



MINIATURE BOOK SOCIETY

September 2019 Newsletter

# Conclave XXXVII



*Small Matters*

Bloomington, Indiana  
August 2019



## Greetings from the President

Hello to Everyone,

We certainly received a great amount of positive feedback about the Conclave: the program, the Lilly Library, the Indiana University facilities, and Bloomington. Thank you again to **Lori Dekydtspotter** and the entire team of people that made it all happen as well as those that supported the organization with their attendance. The MBS Conclave is always about friendship and members sharing with each other.

We have not been able to finalize the various preliminary planning activities for the next Conclave but hopefully things will come together in the next few weeks and we will get the message out to everyone via our monthly email process.

Hopefully, you have taken the opportunity to view the various updates to our web page including the *Young Bibliophiles*

*Writing Contest* essay, previous Newsletter issues, and the 2019 Competition Catalogue for Distinguished Book Awards. Both the catalogue and a copy of our new publication, “The Scale of Genius: Charlotte Bronte’s Miniature Archive,” have been mailed to the membership. I hope you agree that the Bronte book is an outstanding addition to our MBS miniature book publication.

As we move through the next months and the upcoming holidays, I want to take this opportunity to again say thank you for supporting the organization with your ongoing dedication. I wish each of you and your families the best for a happy and healthy holiday season.

Best Regards,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jim Brogan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Jim Brogan, MBS President,  
908.803.5647



## Shakespeare in the Attic

Melinda C. Brown

There is something about an attic that seems to draw one's curiosity. So it was with me, that while as a day student at the University of Cincinnati, I lived with my great aunt Mary. Aunt Mary was a spinster, as unmarried women were known in those days, but had collected enough stuff to make her attic a great place in which to poke around. One of my most intriguing finds was, albeit very worn, a small, leather-covered box of miniature, leather-bound volumes of plays from the works of William Shakespeare. I was immediately drawn to it, never having seen books so small, or, at least not in such a set.

Thanks to Aunt Mary, the set (published by the Knickerbocker Leather and Novelty Company) was my first acquisition as a miniature book collector. I will admit, however, that I was completely unaware of the world of miniature books at the time and thought of the little Shakespeare as simply something delightfully unique.

While on vacation a few years later, in 1960, my husband and I stopped at the museum gift

shop in Salem Massachusetts. Lo and behold! What did I spy but a beautiful leather-bound miniature version of the "*Inaugural Address of John F. Kennedy*," published by Achille J. St. Onge and selling for \$3.50. Now my curiosity was truly piqued. Shortly after returning home, I went to a local used bookstore and asked the owner what he knew about these little books. His response was that although he did not come across them too often, he just happened to have one, The "*Inaugural Address of Dwight D. Eisenhower*" and a set of little pamphlets entitled "*Miniature Book Collector*." Serendipity! I am on my way. The pamphlets were full of tidbits of information about miniature books as well as advertisements for new publications; not only that, it was published by none other than Achille J. St. Onge whose name was becoming familiar to me!

I wrote a note to Mr. St. Onge explaining my new interest in miniature books. One of the high points of my life as a collector was his response welcoming me into the world of miniature books, and which also included a miniature version of *Life Magazine*.

Since then, there have been several moments that will stand

as highlights. One, now a part of my own personal miniature book lore, is the story of the trek in September 1964 into Manhattan from our home in Elizabeth, New Jersey, with my two-year-old, to the Hammer Galleries. I had read in *The New York Times* of a sale of books from the library of Eleanor Roosevelt, among which were a number of miniatures previously owned by her husband, the late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Without going into *all* of the details, I will say that what I had thought would be a reasonably quick trip into the city turned into an arduous all-day affair, on a warm day with a two-year-old in tow and lines around the block. Once inside the gallery, it quickly became apparent to me that many, if not most of the miniature books I coveted were beyond my budget. Looking back, it seems ironic that by today's standard few would be considered expensive. In reviewing the price list, I counted only 14 of the 162 items for sale that were listed between \$100 and \$150 and one at \$350. My purchase, "The Comfort of Piety," by Jeremy Taylor, cost \$25; nonetheless, as described in the catalogue, "...the manuscript initials F.D.R.; E.R.,

written by Mrs. Roosevelt, authenticate the provenance."

When we moved from New Jersey to the Boston area in 1973, one of the first miniature book people I met was **Anne Bromer**. I do not remember how it all came about, but it obviously became apparent to me that we lived not too far from one another. Anne invited me to her home in Watertown, where I was absolutely thrilled to visit *her attic* and to be invited to peruse and actually handle the tiny tomes in her collection. Anne and her husband David have since become the proprietors of a thriving rare bookshop in Boston.



*Melinda with her collection*

While in England in 1984, I had the great good fortune to join members of the MBS, as we met the venerable Louis Bondy at his London shop located in Little Russell Square. Not only did he recognize my name, but he pulled out a ledger listing every one of my purchases from him. Happily, we were able to become reacquainted when he attended the 1989 MBS Grand Conclave in Cincinnati.

Accompanying my husband on his assignments in The Netherlands afforded me the opportunity to meet with the Thurkows of the Catharijne Press on several occasions and enjoy a warm welcome from

Guus and Luce. Having the privilege of a private viewing and “tour” of the Bibliotheca Thurkowiana Minor will always remain high on my list of pleasurable memories in pursuit of miniature books.

Considering that I have been a bona fide collector for more than 50 years, my collection of 600+ miniatures may be less than impressive. Nonetheless, each acquisition has been a joy to my heart as I eagerly but gingerly opened and examined, and read it before I added it to my *Melinda C. Brown Catalogue of Miniature Books*.



Our friend **Melinda Wells Brown**, a member of MBS since 1983 (and first African-American member), died in December 2018 after an 8-year struggle with multiple myeloma. Melinda attended Fisk University and the University of Cincinnati. In 1960 she earned her Master’s degree in Library Science from Rutgers University in New Jersey. She worked as a librarian in New York City and in the Woodbridge, NJ school system for 15 years. In 1973 after relocating to Weston, MA, she was the librarian at the Cambridge School of Weston for 22 years. Melinda was an ardent volunteer and supporter of the Weston Public Library, a member of Boston Symphony Association of Volunteers (BSAV) and a volunteer for Project STEP, a stringed instrument educational and enrichment program for minority children. Melinda and Henry were avid travelers and visited 49 of the United States and more than 60 countries. She is survived by Henry and their children, Gregory and Allyson (a new MBS member).

## Post-Conclave Re-Cap



For our host **Lori Dekydspotter**, it was a year of intense planning that included many MBS members, a dream team of Indiana University colleagues, and hours of coordinating details. We assembled on Friday at the historic Indiana Memorial Union and registration continued throughout the day.

At 2:30 that afternoon we walked to the Lilly Library for an entertaining and illuminating presentation by IU librarians **Maureen Maryanski** and **Sarah Mitchell**; they are researching Ruth Adomeit's life and their narrative added great depth to the displays of her collection the Lilly had mounted for the occasion. We were warmly welcomed by

Dean of the Ruth Lilly University Libraries, **Carolyn Walters**, and shared some of the collection up close while our members - new and established - enjoyed cocktails and fellowship and an exhibition of many forms of puzzles.

The Silent Auction that evening generated great excitement and enthusiastic bidding and we enjoyed dinner and piano music in the beautiful and majestic Tudor Room at Memorial Union.

Breakfast on Saturday was the prelude to workshops by our own **Pat Sweet**, who made making those little globe spheres look deceptively easy. **James Canary**, Lilly's Head of Conservation, talked about taking the time to assemble display forms to show off our miniatures; winding up was **Andrew Rhoda**, Lilly's Curator of Puzzles, who gave an interesting talk, but would reveal no puzzle secrets

A small group of members set out after breakfast for an outreach program at the Monroe County Public Library. **Patrice Miller** had developed a program for 8-10 year olds and their parents and after her short introduction on making



books, each parent/child team made 2 miniature books to take home. Each team received a kit of basic tools and their own copy of "Making Books with Kids" by Esther K. Smith. The kids were immediately engaged and there was lots of excited talk about "their next book" and how to finish their creations. Watch for more information, as MBS would like to develop this concept so every member can present it at their own local library and promote interest in books and book-making.

The Membership Meeting Saturday afternoon brought us up to speed on MBS governance and activities and we had a spirited discussion of ways to broaden our presence and stimulate interest in membership. More to come on this initiative!

The Live Auction, led by auctioneer, **Bill Taylor, Jr.** from PBA Galleries, combined with the luscious desserts, was an exciting event with plenty of spirited bidding. Together the auctions netted \$4,773.

After another elaborate breakfast buffet, Sunday's Book Fair was a feast for the eyes and a great temptation for makers, collectors, and the unsuspecting casual visitor, some of whom were even heard to say "I didn't

think I'd buy anything..." Some of the children from the Saturday Library Outreach program attended, too, and it was wonderful to see them experiencing miniature books in all their variety.

At the Sunday Awards Dinner, we had a presentation by **Provost Professor Christoph Irmischer**, who turned "miniature" upside down by discussing the role of miniature illustrations in Audubon's Birds of America (The Lilly owns an elephant folio, which was on display). The contrast and perspective - and the way the backgrounds and miniature detail enhanced these giant images, some of which "broke outside" the margins of the huge pages - were a great illustration of our theme, "Small Matters."

The awards presentation is always a high point of the Conclave and this year was no exception. We recognized the recipient of our first *Young Bibliophile Essay Contest* award, 13-year old **Tara Showalter** (see photos), who attended with her family, which includes MBS member **Jan Becker**. Contest coordinator **Joan Knoertzer** presented a check for \$250 and **Pat Sweet** surprised us all by presenting Tara with a bound copy

(miniature, of course) of her winning essay.

The *Anderson-Yarnell Award* was given this year to **Todd Somerfield...** for his "I can do it" attitude.

**Miyako Akai** received the *Norman W. Forgue Award* for "her outstanding contribution to the world of miniature books."

**Pat Pistner** took home the *Glasgow Cup* in recognition of her "dedication, friendship..., and special spirit."

**Patrice Miller** received the *Distinguished Book Award* for her incredible production of Edward Gorey's "The Mourning Fan."

*All well-earned!*

Over breakfast Monday morning we said goodbyes and headed home. Ten members stayed to attend interactive presentations. President **Jim**



**Brogan** spoke about "The Indiana Kid," James Lamar Weygand. Jim also had several copies of Weygand's books for us to examine. Then **Jim Canary**, of the Lilly, shared photos of his trips to Tibet in search of the secrets of Tibetan paper making. Jim also had Tibetan bookmaking items available for inspection.

This year's conclave was marked by lots of enthusiasm for the future. We had quite a few new members, each of whom comes from a different area of interest. But we are united by a love and fascination for miniature books and a passion to share their interest and grow in knowledge. Planning is underway for 2020; as always: *Hope to see you there!*

An added heartfelt "Thank You" to the MBS members and IU staff who were unfailingly helpful and supportive in making this Conclave a success.



MBS President **Jim Brogan** and **Joan Knoertzer** present Tara Showalter with the inaugural *Young Bibliophile Essay Contest* award.



## Three Questions for... *Stephen Byrne*

Stephen is a two-time past president of MBS and has been a member for 20 years (or so). He and wife **Marian** live in Wigtownshire, Scotland.

### Q: How did you begin collecting miniature books?

**A:** I used to make miniature musical instruments. I saw an advertisement in a dollhouse magazine for a collection of miniature books. I was so disappointed to discover they were “dummies”! My miniatures are fully functional. The first edition of 25 I created – and that my wife Marian illustrated – sold out at the first Conclave we attended. That was Conclave XVII in Koblenz, Germany in 1999. We now have on the order of 3,000 volumes in our collection, and concentrate on books with music.

### Q: What is the state of the art of making/collecting miniature books in Scotland? Do you promote it?

Miniature books are not widely known; there are a few collections, primary of which are the Mitchell Collection in Glasgow [see

*related article elsewhere*] and at the National Library in Edinburgh. I do what I can to stimulate awareness and interest, primarily by setting up displays at book festivals.

### Q: What books are you reading now?

I enjoy crime novels; right now I am reading John Dunning’s Cliff Janeway series. I also enjoy Sue Grafton’s titles and mysteries that include historical themes and settings.



Genius indeed... our latest MBS publication. Enjoy your copy, that includes tipped-in facsimiles of some of Charlotte Brontë’s tiny drawings... and boards covered in her (miniaturized) writing. Story coming in February issue.



## A "Book Report" from Latvia

*MBS Member Vladimir Ilyin. Riga, Latvia*

My wandering among miniature books began in 1998 when I visited a book shop in Poland. There I saw mini books in Polish. I liked them and I bought two. Later in Riga I sold one of them to a collector of miniature books. He told me about the magazines "Poligraph" (Russian: Полиграф), that have papers with mini books printed inside. And you can make mini books from that. I have started following the magazine and gave the papers to master to make ready mini books from that. On a visit to Moscow, I met a publisher of the magazine and bought the papers with mini books there! Then in Riga I ordered to make ready mini books from that at the master's.

I also met a club of mini book lovers in Moscow and became a member in 1996; then in 1998 I became a member of MBS. I have attended MBS conclaves 5 times with Vladimir Markov. The first was in 2000, the 18<sup>th</sup> annual gathering. I gathered a group of MBS members and we took a photo together. I wrote and submitted a short report about the Conclave and posted

it in a magazine "Polygraphist i Izdatel" (Russian: Полиграфист и Издатель). In

1999, at the suggestion of Vladimir Vasilievich Loburev, club members presented mini books to the Aleksard's library that was under construction at the time, and I also presented a book. In 2002, Vladimir Vasilievich Loburev and I attended the opening of the Aleksandr's library.

At this time my collection includes several hundred miniature books (but I am not certain, as I have not counted them). In addition to the MBS, I was a member of Organisation of Russian bibliophiles (Russian: Организация Российских библиофилов). In 2014, I was a member of the newly ceated Riga Society of Bibliophiles (Russian: Рижского общества библиофилов). I hope to write more in the future about the making the miniature books.



***"Our Purpose Is To Sustain Interest In All Aspects Of Miniature Books"***

## Miniature Books in Scotland

*Stephen Byrne*

In my hunt for miniature books, captive in libraries or roaming free in shops and available to purchase, I recently visited Scotland's oldest free public library. The Library of Innerpefferay near Crieff in Perthshire is an amazing collection of books from the 15<sup>th</sup> century to more recent times. In 2013 a donation of rare and historically significant books which are relevant to the history of Scotland was gifted to the library by American bibliophile Janet Burns St. Germain.

I was pleasantly surprised to see that the few miniature books in the library were on display, and even more surprised when the curator opened the case and allowed me to examine the books. There were only ten books in the collection, not surprisingly David Bryce's publications were in the majority. There was a Bible on a lectern and three other Bibles, one of which was in a Mauchline ware case with a tartan design. A microminiature Lord's Prayer sat in its little box, and there

was a finger Book of Common Prayer. Perhaps the most interesting book was a copy of "Chats about Miniature Books" by Paul and Betty Walcott, privately published in 1932 in an edition of 250. (Bradbury p313; Welsh, 7022).



*The selection of miniature books at Innepefferay Library*

I can thoroughly recommend a visit to the library if you are ever in Scotland. The staff were exceptionally knowledgeable and very helpful, and, perhaps from a bibliophile's point of view, it is a hands on library holding some historical and rare books. More information can be had at

[www.innerpefferaylibrary.co.uk](http://www.innerpefferaylibrary.co.uk).

I have since found out about several other independent old libraries, and plan to find out if they have any miniature books.

Whilst on my travels, I saw a post on Facebook by our friend **Arno**, who highlighted an

experiment by Glasgow University Special Collections library to create a minute copy of "Alice In Wonderland." I was unable to go to the opening of the exhibition, but arranged to visit a week later. It was well worth a visit, and I'll write about it another time.



A miniature edition of Simon Garfield's newest book, *In Miniature* is now available. The mini edition accurately reflects the binding of the original "large" edition. The text is slightly abridged by the author so that what remains is readable.



Plum Park Press

[www.TonyFirmanBookbinding.com](http://www.TonyFirmanBookbinding.com)

## What is Your Plan?

Having achieved "a certain age," many of us have made—and shared—our estate plans with our families. Every time we go to the doctor or hospital, we are likely to be asked "Do you have an Advance Directive or Living Will?" That's just sound planning, right?

But... what about your miniature book collection? We all know it is important to tell your spouse, child, or legal representative your preferences in the event of a sudden illness; likewise each of us should think about what will become of our beloved collections when we are... no longer here to control them.

Don't put it off! Just as it is much more challenging for your family to make healthcare decisions during an emergency if they do not know your wishes, it is vitally important for them to know your expectations and preferences for your collection.

Of course everyone's situation is different; talk to your family and gauge their interest. Talk to your financial advisor or executor. Make an inventory. Just a few simple steps can get you started on a successful plan.

## Finding a Future for the Past

### *MBS 2017 Student Grant*

### *Recipient Update*

*Cathie Abney*

**Asa Nakata** was the recipient of the first-ever MBS Student Financial Assistance Grant. For us, this was a new tradition. For Asa, it provided the support to honor an old tradition and shine a new light on it. Asa's project at the San Francisco Art Institute was to reinvent and reinterpret the trade that her great grandfather and grandmother specialized in, the tradition of printing family crests or *Kamon* on *kimonos*.

In Japan, people inherit family crests from their ancestors. The crests are usually combinations of the family's name, class, trade, and environment; they carry them as their identification. Now, because of cultural shifts, not everyone wears *kimonos*, nor do they acknowledge their family crest.

The existence of family crests is a dying culture in Japan, and Asa wanted to focus on the strength of this tradition to show a new appreciation for their value.



She accomplished this in her grant project, "**Traces of Ink,**" two miniature books (2" x 2.25" x 0.5") housed in a box with magnet closure, (2.75" x 3" x 2.6"). The box unfolds to reveal a 17" long letterpress image of crests and a popup as well as the books. The crest images used are from original woodcut prints that were scanned and made into polymer plates. Asa designed the box to illustrate the flow of the printing process.

Asa grew up watching her grandmother, one of the first female artisans in their city, working at the family business; she cut stencils by hand and



printed them on kimonos.

Fascinated by the visual and historical aspects of these crests, Asa's goal was to create for the audience the opportunity to explore the delicate and intricate prints and create books that introduce the culture of family crests as a celebration of a tradition. These are not recreations of her grandmother's craft, but a continuum between traditional and contemporary art practices.

Today Asa, printmaker and book artist, continues to create beautiful miniature books and has had several exhibits of her prints and interactive installations in the San Francisco area. She is also available for commission work. Please visit her website:

[www.asanakata.com](http://www.asanakata.com)



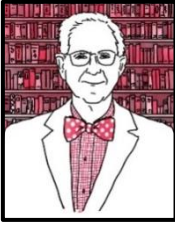
### Remember "Changeabouts"?

That was a column in which we listed changes to members' contact information.

You may or may not also remember that we decided to *cease printing Changeabouts*, as this newsletter appears on our website...

To protect your confidential information, we opted to update the Handbook several times a year and re-send the electronic version. It will be on its way in a few weeks, after this newsletter is put to bed.





**Please help US continue...** consider submitting your research so we can share it here.

Submit your research to the editor by email; all submissions will be reviewed and approved by the board and may be edited for style and length. Authors will have the opportunity to review a proof copy.

## Credits & Permissions

The title **To be continued...** is used with the permission of Hope Edison. The **portrait of Julian Edison** was created by **Susan Hunt Yule**. (It came from the alphabet book she and **Dorothy Yule** wrote and illustrated for MBS in 2017.)

**Three Questions for...** Photo provided by **Stephen Byrne**.

**Cover Photos /photos of Conclave** Courtesy of **Ray Williamson** and **Donna Knoell**.

**The Cobbler's Children** Photos courtesy of **Deborah Evetts**.

**Other graphics** property/courtesy of the editor.

**Not Pictured:** Masako Ishiguro who won two Distinguished Book Awards. We hope to include a story on her books in a future issue.

## Cover Photos

*clockwise from top left*

**Sculpture** Fountain in front of Lilly Library and IU Auditorium on the magnificent campus of Indiana University.

**Young Bibliophile Essay Contest Award Winner Tara Showalter** with her family.

**MBS members** “up close and personal” with books from the Ruth Adomeit collection.

**The Sample Gates** at Indiana University.

**Award Winners.**

**Pat Sweet** displays the miniature bound copy of Tara Showalter’s Young Bibliophile Essay.

**Jim Canary’s** workshop discussion.

## **UPDATE! Report from the Student Grants Committee**

*Lou Pitschmann, Chair*

Kudos to Benedek Takács, this year's first of two recipients of the MBS Student Project Assistance Grant. His award was in support of his research on Hungarian miniature books and the exhibition of his collection, "Miniatúr Utópia – Books from the Soviet Era in Hungary."

Shortly after the June 2019 issue of the this newsletter appeared, Mr. Takács reported that he had received his Master's degree in digital font design from the ECAL – University of Art and Design in Lausanne, Switzerland, and that his degree had been awarded **with honors**. Moreover, he reported that he had received a special award for having submitted the most outstanding Master's thesis, "Prix décerné à un étudiant diplômé qui s'est distingué par la qualité de son mémoire de Master."

MBS members should take pride in having played a role in allowing Mr. Takács to earn his degree with such distinction.

Among his future goals, he plans to locate and interview

additional collectors of Hungarian miniatures and to record more extensively the history of miniature books in Hungary.

He is also eager to place in other locations his exhibition of miniature books and he would welcome contacts from museum curators and librarians who might suggest possible venues for exhibitions to allow him to achieve his goal of introducing miniature books to a larger audience.

If MBS members have suggestions for exhibition venues, please contact Mr. Takács would welcome hearing from you. His email address is [benedektakacs@gmail.com](mailto:benedektakacs@gmail.com). More information about his work and collection are available at [www.benedektakacs.com](http://www.benedektakacs.com).



*Images of the display structure and catalog*



# The Book Lair

We have Fine Press & Antiquarian Miniatures in stock - visit our site for more information!  
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Happy MBS Award Winners **Todd Somerfield**, **Pat Pistner**, and **Miyako Akai** received awards for their service to MBS and the world of miniature books. See a photo elsewhere of **Patrice Miller** receiving her award from **Tony Firman**.



## THE COBBLER'S CHILDREN

*Deborah Evetts*

As I am a professional bookbinder, you might expect my collection to be in fine shape but like the cobbler's... my "children" have no shoes!

A "**London Almanack**" dated 1782, beautifully bound in green straight grained morocco, tooled in gold with a dozen or more delicate tools and decorated rolls, marbled end leaves, all edges gilt, and a slipcase tooled with the same design, became the first of my seven hundred plus collection that includes several additional almanacks.

When buying old books that weren't in the best condition, I would tell myself I could repair them on the weekend or next time I had a minute - good intentions on the road to hell!

Emigrating to New York made finding antiquarian miniature books harder and pricier and I began collecting the modern presses - Black Cat, Hillside, Massmann, etc. Moving out of New York City and started my own business in Connecticut, I had high hopes of working on

my neglected collection but underestimated the demand for a bookbinder in the area.

When I relocated Richmond, VA the work of putting the books in good shape had finally arrived. At the same time a friend, also bitten by the mini book bug, is cataloging the collection, so while she types I make a protective folder, slipcases and boxes, repair pages and joints, remove sticky tape, treat the leather, and rebind.

Two Black Cat Press titles - "**Shaw's Sherlock Holmes**" and "**History of the Cadiz Railway**" - have metal plaques on the front covers that tend to damage their next-door neighbors. Solution: a three-piece folder with windows in the left flap and magnets to keep the folders closed.



**“Dallas in 1873,”** a jeweled binding with malachite stones set in silver on each corner, presents the same problem. I



solved this one the same way, with a three-piece felt-lined folder; I punched holes to accept the tiny jewels. A pocket attached to the front cover holds a letter from the printer.

**“Lilliputian Forget Me Not”** is bound in fragile rose coloured silk stamped in gold. It is enclosed in a silk covered folder with paper flaps. When working on a folder 1-3/8” inches high, any mistake will be



magnified. Thus I paid special attention when cutting the boards to be sure my cuts were exact and split the pencil marks.

Printer William Pickering’s nine-volume *Shakespeare* came in a modern box without a cover so all the lovely emerald green cloth spines had faded to a dingy brown; since it was also too tight there was damage to the headcaps and some joints.

The sides are stamped in blind and gold and are as fresh as the



day they were bound. For these I constructed a “bookcase” box with a shelf in the middle; the top holds 4 books plus a dummy to fill out the shelf, and the bottom holds the other 5. I repaired the joints and headcaps with coloured gossamer tissue that is incredibly strong yet almost invisible. More on repairs another time.

## My Favourite Bookmaking Tool...

*Sarah Burnett-Moore*

...is a Japanese Screw Punch. Those of you who already own one will be familiar with the delights of this little analogue beauty. Unlike an Archimedes drill (also very satisfying to use), or a bench drill for the power tool enthusiasts, the screw punch makes a hole with a circular bit, meaning you can save the 0.5mm to 5mm "hole" that you have punched. It produces a very crisp edge to a hole, unlike a drill which tends to chew the edges a bit. It's a must for cutting guide holes for slots, or taking a snick out of finely pared leather to turn a neater corner. It doesn't require much practice to use, you just need to make sure it's properly vertical and tangential to the material. Some practice is needed for precise hole placement.

The bits come in a variety of sizes and, when needed, are easily sharpened by punching a few times into aluminum foil. A word of warning, though: punch on a surface you don't care about, as the holes will not heal on your mat. I use end grain wood (like a mini

butcher's block) as that gives a really neat edge without blunting the bits too quickly.



It can be used to make recesses for magnets, create rounded corners for windows, make holes for closures, and many more applications. Practical uses aside, what design project isn't enhanced by the use of a few strategically placed dots? Make a hole and use material of the same thickness in a contrasting colour. I make many things in addition to books and regularly use my screw punch for leatherwork, vinyl hot press, and paper cutting - because using a blade to make a round is, as we Brits would say, a total faff. I even use it for millinery as it's easy to cut a hole through felt and replace with a different colour to make polka dots. It's also great for making your own stencils or cut through thinly



rolled and cured polymer clay. Almost every craft class I go to I take my screw punch, unless it's a fibre activity where the holes would end up fraying. The only things it doesn't work on are wood, metal, rigid plastics, or anything brittle.

I am such a screw punch geek that I have made an old glasses case into a safe haven for it, complete with some stiff foam with cut holes to store the bits as they blunt quickly if you let them knock against each other. Even if I don't need it if I can't locate it my day is diminished. Woe betide anyone how misuses it and it's the one tool I'm reluctant to lend. Like all tools, you get what you pay for and it's worth investing in the best and looking after it, especially as the bits aren't cheap.

**Fun screw punch fact:** the residual material from the 'holes' are known as chads. I save mine in those travel pill dispensers, labelled for size. Now what to do with them...I think I'll embellish a vintage globe with all the chads from some paper I marbled.... Quite a bit of the world to go...

Pass the PVA!



Sculpture of Pulitzer Prize winning journalist **Ernie Pyle**. He studied journalism at IU and their Journalism School is named for him.

*The Eileen Cummings' Collection*

**Selling 4,700  
Miniature Books**

email  
[minibooksforsale@gmail.com](mailto:minibooksforsale@gmail.com)  
 for an Excel® file or  
 numbers file for Mac  
 of miniature books for sale.

*"More Miniature  
 Books for sale  
 than you can carry"*

**Tony Firman** presents **Patrice Miller** with the Distinguished Book Award for her edition of *The Mourning Fan* by Edward Gorey.

**Not Pictured: Masako Ishiguro** who won two Distinguished Book Awards. We hope to include a story on her books in a future issue.



**Pat Sweet** made it look easy to make miniature globes at her workshop on Saturday morning.



Education and Outreach Librarian **Maureen Maryanski** sharing treasures from the Adomeit Collection.



**Sunday's Book Fair** featured a huge variety of miniature books.

## Miniature Book Society

### Board of Governors 2019

President: James Brogan  
VP: Tony Firman  
Secretary: Gail Faulkner  
Treasurer: TBD

### Members-At-Large

Christina Amato  
Erika Clew  
C. Darleen Cordova  
Todd Sommerfeld

Membership is open to all individuals, organizations, and institutions with an interest in miniature books.

### Membership dues (U.S. dollars)

#### United States:

\$40-Personal/Family  
\$50-Business

#### Canada:

\$45-Personal/Family  
\$55-Business

#### Other Countries:

\$55-Personal/Family  
\$65-Business

### Membership inquiries and dues

#### payment contact:

#### Membership Coordinator

Donna LaVallee  
178 Brewster Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
415-648-1382

[donnaMBSmembership@gmail.com](mailto:donnaMBSmembership@gmail.com)

**NOTE that we cannot at this time accept PayPal;** please send your dues to Donna LaVallee.

## Newsletter

### Publisher

Miniature Book Society, Inc.

### Editor

Donna Knoell  
[dmknoell@gmail.com](mailto:dmknoell@gmail.com)

### Consulting Editor

Neale Albert

Issued in February, June, September. Items for publication must be family friendly and related to miniature books and should be sent to the editor, Donna Knoell.

MBS, Inc reserves the right to refuse any item deemed inappropriate. Submissions should be made electronically by email. MS Word is preferred (PDF only if no alternatives). Images should be JPEGs and include complete copyright/permissions/credits.

#### Deadline for the next issue:

January 1, 2020

Please send **articles for review** to [dmknoell@gmail.com](mailto:dmknoell@gmail.com)

Please send **inquiries regarding ad rates and print-ready ads** to [dmknoell@gmail.com](mailto:dmknoell@gmail.com)

### Printer

**Alliance Printing & Mailing**  
[www.allianceprinting.net](http://www.allianceprinting.net)

## Planning Ahead for 2020...

*...Advertisers*, here are our rates for the 2020 newsletter.

Page Size	Dimensions Height x Width	Rate (US Dollars)
Full Page	4.5" x 7.5"	\$100
Half Page (Horizontal)	4.5" x 3.75"	\$50
Half Page (Vertical)	3.75" x 4.5"	\$50
Quarter Page	2.25" x 3.75"	\$30
Business Card Scan (One Side)	3.5" x 2" Approx.	\$20

Submissions and payment deadlines are **January 1, May 1, and August 1**.  
Make checks payable to Miniature Book Society.  
And mail them to **Donna Knoell - 4562 Three Chopt Road - Troy, VA 22974**  
Please note that **payment through PayPal is not available at this time.**

### *...Is there a young bibliophile in your life?*

We will print Tara Showalter's essay in the next issue and there will be a formal announcement of the 2020 contest. But it's not too soon to start thinking about how you might promote the contest among your network of family and friends. The prize is \$250 and a one-year membership in MBS. Find out more: <https://www.mbs.org/the-young-bibliophile>

*...We welcome your interesting stories about miniature books and their place in your world... and your library.*

Contact the editor any time with a story you want to see... or one you've written but never got around to sending.