini Jr. and Jessica Cochran, Curator of Exhibitions and Programs, Center for Book and Paper Arts.

Print Studio Tour and Demo. View the print studio, featuring letterpress and offset presses.

Paper Studio and Demo. View papermaking.

Artist Book Showcase. Visitors will have a hands-on opportunity to inspect the works of the Center's students and items from the Center's collection.

7:00 Three Course Dinner including wine and beverages with our hosts at Brasserie LM, 800 South Michigan

Space is limited. Reservations are essential.

The program at Columbia is free to members.

Dinner at LM with fellow Caxtonians and our hosts is \$45.

Contact Jackie Vossler at 312-266-8825 or jv.everydaydesign@rcn.com; or Dan Crawford 312-255-3730 or caxtonclub@newberry.org







Private Collections: record-keeping and cataloging

Ronald K. Smeltzer

One hardly need say that good record-keeping to document a book collection is desirable. Besides having a record of the contents of the collection to consult, a record of the cost basis may be important upon disposition of the collection.

Many collectors apparently regard recordkeeping and cataloging a nuisance. From informal inquiries, my sense is that the perceived appear too extensive to make a beginning. A very general scheme was felt to be important because of the variety of items in my collection of scientific materials. The collection includes not just books spanning more than four centuries, but serial issues, authors' offprints, theses, institutional reports, prints and engravings, and other unusual types of things unique to publication in the sciences.

My system of collection documentation

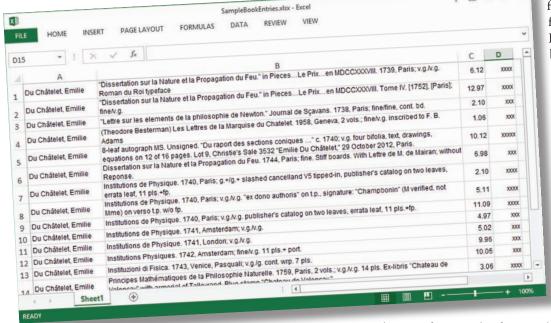
they are documented by the communications. The existence of the log book and the invoices filed in chronological order provide one cross-referenced system that has enabled me to find invoices for books that were inadvertently omitted from my catalog years before.

With the use of a computer for the collection catalog, in my view the use of standard software, which one can expect to be supported indefinitely, is essential. This means

not using specialized software with features that may be desirable for cataloging a book collection. In addition, compatibility with both Macintosh and Windows machines may be important. With these criteria, the choice of software is very limited. In my case, Microsoft Excel was adopted many years ago – first with a Macintosh, then ported to a PC for a few years, and then back again to a Macintosh – and continues to be used.

If one accepts the limitations of a spreadsheet, thought needs to be given to its organization. In my view, the only essential criterion for the column layout is: for what parameters will one want to sort the spreadsheet? Obviously by author is the most likely case for most collections. Other possibilities are by purchase date and by year of publica-

tion. Special parameters may exist for specific types of collections. Information for which a sorting operation will never be of interest can be lumped together in one cell. I have found a need for only four columns in the spreadsheet: (1) author; (2) title, imprint information, number of illustrations and plates, condition statement, and other special notes; (3) month and year of purchase and (4) price paid including costs of any restoration work. Column 3 in my spreadsheet is not written in a format that can be sorted; perhaps I would rethink that if beginning again. I might also consider dividing the second column into multiple columns, but in fact having all of the listed information in column-2 cells has never been a hindrance to my uses of the spreadsheet. The crowded column-2 design with



Sample extract for one author from Excel

spreadsheet catalog. Column-B cells are the catchment for the title, which can be a sorting variable since it is the first item, and for the information not associated with a parameter of interest for sorting. The nominal cell-B format is title, date, place; condition, illustrations, associations, misc. notes, and faults. In the case of the MS., the cell-B contents are somewhat different. Column C is the purchase date in the format mm.yy.

Column D is for the purchase price, represented here by Xs.

effort of the work to maintain good records often results in poor or no documentation of collections. Just recently I met a collector who told me he had given up cataloging his collection, saying it took too much effort. In the following, I describe my system of record-keeping, which is designed to minimize the continuing effort and at the same time maintain files with extensive information readily accessible. A computer is used for the catalog; everything else is done the old-fashioned way.

The premise of my record-keeping and cataloging scheme is that it must be fast and easy to use on a continuing basis. Updates to the catalog cannot require a significant amount of time. A key point is to establish a system early, before the collection has grown to many hundreds of items, making the task of cataloging

begins with an order log book, a loose-leaf binder of lined paper on which is entered on one line the order date, the vendor, and the item described in a few words. The log book is essentially a complete history of my purchases since 1974, and is now up to p. 113. Upon a purchase, any important correspondence with the vendor and an invoice go into a file folder for the year of purchase. The folders, in chronological order, now occupy more than 17 linear inches in a file drawer, and an invoice or other cost record for all but a very few, mostly minor purchases, can be retrieved. I make up a simple invoice or note the cost on correspondence if the vender does not provide an invoice. One reason to save correspondence with the vendor is to provide a historical record of the reliability of the vendor's condition descriptions, if

the title first still permits secondary sorting by title after primary sorting by author. In one case, for a collection of prints, I added a column for the reproduction method of the print and a coding column that allows sorting the spreadsheet by defined categories of the prints.

One can imagine all sorts of categories for which temporarily sorting a spreadsheet could be useful. This can be done simply with a coding column, with categories in a shorthand notation such as A, B, C, ... One example that might be useful for my collection, although I have not implemented the idea, is the separation of the nineteenth-century French scientific books illustrated by a particular artist that are embedded among many hundreds of entries in one of my spreadsheets. A spreadsheet rich in association copies could use a coding scheme to quickly isolate all of the association copies for some temporary purpose. A coding column could be used to sort the catalog by country of publication. The possible uses of coding columns are many and may be unique to specific collections.

A spreadsheet as a cataloging tool offers another useful possibility: two columns can be coded to enable converting a catalog organized, for example, alphabetically by author into one organized as a shelf list. With one column coded to represent bookcases and the second coded to represent shelves, a sorting operation on these two columns produces a shelf list. Although I have not done what is described here, coding to enable creation of a shelf list would be a big help to locate "lost" books — if one keeps the coded columns updated when a book is moved. After sorting to a shelf list, a third sorting operation by, for example, author could also be done.

With a spreadsheet as a catalog, the time needed to update the catalog for an addition to the collection may be only one or two minutes. In some cases, more time is required, not to enter the information, but to gather it by examination and study of the book, thus creating a reason to study the new acquisition immediately. With this cataloging scheme that includes the purchase date and cost, one now has another document cross-referenced to the order book and to the folders with invoices.

Superfluous now, but still continued as habit, is a slip in each book with the purchase date and vendor, but not the cost, along with short notes and bibliographical citations.

The method of record-keeping and cataloging described here does not permit the incorporation of pictures or articles about the books with the catalog. This matter is

dealt with by establishing a file folder for each important book. The folder may contain such things as published or downloaded articles about the book or author, a price history accumulated from booksellers' catalogs, and research notes from the study of my copy and other copies of the book. The idea of having a folder for individual books was started late and is not complete for many of the books I purchased years ago. Nothing is simpler, for me at least, than pulling a file folder for information. In general I set up a folder only for rare and valuable books or for important books with significant accumulated information.

In summary, described here is what I consider an efficient and easy-to-use scheme to maintain records and a catalog of a collection. The electronic catalog, which uses software that is expected to be supported indefinitely, is organized primarily for access to basic information about the items and to provide a cost record. Once set up, additions to the catalog spreadsheet take only minutes. With the order book, the invoice files, and the electronic catalog all cross-referenced in various ways, the purchase history of anything can be found within at most a few minutes and any lost or unrecorded books discovered can find their place in the catalog.

The Caxtonian's editor suggested I consider how on-line cataloging compares with my system. From what I found looking briefly on line, Library Thing - describing itself as a "book club" to find "new books to read" and to "find people with eerily similar tastes" - is the serious on-line scheme with apparently many tens of thousands of users, yet like all the others (Delicious - reintroduced in a "back to beta" state in 2011; Goodreads, Shelfari, Anobii, and weRead - "stopped working, data inaccessible") it seems to be primarily a social networking scheme for readers, not collectors in the traditional sense. Library Thing's capability to import cataloging information sounds good, but would hardly be of use for cataloging anything unusual. In my case, things such as original historic serial issues, of which I have hundreds; author's offprints; and a myriad of different sorts of printed material would probably not be served. On-line cataloging data are traditionally skimpy about describing details of interest for collectors of early books. Finally, I note that Library Thing is owned in part by three entities and distributed by a fourth. So its future survival can hardly be assumed.

FOOTNOTES, from page 7

typewriter was authenticated with the vintage era serial numbers that we found from the Corona Company records, and it is currently on display in the Tower Room of the Museum where Hemingway spent many hours writing. Previously the typewriter had been in storage in the Museum warehouse.

I must thank Scott Schwar, Board Member, volunteer Chairman, and past Executive Director of the Ernest Hemingway Society of Oak Park, for his tireless help in making the successful connections with the Museo in Cuba. He is currently organizing a trip to Cuba this June for the International Colloquium on Ernest Hemingway, at which I have been invited to speak. The Tower and the Corona #3 will be included as part of the upcoming visit. "I am always heartened by how scholars and friends of Ernest Hemingway work together - in this case scholars and friends in Cuba and the US - to elucidate Hemingway's life and work," Scott said, adding, "Now if only that portable Corona had a hard drive to reproduce the valise of Hemingway stories infamously lost on that Paris train."

John W. Berry, current Chairman of the Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park, commented, "The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park is very pleased to learn that the Corona #3 typewriter has resurfaced at the Finca Vigia and is now displayed in the tower room. We'll look forward to seeing it there on our next visit. Now, about that valise filled with Hemingway's manuscripts that disappeared in Paris in December 1922..."

Hemingway and his Corona #3 both led a remarkable life. That this typewriter is still in his home in Cuba is significant. Hemingway kept that typewriter his whole life – longer than any wife. In the end, that Corona, as Freud said, was more than a typewriter to Hemingway.

It makes me wonder if Ken Paterson '92, a previous Vice-President, saw the typewriter when he visited Cuba back in the last century.

Just so, congratulations to Diane Madsen for a successful conclusion to her quest to find the Corona #3. And also congratulations to Diane for her soon-to-be published third Literati mystery, *The Conan Doyle Notes: The Secret of Jack the Ripper.* Debra also won the right to appear as a character in that novel, but her part is much larger, so watch for it, in print or digitally.

Book and manuscript-related exhibitions: a selective list

Compiled by Lisa Pevtzow (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: "Play, Pretend, and Dream: Caldecott Medal and Honor Books, 2010-2013" (16 Caldecott Medal and Honor award winners

Art Institute: David and Celia Hilliard Collection

Northwestern U Library: Homage to Khidekel

LITHOGRAPH BY MIKHAIL KARASIK

WILLIAM DEGOUVE DE NUNCQUES. THE SERVANTS OF DEATH, 1894.

from the last four years), Picture Book Gallery, Ryan Education Center, through December 1. "Mark Kozloff: Critic and Photographer" (exhibition surveys Kozloff's ongoing engagement with words and images), Galleries 1-4, Oct. 5 to January 5, 2014. "Dreams and Echoes: Drawings and Sculpture in the David and Celia Hilliard Collection" (115 works, on paper, from the couple's collection), Galleries 124-127, Opens October 20.

Chicago Architecture Foundation, 224 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 312-922-3432: "Take Me to the River: Building Chicago's New Waterfront," Lecture Hall Gallery, through December.

Chicago Botanic Garden, Lenhardt Library, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, 847-835-8202: "The Feminine Perspective: Women

Artists and Illustrators," through November 10.

Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago, 312-744-3316: "Paint, Paste and Sticker: Chicago Street Artists" (work from over 20 artists), Exhibition Hall, 4th Floor, opens October 19.

Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark Street, Chicago, 312-266-2077: "Vivian Maier's Chicago" (Maier spent her adult life as a nanny but devoted her free time and money to photography), through January 2014.

Columbia College Center for Book and Paper Arts, 1104 S.
Wabash Ave., Chicago, 312-269-6630: "DIY(Visits Chicago):
Photographers and Books" (juried exhibit exploring printon-demand photo books), through December 7. "Form and
Expression: The Written Word" (a selection of books, works
on paper, and collaborations by American calligrapher Thomas
Ingmire), through December 7. (See page 7 for details of the
Club's visit.)

DePaul Art Museum, 935 W. Fullerton, Chicago, 773-325-7506: "Designing for Performance: Cesar Pelli at DePaul University" (documents the new campus Theater Department building), though November 24.

Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State Street, Chicago, 312-747-4300: "Official and Unofficial: Photographs from the World's Columbian Exposition and Century of Progress" (photographs depicting corporate visions for the fairs and visitors' individual experiences), through March 2, 2014. "Illustrated Press: Chicago Home in One Place: A South Side Story and Kathy Has a Question" (founded by Chicago journalist Darryl Holliday and graphic artist Erik Nelson Rodriquez, The Illustrated Press produces journalism as comics), Congress Corridor, ground floor, ongoing.

Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, 312-280-2660: "Modern Cartoonist: The Art of Daniel Clowes" (works by the acclaimed comic book artist and graphic novelist), through October 13.

Northwestern University Library, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston, 847-491-7658: "Homage to Khidekel by Mikhail Karasik" (one of 12 copies of an artists' book that attempts to interpret the architecture and drawings of Soviet artist and architect Lazar Khidekel, 1904-1986), ongoing.

Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton Street, Chicago, 312-943-9090: "Home Front: Daily Life in the Civil War North" (major exhibition of more than 100 items that focuses on the enormous, and costly, effect the war had on civilians), through March 14, 2014.

The Oriental Institute,1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, 773-702-9514: "Our Work: Modern Jobs – Ancient Origins" (artifacts documenting ancient professions are paired with a modern "face" of that profession), through February 23.

University of Chicago, Joseph Regenstein Library Special Collections Research Center Exhibition Gallery, 1100 E. 57th Street, Chicago, 773-702-8705: "Race and the Design of American Life" (exhibit traces the vexed history of racial design, from stark

U of Chicago Library: Race and Design Amiri Baraka, In Our Terribleness, Bobbs-Merrill, 1970

racist caricature to
the productions
of black-owned
advertising firms),
October 14 to
January 4, 2014.
Woodson Regional
Library, 9525 S.
Halsted Street,
Chicago, 312-7476900: "Faith in
the Struggle: Rev.
Addie L. Wyatt's
Fight for Labor,

Civil Rights and Women's Rights" (exhibit tracing life of the late Rev. Wyatt, co-pastor of Chicago's Vernon Park Church of God and one of the leading human rights activists in 20th century America), through March 15, 2014.

Send your listings to lisa.pevtzow@sbcglobal.net

Caxtonians Collect: Joe Girardi

Interviewed by Wendy Cowles Husser

Tt is a long and winding road to reach Joe Girardi, Caxton member since 1981. First, you need to have a car that can take hundreds of turns up Sheridan Road. If you make it to Kenilworth, a beautifully manicured, many treed, quiet town of narrow streets, you have

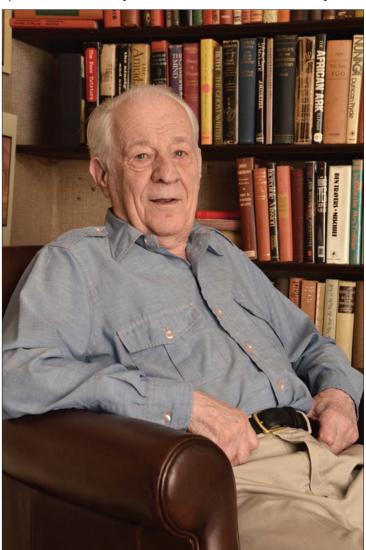
to bend around and around again. And in the process you will have passed construction at nearly every turn, cement trucks galore, disposal trucks everywhere, road closures one side or the other, city buses, and it seems like a half dozen little towns. But the long and winding road trip is more than worth it.

Mr. Girardi, who has lived in Kenilworth for 55 years, turned 89 September 4, 2013. Well, parts of him might have turned 89, but his mind is clear, his memory is acute, and his humor deep and spirited. This is the story of the 'Man Without a Country,' so deemed, in 1950, by the University of Detroit student newspaper (The Varsity News). A photo in that publication shows the editor of the News signing his name to letters sent to Senator Homer Ferguson. A petition turned into a bill, signed ultimately by Harry Truman. The reason? Well again, that is a long and winding tale. But in 1950 the petition was to keep Hungarian born Joe Girardi, university student, at that time in Detroit, in this country under the regular Hungarian emigration quota. And luckily, keep him we did.

Listening to Joe explore his past is like running to catch up all the time. He speaks with spirit and a twinkle in his eye and his asides are rapid, often, and very quiet. He has a leather-bound album with copious certificates, letters, and news articles about his extraordinary life up to arriving in the United States. But listening to him it is clear that he was no ordinary ex pat. The actual Hungarian Revolution was not to come until 1956. And truth in reporting mandates mentioning that his journey included some rather unusual

happenings, not all of which might have been exactly, shall we say, in line with the law.

When the Russians took over Budapest, Hungary, Joe was there. The unfortunate issue for Joe was that these invading Russians did not have enough prisoners, those especially around 20 years old. They needed to bulk up their haul. So off the street Girardi



was snatched. His first trip, then, at 20 years old, took him to a detention camp with the ultimate purpose of rebuilding Russia, and here he helped by rebuilding trains. A brief time later he was transferred to a camp with somewhat better conditions. Unfortunately he developed a leg infection, treated at first by the Russians with nothing more than first aid. Soon it was clear he needed to get to a

At the time Girardi was snatched by the Russians, he had just begun college in Hungary and joined the underground movement. At that time it was mandatory to activate into the army, which was not Joe's view of the world. So he found a wrecked train, containing uniforms and supplies, and with his friends, got forged papers and impersonated soldiers. To make a long story short, that was the beginning for this inquisitive, intelligent, positive thinking young man.

> But back to the Hungarian hospital where he had been taken after the infection in his leg. He met a woman doctor who befriended him, and was crucial to helping him leave Hungary and stay safe from conscription into the army. He says he was lucky. Actually he says that many times while recounting his adventures. But the question is, why was he lucky, when so many others were not? His answer? "Well, in the camps many just gave up and thought they would die. And they did. But I never thought that. I just wanted to get to the west, and ultimately to the United States."

After his infection allowed him to move on, he wanted to go west anywhere, but that meant that he still had to cross Hungary and the Russian Occupation Zone. He found a train again, and with help, once again, headed toward the border where he was told by kind trainsmen that when he could sense the train slowing down, he should jump off into the woods as quickly as possible. Sympathizers seem to come out of the woodwork for Mr. Girardi. Ultimately he found his way into Brussels where all refugees had to carry a permit. He worked there for a while in a factory, and as a painter, but finally approached the

American Embassy where he learned that the quota for Hungarians emigrating was already

Joe's hope of getting to America was partly fueled by his desire to get to two uncles who lived in Detroit, Michigan. To make a long story short, Joe finally got a visa to Venezuela, where, when he arrived, local gendarmes found a radio in his luggage that constituted some sort of signal to detain him. He told them the radio was a gift for a friend. Well, the police believed differently, and their lockup See CAXTONIANS COLLECT, page 5





CAXTONIAN

Caxton Club 60 West Walton Street Chicago, IL 60610 USA

Address Correction Requested

Bookmarks...

Luncheon: Friday Oct. 11, 2013, Union League Club J. Kevin Graffagnino on "Murder Most Foul: Homicide in Early America"

Dr. Kevin Graffagnino, director of the renowned William L. Clements Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the U of Michigan in Ann Arbor, will talk about murder in America from 1670 to 1900. Based on the University's recent, hugely-popular primary-sources exhibit, which included murder books, pamphlets, serials, prints, photographs and ephemera, his talk will evoke cutthroats, assassins, poisoners, stranglers, hatchet men, (and women), decapitators, cannibals, parricides, matricides, fratricides, pistoleros etc., and then go on to illustrate the ways our ancestors dealt with murder as vehicle for: moral instruction, a basis for social attitudes and legal policy, and as a source of guilty-pleasure titillation.

Kevin will also speak about the Clements, with its reputation for the most prominent Americana collection in the world. Late this past summer, the entire contents of the 1923 Library was relocated temporarily to make way for a 2-year, \$8.6 million renovation.

October luncheon: Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson Boulevard. Luncheon buffet (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. **Reservations are needed by noon Wednesday for Friday lunch.** October dinner:

Beyond October... NOVEMBER LUNCHEON

"Collecting and Bookbinding in the Evil Empire" will be Alexander Rivlin's topic on November 8 at the Union League. Born in Kharkov (Ukraine), he built a personal library amid extreme fear, suppression and the KGB, before emigrating to the US in 1996.

NOVEMBER DINNER

We will meet at the Union League Club on November 20. The famous book-topic author Nicholas Basbanes will be our speaker. His subject will be "Cultural History of Paper and Paper Making." Dinner: Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013, Union League Club Shawn Keener on "Five Centuries of Music and Stage Discoveries from the Mayer Brown Libretto Collection"

Eminent early music scholar Howard Mayer Brown (1930-1993)
bequeathed to the Newberry Library his rich collection of texts related to theatrical music, including hundreds of opera libretti, oratorios, cantatas, ballets, festival books, poetry anthologies, and program booklets. The material – spanning the 16th through the 20th centuries, with an emphasis on Italian and French libretti of the 17th and 18th centuries – was cataloged during the Newberry's recent, years-long project cataloging its collection of French pamphlets. Keener will explore the process and pleasures of cataloging Brown's collection. She will consider bibliographic control, highlight the interplay of form and function in the materials, and share the team's favorite discoveries, from snarky marginalia to foundation documents in music history.

Keener is a doctoral candidate at the University of Chicago while also working in Special Collections there; she has studied in Italy on a Fullbright, and has spoken to the Renaissance Society, the American Musicological Society, and many symposia.

Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson Boulevard. Timing: spirits at 5:00, dinner at 6:00, program at 7:30. Dinner is \$48, drinks are \$5 to \$9. For reservations call 312-255-3710 or email caxtonclub@newberry.org. Reservations are needed by noon Friday for the Wednesday dinner.

DECEMBER LUNCHEON

On Dec 13, Caxtonian Peggy Sullivan will interview Brian Bannon, newer (2012) Commissioner of the Chicago Public Schools. Among her many positions, Peggy was an Assistant Commissioner of the Chicago Public Schools (1977-1981).

DECEMBER DINNER

Our annual Revels, including fundraising auction, will take place at the Newberry Library on Wednesday, December 18. Get your auction items to Dan Crawford at the Newberry!

See page 7 for news of the Club's field trip to Columbia College on November 11.