



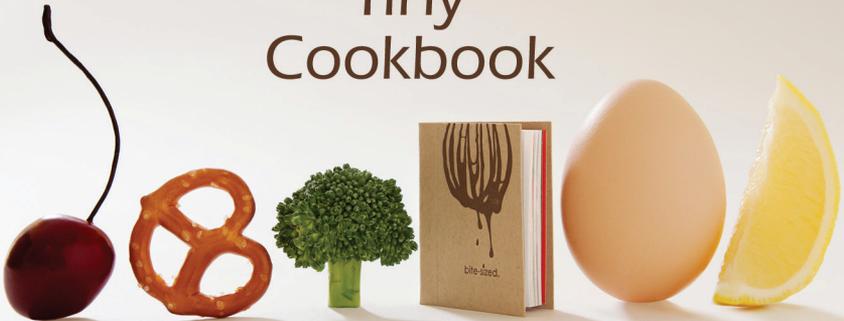
MINIATURE BOOK SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NO. 98 - MARCH 2015

INCORPORATING THE MINIATURE BOOK NEWS

*Professional food photographer,
Catherine Murray,
“kickstarts” her adventure
into miniature book publishing.*

The Recipe for a Tiny Cookbook



Read article on page 18. Photo credit: Catherine Murray, Photo Kitchen 2015

An “Engaging” Miniature Book Project



Love is in the little things on page 17.

Read Stephen Byrne’s account of the big challenge he faced while making a tiny volume of love letters that was then made into the most unique engagement ring!

President’s Message



Stephen Byrne

As this is the first newsletter of the year, may I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2015, and that your interests in the world of miniature books may develop and grow.

I would like to welcome all our new members, I hope you find that membership of the MBS is rewarding in all aspects of the world of miniature books, and also in the wonderful friendships which can be made when meeting like-minded people at miniature book events such as Conclave.

On the membership subscription form this year we gave the opportunity to make an additional donation to the Society. I am very pleased to tell you that to date we have received over three thousand dollars. These donations enable us to keep membership fees at the same level they have been for several years. Thank you to everyone who felt able to donate, and, of course, the opportunity is still there.

As I write this, I am taking a respite break from the cold winter of Scotland, and enjoying the sunshine whilst visiting family in Egypt. I have hunted in the rarely found bookshops of Cairo, but have not been able to find any miniature books, other than miniature Korans and one or two in poor condition. I dream of finding an old Coptic miniature which has lain forgotten for generations! I did go to the library in Alexandria, a magnificent structure overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Their collection of miniature books consists mainly of books from the Soviet Union era, and from Communist Eastern Europe. The collection is not generally on display, but the librarian is always willing to take the books out to show people. If you are ever in Alexandria, Egypt, I thoroughly recommend a visit to the library, even if it is just to see the wonderful building.

Information about Conclave XXXIII in Amsterdam is available on www.mbs.org. It promises to be another great meeting for miniature book enthusiasts, and I hope to see as many of you there as can possibly make it.

Editor’s Note:

This is the season of love and romance. Enjoy Stephen Byrne’s story of his very tiny but precious contribution to a couple’s engagement. Makes a microbibliophile’s heart beat a little faster! The Miniature Book Society continues efforts to encourage new mini-book publishers. Read new publisher Catherine Murray’s account of using Kickstarter to fund her first miniature book project. Catherine describes some unforeseen challenges when working on a cookbook that is less than two inches. Your editor has tried and loved three of Catherine’s twenty original recipes for TINY FOOD. Miniature Book Society members helped to fully fund Catherine’s Kickstarter project on the very last day of the campaign. This is a great example of MBS’ generosity and support of new publishers. Finally, a new series begins in this issue - Spotlight on MBS Members - with an interview with author/illustrator Kathy Caple, who has published eighteen children’s books!

MINIATURE BOOK SOCIETY GRAND CONCLAVE XXXIII AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS, AUGUST 7 – 9, 2015

Grand Conclave XXXIII will be held in the historic city of Amsterdam, the capital and most populous city of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Founded in the Middle Ages, Amsterdam has become the commercial capital of the country and one of the most important financial centers of Europe. The city is home to more than one hundred kilometers of navigable water canals and has earned the nickname 'the Venice of the North'. Amsterdam comprises approximately 90 islands, which are linked by more than 1,200 bridges. Its proximity to the North Sea affords the city a very favorable climate. A pre-Conclave dinner is being planned as is a post-Conclave bus tour. In addition, the largest book fair of Europe is scheduled in the Netherlands for Sunday, August 2. For those who can arrive early, information can be found at <http://boekenmarkt.eventindeventer.nl/>

The Bilderberg Garden Hotel is the Conclave venue. Located in a quiet section of the city, the center of Amsterdam and all attractions are within easy access using the efficient public transportation system or, as many in the city do, by bicycle. Within a short walk, you will find the most fashionable shopping locations and some of Amsterdam's greatest museums including the Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh Museum and the Concertgebouw. The Netherlands utilizes the 'euro €' as its standard currency (The U.S. dollar exchange rate changes daily). We have arranged for a Conclave group rate of \$158 / € 139 per night (plus the 5% city tax) with various room configurations. Hotel reservations can be arranged by using the Hotel Registration Form, which is on the MBS website now. You can fax or email the form or send it by regular mail to the Bilderberg Garden Hotel. If phoning for further information, be certain to identify yourself as a member of the Miniature Book Society. Hotel registration must be completed by **June 7th** to take advantage of the special group rate. Do not book your room directly via any website, as you will not be able to take advantage of the group rate. The special group rate will be in effect from August 4th through August 11th.



Hotel amenities include flat screen TV, free WiFi, telephone, mini-bar, in-room safe, desk, seating area, coffee and tea facilities, bath with overhead shower, and a hair dryer. The Bilderberg Garden Hotel is pet friendly (extra charge). Valet parking is available for an extra charge. There are smoke free rooms as well as rooms configured for disabled guests. In addition, the hotel offers room service, wake-up service, concierge, elevator, excursion and ticket service. Languages spoken by the hotel staff include Dutch, English, German, and French. The Bilderberg Garden Hotel is about a 25 minute (\$45 / € 40) taxi ride from the Amsterdam Airport Schiphol and about a 20 minute (\$34 / € 30) taxi ride from the Amsterdam Central train station. Many public transportation options are available. The MBS website will be updated regularly with additional information and any forms required.

CONCLAVE REGISTRATION

Registration fee is \$250 per person and includes a keepsake bag, 3 breakfasts (Saturday, Sunday, and Monday), dinner on Friday evening, the Saturday program, a dessert buffet on Saturday evening (before the auction), admission to the MBS Book Fair, and the Awards Banquet on Sunday evening.

PRE-CONCLAVE DINNER

All members who arrive early on Thursday are invited to meet at the one of the casual restaurants nearby on Thursday evening for dinner and fellowship. Dinner is at your own expense. As we finalize the specific plans, we will inform everyone about the actual location, its menu, and website.

CONCLAVE PROGRAM

Friday, August 7th. This is typically a relaxing day which includes time for members to check in, register, mix and mingle, and maybe do some self-guided sightseeing. The MBS board meeting will be held in the morning. Evening activities at the hotel include a cash bar cocktail hour, dinner, the **Book Swap**, and the traditional **Silent Auction**. If you are not familiar with these activities, please ask another member, as they will be more than happy to talk to you about them.

Saturday, August 8th. Following a full breakfast will be the annual General Meeting. After the General Meeting we will board a special tour bus for a trip to two museums in The Hague, the Meermanno Museum and the Koninklijke Bibliotheek. At the Meermanno, we will divide into three smaller groups so attendees can visit the wonderful Bibliotheca Thurkowaniana Minor, which was acquired in 2012. The rotational tour will include this miniature library and the regular museum. Between the visits to the Meermanno Museum and the Koninklijke Bibliotheek there will be a lunch break (at your own expense). After a sightseeing bus tour through The Hague, we will return to the hotel at about 5:00 p.m. This will allow for more free time and any dinner plans (at your own expense) you may want to make. The dessert buffet preceding the MBS Auction will begin at 8:00 p.m. Be sure to allow enough time to preview the auction items as this is always a lively event. The distinguished auctioneer will be Father Joe Curran.

Sunday, August 9th. The MBS Book Fair will follow a full breakfast. Vendor set-up can begin at 8:00 a.m. Between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., the Book Fair will be open only to MBS

members and then open to the general public beginning at 11:00 a.m., concluding at 4:00 p.m. The Awards Banquet will be preceded by a cash bar reception at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m. The special speaker for the dinner program is Mr. Ricky Tax of the Meermannoo Museum. The Banquet features presentations of the Anderson-Yarnell and the Norman W. Forgue Awards as well as the Glasgow Cup.

Monday, August 10th. The final event of the formal Conclave Program will be a full breakfast where participants can say their 'good bye' wishes and/or prepare for the post-Conclave optional trip.

POST-CONCLAVE PROGRAM

An optional bus tour to the Zuiderzee Museum is scheduled for Monday, August 10th. The details have to be confirmed but we plan on leaving the hotel at 9:00 a.m. via tour bus to Hoorn, then a steam tram to Medemblik, and a steamboat to the museum. We will return in the afternoon. The cost for this excursion is \$60.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Conclave Registration: Deadline is July 7th. Send payment and registration form (available on MBS website) to Karen Nyman, MBS Treasurer, 702 Rosecrans Street, San Diego CA 92106-3013.

Bilderberg Garden Hotel Reservations: Deadline is June 7th (2 months prior). You must make your reservations by this date to take advantage of the special group rate. The hotel reservation form is on the MBS website. Cancellation policy is 72 hours prior to arrival. The hotel suggests strongly that you make your reservation early.

MBS Auction Items: Deadline is July 7th. The proceeds of the auction benefit the MBS, please mail your items to Cathie Abney, 3105 Milton Road, Middletown OH 45042-3656. Cathie will repackage everything and arrange transportation to Amsterdam.

Silent Auction Items: Deadline is July 17th. The proceeds of the Silent Auction are split 50/50 between the donor and MBS. Please contact Karen Nyman before mailing the items (email karenyman2@cox.net or 619-226-4441). Mail items to: Karen Nyman, 702 Rosecrans Street, San Diego CA 92106-3013.

Keepsakes: Deadline is July 17th. Keepsakes are a memorable part of each Conclave and the MBS welcomes all keepsakes. They will be distributed to attendees via the 'keepsake bag'. If you reside in the U.S. or Canada, please mail 75 keepsakes to Jim Brogan, 53 Dreahook Road, Branchburg NJ 08876. Jim will transport them to Amsterdam. If you reside in a country other than the U.S. or Canada, please send your keepsakes to Tine Krijnen, Kerkebuurt 163, Berkout 1647 ME, Netherlands.

Complete information and forms are on the MBS website: www.mbs.org.

Tine Krijnen, Conclave Host
info@miniatuurboekbinden.nl

The 2015 Miniature Book Competition

By Tony Firman

It's time again for a new Miniature Book Competition! And this year we all have a new incentive. Last year, all three Distinguished Book Awards were won by young bookbinders. So you young bookbinders now know that you really do have a chance to win! And to my fellow older bookbinders: Are we going to allow these young people to put us in the shade? Our judges are always open-minded, so let's all get out there and enter this year's competition. To make it easier, this year we are extending the deadline for creating entries. Entries should have been created since the beginning of 2013 (two years ago), but can be created at any time up to the closing of the competition on April 30, 2015. So even if you don't have something good on hand, you still have time to make something.

Here's a quick reminder of the basic rules:

- **The book can be no more than three inches (76.2 millimeters) in any dimension; however the slipcase or other container may be larger.**
- **You may submit up to three entries.**
- **The book must have been bound and published in an edition of at least three like copies.**

The entries will be judged by a panel of professionals in the book arts. Their charge is to select three winners based on creativity, appropriateness of the design to the content, personal appeal, and technical excellence in all aspects of design, printing, and binding.

The three winners will be announced at this year's Conclave in Amsterdam. The winning entries become the property of the MBS, and may be incorporated into the MBS Travelling Exhibit for a year; eventually they will become part of the permanent MBS Archives at the Lilly Library of Indiana University. All other entries will be returned to their entrants after the Conclave, unless they are donated to the MBS.

All entries will be photographed in color and included in the MBS Competition Catalog. Every entrant will receive a copy of this Catalog, even if they are not members of the MBS; of course, all members of the MBS receive a copy of this Catalog automatically.

One-of-a-kind artist's books can also be submitted for exhibition at the Conclave, and inclusion in the Catalog; however, they will not qualify for the Distinguished Book Awards.

Enter now!

Entry forms and past Catalogs are available on the MBS website:

<http://mbs.org/competition.html>

Paper forms and more information are available from:

Tony Firman, MBS Competition Chair

P.O. Box 507

Haslet, TX 76052-0507, U.S.A.

MBS TRAVELING EXHIBIT

Where It Has Been and Where It Will Be...

The Miniature Book Society has an outstanding traveling miniature book exhibit that is available for display at your local library, school, or organization facility.

In 1987 Frank J. Anderson and James Yarnell conceived and implemented the first Miniature Book Society sponsored miniature book traveling exhibition. The current exhibit contains about 100 miniature books. It is housed in a self-contained Plexiglass case that is intended to be displayed on a table. Viewers can walk around the unit and view all of the books. Included in the exhibit are the three 2014 MBS Distinguished Book Award Winners.

The purpose of the exhibit is to provide people with access to the world of miniature books. You can never tell when a new connoisseur will become interested in miniature books and what may spark that interest. The exhibit is just such a visual torch that may light the pathway for someone.

Stop at your library, call your alma mater, or speak with the librarian, or the person who is in charge of exhibits. The MBS wants to share their traveling exhibit with everyone. We can make this happen! Everyone who hosts the exhibit receives rave reviews with hundreds of people viewing it.

Check the MBS website www.mbs.org for additional information. If you would like to learn about hosting the exhibit, please contact Jim Brogan, E-mail: jbrogan1@verizon.net. Where it has been recently and where it will be next:

October 2014

The Cleveland Public Library
325 Superior Ave N.E.
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
www.cpl.org

November and December 2014

IOWA Center for the BOOK
Des Moines, Iowa
<http://www.iowacenterforthebook.org>

January and February 2015

Indiana University, Lilly Library
Bloomington, Indiana
<http://www.indiana.edu/~liblilly/>

March and April 2015

Chapman University, Leatherby Libraries
Orange, CA
<https://www.chapman.edu/academics/libraries/index.aspx>

May and June 2015

German American Heritage Center
712 West Second Street
Davenport, IA 52802
www.gahc.org

MINIATURE BOOK NEWS

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

PACIFIC BOOK AUCTIONS

PBA Galleries (Formerly Pacific Book Auction Galleries) was founded about 60 years ago in San Francisco. It continues to hold auctions about every two weeks for fine and rare books in all fields and related material such as manuscripts, cartography, posters and ephemera.

PBA issues paper catalogues on request, but because of the cost they do not send them out broadly, preferring to let the online catalogues do most of the work. The online catalogues are even better these days because now most of the lots are shown with photographs of each lot along with the descriptions. In addition, for some lots extra photos are included that may not be in the paper catalogues.

PBA auctions have periodically included miniature books. Four of its most recent sales included miniatures.

In its March 13, 2014 sale of *Fine Books* there were 27 lots in a section entitled: "A Gathering of Charming Miniature Books." This sale offered mostly modern miniatures: several from Poole Press or Maryline Poole Adams in separate lots, David Bryce, Massmann, Schori Press and many others. Several books had bookplates of Grace Broecker.

Some of the lots grouped five or ten books together, for a grand total of over 50 books. Most of the lots fell in the 100-300 or 300-500 dollar high-low estimate range, with prices realized generally below the estimates. Interestingly perhaps one more bid on several of the lots would have made a difference by raising the results to within the high-low estimates. PBA charges a 20% Buyer's Premium (for the first \$100,000) on the hammer (i.e. final auction) price.

The November 6, 2014, sale was entitled *The Pamela Harer Collection of Rare and Antiquarian Children's Books, Part I*.

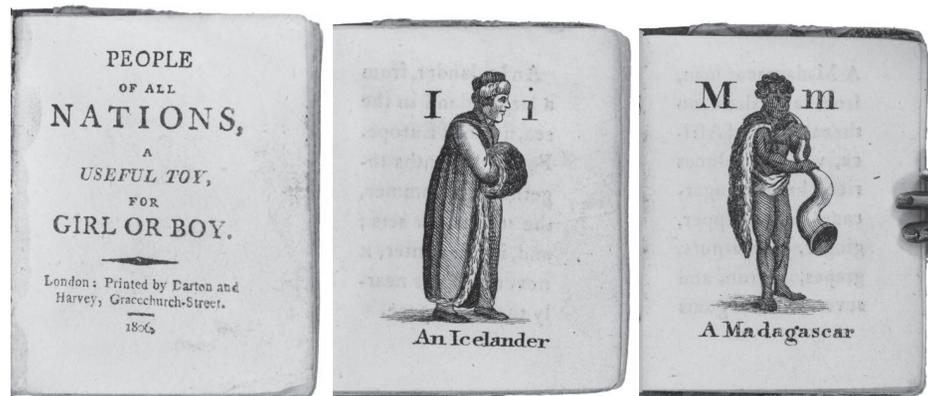
The catalogue's introductory preface explained who she was: "Pamela Harer was a passionate bibliophile who collected, preserved, researched and shared both her books and her knowledge. She started over fifty years ago when she sought to find a few favorite books from her childhood to share with her four children. That start soon progressed into intensely studying the history of books with emphasis on illustrated children's literature."

The preface went on to say that Harer (1933 – 2014) "was a voracious reader and researcher who attended rare book schools, book fairs, and conferences in the US and UK. As she studied the field, her interest shifted steadily further back in time. She was enamored with miniature books." And as you might expect she was a member of our Miniature Book Society.

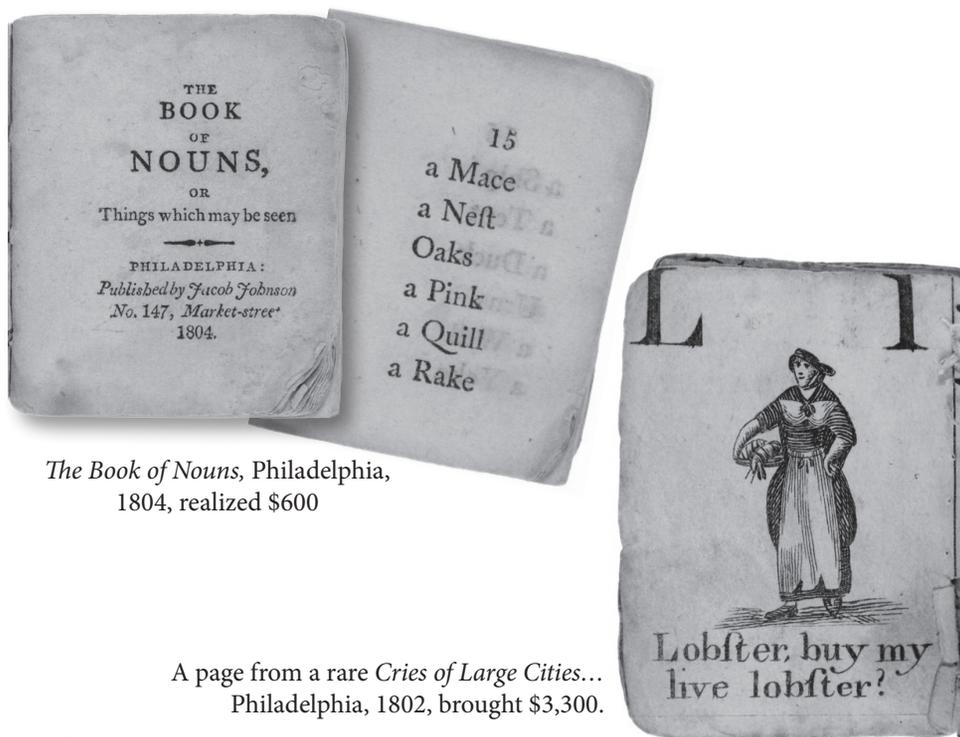
As her collection became very large she gave parts to various institutions, particularly to the University of Washington's Rare Book and Special Collections Departments. Political and propaganda books aimed at children were donated to Florida International

University, 18th and 19th Century books were given to the University of Washington and the Arne Nixon Center or the Study of Children's Literature at California Fresno State University. The massive Cotsen Collection of illustrated children's books at Princeton University was also a recipient. She also did research work for the Osborne Collection in Toronto and provided an exhibition and resulting gift of her early pop-up and moveable books for the Suzallo/Allen library at the University of Washington.

Harer "also sought to see that some could go to passionate collectors such as herself," and this wish has resulted in two large auctions at PBA. The first occurred on November 6, with the second on February 19, 2015 (see below).



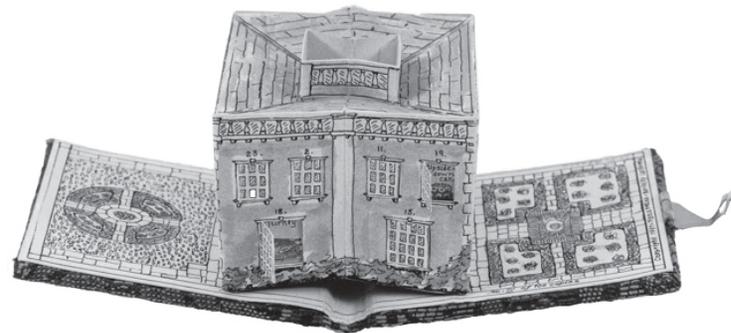
People of All Nations, London. 1806, sold for \$1,030.



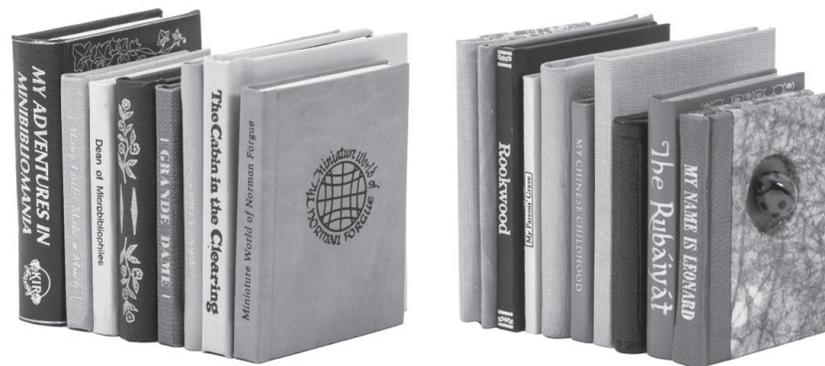
The Book of Nouns, Philadelphia, 1804, realized \$600

A page from a rare Cries of Large Cities... Philadelphia, 1802, brought \$3,300.

The January 15, 2015 auction of *Fine Literature with Books in All Fields* included a separate section for miniatures, with almost 40 lots comprising over 100 books from 19th and 20th centuries, with groupings of 5 to 10 titles in several lots. Some groupings were made by author or subject matter. Many of the books came with Grace Broecker's bookplate.



Marco: A Christmas Tale, by Maryline Poole Adams., part of one group, at top, and two different groups shown below. Photo credit: Justin Benttinen/PBA Galleries



And in PBA's **most recent sale, February 19**, the Pamela Harer collection, Part II, concluded with an even larger assortment of her astounding collection. There were 600 lots, with over twenty miniature books measuring three inches or less. If you go up to four inches, there were many more. Most of the miniatures were very rare. There were several Boreman examples of the 18th century, *Infants Library* in its box with sliding front cover, *Cabinet of Lilliput*, Alfred Mills productions, and several Bibles in Miniature.

At press time, we do not have the sales results to report.



The Cabinet of Lilliput, and The Infant's Library

MARKETING BOOKS BY WEBSITE

MBN has had articles about finding miniature books to buy from book and antique fairs, bookseller's catalogues, auction houses, and our annual MBS Conclaves (next year in Amsterdam, the Netherlands), among other sources.

Now, with the internet, we have **websites**.

The following websites demonstrate some of the more creative sites of several producers of miniature books. Most have a home page with links that connect to short essays such as about their history, definition of miniature books, what they stand for, a list with photos of what books are available, a contact link, other information links, and an order link. Herewith are twenty websites with their opening logos:

1—bopressminiaturebooks.com

This is Pat Sweet's site. She has produced 105 books since 2007, on various subjects and bindings, and currently has 63 books to offer on her site.



2—mysticalplaces.com.

Jill Timm, who lives in Washington State, specializes in making colorful photo books. She has made 74 editions books, and currently has 30 books for sale.



3—members.cruzio.com/~peteranddonna/index.htm.

Peter and Donna Thomas are longstanding producers of creative miniature books. They have written and published books on how to make books of all sizes.

PETER & DONNA THOMAS

MINIATURE BOOKS, FINE PRESS BOOKS, ARTISTS' BOOKS, HANDMADE PAPER

4-- dewaldenpress.net.

Jan Kellett lives in Western Canada, and tackles the UK and Shakespeare, among other subjects. Jan has produced 14 editions, with a few still available.



5—Tonyfirmanbookbinding.com

Tony's Plum Park Press has published a book each month since 2010, for a total of 48, and currently has 35 titles remaining for sale.

Tony Firman Bookbinding

6--- jsobota.cz.

Jarmila Sobota is an internationally known designer bookbinder who lives in Loket, Czech Republic.

J. & J. Sobota Book Arts Studio

7--- kniharstvi-pribikova.cz

Jana Pribikova is also an internationally known designer bookbinder who lives in Kadan, Czech Republic.



8--- minibuch.de

This German company is Europe's leading miniature book publisher. It publishes many classics of literature in both German and English.

MINIATUR BUCH VERLAG LEIPZIG

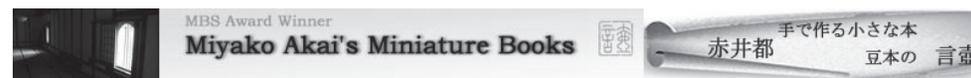
9--- www.miniatuurboekbinden.nl

Bookbinder Tine Krijnen has produced miniature books since 2001, specializing in pop-ups and doll house books.



10--- <http://kototsubo.com>

Miyako Akai lives in Ichikawa City, Japan.



11 -- www.miniaturebooks.es

Manuel Garcia de Fuentes y Churruga lives in Marbella, Spain.



12---www.kellymhoule.com

Kelly Houle lives in Mesa, Arizona



13---www.courtneymacklin.com

Courtney Macklin lives in Toledo, Ohio



14---www.autumnleafstudiok.com

Kyoko Ninomiya lives in Gotemba, Shizuka, Japan



15--- www.Librairieminima.com

C & K Okuyama (Catherine and Kihimito) are publishers with the press name L'Atelier du Lierre.



16---www.sharphandmadebooks.com

Sharon Sharp lives in Boone, North Carolina

Sharp Handmade Books

Exploring Artistry through Book Forms: Sharon A. Sharp / PO Box 3345, Boone, NC 28607 / sharon@sharphandmadebooks.com

17---www.ivstudios.com

Elizabeth Sher lives in Oakland, California



Elizabeth Sher Art & Film for the 21st Century

CYRIL B. TURNER MINIATURE PAINTINGS & MINIATURE BOOKS

18---www.cyrilbturner.com

Cyril Turner lives in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, UK

19---www.flyingpaperpress.com

Jody Williams lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota



20--- www.leftcoastpress.com

Dorothy Yule lives in Oakland, California

LEFT COAST PRESS

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS

Everyone wants to get into the Guinness book of World Records (GWR). A recent article in the New York Times Sunday Magazine titled "Why is India so Crazy for World Records" explained that GWR was initially conceived 60 years ago to help settle disputes in Irish pubs.

GWR maintains a database of 40,000 records, reports the Times, but only 3,000 to 4,000 make it to the printed book which is updated and published each year. About 50,000 submissions are handled yearly, and while the application process can now be processed online, it is still complex.

Wikipedia says "that the book itself holds a world record as the best selling copyrighted book of all time, and is one of the most frequently stolen books from the public libraries in the United States."

The smallest books have made entries in GWR's printed version for many years, starting in 1952. In that year Waldmann and Pfitzner of Munich published the *Lord's Prayer* and three other titles in seven languages, measuring 5 x 5 mm. MBN issue 150 in July 2013 has a more expansive article about the other miniature books that appeared in GWR in subsequent years.



Zarifa Salahova 22 January 2015

The latest issue, 2015, includes three new entries, two of which we reported in the previous MBN issue: the Toppan Printing Company's "smallest printed book..." and the miniature library in the Queen Mary's Dolls House, outside London, which "contains the most works of literature (206) made for a dolls' house."

The third 2015 entry is "the worlds largest collection of miniature books" in Baku, Azerbaijan:

AZERBAIJAN MUSEUM OF MINIATURE BOOKS ENTERED GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS

Baku. Javid Zeynalli – APA. The world's first private Museum of Miniature Books located in Icheri Sheher Historical and Architectural Reserve has been entered the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's largest collection of miniature books.

APA reports quoting AzerTAC that more than 5600 books published in 66 countries are exhibited in 38 glass cases. The most unique exhibits are 4 micro books published in "Toppan" publishing house in Tokyo, Japan and 4 micro books published in Germany.

The museum was included in the Guinness Book of World Records as a result of hard work for more than half a year. The relevant application was filed in the first half of 2014.

According to the information obtained from Guinness World Record global Records Management Team on January 21, 2015, the application of the museum was accepted, and it was recognized as the world's largest collection of miniature books. "Guinness World Records" certificate will be presented to founder of the Miniature Books Museum, Zarifa Salahova in the near future.

Guinness World Records has previously recognized the world record for the largest collection of miniature books, set by Nikunj R. Vagadia. He managed to collect 258 miniature books.

Azerbaijan museum listed in Guinness Book of Records

Now there are two problems with this listing in GWR. While we are reluctant to quibble, with 5600 miniature books (including books up to 4 inches), the above collection is not



the world's largest. There are at least two American libraries, The University of Virginia's rare book library, and the Lilly Library at the University of Indiana which hold over 10,000 miniatures. And then there is at least one private collection in the US that holds over 10,000.

It might be more accurate to call the Baku collection the world's largest collection of miniature books *in a museum*.

And it is curious that the GWR refers to the previous record of 258 books, while they have forgotten that in the 2013 issue they referred to Jozsef Tari of Hungary who then possessed the largest collection of 4,500 pieces.

Oh well, I suppose we should be glad that the miniature book world is still being included in the Guinness World Record books. They sell a lot of copies!

AN ENGAGING MINIATURE BOOK PROJECT

By Stephen Byrne

Some time ago I received an enquiry about making a miniature book which was to measure no more than 20 x 16 millimetres. The text to be included would run to some 100 pages, but the book had to be as thin as possible. It was to be part of an engagement celebration.

I love a challenge and agreed to *try* to make a book to fit within the specifications.

The first task was to fit the text (a record of correspondence between the person who had commissioned the book and his girlfriend) into such a small book. Using my computer and Windows Publisher the page layout was done, and slowly and methodically the text and around 35 illustrations were added. This took several attempts and many hours trying different fonts and sizes, but eventually a sans serif font at 3 points was decided upon in order to make the text clear and the pages small enough.

The printing was done on an HP inkjet printer, which proved well suited to the task. It was done at eight pages per signature, which was necessary to avoid too much swell on the folds. Eventually, with much trial and error the printing was finished. The signatures were sewn together, I selected a fine red leather for the binding, and proceeded to bind the book.

All went well until I measured the finished object - it was too big! The size required was very specific, and so I had to do it all again. I reduced the font size to 2.5 points, and adjusted the illustrations, and went through the whole process of printing and binding again. The size thing happened yet again, so a third attempt was made. This time it all seemed fine, and so the book was sent off to my client. I received an email to say how pleased he was with it, and that the jeweler would now attach the precious stone to the book and the book to the ring.

Before that point I had no real idea of the ultimate use for the book, but the idea intrigued me. I wondered about the design, and eventually a series of photographs came via email, and as you can see, the whole thing is very attractive. A clasp allows the book to open so the text can be read using a lens. (I also provided a three inch version of the book so that the text is easier to read.) What a wonderful unique and personal gift to be given as an engagement ring!

I did warn the client that it would not be wise to do the washing up whilst wearing the ring!



THE RECIPE FOR A TINY COOKBOOK

By Catherine Murray

I'm a food photographer living in Ohio with my two gray kitties. The Bite-Sized Book of Bite-Sized Recipes is my first ever book, let alone miniature book. Why produce a tiny cookbook full of tiny recipes? Lots of reasons, but they didn't come to me all at once. At first, I just wanted to make a promo piece for my business. The promo turned into a tiny magazine, that turned into a tiny book. Then a cookbook. Then a tiny cookbook about tiny foods...and so on.

I like to encourage kids to cook. I grew up in the kitchen. Cooking was comfort, shared experiences, quality time...most of my childhood memories are about food. I learned life lessons like how to share, how to be independent, how to take risks. Sometimes kids are intimidated by food. But tiny food can't be intimidating. It's little experiments, little bites.

My biggest incentive was connecting to the here and now. How could I be anything but present when designing tiny book covers, arranging tiny pot pies with sprigs of rosemary? Celebrating the small, everyday moments that collectively make up our lives brings a renewed sense of joy to

mundane tasks, like making dinner.

If you're unfamiliar with Kickstarter.com, it's a website where someone with an idea asks others to back it financially. In exchange, the backers receive a reward--generally, the idea itself, like a tiny cookbook. Kickstarter is an all-or-nothing platform with only 30 days to reach the goal. Even one dollar short of the goal at day 30, the project receives zero funding. The night before day 30, with funding not yet close to goal, I came across the Miniature Book Society website. I contacted MBS through the miniature book yahoo group asking for help to get the word out about my project. Kindly, generous MBS members kicked in at the last moment. Launching a Kickstarter campaign then producing 1,000 tiny cookbooks is like running for office then having a baby. You're hoping to get the votes, but you don't know



until election day whether or not all your hard work paid off. Then you turn around and create something from nothing, holding it up for the world to see for the very first time.

My project (<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/photokitchen/thebite-sized-book-of-bite-sized-recipes>) was successfully funded on September 25, 2014, raising \$8,952 to cover the printing, marketing and accessory costs of the tiny cookbook. Through Kickstarter, I found an audience of buyers interested in the final product and the financial backing to make it happen.

I'm thankful for all the things that went well. I already knew a print broker, David Dinning at Print Solutions Today. He found a printer (Citicom) willing to take on the unusual task of making a whole lot of tiny books. Then we found Igloo Letterpress to make the hardback exterior cases/covers and assemble the books.

The first challenge was coming up with recipes. Every free moment I had was spent brainstorming 20 recipes that were easy to make, original, fun, creative, and kid-friendly. The recipes had to be rewritten numerous times to fit within the precious paper real estate of the tiny book.

The printing process proved to be the biggest challenge. Most printers are not used to working with such a small margin of error. On a 1½ inch x 1¾ inch book, every 1/16 inch feels like a mile. Even after 3 prototypes, no one could predict what would happen when the system turned automated.

When the printer sent the books out to be perfect bound, the binder didn't realize we needed an 1/8 inch score line in order for the final covers to fit and be glued properly without tearing the first page and having a visible glue line. To compensate, we increased the width of the book to allow for a wider glue line. An extra blank page was added to the front and back of the book to decrease tearing on the first interior page and further hide the glue line.

I've been asked if I regret taking on such a large, tiny project that took over 1,000 hours to produce. Not at all! The Bite-Sized Book of Bite-Sized Recipes is one of my proudest accomplishments. I love seeing it hanging from people's Christmas trees and adorning their tiny bookshelves, watching kids cook from it and marvel over their own tiny creations. It's brought joy to more than just me. I suppose that was my reason all along.

The Bite-Sized Book of Bite-Sized Recipes can be purchased at: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/PhotoKitchen>. For questions about the tiny cookbook, visit: www.photokitchen.net.



SPOTLIGHT on MBS member

Kathy Caple, author and illustrator of 18 published children's books

MBS: What is your background, education and interests that led you to a book career?

KC: I grew up in a family that valued books and reading. I was introduced to the public library at an early age. I always loved the way books opened up whole new worlds and dreamed that I might someday create books of my own. As an undergraduate I directed my studies toward graphic design, drawing and painting, literature and short story writing. I graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle with a BA in Art and a BA in English. Much later, after publishing several children's books which I wrote and illustrated, I earned my Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of Rhode Island. I have been working as a Children's Librarian in a public library, and as an Author/Illustrator of children's books for many years. I find the combination has made a very satisfying book career.

MBS: How did you first get published?

KC: About 6 months after completing my undergraduate studies and preparing a portfolio of children's book illustrations, I moved to New York City. It was 1978. In those days one could make phone calls on Monday and set up appointments with four or five publishers the same week, sometimes several in one day. By doing this I was able to meet editors and art directors at different publishing companies, and sometimes even see something of their upcoming list or just released titles. I learned where my style fit in and which editors or art directors liked my work. Several of them asked if I had any stories I was working on. It just so happened that I did and one of them, "Inspector Aardvark and the Perfect Cake," became my first published book. It was a lengthy process to complete all the final illustrations and the book was published in 1980. (Windmill/Wanderer Books)

MBS: How many books have you written and over how many years?

KC: I have written and illustrated 18 books for children which have been published over a period of 35 years. So I guess that averages out to about one book every two years. I



have many more stories which, for one reason or another, have never been published. And I'm currently working on several new ideas that I hope will soon be ready to send out on submission.

MBS: How do you decide the stories in your books? What is your inspiration?

KC: I generate a lot of ideas for stories, but a lot of them are forgettable. It's the story ideas I can't forget that are the ones I'm driven to complete. There has to be some inner connection from my own life or idea that grabs hold of me. And it has to be something that I can stay interested in over the long process of producing the final art.

MBS: Could you give a brief description of your creative process?

KC: The first part of my process is journal writing and doodling. This is where I am free to express whatever comes out. Sometimes I already have an idea when I sit down. Sometimes the ideas come to me as I write or draw. Once I have an idea I want to pursue, I develop it further, sometimes only in writing, sometimes only in drawing. Sometimes I work on the writing and drawing together. It takes many revisions before I have something I'm willing to show anyone. Once I've polished the text, and added a few sketches, I submit my ideas to a publisher. Then I wait. It's usually after I have a contract for a book that I develop a complete book dummy. Generally I start with thumbnail sketches. Then if it's a picture book I often make tiny dummies ranging in size from 1.5 inches in height to 3 or 4 inches. I cut up drawings from my thumbnail sketches and paste or tape them inside these tiny books. This way I can think about the flow of the story and revise and revise until everything fits properly into the number of pages allowed. These tiny dummies are quite rough and crude. From there I go to a full-size dummy, making sure the text and art will fit properly. The dummy goes to my editor and art director and more revisions are usually made before I start the final art. The pictures are done on watercolor paper. My recent books have been painted in Gouache which is an opaque watercolor and my latest book, "A Night at the Zoo," was done in acrylic paint and pen and ink. The process is similar for my slightly longer chapter books, except I might not make the tiny dummies. But I always make a lot of rough sketches.

MBS: What is the most exciting thing about writing books and the most difficult part?

KC: The most exciting thing about writing is when I'm in the middle of creating a story that just carries me away. At that point I might not know where the story is going but I'm enjoying the process and not worrying about the end product. That is where I often come up with my best ideas.

The most difficult thing about writing is when I get stuck trying to figure out an important part of the story. I might have a great beginning and middle, but not have an ending that works, or the middle may sag, or the plot just doesn't work and then it's a matter of figuring out what to do.

With illustration, the exciting part is roughing out pictures for a story and developing the characters and not worrying too much about drawing things exactly right. I love the planning stage of making a rough dummy. The most difficult part about doing illustration is when I'm

revising the final drawings so that everything is just right. And spending the amount of time necessary to execute the final art is difficult, especially when there is a deadline. And when I'm too close to the work I reach a point where I can no longer tell if I like it.

MBS: Why did you become a member of the Miniature Book Society?

KC: I had heard of MBS as far back as the early 1990's when I saw a display of miniature books at the Watertown Public Library. A few years later, I purchased a couple miniature books at a flea market. I added to the collection whenever I stumbled upon little books I could afford. Then in 2007 I saw the exhibit of miniature books at the Boston Public Library. I found it amazing and went back to see it several times. I bought the book, *Miniature Books: 4,000 Years of Tiny Treasures*, by Anne Bromer & Julian Edison, which I've read numerous times. After that I got interested in learning even more about miniature books. I looked at the MBS website and it seemed like a good time to join.

MBS: Is there anything about MBS that specifically assists you in your writing career?

KC: I enjoy all the resources available through MBS. The MBS newsletter has interesting articles and the website is filled with links on the subject. Reading about the history of miniature books, the vast array of subjects, bindings, typography, artists and publishers are all things I find inspiring.

Studying a book in miniature really does allow me to appreciate all aspects of the book, from the design, weight, texture, paper, printing, text, typography, and illustration, to the binding, cover, headbands and endpapers. It makes me want to create books. I can't help but be inspired.

And it's good to know that there are so many other people who also enjoy miniature books. Plus it's nice to be involved in something book related that is outside the children's trade book market. It opens up another way of thinking about books.

MBS: Would you ever consider writing and illustrating a miniature book?

KC: My first publisher was Windmill Books and my editor was Robert Kraus. He was also an author and illustrator of many books for children. In the 1960's he had written and illustrated the Bunny's Nutshell Library published by Harper and Row, which I greatly admired. It was a set of 4 near miniature books (around 3.7 inches tall) in a slipcase. I found the format to be very inspiring. At the time, I experimented with writing a few of my own miniature stories and made a couple rough mini book dummies for several of these, but never took them any further. I ran across them a few years ago while sorting through a box in one of my cupboards. I do have several ideas for books which I could see making in miniature. But since my book experience is mostly with creating content, I'm not sure how I would go about the printing, binding and distribution. It sounds very time consuming. But I do like to think about it.

For more information about Kathy, visit her website at www.kathycaple.com.

Remembering Our MBS Friend



Marianne Gourary

Marianne Gourary, of Manhattan, died on October 2, 2014 at the age of 93. She was a member of MBS since 1993 and a collector of illustrated cat books. Marianne was also a member of the Grolier Club.



CATALOGUES RECEIVED:

Karen Nyman Miniature Books

Miniature Book Catalogues 53 and 54

BRIEF NOTES

This March the 2015 Yearbook (Membership Directory) will be sent digitally to all members who have an email address on file with MBS. This will be a pdf version which can be saved on your computer. A printed Yearbook will be sent to: all members who do not have an email address on file; to all institutions and libraries; and, to any member who wants a printed version. If you have questions, or to request a print copy, please contact Karen Nyman at karenynyman2@cox.net or at 619-226-4441. Although there is no fee for a printed version, this change will substantially reduce our printing and postage costs for the Yearbook.

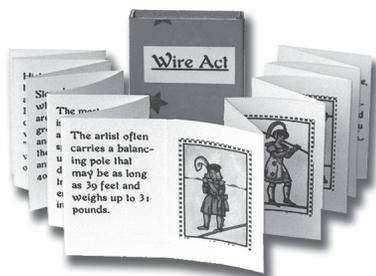
Read Jan Kellett's guest post on the Folger Shakespeare Library's *Collation*. Jan, DeWalden Press, describes the making of her artist book, **Storming Shakespeare**. Visit <http://collation.folger.edu/tag/jan-kellett/>.



Jill Timm, Mystical Places Press, announces two books for sale. **STARS**, a little book from the "Nature's Details" series, is a beautiful book of NASA photographs of stars, nebulas, and galaxies. The cover title is hot foil stamped. The cover paper has mica embedded and micro glitter thermal applied for that extra starry sparkle. Printed using Giclée, a museum quality digital printing process. The book is 1.87" x 1.87", limited to an edition of 80. \$70.



Also, **Wire Act**, a little matchbox book about the circus wire act performers in the renaissance age. Slide open the mini match box and the book springs forth. The match box is 2" x 1.5" with an accordion folded 20 page book with 6 old time illustrations. Edition of 100. \$45.



Paul Devenyi writes - "After a forced break necessitated by serious medical issues, we are now back making miniature books. Our present project is a two-volume set of Hungarian subjects. One is about Frigyes Karinthy, one of the country's greatest writers and humorists of the 20th century; the other is about an unsung hero of the war, Dr. Isvan Pesthy, oral surgeon and famous cartoonist, who had the courage to launch an anti-Nazi, anti-war satirical newspaper in 1944, in the midst of Nazi occupation of the country. Both of them I believe, will make for good reading. They will be published in a common slipcase in a fairly simple, but tasteful binding."

Recently Jeanette Anderson sent to your editor a large binder of early MBS photos carefully labeled by the late Frank Anderson, Kitemaug Press. This gold mine contained wonderful memories including the following photo of the 1986 MBS Board of Governors. Thank you Jeanette and Frank.



1986 MBS Board of Governors. Back row, left to right: Weber, Brandt, Levitan, Lathourakis. Front row, left to right: Irwin, Adomeit, DeLancey

MARCH 2015 CHANGEABOUTS

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Miniature Book Society Newsletter

A publication of the Miniature Book Society Inc. Number 98

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

Board of Governors for 2015

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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 in Microsoft Word are 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, 2015.

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Book Collection for Sale

Approximately 400 miniature book collection for sale. Publishers include, among others, Bela Blau, Barbara Raheb, Achille St. Onge, Judy Merenoff, Amistad Press, Borrower's Press, Roger Huet, Black Cat Press, Robert Massmann, Mosaic Press, and Gleniffer Press. Also available are Miniature Book Society newsletters and other materials going back to the inception of MBS, as well as various dealer catalogues and lists.

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