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A 'Library Day' at Stateville

Junie Sinson

In 1907 the State of Illinois purchased 65 acres north of the City of Joliet, for the purpose of constructing a maximum security prison. In March of 1925, out of those fields in Will County, a maximum security prison emerged.

In 1977 Justice Thurgood Marshall authored a United States Supreme Court opinion which held that prisoners had a fundamental constitutional right to be provided by prison authorities "adequate law libraries or adequate assistance from persons trained in the law." That mandate has always intrigued me. Eventually, I concluded that it might be interesting to try to penetrate Stateville Penitentiary and learn about its library. With a bit of persistence, and with the assistance of state officials and prison leadership, I obtained access to Stateville Penitentiary and its library.

As children we all had the joy on occasion of having our teacher lead us into an adventure called "library day." My "library day" at Stateville began when I approached armed guard towers outside. I was reminded of the seriousness of that prison's mission: to secure the continued presence of the Stateville residents. Come inside with me. Accompanied by library administrators, I am immediately confronted by a labyrinth of hallways. The atmosphere is unique and chilling. I doubt that special collections, typefaces, binding – or even fines for overdue books – will be part of this story.

We traverse a long hallway which is continuously interrupted by large sliding steel doors. The doors are manned by serious-looking armed guards, who on command slide the door open for our admittance into the next cell-like room. The grinding sound of those doors opening and closing is as chilling as is their purpose. It is a sound which is not replicated in general society and which, once heard, is impossible to forget.

After passing through the last of the steel



barriers and exiting the last room, we enter a corridor populated by the general prison population. Some of the prisoners in the corridor are in transit within the prison and accompanied by guards. The long corridor is approximately twenty feet wide and it has a bright gold walking surface. That surface is as shiny as a piece of ice and its glaze and ice-like surface is maintained by inmates who always seem to be washing and waxing its surface. No one smiles. A "library day" which brings outside visitors into the prison is not part of the inmates' routine experience. It is impossible to tell what they are thinking as they assess us furtively from top to bottom.

We exit the inner prison structure and enter a large yard area in the center of the prison. It is the size of multiple football fields, surrounded by a high steel fence and guard towers manned by observing armed officers. In the yard one sees men congregating in groups. Their activities include weight lifting, exercising, or quietly visiting. A prisoner in the yard is often segregated by choice or compulsion due to his sexual orientation or to protect him from individuals who may threaten his life.

It is easy to forget you are on the way to the library. Suddenly, it appears. It is a low gray stone slab warehouse. When we step in, we are in a well-lit, long L-shaped room. Before us are two rows of round work tables with chairs to accommodate four users at each table. The room is approximately 120 feet long and 75 feet wide. Along the long wall to our right are shelves of federal and state law books and legal treatises. Along the left wall are a series of barred cells which house equipment for the typing and processing of law briefs. The law library has approximately five thousand books.

More interesting than the physical plant are the individuals who are using the library. Some are engaged in research or writing. They speak in

hushed tones, and as often seen in any library, some nap. Each inmate is dressed in crisp dark blue pants and wears a light blue shirt and white gym shoes. The quiet mysteriously adds to the sense of confinement.

The base of the L-shaped room is a smaller room which houses the library's general collection. It contains approximately two thousand books, stacked against white painted brick walls. No money is budgeted for the general collection, which contains both books of fiction and non-fiction. The books are donated; they are censored before they circulate. One would not find sexually explicit books or non-fiction books which might compromise prison security. The non-fiction section covers, in a very limited manner, most subjects from gardening to world history.

Here we pause our visit to consider the library's administration and use.

The administration is both layered and professional. The Supervisor of Libraries and Education at both the Stateville Penitentiary and Sheridan Penitentiary is Gail Sessler. She has a bachelor's degree and a master's degree
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CAXTONIAN

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in education and administration, all from Illinois State.

Maria Nachtwey is also mainly in Springfield. She oversees the law collection and trains the staff which serves the legal needs of the prisoners. Those needs are mostly for criminal appeals and civil litigation. When necessary she provides access to computer assistance. Upon prisoner request she locates written law cases and Shepardizes case citations. [Editors' note: According to Wikipedia, "Shepardizing refers to the process of consulting *Shepard's Citations* to see if a case has been overturned, reaffirmed, questioned, or cited by later cases. Although the name is trademarked, it is also used informally by legal professionals to describe citators in general."] Maria Nachtwey has a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in legal studies, both earned in Europe.

For the last fifteen years the Stateville library has been managed by Phyllis Baker. She obtained her degree in library science at Lakeland College in Wisconsin. Prior to managing the Stateville library she was employed in Chicago in the library of the Kent College of Law.

Unlike most institutional libraries, the Stateville Penitentiary library can switch from being a hub of activity to a nearly deserted warehouse on very short notice. This is because of a common penal disciplinary measure called "lockdown." Lockdowns freeze activity within the prison. They are graded in severity. A Grade 1 lockdown confines prisoners to their cells but for access to their attorneys, if any. Lockdown are generally the result of violence involving inmates or guards, but they may also be caused by threats to prison security.

Absent a lockdown, a prisoner uses the library by filing a library request. During a routine day three groups of prisoners are brought to the library for approximately two hours of research. Each group consists of thirty prisoners. Delivery of a group of thirty prisoners is complex. It requires the presence of a lieutenant, a sergeant and as many guards as necessary.

A report on the library's use during the month of April 2013 is shown on page 4. During that month the general population of the prison was approximately 3,200 prisoners and there were 1,299 library users. (That figure includes multiple uses of the library by the same inmate.) It appears, absent a court-ordered or statutory mandate, that a prisoner could obtain access to the library, upon request, approximately one time per week.

"Protective custody" is a category of prison incarceration. Individuals in protective custody are jailed separate from the general prison population. That category of confinement may be based upon a need for prisoner safety due to threats of violence (which

include guard violence) or "hits" having been placed on an individual prisoner. Sexually-related conflicts might also result in protective custody. 21 prisoners in protective custody used the facility in April 2013. Similarly, prisoners can be placed in segregation for disciplinary reasons. Routinely those prisoners are confined to their cell but for a one-hour period daily. 143 segregated prisoners used the facility in April 2013.

The use by the prisoners of the general collection is modest. In April of 2013, 95 books of fiction were checked out, as were a mere 56 books of non-fiction.

Both the law library and general library were open during the month of April for 116 hours. A telling example of the intense use of the library is that 2,346 cases were printed for use during the month. That is approximately two for each user. Approximately 30 pages of legal material were duplicated for each prisoner. (Each prisoner is allowed a box in which to store his legal work product.) The extraordinary motivation of the users of the law library makes the quantity of their research and its related documents quite voluminous.

Paralegals seem to be essential to maintaining the library's mandated mission. Stateville has two paralegals. The paralegal's primary job is to assist an inmate with his legal action objectives and to facilitate his legal research. And by law, that course of action is to be done without the "practicing of law" by the paralegal. That constraint would seem to be impossible to completely honor. Both of the current paralegals at Stateville expressed to me their belief that they do a "pretty good job" in expediting and addressing the needs and wishes of the inmates.

A revelatory example of their professionalism was their collective response as to their professional needs at the prison. First, they would like a third paralegal so that their service could be expedited. Second, they wished to be somehow a part of a transitional process to contribute to a prisoner's success when leaving prison, whether the prisoner's discharge was the result of the prisoner having served his entire sentence or his prevailing in an appellate action. Last, they envisioned the law library as a vehicle with a high potential for elevating the general education of the inmates. The paralegals unselfishly professed a desire not to lessen their workload but to give better inmate service.

The French philosopher Michael Foucault remains to this day one of the most influential thinkers and writers in assessing prisons and the care and assistance of inmates. His seminal book, *Discipline and Punish*, was written in 1975. Most often prisons best achieve their primary purpose of incarcerating violent criminals. That purpose seems essential to a civilized society. That result is passionately embraced by the general civilian population. But Foucault emphasized a goal of allowing each individual to

be a unique person. He argued that suppressing an individual's behavior, whether as a prisoner or as a member of general society, ends up encouraging the committing of crimes.

Adequate funding is essential to enlightened prison policy. In the pecking order of our state's prison needs, there is no clamor for extended services being provided to violent convicted criminals. We appreciate that pensions must be funded, disadvantaged children should have expanded educational opportunities and healthcare at some level should be available to all. Balancing the funding of those social concerns against the wishes of our prisoner population should be a major objective of responsible state government.

To best appreciate the feasibility of expanded library assistance to prisoners, a brief listing of the costs of running the maximum-security prison, Stateville Penitentiary, should be given. The annual budgeted cost of our state's prison system is \$1,046,656,917. The budgeted cost of running Stateville each year is \$106,156,700. The cost directly attributed to each additional prisoner is \$21,000 per year. The cost of running the Stateville library is \$277,000 per year.

Back to my "library day." In my request to visit the prison I was allowed to list people whom I wanted to visit and the facilities I wished to observe. I was confident that I would be given access to the physical plant and to the librarians. I had no idea if I would be allowed to visit with representative prisoners.

So I was surprised and delighted to learn that two inmates would be made available to me. There were no restraints placed on my interviews. Each prisoner had signed a consent form which allowed them to be identified, quoted, and photographed. The only constraint on the scope of my prisoners' interrogation was placed by me. I was there to learn a prisoner's perspective on the prison library and its potential for improving the quality of their lives.

I met with the two prisoners who were presented to me in the comfortable office of the prison librarian. As I sat behind the office desk and with the prisoners facing me, I noticed that the door of the office remained open and a guard remained present. At no time was he



TOP Main library reading area with legal library shelves. BOTTOM The author talks with two prisoners.

intrusive.

Both prisoners that I met are serving lengthy sentences involving murder. It was not long into the interview that I was captivated by their intensity and apparent sincerity. The purpose of my interrogation was to learn about the library. An equally compelling story would be to learn what brought each of these individuals to their present situation, but that was not an objective of my "library day" visit.

The first prisoner I quizzed was a tall black male from Chicago. Instantly you realized he was intelligent, intense, and not content with his situation. He had "street smarts." He was working on three court proceedings, two appeals, and one habeas corpus action. He had obtained his GED in prison and he had

continued taking college courses.

Anything which frustrated his study and access to the courts was his enemy. He believes the library building is not worthy of its mission to serve. The roof leaked and his beloved books were often ruined. Funds were not used, or perhaps not available, to repair the roof or to replace hundreds of missing books. The library was his friend and his companion. He wanted the library to be strong, protected, and always available to him. He did not feel that his access to his institutional friend was as available as that claimed by the prison administrators. Space limitations denied him easy access to many essential Federal Second District law books and much
See STATEVILLE LIBRARY, page 4

April, 2013

GENERAL LIBRARY

	ACQUISITIONS		CATALOGED		ITEMS WITHDRAWN		ITEMS USED	
	Ordered	Received	Titles	Volumes	Missing	Other	In Library	Checked Out
Fiction	0	25	32	0	20	17	89	95
Non-Fiction	0	18	15	0	9	5	43	56
Audiotapes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Phonorecords	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Videotapes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Slides	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Films	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Magazines	0	5	0	0	0	0	7	0
Newspapers	0	2	0	0	0	0	11	0

LAW LIBRARY

Monographs	0	8
Serials	0	75
Periodicals	0	3

GENERAL AND LAW LIBRARIES

INTERLIBRARY LOAN	BORROWING		LENDING	
	Books	Copies	Books	Copies
ILLs Requested		0	0	0
ILLs Not-Filled		0	0	0
ILLs Filled Free		0	0	0
ILLs at cost		0	0	0

Number of users in library	1299
Number of users in P.C.	21
Number of users in Seg.	143
Number of users in Orientation	0
Number of users in C.U.	N/A
Number of users in H.C. U.	3
Number of users in S.M.U.	N/A
Total users of library services	1466

Documents Notarized	328
Westlaw Keycite/Cases printed	2346
Photocopies Made	37650

Law Library Hours Open	116
Gen. Library Hours Open	116

of the North Eastern Reported Second law books. "Shepardizing" had to be obtained with assistance from Springfield. That process is essential to reviewing and citing the most current relevant cases in a prisoner's legal brief.

The second prisoner I interviewed was a soft-spoken medium-size Hispanic from Mendota, Illinois. Although he seemed sincere in the hope he had to his one pending appeal, it appeared that he had extraordinary concern with the plight of his fellow Hispanic prisoners.

He reported that many Hispanic prisoners were hindered in studying law books, which were all only written in English. He wanted bilingual law material and wished for all Hispanic prisoners to have assistance provided in a language they could understand. But he appreciated that a bilingual law library was probably not a realistic expectation. He was truly proud of helping other Hispanic prisoners with their legal studies and legal writing.

Both the prisoners advised me that all resident litigants want to process their petitions and appeals with the assistance of a computer or, at the least, a typewriter. They could appreciate why computers were not accessible to prisoners. But they could not accept typewriters not being accessible and operational. On one occasion, no typewriters were available for well over a month due to the absence of typewriter ribbons. That situation was as frustrating to the library staff as it was maddening to these inmates. Leaking roofs, missing

typewriter ribbons, and missing case pages seem like minutia, but they are big hurdles to an inmate who is working on an appeal for his possible freedom.

Both prisoners seemed respectful of the library professionals. They believed the library and its leadership might effectively prepare a prisoner for "transition" at the time of his eventual release. Of equal importance, each prisoner echoed the prison population's hunger for education and life-enriching courses within the structure of the library.

In a maximum security prison virtually all the prisoners are serving sentences longer than twenty years. They are the convicted violent street criminals which society generally wishes to have removed from the community. They are easily forgotten until one happens to meet two of them while on your "library day" visit and you discover that while in prison they appear to have grown into thoughtful, reflective individuals.

It is basic that the criminal sentencing system is set up to punish and to deter. It does not, however, mandate a need to forget the individual. In my experience with the criminal justice system, I have noticed that government employees—whether they are prosecutors, officers, or court officials—frequently become personally hostile to criminal defendants as they work with them over long periods of time.

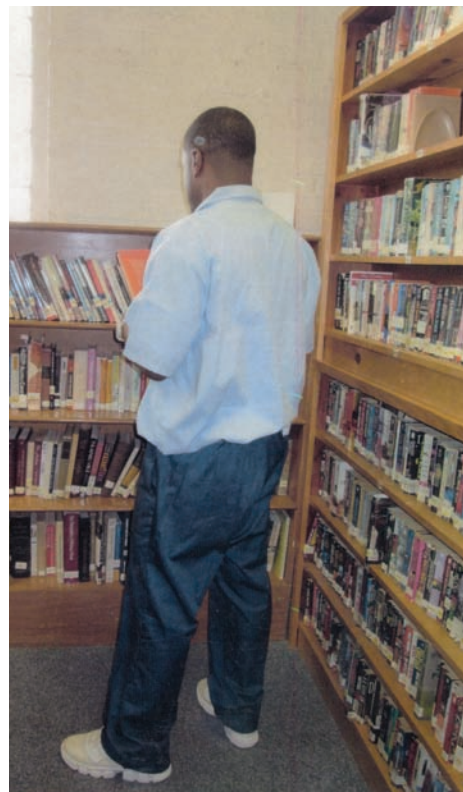
It is strange and interesting that the library administrators in Statesville's maximum

security prison, from librarians to law clerk, expressed to me no hostility to the inmates who patronize their library. Library professionalism appeared to me to prevail over a desire to process out of site or to punish.

My journey into Stateville Correctional Center and to its library began with my "library day's" journey down the prison's Yellow Brick Road. My exit was a reverse journey down that same road. In between those two trips I was exposed to both the best and the worst. For me the journey was exciting, enlightening, and rewarding. In the end, I was surprised to find myself wanting to do more for inmates. Why would I or should I feel compassion for these murderers or performers of other violent crimes? The simple answer is that as we have seen some may be innocent or wrongly convicted. The other great surprise is that the library professionals appeared to me to possess neither a dislike nor hostility to the inmates who are their library patrons. Those professionals work hard, do much, and genuinely wish to do more.

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Acknowledgment: In the preparation of this article, extraordinary access, statistical information, and perspective was provided to me by Christine Boyd, the Administrator of Adult Education and Vocational Services, State of Illinois.



The general library at Stateville.

Caxton Business Manager Collects, Sells, and Collects Again

Wendy Cowles Husser

First we begin with stories behind the answer to the question of how the Caxton Club and Dan Crawford connected, when, why, and other incidents along the way. A college-aged Dan had investigated what was required to become a librarian, and gleaned that it required no heavy lifting. So he pursued his undergraduate degree with an emphasis on library science at the Upper Iowa University, and then looked around for a graduate program that would ensure that he could work in a library, and be a qualified, or, well, at least certified, librarian.

As luck would have it, the schools he contacted told him that he rather had the degree already, practically. ("I told them, well then give me the paper that says I have it, and we'll say no more about it. That was useless.") He matriculated at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to earn his MLS degree and finalize his years of pursuit to work with books. Armed with enough evidence to help him find a job, he tried. To no avail. He went back to his home in northeast Iowa where his family still lived.

Dan's father was an engineer, but in spite of that was rather bookish, like all of his family members. Dan's mother was a nurse who really wanted to be an English teacher. Dan remembers being read to every night and having books surrounding him all his life. Given these parameters growing up, we add that his grandparents were also very bookish. One great-grandfather even went to the University of Chicago. This was from his mother's side of the family; the family immigrated from what was then called Bohemia, in Czechoslovakia, and came to the USA early on. Dan's great-grandfather left Bohemia, under the only proviso allowed at that time: either sign up with the Austro-Hungarian Army, or you could leave to go overseas to study religion. Luckily, says Dan, "my maternal great-grandfather had a kind of 'bent' toward the religious way anyway." And he had linguistic talent.

Dan is the oldest of three children of this family of Bohemian, Scottish, and a 'little' German, ancestry. His only sister is now working for the US government; she is the



contemporary photographs by Robert McCamant

youngest Crawford. Funnily enough, just recently when the government was shut down over an ugly contentious debate within the government, his sister worked through it all, not knowing whether or not she would get paid. She was, however, required to do her work anyway. "Nothing stops the paperwork," says Dan.

Dan's brother, the middle child of the Crawford clan, is a chemist working in southern California as a cosmetics chemist, perhaps best known as the chemist behind the Jessica Simpson line. In truth his brother is a VP of the company, and has responsibility for legal compliance, quality control, what should or shouldn't be in the label for the FDA.

One other relative, an uncle, is even more scientific, if forgetful. He is a leading ornithologist, and was at one time saluted for his lifetime achievement. He is an expert on water birds, and is living in Nebraska. But it does not stop here with Dan's scientifically-leaning family members. Evelyn (Caxtonian Evelyn Lampe [1928-2012]), Dan's aunt, and longtime Caxtonian, started out as a microbiologist. Once her husband was secure in a job on the medical faculty, she gave that up so that there were no questions of impropriety in studying in the department where her husband worked.

There was a mathematician whom the family doesn't much discuss because as Dan says: "clearly some of these genes did not trickle down to me and others."

So as we mentioned at the beginning, after Dan finished school, he went back to Iowa, sent out his résumé often, and waited and waited. Proposition XIII was in full force at the time, and library staff was being cut everywhere. Evelyn, and her husband, who by now was settled at the AMA in Chicago, asked Dan to come to their apartment instead of sitting in Iowa doing nothing much of anything. Evelyn thought that Dan could help walking her dog while she and her husband were attending medical conventions. The apartment was lined with books; this looks like the beginning of the forming of the Newberry and maybe even the Caxton connection with the Business Manager of the Caxton Club.

At the time of our story, about 1985 now, Dan was on his seasonal visit to Evelyn's apartment, ready to take care of dog walking. It was at this coincidental point that the Newberry was discussing a potential book fair. Evelyn asked Dan if he would be willing to volunteer

See DAN CRAWFORD, page 6

DAN CRAWFORD, from page 5

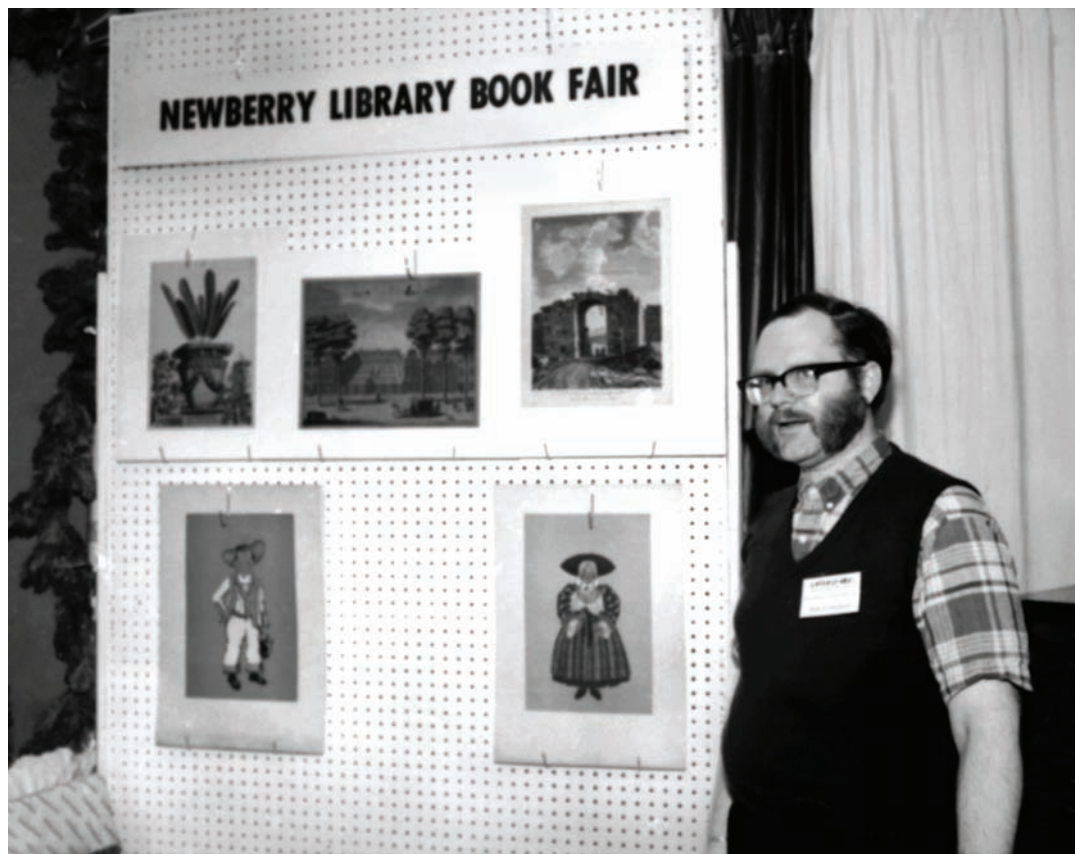
for the undertaking. The Newberry had no real expectations of riches from such a fair, but believed that it would be interesting to try the idea, maybe one time.

To his aunt's suggestion, Dan's answer was NO. But after she and her husband had left town, having nothing to do even after "saying thank you very much but no thanks," Dan capitulated and agreed that he would, well, sort of just show up at the Newberry Library. Evelyn clearly knew that he was going to work. Dan, who loved books, was going to work with books after all.

Conspiring to make possible a Book Fair turns out to be an interesting tale. The great-granddaughter of Mr. Newberry's personal lawyer, a Caxton Club member named Eliphalet Blatchford, was Nathalie Alberts. (Blatchford is important to this whole saga because if not for his insistence on the letter of the law when carrying out intentions in Mr. Newberry's will, we might not now even have a Newberry Library.) Nathalie Alberts had always worked at the Book Fair of the Rush Hospital in Chicago. And she was in favor of promoting such a fair at the Newberry; her husband, L. Winfield Alberts, always known as "Win," was himself a Caxtonian, which also did not hurt.

Apparently for a few previous years the Newberry had restricted library use to all but serious PhD students or PhD researchers. Even after this policy was repealed, no guests were using the Library in the way that Nathalie's grandfather had in mind. Ms. Alberts believed that if a book fair were to be held at the Library, it would bring people to the books, and change the perception that was then held about the Library's closed-door policy. The thinking at the Newberry at the time was that, well, maybe a book fair just might bring in about, possibly \$500. This was 1985.

So Ms. Alberts advertised for help with a book fair project for the Newberry, and got Evelyn, and Dan into the bargain. And the first fair brought in somewhere between \$12,000 – \$15,000 from that two-day affair. The Newberry powers said, well, thank you very much, and we will think about it. To put this first Book Fair into perspective, here is Dan's account:



Dan in 1992, when the book fair was seven years old.

historic photos courtesy the Newberry Library

The first Book Fair, depending on who tells about it, brought in \$12,000 - \$15,000. Somewhere around 1987 we were over \$25,000. We broke \$150,000 first in 2010. The actual figures are buried in files back in the day of typewriters and carbon copies.

Dan Crawford was part of this volunteer work for Newberry's Book Fair from 1985 through 1995; he spent about half of each year back in Iowa, and then returned to Chicago, living at his aunt's home and beginning his Book Fair work. The first paycheck Dan received was in 1995. All his other efforts, and we now know that these efforts were considerable, and financially meaningful to the Newberry during the ten preceding years, all these efforts were for the love of books.

Actually while he was in Iowa during the "downtime" from Book Fair work, he enjoyed writing his novels; each place provided this librarian, author, book sorter, accumulator of books, and reader, a haven. Dan published his first novel, *Rouse a Sleeping Cat*, in May 1993. His next publication, *The Sure Death of a Mouse*, came out in March 1994, and in March 1995, he published *A Wild Dog and Lone*. (He did write a 4th novel, but it sadly crashed with his computer.) Some copies of his first novel have been incorporated into our Caxton Revels for bidding on from time to time.

Could there have been a more perfect match

for what was to be the Caxton Club's General Manager? Dan's answer to the book connections and his work with them is that, "There could be no more perfect job for someone with a short attention span."

Some bits of the *Rest of the Story* is that Dan's job can be really attributed to Evelyn letting the Development Program at the Newberry know that her ten years of volunteer work sorting books had morphed into a full-time responsibility. Newberry asked Evelyn if she wanted to be paid. "Heavens NO," said she, "I am too old for the extra taxes, but I think I know a younger person for it." The truth is, said Dan, Evelyn told him about the job potential and worried whether he would even be interested. "Interested," he says with fervor, "I could not have found anything more perfect."

The problem that arose, naturally, was to identify funding to pay for the Book Fair job in 1995; this had taken place in the middle of the year. Ruminations began about how a salary could be handled without actually having to pay Dan from a specific department. One of the great ideas that emerged was that Dan could house-sit for trustees who were away. Then another was that they tried to give him a Fellowship, but those were restricted for PhD levels only, and Dan did have a Masters



LEFT: Dan in the book sorting den with the late Evelyn Lampe, date unknown. BELOW: Dan in the den today. The reason there are always the same number of books in the den is that when boxes have been sorted, they are shipped to remote storage.

Dan's Newberry office; this office is no longer in existence. The Caxton computer sat on a milk crate in Dan's apartment until the Club got an office in 1998 in the wake of the Quarters Controversy, but that is another story. So how did Mr. Crawford fare? Seems like it might be fair to say that he Fair-ed very well, eh?

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level degree, but not a PhD. Finally, and this is what happened in 1995, Newberry offered Dan a salary, but it was not enough and Dan declined.

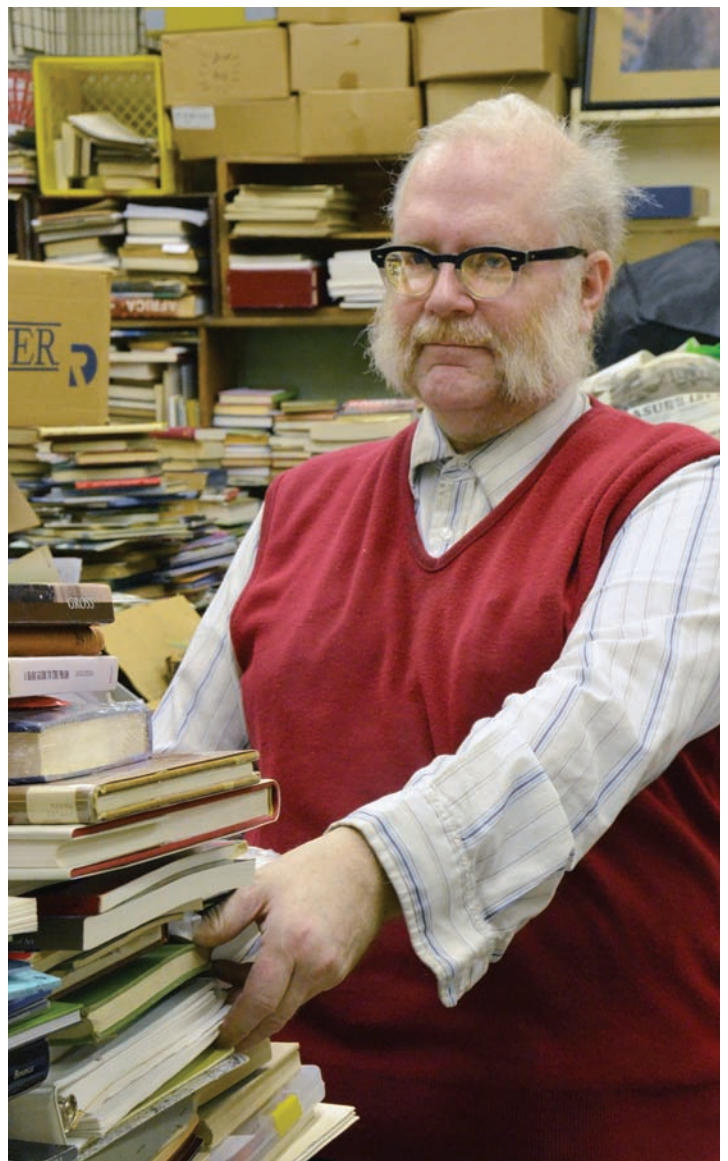
So here is the actual *Rest of the Story* that you might have been wondering about. The truth is that Karen Skubish (1944-2010), President of the Caxton Club, came up with the idea that, because the Club's secretary at that time had been diagnosed with macular degeneration and could not continue in her duties, it might be perfect to hire Dan Crawford. Hire Dan for both jobs, that is. "So, I was hired for about 75% of what the outgoing secretary had received, making it a pleasant time for the outgoing secretary to retire without bad feelings that a man was going to earn more."

Dan was the first man to hold the job ever. And he was, in fact, only the fifth person to hold the job of Club Bookeeper/Secretary since 1920. We are now up to 1995 in our story. The first two secretaries in the job were from Donnelley, and the second two had been in combined secretarial jobs for the Newberry and the Caxton Club. All this is clear and easy to understand. But truth be told, there was a big difference. Dan Crawford was the first person to hold the job of Secretary/Bookkeeper for Caxton...without any secretarial experience.

How would he fare, one wondered, this author of three publications, notebook writer, and keeper of notebooks of information on a variety of topics, brain trust for hundreds of quoted remarks, Master of Library Science graduate, and, today a blogger for the New-

berry Book Fair. Dan is now blogging three times every week on behalf of the Newberry, and, in July 2014 we hope to see a publication of the 30 best blogs by him, in print! Those nearly ten volunteer years of collecting and sorting have surely resulted in meaningful arrangements for the Newberry, and for the Business Manager of the Caxton Club.

Coincidentally at the time Dan was hired, the Caxton Club was in its Centennial year. Karen Skubish and Bob Cotner made Dan feel like part of the family right away. The title in those days was Secretary/Bookkeeper of the Caxton Club. This changed during the Michael Thompson years, and his job became named General Manager. The Caxton's file cabinet was in a corner of

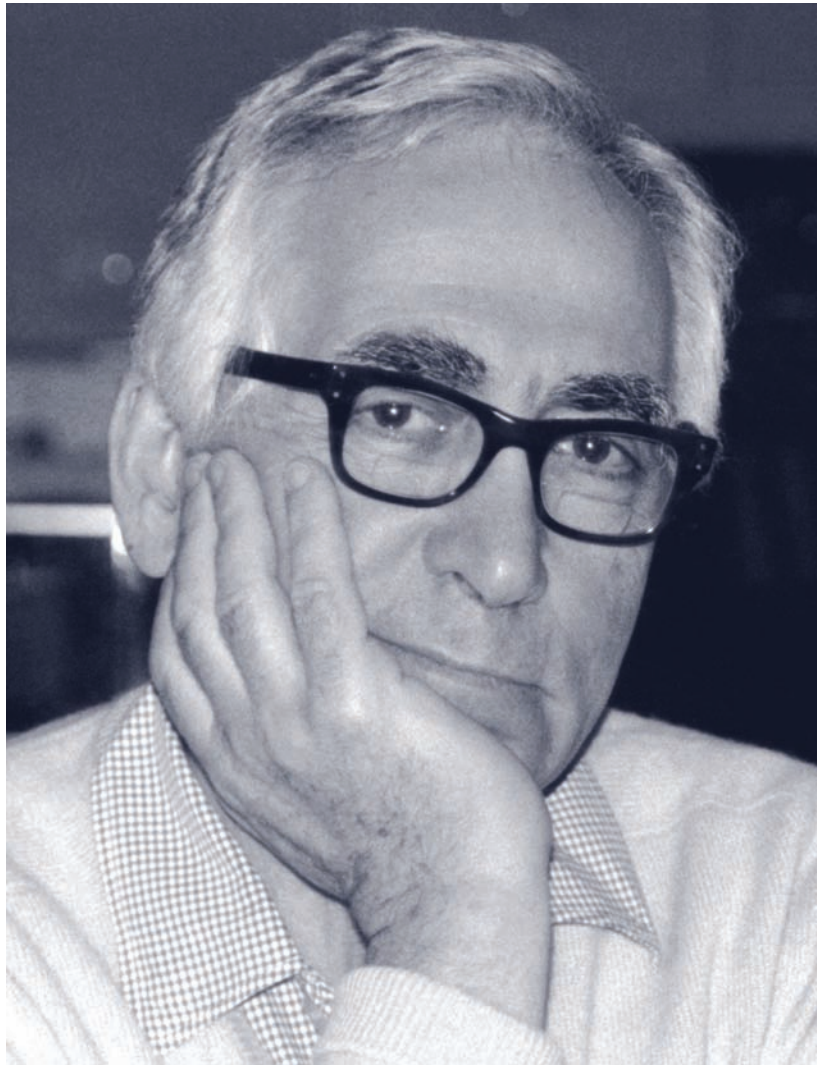


Remembering Ernest Mond, '93 (1924-2013)

Paul F. Gehl

I met Ernest Mond at the Caxton Club sometime in the 1990s, but really got to know him later, during a period of change in his life, after he lost his beloved first wife of many years, Julia, and before he married his equally cherished Virginia. Our real friendship began outside the club, though it was through the mediation of another Caxtonian, Norma Rubovits. Norma began to give her splendid collection of decorated papers and books on marbling and bookbinding to the Newberry Library in 1992. This news traveled slowly through the Chicago community of binders and paper folk (few could believe that Norma would give up her treasures), and ten years on Ernest called me asking if I would like to add some decorated papers from his basement workshop to those that Norma had already donated. The "bait" was that he had wonderful sheets of Norma's own making, mostly papers she had given him during binding classes they shared under the tutelage of Elizabeth Kner (1898-1998) in the 1970s. Norma's husband Frank, who practiced medicine with Ernest at Michael Reese Hospital, was also in those small, hard-to-get-into classes. Ernest knew I would want the papers Norma marbled because in those early years she was in the habit of giving away some of her very best sheets. But Ernest had other decorated binding papers too, and he half-jokingly asked if they were good enough to join Norma's collection. "She doesn't think much of some of these marblers," he said, "but I think they are first-rate papers." I didn't know it at the time, but this was classic Ernest Mond. He allowed for other people's opinions about music, books, binding, and almost everything

else, but he added his own thoughts, usually original and often dissenting, to every report. Thus, he admired many of the wild and colorful bindings younger artists were making in the 1970s and 1980s; but his own bindings were usually classical and restrained, expertly



detailed and meticulously crafted. He was not shy about pointing out the difference.

Over the years, I came to understand that this was a facet of Ernest's generosity. He donated to many causes and gave many books and bindings to individuals and institutions. He was genuine in his enthusiasm for others' work in many fields. But he also freely dispensed his considered opinions and was willing to argue them too. Along the way, he taught me many things about books and bindings (and cheese too, though I'll reserve my own opinions about wine). If you talk to his other friends in the bibliophile world, you find

that same word, "generosity," is oft-repeated. Those who shared time with him in binding classes and workshops remember his lively sense of humor and love of conversation, but they also always remark his willingness to help others in the group. At one point in the history of the Chicago Hand Bookbinders, I am told, there was no small concern about the fact that three relatively young members of the group had died of cancer in a short span of time. As happens in such moments, people reacted anxiously and began to wonder if the strong chemicals they were using had some cumulative effect. They turned to "Dr. Mond," as Ernest was universally called in those more formal days, and he undertook some research in the medical literature to reassure the group that the chemicals that specifically worried them were safe. But he also gave them an earnest exhortation on how handle them properly.

Ernest Mond was born in 1924 in Unna, Germany (near Darmstadt) where his father was a physician and his mother a nurse. To judge from the many handsome children's and young adult books he later gave to the Newberry, he was a serious reader from early in life. His father smoked, and the coupons in the cigarette packs provided Ernest and his sister

Marianne with many of the handsome sticker-books published by the German tobacco companies. Treasures among these were the celebratory albums published for the 1932 and 1936 Olympics. (Ernest's copies were exhibited at the Newberry in 2005.) As teenagers Ernest Mond and his sister were among the ten thousand Jewish children who left Germany for Holland in 1938 and 1939 under the Kindertransport program. His parents made their way to England shortly afterward, then to the United States. Ernest's books followed. The reunited family finally came to rest in Chicago; and those books were still in Ernest's



A few Mond bindings from the Newberry.

Hyde Park apartment when I visited in 2002, in near mint condition. We had a discussion then about the high quality of graphics for children's literature in 1930s Germany. Ernest took a few days to decide but he eventually donated them to the Newberry for our collection on printing and design history.

Like many Caxtonians, Ernest Mond had a professional career quite outside the book world. He took his doctorate from Harvard Medical School in 1948 and interned at Michael Reese Hospital. He was a respected internist who practiced at the University of Chicago, Reese, and Northwestern Memorial. Caxtonian Michelle Cloonan ('80) was a

family friend from childhood and remembers Ernest as an inspiration, someone who set high standards and "demanded the best" from himself and everyone else. In his so-called retirement years he worked regularly for the Social Security Administration as an expert consultant on disability matters. Ernest was passionate about many things including hiking, sailing, and classical music; indeed, he was even more likely to be met at Orchestra Hall or Lyric Opera than at a Caxton Club meeting. On the other hand, he rarely missed a program sponsored by the Chicago Hand Bookbinders. Ernest's friends all knew about these many facets of his life, but it will probably be as an amateur but skilled binder that he

will be best remembered in the Chicago book community. He studied binding in turn with Elizabeth Kner, Bill Anthony, Bill Minter, Heinke Pensky-Adam, and Scott Kellar. (This must represent some kind of record for studying with all the best Chicago binders of the golden age from 1960 to 1990, none of whom suffered a lack of talent in their students.) His teachers and fellow students remember him as a true gentleman who loved to talk about music and literature and who worked hard at getting his bindings just right.

A memorial was held at the Newberry Library on November 1, attended by family and friends from all his circles of friends.

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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: "Mark Kozloff: Critic and Photographer" (exhibition surveys Kozloff's ongoing engagement with words and images), Galleries 1-4, through January 5. "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, through February 16. "Devouring Books" (books, prints, and drawings from Europe and America examining food culture), Ryerson and Burnham Libraries (closed Saturdays and Sundays), through January 27.

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.

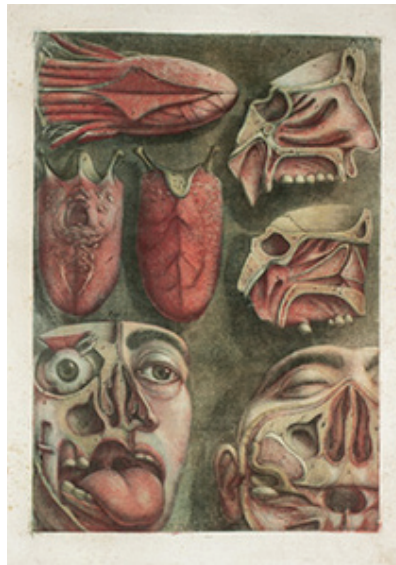
Chicago Botanic Garden, Lenhardt Library, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, 847-835-8202: "Healing Plants" (illustrated herbals), through February 9.

Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark Street, Chicago, 312-266-2077: "Emancipation" (a rare commemorative copy of the Emancipation Proclamation signed by Abraham Lincoln), Wrigley Gallery, through January 5.

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 print-on-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. "Soviet Book and Literacy Programs" (a poster history from the collection of Caxtonian William Cellini, Jr.), through December 6.

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.

Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, 312-280-2660: "The Way of the Shovel: Art as Archaeology" (traces the interest in history, archaeology, and archival research that defines some of the most highly



Art Institute: *Devouring Books*
GAUTIER D'AGOTY, SENSE OF TASTE



Columbia College: *Russian Posters*
"A BOOK IS NOTHING BUT A MAN ADDRESSING THE PUBLIC"
— COLLECTION OF CAXTONIAN WILLIAM CELLINI, JR.



Oriental Institute: *Looting of Iraq*
US TANK AT IRAQ NATIONAL MUSEUM; PHOTO: JOANNE FARCHAKH BAJJALY

regarded art of the last decade), through March 9. 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

Northwestern University Library, 1970 Campus Drive Evanston, 847-491-7658: "Past, Paper, Scissors: Scrapbooks from the Northwestern University Library Collections" (28 scrapbooks that offer an intimate glimpse into life on- and off-campus as far back as the late

nineteenth century), main and Deering libraries, through January 3.

Oriental Institute, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, 773-702-9514, "Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past" (an updated selection of the panels from the original 2008 show), lower level, ongoing. Smart Museum of Art, 5550 S. Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, 773-702-0200: "State of Mind: New California Art Circa 1970" (the first in-depth survey of conceptual art in California), Gray Gallery, through January 12.

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 racist caricature to the productions of black-owned advertising firms), through January 4.

Woodson Regional Library, 9525 S. Halsted Street, Chicago, 312-747-6900: "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.

Send your listings to lisa.pevtzow@sbcglobal.net

Caxtonians Collect: Teri Embrey

Interviewed by Robert McCamant

Teri Embrey always wanted to work in a museum or an archive. But in college, she was advised against admitting that. “They’d tell me that if you want to work in that sort of thing you should first get a degree in librarianship and work in the field. Once you’ve proved your level-headedness then you can start to ease over into what really interests you,” she says.

Apparently she did her homework, because now Embrey is Chief Librarian at the Pritzker Military Library in downtown Chicago. It’s an archive, museum, and library all rolled into one. She supervises the cataloguing, acquisitions, and circulation—but she also gets to be the document consultant in developing the library’s exhibitions.

The Pritzker opened in 2003. It houses the historical documents acquired by its founder, J. N. Pritzker, as well as many, many books and documents acquired since. It has a busy program of exhibits and also specializes in recording oral histories provided by service people in state-of-the-art audio and visual facilities. Rare documents are housed off-site, but a large reference and circulating library is ready to answer the questions of visiting members of the public. Though its founder has a reputation as a conservative political donor, the library strives to be non-partisan.

Embrey is a lifelong Chicagoan. She grew up in Blue Island, and got her BA in English and history, and a masters in library science, from Rosary College. She later earned an MA in public history at Loyola. (I asked: “public history” is history of the official record. Public historians tend to be employed at government agencies, battlefields, historic houses, and other large institutions.)

The day I visited Embrey at the Pritzker she was embroiled in the typical difficulties of switching the library’s catalog from one computer system to another. Her office was also lined with new acquisitions, which could not be catalogued until the new system was up

and running. Nonetheless, I sensed that she was happy with her job. “It’s a good mix for my interests and talents,” she said.

She lives in Berwyn with her husband Dave and a fluctuating number of their children. Counting the whole blended family there are six children, but only two are definite residents of the household. One is fully started on a life of their own. The remaining children are in and out. She and Dave share an interest in collecting cookbooks and cooking from them.



“My husband is a saint,” she says. I take that to mean that he is understanding about the demands of her job, not to mention her having gone back for an additional degree while still working full time.

She herself collects children’s books, especially those of the Chicago company P.F. Volland. The publisher hit its stride in its tenth year when it started printing the books of Johnny Gruelle, most noted for his Raggedy Ann stories. At its peak the company had a nine-acre plant and produced many printed products, but they were unable to figure out

a strategy for the Depression and gave up on books in 1934. “They were pioneers in color printing,” Embrey says, “and many of their books are beautiful.” She also mentioned a 19th-Century biography of Napoleon by William Milligan Sloane on her shelves at home, which led to the admission that she has “a few” older books.

The Pritzker employs twenty people in its various activities. But they also rely on volunteers. “In my department, I put them to work reading the shelves,” she says. “And another project I have them work on is translating important items in the collection into Wikipedia entries.” The library is a GLAM participant. That stands for “galleries, libraries, archives, and museums” that have signed up to share the content of their collections with a wider audience through Wikipedia. In a sense, this relates to the new electronic catalog, which uses the World Cat application programming interface, so that once cataloged at the Pritzker, any item can be searched for by anyone with access to World Cat.

The volunteers fall mostly into two categories: some are library students who need to gain practical experience before throwing themselves onto the job market; others are veterans who have always been interested in military history.

Embrey joined the Caxton Club in its centennial year, 1995. She believes her nomina-

tor was Michael Godow, and her seconder was Peggy Sullivan, then the head of the graduate school at Rosary College. This was during the period when Embrey was the Special Collections Librarian in Rosary’s Library. She worked with the children’s books there, which were in the process of becoming an important collecting area for the institution.

She attends more luncheons than dinners since it is easier to fit them into her office day than it is to squeeze them into evening family activities.

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Bookmarks...

Luncheon: Friday Dec. 13, 2013, Union League Club
Brian Bannon, Commissioner of the Chicago Public
Library, as interviewed by Caxtonian Peggy Sullivan

Before becoming Commissioner of the Chicago Public Library in 2012, Brian had leadership roles in the San Francisco and Seattle public libraries. He is credited with a fresh perspective and a high level of knowledge of the technologies that are reshaping library services. In 2009 *Library Journal* honored him with their "Movers and Shakers" award.

Who better to sit down with Brian than Caxtonian Peggy Sullivan, an important figure in the library world and whose many leadership roles have included Chicago Public Library Assistant Commissioner (1977-1981) and Executive Director of the American Library Association (1992-1994)? Come and hear answers to such questions as: any surprise(s) since you took office? With a system of 80 libraries, serving 2.6 million residents, how do you (or do you?) prioritize your services? What changes are you considering, especially in the use of new media? The \$64,000 question: are public libraries still relevant, and if so, are they to be relevant in the future?

There will be time for questions from the audience.

December 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. Please reserve by noon Wednesday for Friday lunch. December dinner:

Beyond December...

JANUARY LUNCHEON

Mark Twain, Margaret Atwood, Hamlin Garland, Carl Sandburg, Robert Frost, and other literati spent time on or near the Rock River. Caxtonian Frank Schier, owner, editor, and publisher of the thriving *Rock River Times*, tells the story Jan. 10, at the Union League.

JANUARY DINNER

On Wednesday Jan. 22, 2014, Amed Sadri, Gorter Professor of Islamic World Studies and Professor of Sociology at Lake Forest College, will talk on his recent edition of "The Epic of the Persian Kings." **Please note this is the fourth Wednesday of the month.**

Dinner: Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2013, Newberry Library
Our Annual Holiday Revels including
a Fundraising Auction of Things Bookish

Join our festive holiday Revels with strolling musicians, the camaraderie of your fellow booklovers, libations, and our own Tom Joyce as our live auction host. The evening will feature drinks, dinner, music and the chance to find out what Caxtonians have had on their shelves as we bid for silent and live auction items. Bring a guest and you will be entered in a drawing for a free Caxton dinner.

Contact Dan Crawford at the Newberry to make arrangements to drop off your auction items. Early submissions allow Dan the best chance to list your item in the Revels catalogue, but items are accepted until December 18.

Join us at our annual Revels. Reservations appreciated. Don't miss the fun.

Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton. Timing: spirits and silent auction at 5:00, dinner at 6:00, followed by live auction and entertainment. Dinner is \$48, drinks are \$5. For reservations call 312-255-3710 or email caxtonclub@newberry.org. Please reserve by noon Friday for Wednesday.

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

We meet at the Union League Club on Valentines Day. Speaker and topic to be announced.

FEBRUARY DINNER

At the Union League Club, Wednesday, February 19, Jim Canary, head of conservation at the Lilly Library, will speak on modern bindings and the Lilly holdings. This meeting will begin with the speaker presentation to be followed by dinner.