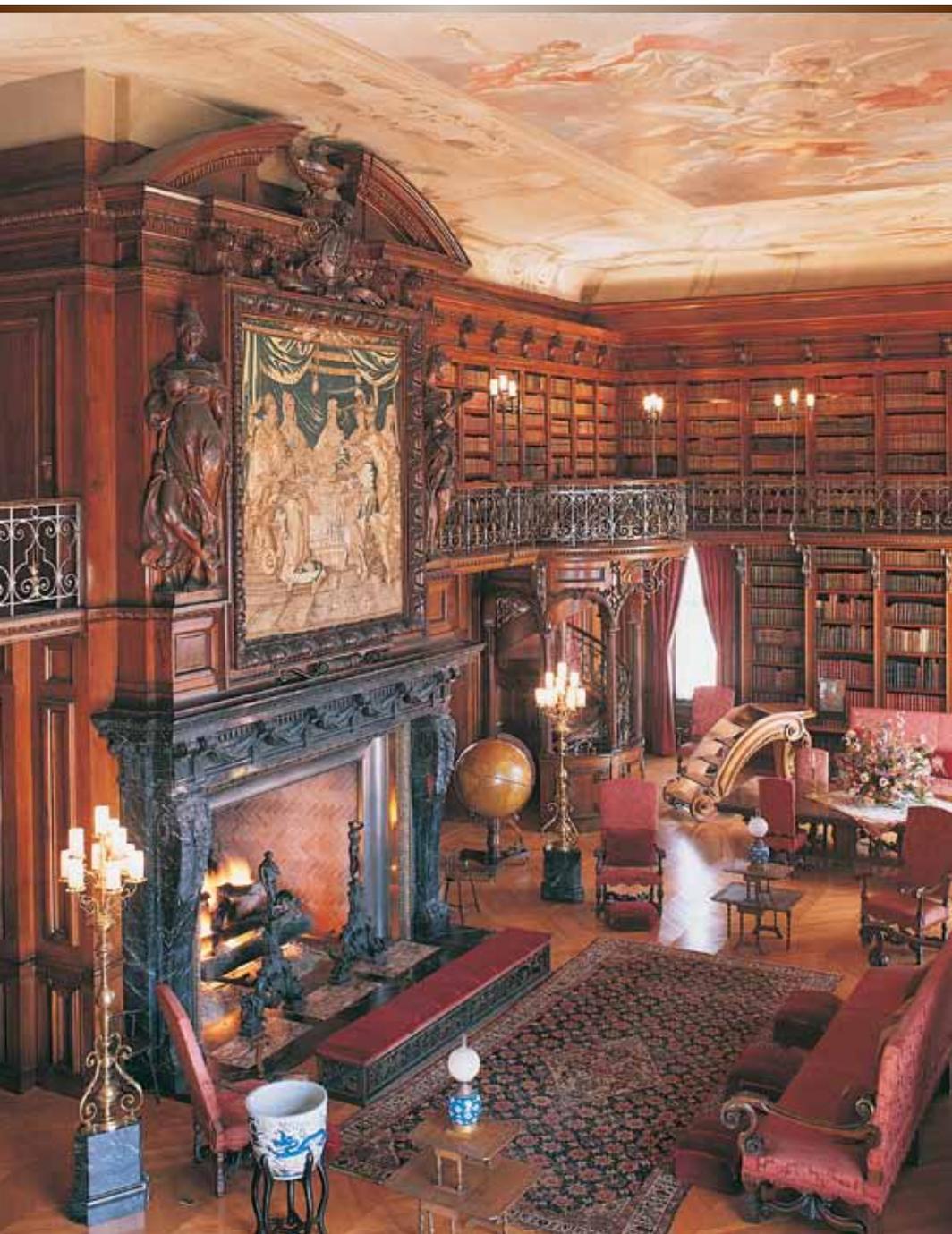


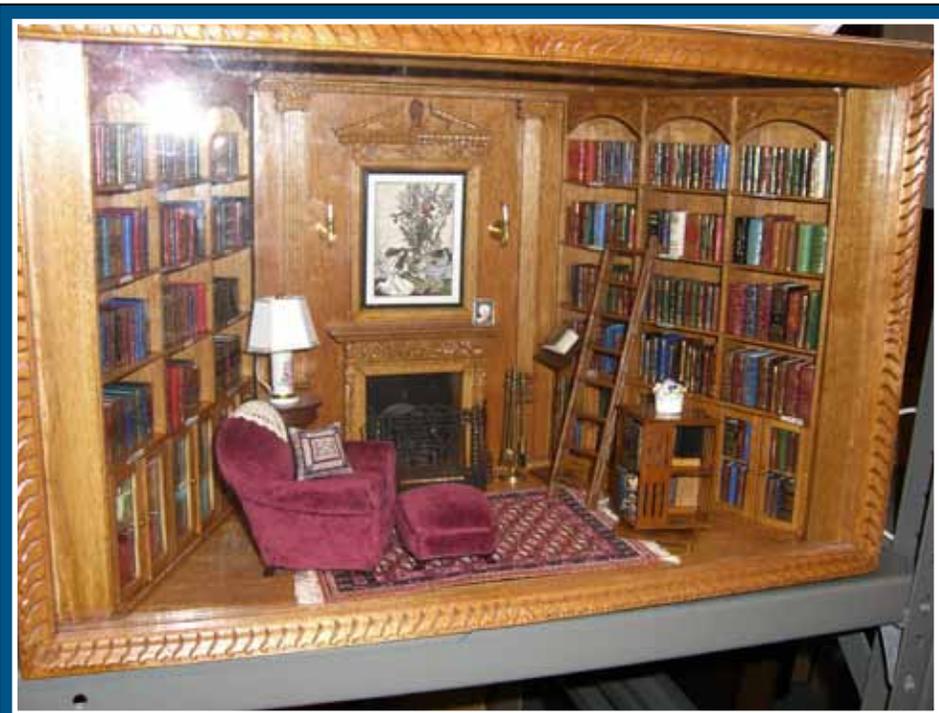


# MINIATURE BOOK SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

*NO. 89 - March 2012*

*INCORPORATING THE MINIATURE BOOK NEWS*





**Above:** Model miniature library at the Huntington in San Marino, CA (see pages 15-16)



Examples of pop-up artist Shawn Sheehy's work—a columbine from [A Pop-Up Field Guide to North American Wildflowers](#) (commercially available) and the centerfold for [Early Autumn](#), 2008 Cold Mountain Collection of poetry for the Asheville Bookworks.

**Cover photo:** The two-story library at the Biltmore home in Asheville, NC

## President's Message

Our 30th Grand Conclave in Asheville, North Carolina is shaping up to be a memorable event! There is an article about it, along with registration information, in this issue. Karen Nyman has arranged for some wonderful sessions, all to take place in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. Please register as soon as possible to gather with old and new friends to revel in our favorite topic, miniature books!

In 2012, members of the MBS must vote for President and Vice President, as well as two members-at-large, replacing outgoing members Christina Amato and Karen E. Roehr. The offices of President and Vice President are elected in alternate years from Treasurer and Secretary; all four officers serve two-year terms. Members-at-Large serve for three year terms. Robert Orndorff has agreed to serve as chair of the Nominating Committee this year. Please make your voice heard by voting when ballots are distributed this summer.



Mark Palkovic

## Editor's Note

Off on another year and good things to come. The site for the Conclave this year is spectacular and the opportunity to take a workshop beforehand with pop-up artist Shawn Sheehy is fantastic. Asheville Book-works is itself a marvelous community resource. Do take a look at their website and the videos of their annual miniature book program.

Need some help here. I have been trying to create a bibliography of past winners of the Distinguished Book Awards but cannot locate everything. I have a total gap in information from 1985 to 1987. Did they have awards then or were they still organizing to create their plans and rules? And what happened between 1988 and 1990? They had three winners in 1988, four in 1989, and went back to three in 1990.

There is also the problem of locating pictures of the early winners. A few show up on the web either on a website or in a sales ad, but those are very few and far between. Has anyone actually collected pictures of the early winners? I would love to see them all.

Below is a pair I did find.



1989 winner from Susan Acker of Feathered Serpent Press Washington Irving's *The Stage Coach* (phot by Jim Yarnell)



1990 winner from Roger Huet *The Charm of a Smile* in the Offset category

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## 2012 Miniature Book Competition & Exhibition

Here is your opportunity to have your work seen by MBS members as well as the public—and possibly win one of the three Distinguished Book Awards. Enter and even if you cannot make it to the Conclave your work will be seen there.

### RULES FOR ENTRIES:

1. The book and its slipcase or portfolio box must measure no more than three inches in any direction.
2. Maximum of two entries per press and/or person.
3. The book must have been published and bound in a multiple edition of like copies.
4. The book must have been published within the past two years, 2009-2011.
5. The book must be submitted between January 1, 2012 and May 1, 2012.

The Jury consists of professionals who represent varied interests in the book arts. They are charged with selecting the three Distinguished Book Award winners that best reflect the creativity, appropriateness of design to content, personal appeal and technical excellence of miniature book publishers, designers, printers, and binders.

Winners are announced at the annual MBS Conclave. Winning entries become the property of the MBS and travel for one year with the International MBS Traveling Exhibit. They are then placed in the MBS Archives at the Lilly Library of Indiana University. All entries are photographed in color and included in the MBS Competition Exhibition Catalog with the winners featured. Each entrant will receive a copy of the catalog. All non-winning entries will be returned to the entrants at the end of the Conclave.

### One-off or Artist's Books:

One-of-a-kind or artist's book will be accepted, but will not qualify for a Distinguished Book Award. They will be included in the MBS Competition Exhibition Catalog in a separate section providing an opportunity for those who do not make multiple copies to show their work.

Entry forms and past catalogs are available on our website  
<http://www.mbs.org/competition.html>

or for a form and more information contact  
Joan Knoertzer, Chair  
MBS Competition and Exhibition Committee  
P.O. Box 3387,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48106, USA

or at [librarybandb@gmail.com](mailto:librarybandb@gmail.com)

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## GRAND CONCLAVE XXX

August 24-26, 2012  
Asheville, North Carolina

**Conclave XXX** will be held from Friday, August 24, through Sunday, August 26, at the Renaissance Asheville Hotel in downtown Asheville. I have scheduled optional pre-Conclave and post-Conclave events so arrange now to extend your stay and take advantage of all that has been planned for you.

**The Renaissance** is Asheville's premier downtown hotel and is walking distance of an outstanding array of unique book stores, antique galleries, sidewalk cafes and fine dining experiences. It is 14 miles from the Asheville Airport and is accessible by taxi.

We have secured an excellent group rate of **\$139 per night**, with many available suite options. All group rates have been extended for 3 days before and 3 days after our event. To book your room, call the Renaissance directly at 1-800-266-9432 (toll-free) and be sure to identify yourself as a member of the Miniature Book Society, or you can reserve your room online - a dedicated booking website has been created for MBS so you can make, modify, and cancel your hotel reservations online as well as take advantage of any room upgrades, amenities, or other services offered. Go to: [https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome\\_ei\\_new&eventID=8225552](https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=8225552) to book online. Reservations MUST be made by July 24, 2012, to be eligible for the special group rates.

**Hotel amenities** include free parking, wireless high speed internet access, refrigerator, indoor pool and Jacuzzi, state-of-the-art fitness center, flat screen TV with satellite service, safety deposit boxes, business center, gift shop and more. Google "Renaissance Asheville Hotel" for more information.

### CONCLAVE REGISTRATION

**Registration is only \$199 per person** and includes keepsake bag, 3 buffet breakfasts, reception and buffet dinner Friday night, Champagne Chocolate Dessert Buffet at BookWorks on Saturday, self-guided tour of downtown Asheville book stores, admission to the Thomas Wolfe House, two workshops, admission to the Sunday Book Fair, reception and Awards Banquet on Sunday night.

### PRE-CONCLAVE

Co-host Laurie Corral of Asheville BookWorks is offering a 2-day workshop "Miniature Pop-Ups for Miniature Books" taught by nationally known pop-up artist Shawn Sheehy. Class size is limited to 10 students. Details are on the BookWorks website: [ashevillebookworks.com/2011/11/3039/](http://ashevillebookworks.com/2011/11/3039/).

All early arrivers are invited to meet at "Bistro 1896" for dinner (at your own expense) at 7 pm on Thursday, an easy 2 block walk from the Renaissance Asheville Hotel.

### CONCLAVE

**Friday:** This will be a relaxed day to allow attendees to check in, register, and mix and mingle. The Board meeting will be from 10 am to noon. Registration is in the afternoon. A short workshop for making a Japanese stab-bound album will be available also - all supplies and instruction included. Evening activities include a cash bar cocktail hour, buffet dinner, guest speaker Laurie Corral of BookWorks and our Silent Auction.

Karen Nyman

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## Asheville BookWorks

Opened in 2004, BookWorks is located in West Asheville, North Carolina. As a result of ongoing schedule of classes, workshops, gallery exhibits, lectures, and annual events, Asheville BookWorks has become a gathering place for individuals interested in handmade books, papermaking, print-making and letterpress. Asheville BookWorks provides studio space, equipment and technical support for artistic exploration, collaboration and the sharing of knowledge.

Each year the BookWorks Co-op creates an edition of Miniature / Small Books with a selected theme. On the night of BookOpolis, an exhibition held annually in September, one copy of the Small Book Edition is presented for raffle in an elegantly constructed box. A second set is offered for sale at the total amount of raffle tickets sold. The project benefits the Artist-in-Residence Program.

The Asheville BookWorks Co-op, over 90 members strong, looks forward to welcoming the 2012 Miniature Book Society Conclave to Western North Carolina.

Especially of interest to MBS book lovers will be workshop with Chicago-based artist, Shawn Sheehy. His class, Pop-ups & Mechanics of Movables for Miniature Books, will conveniently run August 23 & 24, Thursday and Friday prior to the start of 2012 MBS Conclave. Please contact Asheville BookWorks for more information, 828-255-8444. Or

visit the website at:

[ashevillebookworks.com](http://ashevillebookworks.com).

Laurie Corral, Director and Founder Asheville BookWorks

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Shawn Sheehy has a vast body of work done in the pop-up field. You can see some of his work as well as check the listing for the workshop at his website:

<http://www.ashevillebookworks.com/category/workshops/pop-ups/>



Duration: 20 Devices  
by James Reid Cunningham

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## Spectacular Bromer Gift to Boston Athenaeum

The Boston Athenaeum has announced a gift of two million dollars from Bromer Booksellers to create the Anne C. and David J. Bromer Fund. The fund will include the support of the Bromer Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts at the Athenaeum. Stanley Ellis Cushing, the current curator at the Athenaeum, has been appointed to fill this role.

This wonderful gift will warm the hearts of book lovers everywhere. As Paula Matthews, director of the Athenaeum wrote, "the gift and the appointment represent a true confluence of sympathies: for the book as a magical thing, with inks, textures, bindings, materials, and physical dimensions as well as words and pictures."

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## Never Too Soon to Prepare for Conclave XXX

As usual, people need to begin at least considering what they can donate to Society fundraisers.

For the Auction if you have information (date, publisher, whatever) that does not appear in the material itself, please include a note with those details.

Send materials to: Jan Becker  
1700 Dix Road  
Middletown, OH 45042  
USA

For the Silent Auction (where you split the ultimate bid amount with the Society) we have the same request for information.

Send materials to: Karen Nyman  
702 Rosecrans Street  
San Diego, CA 92106-3013  
USA

We have no guess yet as to how many registrants, but now would be a great time to get started on Keepsakes.

## Arno's Websites

We could literally do an ongoing column using the websites that Arno Gschwendtner locates. Some of the more recent ones are definitely worth checking into:

**AUDIO BROADCAST!** Tiny Things in the Big Apple: An exploration of the little things that can be found in the big city by George Bodarky. Saturday, August 7, 2010 – 7:30am—but you can listen at any time on your computer at <http://www.wfuv.org/news/cityscape/100901/tiny-things-big-apple> There are two brief interviews and then he talks with two curators from the Morgan library who mention the Miniature Book Society standard of three inches and then discuss four books, including the modern *Weeds in My Garden*. They don't mention the author, but it seems likely to be the Miriam Macgregor work although they say it is in blue Morocco while Lorson lists a black spine with Japanese paper boards.

The National Library of Ireland's nomination for the smallest book ever printed in Dublin at <http://comeheretome.wordpress.com/2011/02/25/smallest-book-ever-printed-Dublin/> is the 1764 "Biblia, or, a practical summary of ye Old & New Testaments" by W. Sleater.

<http://calligraphy-expo.com/eng/Material1686.aspx> offers a wonderful look at the collection of Yaroslav Kostyuk on display at the International Exposition of Calligraphy in Russia.

<http://www.360cities.net/gigapixel/strahov-library.html> will let you move your mouse around a panorama of the fabulous monastery library in Prague. You can even zoom in on book titles. Some of their miniature books can be seen at <http://travel.webshots.com/photo/1414579886039064861ZepCTH>

<http://www.livrosminiatura.com/> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USo8AWRyP3oa> site showing a Portuguese exhibit. With youtube sites you get a list of related sites which can mean endless checking.

You can simply Google *Edouard Rouveyre, Connaissances nécessaires à un bibliophile* for French article written about 1879 on minibooks. (pages 58-90)

<http://www.archive.org/details/lesalmanachsfran00granuoft> will give you a PDF of *Les almanachs français: bibliographie-iconographie des almanachs, années, annuaires, calendriers, chansonniers etrennes, états, heures, listes, livres d'addresses, tableaux, tablettes et aures publications annuelles éditée à Paris (1600-1895)* an 1896 publication by John Grand-Carteret. But be aware—this is 996 pages!

<http://www.sciencephoto.com/media/362455/view> offers a quite weird "colored scanning electron micrograph" of a millipede with a leather-bound 24 page picture book of the alphabet by Josua Reichert of Leipzig with pages measuring 2.4 x 2.9 millimeters.

This one dates back to 2007, but is still an interesting bit of information out of Sri Lanka on the smallest book of the Dhamma, 1 ½ by 1 ¼ inches and contained within a brass pagoda several inches high. [http://sundaytimes.lk/070401/Plus/015\\_pls.html](http://sundaytimes.lk/070401/Plus/015_pls.html)

<http://dvice.com/archives/2007/12/smallest-bible.php> is also from 2007 with details about a nano Bible so small that two could fit on the head of a pin.

From 2009, but still entertaining, from China Cultural Industries comes <http://en.cnci.gov.cn/HtmlFiles/News/2009-7-7/9686.html> describing the smallest book found in Qingdao in eastern China's Shandong Province. 6.5 by 4.3 centimeters, it is a 160 page copy of ancient Chinese classic works and was used to cheat on exams in ancient China.

<http://hereandthere123.blogspot.com/2009/09/its-small-book-after-all.html> offers some terrific pictures by a visitor to the 2009 miniature book fair at the Princeton, New Jersey, Conclave. It includes a great picture of Mary Devenyi.

<https://scholarworks.iupui.edu/bitstream/handle/1805/1545/Art%20Reference.pdf?sequence=1> is the PDF of an article by Mary Graham entitled *Art Reference: a Study*. It literally contains lists of art reference books, but with a very curious ranking. Four librarians rated the books on a 1-5 scale, but since not everyone reviewed every book the average given is meaningless.

[http://www.dradio.de/dlf/sendungen/buechermarkt/181863/bilder/image\\_main/](http://www.dradio.de/dlf/sendungen/buechermarkt/181863/bilder/image_main/) A picture of a miniature book seen at the Frankfurt Book Fair. (or in one of my all-time favorite German words: Buchmesse)

[http://www.oddee.com/item\\_96527.aspx](http://www.oddee.com/item_96527.aspx) is a site showing 20 of the world's most beautiful libraries. Some are totally incredible.

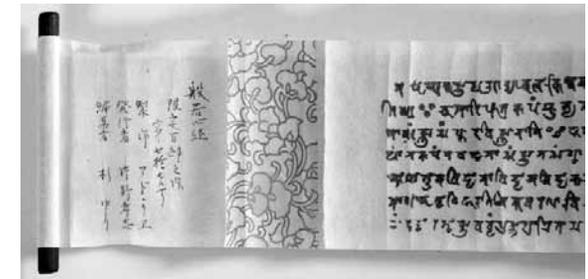
[http://handritinheima.is/de/handritid/handverkid/undirbun/bokin\\_un\\_dirbuin.htm](http://handritinheima.is/de/handritid/handverkid/undirbun/bokin_un_dirbuin.htm) provides a look at the creation of Icelandic manuscripts. The smallest is a duodecimo that contains the saga of St. Margaret.

<http://www.historyofinformation.com/index.php?id=1804> examines one of the smallest surviving Anglo-Saxon manuscripts the *St. Cuthbert Gospel of St. John*, also known as the Stonyhurst Gospel.

This is a rather fun announcement of an auction in Derby that included 16 miniature books found in a house clearance. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-12712727> while <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1364221/Lilliput-library-fit-matchbox-300-year-old-thumbnaill-books-hammer.html> gives a more detailed look at the actual sale. For pictures from the sale catalog <http://www.bamfords-auctions.co.uk/BidCat/detail.asp?SaleRef=FAMAR11&LotRef=1120> through 1127

And that pretty much brings us up-to-date on Arno's findings.

From the Kostyuk Collection:  
The *Hannya Singyo*, in Chinese and Sanskrit, 810 x 47 mm, Addo-Rie Studio, Tokyo, 1980.



# MINIATURE BOOK NEWS

8 ST. ANDREWS DRIVE • ST. LOUIS, MO • 63124

## AUCTION RECORD FOR MINIATURE AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT

A spectacular 19-page manuscript measuring 61 x 35 mm (2 3/8 x 1 3/8 inches) written in 1830 by Charlotte Brontë, author of *Jane Eyre*, fetched a spectacular price (over \$1,000,000) at an auction at Sothebys in London in December, 2011. Here is a report from the *New York Times*.

### Miniature Magazine by a Young Charlotte Brontë Fetches \$1.1 Million at Auction

By JENNIFER SCHUESSLER

A miniature handwritten magazine created by Charlotte Brontë when she was 14 years old was sold to a Paris museum for nearly £700,000, or \$1.1 million, at an auction at Sotheby's in London on Thursday.

The sale was not only a record for a Brontë manuscript but also a significant blow to the Brontë Parsonage Museum in Haworth, West Yorkshire, which had received a grant of more than \$900,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, along with a number of public donations, after an appeal to keep the 1.5 by 2.5-inch manuscript in Britain.

"This is unquestionably the most significant Brontë manuscript to come to light in decades and an important part of our broader literary heritage," Andrew McCarthy, the director of the Brontë Parsonage Museum, said on the museum's Web site.

"It belongs in Haworth, and we are bitterly disappointed that scholars and members of the public may now not have the opportunity to study and enjoy it as part of our public collection," he said.

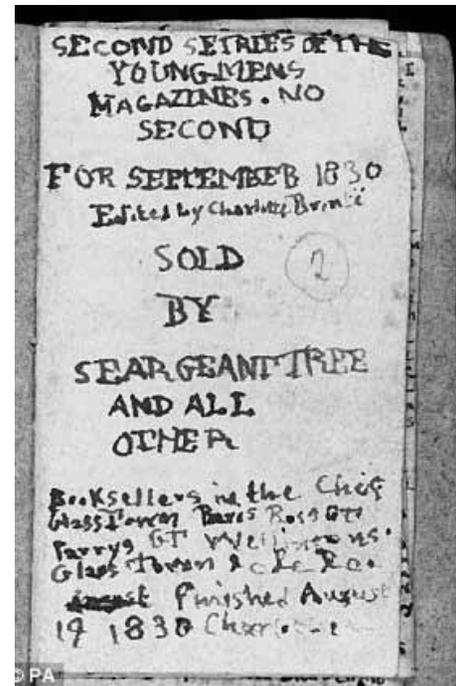
The 19-page, 4,000-word manuscript sold on Thursday is part of a series of six "Young Men's Magazines" created by Brontë in September 1830, four of which are already at Haworth. (The sixth remains untraced.) It includes stories set in Glass Town, one of several fictional worlds created by the Brontë siblings, including a story featuring a scene that seems to be a precursor to the famous scene in "Jane Eyre" in which Mr. Rochester's wife, the archetypal madwoman in the attic, sets fire to his bed.

The Musée des Lettres et Manuscrits in Paris, which bought the manuscript, plans to exhibit it in January, but those who want a closer look at the Brontës' miniature literary output do not have to travel. The Houghton Library at Harvard University has digitized nine images of the siblings' many miniature books, including a tiny issue of Blackwood's Men's Magazine from 1829 "edited by the genius C. B.," according to the elaborately lettered first page.

The tiny manuscripts complicate the typical image of the Brontë children as living a completely isolated life on the edge of the moors, said Leah Price, a professor of English at Harvard and the author of the recent book "Unpacking My Library: Writers and Their Books."

"Yes, they were circulating their own manuscripts, in part because they didn't have enough access to new books," Ms. Price said in an e-mail. "But they were also extremely sophisticated about what a masthead looks like, what a colophon looks like, how a magazine is put together."

In their own way, Ms. Price added, the Brontës were "quite media savvy, even if the image that usually sticks in our mind is of Charlotte knowing so little about publishing that when one publisher rejected her manuscript she would just cross out their address and send it in the same envelope to the next."



Close-up: The manuscript, left, was written by Charlotte Brontë, right, to entertain her siblings

# HUNTINGTON LIBRARY VISIT

The Henry E. Huntington Library in Pasadena (actually in San Marino) California is one of America's premier private Research and Rare Book Libraries, in a class with the Morgan Library in New York and the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Indiana. Of course the largest would be the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, which is public.

Today the Huntington is one of four libraries in the U.S. with the largest number of miniature books. The other three are the Lilly, The Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library (how's that name for a miniature book repository!!) at the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville, and the University of North Texas, in Denton.

We visited the Huntington in 2010, and were shown the collection by Alan Jutzi, the Curator of Rare Books.

As reported in MBN 140 (March 2010) the Huntington has about 10,000 miniature volumes, including some 6,000 donated by Msgr. Francis J. Weber. The books are not yet fully catalogued and are presently held in a large storage room vault.

The scope of the collection was described in 1996 in conjunction with an exhibition of miniature books at the Library by Lenora Schull who catalogued the collection up to that time. In Schull's brochure, which was reprinted in the Miniature Book Society Newsletter for April 1996, she mentions that the collection had only about 7,000 volumes, of which 6,000 had been donated by Msgr. Weber in 1991.

Surprisingly, at that time, the Huntington staff had decided on a four inch height limit as the standard for its collection. Schull describes the collection as "a rich source of miniature manuscripts, incunabula, devotionals and Bibles, Greek and Latin classics, traveling libraries, maps and atlases, dictionaries, almanacs, general reference works, literature, California, children's literature, items of bibliographic interest and twentieth-century limited edition press in over forty-five languages."

Books before the twentieth century were arranged chronologically, while twentieth-century works were arranged by genre or subject. All are identified using the detailed Doris Welsh bibliography, which was edited for publication by Msgr. Weber.

By 1991 Msgr. Weber had decided to donate his collection to the Library. In a brochure reproduced from the journal *Hoja Volante*, #177, May 1992, Father Weber explains why he entrusted his books and reference material, collected from 1963 to 1991, to the Library.

He was aware that the Huntington had a fine collection of miniature manuscripts, which Carey S. Bliss had explained in the May 1985 issue of *Hoja Volante*, but the library did not have many miniature printed books.

Father Weber discussed the possibility of a gift with Mr. Jutzi, who was also the Curator at that time. Mr. Jutzi then discussed the matter "with all the key personnel at the library, and the enthusiasm here has been remarkable." Jutzi further reported that "our Library Director believes it will be a valuable and useful addition to the Library's collections."

Father Weber then explains how he went about getting an appraisal from Glen Dawson for a tax deduction. The *Hoja Volante* article even reproduces the entire agreement with the Huntington for the gift to be known as The Francis J. Weber Miniature Book Collection. Weber stated that he retained "visiting rights" which will hopefully soothe whatever "pain of loss" remains with the reality of bibliophilic passage."

Schull goes on to report on a selected portion of the bibliography. The Library has five miniature incunabula, books printed before 1501. Incunabula are very rare since only about 100 titles are known with a printing area of 3 x 2 ¼ inches or less, regardless of the binding or page size. According to Welsh, Douglas McMurtrie in his *Miniature Incunabula*, published in 1929, considered this size to be definitive for incunabula, because "it took many years before the craftsmanship of the type cutters and the printers could handle the technical difficulties of

smaller types." While the bindings on each are between three and four inches, the printing areas are below three inches, which qualify them as true miniatures. These five at Huntington are:

- 1) Birgitta, Saint, of Sweden. Discarded unbound sheets from an undetermined work in German, possibly *Orationes*, ca. 1495-1500. Printed area: 1 ¾ x 1 ¼ inches. Welsh 3734a.
- 2) Gregorius I, the Great, Pope. *Dialogorum Liber Secundus De Vita et Miraculis S. Benedicti*. Benedictus, Saint. Regula. Venice; Bernardinus Benalius, 1490/1. Welsh 3727.  
Hieonymus, Saint-----
- 3) Hieronymus, Saint. *Oratio de Passione Domini*. ...Lubeck: Lucas Brandis, 1485/1499. Welsh 3755a.
- 4) *Horae ad Usus Coloniensem*. Cologne: Retro Minores, 1500. Welsh 3755b.
- 5) *Psalterium Cisterciense*. Speier: Peter Drach, 1486. Welsh 3802a.

Schull's 1996 monograph identifies some 77 books and ephemera, in separate categories: **Incunabula, Bibles, Devotionals, Greek, Latin and Italian Classics, English & American Literature, Traveling Libraries, Almanacs, Books for Children, Works of Bibliographical interest Early Typography, Bindings, Association Copies, Fore-Edge Paintings, and Ephemera.**

We are pleased to show some photos from our visit to the Huntington. The Huntington Museum, Library, and Botanical Gardens are separate entities but are all together in San Marino. A visit to all sections is a world class experience. Don't plan on spending less than a full day to do it right!



# MINIATURE MUSEUM OF GREATER ST LOUIS

One of the major sub categories of the miniature book world is the doll house class. This class embodies the usual size of up to one inch in height. Virtually all, despite the small size, are easily readable to the naked eye, contrary to popular expectation. This is because the letters of the type fonts printed are usually about newspaper size type, in spite of the size of the books themselves being about 1/12th the size of a regular book.

According to Georgene O'Donnell in her 1943 book, *Miniaturia--The World of Tiny Things*, "the veneration of objects "in little" stems from antiquity." However, it was after World War II that the collecting of "tiny things" gathered force as a major hobby, especially in America.

O'Donnell writes that more than two years before her book was published, the publisher of the popular *Hobbies* magazine "recognized the rapidly growing interest in miniatures and accordingly developed a section in his publication for collectors of scale models, tinies and oddities, entitled *Miniaturia*. Prior to that time, there was no section in any publication in the United States where miniature collectors could exchange ideas or experiences." This effort led to O'Donnell's pioneering book. In it Chapter VII deals with miniature books and the early collectors.

Beginning in 1935 and into the early 1940s, Achille J. St. Onge of Worcester, Massachusetts began publishing miniature books as a hobby at first, but later published his books for sale. His total production of nearly 50 books until 1977, "became the standard of comparison for all 20th century miniature books," according to Robert Bradbury in his book, *Twentieth Century United States Miniature Books*.

While St. Onge's books were usually sized about three inches in height, it was not until the 1960s that the production of one-inch doll house books exploded. The major producers were Jane Bernier (Borrowers Press), Yolanda Carter (Amistad Press), Jack Levien (Traders Press), and Miriam Irwin (Mosaic Press) published around 50 to 100 titles each over the years, with Barbara Raheb's Pennyweight Press taking the prize (with over 500 titles).

Why then has there been a "disconnect" between doll house book collectors and doll house collectors? Very few collectors of one genre have gravitated to the other activity. There are several national magazines published today: *Miniature Collector Magazine*, *American Miniaturist*, and *Dollhouse Miniatures Magazine*. Articles about miniature books in these journals are almost non-existent.

I asked Neale Albert, one of the few major "switch hitters" of the miniature fields, about this puzzle. Here is what he had to say: "Most doll house collectors today are content to have "fake" doll house books in their doll houses. Nice covers but no text, just blank pages. Inexpensive. Easy to find. They're just not book collectors. To them books aren't books." He also observes that "there are almost no miniature book publishers today making decent doll house books."

This background brings me to my recent visit to The Miniature Museum of Greater St. Louis. There are a few other doll museums, miniature and doll house museums, and toy museums, all separate classifications, around the country, but this St. Louis museum's collection may be one of the most extensive devoted to miniature works, including doll houses.

It's brochure states its purpose:

"The Miniature Museum of Greater St. Louis has been in existence since 1989. The group share a common goal: to establish a centrally located museum to house and display miniature works



and collections for people of all ages to enjoy. Cultural and educational aspects were then, and are today, foremost in the hearts of our members."

The St. Louis Museum opened in its new building in 2001 and features doll house miniatures in all scales, has a large gift shop selling furniture, accessories and magazines, plus a library devoted to various miniature objects. It also publishes a periodic newsletter.

Several large rooms display miniature houses, several of which are illuminated. There is also a display of a miniature shopping center, a replica of St. Louis IX Basilica, and a replica of Bevo Mill, a St. Louis Landmark. A separate classroom is used for meetings and classes.

The organization (Miniature Museum.org), with over 200 members, is privately funded and staffed with volunteers. It also publishes a periodic newsletter. A second floor is being remodeled to accommodate new exhibits. President Joanne Martin was most gracious in showing me around, with evident pride in what has been accomplished.

We took a few photos, shown below. Needless to say, we were pleased that there were a few real miniature books in a display case, and a few in the houses.





volume, turn the pages, and ... see nothing. The pages are empty. But if you shine a tiny ultraviolet lamp on the page, it "speaks".

Konenko's publishing house is called "Russian Levsha". This is no accident. Levsha was the hero of a tale of the same name by the Russian writer, N. S. Leskov (1831-1895). A simple craftsman from the city of Tula (the center of the arms industry, where in our time the well-known Kalashnikov machine gun is manufactured), Levsha was able at the instruction of the Tsar to shoe a microscopic dancing flea made by an English craftsman. Not only to shoe it, without damaging anything, but on each shoe to place his hallmark. Anatolii Konenko sees himself as the modern "Levsha", astonishing us with new miniature and micro-books. [English text: W. E. Butler].

Check [www.koneko.net](http://www.koneko.net) to see the vast variety of work the man has created. The pictures below and on the back cover present some of his work in miniature books.



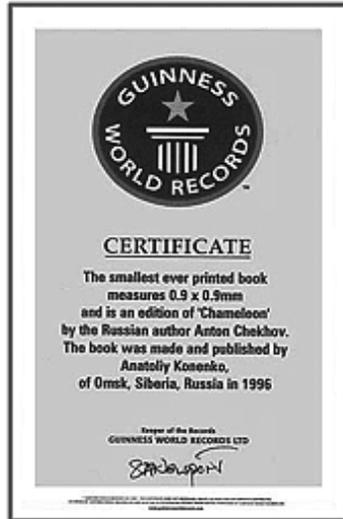
*Chekhov Chameleon*



*Romeo and Juliet*



*Illustration from Romeo and Juliet*



*The Guinness World Record certificate for Chekhov's Chameleon*



*The Ancient Egyptian Alphabet (0.8 x 0.8)*

# MARCH 2012 CHANGEABOUTS

## MARCH 2012 CHANGEABOUTS

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*Saturn and Its Moons in glass case 1 1/4 x 1 1/4 x 3 inches from Bo Press*

## BRIEF NOTES

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Catalogues received:

**Miniature Book Catalog 60**,  
January 2011.  
Tracy Bradbury  
Brooklyn, NY

**Miniature Books for Sale  
Catalogue 35**, January 2, 2012  
Karen Nyman, San Diego, CA  
(online)

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### OF NOTE:

Of interest to those into the medieval is the fact that Sandra Hindman of Les Enluminures, specialists in Medieval and Renaissance Illuminated Manuscripts, Miniatures and Art will be opening a new gallery in New York in May. The opening show will be "12 Books of Hours for 2012" and will feature important Books of Hours from the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries.

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Randy Asplund will be at the Virginia Festival of the Book in Charlottesville from March 21-25.

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Another web tip from Arno Geschwendtner is to check out Graham Short, a Brit who does micro engraving. His work is so fine he has engraved on the edge of a razor blade. One of the videos shows him at work listening to his heartbeat so that he can work between beats!

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Sharon Sharp will be offering an "Envelope Meets Book" workshop on July 23-24 at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC.

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### IN MEMORIAM

Collector Patty Ruth Marchal died March 16, 2011 in Carmichael, CA. She was very much into miniatures of all sorts and operated Patty's Doll Shop.

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Beth Morley died in September, 2011 in Amherstsvew, Ontario, Canada. Her husband Bill is retaining their membership in her memory.

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Roger R. Hilleary died at home October 8, 2011. In retirement he entered into letterpress printing, bookbinding and book collecting. He produced a series of 22 (mostly miniature) books and later worked on special projects including thumbnail histories of the 45 parishes of the Catholic Diocese of Monterey.

### This is a part of my plea for help.

**After 1990 I had no problem finding the winners, but early on was a serious problem. I would really like to create a complete list, not just for myself, but anyone interested.**

**Joan Boring**

### History of the MBS Distinguished Book Award Competition

The creation of the award began with a discussion at Grand Conclave II (1984) in Boston. The original thought was to have a Miniature Book of the Year Award and a committee was formed consisting of Msgr Weber, Caroline McGehee, Susanne Pruchnicki, Elizabeth Walden, Bob Massman and Mary Helen Dawson. An opinion poll was distributed to attendees at the Conclave and members were requested to send in ideas, suggestions and recommendations.

Later that same year Esther Beamer suggested there be some kind of annual award presented each year at the Conclave either to an individual outstanding in the field or for some miniature books of special note. She was asked to head up a committee to come up with recommendations.

(Gap from 1985 to 1988)

1988 Winners: Rebecca Bingham of Rebecca Press for Oscar Wilde's The Nightingale and the Rose, Carol Cunningham of Sunflower Press for Land of the Inca, and Richard J. Hoffman for Otto F. Ege's essay The Story of the Alphabet: Its Evolution and Development

1989 Winners: Susan Acker of Feathered Serpent Press for Washington Irving's The Stage Coach, Francis X. Harrigan of Xavier Press for Mark Twain's The Old-Time Printer, and repeat winner Rebecca Bingham of Rebecca Press for Compt de Caylus' Rosanelle

(Change in number of winners?)

1990 Winners: Artistic category: Dianne Weiss of Figment Press for Venetian Masks  
In-house category: Jane Conneen of Little Farm Press for The Winding Roads of Ireland  
Letterpress category: Lloyd Neilson and Marvin Heimstra of Juniper Von Phitzer Press for Golden Gate Treasure  
Offset category: Roger Huet for The Charm of a Smile

1991 (Back to three winners)

## Advertising Rates

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Karen Nyman  
702 Rosecrans Street  
San Diego, CA 92106-3013

## Miniature Book Society Newsletter

A publication of the Miniature Book Society Inc. Number 89

Issued in March, July, November. Items for publication, including advertising material should be sent to the Editor. Publication deadlines are: February 1, June 1, October 1. Payment for advertising should be made to Miniature Book Society Inc. and sent to the Treasurer.

The Miniature Book Society is an international nonprofit organization founded in 1983 and chartered by the state of Ohio, USA. Its purposes are to sustain interest in all aspects of miniature books; to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas; to serve as a clearinghouse for information about miniature books.

**Website:** [www.mbs.org](http://www.mbs.org)

**Toll-free phone (USA & Canada):**  
1-877-MBS-1983

### Board of Governors for 2009-2011

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Membership in the Society is open to all interested individuals, organizations and institutions. Membership dues in United States dollars: \$40.00 individual/couple for USA members, \$45.00 individual/couple for Canadian members; \$55.00 individual/couple outside North America. Corporate membership: \$50.00 (USA), \$55.00 (Canada), \$65.00 (outside North America).

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Manuscripts, letters and news items are welcomed and are subject to editing due to space and style limitations. Preferably submissions should be made electronically, by e-mail or disk. Attachments on Microsoft Word would be preferred. Articles in the Newsletter do not necessarily express the views of the Board or of the Editor.

Deadline for the next issue: June 1, 2012.

Printed by Alliance Printing & Mailing Services  
Middletown, OH



The irresistible Facebook photo above is from Sean Richards, Byzantium Studios, Norman, Oklahoma.

Sean apprenticed with Jan Sobota in the Czech Republic and describes his experience in an article included on his website:

<http://www.byzantiumstudios.com>



Illustration from Pushkin's  
Rusland and Lydmila,  
30x32mm



Shakespeare Sonnets



Illustration from  
Shakespeare Sonnets,  
30x32mm

**from [www.konenko.net](http://www.konenko.net)**



NK Roerich, Fine Art,  
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## *I Dated Oppenheimer*

BY GLORIA STUART

The late Academy Award nominated actress' charming reminiscence of her date with the famous physicist. Elegantly printed by John Robinson at the Tortoise Press and bound by Allwyn O'Mara. The edition is limited to fifty copies and is available exclusively from

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**Here are some Huge collections for sale, with over 5,000 Miniature Books, being the most prized possessions.**

There will also be photos of sale items for signed CHARLES BRAGG etchings & lithographs, Antique (mostly) AMERICAN BEARS from 1905-1960 (A few dozen "foreigners", such as Steiff, Merrythought, Schuco, will also be listed), & Star Trek items, to name a few.

*For those of you who are MBS members, please EMAIL to the listing in the directory.*

*All others, please utilize email link:*

[info@myminiaturebooksforsale.com](mailto:info@myminiaturebooksforsale.com)

or

[books@myminiaturebooksforsale.com](mailto:books@myminiaturebooksforsale.com)

An EXCEL file of the miniature book inventory will be emailed to you. Feel free to ask for more photos on miniature books and/or the other collections. I reserve the right to not sell some items. I have an updated Excel list that is effective for the end of each current month 2012. Only this list with prices of the current month will be honored. To request list or correspond, PLEASE indicate "miniature books" on subject line. Personal checks accepted from MBS members, in US dollars. Paypal is accepted (plus 3% to cover fees).