



# MINIATURE BOOK SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NO. 96 - JULY 2014

INCORPORATING THE MINIATURE BOOK NEWS

## 2014 Grand Conclave XXXII Boston, Massachusetts

Friday, August 15 - Monday, August 18, 2014



One of many wonderful Conclave experiences that await YOU in Boston - a visit to the Boston Athenæum (top) and the Athenæum's Conservation Laboratory (bottom). Read about the Conclave details and schedule on page 4.

*Photo credits: Boston Athenæum*

# The Future of Miniature Books?

How is Miniature Book Publishing Evolving?

Miniature Book Publishers Push the Limits of Their Craft!



*Bill Westheimer's innovative miniature book "printed" on a 3-D printer. The Complete Works of William Shakespeare is a miniature book edition of 10. The text is on a flash drive embedded in the miniature book sculpture. Is this a book? Take a peek at the possibilities. Read more about Bill's intent and his production process on page 8.*

## President's Message July 2014



*Stephen Byrne*

As I write this our 2014 Conclave approaches, and I want to urge as many as possible to attend what is sure to be a wonderful event. More details are laid out in this issue, and I invite you all to consider making a small keepsake for the attendees (about 80 at the present time). I often sift through keepsakes from the Conclaves I have attended, and they serve to remind me of the wonderful times we have had in the various venues. Please also consider sending a donation for the auction, which is our main way of raising income for the MBS.

I urge you to take the opportunity to use your vote to elect the new Treasurer and Secretary. Forms are included with this issue. While the ballot lists nominated individuals, you are entitled to nominate others in the write-in section. Over the past few years the voting numbers have been very low, representing only a small portion of the membership. Please do take time to complete the ballot or vote on line. I am grateful that we have willing volunteers for the various positions, and hope that you will show your support for them by using your right to vote. We want to thank Patricia Caernarven-Smith for stepping in to fill out the term of secretary. Yvonne Perez-Collins resigned and could not complete her term. Ballots should be sent to Patricia. Her contact information is on the ballot you have received.

Since our last newsletter, we have lost another valuable member, Evron Collins, who served the MBS in a number of capacities, and was a friend to all MBS members who knew her. She was one of the first members I got to know, at Conclave in Koblenz, and received her freely given encouragement and advice. She will be missed by many of us.

## Editor's Note:

In this issue, we reprint with permission, Dr. Horst-Dieter Branser's article on four microbooks, *The Lord's Prayer*, *Olympic Oath*, *Berlin Bell*, and *I Love You*. These microbooks were created by bookbinder Franz Bischofer. This fascinating article was originally published in *Miniaturbuch Journal*, v. 20, no. 4, December 2013 and has been translated from German to English by Tina Auclair. In this article, Dr. Branser describes Bischofer's painstaking production process and equipment in detail for these tiny books created in the mid-1950s. Move forward to 2014, and we have another innovative book artist named Bill Westheimer, pushing the boundaries of miniature book production as well. Bill builds what he terms "book sculptures" containing text and images using a state-of-the-art 3-D printer. With much glee, I am confident this will refuel the conversation about "what is a book?" among our readership. Bill is relentless in his effort to explore how information may be disseminated in the future. Hope you will enjoy this issue of the Newsletter as well as the upcoming Grand Conclave in Boston, Massachusetts.

~ CONCLAVE INFORMATION ~

The 2014 MBS Grand Conclave XXXII will be held at the Taj Boston Hotel, Arlington & Newbury Streets, Boston, Massachusetts Friday, August 15 - Monday, August 18, 2014

Hotel Arrangements: We have secured an excellent group rate of \$230 per night (deluxe room with king bed), with 3 suite options. All group rates have been extended for 3 days before and 3 days after our event. To book your room, call the Taj Boston directly at 1-617-536-5700 and be sure to identify yourself as a member of the Miniature Book Society. Reservations MUST be made by July 15 to be eligible for the special group rates. Do not book online.

Hotel amenities include complimentary wireless high speed internet access, refrigerator, mini bar, fitness center, flat screen TV with satellite service, safety deposit boxes, business center, gift shop and more. The hotel is pet friendly and welcomes 4-legged friends year-round. Valet parking is available at \$44 per night.

The Taj is a 15-minute taxi ride from Logan Airport; fare is approximately \$25. You have the option of taking the subway (The T) Blue Line, then Green Line for the bargain price of \$2 but this takes about 45 minutes to an hour.

Conclave Registration: Only \$250 per person; go to www.mbs.org for registration form.

DEADLINES

Conclave Registration: July 15; mail check & registration form (available online) to: Kathy King, 402 York Avenue, Delaware OH 43015

Taj Boston Hotel: July 15; see contact info above; reservations MUST be made by this date to qualify for the discounted group rate!

Auction Items: July 15; proceeds benefit MBS; please mail items to: Jan Becker, 1700 Dix Road Middletown OH 45042

Silent Auction Items: August 1; proceeds split 50/50 between donor & MBS; mail to: Karen Nyman, 702 Rosecrans Street, San Diego CA 92106-3013

Keepsakes: August 1; MBS welcomes all keepsakes for the keepsake bag; mail to: Father Joseph L. Curran, Sacred Heart Parish, 770 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown MA 02472.

QUESTIONS? Contact Father Joe Curran at 617-924-9110 or go to www.mbs.org for hotel and program details and links to additional conclave information.

~ CONCLAVE PROGRAM ~

(A detailed packet of additional info will be emailed or snail mailed to all attendees by August 1)

Thursday, August 14 (Pre-Conclave)

7:00 pm Dinner at 75 Chestnut (at your own expense). Please email Ellen Diamond at eldiamond@icloud.com if you plan to join us.

Friday, August 15

10 am to noon Board Meeting
2:00 - 5:00 pm Registration
Open House at Bromer Booksellers
Visit the Boston Public Library Rare Book Room to see America's first printed miniature book
6:00 - 7:00 pm Cocktail Hour with Cash Bar
7:00 - 9:30 pm Sit-down Dinner, Book Swap, and Silent Auction

Saturday, August 16

7:00 - 9:00 am Breakfast
9:00 - 10:00 am MBS Annual Membership Meeting
10:00 - 11:00 am Presentation by Christina Amato of the North Bennet Street School, "Adapting Conservation Techniques for Miniature Books"
12:30 - 3:00 pm Tour of the famed Boston Athenaeum and the Athenaeum's Conservation Laboratory
8:00 - 9:30 pm Dessert Buffet and Auction with Father Joe Curran

Sunday, August 17

7:00 - 9:00 am Breakfast
9:00 - 11:00 am Book Fair for MBS members only
11:00 - 4:00 pm Book Fair open to the public
6:00 - 7:00 pm Cocktail Hour with Cash Bar on the Rooftop Terrace
7:00 - 9:30 pm Awards Banquet with Sit-down Dinner
Guest Speaker William Wallace, Executive Director of the Worcester Historical Museum, "Memories of St. Onge"

Monday, August 18

7:00 - 9:00 am Breakfast
9:00 - 4:00 pm Optional Bus Excursion to Worcester to tour the Goddard Library at Clark University and The American Antiquarian Society (AAS). Lunch will be provided by the AAS; \$50 per person.

Father Joseph L. Curran, Conclave Host

# The Lord's Prayer

By Dr. Horst-Dieter Branser

Original article in German appeared in *Miniaturbuch Journal*, v. 20, no. 4

(December 2013)

Translated by Tina Auclair

The *Lord's Prayer* has a history, and by that I don't mean the Bible. Franz Bischofer was the creator of a series of small books.

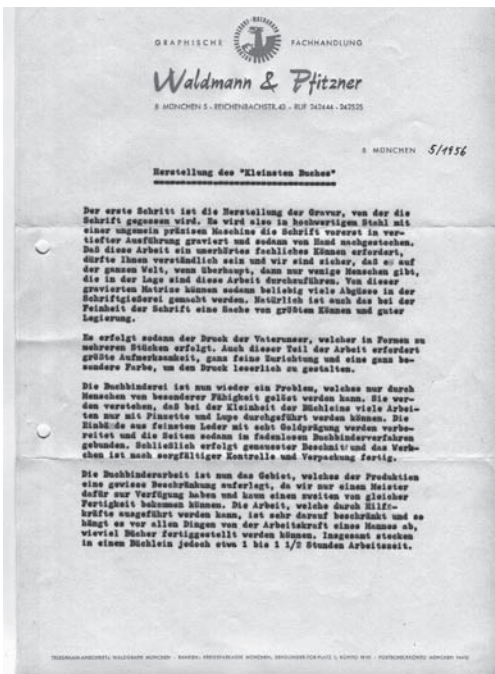
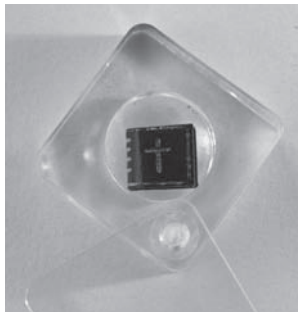
I can assume that many miniature book collectors own the small micro book shown in photo 1. I acquired a copy at an event of the Sammlerkreis Miniaturbuch e. V. Stuttgart (Stuttgart Miniature Book Collectors' Club). The Gutenberg Museum still sells it as the smallest book in the world. One only gets clarification about the "smallest book" when you ask, because there are demonstrably many even smaller micro books. But it is supposed to be the smallest example produced by letterpress printing.

Later other titles of this size were produced that will be the subject of consideration here.

A correspondence between the bookbinder Franz Bischofer and Heinz Müller (both deceased) in 1987 and a 1956 letter from the graphics company Waldmann & Pfitzner (photo 2) are the basis for this interesting history. Our collector friend Heinz Fritsch made the correspondence available.

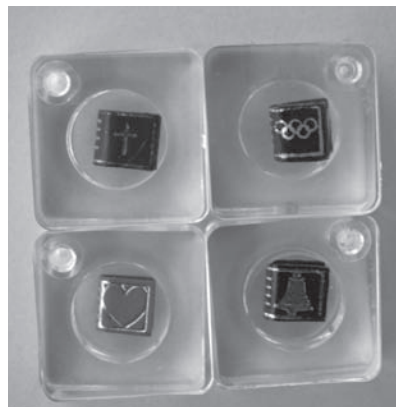
## Franz Bischofer, an Exchange Partner

In a letter in facsimile from Franz Bischofer to Heinz Müller in 1986, the ultimate aim is that Franz Bischofer



wanted to trade books with Heinz Müller. In it he describes the progression to completion of such microbooks as *The Lord's Prayer*, *Olympic Oath*, *Berlin Bell*, and *I Love You* (photo 3).

Bischofer's bookbinding machines were destroyed in World War II by incendiary bombs,



so he began making leather picture frames, mats, photo albums, and such.

"One day I bought a gluing machine in a small graphics shop in Munich. On this occasion I saw an advertisement for a Dutch type foundry. It consisted of a small strip of paper on which the entire *Lord's Prayer*, approximately 5 mm x 5 mm, was engraved (first in steel, which at the time was a great achievement, and then cast in lead)."

From these small printed strips he thought he could make little books. The owner of the company Waldmann & Pfitzner was quick to let him do some bindings. "Mr. Waldmann offered me a contract, initially for five years, to make the books exclusively for him. Its adoption was my mistake. At the 1952 German book fair the *Lord's Prayer* was issued by the Gutenberg Museum in seven languages. This new release was in the 1982 *Guinness Book of World Records*.

Bischofer then brought an even smaller book under his name into the *Book of World Records*. A prerequisite for him was the manufacture of small machines for the production of micro books. He built himself a cardboard cutter, a cutting machine and press, and developed his own method of applying gold edges. He only made a limited edition of this book because at the age of 83 he no longer wanted to deal with a commercial operation. His eyesight had also deteriorated. But he made another twelve dummy copies in different versions.

"Since I don't sell anything, I wonder if you might perhaps offer me trades from your existing duplicate copies, as I have a great interest in this and would like to add to my small collection," he said in the letter to Heinz Müller. The hoped-for understanding was reached and later a surprising gesture was made to the miniature book collectors club in Stuttgart.

## Production of the Smallest Books

In a letter from the firm Waldmann & Pfitzner it is described how the *Lord's Prayer* and other titles in this size were produced. I summarize here the essential steps from the May 1956 text.

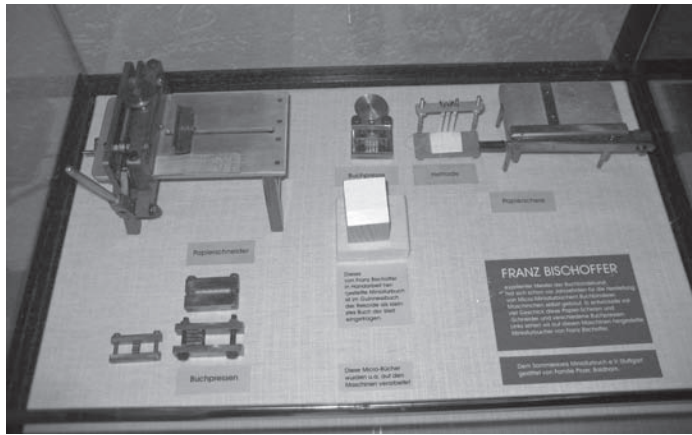
From the printed text an engraving in high quality steel is made. Great precision and considerable craftsmanship are required for this. Many castings from the engraving can then be made in a foundry. From the cast version, for example the *Lord's Prayer*, the edition is then printed in letterpress. Here the greatest attention to coloring and the finished print form are also needed. Even more difficult are the requirements for book binding work. Due to the small size of the little books, much of the work can only be accomplished with tweezers and a magnifying glass. The bindings of finest leather with gold embossing are just as complicated as the making of the book block. That includes the precise trimming of the books as well as gluing the binding. In the original text it states further: "The book binding is the area of production that imposes the greatest limitation, since we only have a master craftsman available for this purpose and can hardly get a second of equal skill." The reference here, of course, is to Franz Bischofer, because assistants could hardly be used. The production time for each little book is given as 1 to 1.5 hours of working time. The devices for the production were painstakingly built by Bischofer himself and put to use in the production of the *Lord's Prayer*.

## The Sammlerkreis Miniaturbuch e. V. Stuttgart Inherits the Technology

Of course it fell on Heinz Müller to convince the talented bookbinder Bischofer, a member of the Sammlerkreis, to donate his equipment. Bischofer gave the entire

technology, as shown in photo 4, to the Sammlerkreis.

For the safe-keeping and presentation of these devices, Fritz Müller built a lockable glass display cabinet. Thus it was made clear at many events of the Sammlerkreis how a miniature book is created. Not only was the functioning of the technique described, but also the corresponding production steps of the miniature book itself were shown.



During its general meeting in Mainz in May, 2011, the executive board of the Sammlerkreis gave the devices it had inherited for miniature book production to the Gutenberg Museum as a permanent gift.



## Miniature Book Publishing of the Future?

By Bill Westheimer

With the invention of movable type Johannes Gutenberg revolutionized how books were made in the 15th century, and now in the 21st century book publishing is again changing dramatically. We used to think of books as ink on paper between two covers. Increasingly books are just digital data viewed on a screen. My Gutenberg series of 3D printed books deals with the evolution of books and how knowledge may be distributed in the future.

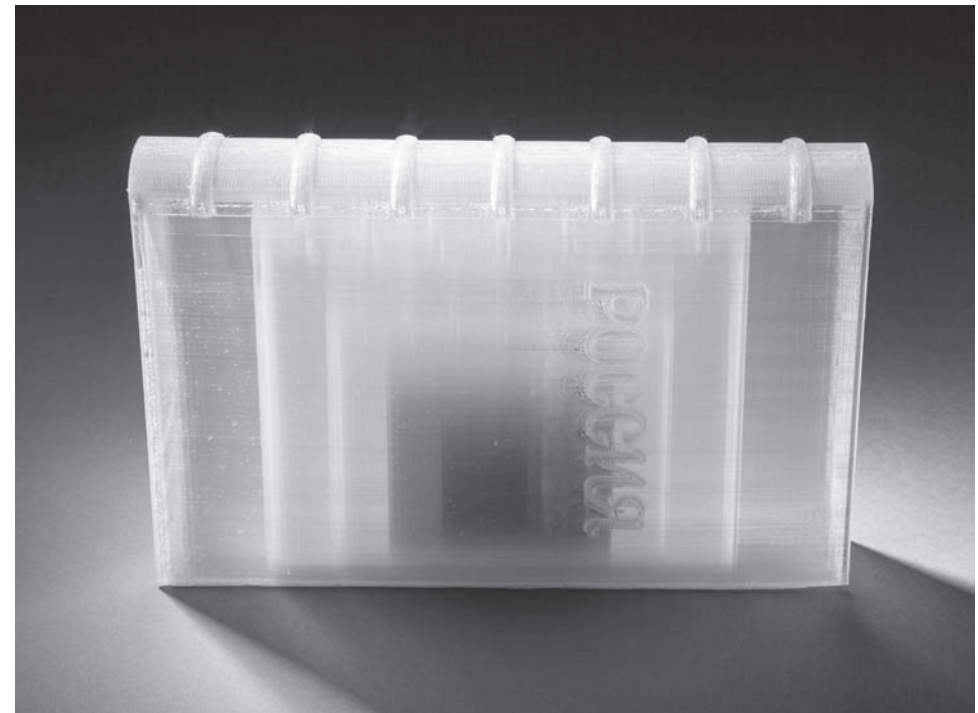
Books are evolving into new formats. Some people find that digital books are undesirable, others enthusiastically embrace them. As they transform into digital media

someday they may become unreadable when the compatible devices are no longer available; similar to how we can no longer access the data from a floppy disk.

The content of these 3D printed books cannot be accessed; it is sealed inside the PLA resin binding. You must destroy the book to read the book. These books require the viewer/reader to trust the artist - is the content really in there or not? You can see something is inside but you don't know if it is really as the artist claims. Much of the artwork that is bought and sold, requires trust in the artist and the dealer, and these books expand upon that leap of faith. These 3D printed books contain digital prints and/or a USB flash drive encased in a sealed one-piece 3D printed book-shaped PLA resin sculpture.

What is 3-D printing? 3-D printing is a manufacturing process that builds layers to create a three-dimensional solid object from a digital model.

I have created a new miniature book sculpture, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*. This mini-book is 2.375" x 1.875" x .75" and the box is 3.75" x 3.25" x 1.1.25" Inside the 3D printed translucent PLA covers are a title page in the front and an author portrait in the back. Inside is a USB flash drive containing a text file of the complete works of William Shakespeare. I designed the book cover and box in Tinkercad and printed it with a Makerbot Replicator 2 using translucent PLA plastic. The interior images are printed with an Epson R1900 inkjet printer. It is presented in a "hand-made" silver PLA 3D printed box with a blue velvet lining. The book is published in an edition of 10. - See more at: [www.billwest.com/shakespeare/](http://www.billwest.com/shakespeare/)



This is an example of Bill Westheimer's 3-D digitally printed book. Not all Bill's books are miniature. This photo demonstrates the technique.

# MINIATURE BOOK NEWS

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

## KAROLY ANDRUSKO

Little known in the West, Karoly Andrusko from the town of Senta in Serbia may well be "The Greatest Miniature Book Artist in the World." According to Dr. Martin Znidarsic, that quote is from Louis Bondy, the famed London miniature book authority, dealer and author.

Znidarsic, who lives in Ljubljana, Slovenia, not far from Serbia, has collected all of the books that Andrusko produced in his lifetime since 1971 --- all 270 of them!

Andrusko's complete miniature book publications, which are just a portion of Znidarsic's total collection, have been given to the Ljubljana City Library. In late 2013 an exhibition of these books together with a bibliography and catalogue were prepared by Pablo Juan Fajdiga and displayed at the Library.

Dr. Znidarsic was a friend of Andrusko for many years. In addition to collecting his works, he wrote a lengthy preface to the exhibition and catalogue. Here is a brief synopsis and some excerpts from his preface:

"Karoly Andrusko was and remains a one of a kind phenomenon within the world of miniature books: he produced over 270 of them. Because these contain his own woodcuts and linocuts and were all printed and bound together by him, and because most of his copies were manually numbered and signed and a few of them also manually painted, each single miniature book of his is a genuine artistic artefact."

Andrusko was born in Serbia, then part of Yugoslavia, in 1915, in a poor family of laborers (who were paid by the cubic meter of dug up earth soil). He had a talent for drawing, and acquired an education in type-setting and printing as a profession, which led him to develop an interest in the graphic arts. Entirely self-taught, he began by making watercolors, drawings and linocuts of wood and linoleum.

He liked to travel worldwide and kept a sketch-book of his artistic impressions which were used to produce his graphics and miniature books. He printed thousands of ex-libris book-plates, other woodcuts and linocuts, and some 3,000 oil paintings, and



Front covers of two Andrusko books slightly reduced.



Front covers of Andrusko's books. Upper left shows New York skyline, upper right shows the United Nations buildings.

270 miniature books. He started to create art at the age of only 52.

The subjects of the books are wide-ranging, with landscapes and views of the cities he visited as favorites. His first miniature books were called *Senta*, published in 1971. His travels in North America resulted in a 1976 series of five illustrated books: *The Atlantic*, *The Canadian Lake*, *New York*, *The United Nations*, and *Toronto*. Another series about Spain was entitled: *Madrid*, *Toledo*, *Seville*, *Granada*, *Cordoba*, and *Castills - Andalusia*. An edition was also printed in Esperanto. These series were published in 400 copies.



Znidarsic, Andrusko, and Louis Bondy in Ljubljana, in 1983.

## CLARK UNIVERSITY'S ROBERT H. GODDARD LIBRARY

Clark University is a liberal-arts based research university in Worcester, Massachusetts, founded in 1887.

Clark's Robert H. Goddard Library was opened in 1969, named after Robert Goddard, Clark's physics professor who launched the first liquid fueled rocket in 1926. He is referred to as the Father of the Space Age.

We are indebted to Ms. Fordyce Williams, the coordinator of its Archives and Special Collections, for giving us a broad picture of the Library and its miniature book collections.

The Library's Archives and Special Collections Department was opened in 1972, and has always been the home of its miniature books.

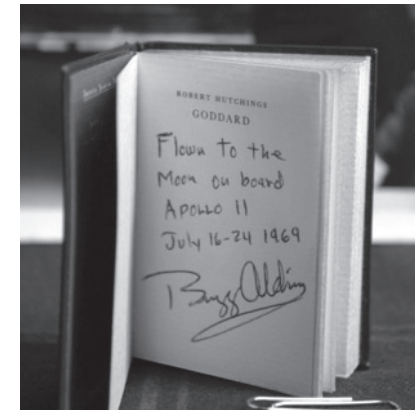
Williams reports that the Library has more than 1,300 miniature books. Clark has a complete set of Achille St. Onge's books, with various different printings or issues. Several of these books are signed by the authors, and several of the presidential inauguration address books are signed by their respective presidents. One of JFK's inauguration books is signed by 10 members of his family.

Another high spot is the Autobiography of Robert Hutchings Goddard. One copy was flown to the moon with astronaut Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr. in America's first lunar landing in the Apollo 11 spaceship in 1969. Ms. Williams writes: "That copy is signed by him. It was the first book to go to the moon and St. Onge had sent it to Aldrin and asked him to leave it on the moon in honor of Goddard. Aldrin was not able to leave it there and so brought it back and presented it to Esther Goddard, Robert Goddard's widow, at the Goddard Memorial Dinner in Washington in March, 1970. Mrs. Goddard gave it to Clark along with Goddard's papers.

Mrs. St. Onge donated to Clark her husband's archive of correspondence with printers and binders of his books, marketing materials for his books, newspaper clippings, photographs, letters from authors of his miniature books and other assorted ephemera."

In 1995 Robert C. Bradbury contacted miniature book collector Kathryn I. Rickard and arranged to purchase titles and variants of St. Onge's books. Rickard had inherited miniature books from Doris V. Welsh and she generously donated 58 books from Welsh's collection. Clark hosted an exhibit in 1995 of these and the St. Onge books.

Books from miniature book publisher Ward Schori were donated by Margaret Schori in 1996 and Charlotte Smith donated a complete set (20) of her Tamazunchale Press mini books in 1995. Her motivation was that these books used the same printers and binders as St. Onge, and she wanted to honor and continue his work. Bradbury, in a 1997 article in the Miniature Book Society Newsletter, noted that several others, including Robert Massmann and Caroline Brandt (nee McGehee) had donated their St. Onge files.



A bookplate by Andrusko.

Most of his miniature books are about 2 inches tall, but four are microbooks: *The Street* (12 x 12 mm), *Cubicashes* (9 x 8 mm), *The Hoe* (5 x 5 mm), and *The Cave* (7 x 8 mm).

Andrusko's books and graphics have been exhibited in many localities including Ljubljana in 1983, Belgrade, Glasgow, and in Boston when he attended a Miniature Book Society Conclave.

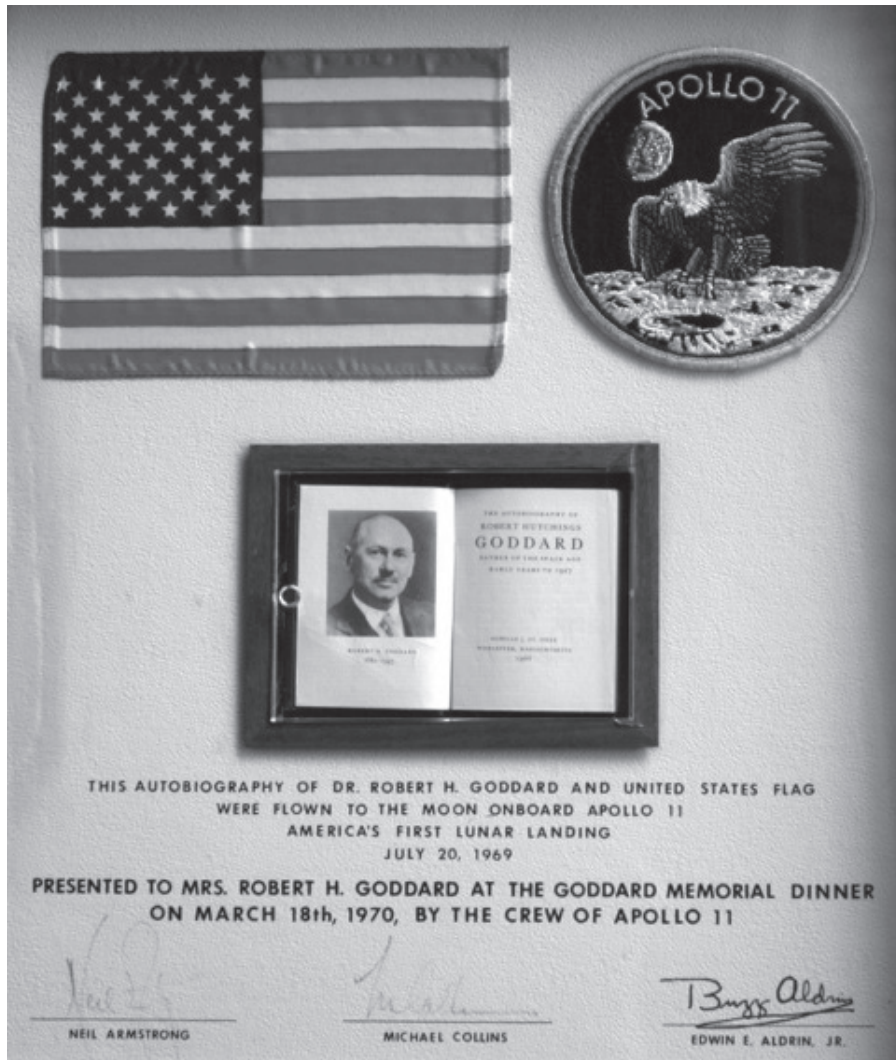
Znidarsic has donated a complete set of Andrusko's miniature books to the Slovanska Library in Ljubljana where they are being cared for by Mr. Pablo Juan Fajdiga who published the illustrated catalogue and bibliography of the exhibition. Andrusko died in 2008 at the age of 93.



Front cover of the Catalogue for the Andrusko exhibition in 2013.

Ms. Williams mentioned that “the smallest book that we have is *The Rose Garden of Omar Khayyam*. It is 3/16” wide, 5/16” long, in crimson morocco, hand sewn. It is included in a set with a 1 3/4” x 1 1/2” edition with the same title and a magnifying glass. Also in the set is a larger book, Francis Eben Thompson’s *A Thimbleful of Books*, being some account of small books in all ages, and more particularly the smallest printed book in the world. A proof sheet from the micro-miniature is also included. In 1932 when the *Rose Garden* was printed in Worcester, it was the smallest book in the world.”

At the upcoming Miniature Book Society Conclave, August 15 – 18, 2014, a Monday bus trip (optional) is being planned to tour the Goddard Library as well as the American Antiquarian Society. Bradbury has been working with the Goddard’s rare book director to mount a display of 75 important miniature books plus a complete exhibition of St. Onge’s books.



## MOST EXPENSIVE MINIATURE BOOK

The world’s largest Art and Antiques fair took place this March in Maastricht, a small town in the Netherlands, near Brussels, Belgium. Over 250 dealers offered ancient, modern and contemporary works of art in many fields. The world renowned Maastricht Fair has been held annually for over 20 years, usually in March.

Dr. Jorn Gunther’s Manuscript and Rare Book company of Basel, Switzerland deals in illuminated manuscripts and early-printed books. We came across his booth which displayed many lovely objects. Among the gems was a spectacular illuminated manuscript book of miniature size that took my breath away. It is by far the costliest miniature book I have ever encountered.

Non-book cognoscenti as well as many libraries confuse miniatures and miniature books. A manuscript book is a book that is written, wholly or in part, by hand. An illuminated manuscript book, most prevalent in the renaissance age, is a hand-scripted book that contains painted details, usually with features of gold, which is what gives it its illumination. The miniature manuscript book may or may not include “miniatures,” which is the term in the rare book world for paintings.

So it is easy to see the confusion. A miniature manuscript book may be illuminated with gold and colored touches but it may or may not also contain painted pages or parts of pages of scenes or portraits. Those painted pages are what are called “miniatures.” If you access “miniatures” in a library data-base or in its card file, you will usually find paintings on paper or vellum, but not necessarily “miniature books.”

Manuscripts from the medieval and renaissance ages often come with hand painted illuminated pages, or leaves. Art lovers have fancied these leaves for centuries, for their medieval imagery and beauty. Their production preceded Gutenberg’s introduction of printing in the mid 1450s.

We return to Dr. Gunther’s booth at Maastricht. In a specially built glass case rested a magnificent miniature manuscript book with full- paged paintings, or “miniatures.” The title of the description tells a lot:

AN UNKNOWN WORK FROM BENING’S FINEST PERIOD:  
OF JEWEL-LIKE EXECUTION AND SIZE.

Here are some excerpts from the lengthy detailed description:

**Miniature Book of Hours, use of Rome, in Latin.  
Manuscript on vellum, illuminated by Simon Bening.  
Flanders, Bruges, c. 1530-1535.**

59 x 42 mm. 216 leaves (i.e. 432 pages, about 2 1/2 inches)... initials of liquid gold... written-space 38 x 25 mm... **12 Calendar miniatures** of the occupations of the months, **22 full page miniatures** (i.e. paintings)...

### **Illumination:**

No renaissance illuminator had a higher reputation than Simon Bening --- “the best master in the art of illumination in all of Europe.”

Small, personal prayerbooks ... seem to have been a speciality of Bening...likely



to be worn, serving both as devotional aid and as jewelry: it could have been hung around the neck or.. from the girdle of its owner.

Compositions of the miniatures include Annunciation to the Shepherds, Adoration of the Magi, Flight into Egypt, Coronation of the Virgin, King David in Penitence, Virgin and Child in half-length, St. Michael conquering Lucifer with the fires of Hell in the background, St. John the Baptist beside the Jordan and pointing Christ out to his three companions, St. Peter standing and holding a key and a book, St. James, St. Mary Magdalene, the penitent saint, bare-breasted and holding a crucifix aloft...

A truly magnificent miniature book and work of art.  
Oh ... and the price: \$3,300,000 !



Miniatures from Bening Book of Hours.



## TITANIA'S PALACE

Miniature books continue to delight royalty. We recently learned of a miniature visitor's book that was put up for auction in 2012 that is associated with a famous dolls' house, Titania's Palace. Here is the Palace's own description:

### Titania's Palace

"Probably the most fairytale dolls' house in the world: Titania's Palace was executed by the English painter and officer Sir Nevile Wilkinson and a staff of outstanding craftsmen. It was Sir Nevile's small daughter Gwendolen who asked her father to make her a house for the little fairies she had seen in the garden. She was convinced that they lived in holes in the ground and deserved to have a fine house in which to live instead. It took Sir Nevile 15 years to complete the task together with a body of skilled Irish craftsmen. The Palace contains no fewer than 3,000 components, many of them small art treasures collected from around the world."

The Palace was built in Ireland, begun in 1907 and finished in 1922. It was later auctioned at Sothebys in London in 1978, and currently resides at Egeskov's Castle in Denmark.

In reviewing a YouTube video of the Palace, I did not see any library like the Queen Mary's Dolls House in Windsor Castle in England. However I did notice a small cabinet that housed several copies of Bryce's miniature books.

An article in the London Daily Mail Reporter appeared in September 25, 2012, about this castle and its celebrated miniature guest book, which we recently became aware of. It is reprinted below, with its headline:

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2208252/The-Queen-signs-miniature-autograph-book-aged-12-intricate-dolls-palace-1938.html#ixzz2rjon7dC3>  
Follow us: @MailOnline on Twitter | DailyMail on Facebook

### Dolls' house with a royal seal of approval: Miniature visitors' book signed by 12-year-old Queen and her sister Margaret goes up for sale

A tiny guest book made for a magnificent dolls house that includes the signature of the Queen has emerged for sale.



The tiny autograph book, that once belonged to a magnificent dolls' house, includes the signature of the Queen

The 1.5 inch long book is believed to have been made for Titania's Palace, a magical model commissioned by Sir Nevile Wilkinson for his daughter in 1907.

Thirty years later the princesses Elizabeth and Margaret were shown the incredible model and photos of the two with it have also turned up along with the guest book.

The Royals signed the little book with their first names, and dated the entry July 22, 1938.

They took their turn in viewing the palace. At the time, the future Queen was 12-years-old and was clearly taken with the model.



The magical 'Queen of the Fairies' palace guest book was signed in miniature by the young Princess Elizabeth and Margaret in 1938



Princess Elizabeth helps Margaret to sign the tiny autograph book from the amazingly detailed Doll's house



Titiana's Palace, commissioned by Sir Nevile Wilkinson for his daughter in 1907, is now on display in Denmark

The over-the-top dolls' house was 116 inches long, 19 inches wide and 30 inches high with a dome cupola on top.

Made from 100-year-old mahogany, it included bronze walls and 18 rooms and salons in which were hand-carved, hardwood furniture and 3,000 little works of art.

There were also books made especially for the palace and it's thought that the autograph book was originally among them.

The book has gilt scrolled tooling with a central butterfly topped with a crown and it even has a silk bookmark and top quality paper.

It's thought it must have become separated from the palace that is now on display in Denmark.

The amazing model was heated and lit by electricity and was designed to be the home for Titania, "Queen of the Fairies".

Sir Nevile, who was married to Dowager Lady Pembroke, was inspired to commission the palace after the couple's daughter Gwendolen said she saw a fairy.

Apparently the girl felt sorry that the fairy, which she saw running beneath tree roots near their home at Mount Merrion in Ireland, had to live underground.

The fairy palace - made by James Hicks and Sons, Irish Cabinet Makers- was afterwards displayed and sent on tours of the world to help raise money for various children's charities.

It remained in the family for many years but was sold in the 1960s to an English amusement park. It later sold at auction in 1977 for 131,000 pounds.

The tiny book was recently taken to an auction house by a woman from Dorset whose aunt had been a companion of Lady Pembroke after she moved to Wiltshire.

The book and associated ephemera are now being sold at Duke's auction house in Dorchester, Dorset.

The items are expected to sell for several hundred pounds each.

As well as the signatures of the two princesses the book also has the names of the Queen's grandmother, Queen Mary, who signed it in 1923, and Helena Victoria, a granddaughter of Queen Victoria.

## HUMAN SKIN

Books, including miniature books, have been bound in various and inventive ways over the centuries.

After Gutenberg initiated printing in the fifteenth century, books in the now traditional codex form were developed with some sort of covering at the beginning and end in order to keep the pages together.

Early books were likely printed on as well as bound in vellum, which is a parchment made of calfskin. As time went on other binding materials were used for practical or decorative purposes.

Over time, here are some of the other binding types that have been used for miniature books. This list is not meant to be definitive, so anyone aware of other materials please let me know:

|                       |                              |                |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Tortoise shell        | Silver and gold filigree     | Lacquer        |
| Enamel                | Aluminum                     | Silver plate   |
| Gold                  | Snakeskin                    | Painted boards |
| Dutch flowered boards | Mother-of-pearl              | Wood           |
| Jeweled               | Embroidered silk over boards | Beaded         |
| Various leathers      | Wood                         | Birch-bark     |
| Various currencies    | Stone                        | Suede          |

And what about human skin? The only known reference to a miniature book bound in human skin that your editor is aware of is contained in an article from the Harvard Crimson back in 1933. As we know, Henderson was a perhaps the largest miniature book collector in the first half of the twentieth century, but there is no mention in his NEWSLETTERS OF THE LXIVMOS of the 1920s nor in Bondy's book in 1981 of a miniature book bound in human skin. Here is the article, and you can draw your own conclusions.

### THE HARVARD CRIMSON News from the Houses

#### *Volume Bound in Human Skin Included In Miniature Collection*

NO WRITER ATTRIBUTED February 16, 1933

On exhibition at the John Winthrop House library this week is the finest collection of miniature books in the world, a possession of R. L. Henderson '34, which has been displayed at the New York and Boston public libraries.

The collection includes a volume bound in human skin, with the somewhat ironical title of "Little Poems for Little Folk." A removal of 20 square inches of skin from his back failed to impair the health of its donor, who is still alive and in the best of condition. Also contained in the exhibit are "Galileo," the smallest book printed from movable type, and the "Rubaiyat of Omar Khaiyam," the tiniest volume ever printed. The latter, about half the size of a dime, was produced by a special photo-reducing process; the only other extant copy of it resides in the British Museum.

Other specimens are: a longhand copy of President Hoover's acceptance speech, approximately the size of a postage stamp, with the President's autograph on the fly-leaf; the smallest existent Babylonian clay tablet, dating about 2800 B.C.; the smallest pack of playing cards and smallest newspaper in the world; a Testament in shorthand, the key of which permitted the decodation of Pepys' famous diary; and the almanac of King Edward VII when Prince of Wales. The complete diminutive library totals over 100 volumes.

# Remembering our MBS Friends



## ***Evron Collins***

Evron Sharlene Collins died Monday, March 17, 2014 in Toledo, OH. She was born on April 23, 1937 in Bowling Green, OH to Robert E. Collins and Sharlene (Wiseman) Collins. She graduated from Eden Local Schools, Melmore, OH in 1955 and from Bowling Green State University (BGSU) in 1959, having majored in English and minored in Library Science. Evron earned a Master of Science in Library Science in 1960 from the University of Illinois. Evron served as the Biology Librarian at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL from 1960-1963. In 1963, she returned to BGSU and worked in the library for 41 years until 2004. One of Evron's abiding interests was miniature books. She was a charter member of the Miniature Book Society (MBS).



She served several terms as Secretary of MBS and initially compiled the index to their Newsletter. Attending the annual MBS Conclave was a highlight of her year. In 1993, Evron was awarded the Glasgow Cup Award for "showing a special dedication and, above all, friendship to the membership and kept alive that special spirit so evident" at the MBS founding in 1983. She also received the Anderson-Yarnell Award in 1998, which honors "a significant contribution to the Miniature Book Society." Evron attended every MBS Conclave while able. Her Conclave roommate and dear friend, Eileen Cummings, said "I have many fond memories when, on the last evening of each Conclave, we would empty our purchases on the beds, and like children, would excitedly peruse each other's tiny tomes & recall the good times we had during the magical weekend." Evron donated her collection of miniature books to the University of Illinois Rare Book and Manuscript Library.



## ***Hubert Silvain***

MBS member, Hubert Silvain, passed away in Spring 2014. Hubert was an avid miniature book collector from France. Some speculate that Hubert Silvain's miniature book collection is one of the major collections in Europe. While we couldn't obtain an official obituary about Hubert or date of death, here are the words of his beloved wife and son, Brigitte and Frédéric Silvain:

Hubert was passionate about miniature books. A hobby of more than 40 years, the whole family was influenced by this passion and each of us searched constantly for books for him. Hubert was an erudite and cultured person and when he purchased a book, he would read it entirely and then research all that could be linked with this small book. He tried to discover all the external events of the period concerned to be able to

understand his acquisition. He developed a very great knowledge and was often sought out by different booksellers with enquiries of all sorts. Hubert was very proud to lend his collections to the museums, and it was a great joy for him to be able to share his hobby in this way with all the people who visited these museums. As his wife I helped him as much as possible and learned so very much. My son and I will continue this collection to honor Hubert and to enrich an already beautiful collection.



## **Encouraging Future Microbibliophiles**

*By Barbara Williamson*

Many microbibliophiles can trace the beginning of our obsession to our childhood. It certainly was so for me as I remember holding a tiny book for the first time. I was so charmed, so fascinated, so very hooked at first touch. Often it is the care and encouragement of an adult miniature book lover that can make all the difference. MBS member Todd Sommerfeld told me some months ago that when he was a young person, Ruth Adomeit was his personal, enthusiastic mentor about miniature books. Ruth tirelessly shared her love of miniature books with so many. Her passion and generosity resulted in a renaissance of interest in the world of miniature books.

So, with a desire to pay it forward, I accepted an invitation to talk to 60 third graders, in two sessions, about miniature books. On March 26, 2014, my husband Ray and I arrived at Harry McKillop Elementary School in Melissa, Texas and set up in their



marvelous Media Center. MBS member and friend, Eileen Cummings, has a magnificent library of miniature, antiquarian children's books. She generously loaned me wonderful examples of these to show to the children. I brought along the one and only miniature book that I wrote and illustrated, *Mugsy, the Magnificent Microbibliophile Mouse*.

We learned that McKillop's media teacher and awesome librarian, Beth Ray, had formed a voluntary miniature book club for the kids. For six weeks prior to our visit, these wonderful children willingly gave up their daily recess to write, illustrate and produce miniature books of their own. They were eager to show them to us and we were amazed at their creativity and excitement.

I began the talk by putting the word "MICROBIBLIOPHILE" on the huge screen above us. The students learned that "microbibliophile" means "a lover of tiny books". As I repeated the word throughout the talk the kids would shout it out. I taught them a bit about the history of miniature books, and passed around many for the kids to hold. We even showed a photo of a miniature book made entirely of LEGOS with LEGO binding and many pages. The children were fascinated with the micro miniature books and had a grand time looking at Barbara Raheb dollhouse books with magnifying glasses. We showed them pictures of major dollhouses that contain true miniature libraries including the Pistner House, a dollhouse and library curated by MBS member, Pat Pistner.

I passed around my little Mugsy book that is about countering bullying with friendship. Ray read an excerpt from it to the kids. At the very end of our time together, we challenged them once again to tell us the word that means "lover of tiny books". Every child got it right and their prize was a package of miniature bookplates that I had made for each of them.

Three hours went by in a flash. It is a good thing to reach out to our children who may someday report they became microbibliophiles while they were still young. The experience certainly was rewarding and refreshing to Ray and me. Just recently we received a fat packet of *more* little books that the McKillop students are *still* making.



## Micro Fiction In Miniature - A Family Affair



Author Rick Palkovic

**55.** By definition, a miniature book may be no larger than three inches in any dimension.

Publisher Mark Palkovic, owner of Flying Pig Press of Cincinnati, is a miniature book collector and expert on the art. At the Davis book event he discussed miniature book publishing and displayed books from his collection, including a copy of the world's smallest book, a 22-page volume that measures 0.75 mm square and must be read under a microscope. He is a board member and past president of the Miniature Book Society.

*Limit 55* was his brother's idea, author Rick Palkovic says. "Mark thought 55 words would be a natural for the miniature book format."

The author acknowledges that it can be challenging to get the entire classic elements of a short story—a protagonist, an antagonist, a problem to overcome, and character development—into exactly 55 words. If there's room for a clever twist ending, all the better. If this paragraph were a 55-word story, it would end here.

Each story in *Limit 55* fits on one page, with an illustration on each facing page. Publisher Mark Palkovic called on his other siblings for the pen and ink illustrations. "Tim and Carolyn are artists, so we drafted them to join the project. As a bonus, it gave

California writer Rick Palkovic and his siblings signed their new book, *Limit 55*, a collection of twenty-six 55-word stories and illustrations published in miniature book format, at The Avid Reader, 617 Second St., Davis, California on Saturday, April 19.

The Palkovic siblings—author Rick, illustrators Tim Palkovic and Carolyn Palkovic Evans, and publisher Mark Palkovic—had to practice their tiny signatures to fit on a two-inch page of *Limit*



Palkovic family book signing in Davis, California.



Palkovic siblings (l to r) Mark, Carolyn (standing), Rick, and Tim.

us all an excuse to get together from time to time.”

Rick Palkovic is co-author of a solar cookbook, *Cooking with Sunshine*, and a Davis songwriter and musician. Mark Palkovic is head librarian for the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. He discovered miniature books while cataloging rare books in the 1970s. Tim Palkovic is a painter and retired professor of theater, and Carolyn Palkovic Evans is a graphic designer and teacher's aide.

To order *Limit 55*, please email [mark.palkovic@uc.edu](mailto:mark.palkovic@uc.edu).

## BRIEF NOTES

Catalogues Received:

**Oak Knoll Books Catalogue 304**,  
Part Two of the Miniature Book Collection  
of Donn Sanford – March 18, 2014

**Karen Nyman Miniature Books,**  
**Miniature Book Catalog 50 -**  
July 1, 2014

Martin and Eva Wartelsteiner of Miniaturbuchverlag Leipzig, announce their newest miniature book, *Art of War*, by Sun Tzu. It is said to be the most influential and important military work in Asia for the last 2,000 years, and also inspired leaders, strategists, and even business people all over the world ever since. This miniature book contains 258 pages, comes in a slip case and is bound in an eco-friendly material, Cabra, which is made from recycled leather. The book is \$29 USD. A reduced price of \$24 USD is available for book-of-the-month club members. For more info or to order, email: [info@minibook.de](mailto:info@minibook.de)



Jill Timm, Mystical Places Press, announces her newest miniature book, *Earth Magic*. *Earth Magic* is constructed with an accordion spine to which 3 additional accordion signatures are attached, so it unfolds every which way. The book is 2.25" x 2.25" and has a rock cover cut and polished by Jill. *Earth Magic* with a clamshell case is \$150 or without case \$120. For more info or to order, go to: <http://www.mysticalplaces.com/magic.html>



MBS member Eileen Cummings entered her **Teddy Bear Miniature Book Exhibition** in the 2014 San Diego County Fair in the Hobby Competition. Competition Judges awarded Eileen's entry - First Place, Best in Division and Best of Show! The Fair draws 1.5 million visitors each year; great visibility for miniature books. Congratulations Eileen!



## JULY 2014 CHANGEABOUTS

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## Miniature Book Society Newsletter

A publication of the Miniature Book Society Inc. Number 96

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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)

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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 in 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: October 1, 2014.

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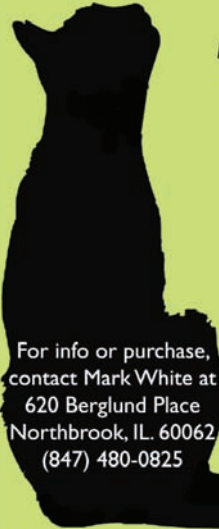


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