

With the FABS in Russia

Caxtonians join its first international tour



photo/ Alexandr Gromov

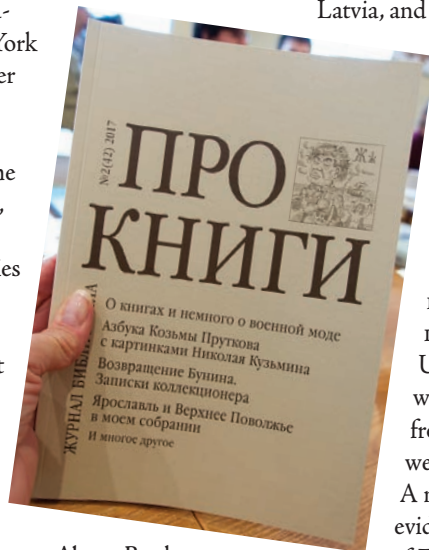
FABS group at the headquarters of the National Union of Bibliophiles in Moscow

By Susan R. Hanes

A recent six-week trip to Russia and the Baltic States was inspired by the decision to attend the first international tour of the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies to Russia. FABS, as it is known, is a loose association of book-collecting clubs. The group was formally organized at the Grolier Club in New York on November 5, 1993, after an earlier meeting in Chicago at the Caxton Club. Over the years, FABS has sponsored gatherings in many of the member organizations' home cities, but our visit with the Moscow and St. Petersburg bibliographic societies was unique. The idea of a tour to Russia was first conceived by Caxtonian Michael Thompson, current FABS president, and Professor William Butler, FABS international affiliates chair, who led the group. Butler has been the Fowler Distinguished Professor of Law at Penn State University since 2005 and is an eminent authority on the legal systems of Russia. We – myself and my husband, George Leonard – felt fortunate to be part of his tour. Two additional non-resident Caxtonians, Ronald Smeltzer and Greg Krisilas,

also attended.

Although our trip was motivated by the opportunity to join the group, we extended our travels by adding several days in Moscow and St. Petersburg; touring the historic towns of Russia's Golden Ring; and visiting Kaliningrad, the Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, and



About Books, the quarterly journal of the National Union of Bibliophiles

Russia's rich history and culture endure, and we savored the architecture of its churches, the wealth of its museums, and the thrill of its

performing arts.

We landed at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport just after 3 pm on September 8, and picked up our rental car just in time to head into Moscow's Friday afternoon traffic. We joined the throngs of Muscovites heading out of town for the weekend, driving 90 kilometers to Sergiyev Posad, one of a cluster of cities that comprise Russia's famed Golden Ring. These ancient towns were built between the 11th and 17th centuries and (in many ways) are the birthplace of Russian culture. For the next five nights, we drove to jewels on the Ring, where we visited magnificent kremlins and Orthodox churches that parallel the Volga River, getting a sense of the Russian countryside and its vernacular architecture.

Returning to Moscow, we enjoyed several days on our own before we commenced the FABS tour. We savored opera and ballet at the Bolshoi, visited a number of museums, and immersed ourselves in the capital's remarkable culture. Our book-related visits before the tour included Soviet writer Maxim Gorky's art nouveau home and the graffiti-covered halls of an apartment and museum dedicated to *Master and Margarita* author Mikhail Bulgakov. What follows is my journal from our days with FABS.



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Sunday, September 17, Moscow

This was the beginning of the first international tour of the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies. We assembled in the lobby of the Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel at 11 am, where Bill Butler met us and introduced us to Elena Shelepchikova, a Russian attorney in his firm who had assisted him in making arrangements and who accompanied us. Including Bill, we number ten. After introductions, we set out on foot to the headquarters of the National Union of Bibliophiles, located in a small yellow building near Pushkin Square in the Central Administrative District of Moscow. We were greeted by members of the society, including Alexandr Gromov, a collector of Pushkin, who would be with us in both Moscow and St. Petersburg; Dr. Mikhail Afanasiev, director of the State Historical Public Library of Russia; Dr. Olga Tarakanova, president of the Guild of Antiquarian Booksellers; and Valery Manukian, president of the Miniature Book Society.

We joined members of the NUB around a long table where samples of the group's extensive publications were on display, including their quarterly journal, *Про книги* ("Pro Knigi") or *About Books*. Dr. Mikhail Seslavomskii, a leading Russian bibliophile, gave a short history of their organization,



Susan Hanes presents Alex Gromov with a copy of the Caxton Club's 1995 history.

which was formed in 2010 as the successor to an earlier society. He explained that each year, thematic meetings are held in other Russian cities for the purpose of sharing bookish interests. Members may bring books to exchange or sell and there is a lively sense of community among those who share the love of books. He commented that today, as our groups face each other across the table, it is important to remember that we are sitting at the *same* table.

Presently, Russia has about 80 bibliophilic clubs. Membership is a serious affair and new members are only admitted once a year at the annual general meeting. A candidate must have a bibliographic library containing select or rare materials, and must have three recommendations from current members. He told us that they are very proud to have a number of younger members (several are in their early 30s) and added that the older members are valued for the rich wisdom and perspective that they bring. In Moscow, there are two bibliographic societies (the second is the Moscow



The cover of the author's 1959 Cyrillic edition of Wilkie Collins's *The Moonstone*.

Club of Bibliophiles). Both clubs meet twice a month on a special topic and produce brochures, journals, and posters in limited runs. Topics might include children's books, the works of a specific writer or poet, or lighter subjects, such as humor, cooking, or erotica. A major interest among Russian collectors is classic 19th century Russian literature. It is a difficult area in which to collect, as history has made extant editions from this time extremely rare. In the 1920s, many private collections were nationalized and taken over by state libraries, leaving few books on the market.

Although bibliographic activity in the Soviet Union was not prohibited, neither was it encouraged, and book societies suffered.

During World War II, personal libraries were often confiscated or destroyed, sending prices beyond the reach of all but a few collectors. For example, a simple almanac that would sell in the U.S. or Europe for \$10-\$50 might sell in Russia for ten

photo/ George Leonard

times that amount. At that time, illustrated books were considered particularly precious – especially books illustrated for children. Other topics favored by Russian collectors are autographs, miniature books, and the history of Russian bibliography. Dr. Seslavomskii told us the stories of several favorite items in his collection. As a young man, he was particularly moved by the poetry of Marina Tsvetaeva (1892-1941). He described the excitement he felt when he was able to borrow a book of her poems, although he could only keep it for one night. He did not sleep, copying it using an old typewriter that he was able to access. In that politically charged time, it was a dangerous move, made even more so when he entrusted the typed sheets to a binder in order to turn the pages into a book. He showed us the slim volume – his precious manuscript copy bound in a plain green cover. After Dr. Seslavomskii's remarks, Bill introduced the members of our group, and we presented the NUB with publications from our various clubs. Each of us summarized our particular collecting interests. Before we adjourned for tea and pastries and an opportunity to chat informally, we were each given a copy of an illustrated history of Russian bibliography prepared especially for the occasion. After the meeting, Bill led us to two specialty bookshops on the way back to the hotel. Falanster specializes in the social sciences and the humanities and is located

A sample of the holdings at Moscow's Miniature Books Museum



down an alley on the second floor of a nondescript building. Moskva is a large bookstore on Tverskaya Street with an impressive antiquarian section on the lower level. I found an



Dr. Mikhail Afanasiev, director of the State Historical Public Library of Russia

illustrated Russian edition of Wilkie Collins's *The Moonstone* published in 1959. I decided

to buy it in spite of an animated discussion as to whether it would be necessary to obtain documentation to take it out of the country. (Books issued in Russia more than a hundred

years ago cannot be exported, and even publications over 50 years old require a special permit.) At 6:15, George and I met several members of our group for dinner at a "farm to table" restaurant near our hotel.

Monday, September 18, Moscow

Today's weather was lovely from start to finish. We left the hotel at 9:15 and walked to the Russian State Historical Library on Starosadskii Street. We noticed the considerable renovation going on all over Moscow in preparation for the 2018 World Cup. New granite sidewalks, streetlights, and tree plantings were going up all around us. Streets are being repaved and building facades are being tuck-pointed and painted. At the site of the Moscow Printing House in Kitai-gorod, we paused at the statue of Ivan Federov, father of Russian printing, whose book, *Apostle*, was printed in 1565. Bill pointed out the imposing neo-baroque Lubyanka Building, the headquarters of the KGB and its prison complex in the Meshchansky District. At 10, Dr. Afanasiev greeted us at the Russian State Histori-

cal Library entrance and led us to a lower chamber of the building, where he gave us an illustrated introduction to the history of the library and its collections.

This library dates back to 1863 when it opened as a publicly accessible library in the Chertkov Mansion on Myasnit'skaya Street. From 1887-1938, the Chertkov Library was part of the Library of the Imperial Russian Historical Museum. The historical library was developed from the private library of Alexander Dmitrievich Chertkov (1789-1858), a noted Moscow philanthropist and collector. He dreamed of creating a Universal Library of Russia. In the first half of the 19th century, Chertkov's was the most valuable collection of Russian history books in Russia. Since 1938, the library has existed under its present name. Its current holdings are in excess of six million volumes, 275,000 of which are in special collections. As a deposit library, it maintains a copy of every book published in Russia. More than 30,000 books are cataloged each year. Dr. Afanasiev showed us a photo from the 1960s of a crowd of students waiting at the door to get one of the limited seats in the reading room. He noted wryly that with the

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Internet, the need to be present physically no longer exists and the library no longer draws such crowds. After his introduction, we toured the facilities. In the stacks, he pointed out the old classification system in which personal collections from donors were given designations according to the rooms where they were shelved. The donors' hand written catalogs are still vital to the access of these original collections. Although the extensive card catalog is no longer used, it is kept on display as an artifact. Dr. Afanasiev took us through the historic reading rooms that are presently undergoing restoration.

After our tour, several of us got on an elevator to return to the main floor. However, our elevator was apparently not part of the renovation. We got stuck. Fortunately, three of our elevator companions spoke Russian. Elena made a brief call on the elevator phone and we waited quietly. In a few moments, the Otis man arrived and we were rescued. Alexandr, who was among those held captive, jokingly took a photo of me holding the "Out of Order" sign. On our walk to lunch, we stopped briefly at a church, a convent, and Moscow's oldest synagogue.

At 4 pm, we walked to Pushechnaia Street for a visit to the Ex Libris and Miniature Books Museum. Situated on the second floor of a late 18th century house, the museum opened in 1991 and has been restored to accommodate display cases, library shelving, and plenty of wall space for framed bookplates. Curator Ludmila Shustrova welcomed



N. P. Kondakov, Byzantine Enamels. Zvenigorodskii Collection, St. Petersburg, 1892. Russian State Historical Library, Moscow.

us and expressed gratitude for the prominent role Bill has performed in the museum's development. Her words were followed by a short film about the history of the museum. The permanent collection consists of Russian and foreign *ex libris* plates, miniature books, and an extensive reference library on those subjects. She gave a tribute to the longtime curator of the museum, Vladimir Loburev (1933-2007). Museum holdings include 46,000 Russian and 20,000 foreign bookplates from 44 countries, more than 6,000 miniature books, and more than 8,000 supporting reference materials. She noted that Soviet president Leonid Brezhnev had been an avid

collector of miniature books, and his support furthered the influence of the museum. Several miniature book dealers were present and gave short introductions to their collections. One, Vladimir Markov, had several stunning miniature books housed in Palekh painted covers; one came in its own Palekh box. When we uncertainly asked the price we were surprised how affordable it was and bought it. We also bought a tiny religious book in three languages that had been taken into space aboard a Soyuz spacecraft. Markov included a photo of the book that the cosmonauts had sent back from space. After an extensive tour of the miniature book collection and bookplates from Imperial Russia through Soviet times, we were each given a large gift bag

full of books and the lapel pin of the International Union of Bibliophiles, founded in 1974 to unify all those who love and care for books.

Our visit concluded with a reception featuring wine and fresh salmon, subsidized by a gentleman who declared with teary eyes that he loved Americans. He presented Bill with copies of his two-volume bibliophilic history and arranged for us to pose for a group photo that he plans to include in his pending third volume. The evening concluded with dinner at Cafe Pushkin, where nine of us had Russian specialties in a room that unfortunately appeared to be set aside for foreign groups. Although we could understand the restaurant's desire to maintain a quiet atmosphere for its guests, we were sorry that we were too large a group to fully enjoy the ambience of this famous restaurant in its main dining room.

Tuesday, September 19, Moscow

It was a chilly walk to the Museum of the Book this morning. The museum consists of



Leonid Chertkov, President of the Moscow Club of Bibliophiles, shares stories of his collection at home

multiple display rooms in the Russian State Library, which is located on Vozdvizhenka Street, near the Kremlin. The library was founded in 1862 and was formerly known as the Lenin Library. It contains a unique collection of Russian and foreign documents in 247 languages, with holdings of over 43 million items. It is also known for its specialized collections of maps, sheet music, and other items. Its Museum of Rare Books was founded in the 1950s and originally held only Russian books. However, following a successful exhibition on European books, the collection was expanded to include books from Europe, showing Russian books within a European context. A senior librarian guided us through the exhibition, showing us representative materials from the 16th through 20th centuries.

At 2, we departed by coach to the suburban home of Leonid Chertkov, president of the Moscow Club of Bibliophiles. On the sixth floor of an unassuming apartment block, the flat that Chertkov shares with his wife, Valentina, is filled with his collections of books and art. We gathered around a cluttered table surrounded by bookcases, and Chertkov told us how he first came to be associated with books. When he was nine months old, he was taken from his baby carriage and thrown into a pile of trash consisting primarily of discarded books. He told us with a wink that this was the beginning of his madness. He said that he and his wife chose their apartment because its high ceiling could accommodate tall bookshelves and wall space for framed art.

Using a red laser pointer, he showed us various artworks, associating them with particular books in his collection. His central focus is pairing book illustrations and dust jackets with their original art. After listening in fascination to his stories and reminiscences, we were called into the kitchen where Valentina had set out salmon tarts, dumplings, and fruit, as well as home-infused vodka and wine. We toasted the love of books that brought us together in warmth and friendship, and presented our host with gifts from our various clubs. At 5:30 we boarded the bus back to the hotel, fearing that traffic would prevent us from making the 7 pm curtain time for *Don Quixote* at the Bolshoi. As soon as we got near the hotel, we jumped off the bus, raced in to pick up our tickets, and made it into the

theater just moments before the curtain went up.

Wednesday, September 20, Tolstoy estate to St. Petersburg

At 9:30 am, we departed by coach to the Leo Tolstoy Estate Museum in the Khamovniki



The ornate binding of a limited edition of The Ten Commandments, published by Rare Books of St. Petersburg in 2008

District, arriving a half-hour before the house opened. That gave us time to stroll through the pleasant garden behind the winter home where Tolstoy and his wife, Sophia, lived with their children in the 1880s and '90s. Today, the home is a museum dedicated to the writer's domestic life. An enthusiastic guide took us through each room, giving us a sense of how the Tolstoy family lived. All the articles in the home are original, which made our visit seem particularly intimate. In Tolstoy's study, a quiet room at the back of the house, we saw the great desk where he wrote. So as to sit closer to the manuscript he was writing, Tolstoy shortened the legs of his desk chair. We also saw the desk where Sophia would copy the drafts of his writing into legible pages, and the place where she did her needlework.

Both Tolstoy and his wife loved nature, although Sophia enjoyed the city and thought it important to expose their children to the culture of Moscow. The family's move to this house near the center of Moscow changed Tolstoy's outlook. When he saw how the poor suffered in the city, losing their identity when they left the countryside where they were born, he realized the value of a simple way of life and tried to adopt simpler habits himself, including attempts to make his own shoes. Sophia, although a devoted wife, called herself "Count-

ess," and liked being surrounded by luxury items.

We listened to Tolstoy's recorded voice in the salon where Rachmaninov once played the piano, accompanying the opera star Feodor Chaliapin. Our guide related that Thomas Edison had given Tolstoy a phono-

graph player, which intrigued him greatly. Visiting the house provided an intimate portrait of one of the world's great writers, and we left with a sense of his humility, sensitivity, and sense of humor. As we stood outside asking our guide some final questions, she pointed to a gnarled birch tree outside the caretaker's cottage. "That tree remembers Tolstoy," she said. It was a fitting conclusion to our literary visit to Moscow. At 2:15, we were on our way to the train station to catch the high-speed Sapsan train to St. Petersburg, 635 kilometers distant. What used to be a nine-hour trip has been reduced to four, and we watched the countryside flash by from plush business-class seats. After an American-accented announcement that CCTV cameras and security personnel were on board and a cheery warning to be alert to the possibility of terrorist attack, we were served complimentary drinks and a hot meal. By 9 pm we had arrived in St. Petersburg and were checked into the Marriott hotel on Pochtamskaia Street.

Thursday, September 21 St. Petersburg

We woke to a sunny morning in St. Petersburg, Russia's magnificent 18th century imperial capital. Today it is Russia's sec-

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ond-largest city, with a population of over five million. Situated on the Neva River, at the head of the Gulf of Finland on the Baltic Shore, the city was founded by Peter the Great in 1703. In 1914, its name was changed to Petrograd, in 1924 to Leningrad, and in 1991 the city regained its original name, St. Petersburg. Our hotel was located near St. Isaac’s Cathedral in the historic center of the city. At 9:30 am, we departed by coach for the staff entrance of the National Library of Russia, where we met Daria, our guide to the Rare Books Division. The Imperial Public Library was established in 1795 by Catherine the Great. A plan for a Russian public library was submitted to the empress in 1766 but did not move forward until 1795, 18 months before her death. Today, strong collections illustrate Russian and Slavonic book history. Daria led us through several reading rooms and stacks, many of which are not open to the public. She showed us the vault containing a large collection of *incunabula*, providing a rich picture of the history of printing, culture, and art in Western Europe. The room known as “Faust’s Cabinet,” beautifully restored after it was bombed during World War II, houses many of the library’s rarest holdings, including chained books.

In 1778, shortly after his death, Voltaire’s private library was purchased by Catherine the Great. In 1852, the collection was transferred from the Hermitage Palace to the Imperial Public Library. Voltaire’s library contains almost 7,000 books, 2,000 of which feature handwritten notes made by the philosopher himself. Conservateur de la Bibliothèque Natalia Speranskaya, gave us an overview of this historic collection. The highlight of her presentation came when, at the request of one of our tour members, she retrieved a remarkable book from the vault. The red morocco volume contained Voltaire’s collection of notes and letters from Émilie du Châtelet, the French mathematician and physicist with whom Voltaire shared a close relationship. Before we departed from the library, we learned that it was possible to apply for a reader’s card. After filling out a form, submitting my passport for inspection, and posing for a photo, I was issued my official card. I was pleased to have such an excellent souvenir.

We walked down Nevsky Prospekt, St. Petersburg’s main street. At the intersection with the Griboyedov Canal, we stopped to admire the Singer Building, an art nouveau masterpiece that is now home to a large bookstore. We had lunch at a nearby restaurant,

sitting outside and enjoying the sunny afternoon. George ordered *kvas*, a traditional Slavic fermented drink made from rye bread. After tasting it for the first time, he declared that it was his favorite *kvas* and always would be.

At 3:45, we arrived at the General Staff Building of the Hermitage, dating from 1830. In 2014, the building was totally restored; following the restoration, the collections of Russian and European decorative art, paintings, and sculptures from the 19th and 20th centuries were moved to the building. We came to see the Bashmakov Collection of 20 *livres d’artiste* that Mark Bashmakov had recently given to the museum. The French term *livre d’artiste* (artist’s book) is customarily used to denote rare publications



The best of souvenirs – my own reader’s card for the National Library of Russia, St. Petersburg.

prised by the absence of vehicles and flag-bearing tour guides. Small groups of young people were gathered around the 1834 Alexander Column listening to music. Someone had carved an ice sculpture that said in Cyrillic, “Winter is coming!” As we headed back to the hotel, we paused to admire St. Isaac’s Cathedral, its golden tower gleaming in the late



Faust’s Cabinet at the National Library of Russia, St. Petersburg

illustrated with prints made by prominent 20th century artists. It was a treat that Mr. Bashmakov was our guide. With obvious delight, he explained the characteristics and particular qualities of each work on display. We saw remarkable books by artists including Chagall, Picasso, and Calder. As we crossed the vast adjacent Palace Square, we were sur-

afternoon sun.

Friday, September 22, St. Petersburg

This morning’s walk to the State Hermitage Research Library was chilly, with a damp St. Petersburg breeze blowing in our faces. We



Bill Butler toasts Valery Manukian under the approving gaze of Elena Shelepchikova and her daughter at the final evening at Gogol Restaurant, St. Petersburg

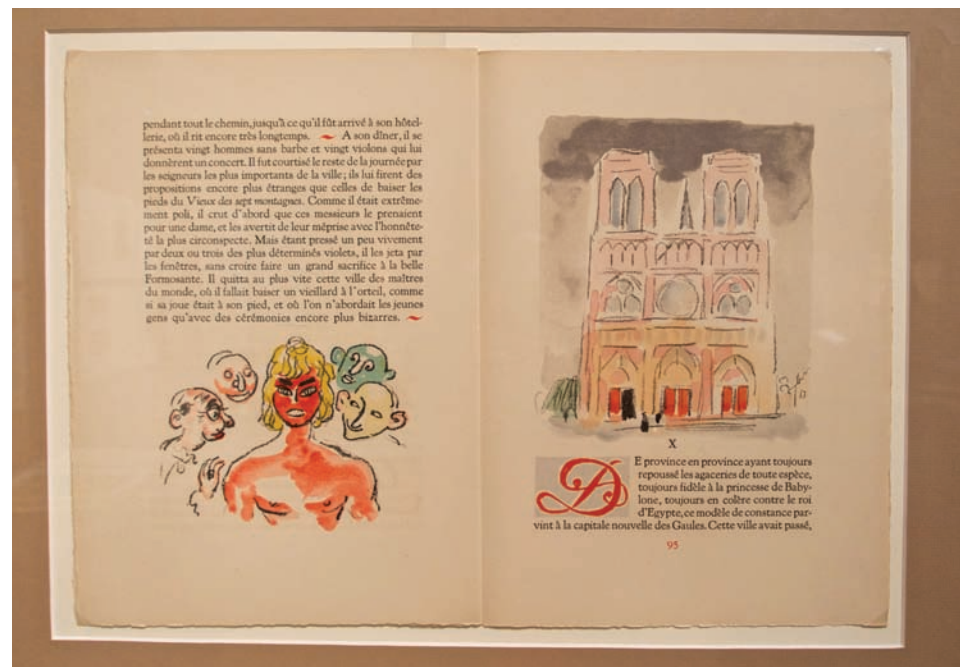
skirted the main entrance to the library, entering at the side, where we were escorted along a basement corridor and through a doorway with bars to a small elevator. Reaching the third floor, we stepped into the exquisite rooms of the State Hermitage Research Library, believed to have been created in 1762 when Catherine the Great established the position of Librarian for her book collections. Special collections holdings include 10,000 rare books, European and Russian manuscripts, early printed books, and a collection of decorative bindings and “presentation” items gifted to her by foreign states and leaders.

A curator met us as we entered and ushered us into the study of Grand Duke Maximilian. He provided a historical overview of the development of Catherine’s library and the evolution of the rooms themselves, which today look much as they did in 1830 when they were renovated for Maria, the daughter of Tsar Nicholas I. He explained that Catherine had her own particular preferences in books and was not influenced by others; there is no indication that she ever consulted anyone as to what to add to her library, but collected what she loved. He told us of the difficulty in determining what books were actually a part of Catherine’s personal library, as she kept no inventory and used no *ex libris* plates. An inventory made at the end of the 18th century was vague and incomplete. She regularly added to her collection by acquiring the private libraries of notables such as Diderot and Voltaire. What is known is that her books were characteristically bound in crimson morocco with gold edges and embossing, that

her librarians assigned identifying numbers to the volumes, and that she often added her own notes in French or Russian. The curator showed us numerous highlights of the collection, which we were allowed to examine and photograph, but not to touch.

A short distance from the Hermitage, we visited the offices and workshops of Rare Books from St. Petersburg, a printing house founded by Petr Suspitsyn more than 25 years ago. The company publishes handmade books in very limited editions. All are printed

A page from Fernand Leger’s *Cirque*, from the *Bashmakov Collection of Artist’s Books* at the Hermitage



using 19th century presses on handmade paper. Calling himself “the conductor of the orchestra,” Petr took us through the workshop, showing us how the metal type is organized in hand-labeled “catalog card” drawers and demonstrating the hand printing of a broadside. At a large table, he brought out examples of his imaginative creations, constructed with wood, metal, leather, or cloth and illustrated with lithographs, etchings, or original paintings by some of the best-known contemporary artists in Russia. He explained that each project has a sponsor and it may take as many as 12 years to complete an edition; the usual time from initial concept to completion of a single copy is a year or more.

Probably the most intriguing piece he showed us was *The Ten Commandments*, an edition of 86 published in 2008. The work, representing Moses’s clay tablets, used papyrus as well as paper molded to look like matzo. It was constructed with special silver hinges and decorated with silver relief and carved stone. Its case resembled the Ark of the Covenant and was made with oak and jute, employing two dowels to close the lid. Before we left, Petr gave each of us a copy of *The Book as Art*, the exhibition catalog from the firm’s 20th anniversary show at the Hermitage Museum.

At 6:30, we met in the hotel lobby and walked to Gogol Restaurant on nearby Malaya Morskaya for the FABS farewell dinner. When we entered the pleasant restaurant, we sensed the literary atmosphere in tribute to the 19th century Russian author for whom

it is named. We were shown to a low-ceilinged room with a U-shaped table. Joining FABS participants for this festive banquet were the three hosts who had assisted Bill in making the arrangements for our tour: Alexander Doroshin, who joined us in St. Petersburg, and Elena Shelepchikova and Alexandr Gromov, who have been with us for the duration of our tour. Also joining us for



Victoria Kozlovsky, director of the Pushkin Library, shows an 1825 Eugene Onegin.

the evening was Mikhail Lepekhin, author of *Zdobnov and His History of Russian Bibliography*, a copy of which had been sent to each of us before we left the U.S., and Valery Manukian of the Miniature Book Society. As soon as plates of cold appetizers were passed and wine and vodka were poured, the toasts began. After each, glasses were clinked and warm smiles exchanged. Toasts and conversation continued through the main course. At the end, gifts were given and photos taken. We all felt the warmth that had developed among us during these past days in Russia as we've shared each other's interests and our love of books.

Saturday, September, 23 St. Petersburg

FABS members gathered for the final event of our tour, a visit to the Pushkin Library and Museum, located two blocks from Nevsky Prospekt in a stone mansion on the Moika River. The museum is housed in the apartment where Alexander Pushkin lived from 1836 until his tragic death in a duel in 1837. As home to one of Russia's greatest literary figures, the house has been carefully preserved

and is a place of pilgrimage for many Russians. Director Victoria Kozlovsky took us through the Pushkin Library, founded in 1953 and located in the former Biron Stables within the complex and described the library's collection. In addition to portraits of the poet and his contemporaries, there is a substantial collection of Pushkin materials, many of which were gifts from generous bibliophiles. She and an associate showed us materials seldom brought

out, including a rare 1825 periodical number of Pushkin's *Eugene Onegin* in paper wrappers.

Following her presentation, Valery Manukian gave a history of the bibliographic organizations in St. Petersburg, including the Biron Stables Bibliophile Club, whose members have supported the

Pushkin Library over the years. We had a rushed opportunity to buy *ex libris* etchings from St. Petersburg artist Nina Kazimova (b. 1952) who appeared at the library with a portfolio of her work. Across the courtyard, we entered the Pushkin Museum, featuring the apartment where he and his family lived from 1836 until his death. Kozlovsky had arranged to give us a personal tour (although as Director of the Library this is not something that she normally has time to do). She guided us through the rooms of the Pushkin home, recounting the details of the poet's final days leading up to his duel with Georges-Charles d'Anthès on January 27, 1837. We were captivated as she described the night when his wife Natalia learned that he was wounded; how she remained outside the door of his room to be near him; and how the poet tried not to cry out in pain for fear of disturbing her. She told us of his final good-byes to his young children, as he touched each on the head before gesturing them away from the sight of his agony.

She told us of the friends and admirers who flocked to the Pushkin home to pay their respects, and the notes that they left for each other sharing news of his condition. In his study, she discussed the simple, practical desk

where he wrote his last stories, and pointed out the walking sticks he loved to use. She told us of his painful death from peritonitis on January 29, at the age of 37. And last, she showed us the hall where his body was laid. At each significant part of her story, she quoted the words of the poet himself. On several occasions she paused, and we could see that it was an effort for her to keep her composure. She told us that every year, at precisely 2:45 pm on January 29, all who work at the museum gather in the courtyard for a moment of silence. I had wondered about the effect that Pushkin has had on the Russian soul. Today, I began to understand.

"The sun of our poetry has set! Pushkin has died, died in the flower of his years, in the middle of his great career! We have not the strength to say more of this, but it is not necessary; every Russian heart knows the whole value of this irrevocable loss and every Russian heart will be lacerated! Pushkin! Our joy, our national glory! Can it be that Pushkin is no longer with us! It is impossible to get used to this thought!"

—necrologue written by Vladimir Odoevsky; published on January 30, 1837

After Alexandr took a final photo of our group, Bill concluded the tour and we all went our own ways. George and I spent an additional week in St. Petersburg, visiting the Hermitage on several occasions as well as numerous museums including the venerable *Kunstkamera* and *Fountain House*, where Russia's beloved poet Anna Akhmatova, once lived. We took trips out to Peterhof and to Tsarskoe Selo, the 18th century estate created under Empress Elizabeth and Catherine the Great, and enjoyed opera and ballet at the famed Mariinsky as well as Lev Dodin's production of Chekhov's *Three Sisters* at the Maly Theater. Replete with Russia's amazing culture, we flew on to Kaliningrad and the Baltic States for the remaining weeks of our trip.

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Except as noted, photographs are by Susan Hanes.

Jackie Vossler named Honorary Member



At the December 13, 2017, meeting of the Club, this article was adopted:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article Seven, Section One of the By-Laws of the Caxton Club, the Council is authorized to award Honorary Membership to such persons as it may elect; and

WHEREAS, it has become the custom of the Club to award such memberships only to those persons who have provided extraordinary services and made exceptional contributions to the Club; and

WHEREAS, over the period of several years Vice President Jacqueline Vossler has rendered extraordinary service to the Club in her capacities as Chair of the Grants Committee, Co-Chair of the Membership Committee, Chair of the Finance Committee, Chair of the Budget Committee, Chair of the Program Committee, Chair of the On-the-Move Events Committee, and Secretary and Vice President of the Club; and

WHEREAS, in addition to these services, Jacqueline Vossler has devoted exceptional time, energy, and support to the various activities of the Club, while exhibiting extraordinary intelligence, patience, and loyalty in the course of all of these activities; and

WHEREAS, Jacqueline Vossler has been unstinting in offering her help, advice, and support to other members of the Club, thus facilitating numerous programs and activities which have contributed greatly to the benefit of the Club, and has provided mentorship to librarians and students of the book arts, thus helping to ensure the future strength and relevance of the Caxton Club, and of the Book itself; and

WHEREAS, the Council fully expects and hopes that these activities of Jacqueline Vossler will continue for many years, but wishes at this time to express its deepest gratitude and appreciation to Jacqueline Vossler for all she has done and will continue to do.

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Caxton Club hereby unanimously awards to Jacqueline Vossler the highest honor in its power, lifetime Honorary Membership in the Club.

New Caxtonians

Elected or reinstated during 2017 (with collecting interest, where known)

Ray Boehmer (Non-Resident)

Natural History and the History of Science

Following service in the Peace Corps in Colombia, Ray taught for 47 years from K to postgraduate levels in science, math, and Spanish. He recently retired from a position at Millikin University, where he taught science journalism and education. An avid bird-watcher, he also collects books on birds and other topics in natural history and the history of science. Ray is the father of Caxtonian Tad Boehmer, and may well be the first Caxtonian dad to follow his son to membership. Nominated by Adam Doskey and seconded by Jackie Vossler.

Wanda Dole (Resident)

Books Pertaining to Religious Institutions

Wanda has had a distinguished career in the library profession, retiring as University Librarian of the University of Arkansas. She now shares her expertise as a library consultant, presently serving on the Archives Management Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago and chairing the Archives Planning committee of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Until recently, she was Interim Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum in Springfield. She has published extensively on topics related to library administration. Nominated by Newland Smith and seconded by Michael Gorman.

Stephen Paul Durchslag (Resident)

The Haggadah

Nancy E. Gwinn (Non-Resident)

History of Science, American Cultural History, Mysteries Set in Libraries

Nancy has held prominent positions at the Smithsonian Libraries since 1984, serving as Director since 1997, the longest term in its history. A Fulbright scholar, she also serves on the Research Libraries Group of the Council on Library Resources for the Library of Congress where her husband, Caxtonian John Cole, is Director of the Center of the Book. Her collecting interests focus on American cultural history and the history of science, and she enjoys mysteries with a library setting or

with librarian characters. Nancy is a member of the Grolier Club of New York and the Cosmos Club of Washington, DC. Nominated by Jackie Vossler and seconded by Alice Schreyer.

Helen Harrison (Resident)

Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Group

Helen's career has been primarily in the nonprofit sector, and she has served at the MacArthur Foundation for nine years. She will soon earn her MLIS, the culmination of a lifelong passion for books and reading. She describes her home library as "eclectic" and is currently preoccupied with books by Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Group. Nominated by Celia Salvatore and seconded by Don Santoski.

James Klies (Resident)

Horror and Ghost Stories, Science Fiction and Magic

James, a lifelong Chicagoan, has always been an avid reader. After working at Waldenbooks for 25 years, he became a data analyst at Leo Burnett advertising agency. His diverse book interests range from horror and ghost stories to marbled paper and fountain pens. Nominated by Don Kobetsky and seconded by Martin Starr.

Janice Knight (Resident)

Maps of Michigan

Before her retirement, Janice was the chief actuary at Health Care Service Corporation, which operates Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans in the Midwest. A highly recognized leader in her field, she received a B.S. in Mathematics from Michigan Technological University in Houghton and attained a fellowship in the Society of Actuaries. She is an avid reader and book collector, and has a particular interest in maps of Michigan. Nominated by Jackie Vossler and seconded by Doug Fitzgerald.

Gretchen H. Kostelny (Non-Resident)

Book History, Collectors' and Booksellers' Biographies

Gretchen has worked as a specialist in

the book department at Christie's since early 2010, where one of her favorite responsibilities is cataloging. Of particular interest to her as a cataloger are travel and exploration, natural history, herbals and botanicals, maps and atlases, and literature. A former resident of Chicago, she also maintains an interest in Chicago history. Nominated by Francis Wahlgren and seconded by Mary Williams Kohnke.

Gregory G. Krisilas (Non-Resident)

Sharon L. Gee

Greg has been a rare book dealer for twelve years. He and his wife, Sharon, have owned the PBA Book Auction House for five years. He is an active member of several California book clubs, including the Roxburgh and the Book Club of California. Nominated by Susan Hanes and seconded by Kurt Gippert.

Sarah Lindenbaum (Jr. Non-Resident)

Frances Wolfreton, Early Modern England, Books about Books, the Beatles

Sarah has a BA in creative writing and rhetoric and a Master's in library and information science, both from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Since 2013, she's been a project cataloger at the University of Illinois Rare Book & Manuscript Library. She's also a project archivist for the papers of sportswriter Dave Kindred at Illinois Wesleyan University. Nominated by Michael Gorman and seconded by Don Krummel.

Abha Mehta (Resident)

Botanical Art and Literature, Nonesuch Press, Grubhorn Press, Arion Press

Abha grew up as a Ugandan Indian refugee. She gleaned her love of books from her mother, whom she describes as a true bookworm. After attending the Alliance Française from the age of ten, Abha became a confirmed Francophile. Her current interests are botanical exploration and botanical art. She is also interested in anything related to the Indian subcontinent, particularly colonial rule and Tibet and Indian/English literature. After her studies in Uganda, London, and Newcomb College of Tulane University, she earned degrees from Canada and France. Her work in

international development, banking and management consulting has taken her to countries around the world. Nominated by Susan Hanes and seconded by Lisa Pevtzow.

Walter S. Melion (Non-Resident)

Book Culture in Low Countries, Emblem Books, Stephen Gooden

Walter has published extensively on book culture in the Low Countries from 1500 to 1650. His expertise includes emblem books and Jesuit poetry and prose. He is also a neo-Latinist and has long been interested in mid-century engraver Stephen Gooden. Nominated by Paul Gehl and seconded by Jill Gage.

Richard Oram (Non-Resident)

Evelyn Waugh

Retired in 2015 as Associate Director and Hobby Foundation Librarian of the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas. Member of the Grolier Club since 2001. Panelist for National Endowment for the Humanities 1998, 2004, and 2007. Member of Board of Advocates, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library 2017. Principal editor of and contributor to *Collecting, Curating and Researching Writers Libraries* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014). Nominated by Donald Krummel and seconded by Wanda Dole.

Elizabeth Peters (Resident)

Scott Turow, John Grisham, Biography

Elizabeth has been an active member of the Chicago cultural scene for more than 30 years. She has served on the boards of the Northwest Chapter of the Lyric Opera where she's a past president, the Chicago Chamber Music Society, the League of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the City Associates of the Art Institute, and is an art docent at the Union League Club. Nominated by Bill Locke and seconded by Susan Hanes.

Louis A. Pitschmann (Resident)

Lou's distinguished career in libraries includes positions as Curator of Special Collections at Cornell University and Associate Director of the University of Wisconsin/Madison Libraries. He earned a PhD in Germanic Languages and Literature and an MA in Library Science from the University of Chicago. His research interests include the History of Publishing from 1450-1700. While Dean of the University of Alabama Libraries, he was principal investigator on a Federal grant to create the website *Publisher's Bindings Online* (<http://bindings.lib.ua.edu>). Nominated by Sem Sutter and seconded by

Jackie Vossler.

Lee Pollock (Resident)

Winston Churchill, Chicago History, and Architecture

Lee was born and raised in Montreal and received a BA in Political Science from McGill University and an MBA from the University of Chicago. His professional career was in commercial real estate, finance and investment. His lifelong interest in history led to his becoming Executive Director of The International Churchill Society, where he continues to serve as Trustee and Advisor to the Board. Nominated by Donna Tuke and Kevin Sido and seconded by Doug Fitzgerald.

Roger D. Rudich (Resident)

Civil War, Lincoln, Steinbeck, Photography

Roger is a practicing personal injury lawyer, past President of the Chicago Civil War Round Table, past President of Temple Shalom of Chicago, and a serious amateur photographer. Nominated by Kevin Sido and seconded by John Chalmers.

Kevin Sherman (Resident)

British Oratory and History, India and Central Asia; Johnson, Boswell and Burke; Urdu

Kevin served for three years in the Punjab as a Peace Corps volunteer. After earning an MBA in Finance from Northwestern, he joined a private equity firm and eventually set up his own firm which provided private equity marketing advice to European, Middle Eastern, and Asian clients. His experiences evolved into broad book collecting interests including such British orators as Charles James Fox and Edmund Burke, as well as Johnson and Boswell. He has an interest in specialty presses and printers, including James Baskerville, The Grabhorn and Ariel Presses in San Francisco, and the Nonesuch Press. He also has extensive holdings in the exploration literature of the 19th century India, Middle East, and Central Asia. Nominated by Susan Hanes and seconded by Martin Antonetti.

Lynne M. Thomas (Non-Resident)

American Popular Culture, particularly science fiction and fantasy; History of the Book

Lynne has recently assumed the helm at the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Previously she served as the Head of Distinctive Collections and Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections at Northern Illinois University. She is a five-time Hugo Award-winning editor and podcaster. Nominated by Don Krummel and seconded by

Scott Koeneman.

Benjamin M. Woodring (Resident)

Literary and Book History

Ben completed his PhD in English at Harvard, specializing in Shakespeare and legal history, followed by a J.D. at Yale Law School. His extensive interests encompass literary and book history, particularly the publications of 17th-century London publisher and bookseller Humphrey Moseley. He also has a focus on English Renaissance-era legal primers and education materials. Nominated by Stuart Campbell and seconded by Susan Hanes.

Catherine Uecker (Resident)

Requested reinstatement of membership. Sponsored by Jackie Vossler.

Michael L. Van Blaricum (Non-Resident)

Ian Fleming

Founder and current President of the Ian Fleming Foundation, collector of Ian Fleming and Bondian literature and memorabilia. Interested in espionage, thriller and mystery fiction. Owned "The Book Stalker" Rare Book Business. Nominated by Scott Koeneman and seconded by Douglas Fitzgerald.

Lisa Wagner (Resident)

19th Century Literature and Travel Narratives, Religious Writing

Lisa is Executive Director of the Guild Literary Complex and an experienced writer and editor. She holds an MFA from Columbia College in Creative Writing and an MA from DePaul University in Interdisciplinary Studies. Her collecting interests reflect her broad background in literature, art history, religion, and critical theory. Nominated by Martin Starr and seconded by Donald Allen.

Leslie Winter (Junior Non-Resident)

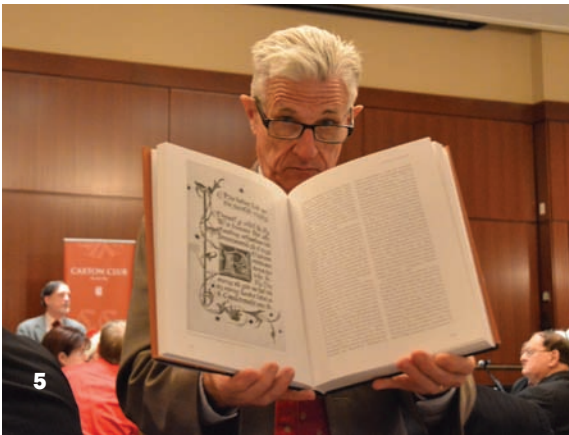
Travel, Italian Renaissance Art, Aldine Press, Early Photography

Leslie has recently earned her Master of Library Science with a rare books and manuscripts librarianship specialization at Indiana University, Bloomington. She also has a Master of Arts in the History of Art. She is especially interested in exhibitions, incunabula, cataloging, descriptive bibliography, and references sources. Her reading interests are varied, ranging from early travel to Italy to the Aldine Press and from Ernest Hemingway to Julia Child. Nominated by Cheryl Ziegler and seconded by Martin Antonetti.

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2017 Revels, December 13, Newberry Library





1 The group Aperiodic entertained us with spoken music. **2** Brett Murphy, foreground. **3** Cheryl and Don Kobetsky. **4** Susan Jackson Kieg, Ed Bronson. **5** Bob Karrow. **6** Peggy Sullivan, foreground. **7** Bob Karrow, Tom Joyce. Photographs by Ed Bronson, Richard Renner, and Bob McCamant.



Book- and manuscript-related exhibitions: a selective list

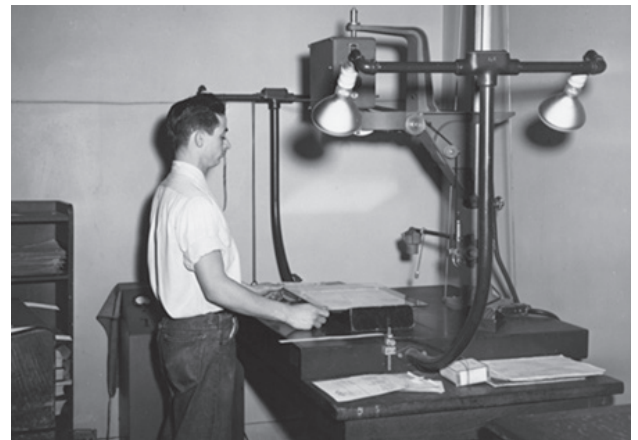
Compiled by Lisa Pevtzow

(Note: on occasion an exhibit may be delayed or extended; it is always wise to call in advance of a visit.)

- American Writers Museum**, 180 N. Michigan Avenue, second floor, Chicago, 312-374-8790: **“Capturing Stories: Photographs of Writers by Art Shay”** (recording the bombast and energy of postwar America), Meijer Gallery, through spring 2018. **“Roberta Rubin Writer’s Room/Laura Ingalls Wilder: From Prairie to Page,”** ongoing.
- Art Institute of Chicago**, 111 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 312-443-3600: **“Color Studies”** (use of color in the history of architecture and design from the Bauhaus and Swiss typography to postmodern architecture and contemporary graphic design), through February 25. **“The Medieval World at Our Fingertips: Manuscripts from the Collection of Sandra Hindman”** (nearly 30 manuscript illuminations showing a microcosm of Medieval life), through May 28.
- Chicago Botanic Garden, Lenhardt Library**, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, 847-835-8202: **“Asian Orchids Illustrated,”** through April 15.
- Chicago Cultural Center**, 78 E. Washington Street, Chicago, 312-744-6630: **“Stand Up for Landmarks! Protests, Posters & Pictures”** (images, artifacts, and ephemera relating to saving Chicago landmarks), ongoing.
- Chicago History Museum**, 1601 N. Clark Street, Chicago, 312-266-2077: **“Chicago Authored”** (works by writers that define the character of Chicago), ongoing.
- DePaul University John T. Richardson Library**, 2350 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, 773-325-2167: **“Stories Shared: Highlights from the Arnold and Jane Grisham Collection”** (rare first editions, texts inscribed by their authors, and galley proofs of books describing the African-American diaspora), ongoing.
- Northwestern University Block Museum**, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, 847-491-4000: **“William Blake and the Age of Aquarius”** (Blake’s impact on American artists in the post-World War II period), through March 11.
- Northwestern University Library**, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston, 847-491-7658: **“On Board with Design: Passenger Transportation and Graphic Design in the Mid-20th Century,”** ongoing. **“African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean: Culture, Resistance, and Survival”** (aspects of the history, culture and religion of people of African ancestry in subject areas) Herskovits Library of African Studies, ongoing.
- Open Books Warehouse and Bookstore**, 905 W. 19th Street, Chicago, 312-243-9776: **“Pablo Helguera’s *Librería Donceles*”** (an installation repurposing used bookshelves from closed CPS schools and Spanish-language books from the exhibit at the Chicago Cultural Center), ongoing.

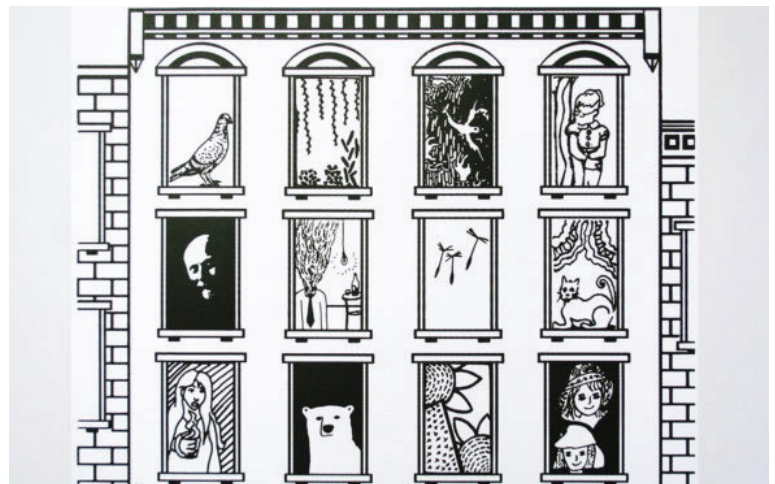
- Pritzker Military Museum and Library**, 104 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 312-374-9333: **“Hunting Charlie: Finding the Enemy in the Vietnam War”** (explores U.S. opposition to the war through rarely seen original art pieces), ongoing.
- Spudnik Press Cooperative**, 1821 W. Hubbard Street, suite 302, Chicago, 312-563-0302: **“Chicago: A Crosstown Exchange”** (a print portfolio bringing together 26 artists/collectives from numerous print shops and studios across the city and surrounding neighborhoods), through March 3.
- University of Chicago, Joseph Regenstein Library**, 1100 E. 57th Street, Chicago, 773-702-8705: **“Well Equipped: Library Technology from Days Past”** (latest library technology from years ago), Crerar Library, through June 8.

Send your listings to Lisa Pevtzow at lisa.pevtzow@sbcglobal.net



University of Chicago Joseph Regenstein Library / Well Equipped

Spudnik Press Cooperative / Chicago: A Crosstown Exchange
EXPRESSIONS GRAPHICS, “BROWNSTONE,” 2017.



Caxtonians Collect: Sandra Hindman

Interviewed by Robert McCamant

I've interviewed Chicago Caxtonians who also had homes in Wisconsin, Arizona, and Michigan, and even two (if memory serves) with homes in England. But this month's subject, Sandra Hindman, is the first who also has a home in Paris.

Some members have had exhibits at the Art Institute, and many have addressed the Club on one topic or another. But with Sandra, it's all this and more: we're having an "On the Move" event for the opening of her exhibit at the Art Institute February 1, and she's talking at the dinner meeting February 21.

Hindman grew up in Chicago; her father was a physical chemist at the University of Chicago. She started her college career there (starting with French and then switching to art history), but then moved to the University of California at Berkeley "because they had four medievalists. I wrote my thesis on the palaces of the Duke of Berry with a famous French architectural historian, Jean Bony." Her subsequent doctorate in art history was earned at Cornell, with a thesis on 15th-century illustrated Dutch-language Bibles. She began her teaching career at Johns Hopkins, but by 1984 had moved to Northwestern, where she taught until 2002.

Given her academic reputation, dealers frequently asked her opinion on pieces they were considering for purchase or wanted to sell. She described this with the delightful word "expertising." An Ohio dealer (now deceased) with whom she often worked, generously allowed her to participate in deals as a percentage owner. She started to collect for herself as well. "I didn't call it that to begin, but what I was actually doing was building an inventory."

She founded her manuscript-and-miniature dealership, known as *Les Enluminures*, with a Paris shop in 1991. "It was a tiny 10-square-meter shop, inside a building called Louvre des Antiquaires, with many such shops, near the Louvre. Perfect for me. I could lock the door and it was safe at night unattended." She had started living in Paris part time in the 1980s while working on "Sealed in Parchment": *Reradings of Knighthood in the Illuminated Manuscripts of Chrétien de Troyes*, published by the University of Chicago Press in 1994.

Les Enluminures is one of a tiny handful of dealers in illuminated manuscripts, and the only one with three locations: Paris, New York,

and Chicago. (A fourth city, London, has "just an office," since 2016).

The Art Institute show (open now to May 28), which prompts our Club's attention to Hindman and her collecting, is partly to celebrate a large gift of items she has donated. These constitute about a third of the show of more than 30 manuscript illuminations. (Most of the rest of the items on exhibit are either on loan from her, or already in the Art Institute's



collections.) The show is also occasion for a sumptuously illustrated book *The Medieval World at Our Fingertips: Manuscript Illuminations from the Collection of Sandra Hindman* published by Harvey Miller/ Brepols and written by Christopher de Hamel (who has also spoken to and worked with our club on several previous occasions).

He is the award-winning author of *The Medieval World at Our Fingertips*, and has perhaps cataloged more medieval manuscripts than any other person living today. Yet, he conceived of this original book not as a straightforward catalog, but as a series of short, imaginative essays inspired by the illuminated miniatures, which span the 12th to the 16th centuries and originated in Italy, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and England. Aimed at the general reader, but at the same time of interest to the specialist scholar, this fascinating volume provides a general and

informative guide to the historical, social, and cultural circumstances that influenced medieval art, as well as a unique appreciation of the art of illumination. (Copies of the book will be available at the Hindman dinner February 21 and at the Art Institute book store).

As if Hindman were not busy enough with her Art Institute show and accompanying book, she is also hard at work on another show and book, "*The thing of mine I have loved the best*": *Meaningful Jewels*. It consists of 46 pieces of European jewelry – pendants, reliquaries, amulets, and talismans – from the eighth to the 18th centuries. An Anglo-Saxon glass pendant, a Spanish "magic belt," a Mexican lantern pendant (once adorned with New World feathers), and an Imperial Memento Mori Skull are just a few of the items included. It begins a 10-day run at a fair in Maastricht (TEFAF) on March 8, and will then continue April 5 to 20 at the *Les Enluminures* location in New York.

She has become convinced that images of one-of-a-kind documents should be shared electronically, and has carefully photographed every item which she has temporarily owned. A part of her company website, located at <http://www.textmanuscripts.com/>, has become a repository for shared items. The day I looked, there were 67 manuscripts for sale on display, from England, France, Germany, Italy, and other countries, as well as 737 manuscripts in the archives.

Another fascinating educational project she mentioned is called "Manuscripts in the Curriculum." Although public display of the manuscripts is encouraged, central to the philosophy of the program is the integration of real manuscripts into the curriculum in courses where students can work closely with original material under the guidance of a professor. *Les Enluminures* loans about 20 manuscripts each semester to a different college or university participating in the program. Hindman says "For anyone studying the Middle Ages, there is no substitute for hands-on experience of actual medieval manuscripts."

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Bookmarks...

**Luncheon: Friday, February 9, Union League Club
Samuel Feinstein on the Portrait of a
(Bookbinding) Artist as a Young Man**

We sometimes call the pages in a book “leaves”, because in the first century of the common era, writers in India used a metal stylus to write on palm leaves, which were later inked and often bound in book form. Now, millennia later, in this digital age, what could draw a young person to this ancient craft ... and what are its applications today?

Join us in February as Caxtonian Samuel Feinstein shares his remarkable and surprising story, which began on a conventional college campus and then took him to Boston’s North Bennet Street School, where students are taught crafts ranging from violin making to preservation carpentry to bookbinding.

His generously illustrated talk will reveal his unique story and highlight the kinds of fine, all-purpose, and traditional/period bindings as well as enclosures that Feinstein creates today. An instructor as well as a craftsman, Feinstein will reveal how the book arts remain alive and vibrant through a new generation. Whether you’re a bookbinding enthusiast or new to the topic, you’re bound to enjoy this program!

February 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 \$35. Reservations or cancellations by noon Wednesday for Friday lunch. Call 312-255-3710 or e-mail caxtonclub@newberry.org .

Beyond February...

MARCH LUNCHEON

March 9 at Union League Club: Since the Dark Ages, libraries have been a source of light in the world. But at this luncheon we’ll step back to regard another source of light... as Caxtonian Tad Boehmer reveals a window into a Library.

MARCH DINNER

March 21, Union League Club. Liesl Olson, Newberry director of Chicago Studies, will discuss Chicago’s contribution to mid-century culture. Copies of her new book, *Chicago Renaissance*, will be available for sale and signing.

**Wednesday, February 21, Union League Club
Sandra Hindman on
“The Medieval World at Our Fingertips”**

Step back in time and into the world of illuminated manuscripts with Sandra Hindman, who will discuss medieval manuscript illuminations from her personal collection, a collection so dazzling that it is the basis of an exhibit now on view at the Art Institute. Hindman, professor emerita at Northwestern, is a noted manuscripts scholar, author, and collector. In 1991 she founded *Les Enluminures* with offices in Paris, New York, and Chicago and specializing in manuscripts and miniatures from the Middle Ages and Renaissance. A richly illustrated book by Christopher de Hamel for the Art Institute’s exhibit, *The Medieval World at Our Fingertips: Manuscript Illuminations from the Collection of Sandra Hindman*, will be available for sale and signing by Hindman on the evening of this event.

February dinner: Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson Blvd. The evening will follow this order: social gathering 5-6 pm; program and book signing 6 pm; dinner to follow. Program is free and open to the public. Beverages available for \$6-\$12. Three-course dinner: \$63.

Reservations must be received by NOON, Monday, February 19. Dinner cancellations after this deadline and no-shows will require payment. To reserve call 312-255-3710 or e-mail caxtonclub@newberry.org .

DURING APRIL, THE CAXTON CLUB LUNCHEON WILL BE ON SPRING BREAK

APRIL DINNER

April 18 at the Union League: Mark Samuels Lasner, authority on and collector of materials from the Victorian era, on “Victorian Passions: Stories from the Mark Samuels Lasner Collection.” This was the largest and most transformative gift given to the University of Delaware Library.